

## **Counselor Corner**

As parents you all know that each of your children are different. As educators we also see those differences in the children that come through our classroom doors. The following article describes some students that have been in our elementary and some students that are presently at HES.

### **Aspergers Syndrome:**

We have all heard about Aspergers Syndrome on different television shows. It seems to be highlighted on the evening news, 60 Minutes, Oprah, etc. But what is Aspergers Syndrome?

Aspergers Syndrome (AS) is a form of autism, a high functioning form of autism. AS is characterized by an impairment in social interaction and the development of repetitive patterns of behavior, interests and activities.

Autism is invisible. It is one of the things that make individuals who they are. Autism affects how individuals' brains work. Some characteristics of AS include difficulty comprehending other people's expressions, gestures and non-literal statements. Individuals with AS usually do not understand jokes, irony and metaphors. Sometimes motor milestones were delayed in early childhood. Therefore motor clumsiness is often observed in persons with AS. Individuals with AS may also show attention deficits and cognitive disorganization.

Individuals with Aspergers Syndrome want to develop friendships and interact with their peers, but lack the ability to understand and use rules governing

social behavior. They have difficulty using and interpreting gestures, judging proximity to others and maintaining eye contact, all of which may impede the development of personal relationships. Individuals with AS may make efforts to socially interact with others, their unusual manner may leave many people not knowing how to respond. The Aspergers individual may then be left misunderstood and isolated.

Individuals with AS often have average to above average intelligence. They tend to possess excellent abstract thinking abilities and rote memory skills. A unique characteristic to Aspergers Syndrome is an intense interest in one or two subjects to the exclusion of all others. Many times individuals with AS are respected for their unusual abilities. The individual's single minded pursuit of his or her interest can lead to great achievements later on in academic and professional life.

No two people with Aspergers Syndrome are identical. Treatment and educational interventions should be and need to be individualized to suit the needs of the person. AS is not wrong or bad, it is another way of thinking and being.

For more information please contact the school.

### **School Pictures on September 18**

School pictures will be taken on Tuesday, September 18 in the HES library. Picture packets will be passed out on September 10. Picture money must be in the office in order have your child's picture taken.

**Bring On the Boxtops!!**

Yes, it's that time of year to start collecting those boxtops. More than \$600.00 was raised last year through this simple fundraiser. The year before we raised more than \$1300.00! Just cut out the coupon found on many foods you buy and have your child bring it to the big box in the. We would ask that you cut them out neatly because if you don't someone else will have to (we had over 3000 coupons last spring!).