

Founder's Corner

Dear Friends:

So much is blooming this spring! I am thrilled to announce we've secured an ideal location for Bloom360 Learning Community at the historic Stone School property at N8921 Stone School Road in East Troy, WI. Renovations are underway to create the unique learning spaces for our project-based curriculum that includes: a woodshop, sensory gym, art center and numerous individual and small group areas. We also plan to maintain the historic one room schoolhouse building for larger gatherings. We love the serene setting nestled on approximately four acres next to local farms and open land. We're looking forward to moving in soon and opening this fall for the 2017-2018 school year. (More information is inside this issue.)



Our team continues to grow as we welcome new team members and meet more community members in southeastern Wisconsin. We joined the East Troy Chamber of Commerce and are encouraged by the support from everyone we've met in Walworth County.

Most important, we are inspired by the families we're meeting who are searching for the right fit for their child. Enrollment is well underway for the 2017-2018 school year and we look forward to continuing to work with more children and families throughout the coming months. One important adjustment we've made in our educational programming is that we're offering a half-day, four-days-per-week schedule option for learners in our Nurture Program. More information about all of our programs is available online at bloom360.org/education/educational-programs.

We are engaging our creativity to search and apply for grants and other programs that could help Bloom360 Learning Community and its learners. Thank you to everyone who joined in our recent effort and voted for us in USA Today's "A Community Thrives" contest. We are hopeful that some of our initiatives will garner funding and additional resources for the school.

We look forward to seeing you at our Community Celebration and Ribbon Cutting that is set for 5-7 pm on Thursday, Sept. 14th at our new school building.

With warmest regards,



Laura Rauman
Founder and President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bloom360's New Home....	2
Blooming Together.....	3
Project-Based Learning....	4

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 20:** Kids Build Woodworking Workshop - 9am - Noon
- May 24:** Informational Session at Brooklife Church - 6 - 8pm
- September 14:** Ribbon Cutting/ Grand Opening - 5 - 7pm
- October 5:** Bloom Open Golf Outing and Dinner

bloom360.org/events

Bloom360's New Home

Bloom360 Learning Community will serve its learners from a unique historic setting in the Town of East Troy. Stone School has a rich history dating back to 1858 as one of the first one room school houses in the area. Early records show it was built by C. Casselman who gifted the land to his granddaughter, Eva Kyburz. Mr. Casselman blasted the stone from his own quarry on the shore of Potter's Lake and hauled it down the road with a team of oxen to the school site. He also handmade the bricks that line the one room school building that stands largely the same today.



In 1950, an addition was added to the south side of the building to increase the learning space to about 10,000 square feet. In 2000, Stone School transitioned from a traditional school to an art education center where a variety of art classes were available to the community.

The Bloom360 approach includes an intentional commitment to integrate the community and its learners through internships and service opportunities. Interested community members who have a business, talent or skill they wish to share with learners are encouraged to contact the school at info@bloom360.org or by calling 414-935-6360.



Bloom360's location announcement was featured on CBS58. Pictured from left: Dawn Frasa, Bloom360 Parent; Laura Rauman, Bloom360 Founder and Lindsey Branwall, reporter. To see story, visit: bloom360.org/news.

Save the Date!

Join us on October 5, 2017 for the 2nd annual Bloom Open, a golf outing and benefit dinner to support Bloom360 Learning Community. Stay tuned for more details!



Board of Director Spotlight

We are excited to welcome Kevin Svoboda to the Bloom360 Board of Directors. Kevin is Director of Operations at U.S. Physical Therapy, Inc. where he oversees business and clinical operations for the central region of physical therapy clinics located in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. Welcome, Kevin!

Blooming Together

Willow Creek Ranch



Bloom360 is committed to being a true Learning Community. This means we will engage with select organizations to share experiences and opportunities that will further support our learners as well as community members. One partner is Willow Creek Ranch, located in Mukwonago, just a few miles from our school.

Willow Creek Ranch (WCR) is a non-profit 501(c)3 therapeutic riding program for children and adults with special needs. Founded in 2007, WCR is a center member of PATH Intl. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International). We are working closely with WCR Founder, Jennifer Pape, to develop programs for our learners that may involve therapeutic riding or other activities at the ranch.

Some of the benefits Jennifer and her team have observed in children who participate in therapeutic riding include:

- Improved attention span for clients diagnosed with ADD and ADHD.
- Improved posture in those with low muscle tone.
- Children with Autism who can't sit still for longer than 30 seconds rode for 30-45 minutes without fidgeting.
- After a client's first session of 45 minutes, she put together a 6 word sentence. She normally uses unintelligible or inappropriate words and words unrelated to events.

We look forward to sharing updates about how our learners are engaging with the horses and with other outdoor activities at WCR. For more information about Willow Creek Ranch, please visit: www.willowcreekranch.org.

Working Together – Focus on Strengths and Teamwork

The Bloom360 and Vista360 teams continue to focus on their strength-based approach to business and education. As a team our top strengths are honesty, love, kindness and humor. This translates into strong guiding virtues of transcendence (gratitude, hope, humor, spirituality and appreciation of beauty and excellence) and humanity (love, kindness and social intelligence). We applaud each other's strengths and continue to reflect on how we can support each person's quest to further develop specific strengths and develop our collective team strengths.

In our recent training and team building session, we developed a team mantra: *Together we **nurture** our purpose, **strengthen** our community, and **empower** each other.*

A strengths-based approach also will be utilized with Bloom360 learners. We are excited to help our learners discover the power each of them has with their strengths and how they can contribute to a team.



Interest Driven Project-Based Learning

Bloom360 uses Project-Based Learning as our main method of teaching and learning because it:

- Increases intrinsic motivation, confidence and engagement
- Deepens relationships and a sense of belonging
- Cultivates critical thinking, problem solving, communication and collaboration
- Integrates core subject areas to support academic goals and progression
- Develops and enhances planning and organization skills

Here are two examples of our Project-Based Learning in action:



Darren, 14, is interested in how things work. This includes building operations. As one of the first learners enrolled in Bloom360, he has engaged in project-based learning by participating in the new building inspection, reviewing the site plans and taking the lead in organizing our volunteer lawn crew. We see increased motivation, enthusiasm and initiative in Darren that his parents credit to his participation in helping to develop the school and community which he will attend in the fall.

Morgan, 12, is creative. She enjoys teaching others new things. She recently visited the Vista360 offices where she taught the team how to WOMMP. The team gathered in a circle and Morgan confidently led the team through each step of WOMMPing. WOMMP is a set of movements, beneficial to both children and adults, that can support stimulating and integrating both sides of the brain. The more integrated our right and left sides of the brain are, the more we are able to express emotions and logic together without one or the other dominating our response. This short, fun activity also increases heart rate and oxygen levels which result in better focus, clarity and self regulation.



Morgan's zest and humor helped our team get moving and we now WOMMP every chance we get. Morgan also enjoys baking, storytelling, horseback riding and singing. Each of these activities are incorporated into her learning plan with projects that she is interested in.