



March 2013 · Volume 2 Issue 4

WAPT "News and Views"

In this issue: Letter from the President · Upcoming Events ·
A Thank You to the Ellbogen Foundation

Page 1

Letter from the President

By Pat Stoehr

I really cannot believe that we are almost at the end of March. That means that we are one quarter of the way through 2013! (I seem to start a lot of newsletters referencing how time flies! Am I getting old or what?!)

I am really ready for spring-like weather. It would be refreshing to have a really good thunderstorm with lots of rain and no wind. I love it when the trees start blooming and the grass turns green. It is always a welcome relief from the cold and snow of Wyoming winters!

There are several things that I want to bring to your attention:

- **We have a new website.** Please go to www.wyomingapt.org to check it out. We have information on upcoming conferences, a complete WAPT member list, and downloadable newsletters on the site. A special thank you to Nine Design Lab (my son's business) for designing the website and maintaining it at no cost to WAPT. If you have ideas or suggestions for making the website even more user friendly, please email me at pstoehr48@gmail.com. Please be aware that if you click on the September 2012 newsletter it might take 1-2 minutes for it to download due to the number of pictures in that issue.
- **Congratulations to Jamie Straessler and Rose Harriet** of the Counseling and Play Therapy Center in Buffalo whose playroom is featured on the cover of the March issue of the APT magazine. The little girl was photoshopped in to the picture, but the playroom is theirs. It looks like an awesome playroom that would be inviting to any child!
- **Welcome to two new WAPT members.** Jennifer Banks, BA, is an Affiliate member. She is a graduate student in the counseling program at UW and also works with the University of Wyoming as the Graduate Assistant for Fraternity/Sorority Life. (She is also a contributor to News & Views). Deiadra Smidt, MA, LPC is with Life Strategy Center in Sheridan, WY. Hopefully we will see both of them at the upcoming conference in Laramie in June!

Save the Date: Upcoming Events

Colorado APT Spring Conference, "Play Therapy: Inside the Mind of a Child"

April 5-6, 2013 - Cherry Creek Marriott Courtyard Hotel. Visit www.coloradoapt.org for more information. If you're a WAPT member, ask for CAPT member rates when registering.

Rocky Mountain Center of Play Therapy Studies & Early Childhood Leadership 5th Biennial Conference

June 27-29, 2013 (Supervision & Ethics Pre-Institute June 26) - Laramie. Special presenters include Dr. Garry Landreth and Dr. Richard Gaskill. WAPT will be co-sponsoring the event so please plan to attend. We will have our annual WAPT luncheon meeting during the conference. Go to www.tinyurl.com/uwplaytherapy to register.

Endless Gratitude...

By Jennifer Banks

Often the first phrase that travelers learn to say when roving to other countries is *thank you*. Children learn to say *thank you* at a very young age and soon it becomes expected. By the time *thank you* is said the act of generosity has probably already occurred. Sometimes these acts go unnoticed and slip under the rug in our fast-paced society where gratitude has become an afterthought. What about those who feel appreciation yet are unable to express it? Those who may never meet the people or organizations who made an enhanced life possible? This article says thank you from infants, children, students, parents, educators, counselors and all those who have benefited from play therapy.

Thank you, John P. Ellbogen Foundation. Thank you for your generous contributions you have already made to play therapy. Thank you for ensuring the future of play therapy. Thank you for supporting play therapy now.

The 2013 Rocky Mountain Center for Play Therapy Conference and Early Childhood Leadership is graciously sponsored by the John P. Ellbogen Foundation for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. The mission of the foundation is to create change or cause change, primarily for the benefit of the people of Wyoming through the support of science, education, and charity.

Mary Ellbogen Garland, the director of the foundation, relates that the basic philosophy of the foundation is to support Wyoming children with a specific focus on early childhood. Mary states that this is a foundational time for children to receive support as they transition out of early childhood into the school system. Early childhood is vitally important developmentally, and is an ideal time to fundamentally support children as they begin to grow emotionally, socially, and cognitively. This developmental focus and kindergarten readiness leads to success in school and life in the many years that follow. With the generous contribution of the John P. Ellbogen Foundation to the 2013 Play Therapy Conference, success for children is promoted through all channels and persons who work with children.

Communities and families that support early childhood support the future. This year's Play Therapy Conference augments the incredibly important work that is being done with children and families. As Garry L. Landreth, this year's keynote speaker says: "Fish swim, birds fly, children play." And we say thank you for fish, for birds, for children, and for the John P. Ellbogen Foundation. Thank you for recognizing the importance of play to all humans, especially

Check it out...

For those of you not familiar with Play Therapy Works, they put out an e-newsletter that contains a free child therapy technique in each issue that can be printed and used right away. The featured technique in the latest e-newsletter is the "Worry Box." The recommended age range is from 8-14. It looks interesting and applicable for that age range. You can print out the full instructions from their website. Play Therapy Works also sponsors summer seminars in Cape Cod. For information on their featured techniques, seminars and other upcoming trainings, visit their website at www.playtherapyworks.com.

Have information you'd like to share?

If you know of upcoming conferences or events that may be of interest to WAPT members, please email me and I will get them posted on our website and email an announcement to all WAPT members.