January ends today and we are waiting for Punxsutawney Phil to give us some sense of what weather is coming up for us in February. Regardless of the weather ahead, things in Embark are continuing to heat up. Embark students have been discussing issues related to relationships and what the term “dating” means. This has brought up some interesting discussions for the members of the class and the staff. Consider opening that topic with your son or daughter to get their own personal opinion about the topic.

Some ideas of what Students Response to the question “What does dating mean to you”?

- “It means you want to be with the other person ALL THE TIME.”
- Dating means you like the other person a lot and want them to be your best friend. Usually it’s a girl. (said by one of the male students).
- Dating means as soon as you get home from school you have to text, or face time the other person and be on the phone with them until you go to sleep, so you stay in touch.
- Dating means you are going to marry that person...
- Dating means that you want to hold hands and kiss the other person”

Cierra has found her niche at The Northeast Animal Shelter. She has increased her hours at work, and been elevated to a full time volunteer from a trainee. Congrats Cierra...We’re all wicked proud of you!

Parents Group Meeting, Thursday Feb. 6th, 6:00-7:15

Topic: Financial Planning for your Child with Disabilities

Brendan Harty, Harty Financial Services
How do we celebrate success? In photos of course....

Here are just a few milestones students have reached this week. Several student interns are extending their work hours. A few students are commuting back and forth from the Salem State Campus to their classes at North Shore Community College, independently and without any staff assistance. Several students who have been working at The Northeast Animal Shelter have become full-fledged Volunteers and thus have lost their “in-training” label. Two SOAR students will begin taking college classes at Wellspring House several days a week.

In social skills group this week students completed their work on Autism Spectrum Disorder having researched the history, the causes, and the treatments that have been used in the past. Also, students had a heated discussion about behaviors that are age and socially appropriate vs those that might not be. This is a great discussion topic for parents and families. You might be surprised at what comes out about this area of social thinking!

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