




# Eagle Gazette



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### We're on the Web!

[State College  
\(soaringheightsschool.com\)](http://soaringheightsschool.com)

## From the Director

### Our word of the year: Resilience

It was last year in March when our view of educating our students took a drastic change in perspective. We had to reimagine how to reach our students. The students that need us. The students that expect us to support them. The students that depend on us.

With passion like no other, and a commitment to support our students, the staff at Soaring Heights School worked diligently to become active learners. We learned to utilize ZOOM and Google Classroom. We experienced the ups and downs of telehealth. We dove into an online curriculum.

Fast forward to August...Staff and students were excited to get back to the classroom and into a routine together. I was incredibly proud to watch our team come together and educate our students.

It has been exciting to see how eager the students are when they show up to school each morning! All the social distancing, and mask wearing has been



well worth it to be able see our students, educate them, and keep them safe.

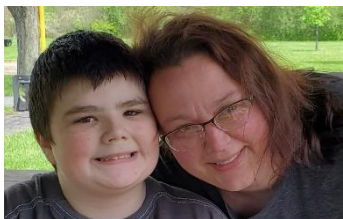
It has truly been an amazing year. The amount of support from families and the community humble me. We were able to create our own school library primarily from donated books. We enjoyed many lessons from special guests that visited our school because we could not bring our students to them. Our staff and our students learned to think outside the box! Every challenge that we faced, we conquered them together.

- *Shelley Roderick*  
Program Director

## Important Dates

- **May 28<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>:** No School
- **June 2<sup>nd</sup>:** End-of-Year Fair
- **June 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Last Day for Students
- **June 4<sup>th</sup>:** Staff In-service
- **June 14<sup>th</sup>:** ESY Begins (M-Th)
- **July 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Last Day of ESY

## Student Spotlight: Vincent



Pictured: Vincent & Laura Thorne

Vincent is 11 years old and has been a student at Soaring Heights School, State College for several months now. He is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and a part of Ms. Laura's classroom. Vincent was born in State College, Pennsylvania. Vincent has several favorite things he enjoys. He loves his "doggie", Freddie Frost Bear, Easter, Bonnie, and the restaurant Hoss's Steak

and Sea House. Vincent enjoys attending Soaring Heights School in State College. His favorite part of school is seeing all his friends in class. When he is at home, Vincent likes to play with his sister, play video games, and read books. His favorite book is Lego Star Wars. In the summer, Vincent prefers to stay inside and play games. Vincent has recently began

volunteering as our school librarian. He helps the students check out books and keeps track of returns. If Vincent could give anyone advice, he would say, "Focus Danielson!" This is a quote his father always says to him.



## Staff Spotlight: Laura Thorne

Laura Thorne is an elementary-grade special education teacher at Soaring Heights School, State College. She has been teaching in special education for over 20 years.

Laura grew up in Saint Mary's, Pennsylvania. In her spare time, she enjoys swimming and spending time with her daughter, friends, and family. Laura's all-time favorite

food is steak and a baked potato from the grill.

Laura has been teaching at Soaring Heights School for two years. Her favorite thing about school is her students and seeing how they learn.

When she is at home, Laura likes to watch movies, play with her dog and daughter, and she loves to cook. During the summer, Laura teaches summer school, goes

camping, and swims as much as she can.

Laura's advice is; "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."- Mahatma Gandhi.

*"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."*

*-Mahatma Gandhi*

## Special Interest Story: Autism Acceptance



April was autism acceptance month! In 1970, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to encourage autism awareness. The purpose of this campaign was to ensure that all individuals affected by autism are able to achieve the

highest quality life possible. Since then, the prevalence of autism in society has increased from 1 in 125 children to 1 in 54 children. This increase has led to the change from "Autism Awareness" to "Autism Acceptance," to foster

change and inclusivity of those affected by autism. SHS has participated in this celebration every year, and this year students decorated rocks and placed them around the community promoting autism acceptance.