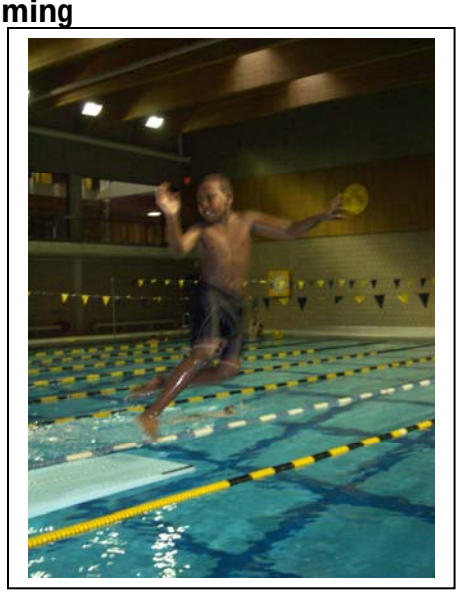
Big Partner Little Partner Newsletter

April 2006
Issue 5

March Madness Double Monthly Events:

Timberwolves Game and Swimming



BPLP hosted TWO group monthly events to give everyone more choices and more opportunities to get involved. With the option of two events, more people were able to fit some time into their schedule and participate. The combined turn out for the events was awesome and the kids seemed to have a great time.

TIMBERWOLVES – A group of about 20 Big Partners and their Little Partners watched the Minnesota Timberwolves beat the Golden State Warriors 103-90. As you can see in the picture, some even came in their Timberwolves gear to show support!

SWIMMING – We had a great turnout at the Lund pool. About 17 BPLP pairs brought their suits, towels and pool toys to swim in the pool and relax in the hot tub. We took some great action shots (look to the right).

Upcoming Events

- Science Museum
  -Saturday, April 22
  -FREE admission and Omnimax (Baja Ocean)
- End of the Year Picnic
  -tentatively Monday, May 15th in the Gustavus Arboretum
  -all LPs, their families and BPs welcome!
  -dinner and activities

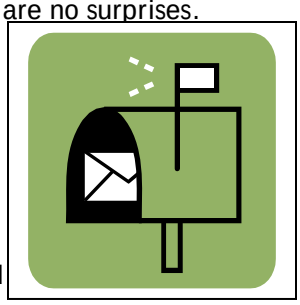
Meet one of the new monthly-event coordinators: Rachel

Hi, my name is Rachel Tuil and I'm a new Monthly Events Coordinator. I'm a junior English major, women's studies minor. I was abroad last fall in Ireland and had a really great time! I thoroughly enjoy Big Partner Little Partner and love my LP Cameron, who I've had for 2 years. We like to play bball, go swimming and "surf" on the kickboards, eat spaghetti in the caf, play Guess Who? and do other crazy random things. My activity suggestion for Spring: take advantage of St. Peter's parks and the warm weather!

"To the world, you may just be somebody. But to somebody, you may just be the world."
- Unknown-

How to say goodbye to your Little Partner:

As the end of the year approaches, it is important to start thinking about how you will say goodbye to your Little Partner. He/she may not understand that you will not be around after May (or in the future if you are a senior or studying abroad next Fall). Make sure you start to bring it up well in advance so there are no surprises. Approach it cautiously, keeping in mind a child's perspective.



Do not promise things that you cannot fulfill (keeping in touch over the summer, being their Big Partner next year, etc). Remember, your LP looks up to you and kids are very astute at remembering certain things you say. We encourage you to keep in touch with your LP over the summer if you would like to. Send a postcard, a letter or give a phone call. Put your summer address on a couple stamped envelopes and give them to your LP so he/she may write to you.

Meet the Pair of the Month: Jay and Mikkel

I met Mikkel at the first Big Little Partner event in the fall. Some of the things that we have done together are playing catch, gone swimming, played in the snow, videogames, played in the park, board games, and played in the gym. We both like to be active so we usually try to get out and do something fun. We have taken part in many or the group events as well. I was really proud of Mikkel when he got up and shared a story at the story telling session.

My experience with the Big Little Partner program has taught me to use my time wisely. I try to make time to see Mikkel as often as I can because I know he is counting on me to do so. Mikkel is fun to be with and I enjoy my time with him. I am very grateful for this experience.

If you know of a pair that would make a great pair of the month, please contact ckunze@gac.edu

Kid Friendly Recipe: Puff Paint Made Easy

Materials Needed:

- 1 Cup Salt
- 1 Cup Sugar
- Food Coloring

Instructions:
Mix together the three ingredients and place in a squeeze bottle. Squeeze paint out of the bottle onto paper!

Top 5 Things to do in April:

1. Plant a seed and watch it grow!
2. Dye Easter eggs (Tip: to make eggs that last longer, make a small hole at both ends of the egg and blow out all the 'egg' inside into a bowl. Dye and they should last for weeks!)
3. Get out in the parks! (Check out Treemendous, the Elementary schools and Swede Park)
4. Bring a soccer ball out to the fields behind Southwest and practice your skills
5. In honor of National Poetry month, check out "Where the Sidewalk Ends" by Shel Siverstein in the Community Service Center