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'Unselfish efforts' aid Erie children with disabilities

On behalf of the students in the autistic support program at Emerson-Gridley Elementary School, I want to thank all of those who go out of their way every year to provide students with disabilities an opportunity to participate in horseback riding.

Students in my class (as well as several other special education classes) were able to attend weekly horseback riding lessons at Willow's Equestrian Center in Fairview.

The TREC program provides a structured and safe environment for individuals with disabilities to learn to ride horses. The program also assists students in helping them to develop balance, sensory skills, confidence, and most importantly for my students, communication skills.

Karen Mead is the talented instructor who plans and coordinates a large contingent of volunteers who make the trip out to the farm every Thursday morning.

Sue Moczulski makes sure that everyone has the proper equipment, and takes care of much of the planning and legwork.

Bren Lindell and his students from Millcreek make up a large part of the Thursday volunteer crew.

Mr. Piekanski and Mr. DeISandro make everything possible from an administrative end at the Erie School District.

Without all of their unselfish efforts, eight lucky kids in my class would have missed many special moments, lots to talk about, and much to feel proud of.

Ed Nientimp

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