

AROUND THE HOUSE

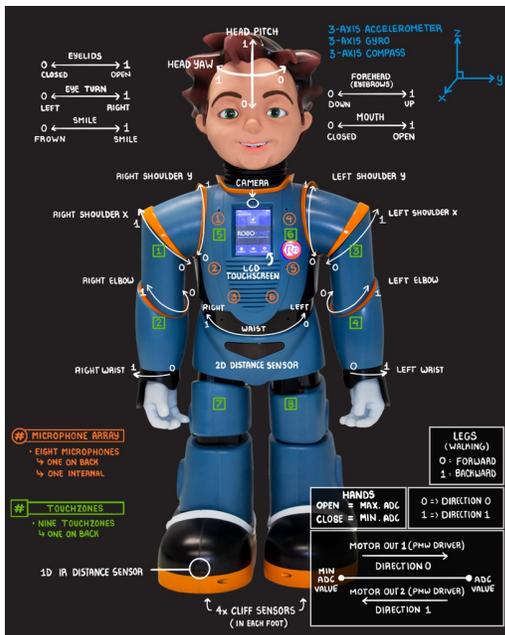
Avondale House eNewsletter

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HOUSE
Specializing in Autism Services and Resources



Mark Your Calendar

- Aug 17th- First Day of School



Avondale House Welcomes Milo the Robot

We are so excited to welcome Milo the Robot to the Day School staff! This new robotic technology offers promising advancements for students on the autism spectrum. Milo—a humanoid robot -- works one-on-one with students to accomplish their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals.

Milo gives Avondale House teachers and paraprofessionals tools to help develop student capacity for social-emotional growth, excel in their curriculum, reduce harmful behaviors, and promote healthy interactions. Milo will be deployed alongside Avondale House educators three times a week.

“We are thrilled to welcome Milo,” said Steve Vetrano, CEO of Avondale House. “Milo can

smile, laugh, walk, and speak. Most amazing of all, he’s really good at helping our students develop and practice critical social skills.”

Funding for Milo and the curriculum for Avondale House was provided through a generous grant from [The Brown Foundation, Inc.](#)

[Learn more about Milo!](#)

How We Are Staying Safe

We are back at school for extended school year offering face-to-face instruction for the students of Avondale House. We want to thank our teachers and staff for taking great caution and care in maintaining a safe facility. All recommended precautions are being taken to ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff members.

The students are very happy to be at school and they are enjoying being back in their routines. Those students who will tolerate masks are wearing them and those that cannot tolerate masks have plexi-glass shields around their desks. School looks a lot different these days but we are so happy to be back. See below for additional steps we are taking to keep our students and staff safe:

- Classes are self-contained with no more than eleven individuals in a classroom. This includes teachers, staff, and students.
- Social distancing measures are in place to minimize contact with students.
- All instruction is held in spaces that allow for desks and/or work areas to be placed at least six feet apart.
- Classes do not combine for activities at any time.
- Students will not attend assemblies, field trips, or other group gatherings outside of their class group.
- Students are given frequent opportunities to wash their hands while learning proper hand cleaning techniques.
- All staff wear masks. Students who will tolerate wearing masks are encouraged to do so.
- Arrival and dismissal procedures are modified to reduce the number of individuals congregating in hallways.
- Students are received and dismissed from the drop-off area only.
- The multipurpose room is not available for use.
- Non-essential visitors, including parents or guardians, will not be permitted in the building. Drop-off and pick-up are curbside only.



The safety of our staff, students, and their families remain our top priority. As we continue to navigate this ongoing pandemic, we encourage everyone to follow CDC guidelines, including proper hand-washing, social distancing, and wearing a mask. Please reach out to [Paul Kandola](#) if you have questions about Day School safety protocols or guidelines.

Team Member of the Month



Jacob Angwech is Avondale's Team Member of the Month! Jacob's work ethic is beyond compare. This has been particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. He has dedicated his time to the residents of Avondale House by picking up additional shifts throughout the week to assist as much as possible at the Benning House.

Jacob is a calming presence at the residential home where he works. Even during these tough times, Jacob has kept a positive attitude without fail. He is a valuable member of the team and we all appreciate his efforts to ensure client safety as well as the safety and well-being of his peers. Jacob is an embodiment of professionalism!

Avondale House wishes to congratulate and thank Jacob for his outstanding work!

Volunteer Spotlight- Katherine & Sophie Vukadin

Katherine and her daughter, Sophie, are the current National Charity League, Post Oak liaisons for Avondale House. They have volunteered with us for a little over a year through this partnership with NCL Post Oak. Here is what Katherine had to say about her experience:

"My daughter and I first learned about Avondale House through National Charity League. We were intrigued because we believe in the mission of supporting people with neurological differences. From the first time we walked into Avondale House, we connected with the positive attitude of the students, teachers, and staff: every person contributes and is valued. As volunteers, we enjoy projects such as baking cookies for special events, delivering groceries, power washing, and staining furniture. Each time, we learn something new and we are contributing to something important. Plus, volunteering is special mother-daughter time!"



We cannot thank NCL Post Oak enough for their dedicated group of volunteers like Katherine and Sophie!

If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to [Katie Bruchmiller](#).

Recent Donors

Avondale House wishes to thank and acknowledge these recent donors:

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