



Newsletter

Summer 2006

From the Director's Desk

To say that this spring and summer have kept us busy and on our toes would be an understatement! Beginning in February, we experienced an onslaught of media interest in JRC that has included CNN, WNBC (New York), ABC television, People Magazine, Geraldo, the Boston Globe and a host of other reporters. Whenever major national media visit JRC, we like to invite our parents to be present (for moral and substantive support) in the Whimsy Room (page 3

top) while the reporter interviews me (page 2 bottom). We now encourage reporters to interview not only our parents, but also one or more of our students (page 3 bottom).

The remodeling of our 240 (Turnpike Street) building's lower floor is now complete. The major new feature is a full service kitchen in which we will soon be preparing most of our own meals. We have been extremely fortunate to find highly skilled Head Chef

Chad Gould, and he has helped us to recruit Chef Ricardo Gibson and Chef Todd Hamlet to assist him. The photo below shows Chef Chad and some members of his staff. The new dining room, which is about 2.5 times as large as the previous one, is shown on page 5 (top right), together with a view of one of the beautiful staff restrooms.

Our design consultant, Judy Weber, is transforming the décor of the corridors of the 240



Dr. Matthew Israel and Glenda Crookes pose with members of our Food Services Staff in our brand new kitchen! Left to right: Glenda, Chef Ricardo Gibson, Head Chef Chad Gould, Matthew, Chef Todd Hamlet, Rosa Monteiro (food services staff), Shamnese A. (student), and Ana Barboza (food services staff).

Recent Media Attention

building, which used to be lined with art prints. The prints have been taken down. Each wall is being painted a different shade of green and there is green carpeting. Page 5 (bottom left) shows a typical corridor. Some of the walls will be white with flowers that will be hand painted by designer Judy Barry. Currently, the construction crew is remodeling the upstairs level of 240, which is still a work in progress (see page 5, top left).

This spring we installed a new playground between our 240 and 250 buildings. The swings (page 4 top), as well as all other parts of the playground, are used as part of our reward system to encourage desired student behaviors. Also shown is a new Contract Store in the 250 building, containing a variety of items that students can purchase with the points and money that they earn by showing improved behaviors. Recently we developed some new rewarding events, one of which was a highly popular Luau Dance (page 4 bottom).

With the advent of our own kitchen, there will be many more opportunities for students to learn food preparation skills, a vocational skill that is very popular with many of our students (see page 6). We may even experiment with training students to wait on tables.

On June 29th we held our graduation ceremony (page 6). This year 18 students graduated. Two students received high school diplomas, twelve received IEP diplomas from their high school and four received JRC Certificates of Culmination. We are very proud of their accomplishments.

This summer wedding bells rang for several members of our staff (page 7)! Chef Chad got married in Korea. Both his bride and he are shown in traditional Korean wedding costumes. Two of our clinicians also tied the knot—Trish Rivera married Peter Murphy and Sinead Wood married Eric Peterson. And in a long-overdue event, I married consultant Judy Weber.

The rear page shows a video telephone that we are now making available to students whose families live at a significant distance, to help the students keep in touch with their families.

Matthew Israel, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Dr. Israel uses behavior charts to show JRC's effectiveness.



CNN reporter Randi Kaye interviews Dr. Israel.

A group of people are seated on a purple couch in a room with purple walls. A man with a mustache, wearing a white shirt and a dark vest, is seated in the center. To his right, a woman with blonde hair is seated. Further right, a man in a white shirt and a blue patterned tie is seated. A woman with blonde hair is seated next to him. A woman with dark hair and glasses is seated to the left of the man with the mustache. A camera operator is filming them from the left, and a boom microphone is positioned above the group. The room is decorated with purple walls and several masks are hanging on the wall.

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New Areas at our 250 Building



This spring we added a playground to the land between our 240 and 250 Turnpike St. buildings.



Recently, we created this new Contract Store in our 250 building.



Luau Dance



Students Antonio S. and Lisa H. at our summer Luau dance.



4 Janine C. and Ms. Parker shake it up on the dance floor!



Construction Begins at 240



The upper level of our 240 building is still under construction.



One of the first areas to be renovated was this expanded Multi-Purpose Room. This will be our new dining room.



Dr. Israel, student Diego D., and staff member Kasey McAuley pose in one of the new hallways at 240. Each corridor wall is a different shade of green.



The photo above shows a recently remodeled staff restroom.



Student Cooking Classes



We recently began a cooking class led by Head Chef Chad (above). Those students who are passing their contracts earn the opportunity to participate in the class. The students have made such culinary delights as spring rolls, spiced muffins, and banana crème brulee.



Chef Chad demonstrates to Anna K. how to create a burnt topping on the banana crème brulee.

Graduation 2006



Katie S. earned not only a JRC Certificate of Culmination, but also her high school diploma from the Boston Public Schools. Katie passed both the Math and English/Language Arts MCAS Exams with flying colors and earned the opportunity to attend JRC as a day student due to her improved behavior.



In addition to his JRC Certificate of Culmination, Nicky T. earned his IEP Diploma from the NYC Board of Education. Nicky transitioned to a less restrictive adult placement because of the excellent progress that he made during his time at JRC.



Staff Weddings



Chef Chad and his wife Sandra were married in July in Korea.



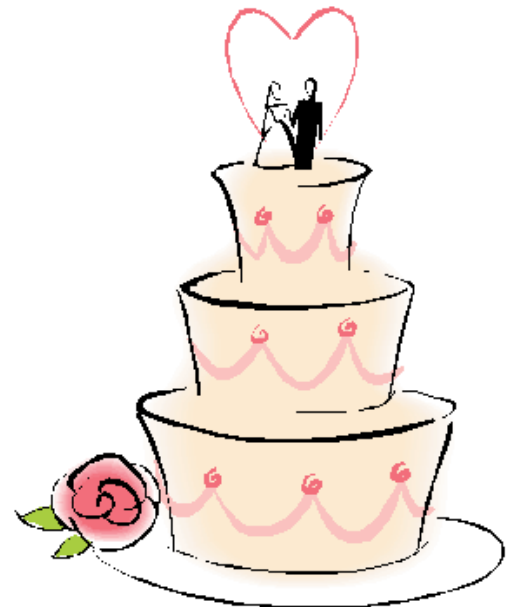
JRC Clinician Sinead Wood married Eric Peterson.



In May, Dr. Trish Rivera, Assistant Director of Clinical Services, married Peter Murphy.

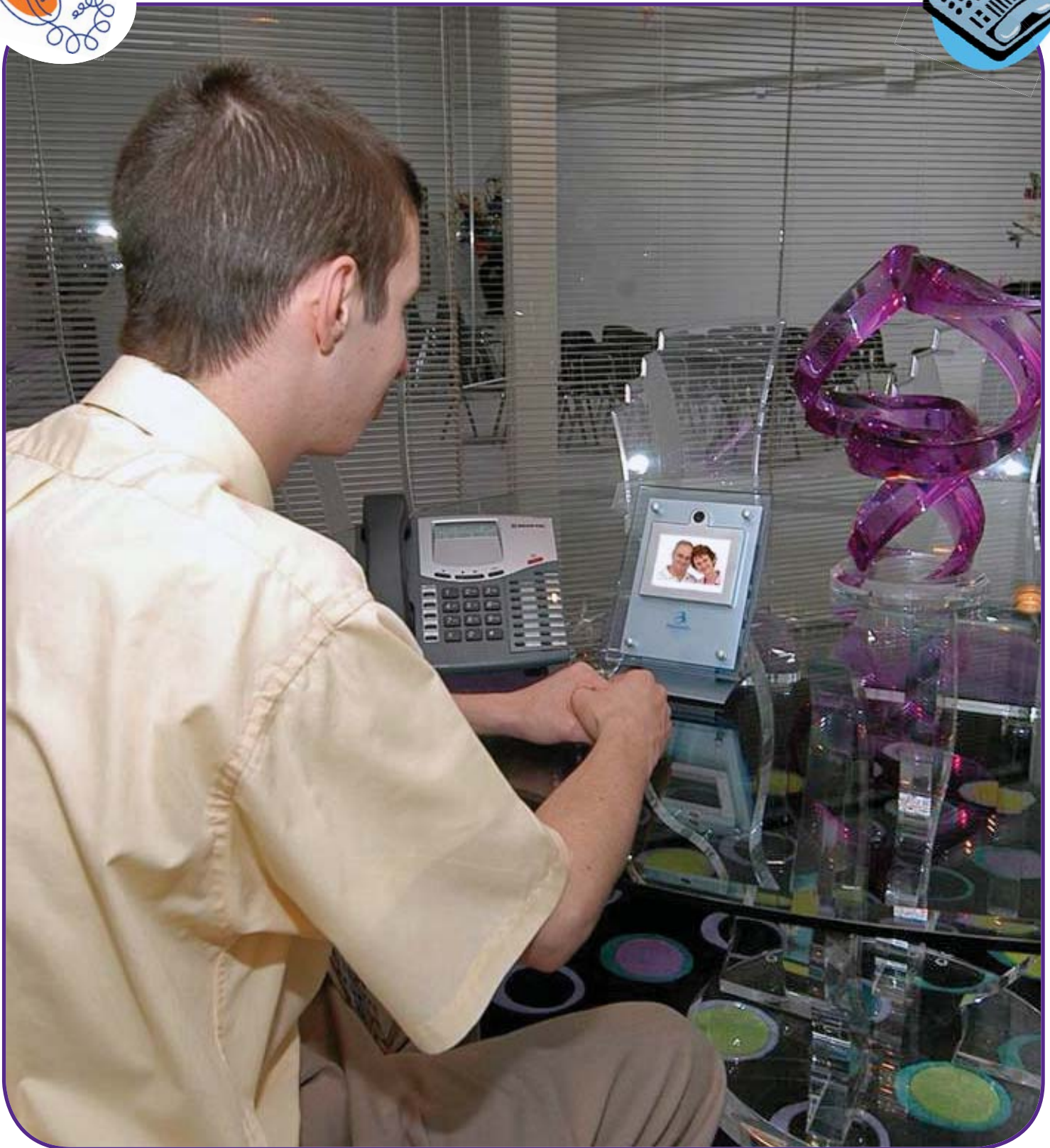


After many years together our Executive Director, Matthew Israel, married Consultant, Judy Weber, in July in Los Angeles!





Videophones for Students



In the photo above, Keith M. uses a videophone to talk to his parents.

For those students with families residing outside of the Northeast, JRC provides parents/guardians with a videophone at no cost, which allows them to have a regular video conference with their children. Students have access to a videophone at the school and parents have the opportunity to see their children as they speak with them.