

Happy October! 2019

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month. On behalf of my son, Flynn, I would like to share some information about him and about Down syndrome. They say in writing, know your audience. This has become problematic for me because this annual letter has come to have a wide audience. It started in 2000 with an e-mail to my school district, but over the years the letter and information has been shared with many friends, acquaintances, and strangers. I am always pleased when I hear how the awareness is spread.

Flynn is 24 now! He is a delightful young man that lives with us at home and attends the Pioneer Center for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities in McHenry, IL. He enjoys his days there and has many friends and enjoys many social outings and activities. He is always excited to see his friends in unexpected places. Just last week he saw a Pioneer Bus and went over to say hi to everyone. They all greeted him and we heard several iterations and versions of his name, just as we hear the names of his friends from him which we need to interpret.

Flynn has a routine and he is quite content in his life. The phrase we hear when we inquire about some activity that might throw off his current activity is "I'm fine."

I have many previous letters on my school [web page](#). You are welcome to check them out. Flynn's story is a happy one. He continues to have a good life and so do we.

There is a new movie that came out recently called "Peanut Butter Falcon". I highly recommend it. Flynn saw it and we had a good time talking about it afterward. Flynn still loves Professional Wrestling. Beth and I laugh when we hear him getting so excited downstairs as he watches Monday Night Raw or Tuesday Night Smackdown.

Please remember that people with Down syndrome are people first and should be referred to that way: people with Down syndrome, a baby with Down syndrome, not Downs kids or a Downs person. It is a small detail, but it makes a big difference.

Thanks for reading and if you ever have any questions feel free to ask.

Jay and Beth and Flynn.