

Author And Educator To Highlight Variety Of Learning Needs



Dr. Jane Bluestein will present on "My Brain Doesn't Work Like That!" at The Janus School, 205 Lefever Road, Mount Joy, on Thursday, April 7, with an educators' workshop from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and a separate lecture from 6 to 8 p.m.

By Krista Hurley

With more than six billion people in the world, it should come as no surprise that there are noticeable differences among them. Their uniqueness spans a realm of areas, from interests and personalities to learning needs.

Recognizing the differences in learning needs and helping students to access their full potential is part of what has made The Janus School, 205 Lefever Road, Mount Joy, such an effective tool in the world of education. The school works with students with learning differences, dyslexia, AD(H)D, nonverbal learning difficulties, and Asperger's syndrome to help them succeed, both inside and outside of an academic setting.

In keeping with its focus, the

school will host author and educator Dr. Jane Bluestein on Thursday, April 7. Her presentation will be titled, "My Brain Doesn't Work Like That!" and will focus on "creating success with nontraditional learners by accommodating learning differences." There will be an educators' workshop from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and a separate lecture from 6 to 8 p.m. Both presentations are open to the public.

"(Bluestein) is a very dynamic speaker," said Robin Payne, the school's director of admission and outreach. "She really tries to engage her audience. (Her presentation) is very interactive."

Currently heading up a consulting and resource firm in New Mexico, Bluestein has previous experience as a classroom teacher

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in an inner-city school, a crisis-intervention counselor, a teacher training program coordinator, and a volunteer with high-risk youths. She

has channeled her knowledge into a number of books, including "Creating Emotionally Safe Schools," "The Parent's Little Book of Lists: Do's and Don'ts of Effective Parenting," "The Win-Win Classroom," and "Becoming a Win-Win Teacher." Bluestein's influence has been felt worldwide through speaking engagements and other work with parents, educators, child care workers, counselors, and health care professionals. She has also appeared as a guest expert on CNN, National Public Radio, and "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

Bluestein's presentations at The Janus School will highlight the variety of ways that people learn. She will provide information and strategies for accommodating different learning preferences while discussing ideas and methods that parents and teachers of nontraditional learners will find helpful.

"I think (attendees) will be inspired by her," Payne stated. At the core of much of Bluestein's advice is the concept of relationships. "While she's here to speak about 'My Brain Doesn't Work Like That!,' I find her ideas to be pretty universal - the building

of relationships and really listening and understanding folks," Payne pointed out. "I think it will be enlightening for parents. She has some great ways of addressing conflicts, especially parent and teen conflicts."

According to Payne, Bluestein's presentations are effective because of the clarity and the open manner with which she addresses and gets to the heart of issues. "She's very respectful of people in terms of their individual differences," Payne said. "She's not put off by adversity or conflict. She's speaking about possibilities and not barriers."

Separate fees have been set for the educators' workshop, which will be geared toward teachers, and for the evening lecture, which will focus on working with a child's learning differences in the home environment. Those who plan to attend either presentation must register, whether in advance or on the day of the event. Early registration is encouraged but not required. Registration forms are available at www.thejanusschool.org. For more information about the event, readers are encouraged to call the school at 653-0025, e-mail rpayne@thejanusschool.org, or visit the school's website.