

Down Syndrome Development Council

FORUM- July 2007 volume 10



Please contact us at:

DDC
PO Box 906
Mundelein,
IL 60060

Our Meeting Place:
Community Protestant Church
418N. Prairie
Mundelein,

Second Mondays of the month

Our Mission:
To promote a greater acceptance and understanding of Down syndrome, by enlightening the broader community to recognize the individuality, uniqueness and capabilities of individuals with DS.

Next Monthly Meeting:
Monday, Sept 10 @7pm.

Our Sept meeting is scheduled to be an ice cream social, where we can get back together and catch up on how everyone is doing. We look forward to welcoming new families to our group and planning new activities for the fall.

Or you could just come for the cookies.

DDC Summer Picnic

Summer is here at last, and that means (among other things!) that the annual DDC picnic is just around the corner. For food and fun (even fishing!), join us on **Sunday August 26 from 12 to 4 pm at Half Day Forest Preserve, Shelter A** (on Milwaukee Avenue between Route 22 and Route 60) in Lincolnshire.

As in the past, we will provide soft drinks, water, and various grilled items; new this year is the fact that the side dishes and desserts will be provided by members of the Board!

That's right - you DO NOT have to bring any food for the feast this year!

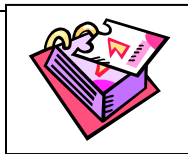
HOWEVER, instead, we were hoping that each family could bring some non-perishable supplies to contribute to the Buddy Walk; we would be so grateful if everyone could bring one of the following:

- *case of pop (Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, or Sprite)
- *case of bottled water (any brand)
- *bulk quantities of juice boxes (any brand).

Questions? Call Jennifer Jenkins (847/970-6797).

Your participation in this variation on the picnic "potluck" is vital to the success of this year's Buddy Walk - thank you so much in advance for your help, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

UPCOMING DDC EVENTS:



- 7/14 Sat. Playgroup 10:30-12:30am
- 7/19 Thurs. Playgroup, 5:30 - 7:30pm
- 8/26 Sun. Family Picnic, 12-4pm
- 9/10 Monthly Meeting, 7pm
- 9/14 Fri. Tootsie Roll drive, 8am - 1pm
- 9/16 Sun. Buddy Walk, 12-5pm

We now have a website:

www.TheDDC.org It is a beautifully designed site that will provide access to our newsletter. You should email Terri to cancel your mailed newsletter. Postage and

THE 2007 BUDDY WALK
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th
LAMBS FARM
LIBERTYVILLE, IL
12:00 PM TO -5:00 PM
WALK HELD AT 1:30 PM



For more information or to volunteer please contact:

- **Debbie Pogose** 847-973-1622 EMAIL: BEAUV@SBCGLOBAL.NET
- **Mary Lou Paff** 847.548.4852 EMAIL: mlpaff@aol.com
- **Patrick or RaeAnn Collins** 847.265.8482 Email: rjohncol@comcast.net

Special Olympics 2007

Congratulations to all athletes that competed at the Special Olympics state games held June 15-17 at Illinois State Univ.



We would like to congratulate Carl Stahl, who is eight years old, son of Brian and Janet Stahl for his first time accomplishments at the Special Olympics. At the regionals he took the gold metal for the 50 meter run and took the bronze metal in the tennis ball throw. He then qualified for the state over the Father's Day weekend and brought home a silver metal in the 50 meter run.

WAY TO GO CARL!!!!



Here is a very relevant website to visit. It is full of items regarding recent court rulings about parent's rights during appeals, extension of Special ed. services at age 21, behavioral issues and appropriate school discipline, and updates on State and Federal cases. This website is from a local special education attorney Matt Cohen. Check it out.

www.monahan-cohen.com

DDC Board Members 2006-2007

President	Patrick Collins	847-265-8482	rjohncol@comcast.net
Vice Pres	Mary Lou Paff	847-548-4852	mlpaff@aol.com
Secretary	Jennifer Jenkins	847-970-6797	only_connect@msn.com
Treasurer	Janis Kern	847-548-4417	Janiskern@comcast.net
Past Pres	Andrea O'Donnell	847-949-1975	odonnella@sbcglobal.net
Playgroups	Belinda Hidalgo	847-838-4398	Hidalgob@comcast.net
Board	RaeAnn Collins	847-265-8482	rjohncol@comcast.net
Newsletter	Terri Christolini	847-267-1169	christoliniben@comcast.net
Foro (Spanish Issue)	Anna Roeser	847-362-0980	roeser1984@yahoo.com



Kickin' for a Cause
A kickball tournament

Benefiting Special Olympics Illinois Northeastern Area 2

When: Saturday October 13th, 2007
Where: Warren Township Fields, Gurnee IL
17801 Washington Street
Ages: Open to all
Time: 10:00am-4:00pm
Fee: \$25 per person (includes games, t-shirt, lunch)
Minimum 9 people per team

Format Includes: Pool play (minimum 2 games guaranteed, Lunch
Championship/Consolation brackets

Registration Deadline: Friday September 28th

For Registration Information and Questions call
Amber at 847.478.0935 or apetersen@soill.org

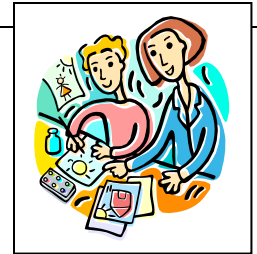
PECS TRAINING

(Picture Exchange Communication System)

Date: Tuesdays, Oct. 2, 9 & 23, 2007

Time: 3:45-5:45 pm

Location: Laremont School



Training for Teachers, Parents, Therapists, Assistants and all others interested are welcome to attend. Free babysitting available with **prior notice**

Information is available on SEDOL website www.sedol.k12.il.us
Register under Professional Staff Development Opportunities online at
gmill@sedol.k12.il.us

If you do not have internet access or have questions, please call SEDOL at 847.548.8470 ext.

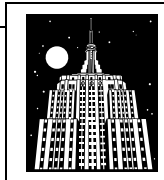
"In addition to our regular board meeting this month (which dealt primarily with the organizational details of the Buddy Walk - see other sections of this newsletter!), the DDC Board gathered briefly on June 20 to pass a resolution that will help solidify our institutional status. In going through "the books," we realized that the person listed as our "registered agent" (e.g., the person to whom many of our tax, financial, and non-profit-related mail documents are addressed, a kind of watchdog who makes sure that all our paperwork is in order with every state and federal office that matters) is no longer in regular contact with the DDC. This position is one that we are required to fill by law, and in order to keep things running smoothly, we proposed and passed a resolution removing the previous agent (Joann Hart) and appointing a new agent (Patrick J. Collins) in her place. This appointment will most likely be temporary until we choose a local lawyer/law firm that could serve in this capacity on a more permanent basis, allowing for a continuity of coverage across any changes in board officers. *-Jennifer Jenkins, Secretary*"

Last Month at the DDC . . . – May 2007



- I. Special Olympics Presentation
- II. Board Meeting
 - A. Approval of April Minutes – yes!
 - B. Financial Status (2007-8 Budget)
 - 1. Everything's fine!
 - 2. Monthly expenses paid – PECS expenses covered.
 - 3. Janice has essentially roughed out '07-8 budget – playgroup portion will stay as is.
 - 4. Big unknown for budget – Buddy Walk (stay tuned)
 - C. PECS Workshop (May 5, 2007)
 - 1. Overall, big success – 19 attendees (2 extra people bought materials without attending), materials and lunch covered by registration fees (\$20 per person)
5 extra kits available – will advertise this in the newsletter as for sale.
 - 2.
 - 3. Thanks to Rae for organizing this great event!
 - D. Updating By-Laws
 - 1. Will include name change if decide on new one – for now, use “Down Syndrome Development Council.”
 - 2. Should solicit name options from membership.
 - E. Board – current officers will remain in their positions for another year, unless larger membership registers any objection!
- III. Meeting Topics
 - A. July & August = no meeting
 - B. September = ice cream social – Mary Lou suggests that we have someone from Community Alternatives Unlimited come and do PUNS registration during this event (database helps in planning future legislation and need of services) October = Charlie Fox (Chicago lawyer & parent of special needs child) would like to come and do a presentation (free!) on process of IEPs (preparation, appeals, what to do and what not to do)
- IV. 2007 Upcoming Events – Need Board Chairs
 - A. Summer Picnic – Jen Jenkins, with help from Andrea O'Donnell
 - B. Play Groups – Mary Lou Paff & Belinda Hidalgo
 - C. Movie Events – Rae Ann Collins
 - D. Buddy Walk – the Collins pair and Deb Pogose
 - A. Have been granted permission by NDSS to do walk on Sept 16
 - B. Proposal and contract sent over by Lambs Farm folks – 2 of their staff will supervise parking, fee slightly lowered, staff liaison coordinator (Cathy) assigned to us, various event spaces included (tents, tables, refrigerator space for storage)
 - C. Will charge \$3 for unlimited access to rides, etc. – the longer they stay, the more they might spend on food!
 - D. Booths = NADS, SRACLC, YMCA swim class, It'll Fit'll clothing (she wants to measure kids now and launch her line in the fall – measurement party on June 3 at Gurnee's Chuck E Cheese – see UPS for Downs website for more info), law enforcement, Center for Independent Living, etc. – 13 “info” booths in all, plus artist Michael Johnson – and various Down-syndrome athletic groups, Bubba the Art Bus, inflatables, games, all the Lambs rides; DJ (from The Mix), food, raffle (help needed here – more prize gathering! Anyone have golf course contacts??? Time-share??? Gift certificates?); MacGruff
 - E. Estimated Costs – Site = \$2000; Prizes (Games) = no more than \$1000; Shirts = to be discovered (still need price quotes); Brochure = \$800 (need to redo the DDC brochure as well – Edwin will design the one for the Walk); 10-20% of profit goes back to NDSS; Additional tables, tents, chairs = \$1000; food to be discovered (in the past, most was donated, but this year that is less likely – quotes will need to be gathered)
 - F. In general, need contacts from members – the more donations we get, the more profit we can make ultimately!
 - G. Anticipate greatest profit from food and t-shirts – perhaps hats or water bottles?
 - E. Christmas Party – Mary Lou
 - F. Tootsie Roll Drive – Andrea
 - G. Jewel Day - Pat
- V. Open Discussion
 - A. Stowe Party
 - 1. Jill is requesting a copy of the member database to mail invitations for DDC parent cocktail party (No kids allowed!) – granted! Pat will send electronic version to facilitate easier mailing.
 - 2. Looking at July 21, cocktails and “heavy” hors d'oeuvres will be served
 - B. New Baby Social
 - 1. June 23 9:30-11:30 at Fremont Public Library in Mundelein – for new DDC families (with babies under 18 months)
 - 2. This event will take place every other month on a Saturday morning, with light breakfast food, a movie for any older kids in the new families to watch, and a chance for these new parents to chat with DDC parents with kids in Early Intervention or Early Childhood Education programs. More info – see Jennifer or the upcoming item in the June newsletter.
 - C. Summer Newsletter
 - 1. Terri asks if we could do only an email version of the newsletter in the summer – in the past, we haven't done newsletters in the summer.
 - 2. Pat/Rae will do the paper versions, Terri can do the email versions – should do 1 each month.
 - 3. Should we have a nomination form to celebrate teachers, therapists, etc? How about a new member form that asks for info but also donations (either of \$ or of time) in lieu of dues?

Celebrate the Buddy Walk's 12th anniversary by entering the



Times Square Video Contest. The video, which showcases the contributions those individuals with DS make to their communities, will air on the Panasonic Astrovision screen in Times Square, Sept. 30 at 10:30 a.m. The NY City Buddy Walk will follow the video at the Great Hill in Central Park. Each year, NDSS receives thousands of photo submissions for the Times Square Video Contest. Because the Buddy Walk promotes acceptance and inclusion of individuals with DS, the winning photographs feature children, teens and adults with DS working, playing and learning with friends and family. **Please limit photos to no more than three per individual with Down syndrome.**

The deadline for submitting photos is July 20, 2007. [Click here to view the 2006 Times Square Video.](#) We will notify you ONLY if we accept your photograph for the video, and we are unable to return any photos. For further questions about the contest, contact me at timessquarevideo@ndss.org or 877-526-0270.

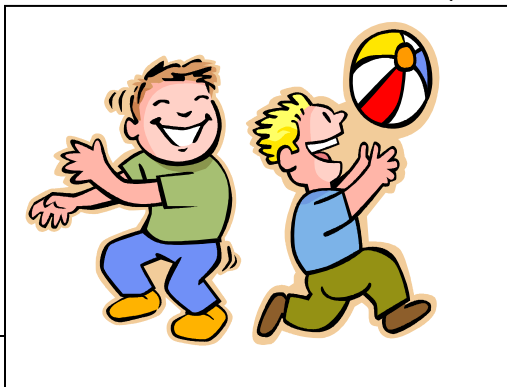
Let's get together and make friends!!!

The "Playgroups" are therapist coordinated group sessions, geared toward preschool aged children with Down syndrome, but all ages are welcome. It is also a great chance for families to socialize and ask questions. Siblings are welcome. There is a Spanish translator at each session. Please RSVP if you would like to attend by calling Belinda Hidalgo at 847-838-4398 or Kris Murray at 847-630-4991

Thursday Playgroup is on the 3rd Thurs. of the month at 5:30-7:30pm. Location will be announced when you RSVP.

A light dinner will be served.

Saturday Play group is on the 2nd Sat. of the month from 10:30am - 12:30pm. Location will be announced when you RSVP.



July Birthdays

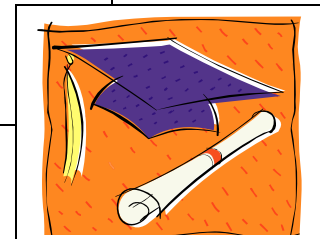
Ella Goche	1998
Kieran van Krey	2004
Nadilee Rose Polek	1996
Gus Roeser	1998
Patrick Rygiel	1988
Daniel O'Malley	1990
Ian Stevenson	2002
Daniel Effa	1999
Yahya Younus	2001
Craig Alfred	1973
Michael Parker	1997
Kellie O'Donnell	1990
Ruby Torres	2004
Angela Rossing	1989
Anna Carollo	2001
Mary Benson	2006
Matthew Rodgers	1998
Julissa Borgos	1999



August Birthdays

Olivia Belina	2000
Ryan Chapin	1974
Gigi Gianni	2002
Tyler Inman	1990
Jennelle Peraizian	1987
Elizabeth Gottlieb	1988
Timothy Luhr	1996
Rebecca Steiner	1996
Ryan Kelroy	1995
Cathrine Peccioli	2002
Michael Ivers	1993
Dylan Thompson	1995
Kevin Stith	1985
Angie Picchi	1980
Kellie Burchard	2001
Jenny Shafer	2002
Blake Peacock	1986
Amanda Zukowski	1998
Erich Smith	1996

CONGRATULATIONS to ELIZABETH GOTTLIEB!!! She graduated from STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL on June 9, 2007 with a class of over 1000 students. WOW!





Downs Development Councils
P.O. Box 906
Mundelein, IL 60060

Downs (Down Syndrome) Development Council, DDC, is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization and volunteer support group established in 1978 by parents of children with Down Syndrome.

Please note: The Forum newsletter is written on a volunteer, non-professional basis. Information presented should not be construed to be objective or definitive, but represents the opinions and understanding of the editor and its contributors. Your contributions are welcome. Please contact Terri at christoliniben@comcast.net

For every newsletter we email, the DDC saves money. Please send Terri your email address so she can forward the news to you directly. Thanks for helping.
www.christoliniben@comcast