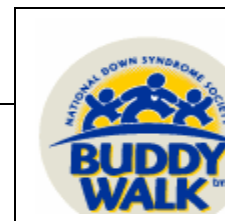




Down Syndrome Development Council FORUM- October 2007

volume 13



BUDDY WALK THANK YOU

I just want to say thank you to all of you who came to the Buddy Walk and shared this special day with all of us. A special thanks to all who helped make this day a very special and exciting time for everyone! Everywhere I looked, I saw smiling faces and kids having fun. Its' all about the Kids! The day was beautiful and bright. This makes me very happy to see everyone having a good time. The Special Needs Entertainment we had was wonderful! All the kids worked very hard to share with us their special talents. It was a great sight to see. Looking at the long, long line we had for the walk itself was awesome. We had a great turnout. Our numbers are not yet finalized, but will inform you as soon as they are available. I am very proud of our Buddy Walk! Pat & Raeann Collins, Mary Lou Paff, Janis Kern & myself worked very hard to make this day as perfect as we could. I thank them very much for all of their time they spent with me to make this day a very special day! Also Thank You to all of our special informative guests that we had in our information tent, my volunteers, family and friends who helped us make the event a good one! Hope to see everyone next year!

Please contact us at:

DDC
PO Box 906
Mundelein, IL
60060

Our Meeting Place:
Community Protestant Church
418N. Prairie Mundelein,
Second Thursday 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: Oct. 10th @7pm.

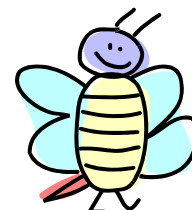
We welcome you all to the open meeting on our new meeting night Thursday Oct. 10th. We will be discussing our Buddy walk, Holiday party and more important business concerning our group and our kids. *Or you could just come for cookies!!*

MOVIE LOVER'S CLUB Presents:

"The Bee Movie"

On Nov 10th our family is invited to the Libertyville Theatre, 708 N. Milwaukee in downtown Libertyville. The movie is early Sat. morning at

8:30am (arrive by 8:15am) and is free to our families. Popcorn and pop are available to purchase, and who doesn't like popcorn for breakfast? This gives our kids a chance to sit together and become familiar with their peers.



UPCOMING DDC EVENTS:



10/9 & 23. PECS Training, 3:45-5:45pm
10/10 Monthly meeting, 7pm
10/11 Free Tutoring info, 7pm
10/13 Kicking for a Cause
11/1 Educational Law workshop, 7pm
11/10 Movie Lover's Club/" Bee Movie", 8:30AM

For a current listing of the books available in the DDC library, go to our website:

www.TheDDC.org Our library is located at the Center For Independent Living. If you are interested in checking out a book please call Pam at 949-4440, ext.15. The office is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.



Welcome!

What: DDC New Baby Social

We'll have light breakfast food (coffee, juice, bagels, etc.) for people to munch as they talk, a video viewing/play area (at one end of the same room) for any older kids in your family, and 2-3 DDC parents on hand (parents of kids age 5 and under) to answer any questions we can about Early Intervention, preschool, or recreation programs in our area. All members of your family are, of course, welcome to attend (though we will leave the rest of ours at home – it's a working day for us!) – they can eat, bring their own favorite toys to play with, or watch the "movie of the week"!

Who: Families new to the DDC, with a "new arrival" 18 months or younger

When: Every other month on a given Saturday morning, from 9:30-11:30

(feel free to come and go as you can!)

Where: Fremont Public Library

1170 N. Midlothian Road, Mundelein

****Questions? Please contact Jennifer Jenkins to receive the year's "social schedule" **
(847/970-6797 only_connect@msn.com)**

Notes From the President:

We have had a wonderful learning experience in the organizing of the 2007 Buddy Walk. It was a beautiful day that brought many people together to show their support. I am thankful for the assistance and advice from members who have held past Buddy Walks, especially Deb Pogose and her family. We received several compliments on the various activities and on getting the young adults with Down syndrome involved in the activities. We also received numerous thank yous for bringing the Buddy Walk back to Lambs Farm. We are still waiting for the final totals but overall I believe that it was a successful event, especially when you saw all the happy faces. We plan on taking this experience and start to plan for the 2008 Buddy Walk, which we hope will grow as it becomes again a regular event.

We are looking to make this year a social event year which was kicked off with an ice cream social for the September meeting. We already have a movie "**The Bee Movie**" planned on November 10th at 8:30 AM at Liberville Theater and the **holiday party** planned on December 9th from 1PM to 5PM at the Community Protestant Church in Mundelein. We are also looking to do some parent social events/cocktail parties. If you have other ideas or would like to host a party, please contact a board member.

President Pat

Playgroups

Our monthly playgroups meet on two different days each month, one on Saturday morning, the other on Thursday evening. In each case, families are encouraged to bring all of their children for an interactive group play therapy session, led by our developmental therapist Kris Murray and hosted by various DDC parents. The Thursday evening group meets in early evening (the third Thursday of the month) and includes dinner. Spanish language interpreters are available with advance notice. These playgroups are completely free of charge and open to all DDC member families! For more information about the upcoming playgroup schedule and locations, please contact Kris Murray (847-630-4991) or Belinda Hidalgo (hidalgo@comcast.net). **If you would be interested in attending a Saturday morning playgroup, please contact Belinda.**

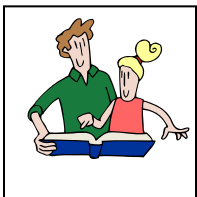
You are invited to attend PECS TRAINING
(Picture Exchange Communication System)
Date: Tuesdays, Oct. 9 & 23, 2007
Time: 3:45-5:45 pm
Location: Laremont School



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.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FREE TUTORING FOR YOUR STUDENT WITH DISABILITIES?

Thursday, October 11, 2007 7:00 p.m.
Lake County Center for Independent Living
377 N. Seymour Ave.
Mundelein, IL. 60060

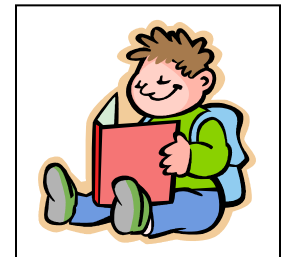
Rich Hutchins, of the Jewish Vocational Services, Career Planning Center will lead an informational session about the JVS e-Learning Program. The program is open to youth who live in Lake & Cook Counties, and who have a disability

- Obtain a GED;
- Complete a high school alternative program
- Improve basic academic skills levels in order to enter college level classes or a vocational training program

JVS e-Learning offers at no charge:

- Additional one-to-one instruction to improve basic skill levels
- Individual Follow-up with continued support
- Partnerships with JVS vocational & educational programs

RSVP & Request Accommodations
Pam Labellarte, 847-949-4440 or pam@lccil.org



Sensory Strategies to Improve Children's Learning and Behavior, (information for sensory resources) will be held November 30, 2007 in Springfield, IL. ***This workshop will be featuring award winning author Carol Stock Kranowitz and Dr. Lucy Jane Miller.*** The presentation will include an interactive presentation for parents, educators, occupational therapists, and other allied health professionals. GROUP RATES START WITH JUST THREE REGISTRATIONS.

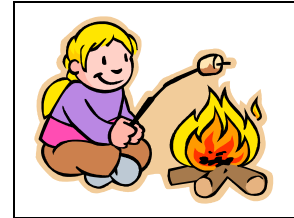
Please visit our web site www.SensoryResources.com for the latest details. You may download the brochure at http://www.sensoryresources.com/brochures/brochure_1064.pdf, or have one sent to you via mail by calling our toll free phone number, 1-888-357-5867, and speaking with a representative. Continuing education units are available for AOTA, ASHA, and other organizations. The final brochure will contain all the relevant information concerning professional development.

A Part-time job: WANTED A CAMP DIRECTOR!

The Camp Director will assist the Board of Directors with year-round administrative work and, in July, will help direct two five-day camp sessions for individuals with developmental disabilities. The director must be a college grad with several years of post-college experience, have in-depth knowledge and experience in recreational and /or residential programming for the disabled. If interested you can contact us:



www.Camphopeillinois.org
email: Camphopeillinois@aol.com
(312)401-HOPE



New Mandatory Individual Education Plans (IEP) Forms & Response to Intervention

In a recent article in the newsletter for the Community High School District 117, Director of Special Education Roberta Seigel related that the Illinois State Board of Education has issued new mandatory IEP forms. These new forms could possibly be used to standardize the various forms used in the construction of student's IEP across the state. You can preview these forms on the ISBE website (www.isbe.state.il.us).

Response to Intervention (RtI) is another hot topic of special education says Roberta Seigel. RtI is defined as a process using student data to develop and evaluate the impact of core curriculum, supplemental and intensive interventions on student performance. Instead of a school using psychological testing and achievement scores to determine eligibility for a learning disability, it will utilize a three-tier system of interventions before identifying a child for special education services. The higher the tier, the more support will be provided. More frequent assessments, to identify growth, will also be part of this tier. RtI is required to be fully implemented by the 2010-2011 school year. For more information please go to the ISBE website or you may contact your school district's special education director or Roberta Seigel at 847.838.7288.

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
Registration Deadline: Friday Championship/Consolation brackets
September 28th For Registration Information and Questions call
Amber at 847.478.0935 or apetersen@soill.org

Kicking for a Cause
A kickball tournament
Benefiting Special
Olympics Illinois
Northeastern Area 2



In early October I had the opportunity to travel to Kansas City, Missouri, to attend the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) 35th Annual Convention, titled "Show Me the Possibilities". And indeed it did show me the possibilities!

The conference was very inspirational. It's always great to meet so many people with similar issues, and many successes to share. And of course there were workshops, presentations, speakers and social events for three days with more information than one person can absorb. I did bring back a compendium of all workshops presented (there were 53!) which makes a wonderful reference for anyone looking for information on just about any topic affecting our children. Most of the presenters are considered very well versed if not experts in the areas which they talked about.

One of the more exciting privileges I had was to spend much of my time with a small group, which included two self advocates, and two directors of their local Down syndrome organization. I had not previously spent much time with an adult with Down syndrome, other than hearing self advocate speakers at this type of conference, or a quick casual conversation in passing. But I had the opportunity to "hang out" a bit with these two young adults, Chad and Katie, going to lunch and a couple of dinners, staying in the same off site, overflow hotel, that required a three mile shuttle bus ride to get back and forth to the convention hotel. It truly did "show me the possibilities" as I watched these two independent adults, in their own hotel rooms, making their own wake up call arrangements, and using the shuttle system between hotels(which at times was a challenge for me) independently. But I guess that shouldn't be so surprising, as I know at least one of them lives in her own apartment in Cincinnati, works a full time job with benefits, and is a board member for at least one organization. It was a great experience for me, and it reaffirmed that setting our goals high for our children is so important. They can achieve so much!

By the way, I ran into one of our DDC member couples there, Wendy and Dan Jarvis. It was great to see someone else from our group! If anyone is interested in going to the next NDSC conference, it will be held July 11-13, 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts. You can get more information at www.mdsc.org. If anyone would like more information from the conference I just attended, please contact me at janiskern@comcast.net.

A VERY SPECIAL TRAVEL GEAR WEBSITE ASSISTING SPECIAL NEEDS!

Here is a family travel website that offers a variety of travel products designed to assist families traveling with special need children. Check it out at:

lwalsh@familytravelgear.com & www.familytravelgear.com

Dominick's "eScrip" Fundraising



Dominick's has an exciting new fund raising program called **eScrip**. Once an individual enrolls, up to 4% of your qualifying purchases are credited to our group every time you shop with your Dominick's Fresh Values Card. I shop all the time at Dominick's and just my grocery bill alone should generate a nice donation to DDC. The advantage of this program over some of the previous "grocery store" type fundraisers is that once you enroll, you do not have to do anything different or special when you shop and use your Fresh Values Card. It does not involve a credit card, or remembering any coupons or receipts. Once enrolled with DDC as your recipient organization, you just shop! The eScrip program automatically tallies all benefits and forwards the funds to DDC. Just think how much income this program could generate for DDC if all of our DDC members signed up!

All you have to do is go to escrip.com to register. It takes less than 5 minutes. All you will need is your Dominick's' Fresh Values card. When asked to select the organization that you will donate to, you can search by zip code, or by name. We are listed as Down Syndrome Development Council, Mundelein, IL, 60060. Thank you for your participation. The income from this program will allow DDC to continue to offer quality programs and social events! If you have any questions, please contact Janis Kern, DDC Treasurer, at (847) 548-4417.

Buddy Walk T-Shirts for Sale!

Buddy Walk T-shirts are still available for purchase, for those of you who were unable to attend the Buddy Walk, or for those who forgot someone on their Buddy Walk t-shirt shopping list. All adult and children's sizes are available in white, and we do have a few of the royal blue shirts in children's sizes. If you haven't seen them, I think you will like the new design! All shirts are \$10. To purchase a t-shirt please contact me at janiskern@comcast.net. All purchases contribute to supporting DDC sponsored programs.



The DDC is selling Carson's Community Day coupon booklets. They are \$5.00 each and DDC gets 100% of the profit!!! The booklets include: a \$10.00 coupon (so you make back your \$5.00 donation and then some), 8 coupons for store merchandise, community day bonus buys and great deals. The sale begins on Nov. 10th, 2007 at 6:00am... however if you can use your coupons starting on Nov. 9th (some exclusions apply) to get a jump on the sale. This is a great way to support the DDC and get a little something special for yourself too! You can purchase the Carson's coupon books at our monthly meetings or by contacting RaeAnn Collins rjohncol@comcast.net

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE 2007 Once again the Knights Of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive was successful. The weather was perfect both Friday and Saturday. I would like to thank the following volunteers: Friday's crew: **Jim King** - started the day at 7am!!! Thanks Dad!!

Laura Smith - couldn't have done it without you!!

Janis Kern - covered the lunch shift!!!

The Collins family - nice to have the clan out helping!!

Pam Labellarte - always has time in her incredibly busy schedule to help every year!!!

Michelle Kinder - joyful took the last shift of the day!!!! Saturday's Crew: **Ashlie and Maggie**

O'Donnell - cute smiles always get the \$\$\$\$ **Michelle Labellarte** - even after a sleepover she was able to help!!

Kellie, Jamie and Jim O'Donnell - yes, even the Chef was out this year!!! And if it weren't for the efforts of **Mary and Al Foresta** every year we would not be able to do this drive!!!! Thank you very much for all who took the time to help!!!! Andrea O'Donnell /Tootsie Roll Drive coordinator

DDC Board Members 2006-2007

President	Patrick Collins	847-265-8482
Vice Pres	Mary Lou Paff	847-548-4852
Secretary	Jennifer Jenkins	847-970-6797
Treasurer	Janis Kern	847-548-4417
Past Pres	Andrea O'Donnell	847-949-1975
Playgroups	Belinda Hildalgo	847-838-4398
Board	RaeAnn Collins	847-265-8482
Newsletter	Terri Christolini	847-267-1169
Foro (Spanish Issue)	Anna Roeser	847-362-0980

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rjohncol@comcast.net

christoliniben@comcast.net

roeser1984@yahoo.com

DDC Annual Picnic

On Sunday August 27, we celebrated a break in a seemingly endless string of rainy days – the weather was picture-perfect for our annual picnic at Half Day Forest Preserve! Kids fished and bounced and ate and sang and pelted one another with water balloons . . . in short, I think a good time was had by all.

Thanks to . . . all the board members and other attendees who provided drinks, salads, and desserts (and who helped me with post-picnic clean-up!); . . . to Chef Jim O'Donnell who once again kept everyone supplied with well-cooked burgers and hot dogs; . . . to Andrea O'Donnell for being my "picnic-throwing mentor"; . . . to Pat Collins for running the multi-hour fishing derby (and for running to Sam's Club the morning after son #3 arrived!); . . . to Michael Van Krey for tying 70-80 water balloons the night before; . . . to Terri Christolini for providing the face painting (and painters!); . . . to Jump into Fun for providing the ever-popular moonwalk, which offered literally hours of enjoyment to kids of all ages (who knew they could bounce around that long?!?!); . . . to all those who brought donations for the Buddy Walk; . . . AND FINALLY to everyone who attended the picnic – it's always wonderful to come together with old friends, new acquaintances, and their extended families!

- Jennifer Jenkins

October Birthdays

Matthew Weisberg	1999
Anna Stowe	2003
Hayden Johns	2006
Mary Claire Boyd	1988
Charlie Williams	1988
Ross Hoary	1987
Annie Jennings	1990
Jacob Nelson	1993
Matthew Stubbs	1989
Jessica Gianopulos	2002
Jordana & Aileen Sotelo	1999
Jared Bjork	1999



On Sunday Sept. 30th at the Grayslake Library, the DDC hosted an OUT OF THE BOX Reading Workshop presented by Denise MacDonald and Karen Evershed. Denise and Karen developed this program using a "whole word" approach to teach kids who learn differently how to read... "We share and unshakable belief that all children are born with infinite potential." Out of The Box Reading program offers parents and educators the TOOLS that have been missing, fully supporting the existing research of how children with Down syndrome and other visual learners learn to read. This program uses hand written flash cards, repetition, positive reinforcement and an easy to follow 14 month schedule to make the magic of reading happen. Using this method with children of all ages not only teaches reading, but also encourages speech development, and use of proper grammatical structure when communicating. By investing just 10 minutes a day you can give your child the gift of a lifetime of reading. You can view a video of Robyn Evershed (Karen's now 26 year old daughter who has Down syndrome) reading at ages 2 & 3 and get more information about the Out of the Box reading program at: www.outoftheboxreading.com. Thank you Denise and Karen.

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 printing cost have risen.