

Down Syndrome Development Council

May/June
2011

Down Syndrome
Development Council

Down Syndrome Development Council

Celebrating 30 Years

Mission Statement:

To promote a greater acceptance and understanding of Down syndrome by enlightening the broader community to recognize the individuality, uniqueness and capabilities.

Meetings

Second Thursday of the Month. Please RSVP to a board member listed in this newsletter for location.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Playgroup, June 8th
- New Baby Social, May 21st and June 18th
- Buddy Walk, September 11th

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 ♥ Need a little
 ♥ inspiration?
 ♥ Search the web
 ♥ for "Carrie and
 ♥ Sujeet". What a
 ♥ wonderful story
 ♥ of love.
 ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

The Buddy Walk is Coming !!!

The date for the 2011 Buddy Walk has been set! Please join us at Lambs Farm on September 11, 2011 for fun, food and friends, old and new!

Donations for the silent auction and raffle baskets are being accepted anytime you have them available, please contact any board member for drop-off or pick-up

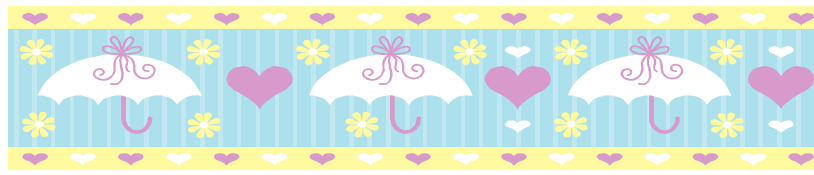
arrangements. No donation too small or too large! The official donation letter is on page 4 of this newsletter. Feel free to copy the

letter and use it to solicit donations on your own. Or if you would like a color copy

contact a board member and we will get one (or more) to you! If you, (or someone or group you know) would like to volunteer please contact PennySue McKenzie,

224-643-7923 or,

pennyontheverge@gmail.com.



NEW BABY SOCIAL

Are you the family of a “new” (ages 18 months or younger) little one with Down syndrome? An open house for the newest members of our extensive DDC family offers a chance to mingle with other babies and their families, to chat with other DDC parents of preschool-age children (we’re the hosts that day so our kids stay home so we can focus on yours!) Share information about Early Intervention and Early Childhood programs, swap contact info of favorite therapists, to get ideas about what to help your child do next, to eat a bagel or a donut, drink some coffee, and marvel at how lovely all our kids are!

Siblings and grandparents welcome!

It is an OPEN HOUSE so feel free to drop in any time from 9:30am-11:30am, at the Fremont Public Library. The next dates for the upcoming “New Baby Social” open house are:

May 21, and June 18.

Please contact Jennifer Jenkins, only_connect@msn.com or (847)970-6797. Jennifer is also the contact to RSVP or for more information on the schedule or to get on our email list. Hope to meet you there!

Like Baseball? Want to watch a game or two? Come watch the “Challengers” team play! The “Challengers” play through the Libertyville Little League and are coached by Jim and Andrea O’Donnell with Jeff Stubbs, Demetre Selevredes and Tom McInerney. Home games start at 10:30am at Butler Lake Park in Libertyville. The upcoming home games are June 14th, 17th and 18th!

Playgroup

Our monthly playgroup now meets on the **2nd Wednesday evening** of the month. 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 **Wednesday** evening playgroup includes a light dinner. A Spanish language interpreter is available with advance notice. **These playgroups are completely free of charge and open to all DDC member**

families! The next playgroup date is **June 8th!**

For RSVP, please call Kris Murray, 847-630-4991, or e-mail Angela, angela@ziehmke.com.

Hope to see you there!





May Birthdays

Crystal Acosta
 Eric Anderson
 Kenny Collins
 Alexa Donato
 John Froemke, Jr.
 Amanda Garcia
 Jacob Gartley
 Brandon Hagy
 Tristian Hidalgo
 Talia Kotel
 Lauren Lirgameris
 Michael Novy
 Ashley Olaz
 Samuel Petri
 Chesea Rainish
 Michael Saavedra
 Amanda Garcia Tucker

June Birthdays

Douglas Christolini
 Nicole Elsey
 Maggie Filipiak
 Joshua Hintz
 Robert Jacogs
 Josh Nykiel Judge
 Max Kern
 Joshua Lawson
 Hope Michelotti
 Genevieve Ortega
 Nickolas Pesce
 Alexis Winegard

Ultimate Athletics GEMS Cheer Program

For anyone who wants to cheer! Coached by United States All Star Federation Certified coaches and coaches specializing in special needs. Practices are on Sundays from 2:00pm-4:00pm, June till March. Gems will attend several local and one Indianapolis competition. Open to ages five and above with ANY type of a disability. Cheering can increase self esteem, improve self confidence, increase memory and cognitive skills, help with fine and gross motor skills., and improve speech and language skills. Developing peer relations is an added benefit, of course! Ultimate Athletics is located in Wauconda, Illinois and the GEMS Cheer Program is only \$30.00 per month. For more information contact Jenny at 847-487-6500, ext. 26 or gapinski1991@comcast.net. If you would like to check out Ultimate Athletics their website is www.ultimateathletics.net.

Club Layton's "Charmers" Cheer Program

The Charmers team at Club Layton only has registration once a year in the Spring for their team. If you think your child would benefit from developing their self-esteem, confidence, physical abilities and form life long friendships with other children their age, now is the time to check into the Charmer Cheer program! The program is for differently-abled athletes both BOYS and girls ages six and up. There are curenly four teen-aged boys on the team! The team has been excited to see more boys at competitions in all the categories. It's also been great to see the young men on other teams make a special effort to "high five" the Charmers guys a t competi-tions! Cheer is not just for girls anymore. The guys have a lot to contribute! For more information, or to get a registration form, stop by Layton Athletics, 5402 Austin Court, Ringwood, IL, 60072 or call 815-728-9700. and their email address is clublayton@gmail.com. Friday night "Huddle" is every Friday from 5:00pm-6:00pm where Coach Jimmy builds endurance, core strength, agility, balance and basic tumbling skills in his "Tone and Tumble" class! Siblings are invited to attend as well.



Down syndrome Development Council
P.O. Box 906
Mundelein, IL 60060

May 1, 2011

Re: Donation to Down syndrome Development Council - "Buddy Walk"®

On Sunday, September 11, 2011, the DDC [Down syndrome Development Council] is holding our annual "Buddy Walk," at Lambs Farm in Libertyville, IL. Developed by the National Down Syndrome Society in 1995 to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October and to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome, the Buddy Walk has grown from 17 walks in its first year to nearly 300 walks worldwide in 2010. In 2009, more than \$9.5 million was raised nationwide to benefit local programs and services, as well as the national advocacy and public awareness initiatives of NDSS that benefit all individuals with Down syndrome.

The Down syndrome Development Council (DDC) is a not-for-profit Lake County volunteer support group for families of children with Down syndrome. Established on July 9, 1979, DDC is committed to support & enhance the quality of life of all those who have Down syndrome so that they have the opportunity to realize their life aspirations.

Typical attendance for our Walk is over 500 people! Our group relies on this major fund-raiser to further our goals, and profits from this year's walk will enable us to:

Advocate for the needs of individuals with Down syndrome; Support research via NDSS, the National Down Syndrome Society in New York City; Maintain our website (TheDDC.org) in order to help others keep well informed; Continue our newsletters and monthly playgroups (for both English and Spanish speakers); Continue support, advocacy training, awareness and education via our informational and educational seminars, regarding the capabilities and potential of people with Down syndrome

We are hoping that you can help us in this endeavor by making a donation. With your donation you will also receive free advertising at the event and also receive a special mention in our monthly newsletter. The donation may be sent to our attention at the address on the top of this letter. Please include your business card! If you have any questions or comments please contact any of our board members, as listed below.

Thank you,

Patrick Collins, President

rjohncol@comcast.net

847.265.8482

Penny Sue McKenzie, Vice-President

pennyontheverge@gmail.com

Valerie Pawlak, Treasurer

valeriepawlak@gmail.com

Jennifer Jenkins, Secretary

only_connect@msn.com

RaeAnn Collins, Board Member At-Large

rjohncol@comcast.net





It's a hot topic in the education world - the case for handwriting instruction in schools. At Handwriting Without Tears, they have their, "Top Five Reasons Why Handwriting is Important":

1. It helps bump up grades and test scores.
2. It puts the focus on content.
3. It boosts confidence.
4. It is a requirement for many jobs.
5. It is an everyday communication skill.



Elite Stars All Sport Camp, July 13-17, 2011
Six Years and Over;
Gymnastics,
Cheerleading,
Figure Skating, Dance
and Fitness

Please join Elite Stars for the 11th annual STARS overnight elite all sport camp for individuals with special needs. The staff has prepared an unbelievable camp filled with intense workouts, crazy activities and plenty of sweat. Camp will offer everything from dance clinics, daily aerobics, balance exercises, studying form and body mechanics. This year's camp is expanding to offer a fitness track for athletes who have a greater interest in strength and body. Designed to provide the highest level of normalcy and inclusion, athletes are trained utilizing a peer coach program to shadow teach exercise and gymnastics skills and routines to improve overall body strength and well-being. All athletes are given the opportunity to improve themselves over the course of the week while having a great time achieving new highs. For additional information on this "train where the champions train" please contact Patty Hermann, 847-804-3547 or elitefoundation@aol.com.

Buddy Walk, September 11, 2011



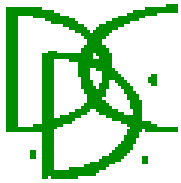
Have you been wanting to get more involved with the DDC?
Interested in being on the Board?
Have someone nominate you then attend the next meeting to cast your votes!

DDC Board Members 2010-2011 (**voting board members)

**President	Patrick Collins	847-265-8482 rjohncol@comcast.net
**Secretary	Jennifer Jenkins	847-970-6797 only connect@msn.com
**Board	RaeAnn Collins	847-265-8482 rjohncol@comcast.net
**Treasurer	Valerie Pawlak	847-244-4634 valeriepawlak@gmail.com
** Vice President	PennySue McKenzie	224-643-7923 pennyontheerge@gmail.com
Playgroups	Belinda Hidalgo	847-838-4398 hidalgob@comcast.net
FORO Newsletter		
(Spanish Issue)		
Newsletter Editor	PennySue McKenzie	224-643-7923 pennyontheverge@gmail.com

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 RaeAnn at rjohncol@comcast.net or PennySue at pennyontheverge@gmail.com.

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.



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