



Down Syndrome Development Council

FORUM- May 2007 volume 8



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.

May Monthly Meeting:
Monday, Mar. 14th, 7pm.

On May 14th, Amber Petersen from Special Olympics will provide information about her wonderful program, for the kids and adults with disabilities. She will answer all our questions about how to become an athlete, to how volunteer as a parent or a buddy. We have many members of the DDC who actively participate and it has provided a great service to our community. Everyone is a winner when it comes to the Special Olympics. *Or you could just come for the cookies.*



HOW DO WE DO THIS?

We all know why we do this, keep the DDC alive and well. But have you ever wondered where the money comes from to provide care and support for all families with great kids like ours? The DDC survives on generous donations from fundraisers like the Tootsie Roll sale, gifts from loving families and, most importantly, our **Buddy Walk**. The walk provides funds for all of our projects, parties, guest speakers and playgroups. If you have been helped by a DDC member's compassionate concern or enjoyed watching your children playing with their DDC friends at the picnics or parties, then it is time to make space in your schedule to volunteer your time to the Buddy Walk. Call Pat Collins and keep DDC alive and well so we can continue to care about these wonderful children and their parents.



UPCOMING DDC EVENTS:

- 5/5 PECS WORKSHOP 10:30am-4:30
- 5/14 Monthly Meeting, 7pm "Special Olympics"
- 5/12 Sat. Playgroup 10:30-12:30am
- 5/18 Thurs. Playgroup, 5:30 – 7:30pm
- 6/11 – Monthly meeting

Need a Mother's Day gift idea? The inspirational book "Gifts, Mothers Reflect on How Children with Down Syndrome Enrich their Lives", has become available again. You can purchase this book at www.giftsds.segullah.org

DDC 9TH ANNUAL DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS “BUDDY WALK”

Sunday, September 16, 2007

Lamb's Farm in Libertyville

Rt. # 176 (Rockland Rd.) & I-94 Expressway

Fun from 12 noon – 5pm. The walk will be at 1:30pm



Come out and join us for a fun day with family and friends at Lambs Farm to help raise awareness in our communities for all individuals with Down syndrome. We will have Stefan Xidas singing the National Anthem, Elk Grove Superstar gymnasts, figure skaters, Spring Grove Flying Dragons Karate team, all individuals with Down syndrome. There will be inflatables, Bubba the Art Bus, a petting zoo, music, food, games raffles, and tons of advocacy and support groups with their information on hand, and much more. Don't miss out on the fun.

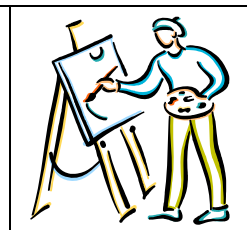


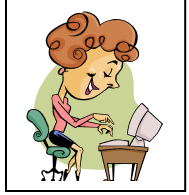
DIPPING IN A TOE.

Are you a parent of a newborn or know of a new parent who may be in need of information about early intervention, but may not feel comfortable about coming to our group because they are not ready to deal with issues of our older children. Our playgroups are a wonderful way to try out the waters, but a plan may be in the works to provide these new parents with a time to meet each other, to form connections with other new parents and provide them with updated information about what they need to know about babies with special needs. If you are interested in this idea, please talk with Jennifer Jenkins at 847-970-6797.

Calling all Ds Artists!

VSA arts and Volkswagen of America announce “Driven”, a call for young artists with disabilities ages 16-25years, living in the US. This free competition challenges artists to discover the force behind their artistic expression and their creative energy. Art must be an original work that has been completed in the last 3 years. Eligible media includes: paintings, drawing, fine art prints, photography, computer-generated prints, and mixed media(presented in 2 dimensions). Artwork should not exceed 60 inches in either direction. Fifteen finalists will be awarded a total of \$60K in awards during an award ceremony on Capitol Hill in Sept.2007. The artwork will be displayed in a nation-wide touring exhibition that debuts at the Smithsonian. For more information and to download an application, please visit: www.vsarts.org/VWcall or call 800-933-8721ex.3885. Or email: jenniferw@vsarts.org





LAST MONTH IN THE DDC: April 2007

Our guest speaker this month was Theresa Walker, who is the Regional Coordinator for Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County. This organization (known as SRACLCLC) is an extension of the park district in 7 different towns (Grayslake, Hawthorne Woods, Lake Zurich, Lincolnshire, Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Libertyville), offering a variety of programs for children with special needs: weekend events, day camps, weekday classes. Theresa spoke to us in detail about the summer day camp options, available to children ages 3-15; the program runs from June 18 to July 26, with each week's activities focused on a different historical theme, and there are 3 different sites (Grayslake, Vernon Hills, Lake Zurich) and time options (full day, morning, afternoon). Arrangements can be made to accommodate the area's summer school programs, including busing from school to camp sites. Typically, camp groups consist of 2-3 campers per counselor (divided according to age and ability), although a one-to-one ratio can be provided if deemed appropriate. The staff is made up of recreation professionals and college students (typically education or recreation majors), supplemented by high school students and volunteers; all staff members attend a 2-day orientation, and there are always staff certified in CPR available at each camp site. Each day's schedule encompasses a wide range of activities: music; arts & crafts; swimming; field trips to local zoos, libraries, etc.; guest visitors from fire and police departments. In addition to the general day camp, there is a sports-themed camp (at the Vernon Hills location) and a teen camp that trains counselors to assist with the other camps.

For children who are nervous about attending camp, SRACLCLC offers a Meet Your Counselor Day in advance, as well as a number of "mini-camps" held throughout the year as a way to try out the camp experience for a short time.

The registration deadline for summer programs is May 21, and a non-refundable deposit is required to hold one's spot (though it can be reimbursed by SEDOL if needed). Regardless of residency, anyone can participate in SRACLCLC's one-time special events, and those outside the area can "become" a resident by paying an annual fee.

Theresa emphasized that all SRACLCLC programs operate according to the same governing tenets of safety, structure, skill development, and, of course, fun!

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-Jennifer Jenkins, DDC Secretary

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	odonna@sbcglobal.net
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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



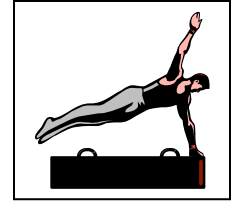
Welcome to our group!!

Elizabeth and Matthew Stauffer of Lake Bluff and their children Brent 19mo and new baby Lilly. Please call us if you need anything for Lilly.

The DDC Sports Page



Special Olympics



On Sunday, April 15th some of DDC's kids participated in the Special Olympics Regional gymnastics competition held at Buehler YMCA in Palatine. It was a great day for our athletes and all who attended.

Congratulations go out to:

Kevin Kinder - RINGS, silver (2nd place); P-BAR, bronze(3rd); POMMEL, bronze(3rd); FLOOR, silver(2nd); VAULT, silver(2nd); HIGH BAR, 4th; ALL AROUND, silver(2nd).

Matt Stubbs- RINGS ,bronze; P-bar, silver; POMMEL, silver; FLOOR gold; VAULT, silver; HIGHBAR, gold; ALL AROUND, gold.

Kevin Stith-- RINGS ,silver; P-bar, silver; POMMEL, silver; FLOOR silver; VAULT, gold; HIGHBAR, silver; ALL AROUND, silver.

Alexis Winegard- UNEVEN BARS, gold; BEAM, bronze; VAULT, silver; FLOOR, 6th; ALL AROUND, bronze.

Kellie O'Donnell- UNEVEN BARS, silver; BEAM, gold; VAULT, silver; FLOOR, gold; ALL AROUND, gold

Good Luck to all our Athletes at State in June!!!!!!

If you would like to report on a special athlete, please email Terri with the details.

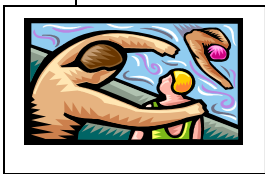


"TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME"

The Libertyville Challengers are scheduled to play baseball Saturday mornings at 9:30am. We encourage you to come out and root our team to victory.

Our home games are played at Butler Park in Libertyville on May 12, June 2, June 9th June 23rd, and our special family game is June 30. For a very special evening, we invite you to watch us play our NIGHT GAME (yes, under the lights) on May 22 at 7:30pm. This is a great site to see our players on a real, lit field in their uniforms. The only thing that would make this event even more special would be to play in front of a group of our DDC friends. Come and enjoy the fresh air and hot dogs. Go Challengers!

The YMCA SWIMMING PROGRAM IS GREAT!



There is a fantastic program for our children to learn to swim at the Central Lake County YMCA in Vernon Hills. The modified program runs throughout the summer and is taught by a group of YMCA coaches and a registered Pediatric Therapist. The cost for the 8wk program is only \$75. Several DDC kids have tried this program and given it thumbs up. Call Mary Craig at 847-367-6797 for dates and times, or for questions about how the lessons are modified call Debbie Morettini at 847- 573-9486 ex. 11. The YMCA is located at 700 Lakeview Parkway in Vernon Hills (behind the Target store).

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.

May Birthdays

Eric Anderson	36years old
Kenny Collins	30
Alexa Donato	8
Talia Kotel	9
Lauren Lirgameris	3
Michael Saavedra	7
Samuel Petri	8
Chesea Rainish	19
Michael Novy	22
Crystal Acosta	23
John Froemke	25
Amanda Garcia	12
Tristian Hidalgo	4
Bailey Markko	10
Jacob Gartley	12
Ashley Olaez	3
Brandon Hagy	7



We now have a website:

www.TheDDC.org It is a beautifully designed site that will provide current news, upcoming events, listings of books in our library, as well as hyperlinks to other groups and info. Edwin and Mary Lou Paff have worked hard to bring us out of the Stone Age and we can help them by making suggestions on what we would like to see on our new site. Check it out! You can find this newsletter on our web page as well. Please email Terri if you are willing to cancel your postal copy of the newsletter. We could save lots of \$.
www.christoliniben@comcast.net

Save the date.....

GiGi's Playhouse 4th Annual Fun Run and Walk

June 10th, 2007 at 9 am

Certified 5K Fun Run

1 Mile Inspirational Walk

and our all new kids "Dash for Down Syndrome"!!

Please join us for an inspirational morning with GiGi and friends for an event that funds the free "Learn to Read" literacy program. Last year we had over 1100 participants and we would love to see you there. For more info see the link at www.gigisplayhouse.org.