

DSAT *news*

Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa

May, 2007

P.O. Box 54877 • Tulsa, Oklahoma 74155-0877 • www.dsat.org

President's Message

We hope everyone had a great time at the Easter Egg Hunt. We had a wonderful turn out and we would like to thank Stephanie Keester and Stephanie Holstead for doing such a fantastic job! It was a wonderful time for the whole family. Thank you for the time and energy you put in to planning this event!

Please remember to turn in your 2007 calendar money as soon as possible. We need to get this finalized before we start working on our 2008 calendar. We will be mailing out reminder postcards next week. Please mail your money to the PO Box as soon as you can.



Please make sure you read all the great information inside this newsletter. We have a lot of exciting things going on with DSAT. We encourage all teen and adult parents to please fill out the survey included in this newsletter. We are really wanting to make a special deal out of all the wonderful things they are doing in the community at the Buddy Walk. Please return this by the deadline.

We are REALLY looking at starting a young adult group. If you are interested, please contact Erin-Adam@prodigy.net. We really want to get something going. It could be as simple as having a monthly movie or game night for the teens and young adults. Please e-mail or call 724-8574 if you are interested in chairing this committee.

We look forward to seeing you at our May Potluck and Helping Hooves Presentation! Make sure and check out the great new website! It is incredible!

Adam & Erin Paul

Pot Luck Dinner
Helping Hooves Presentation
Thursday, May 17th
New Haven United Methodist Church
56th, between Yale & Harvard
7 to 9 PM

Help Wanted

Lending Library

There are several ways you can help DSAT. We are wanting to expand our Lending Library. Velvet Ahumada is doing a great job keeping up with the library. Please take advantage of these great items. If you have any items you would like to donate, please bring them to a meeting or contact Erin Paul.

Newsletter

We are also wanting to do a section in our newsletter on Getting To Know DSAT FAMILIES. If you would like to write an article about your family and send a picture, please e-mail Erin Paul at Erin-Adam@prodigy.net and we will get you lined up for the next newsletter. We feel this will be a great way to connect with other families. We would like new families and families that have been in DSAT for a long time!

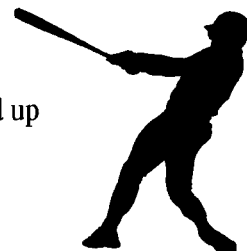
Resource Fair

Sapulpa is having a resource fair on Thursday, May 24th from 6-8pm. We are wanting to have a booth for DSAT at the fair. If anyone is interested in working the booth and just handing out brochures and being there to answer questions, please let me know. We would really appreciate it. Thanks so, so much!

Driller's Night

Friday, July 13th - DSAT NIGHT AT DRILLER'S

We will be having a picnic dinner before the game sponsored by DSAT and then we will all sit together during the game. DSAT will provide a FREE ticket to all immediate DSAT members for both the picnic and game. This is fun for the WHOLE family! The gates open at 6:00 for the picnic, which ends right at 7:00. The game begins at 7:05pm. You will pick up your tickets at the table in front of the main gates beginning at 6:00pm. Tickets not picked up by 6:45, will be at the WILL CALL under DSAT. Hope to see everyone there!



Thank you TARC for making this newsletter possible!

Challenger League

If you are wanting to get your teen or young adult involved in some type of activity, Challenger League would be the way to go! Call Molly Faucalt at 357-5012 or visit ChallengerSports@aol.com for more information. There is a baseball league, basketball and even an art group that meets.

In Pictures

We are looking for good pictures to put in this year's Buddy Walk Brochure, poster, etc. Please send your high resolution digital photos to Alana Kennon at Alana.kennon@cox.net by June 1, 2007. You may submit up to 3 photographs. Pictures selected for poster and brochure will be chosen by a third party.



We need close-up photos of individuals with Down syndrome, young adults and adults with Down syndrome, past Buddy Walk photos and family photos.

Alana is also putting together features of "DSAT In the NEWS". If your child/adult is featured in any type of paper or newsletter, to please send to Alana and we will put it on the website. We want to see all of the accomplishments of our DSAT families!

Dr. Leichtman

Dr. Leichtman will be making another visit to Tulsa on May 19th to hold a clinic for new patients and for 6 month check-ups for existing patients. If you are interested in an individual consultation, please contact 757-425-1969. For those of you who are new, Dr. Leichtman holds clinics around the United States. He has seen more than 2500 children and adults with Down Syndrome.



Email Updates

PLEASE SEND YOUR E-mail address to ziriaux@tulsacoxmail.com. Molly Ziriaux is doing an incredible job keeping DSAT updated on all the latest events. Please make sure DSAT has your e-mail address so we can add you to the e-mail list. Thanks, Molly, for doing this for DSAT!!

Special Conference

Conference coming by a dynamite speaker: Check out this website for more information. The conference is June 2nd here in Tulsa!
<http://www.disabilityisnatural.com/presentations.htm>!

DSACO

July Bi-Monthly Meeting

The bi-monthly meeting for the Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma is scheduled for Saturday, July 14, 2007. This will be an all day workshop from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm with Nancy Ziehme with Stevenson Learning Skills.

The Stevenson Program is an alternative approach for teaching reading, spelling, vocabulary, grammar, penmanship and comprehension. Stevenson is highly effective with students who learn differently. Their methods are unusual and innovative. They use established techniques like mnemonics (memory aids) and multisensory instruction in imaginative and fun new ways. Visit their website at www.stevensonlearning.com to find out more about this program.

Since this is an all day event, we will not be providing childcare. We will have lunch for each participant and attendance will require pre-registration. Please be looking for more information on this upcoming event sponsored by DSACO.



Welcome to Stevenson Learning Skills home of

**Stevenson Reading
Stevenson Grammar & More**

Parent Workshop

Excited Workshops for Parents (taken from the TARC newsletter)

The Oklahoma Parent Training and Information Center, in partnership with TARC and the Oklahoma Parent Center will present parent trainings across the state throughout 2007. Workshops will address issues that are critical to parents with children in the special education system including:

IDEA 2004 Updates, Transition, Developing IEPs, Communication, Part C/Early Intervention

Workshops are offered in various cities across the state. For training locations or more information, visit, www.oklahomaparent.org or call 1-877-553-4332

By the way, this is the great kind of information that you will receive if you get the TARC newsletter. If you are not on their mailing list, contact them at 582-8272 or www.ddadvocacy.net



Perserverance is a Beautiful Thing!

I was blessed with identical twin girls with Down Syndrome. Molly Dawn and Megan Diane Myers are now ten years old. It is incredible to believe but true. We live in Catoosa Ok however we do not attend the Catoosa Public Schools. The educators there did not believe in inclusion. We were in Catoosa schools for four years until I actually got "kicked out" as a volunteer. They said I was the worst volunteer they had ever seen. Why? Not because of anything I did except try to get Molly and Megan educated and included in the regular classroom. I had one teacher who told me that she could not take the stress that having a child with Down Syndrome in her classroom would bring. I had one other lady say that Molly was just too much for the entire day and she would have to leave her room at 11 am to spend the remainder of her day with the special education class. I have forgiven those who did not believe Molly and Megan should be in the regular classroom.

I would like to tell you where we are now. We have found sheer bliss in a Tulsa Public under privileged School, Key Elementary. Molly and Megan are in third grade now. They have had such a beautiful, perfect, tremendous, spectacular, fabulous... should I say more, experience. I must say their mother has as well. I was nominated for volunteer of the Year the first year we were at Key. Molly and Megan were immediately included in a regular classroom setting. They are each in separate regular classrooms at my request with two wonderful, genuine teachers. Molly and Megan have a "little" brother, Jake, who is also in third grade. We were blessed by all three third grade teachers. Key Elementary was actually a gift to us by the one and only God. Our church home is Park Plaza Church of Christ. Mitch Wilburn is our minister. He continually mentioned in his Sunday sermons, our partner in education Key Elementary. Partners in Education is a program designed for public schools to benefit from the service and gifts donated by local churches and businesses.

My husband and father of our three children, is Jack Myers. He grew up at attending Key Elementary. Needless to say we transferred into the district. Who would have believed it that an under privileged Tulsa school would be the best school for Molly Megan and Jake Myers? Key Elementary is Pre K – 5th grade with very smart students. The special education teachers and regular classroom teachers are awesome. All are supportive of anything and everything the girls need to further their education and to be successful.

"Never stop expecting more from your kids," is my motto. Key Elementary staff all has the same motto and include everyone. On January 11, 2007 Megan Diane received the Perseverance Award from her regular classroom teacher, Mrs. Williams. On the same day Molly Dawn received the Perseverance award from her regular class room teacher Mrs. Morales. Both teachers felt that Molly and Megan really worked hard throughout the year to earn this award. This is a huge milestone for us. Walking daily into the regular classroom with high self esteems and having the ability to communicate with peers. To actually have public educators who believe in the success of our children. I am so very blessed to have my children, two with special needs and one typical child attend Key Elementary. We drive 30 miles one way just to receive the top notch education and inclusion that we deserve. Perseverance is a beautiful thing. Never stop reaching for what you believe to be best for your child.

By: Kimberly Myers, Mom to Molly & Megan & Jake

2007 Buddy Walk Committee Members Needed

Committee members needed to for various committees. If you are interested in chairing or being on one the following committees, please contact Alana Kennon at (605-9931) or alanakennon@cox.net or mail to P.O. Box 54877, Tulsa, OK 74155.

1. **Publicity Committee – 4 people needed**
 - a. Chair – Alana Kennon
 - b. Packet assembly
 - i. Assemble press kit packages
 - c. Packet/Thank you drop off
 - i. Deliver press kits and thank you to media.
2. **Volunteer – 2 -3 people needed**
 - a. Chair - _____
 - i. Recruit and organize 100 volunteers for Buddy Walk
 - ii. Liaison between committee and volunteers about duties and responsibilities
 - iii. Responsible for volunteer check-in on day of event
 - b. Thank you's
 - c. Event Day volunteer organization assistance
3. **Incentives – 3-5 people needed**
 - a. Chair – Denis Lane
 - i. Assembly & Organization
4. **Banners -1 person needed**
 - a. Chair – _____
 - i. Facilitate the purchase/donation of banners needed for event
 - ii. Bring banners to event and place in appropriate location
5. **Donations – 5-10 people needed**
 - a. Chair – _____
 - i. Organize and Execute organization of committee members to collect
 - b. Committee Members
 - i. Collect donations from various vendors (restaurants, movies, stores, etc) in town based on organization of chair
 - c. Donation assembly committee
 - i. Once all donations have been collected, organized and assemble baskets, etc.
 - d. Thank you committee
 - i. Distribute thank you's to donors
6. **Sponsors – 2-3 people needed**
 - a. Chair & Committee
 - i. Mail/Deliver packets to sponsors
 - ii. Brainstorm for new sponsors
 - iii. Collect sponsor's logo
 - iv. Thank you
7. **Brochure -2-4 people needed**
 - a. Chair – _____
 - i. Organize individuals to fold and label brochures
 - ii. Mail brochures
 - iii. Work with publicity committee to place brochures in stores, etc.
 1. Make sure stores have able supply of brochures
8. **Thank you – 2 people needed**
 - a. Assist all committees and chairs with thank you's and distribution
9. **Entertainment – 2-4 people needed**
 - a. Chair
 - b. Committee
 - i. Work with Buddy Walk Chairs to coordinate all arrangements for entertainment.

WANTED:

Teens and Adults to Showcase their Talents and Accomplishments!

Teens (13 years and older) and adults will be recognized on stage for their special talents and accomplishments at the 2007 Buddy Walk on Sunday, October 21st.

DSAT wants to honor these individuals and show everyone the many wonderful things they are doing in school and in the community. Please answer the following questions and return by June 10, 2007. If you need more space to write your answers, please use another piece of paper and attach it to this form.

We will contact you after June 10, 2007, with more information regarding the recognition at the Buddy Walk. If you have any questions, please contact Alana Kennon at publicity@dsat.org.

1. Personal Information:

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

E-mail:

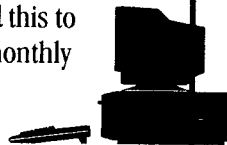
Age at Buddy Walk (October 21):

2. Name a "buddy" that has influenced you. (For example, a teacher, a family member, a friend)

3. What has your "buddy" done to influence your life?

New DSAT Website

Please check out our new website www.dsat.org (same address, but we redesigned the whole site!) There is a place where you can make online donations. You can even send this to friends and family and they can do a reoccurring monthly donation that is taken from their credit card. They can even put in honor of or in memory of so we know who to recognize. There is a place where we will be putting DSAT pictures from all of our events. You will want to check this out regularly for updates. We will have our latest newsletter and have several links to important websites that you might not be familiar with yet. There is also a section on F&Q's that we feel will really help new families. You can also download the forms/registration forms that we have available. We will have a DSAT store in the near future. We are getting all of our tax information worked out and will let you know when that is up and running. This will be great to send to friends and family so they can order DSAT items online. We are really excited about all the opportunities this opens up for DSAT! We have all of the board members e-mail and contact information if you need to reach us for any reason. I want to personally thank my brother, Cody Andrus (Taylor's uncle) for all the time and energy he put into putting this site together. He put so many hours into this project and we thank him.



Resources

Make sure you go to www.woodbinehouse.com for a great collection of special-needs books. There is a new one that is getting great reviews entitled, Mental Wellness in Adults with Down Syndrome. There is a book for Teaching Fine Motor Skills to Children with Down Syndrome, Teaching Gross Motor Skills to Children with Down Syndrome and so many others. If you haven't seen their list of resources, you need to check them out.

Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome- go to www.dadsappreciatingdownsyndrome.org for more information on how to get on their listserve.

If you did not get a chance to attend the Out of the Box Reading workshop, you can go to: www.outoftheboxreading.com for more information. It was a very informative workshop with some great ideas. You can also contact them at 1-866-922-0055 for more information.

Newsletter Deadlines

Share with us your stories, news, interesting facts, company, product or book that has been helpful. Have your information and stories to Kendra Pennington me by June 22nd for the July newsletter. Phone or fax 477-2999 or kendra@soonerstart.com

May 17th

Potluck Dinner and Horseback Riding Therapy

7:00 PM at New Haven United Methodist Church

We will be having a potluck dinner so we can sit back and get to know each other a little better. We will also be having a presentation by Helping Hooves on the benefits of horseback riding therapy. Please plan to attend this great night of fellowship! Please bring a side dish with you to share with the group. DSAT will provide the drinks and main dish.

June 21st

Dr. Laura Taylor

7:00 PM at New Haven United Methodist Church

Dr. Laura Taylor, a developmental pediatrician, will come to a question/answer session. This would be the time to get all your questions answered by an expert!

August 3rd, 4th & 5th

National Down Syndrome Congress Convention

Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, MO

Visit www.ndsccenter.org for registration information.

DSAT Board of Directors

DSAT is honored to have Alana Kennon join the Board of Directors for DSAT. She will be handling all the publicity for DSAT. Welcome!

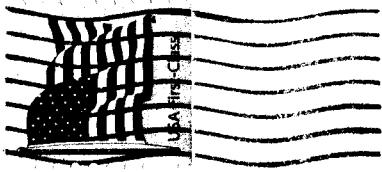
President	Adam Paul	495-2563
Vice-President	Erin Paul	495-2563
Treasurer	Beth Soderfelt	272-3926
Calendar Chair	April Wegener	355-6999
Governmental Affairs	Chris Wegener	355-6999
Parent Advocate	Kim Wofford	622-6906
Publicity	Alana Kennon	745-2398
Newsletter	Kendra Pennington	477-2999

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Next Meeting, Thursday, May 17th
7:00 at New Haven United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 54877
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74155-0877



Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa
DSAT news

Time Square Video

NATIONAL BUDDY WALK VIDEO PICTURE SUBMISSION

The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) will begin accepting submissions of photo's for their annual Buddy Walk Video on May 1, 2007. The video is played in Time Square and is the kick-off event for the New York Buddy Walk. DSAT members have been represented in the video several different years. We encourage you to submit your child's photo.

To submit your child's photo, go to www.buddywalk.org and click on "Time Square Video." You can submit a digital photo and a little bit of information about your child. Photos can be of your child only, your child with your family or sibling(s), performing their favorite activity or simply looking absolutely adorable. Families will be notified in August if their photo was chosen to appear in the video.

If your child is chosen for the video, please let Erin Paul or Alana Kennon know about this exciting news. With your permission, we would like to notify the local media of your child's great accomplishment.