

KAP Information:

The Kelly Autism Program

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Building Birdhouses with SIFE

Written By: Tara McDonald

KAP teamed up with SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) in a collaborative project last month. KAP participants from the elementary, middle, and high school levels met at the CEC with SIFE members to build birdhouses. During construction, the participants had to follow directions, work as a team, take turns, and even got a chance to use power tools (with assistance!). Later, the participants teamed up yet again to paint the birdhouses. Many of them decorated the houses with themes and they turned out beautiful! The houses will later be auctioned off.



Special Needs Trust Conference

Written By: Marty Boman

The Special Needs Trust Conference is scheduled for Saturday, May 12 from 8:30-3:00 in Tate Page Auditorium. Leo Govoni, Director of the Center for Special Needs Trust Administration, Inc., will be the guest presenter, and will discuss the need for financial protection as well as the types, complexities of administration and the legal requirements of special needs trusts. Jeff Yussman, an attorney who has a child with special needs, will provide his perspective of the financial planning process.

During the afternoon session, a panel of parents, legal consultants, and support agencies will discuss how to maneuver through the process. Afterwards providers from Bowling Green and Louisville will be available to work with families individually to begin the process. Please join KAP for this very important informational day which will greatly benefit the families. Please contact Jennifer Hutcherson at 270-745-2811 or Jennifer.hutcherson@wku.edu by April 30th to register.

Upcoming Events:

April 10 Middle & High School Girls' Night-
Rescheduled

April 10 Employment Group- Cookout

April 21 Prom

April 27 Minature Golf- Middle & High School

Director's Desk

Written By: Dr. Marty Boman

KAP is going to be at home soon at the Clinical Education Complex! The contractors arrived during the month of February installing plumbing; the walls followed quickly. Tomorrow is the first painting day, with move in dates slated for the middle of May. We are all excited as this will be the first time that KAP has had sufficient room for all the programming during the last year.

On another note, the KAP participants had a wonderful evening with the SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) team as everyone built bird houses. When they are all painted, KAP will sponsor an auction to raise money for programming. We would also like to congratulate the SIFE team as they placed in the top two for the state competition, and will be moving on to the next round. KAP is so excited about the strong partnership that has occurred through the last months. We are proud of your accomplishments, Leo, Krist, and the entire SIFE team!



High School Program

Written By: Dinesh Sharma

The senior high school section of Kelly Autism is important constituent of the program. The students like Jennifer and Daniel are consistently performing satisfactory in academics. The staff at KAP support these participants in many ways. They guide the students with their assignments, help them plan their careers and give them social support. Their participation in their community helps them become responsible and productive citizens.

The senior high school participants are growing towards a promising future with the help of their families and KAP. The Kelly Autism Program believes in holistic development of these students, so that they can be important part of the society.

Swimming Social

Written By: Felicia Wells

On March 30th, the Kelly Autism Program participants had a social at the Preston Center on Western Kentucky University's Campus. The Elementary school-aged met at Jones-Jaggers where they gathered to eat sandwiches before going swimming.

The Middle and High School participants met at the Downing Center on campus at 5:30p.m. They had pizza before going swimming. The social lasted from 5:30-7:30p.m. The swimming social is one of the favorite activities of KAP participants.

I would like to thank our KAP staff for doing such an amazing job with the participants. We had so much fun and we're looking forward to the next swim social really soon.



Middle School Boys Group

Written By: Robyn Fine

This semester has absolutely flown by so far. Our middle school participants are in great spirits as some have just had Spring Break while for others, Spring Break is just around the corner. The great weather has been a blessing in that we are able to go outside and play almost every day. We've thrown footballs around, had outdoor scavenger hunts, and even played some Yu-Gi-Oh under the shade of a tree. Everyone is getting along great, having fun, and looking forward to the summer.



College Program

Written By: Dinesh Sharma

The spring semester has been successful for the college students enrolled in KAP. The college section of the program consists of nine students. This semester, one staff was assigned one student to mentor who helps the participants in their academic and extra curricular activities at WKU. Some of the students have performed exceptionally well like, Richard Noble, a student from Louisville, KY. He has scored consistently higher grades in most of his classes so far.

The college life can be challenging to any person, and it becomes more difficult for the students diagnosed with autism spectrum, but with the support of the family and KAP, many students have managed to perform quite well with the academic and social aspects of college life.

The program has organized various social activities especially designed for the participants. The socials range from taking the students to their favorite sushi restaurant, celebrating students' birthdays, to watching movies and playing games together. These social experiences are an important element for the student's life, as it tries to balance their academic activities.

The performance of students has been great, but like other students, finals week can be a challenge. The past experiences have shown that KAP participants have impressively overcome the hurdles of academic assessments. And we again hope to achieve bigger milestones by the steps taken together by Kelly Autism Program and its students.



Tara (staff) with Briana (participant) have studied hard all semester so should show great success.

At right, Travis (staff) jumps with Charlie (participant). Below, Holly (staff) takes a break with many of the elementary participants on the inflatable moonwalk at Imagination Station.



Elementary Program

Written By: Sarah McMaine

The Elementary Program has recently finished up a unit on Science Experiments. During this time students made volcanoes, quicksand and foam soap. Students had to work in teams to make predictions and complete the experiments. This unit also served as a fun way to introduce different sensory skills and experiences. By the end of the unit the students were working well in their groups and enjoyed thinking about new ideas for experiments. Currently we are working on creating paper Mache Easter eggs for their families.

Last Friday, the elementary program went to the Imagination Station. This social also served as a reward for earning 100 chips through good behavior. It was really neat to watch the participants take responsibility for their behavior and encourage each other. Towards the end of the chip board, the students had surpassed several of their social and behavior goals.

At the social it was really nice to see the participants playing together. I think everyone will agree it was a great time for all!

Cancellations: If participants are unable to attend their scheduled session, please call the KAP office as soon as possible so staff can be notified.

Featured Students:

All About Morgan Douglas

Written By: Sarah McMaine

Our featured student of the month is Morgan Douglas. Morgan is an elementary student and is in her second semester at KAP. Morgan really likes the color pink and Littleest Pet shop animals. In fact, you can always find one of these toy animals in her pocket. Morgan also likes to swim and proved what a fish she is at the swimming social.

Morgan is very gifted with art and especially with creating sculptures out of paper. She has even made a wishing well out of paper that you can crank and bucket will go down in the well. She is a pleasure to work with and we look forward to seeing her accomplish great things through KAP.

Morgan Douglas



All About Richard Noble

Written By: Jennifer Hutcherson

April's featured student is Richard Noble. Richard is a Louisville freshman enrolled in KAP's Circle of Support program. He enjoys sciences and is currently taking courses in physics, chemistry, and calculus. He likes to watch television shows pertaining to science, such as the Discovery Channel.

During his second semester, Richard has matured greatly. He has learned that he needs to be responsible if he wants to do well at WKU. He plans to major in engineering which can be a challenging career. Noble said one of the biggest challenges to face is the social aspects of college, but he has made great strides. The KAP staff is very proud of your accomplishments.

Richard Noble



Scholarships and Charitable Giving

As always, we ask that everyone remember KAP and the benefits that are being brought to the community. KAP has an endowment fund or consider us in estate planning and other forms of giving. KAP can also grow through your effort of time, talent, and treasure.

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