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The annual KAP Christmas party was a great success! Pictured are the KAP College participants along with John and Linda Kelly, Dr. Boman and Dr. Mancil.



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.

Director's Corner

Written By: Dr. Boman

As 2008 comes to an end, the Kelly Autism Program would like to reflect on the individuals who are essential in the operation of the program: participants, families, staff, and administration. Each one works to assure that all the participants have achieved to their fullest potential. For this reason, this greeting is dedicated to them and the countless hours that they have provided to the program.

This year brought many good tidings to the program. First of all, KAP is very pleased to have Dr. Rich Mancil join us as the Assistant Director. His strong background in the field of ASD provides the necessary support for the certificate program as well as his leadership in research and community involvement. He truly will be instrumental as the program develops, and moves to the next level.

Also, Lou Ann Sanford started full time in April as the Office Assistant. No one knows how the program managed before she joined us. As she is always eager to learn new skills, and wants to get involved in the various projects. It truly is a pleasure to have her at KAP.

Then this month, Sarah McMaine began as the first full-time KAP manager. Her passion and drive inspires all of us who work in the program. The guidance and knowledge that she provides is appreciated.

Next, a huge thank you goes to all the staff members as the program would not exist without their continued effort. As the number of college students increased, each of the members stepped forward to make this truly a learning community. Everyone is saddened as Tara McDonald and Felicia Wells graduate, but due to their strong leadership, the staff is stronger and more devoted to the participants and their personal goals.

Words cannot express how everyone appreciates the continued support from John and Linda Kelly as well as the Governing Board. KAP has become a Nationally Recognized program due to your dedication to the participants and their families! KAP is excited as a number of site possibilities are being discussed..

Finally, a huge thank you to the parents and participants for joining us at KAP as we would not exist without your continued support. It is a great honor and privilege to work with each of your children as well as with you. From the entire KAP staff, may your family be blessed with peace and joy during this Holiday Season!

Jonathan Somoza plays Christmas tunes during the KAP Christmas Party.



KAP Christmas Party

This year's KAP Christmas party was the largest we have ever held with over 160 people joining us at Holy Spirit Catholic Church on December 5th. All of our participants including elementary, middle, high school, college and employment group came to celebrate the end of a successful semester. Everyone was surprised when Santa and his elf joined us bearing gifts for the participants and siblings! Everyone shared their favorite dishes for our potluck style dinner. Some of the participants shared their special musical talents including: Jonathan Somoza who played his saxophone and Stephen Weller serenaded us with his electric guitar. The younger participants made crafts which included felt Christmas trees. Thank you for joining us in our Christmas celebration; we had a wonderful turnout! We wish all of the families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing everyone in January!



Swim Social

By: Holly Conley

Fun was had by all at the annual Kelly Autism Program Swim Social. On Friday, November 14th, elementary participants and their families joined some of the KAP staff at the Preston Health and Activities Center Natatorium on Western Kentucky's campus. Our participants enjoyed jumping, splashing, and swimming in the pool with their friends, siblings, and staff members. We had beginners to skilled swimmers moving and playing like fish in the pool. It was awesome to see everyone enjoying the water together. Thanks to those who came and participated or helped, and thank you to the Preston Health and Activities Center lifeguards. We look forward to seeing everyone at the next social!

Elementary Program

By: Jamie Merritt

The elementary program had another great semester. This program has been very fortunate as it has gained many new students and staff member during this spring semester. Several of our participants were able to complete the paper mache piggy banks which were a big hit with this group. Besides all their work that they accomplished with their goals, the participants were able to enjoy activities such as baking cookies, painting pumpkins, making foam spiders, puzzles, games, and snacks. We had a very successful semester and we look forward to seeing everyone back for our exciting spring semester.



Christian Butterfield told Santa and his elf what he wants for Christmas!



The halls were decked with food and jolly smiling faces!

COLLEGE SUMMARY

KAP had a great time this semester with all of the college participants as they learned academic, social, and study skills. Even the staff learned new things from the college participants. KAP received many surprises from the college participants regarding their school performances as their skill level improved very quickly from the beginning of the semester until the end. Besides the academics, the college participants had a good time at KAP by taking part in a variety of social activities like tailgating and attending a football game, bowling, and the KAP Christmas party. Within a short time everybody became very good friends as the relationships developed throughout the semester. It will be wonderful to have everyone back again.

College student, Stephen Krajcik works on snowman centerpiece for Christmas party.



Upcoming Events

February 9th: KAP Spring Sessions begin

Participants will be contacted in January regarding dates and times

Middle School/High School

By: Mary Crutcher

Middle/High school summary

This was a very productive semester for the middle and high school classes. In addition to starting our own business, they did several lessons to help them in everyday life such as: discussing bullying, avoiding situations where bullying could happen and dealing with those situations if they should arise. They also did some cooking, and learned how to make peanut butter fudge, dirt pudding, no bake cookies, Rice Kristie treats, and the night class even made spaghetti. This taught them the importance of teamwork, how to measure and combine ingredients, how to follow directions, and how to share their treats with the staff and other participants. They really enjoyed helping each other, and having a tasty treat afterwards. All of the participants had a great time this semester, and we are looking forward to seeing them in February.

Middle/High school business

The middle and high school classes took on a big project this year. They decided to open their own business: making and selling wooden items. They made two corn hole boards, five sets of child rockers and benches, and painted various other items like DVD racks and wooden cars. The participants were responsible for measuring wood, fitting it together according to a pattern, using drills to assemble it, filling the nail holes with wood putty, putting two or three coats of paint on each piece, and sewing cushions for all the chairs. This required them to work as a team to create some beautiful things, and then they sold them at the craft fair on WKU's campus on November 21 in DUC. This was a huge success which the participants seemed to really enjoy. The money they raised will be going toward adopting a family for Christmas and fun new socials for next year.

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
from all of us at
The Kelly Autism Program*