Upcoming Events

Grab your calendars and pens because the Kelly Autism Program is planning several upcoming events for our participants!!!

On Friday, **October 28**\textsuperscript{th} the middle school and high school participants will be showing off their Halloween costumes with their friends at KAP. Be prepared to see monsters, princesses, and even Harry Potter! In addition, these participants will take part in the Special Olympics event on Saturday, **October 29**\textsuperscript{th}.

The Student Council of Exceptional Children has also invited the Kelly Autism Program participants to join them for a fall dinner on Friday, **November 17**\textsuperscript{th}.

KAP is already planning a Holiday dinner for the participants, so please join us for the holiday event on Friday, **December 9**\textsuperscript{th}. The KAP family and friends will come together for a pot luck dinner while celebrating the festival season.

Birthdays

Jennifer Glanzer: October 16
Clay Hall: October 25

Middle School and High School Program

This year we have two new leaders for our high school and middle school programs. Ashley Reel is head of the high school department and Sarah McMaine is head of the middle school department. Each department has grown in numbers since the beginning of the year. Both the high school and middle school participants have attended various events throughout the year. On Friday September 16, several participants attended a human sexuality class. The class covered changes that happen to young adults and what is the best way to handle them. That Saturday two participants helped the United Way collect can goods in front of Kroger. They passed out flyers regarding the needed items for Hurricane Katrina. They also collected donations from customers as they exited the store. The participants collected over three shopping carts of donations!

The participants are now helping to plan a Halloween party for Friday October 28\textsuperscript{th}. They will also be participating in the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament that will occur later in October.
Ben’s Success at School!!
Written by: Lanny, Dianna and Ben Tucker

Ben is our 17 year old son who attends Green County High School. This year he loves school. It has not always been the case. What is different? During the summer, the KAP staff worked with Ben in a work setting and we had 5 goals for him. Once he learned what fun work was, he was always excited to come to Bowling Green. He worked at Leichhardt’s Nursery and he worked with Clay, a senior in high school. Ben had the benefit of both a caring KAP staff, Ms. Jennifer and Clay as a peer mentor. When it was his ‘KAP work day,’ he would go to his closet, pick out his shirt and look forward to his day at work.

Since he has returned to school, the teachers were amazed at how INDEPENDENT Ben had become over the summer. He was talking more; he was more interested in his school setting and in finishing his work. This is a photo of Ben during homecoming week; no one would have thought Ben would ever have so much fun! He enjoys life at school so much more. Through KAP, Ben has gained a sense of accomplishment. He is more self-confident, and he has increased his self-esteem. Today, Ben will even try to communicate with you!!! Imagine that!

Trip to Dallas
Written by: Dr. Boman

Sarah McMaine and Ashley Reel (Hurricane Rita also) joined Dr. Marty Boman at the International CCBD Conference in Dallas at the end of September. Their presentation about the Kelly Autism Program was successful as a consultant invited the team to other Autism conferences in Texas and South Africa. A brief meeting was held with Dr. Brenda Smith Myles regarding the Autism website organized by the University of Kansas that Dr. John Burke from KATC had discussed during his visit to Bowling Green. A special thanks to Dr. Sam Evans for his support to defray the cost for the staff.

Reminder

Please plan on attending the Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, November 10 from 5:00-6:30pm at Holy Spirit church. Also, there will be a Governing Board meeting from 2:00-3:30pm on November 11th in the KAP office.

Christmas Card Project under way!

On Saturday, September 24th the Kelly Autism Program began printing the silk screen Christmas cards. The participants, staff, and volunteers came together to make the silk screen cards. Throughout everyone’s hard work and determination 500 silk screen Christmas cards are finished. The silk screen cards are $1.50 each. We are planning to begin printing cards from Liberty Printing. These cards are available in both packs of 10 for $10.00 or in bulk orders for reduced price. Please call the KAP office at (270) 745-8903.
Director's Desk
Written by: Dr. Kersting

Fall, a time of change! The KAP ‘time of change,’ however, started in August. Dr. Barbara Burch, the WKU Provost (she’s our ultimate academic boss) and Dr. John Burke, Director of the Kentucky Autism Training Center, Dr. Sam Evans, several parents and our staff met at The Kelly Autism Center. This was the first time Dr. Barbara Burch had the opportunity to visit the newly remodeled facility and speak with our staff. The facility was remodeled under the direction of Dr. Marty Boman (that special education touch) so that KAP could begin following TEEACH best practice of utilizing structured teaching. The facility now has 4 learning modules and a sensory center, as well as space for small group activities.

Dr. Barbara Burch also had an opportunity to speak with the KAP staff. She was impressed as they shared with her the importance of what they were learning and how it was preparing them for their future careers. The Provost said she was also impressed both with how the students were treated as staff, and the collaboration between Special Education and Communication Disorders, as the student-staff are majors in those disciplines. She made additional comments, which reflected well on the program and its growth potential. The Kelly Autism program is indeed a model of collaboration both within the university and with the community.

Thank you
The Kelly Autism Program would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Richardson for sponsoring the October newsletter, Mr. and Mrs. Hall for sponsoring the September newsletter, Mr. and Mrs. Tucker for sponsoring the August newsletter, and Ms. Suzanne Vitale for sponsoring the June newsletter. Your contribution is greatly appreciated by the staff of the Kelly Autism Program.

Sponsoring Newsletter
This newsletter is very important to us and to you. It is a way for us to communicate with each other. As we expand the readership, the costs increase. Both boards recommended that we ask for sponsorships to defray the costs. If you sponsor a newsletter edition, there are three recognition possibilities: 1) recognize your business, 2) recognize you, 3) anonymous. We will honor which ever option you select. For an issue, the cost sponsorship cost is $150.00. Please contact the Kelly Autism Program staff at (270) 745-8903 or at kellyautismprogram@wku.edu.

Donations
The Kelly Autism Program is supported by a private foundation. In 2004 and 2005, the Kelly Autism Program received the majority of its operating funds from that foundation. If you want to make a donation or discuss estate planning or a pledge, please call or email the Kelly Autism Program at (270) 745-8903 or kellyautismprogram@wku.edu.