

KAP Information:

The Kelly Autism Program

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Upcoming Events

Happy Holidays!!!

We will see you in the new year.

High School and Middle School

Written by: Sarah McMaine and Ashley Reel

Several of the middle school and high school participants took part in the annual SCEC Fall Festival. Everyone enjoyed pizza, face painting, games and pictures. The KAP students also got to spend time with several Western students as they participated in the activities. The participants are also participating in the Very Special Arts program. Currently they are painting pictures onto large canvases. Their works of art will be displayed in the near future.

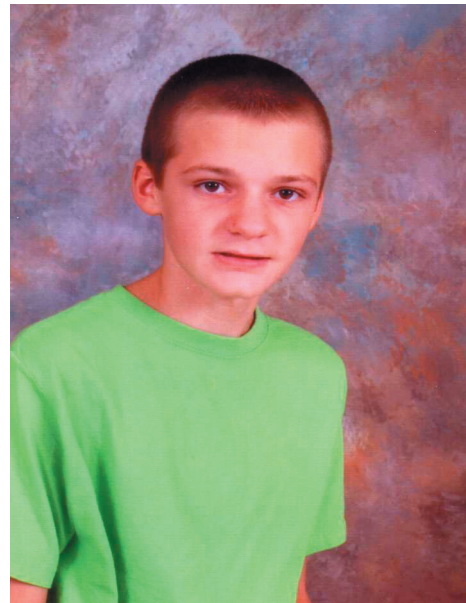
The participants have decided to use the funds from the Christmas cards to support an adopted family in the community for Christmas. They will purchase and wrap the gifts in the upcoming weeks. Another activity being sponsored is the annual KAP holiday party. Participants and their families will eat a holiday meal, make an ornament and experience the joy of giving gifts to others.



Jennifer and Cody at the SCEC Fall Festival

Feature Participant

Dalton Cheek



Hello, my name is Dalton Cheek. I am thirteen years old and attend Allen County Intermediate Center in Scottsville, KY. My favorite subject in school is reading, and I love going horse-back-riding every other Thursday with my classmates. I live in Allen County on a farm where I enjoy camping with my family. I love working on the farm and taking care of the animals. I have goats, dogs, fish and a miniature donkey. My favorite hobbies are listening to music, video games, and computer games. I also like being with my family and going to church. I know I have just started at the Kelly Autism Program, but the people I've worked with are great!

Director's Desk

Written by: Dr. Kersting

The season's holidays are a time to celebrate and reflect so that when 2006 is ushered in, KAP can begin looking to the future. So, what has happened? In terms of KAP directors, the Governing Board approved the addition of a new position: Director of Transition, Dr. Marty Boman, reflecting KAP's phenomenal growth; this position also recognizes the importance of Special Education in overall KAP programming. In terms of staff, several capable students have graduated. At the Communication Disorders graduation reception, Christen emotionally spoke of her time with KAP, which was very special; Julie is also graduating and shared her remarks in the newsletter. We will miss both of them.

Fund raising and grant writing is vital to KAP, as that is our lifeline. Dr. Boman and I wrote a federal grant and received a relatively high score, making our chances to receive an award even greater in 2006. A high school student wrote an ALIVE grant, which we received, so we were able to help residents in a long-term care facility. WHAS also awarded a grant for a Graduate Assistantship. Finally, and most significantly, Life Skills sponsored a Sunset Run, donating all proceeds to KAP. Their support was recognized at the Eastern-Western football game. Those efforts as well as many community partnerships will be recognized in the second annual Alliance Awards.

In terms of programs, both the Middle and High school is expanding; Dr. Boman is very involved with the schools and developing the Person Centered Plan, which is critical in mapping an individual's path to independence. The summer transition-to-work program expanded in terms of numbers of participants and community partnerships. Of the many stories I will always take with me is the memory of sitting down with parents of a student who were looking for 'a dream.' Without promising the dream but discussing the possibility, we agreed that they would travel one-day-a week to BG. After his experience with us, he is truly a different individual who is becoming more independent. That is special and something everyone associated with KAP can point to with pride. The Middle and High school programs also took part in an active Very Special Art program, which was appreciated by all the participants. In fact, the CEC architect, Mr. Blann and the interior decorator have accepted some of those paintings, on loan, to decorate the hallways of the new building.

In terms of the Post Secondary Program, Dr. Boman, the staff and myself knew that we needed this 'capstone program.' The exciting news was the Provost, Dr. Burch, approved and continues to support that initiative. Remember, that trip to Marshall University I wrote about last issue? KAP has one of the few post-secondary programs in the state or indeed, region for young adults. The STAR program in Louisville, in fact, is asking us for advice! To KAP's credit, we are inclusive, in the sense that we have active programming for young adults enrolled in a post-secondary institution such as WKU or the Vocational Technical College, and for those individuals working or seeking employment. You really must stop and ask one of us, or Mrs. Vitale, for the stories that capture the essence of those programs.

Finally, the Governing Board directed me to draft a Strategic Plan. After numerous meetings and revisions with a board sub-committee and the WKU administration, we have a visionary document. Through those collaborative efforts, the boards, the directors, staff and WKU administrators can realistically discuss the future of KAP. The Governing Board also directed us to become more involved in governmental committees. Mrs. Vitale, Mr. Ron Wilson and I have complied. We now have a poignant slide show depicting the CEC and KAP services for individuals diagnosed with Autism, as well as their families.

I am sure I left something out! Of course, I have the same problem with a Christmas letter. All I can say to that is; "What was left out is no better than what was said!"

On behalf of the Directors, the staff and everyone involved with KAP,

*WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A JOYOUS
HOLIDAY SEASON,
AND A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!*



Farewell to Julie!

Written by Dr. Boman



Julie Ransom will be leaving her graduate assistant position at KAP this month as she is graduating on December 17th with a Masters of Science degree in Communication Disorders. While a member of the staff for one and a half years, Julie has served in many roles. She has produced the KAP newsletter, directed the Middle School Program last year, and currently is in charge of the Postsecondary Employment Bound Program. She has also worked extensively on the Person Centered Planning curriculum for all the participants at KAP, while providing tutoring services and assisted with many of our socials.

“I’ve enjoyed my time at the Kelly Autism Program working with the participants and their families. I am going to miss each and every one of you. Thank you for making my experiences so rewarding.”

Julie has accepted a position as a speech language pathologist at Brandywood Nursing Facility in Gallatin, Tennessee. Julie has also been busy planning her wedding, which will take place on October 14, 2006! Everyone at KAP wishes you the best as you start your new life. Thank you for everything you have done for us through the years. We will miss you!

CEC Conference

Written by Dr. Boman

Staff members, Ashley Reel and Sarah McMaine, joined Dr. Boman at the 41st Annual Exceptional Children’s Conference in Louisville on November 20-22. Their presentation titled “The Kelly Autism Program: Independence and Productivity” was attended by over 30 parents, teachers, and Special Education Directors from various locations in Kentucky. When asked if they had heard about the program, most of the participants stated that they had and wanted to learn more about KAP.

Dr. Boman began by discussing the new CEC facility that will be opening soon at Western, and continued with a description of the various academic and transitional activities for the participants as well as the informational sessions for their parents. Then Amanda and Sarah discussed the four programs: junior high, senior high, postsecondary college bound, and postsecondary employment bound groups. The crowd was excited as they wanted to know how they could receive similar services in their communities.

Besides the activities at the conference, the staff saw Mohammed Ali as the dates coincided with the opening of the new museum in Louisville. It was a fun time for everyone!

Postsecondary Social

Written by: Julie Ransom

Nathan, Keith, Joseph, and Chris met at Dr. Boman’s house on Wednesday, November 30th to enjoy each other’s company and a delicious dish of tuna casserole made by Chris.

After dinner, the gang played a round of cards with Dr. Kersting and Dr. Boman. They are planning another event for the month of January.



Thank you

The Kelly Autism Program would like to thank the generous contributors for sponsoring the November and December newsletters, 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.

KAP Services and Support

Written by: Dr. Kersting

The Governing Board of KAP acted on a presentation by Dr. Kersting regarding the introduction of modest fees for KAP services.

The Directors and the Board want to be very clear about our policy: **ANY FAMILY HAS THE RIGHT TO KAP SERVICES REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCE.** No one will be denied services based on ethnicity, religion, or ability to pay.

These fees are scheduled to begin in January 2006. Letters will be sent to all families participating in the KAP program, and we will contact each family individually to discuss the new policy and how it affects them.

These KAP fees do not cover the 'true costs' for services. The purpose of the fees is to provide some financial support and to make KAP accountable for the services provided.

These are individual fees and do not apply to a school or school system, which may want to 'contract for services.'

The approved fees for families and individuals are:

- \$300/semester for the Middle and High School Programs
- \$400/semester for the 12 week summer session
- \$2000/semester for the KAP Circle of Support program
- \$300/semester for the College Bound Postsecondary participants
- \$300/semester for the Employment Bound Postsecondary participants

Scholarships and Charitable Giving

During this 'season of giving' we would ask that you remember KAP and the benefits that are being brought to the community.

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