

KAP Information:

The Kelly Autism Program

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Upcoming Events

Girl's Night- April 10th

Alliance Awards- April 13th

PCP Night- April 20th

Special Olympics Track/Field- April 22nd

High School and Middle School

Written by: Amanda Jochim

Events and tutoring are hot and heavy with the middle school and high school participants. Students are here everyday getting help with their school work. Also, the middle school boys just had "Boy's Night," while the high school boy's activity is in the planning process. The high school girls will be having "Girl's Night" on April 10th from 5:30-7:30. We all came together on a Saturday morning to help out at St. Vincent De Paul, which showed the community that we care. Earlier in March, we came together for dinner and swimming. We also have a newly developed teen council. The students have been planning all of the socials and community involvement. We are glad to see them participating and making decisions. We have a lot coming up and are very excited to see KAP so busy!

Postsecondary Program

Written by: Katy Behm and Rebecca Smith

This semester has been going very well! There is a lot going on with the end of the semester approaching and all the socials that have been planned. Everyone is keeping busy without a doubt! Participants have been able to go to a Valentine's Day dance, swim at Preston Center, and eat at DUC. A WKU baseball game social is in the works. Plus we have a few dinner and game nights approaching soon. We are very excited about all these activities!

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

Teen Council Report

Written by: Daniel Hood, Teen Council Reporter

On March 10, 2006, we had a meeting at Downing University Center, primarily to vote for leader positions and settle on objectives for the Teen Council of the Kelly Autism Program. Clay Hall was voted Teen Council President, Jennifer Jones was voted Teen Council Vice-President, Daniel Hood (myself) was chosen as Reporter for the Teen Council, Michael Allen has taken a oath to behave appropriately in his position as Representative of the Freshmen in the Kelly Autism Program, and Taylor Hardcastle was voted the Representative of the Middle School students.

During the Council meeting, we agreed on 3 separate goals for the Kelly Autism Program which are:

1. To plan more socials so the participants and possible newcomers will be able to develop more social skills and get to know each other and the staff
 2. To raise and spend funds in order to pay for any activities the Program shall attend to
 3. The final goal is to start Community Involvement Projects where we go into the local community and get involved in activities like feeding food to the homeless, cleaning up the pollution near parks and roads, etc...
- Congratulations to the newly elected leaders of the Teen Council and let us hope that we can drive on to complete the current goals of the Teen Council and the Kelly Autism Program!



Abrar, Michael, and Taylor during elections

Director's Desk

Written by: Dr. Frank Kersting

Fee For Service

The Governing Board voted on a Fee-For-Service schedule. This is appropriate because, as we all know, nothing in life is free! Even the clean air is not 'free!' These fees cover a small portion of our operating budget. The Governing Board voted on a flat-fee structure because the Kelly Autism Program's services are comprehensive, covering academic support, leisure/recreation, socials, and community involvement activities. All of these services have costs. We trust that you and your child enjoy and value these services, using as many as possible.

A few weeks ago I called each of the parents informing them of the Governing Board's decision. I know this is a departure from what we have done, but the Governing Board accepted a strategic plan that addresses the programmatic and financial health that recommended a fee for service to help finance our program so we can continue to grow and improve our services.

On behalf of Marty and myself, the staff, and Governing Board members, I want to thank all the parents for responding in such a positive and supportive manner. Such support tells us that you value the vision KAP is striving to create.

Teen Council

The Middle School and High School students who came to our "most excellent" swim social were also treated to a short meeting to form the teen council. This teen council is important for two reasons:

- 1) It provides our students an opportunity to learn to make decisions.
- 2) It provides them a chance to learn leadership skills.

The director and staff look forward to working with these students and all the teen council members as we make decisions about events, socials, and community involvement activities. Well done!

Dr. Frank Kersting
Director

Daniel Hood going up for the slam dunk at the swimming social at Preston Center!



Lifeskills Sunset Run

Written by: Courtney Burge

For the second year Lifeskills, Inc. has generously decided to host a Sunset Run and split the proceeds with the Kelly Autism Program. This year's race will take place on July 22 at the Bowling Green Regional Airport. Events include a 2 mile walk beginning at 6:00 pm and a 5K run and wheelchair race beginning at 7:00. The event will also feature a concert by the Ernie Small Blues Band. If you are interested in participating please contact the KAP office for a registration form. We encourage all KAP participants, families and friends to come show their support, so mark your calendar and start training!!

Aaron and Holly doing the limbo at the Valentine's Day Social in February!



Socials! Socials! Socials!

Written by: Katy Behm

This semester has been filled with socials! In February there was a dance for Valentine's Day where everyone had a blast, as you can see from the pictures!

Four KAP participants participated in the Rivendell's Bowl For Kid's Sake benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bowling Green. They enjoyed being able to give back to the community while having a great time together. This month there was also a social at which everyone went to DUC to eat together. After that a short Teen Council meeting was held and then off to Preston Center to swim!

There are also many great socials up and coming before school is out!



KAP's Bowl for Kid's Sake team of Victoria, Jennifer, Clay and Michael!

International Connections for KAP

Written by: Dr. Marty Boman

During the Spring break, I had the pleasure of traveling to the United Kingdom to explore the great work that is occurring abroad regarding education for students diagnosed with autism. Four visits were completed with a university professor, a graduate student in exceptional education, Queensmill School, and St. Philip's School. Everyone was so generous with their time, and wanting information regarding the work in the United States. They also want to stay connected in some manner with KAP.

All students have full access to the National Curriculum, which is differentiated according to needs and abilities. Great emphasis was placed on social skills, communication, motor skills, listening skills, and choice-making. Every student participates in transition planning as they prepare for life after graduation most students will be attending college.

This will be a great opportunity for KAP! I will keep everyone posted as these connections develop.

Ben getting in the pool with the help of Taylor and Amanda!



Job Placements/Training for the Summer

Written by: Dr. Marty Boman

Plans are under way for this summer as it looks like it is going to be a busy one at KAP. Currently we are expecting to double the number of the job placements as compared to last year. This is going to take some effort to explore new locations, but we are confident that our business partners will support us in the endeavor. Again there will be participants traveling from other states, as well as from great distances in Kentucky. If anyone knows of any job opportunities in this area, please contact KAP as soon as possible.

Thank you

The Kelly Autism Program would like to thank the generous contributors for sponsoring these newsletters monthly. We would also like to thank in advance future sponsors. Your contributions are greatly appreciated by the KAP staff.

Mason playing his guitar for everyone at the Valentine's Day Social!



KAP participants, as well as staff, playing some volleyball at the Swimming Social!



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 free effort of time, talent, and treasure.

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