

## KAP Information:

### The Kelly Autism Program

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## VSA

### Gallery in Downtown Bowling Green



Elementary participant, Will Sutkowski, proudly shows his art piece in the gallery.



Elementary participant, Noah Hargis, stands by his painting of the Fearless Five Super Heros.



Elementary participants: Caleb Watson, Briana Rone, Killian Day, Noah Hargis, and Will Sutkowski stand with the VSA Artists Rowe Delaire in the new VSA gallery in downtown Bowling Green.

Congratulations to all of our talented artists and thanks to VSA for this fun opportunity!!!



## Director's Desk

Written By: Dr. Marty Boman

Welcome to the fall season at KAP! We are delighted to have all programs officially housed at the Clinical Education Complex. There are many new faces including the participants, parents, assistant director, and staff. Our numbers continue to grow which is consistent with our strategic plan. Also, KAP has staff from Exceptional Education, Communication Disorders, Public Health, and Music. The Psychology and Business departments are collaborating with us on various research and fund raising activities. We are becoming more diverse in many ways! We have many goals to accomplish this year including:

1. collaboration in the classrooms
2. research
3. fund raising
4. development of the parent support group
5. programming
6. grant writing

All of these activities will strengthen the educational and social components at KAP. The directors, Leisa Hutchison and myself, may be asking for assistance with some of these projects so please don't hesitate to help us with these endeavors.

Also, it is not too soon to be thinking about Christmas. We are busy with the preparations of the "KAP Signature Christmas Card". Time flies when you are having fun!



**Ben Hutchison, new KAP participant, and his mother, Leisa Hutchison, KAP's new Assistant Director**

## Featured Student: Brian Meister

Written By: Sarah McMaine

Brian Meister is a freshman here at WKU. Brian is a physical education major and a big U of L fan. Brian likes to spend time at Preston Health and Activities Center with his friends. Their favorite thing to do is play basketball. They have even played with some of WKU men's basketball team. Brian also spends much time studying, and when you ask him he will tell you that his school work comes first. Brian has made exceptional gains this semester, and is doing very well in his classes. He says he is looking forward to the WKU basketball season to begin, and he plans to attend their first home game against Kentucky State.



**Brian Meister, freshman at WKU**

## KAP's New Assistant Director

Written By: Holly Conley

We are excited to introduce KAP's new assistant director Leisa Hutchison!

Leisa Hutchison M.S. CCC/SLP is a speech-language pathologist who is licensed by the state of KY and certified by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association. She has been practicing since 1986 after graduating with her master of science and bachelor of science degrees from the University of Kentucky. In addition, she has taken 18 hours of early childhood special education courses and has completed the eight-week Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Treatment Course at Vanderbilt University. During her career, Mrs. Hutchison has worked in a variety of settings including the VA hospital, public schools, Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs, adjunct instructor and clinical supervisor for WKU, as well as maintaining a small private practice. She has served in administrative roles in both the clinical and educational settings. Currently, Mrs. Hutchison is a full-time employee of WKU with  $\frac{3}{4}$  time as instructor and a clinical supervisor in the communication disorders department and  $\frac{1}{4}$  time as Assistant Director of KAP. Mrs. Hutchison is married to David, who is a middle school principal and they have one son, Ben who is also a KAP elementary participant.

## Elementary Program

Written By: Holly Conley

We are off to a great start this semester! We have several new faces in our elementary program, who make great additions to our groups. So far this semester we have been doing projects and activities to learn about ourselves, each other and other cultures. We have made a compliment tree, studied Japan, Argentina, and American Sign Language, and made various foods such as Japanese pancakes and "You Decide" trail mix. We have also made clay figures from arcilla, which is clay from Argentina, paper decorations from Japan, and we learned how to fingerspell our names and sign other words using sign language. Our daily schedule is busy, but always fun. Because some of our participants receive speech and language therapy, we are able to collaborate with several of the Communication Disorders students in our activities.

We would like to thank VSA once again for another successful program this year and for giving our participants such an awesome opportunity. We have an incredible amount of talent on our hands at KAP, and VSA has encouraged this talent to shine.

We are looking ahead to more exciting and engaging activities in the coming months as we discuss the importance of listening and respect, and discover interesting facts about Fall and Winter holidays.

## Middle and High School

Written By: Kumar Badampudi

We've had an exciting start this semester, and it all began with making new acquaintances. All of the newly made acquaintances have now become good friends. We learned how to make friends, and we also discussed how to maintain a healthy friendship. We then learned about personal space. The participants were busy making and painting birdhouses and creating Christmas cards. A few of the participants were interested in building and painting model cars, while a few others took to making electrical circuits and figuring out ways to make models of simple electrical appliances like a door bell, fan and an alarm.

Along with all this fun, we also managed to work on homework and school-related assignments. We also used the Internet as a source of knowledge. We conducted research about issues and topics the participants expressed interest in. Some of the topics we researched on the internet were sink holes, tornadoes and artificial intelligence. The semester so far has been very exciting and we look forward to more fun-filled days when we discuss different places we would like to visit and explore possible career opportunities.

## Collaboration with Communication Disorders Clinic

Written By: Leisa Hutchison

We are very happy to report that we are once again collaborating with the WKU Communication Disorders Clinic at the CEC. Many of our KAP participants also receive speech and language therapy during the time that they spend at KAP. Communication Disorders practicum students are providing speech services both in the classroom and individually based upon participant needs. The student clinicians are supervised by Mrs. Hutchison at least 25% of the time. Presently, 10 KAP participants are receiving speech/language therapy, either before, during, or after KAP sessions. We are very excited to be able to offer this collaborative opportunity to both KAP participants and WKU students. So, if you see several adults in addition to our KAP staff, many will be Communication Disorders clinicians. We know that we are doing our jobs well if you are not sure which is which!



**Henry Pepper enjoys some time to relax in the new white sensory room.**





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



Above: Elementary participant, Tavian Matthews with Ethan Burden's therapy dog.



Above: Elementary staff, Holly Conley, with elementary participant Noah Hargis.



High school participant, Jack, enjoys a movie with the group during the middle & high school social.



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## 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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