

KAP Information:

The Kelly Autism Program

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **October 24th:** 6-7:30 pm Bowling Green Autism/Aspergers Parent Support Group meeting at KAP
- **October 24th:** 6-8 pm Middle & High School social Halloween Party at KAP
- **October 30th:** 6-8 pm Elementary Halloween Party at Hillvue Heights Church Fellowship Hall
- **November 14th:** 6-8 pm Elementary, Middle & High school Swim Social at Preston Center
- **December 5th:** 6-8 pm Christmas Party for Everyone at Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Dr. Temple Grandin (center) with many distinguished directors and guests at the celebration.

On Thursday September 4th, KAP celebrated its fifth year working with participants and families. The guest speaker for the celebration was Dr. Temple Grandin, who talked about the need to help children with autism by identifying their interests and how these interests can evolve into a career if given the right supports. She commended KAP for their growth and passion for working with these individuals. Also during this time a very special gift from KAP participants was revealed to John and Linda Kelly. During the summer each participant had drawn a self portrait and these were quilted together. This quilt was a representation of the many lives that KAP has impacted.

Director's Corner

Written By: Dr. Boman

Fall semester marked the beginning of the sixth year of KAP, and our first 100 participants!! No one could have predicted that KAP would have grown so quickly. This truly is an exciting time for everyone that is involved with the program.

August began with our largest group of "Circle of Support" participants moving into the dorm—20 to be exact! Everyone was excited about the opportunity, but at the same time, full of anticipation regarding the college experience. After seven weeks, all are doing well and talking about their finals already. How time flies!

Then came September, which starting with the KAP Celebration and Temple Grandin's visit. The staff was overly pleased when they received her highest regards about the work that is happening here at WKU and the KAP program. She commented that the program is one of the best that she has seen during her visits throughout the nation. Over 1,200 people came to hear her speak! The following week, LifeSkills and Kiwanis hosted the first annual Run for Autism, which was another huge success. We are still waiting to hear about the exact numbers, but there definitely was a huge crowd again.

Focus continues with the various programs with Halloween and the holidays coming soon. The KAP Signature Christmas cards will be arriving soon, so Lou Ann will be taking orders. Also, Drs. Mancil and Boman have presentations in Texas, Arizona, Ohio and Louisville during November. KAP continues to be a busy place for everyone!



Happy faces all around! Shown by Samuel Dietle as he works with KAP staff member Mirinda Thomas.

Elementary

By: Holly Conley

Welcome back to all of our elementary participants and staff! We are now in full-swing for the fall semester at the Kelly Autism Program. There are many new faces among the elementary group participants as well as the KAP staff, and we are so grateful for the continued growth and support! So far, we have learned about making friends, appropriate manners at home and at KAP, and we are currently talking about emotions. Each participant is working on his or her individualized goal during every session. It is exciting to see the progress they are making! We also have many interesting art and music activities upcoming. Mark your calendars! The next elementary social will be on Thursday, October 30th from 6-7:30PM. Wear your Halloween costume! Hope to see you there!



Elementary participant, Tavian Matthews shows his excited expression.

Matt Davis, Coordinator of Student Disabilities Services @ WKU races as many of the other participants line up to begin their race.



LifeSkills/Kiwanis run for Autism

By: Stacey Edwards Clinard

On Saturday September 13th the first ever LifeSkills Run for Autism took place on and around Western's campus. All the proceeds from the 8k wheelchair race, 8k run and 1 mile walk support the Kelly Autism Program. Over 300 participants received a goody bag with a t-shirt, water-bottle and a commemorative pin. There truly was something for everyone at the event including inflatable's for the children, an appearance by Big Red, free ice cream cones and games. For the runners, a cool down zone was provided by Booth Fire and Safety with mist fans and cold drinks. The event was made possible thanks to the partnership between LifeSkills and the Kiwanis Club.

College participant, Nathan Baker is inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.



College Program

By: Darcy Cates

The first semester of the KAP college program at WKU is off to a fantastic start. We have 21 college participants this year. Twenty of our participants live in dorms all across campus. Monday through Thursday study tables are held throughout the day where the participants come to work with staff, graduate assistants, and mentors. They receive help on their school work and other support that is needed for their success, for instance, social skill training. Each participant has a mentor who keeps in close contact with him/her and who they can address any questions, concerns, or provide assistance or just to chat. Each night, in addition to study assistance, grad assistants hold short sessions with the participants where discussions on school related social skills are held, such as classroom etiquette, how to contact professors and what to do if they are struggling in a class. This month there is also a weekly session for all of the participants and a Literacy grad student working on study skills and techniques. It's not all work and no play however, as there are several socials planned throughout the semester. Last week was a successful bowling social with staff and participants. Everyone is looking forward for more fun events as the semester unfolds!

Assistant Director's View

By: Rich Mancil

KAP is experiencing growth again this semester/year with both the college population and participants in the other age groups. Coinciding with this growth, KAP is expanding in the area of research. Several projects are currently underway, while others are being planned. A brief review of these projects follows:

Executive functioning

- We are looking at the effects of executive functioning modules on the academic and social performances of our college participants.

Sensory needs

- We are developing a functional sensory tool to help identify the needs of our participants.

Self-determination

- As you know, one of the primary missions of KAP is to help foster individuals to be independent. With this in mind, we are examining the effects of the KAP model on this important area.

As always, all our research occurs within KAP and focuses on the needs of the participants and on how we can provide them with the best possible services.



A quilt was presented to the Kelly's during the Temple Grandin opening ceremony September 4th. The quilt represented many faces of KAP including participants, staff, directors, and the Kellys.

Christmas Cards

By: Rachel Reetzke

Christmas in July? This summer participants at the Kelly Autism Program started on designing the KAP Signature Christmas Cards. This project has become an annual tradition for KAP and stimulates the social development and community involvement of the participants. The participants will again adopt families from their schools and provide Christmas gifts and dinner. The Kelly Autism Program publishes and sells these cards. Liberty Printing has agreed once again to print the cards, which we appreciate greatly. KAP is also very grateful for its corporate sponsorships and patronage by many deans and faculty at Western Kentucky University. 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) 745-5427 if you wish to purchase these cards.

Middle School and High School Program

By: Rachel Reetzke

The fall semester for the Middle School and High School Program has started out wonderfully. KAP has a very diverse group of participants attending the program this year. Each individual contributes many special qualities, which allow our group sessions to be interesting and fun. The staff is eager everyday to help the participants with homework, social skills, and building strong friendships. One fun social skill activity that has been done with the group is a "Getting to know each other" interview. The participants had the opportunity to really learn a lot about the entire group through one on one interviews.

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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