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The E.C. Voice

Volume 5, Issue #6

April 2009

April is Autism Awareness Month

Guilford County Partnership for Exceptional Children



GRAPEVINE

Open Forum with Mo Green For EC Parents, Teachers and Therapists

Monday, April 27 6:30 PM
Kernodle Middle School

Save the Date

Next EC Advocate Training (For new advocates only)

Saturday, May 2 in the AM
Details to follow

Save the Date

Building Bridges II

Empowering Parents Institute

Saturday, September 26
9:00 - 3:00 pm
Kernodle Middle School

Submissions for EC Voice

If you would like to submit information to the *EC Voice* please contact Teresa Dodson:

(336) 996-3714
tdodson@rocketmail.com

All submissions are due by the 15th of the month before printing. The *EC Voice* is distributed during the school year.

Your EC Contacts

Erika Kuepferle - *EC Advocacy*

(336) 638-2107
angelsx2@triad.rr.com

Teresa Dodson - *EC Communications*

(336) 996-3714
tdodson@rocketmail.com

Carla Sutton - *EC Training*

(336) 676-4403
suttonc@bellsouth.net

See reverse side for UPCOMING EVENTS and more!

Over the past few years Autism has been in the news more and more. With the rate of Autism increasing so dramatically, pressure on the medical community to find a cause and then a cure is palpable. In the early 1990's the rate was 1 in 10,000. Today the rate is 1 in 150. Most of the research today focuses on the immune system, brain function and environmental insults. Here are a few statistics from Autism Speak:

- ◆ 1 in 150 children is diagnosed with autism
- ◆ 1 in 94 boys is on the autism spectrum
- ◆ 67 children are diagnosed per day
- ◆ A new case is diagnosed almost every 20 minutes
- ◆ More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined
- ◆ Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- ◆ Autism costs the nation over \$35 billion per year, a figure expected to significantly increase in the next decade

- ◆ Autism receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases
- ◆ Boys are four times more likely than girls to have autism
- ◆ There is no medical detection or cure for autism

The greatest concern as a society is how are we going to take care of these children when they become adults? Where is the funding going to come from? Where are they going to live and work?

The majority of the funding for children is through Medicaid and the public school system. Most insurance companies do not cover therapies for children born with developmental disabilities. That means most parents pay for these therapies out of pocket.

To find out more about Autism and support for families in Guilford County, please contact Monique Justice at (336) 580-6548 or dauphin@triad.rr.com

Visit the Autism Society of NC - Guilford County Chapter: www.asncgc.org

PTA EC Advocates Raise Awareness at their School

We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of PTA EC Advocates in Guilford County. This month, we want to highlight one advocate for raising the awareness of autism in their school and community:

Teresa Dodson has a passion for her child and his education. She is a very active member of the Colfax PTA and working in conjunction with the school Administration and staff she organized a tree planting, a banner contest and a walkathon for the entire school. Her goal was to raise awareness, and did she ever accomplish that goal. Here are some of the things they did during the month:

- ◆ Robin Drake, the Program Administrator, gave an Autism Awareness presentation to the staff at Colfax.
- ◆ Guidance counselors read a book on autism to the younger grades. They also led a discussion on Autism and Differences to the older grades.
- ◆ Children in the three self-contained autism classes made pins out of puzzle pieces and presented to each staff member.
- ◆ The three self-contained autism classes

planted a tree in the front of the school and decorated it with red, yellow and blue ribbons to represent the colors of the Autism Society ribbon.

- ◆ All of the children in the three autism classes decorated the halls with large puzzle pieces with their favorite things, to show their similar interests to their peers. Examples: "I like swimming," "I like my iPod." "I like pizza!"
- ◆ Each grade worked together to create a banner. The theme was "Together in a World of Differences." The winning grade level received a snow-cone party.
- ◆ The entire school helped with a walkathon in which they raised over \$1,800 for the Autism Society of NC - Guilford County Chapter.

This year she is planning new activities and events for the month. Please e-mail Teresa (see Grapevine at left) if you have any questions about her programs. We are also very fortunate to have Teresa onboard as our EC Communications chair to coordinate the newsletter with Charles Brannon.

upcoming events

Sixth Annual Autism Awareness Charity Golf Classic

Wyndham Championship, a PGA Pro Tour Event and the Autism Society of North Carolina Guilford County Chapter (ASNC-GC) will sponsor the 6th Annual Autism Awareness Charity Golf Classic. The tournament will be held at Starmount Forest Country Club with registration beginning at 11:30 AM. Proceeds go towards ASNC-GC's Teacher Grant Program. Entrance Fee is \$125 (\$40 of fee is tax deductible)

Golf outing includes:

- ◆ Cart and green fees
- ◆ Driving range
- ◆ Box Lunch
- ◆ Banquet dinner
- ◆ Awards Ceremony

Sponsorship Opportunities

- ◆ \$50 Program Sponsors
- ◆ \$150 Hole Sponsor
- ◆ \$350 T-Shirt Sponsor
- ◆ \$500 T-Shirt and Hole Sponsor

Visit www.asncgc.org for golf registration and donation information. Contact Monique Justice ☎ (336) 580-6548 or ✉ dauphin@triad.rr.com

Other April Events

3 2009 Regional Mental Health Conference

8:00 AM—4:00 PM, The Empire Room, Downtown Greensboro. For information please contact Jamie Stephens: ✉ jstephens@mhag.org

18 Fun on the Farm

It's that time again ... the Altamahaw-Ossipee Civitans are sponsoring another "Fun-on-the-Farm" on Saturday, April 18th! Mark your calendars and don't miss this great event for the whole family! There will be great food—and great fun! The kids (and adults) will enjoy riding on the tractors and horseback riding – relaxing in hammocks – jumping on the trampoline & in the moon walk – blowing bubbles For more information, please contact Therrel or Marie Brown:

☎ (336) 585-0908 or
🌐 www.asncgc.org

18 Bounce for Autism

6 - 8 PM. *Bounce for Autism* is a fundraising event that sponsored by the Autism Society of America and Pump It Up. By bouncing for Autism you can support families living with autism today! Participants form a Bounce Team – their team of bouncers committed to raising funds to help improve the lives of all affected by Autism, and ask friends, family, community members, or anyone else to support the cause by giving donations to sponsor them. For more info: 🌐 www.autism-society.org

26 April CLUB Event: Day At the Park

2:00 PM; Triad Park in Kernersville, (9652 E. Mountain St.) Shelter #6 CLUB is a social group for kids with any type of social learning disorder

such as ADHD, Asperger's, Non-Verbal Learning Disorder.

Join us for a day in the park on Sunday April 26, 2PM. Everyone please bring heavy, kid-friendly hors d'oeuvres and/or snacks and sweets. Drinks and paper plates will be provided.

Shelter 6 has a playground and is close to the restrooms. Bring your favorite outdoor toys: Frisbees, balls, remote control cars (there's pavement all around the shelter), bikes, scooters, etc. There's also plenty of tables in the shade if you want to bring board games, drawing materials, cards, etc.

Please RSVP to Karen Boggis

✉ kcboggis@aol.com

or Deanne O'Connor

✉ deanneoconnor@hotmail.com

GREENSBORO TEACCH RECEIVES AUTISM SPEAKS GRANT

Grant Provides New Transition Planning Training for High School Teachers of Autistic Students

Greensboro TEACCH recently received funding for a grant from Autism Speaks to work with Guilford County Schools on a joint project to improve evaluation efforts for students who have autism in order to place them in appropriate employment opportunities after graduation. Federal law requires that educators identify students' potentials and supports needed in order to place these students in gainful employment.

Through the Autism Speaks grant funding, TEACCH Supported Employment staff and Guilford County school staff will work together to learn new strategies on how to best evaluate and improve students' skills for supported work settings. The cornerstone for this work will be the TEACCH Transition and Assessment Profile (TTAP), a new assessment tool designed to better evaluate students' skills and create more effective transition planning and vocational training placements for students.

This training will provide more opportunities for educators and professionals to better support students who have autism beyond high school and allow involved classes to establish nurturing contacts with area businesses. Effectively creating a long-term strategy for evaluating and training students with autism spectrum

disorders to obtain competitive employment will help them ultimately live as independently as possible.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), one out of every 150 people born today will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Research indicates that employment for individuals with ASDs range from 2%-12%, while the rate for persons with other disabilities is closer to 58% (Barnard et al, 2001). This training helps establish a long-term strategy to combat these low employment rates for individuals with ASDs.

Division TEACCH (Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication-handicapped Children) was established in 1972 as the first comprehensive, statewide diagnostic and treatment program for people with autism spectrum disorders in North Carolina. Division TEACCH is part of the School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Over the past 36 years, the TEACCH program has provided services to individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals who support them throughout North Carolina. TEACCH's approach to service delivery is person-centered and always respects "the culture of autism." To learn more about Division TEACCH, visit www.teacch.com. To find out more about the Autism Speaks grant contact Glenna Osborne at Greensboro TEACCH: ☎ (336) 334-5773.

⇒ Continued top of next column...