

DSPTC News

Affiliate, National Down Syndrome Congress & National Down Syndrome Society

February 2007

Message from the New President

As I assume the duties of DSPTC President for 2007, I want first to thank Margaret Yaquinto for doing such a great job as President for the past two years. Margaret stepped in when personal circumstances prevented me from assuming the role two years ago. I personally appreciate her stepping in and we all owe her sincere appreciation for all she has done to effectively lead this organization. THANK YOU SO MUCH MARGARET!!

For those of you that do not know me, my husband Michael and I live in Arlington with our two daughters, Candace, 6 with DS who is in kindergarten, and Dawn, who just turned 5. We have been very actively involved with the Partnership since Candace was an infant. This group has been a great source of support and information for us, but most of all, it has been a source of friendships for our entire family.

Over the past 6 years, active membership in the DSPTC has grown tremendously. There were about 60 people at the 2000 Holiday Party, our first DSPTC event, and that was considered a big group. We had nearly 300 at that party in 2006!! Our "little" e-mail group started in 2002 with about a dozen personal e-mail addresses. The e-mail group now has 83 members. The first time we hosted a national speaker 4 years ago we had almost 80 people in attendance. We were thrilled. We now expect at least 200. Yes, we have grown!

I hope that each and every one of you get as much out of your involvement with DSPTC as I do. But this is the place where I have to say, you will get more out of it the more you put in. The more involved you are, the more informed you will be about issues concerning your children and the more fun you will have at functions because of the friendships you have formed. I hope that you will volunteer to serve on one of our 4 major social party committees, help with the golf tournament, or assist with coordinating a speaker of interest to you. And most of all, I hope to see you and your families at all of these events!

Theresa Moffitt

Barnes & Noble Story Time

*Monday, February 19, 11:00 a.m. (President's Day Holiday - No school!)
3909 S. Cooper in Arlington (in front of the Parks Mall).*

Story time with a Down syndrome focus! A young person with DS will read "We'll Paint the Octopus Red" and Barnes & Noble will display a collection of the newest DS-related books at a table staffed by students with DS. Take advantage of this great opportunity to network with other families!

Teen & Young Adult Bowling!

When: Saturday, February 24; 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m

Place: Spare Time Lanes in Arlington

Who: Teens and young adults who have Down syndrome

Cost: FREE!

You MUST RSVP if you want to bowl! Please call 817-496-5100 for more information or to let us know that you plan to come.

Board News

Welcome to new board member, Wendy Behnke. Thank you to Paige Wilhelm and Nori Jackson for their service on the board. Special thanks to outgoing president, Margaret Yaquinto.

If you can help by serving on the Spring Fling Committee, please contact Melody Medcalf at e_m91@yahoo.com.

(Note: The January Board meeting was postponed due to extenuating circumstances for several members. More news will be forthcoming after the meeting is held.)

What is Down Syndrome Clinic, and Should I Schedule An Appointment There for My Child?

By Sarah Stringer, Clinic Coordinator

- Down Syndrome Clinic is a special clinic for children ages 2 years and older, held one Friday each month.
- It's a great opportunity to get input from a lot of professionals about specific questions and concerns you may have, or to just make sure you're not "missing anything" regarding your child's health and development.
- Children see Dr. Mary Kukolich for genetic evaluation, addressing medical issues specific to DS and general health, growth, development, etc.
- In addition, children can be scheduled for screenings and/or brief evaluations in the following areas:
 - Communication and oral-motor skills by Speech/Language Therapy
 - Fine motor skills and activities of daily living by Occupational Therapy
 - Gross motor skills by Physical Therapy

- Hearing screening by Audiology
- Vision screening
- Nutrition consultation
- Psychology consultation

- Appointments can be scheduled by contacting Sarah Stringer, clinic coordinator, at 682-885-2181.
- Charges for the clinic are only for Dr. Kukolich's services and for audiology evaluation; most insurance plans cover the majority of the charges, there is no charge if the child receives Medicaid, and there are also limited funds available for children without coverage.
- General hours of the clinic are from 9:00 to 3:00, and your child's individual schedule is not set until the week of the clinic, after planning is done with you and clinic professionals.
- Families receive a report summarizing the findings and recommendations from the clinic, which can be helpful in obtaining services for your child.

14th Annual Inclusion Works! Conference

"Creating school communities in which each student belongs, contributes, and is treasured."

Presented by The Arc of Texas

- Date:** February 28th - March 2nd
Place: Renaissance Austin Hotel
 9721 Arboretum Boulevard
 Austin, Texas 78759
Price: Professionals \$175 (\$75 for Saturday only)
 Parents and Students \$50 (\$25 for Saturday only)
Presenters: Dr. Paula Kluth
 Dr. Wendy Murawski
 Dr. June Downing
And many more . . .
Topics: Co-Teaching for Inclusion
 Brain Research
 Differentiating Instruction to Support Inclusive Education
 The Nuts and Bolts of Inclusive Education
 Including students with Emotional Disabilities, Autism, and Learning Disabilities
 Inclusive Practices at the Secondary Level
And much more!

New This Year:

Inclusion Works for Parents, Too!

Friday Evening, March 2 and Saturday, March 3, 2007. Special conference day with sessions designed for parents to help achieve inclusive education for their children.

For more information, visit <http://www.thearcoftexas.org/conferences/inclusionworks>.

Please Note: The content of this newsletter is provided for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for medical or other professional advice. The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent those of the DSPTC directors, members or editors.

Upcoming Seminars

“Toilet Training - A Complete Program for Teaching Independence”

Date: February 17, 2007
 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Place: Region 10 Service Center on Abrams in Dallas
 Speaker: Gail Wayman

“Reading, a Major Key to Lifelong Learning”

Date: March 17, 2007
 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Place: Region 10 Service Center on Abrams in Dallas

DSPTC Officers and Contacts

President:

Theresa Moffitt treace@aol.com

Vice President:

Secretary:

Jan Farrington brynfarr@aol.com

Treasurer:

Marla Westbrook jakobsmommy@hotmail.com

Committees

Partners:

Robyn Hardison robyn_hardison@yahoo.com
 (address/phone number change)

New Parent Packets:

Teresa Koch 817-924-0360

Public Awareness/Education:

Melody Medcalf e_m91@yahoo.com

Down Syndrome Clinic:

Rhonda Hawkins 817-293-0246

Sunshine/Angel Food:

Jan Crook cjanecrook@aol.com

Email Group:

Marla Westbrook jakobsmommy@hotmail.com

6-12 Play Group:

Margaret Yaquinto mty43@sbcglobal.net

Teen Activity Leaders:

Kim Marshall TMarsh414@aol.com

Terry Dunn

Yahoo Group:

Marla Westbrook jakobsmommy@hotmail.com

Newsletter:

Jean Jewell

Send info to: dsptcnews@hotmail.com
 (Deadline on the 15th of each month!)

Website Contact:

Laurie Maddux laurie.maddux@sbcglobal.net

Website Design:

Chris Karp

(Note: These are not DSPTC-sponsored events.)

Assistive Technology - How Can My Child/Student Benefit?

Assistive technology can increase communication, support academic learning, help a person accomplish daily living activities and more. Join us as Marianna Bond, M.Ed., ATP, answers questions and demonstrates high and low tech devices.

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2007
 Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 Place: The Arc House
 1806 Haltom City, TX 76117
 (817) 834-7700
 Cost: FREE

Adult Issues Committee Meeting - The things I know now that I wish I had known then!

Sponsored by the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas. Now is your chance - whether your child is 5, 10, 15, 20 or 30 years old - to hear a panel of experienced parents who will answer your questions and tell you the “things I know now that I wish I had known then!”

Some of the issues to be discussed:

- How and when should you apply for SSI for the first time?
- Can your child get both Medicare and Medicaid?
- What agencies provide supported employment services?
- What are the ramifications if your child earns a salary?
- What are the options if your child isn't employed?
- Where will your child live?
- Are there any medical resources for adults?
- Does my child need a court-appointed guardian at age 18?

Date: February 15, 2007
 Time: 6:00 p.m., Socialize; 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Program
 Place: Down Syndrome Guild Office
 701 N. Central Expressway, Suite 5-I
 Richardson, TX 75080

For more information, please contact
 minnieblackwell@tx.it.com or 972-239-8771.

La Fiesta de Purple Frog A Valentine's Event Supporting The KinderFrogs School at TCU

Saturday, February 10, 2007 6:00 p.m.

**DOWN SYNDROME PARTNERSHIP
OF TARRANT COUNTY**

5508 Chaperito Trail
Arlington, Texas 76016

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fort Worth, Texas
Permit No. 2557

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Things to Remember

Mom's Night Out

Please note the location change!

February 16

TGIFriday's in North Arlington on Collins St. and
Copeland Rd., just south of I-30.

RSVP to Cyndi Anderson at cyndi0633@yahoo.com or
call my cell phone, 817-501-2358. Hope to see you there!

Arlington Little Folks

February 17

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Green Oaks School

Contact Wendy Behnke for
more information:
Behnkesw@yahoo.com

Northeast Little Folks

Contact Sessalie
Shapley
at (817) 358-1879

Bienvenidos!

La Asociacion Syndrome de Down
de Tarrant County prove recursos y
apoyo para gente con syndrome de
down y sus familias. Mas
informacion: Favor de llama a la
Sra. Julia Barbosa, (817) 923-3628.

Dads!

For more
information,
contact Mike
Nelson at:
Fnelson@bbar.com

Down Syndrome Clinic

Upcoming Clinic Dates:

February 16

For more information, call
Sarah Stringer at 682-885-
2181.

6-12 Year Olds

Contact
Margaret Yaquinto
for more information
at
mtty43@sbcglobal.net