



Family Resource, Information & Education Network
for Down Syndrome • Frederick County, Maryland



JUNE 2012 Newsletter

Issue No 13

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY- JUNE 17TH

MONTHLY MEETING CANCELLED IN LIEU OF FAMILY PICNIC- JUNE 24TH

THANK YOU TO ROTARY AND CATHERINE FAIRLEY

Thanks to the Rotary Club and Catherine Fairley's efforts, we now will have rotational volunteer staff at our monthly meetings to help out with the youth while the parents are able to listen to speakers, coordinate activities such as the Buddy Walk and socialize with each other.

SAVE THE DATE: 11TH ANNUAL BUDDY WALK DATE SET FOR SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2012:

Much preparation is going to be needed to accommodate our ever growing group and outreach programs, so PLEASE, if you have not been involved in previous years or are new to the group, we NEED YOU!!! There are many volunteer opportunities available and needed to make this day a HUGE success for our group and our Down syndrome awareness efforts. Committees are forming now, contact Denny for more information.

KIDS CORNER

Every month we strive to showcase a different child from our group in our Kids Corner. If your child has not yet been showcased, please send a picture and a bio to holly.mohler@yahoo.com



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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Circle of Life

- **Four years old:** My Daddy is the smartest man I know
- **Five years old:** I want to be just like Daddy when I grow up!
- **Six years old:** Oh yeah? Well, my dad is bigger than your dad!
- **Eight years old:** (eyes rolling) Whatever, Dad!
- **Ten years old:** (eyes still rolling)
- **Twelve years old:** Who, Him? He doesn't know what I am going through. He is too old to remember his childhood.
- **Fourteen years old:** DAD!!! Go back inside, you are embarrassing me!!!!
- **Twenty-one years old:** OMG, those socks with those shoes? What is he thinking?
- **Twenty-five years old:** Maybe Dad knew what he was talking about after-all?
- **Thirty years old:** We should ask Dad what he thinks.
- **Thirty-five years old:** I'm not doing a single thing until I talk to MY Dad.
- **Forty years old:** I wonder how Dad would handle this?
- **Fifty years old:** I'd give anything if Dad were here now so I could talk this over with him. Too bad I didn't appreciate how smart he was. I could have learned a lot from him. He was the smartest man I knew.

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SOCIAL AND POLITICAL AWARENESS

F.R.I.E.N.D.S SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The **F**amily **R**esource, **I**nformation & **E**ducation **N**etwork for **D**own **S**yndrome (F.R.I.E.N.D.S.) believes that our future lies in the hands of our teachers/instructors. The better we can assist them in achieving their goals and set them up for success, the better our kids have a chance for a brighter future. F.R.I.E.N.D.S. is offering scholarships of up to \$1000.00. To be considered by this organization you must be a legal resident of the United States, at least a full-time student in a public or a state government recognized private school to be considered for this scholarship. There are two further areas of qualification of this scholarship:

- a. You must be an individual with Down syndrome seeking higher education in any field of your choice;
OR
- b. You are student that plans on at least a bachelor's degree in Special Education or a career in helping the needs of those individuals with Down syndrome.

Application forms are available online or contact us at the address below

All applications must be postmarked by **June 30, 2012**.

The scholarships will be awarded at our major fundraiser-11th Annual **Buddy Walk**, on **September 22, 2012**.

Recipients of the scholarships will be notified prior to the walk.

Please go to this link to download a copy. <http://friendsoffredco.org/2012/04/24/friends-scholarships/>

DOWN SYNDROME MARYLAND LICENSE PLATE

Show your advocacy on a daily basis by showing our "colors"- see attached flyer



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SOCIAL AND POLITICAL AWARENESS (CON'T)

Exceeding expectations: Student with Down syndrome impresses with her progress

A typical day for Windsor Knolls Middle School eighth-grader Hannah Carbaugh includes volunteering in the front office, attending Mr. Storch's science class and some one-on-one tutoring with instructional assistant Mrs. Peake.

But Hannah is not your typical eighth-grader.

Hannah has Down syndrome. Three years ago, she would not have been able to sit in the science class because of her habitual humming. Instructional assistant Mary Peake would have had to attend all Hannah's classes with her, walking her to each one.

Now, Hannah can attend classes such as physical education and theater arts independently, while Peake sits in on the more academic courses to occasionally reinforce a point the teacher is making.

"She's just a pleasure to have in class," science teacher Shannon Storch said Monday.

"She's always smiling."

Fitting in

Hannah started at Windsor Knolls three years ago, just as budget cuts ended the school's Learning for Life program, a class for students with disabilities that provides them with functional life skills.

When Hannah left Kemptown Elementary School, her parents had to decide whether to keep her with her peers at Windsor Knolls or have her attend Oakdale Middle School, which has Learning for Life program.

Hannah's mother, Karen, said she and her husband were afraid their daughter would lose progress if she were grouped with students who had similar disabilities.

"The feeling that she fits in, I think that's huge for her," Karen Carbaugh said.

Without a structured program in place, Windsor Knolls' special education department chairwoman, Michelle Brooks, went about creating a personalized program for Hannah.

Three years later, Hannah has made remarkable progress, Peake said.

Hannah started at Windsor Knolls below first grade academically, but she now tests between second- and fourth-grade levels, while being able to grasp material she hears at the eighth-grade level. "She can auditorily understand, but the actual physical action of reading is difficult," Brooks said.

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Building a program

After meeting with Hannah's parents the summer before she started at Windsor Knolls, Brooks and Peake began crafting what they describe as an ever-evolving program focused on life skills and social interaction.

When Hannah came to the school, she could count to 10 but could not add or subtract. To build those math skills, Peake brought in grocery sales fliers, and together they made a shopping list and calculated the cost.

To help her with critical thinking, Brooks had Hannah volunteer in the cafeteria and then in the front office. Hannah would set up drinks and chips along the cafeteria line and wrap up to 200 freshly baked cookies before students arrived.

"She always knew what she had to do," cafeteria manager Taina Schweitzer said. "She was a great asset." In the office, Hannah helps raise the flags every day, sort's attendance folders and never forgets to feed the fish in the front office fish tank. Throughout her three years, Hannah has also been tutored by fellow students to improve her reading, writing and social skills.

Brooks attributes much of Hannah's growth to her social interaction with staff and students. Carbaugh sees how independent her daughter has become at home. A few years ago, she had to drag Hannah to the dentist or doctor's office, but not anymore, she said. "When it comes to everyday life stuff, she's great."

Moving on to high school

Like any eighth-grader, Hannah is torn between excitement and anxiety.

"I'm a little nervous about going to high school," she said.

Hannah looks forward to competing on Urbana's unified sports team, she said. Her mother said they have also asked about the cheerleading squad.

Carbaugh expects her daughter to be fine at the high school level, she said, but she is not sold on Hannah waking up at 6:30 every morning.

Hannah will no longer be at Windsor Knolls next year, but the special education department is already implementing a program similar to hers with another student who has Down syndrome. "As long as students need it, we'll make it work," Brooks said. Hannah came to Windsor Knolls as a shy sixth-grader, but she is not shy about identifying her two favorite teachers: Brooks and Peake.

"I'm going to miss them a lot," she said.

Asked what she'll miss most, Hannah turned and smiled at Brooks.

"I'm going to miss her smile," the student said with a laugh, "but you're always in my heart."

<http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?StoryID=135636>



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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

JUNE

JUNE 5TH MEETING CANCELLED- IN LIEU OF PICNIC

WELCOME PICNIC FOR NEW FAMILIES- JUNE 24TH 1PM, PINECLIFF PARK

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Annual Family Picnic at Pinecliff Park (Shelter #2)

It's time for our F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Annual Picnic! Hot dogs & hamburgers will be provided by FRIENDS and you bring a side dish and a drink of your choice to share. We will have a watermelon relay race, a water balloon toss game, and a bean bag toss. These games are not only for the kids....if you remember the last water balloon fight, the adults had twice as much fun as the kids!

If you have any summer lawn games, please bring them with you. Bring bathing suits, towels and sunscreen for the kiddies. It'll be a relaxing afternoon.

Kelly Presnell will be there to talk our group about the summer camp available for kids with disabilities through the kid's Unlimited program at the Frederick YMCA.

RSVP: Tracy Barnard at tbarnard02@gmail.com



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JULY

JULY 20TH- MOVIE NIGHT at MUMC- 7pm

JULY 19TH- 22ND- NDSC CONVENTION- F.R.I.E.N.D.S is offering the first 20 families to sign up a \$75 reimbursement check for the conference- sign up TODAY!

AUGUST

AUGUST 7TH- MONTHLY MEETING

FAMILY NIGHT OUT- BOWLING- Saturday in August

SEPTEMBER

WEEK PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 22ND- STUFF THE BAG NIGHT- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SEPTEMBER 22ND- BUDDY WALK

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 2ND- MONTHLY MEETING- DRESS UP FOR HALLOWEEN PARTY

FAMILY DAY- HARVEST FARM- Saturday in October

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 6TH- THANKSGIVING DINNER

TECHNIQUES FOR SUCCESS CONFERENCE

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 4TH- CHRISTMAS PARTY

MISC:

F.R.I.E.N.D.S PHOTO SHARING- [HTTP://DOWNBUTUP.SHUTTERFLY.COM/](http://downbutup.shutterfly.com/)SHARE PHOTOS OF THE GROUP AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DOWN SYNDROME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

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Save the date!

4TH TECHNIQUES FOR SUCCESS CONFERENCE

November 9, 2012 – Parent session

November 10, 2012 – Conference for educators

The 4th Techniques for Success (TFS) conference will take place in November 2012. TFS focuses on practical strategies for educating students with Down syndrome and those with other special needs. This year, there will be a special session for parents in the evening of Friday, November 9 (location to be determined) and an all-day conference for educators on Saturday, November 10, at the Gaithersburg Marriott in the Washingtonian Center.

Please save the date and ask staff at your child's school to attend!

Inviting your child's teaching team is a great way to show support for them and to spread up-to-date knowledge about Down syndrome within our school system.

The educators' conference is appropriate for general and special education teachers, paraprofessionals, therapists, counselors, administrators and homeschooling parents. The specific topics and speakers change each time so it is worthwhile to attend every year. This year's topics will include technology, behavior issues and an interactive session about accommodations, modifications and strategies.

The conference is offered free of charge, thanks to those Buddy Walk donations. Watch the DSNMC listserv and website for details about registration, which will open in the late summer.

TFS is a joint effort between DSNMC and F.R.I.E.N.D.S. of Frederick County. If you would like to become a part of the Planning Committee, please contact Heather Sachs, TFS Planning Committee Co-Chair, at heather@dsnmc.org.

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OUR KIDS CORNER REMEMBERS

ANDREW CHRISTOPHER EIKER

WE LOVE YOU AND MISS YOU, ANDREW!

BORN JULY 12, 1996

WENT HOME TO BE WITH THE LORD JUNE 1, 2009



Born July 12, 1996 in Frederick, he was son of Brian and Jennifer Trigg Eiker of Thurmont.

Andrew attended fifth grade at Thurmont Elementary School. Andrew and his family are members of the Down Syndrome Advocate group, "FRIENDS". He was a member of the Challenger Baseball Little League on team St. Clair. He loved to make people laugh and have a great time. Andrew and his sister, Megan, knew all the songs and dance moves to all three High School Musical movies and loved to perform them for people. He enjoyed play-doh and coloring books with his sister. He was a great big brother. He has touched so many lives and continues to be an inspiration to everyone. We love you and miss you, Andrew!!



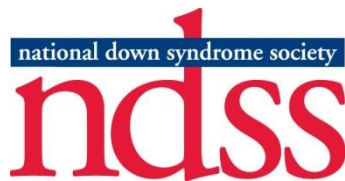
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AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS



Newsletter Committee:

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