

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information regarding Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and related disorders.
We do not necessarily endorse the information printed in this newsletter.

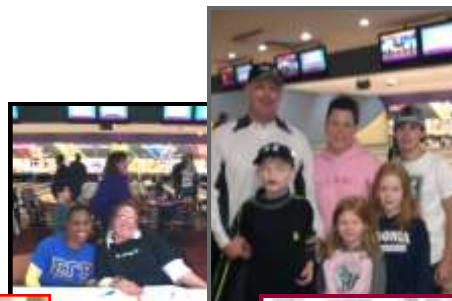


Getting to Know You . . . Better!

Recent ASBC Outings



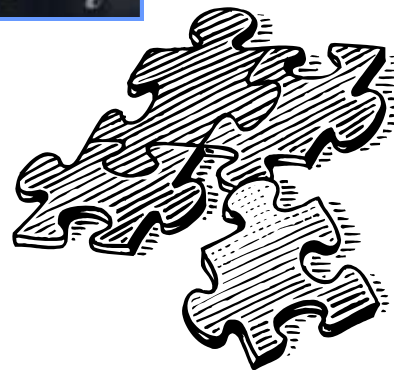
Hershey Park
September 17th



Bowling
October 2nd



Autism Walk
October 29th





Calendar of Events

Inside this Issue		
	Nov. 16	Kennedy Krieger Adolescent Transition Lecture Web Conference, 12:00 p.m.
	Nov. 16	<i>Autism throughout the Lifespan</i> , Baltimore, 7:00 p.m.
Details, Details 4	Nov. 17	<i>Guy Talk</i> : The Arc Baltimore Support Group for Fathers, Towson, 6:30 p.m.
Swim Party 13	Nov. 18	Adults with Autism Social Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.
Tech Nuggets 15	Nov. 19	Big Kids and Little Kids Clubs Play Date Programs, Reisterstown, 12:00 p.m.
Movie 16	Nov. 19	ASBC My Gym Children's Fitness Center Party, Owings Mills, 2:00 p.m.
	Dec. 1	ASBC Support Group, Mt. Washington, 7:00 p.m.
	Dec. 2	Workshop on Music and Art Therapies, Reisterstown, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
	Dec. 3	ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film: <i>The Muppets</i> , White Marsh, 10:00 a.m.
	Dec. 6 – 7	PECS Basic Training, Timonium, 7:30 a.m.
	Dec. 6	Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting, Baltimore, 6:00 p.m.
	Dec. 7	<i>Moms Understand</i> : The Arc Baltimore Moms Support Group, Towson, 6:30 p.m.
	Dec. 7	<i>Preparing Young Adults for Independence: Transition and Moving Out</i> , Baltimore, 7:00 p.m.
	Dec. 8 & 9	<i>Putting It All Together for Kids on the Autism Spectrum</i> Seminar, Timonium
	Dec. 8	Pathfinders for Autism Harford Co. Seminar, Aberdeen, 12:30 p.m.
	Dec. 8	Adults with Autism Social Group, Towson, 6:00 p.m.
	Dec. 10	Baltimore Adult Autism Group hosted by Zosia Zaks, Baltimore, 7:00 p.m.
	Dec. 11	ASBC KidsFirst Swim Party, Cockeysville, 1:15 p.m.
	Dec. 12	Baltimore County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Comm. Meeting, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
	Dec. 13	<i>Getting an Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis: Where do I go from here?</i> , Balto., 9:30 a.m.
	Dec. 13	ASBC Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson, 7:00 p.m.
	Dec. 16	<i>How to Raise a Healthy Child in a Hectic World</i> , Bel Air, 7:00 a.m.
	Dec. 17	Big Kids and Little Kids Clubs Play Date Programs, Reisterstown, 12:00 p.m.
	Dec. 22	Parent Group for Parents of Individuals on the ASD Spectrum, 6:30 p.m.
	Jan. 3	Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting, Baltimore, 6:00 p.m.
	Jan. 4	<i>Moms Understand</i> : The Arc Baltimore Moms Support Group, Towson, 6:30 p.m.
	Jan. 4	ASBC Kung Fu Lesson, Baltimore
	Jan. 5	ASBC Support Group, Mt. Washington, 7:00 p.m.
	Jan. 7	ASA/AMC Sensory Friendly Film: <i>The Adventures of Tintin</i> , White Marsh, 10:00 a.m.
	Jan. 9	Baltimore County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Comm. Meeting, Towson, 7:00 p.m.
	Jan. 10	ASBC Adult Autism Resource Group (AARG), Towson 7:00 p.m.
	Jan. 12	Navigating the IEP Process, Reisterstown, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
	Jan. 14	Big Kids and Little Kids Clubs Play Date Programs, Reisterstown, 12:00 p.m.
	Jan. 19	<i>Guy Talk</i> : The Arc Baltimore Support Group for Fathers, Towson, 6:30 p.m.

Calendar Close-up



December 1st and January 5th Support Group Meetings

Our support group meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. Directions to the meeting site are included on the last page of this newsletter.

The meetings begin with general announcements about upcoming activities, followed by individual introductions and the invitation to share one “golden moment” you’ve experienced during the previous month. Following that, we have time for questions and follow-up discussion as well as further opportunity for group support and socialization. Some meetings feature speakers or a panel discussion on specific topics of interest to our members.

New members and new ideas are always welcome . . . Join us!

**Has your child just recently been diagnosed with autism?
Feeling a bit lost and needing some extra support?**

We’ve been there ourselves, and want to help. Our meetings feature a break-out session for parents/caretakers of newly-diagnosed children where you can ask questions and get help in a smaller group setting.

Looking ahead . . . Have We Got A Social for You and Your Family!

Monthly Socials for 2011 - 2012

Sunday, December 11, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.	KidsFirst Swim Party, Cockeysville
Saturday, January 4, 2012	Kung Fu Lesson, Baltimore
Saturday, February 4 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Snow Tubing at Ski Liberty, Carroll Valley, PA
Saturday, March 3 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Indoor Monster Mini-Golf Party, Jessup
Tuesday, April 3	Laser Tag Party, Owings Mills
May	Oregon Ridge Picnic, Cockeysville
Sunday, June 24 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.	A Day at Cascade Lake, Hampstead
July	Water Tubing at Gunpowder Falls
August	Rebounders Gymnastics Party, Timonium

~ Stephanie Savick, Co-ordinator

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . .

(ABOUT THE CALENDAR ITEMS)

Wednesday, November 16, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Kennedy Krieger Institute Adolescent Transition Lecture Web Conference: *Sexual and Reproductive Health in Transitioning Youth*

Apeaker Barbara Obst, RN, Kennedy Krieger Institute Project Coordinator of Specialized Health Needs Interagency Collaboration Project (SHNIC). Intended audience: adolescents, young adults and adults with disabilities, parents, educators, clinicians, community and health care providers, and any other interested parties. Registration is open through Tuesday, November 15 at 4:00 p.m. You must provide an email address for registration, and have access to an Internet connection with speakers for the web conference. To register, email resourcefinder@kennedykrieger.org, or call 443-923-2790.

Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Autism Throughout the Lifespan

A presentation in the Hope and Challenge Lecture Series. Speakers: Elaine Williams, M.A. and Linda Pearl, M.Ed. Topics will include common signs and symptoms of autism spectrum disorders, what we know about the causes of autism and its effects on persons and their families, and clarifying relationships between autism and other co-occurring conditions. The talk will also cover treatments that can make a significant difference in how children or adults with autism develop and thrive. Throughout, the speakers will draw on their clinical and personal experiences to present a view of persons with autism as individuals who have both considerable strengths and substantial challenges. No cost. Location: The Church of the Redeemer, 5603 North Charles Street (just north of Northern Pkwy.). For more info.: 410-435-7333

Thursday, November 17, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Guy Talk: The Arc Baltimore Support Group for Fathers

A support group for dads only with discussion of the challenges and joys of having a child with a developmental disability. Meets the third Thursday of every month. Location: The Arc Baltimore, 7215 York Road, Towson. For more info.: Dorothea Nikas at 410-296-2272 x5349 or visit www.arcofbaltimore.org.

Friday, November 18, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Adults with Autism Social Group

Social Activity Night for adults with Autism. Please bring a snack to share. Cost: \$3 fee per person, per meeting OR \$15 fee per semester OR \$25 fee per year. Location: Towson University Administration Building, room 120, at the corner of York Road and Cross Campus Drive. For more information: Patricia Townes, 410-704-4486.

Saturday, November 19, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Little Kids Club! Play Date Program

For children with autism ages 18-months through 3 years old. Kids will have fun playing and learning language! Activities include music, sensory motor play, and outside games. No cost. Location: The Shafer Center, 132 Business Center Drive, Reisterstown. To RSVP or for more info. contact: 410-517-1113, www.shafercenter.com.

Saturday, November 19, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Big Kids Club! Play Date Program

For children with autism ages 4-7 years who have conversation skills. Kids will have fun meeting and playing with new friends while doing obstacle courses, art projects, outside games, and group games. No cost. Location: Shafer Center, 132 Business Center Dr., Reisterstown. To RSVP or for more information: 410-517-1113, www.shafercenter.com.

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . . (CONTINUED)

Saturday, November 19, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
ASBC My Gym Children's Fitness Center Party
 See flyer on Page 9 for details.



Friday, December 2, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Workshop on Music and Art Therapies

Presented by The Shafer Center. No cost. Location: The Shafer Center, 132 Business Center Drive, Reisterstown. To RSVP or for more information contact: 410-517-1113, www.shafercenter.com.

Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m.
ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film

The Muppets. With the help of three fans, the Muppets reunite and must work together to stage "The Greatest Muppet Telethon Ever," raising the \$10 million needed to save the Muppet Theater from a greedy oil tycoon. Rated PG for some mild rude humor.

Tuesday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 7, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
PECS Basic Training

The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) is used to teach communication skills rapidly to those with limited functional speech. PECS promotes communication within a social context, without lengthy prerequisite training. Participants will learn how to implement the six phases of PECS and will leave the workshop ready to implement PECS with individuals with autism and related disabilities. Cost: \$395 professional /\$295 parent. Presented by Pyramid Educational Consultants. Location: Crowne Plaza, 2004 Greenspring Drive, Timonium. For more information: Nina Truehart, 888-732-7462 or www.pecsusa.com.

Tuesday, December 6, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting

SECAC is an advisory committee established to develop and facilitate partnerships between parents, community members, disability organizations, educators, and administrators to enhance services and opportunities available to students with disabilities and/or special needs and to advocate for positive changes in special education in special education in the Baltimore City Public Schools. Location: 200 E. North Avenue, 1st Floor Board Room. For more information, contact SECAC Chair Blondelia Caldwell-Harrison, 410-419-2360 or blondeiac25@aol.com.

Wednesday, December 7, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Moms Understand: The Arc Baltimore Moms Support Group

A support group for moms only with discussion of the challenges and joys of having a child with a developmental disability. Please bring food to share. Meets the first Wednesday of every month. Location: The Arc Baltimore, 7215 York Road, Towson. For more info.: Dianna Morgan at 410-296-2272 x5347 or www.arcofbaltimore.org.

Autism Society's Options Policy . . .

Just a reminder that the Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake adheres to the Autism Society's options policy that states *no single type of program or service will fill the needs of every individual with autism and that each person should have access to support services. At the very core of **parent choice** philosophy is the belief that no single program or treatment will benefit all individuals with autism. Providing information and education to help in decision-making are more highly regarded at the Autism Society than is advocating for one particular theory or philosophy.*

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . . (CONTINUED)

Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Preparing Young Adults for Independence: Transition and Moving Out

A presentation in the Kennedy Krieger Institute Adolescent Transition Lecture Series. Speakers: Diane Dressler, Program Director of Adult Training and Services, Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Mary Scott, Transition Resource Teacher, Baltimore County Public Schools. For adolescents, young adults and adults with disabilities, Parents, educators, clinicians, community and health care providers. Location: Greenspring Campus of Kennedy Krieger Institute, Bowles Building, Board Room, 4th Floor, 3825 Greenspring Avenue. Light refreshments will be provided. To RSVP: Jenny Jones, Resource Coordinator, 443-923-2790 or toll-free 800-390-3372, email ResourceFinder@kennedykrieger.org.

Thursday & Friday, December 8 & 9, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Putting it All Together for Children on the Autism Spectrum from Speech to Language to Literacy

Sponsored by Northern Speech Services. This program discusses evidence-based interventions and strategies to teach functional communication (verbal or non-verbal or both), social skills and literacy, skills that are necessary to make children on the autism spectrum become all they can be. Speakers include Elizabeth Crais, PhD, CCC-SLP, Lynne Hewitt, PhD, CCC-SLP and Tamara S. Kasper, MS, CCC-SLP, BCBA. Intended audience: Speech Pathologists, early intervention specialists and educators who evaluate and treat children with developmental disabilities including children with autism. CEU's offered. Cost: Parents: \$150, Professionals: \$299. Location: Crowne Plaza, 2004 Greenspring Drive, Timonium. For more information and to register: www.northernspeech.com or phone 888-337-3866.

Thursday, December 8, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Pathfinders for Autism Harford Co. Seminar: Sensory Processing Disorder: Signs, Symptoms, Strategies

This workshop series is sponsored by Pathfinders for Autism, The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region and Abilities Network. Ida Zelaya of Sensory Street will present a review of the types of sensory challenges and effective assessments, including the specialists best equipped to offer appropriate treatments and introduce life-impacting strategies. Seminars are free, but registration is required. Location: The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, 4513 Philadelphia Road, Aberdeen. For more information or to register: 443.330.5370 or www.pathfindersforautism.org.

Saturday, December 10, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Baltimore Adult Autism Group

A free group for adults on the autism spectrum in the Baltimore area hosted by Zosia Zaks. The group strives to create a pressure-free environment. Adults across the spectrum are welcome and no one is required to socialize in a specific manner. Take-out food is ordered for dinner during the first hour (please bring money if you want to order food), followed by a discussion during the second hour. Location: 1014 36th Street. Please RSVP: www.autismability.com/baltimore-adult-group.

Sunday, December 11, 1:15 p.m.

ASBC KidsFirst Swim Party

See flyer on Page 13 for details.

Monday, December 12, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Baltimore County Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting

See November 14th listing for more details.



DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . . (CONTINUED)

Tuesday, December 13, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Kennedy Krieger Workshop: *Getting an Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis: Where do I go from here?*

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute hosts this event for parents of children who have recently received an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis. Cathy Groschan, LCSW-C, leads this discussion and takes your questions about getting a diagnosis, finding services, the education system and more. Open to parents and professionals. No fee. Location: Center for Autism and Related Disorders, 3901 Greenspring Avenue. For more information: Stacey Duvall, 443-923-7680. Please visit the website to register: <http://kennedykriegercard.eventbrite.com>.

Thursday, December 15, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

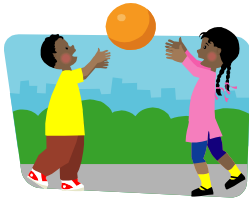
Guy Talk: The Arc Baltimore Support Group for Fathers

See November 17th listing for more details.

Friday, December 16, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

How to Raise a Healthy Child in a Hectic World

A presentation from Christman Family Chiropractic with a focus on children with learning difference and autism. In partnership with Harford County Park and Recreation, a Division of Therapeutic Recreation. Location: McFaul Activities Center, 525 W. MacPhail Road, Bel Air. For more information: 410-734-4060 or email info@restorelifeflow.com.



Saturday, December 17, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Little Kids Club! Play Date Program

See November 19th listing for more details.

Saturday, December 17, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Big Kids Club! Play Date Program

See November 19th listing for more details.

Thursday, December 22, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Parent Group for Parents of Individuals on the ASD Spectrum

Success Transitions and Zaks Autism Consulting hosts this group for parents of individuals on the autism spectrum (any age), the fourth Thursday of every month, to provide an opportunity for parents to get together, share strategies, and network. Cost is free! ADA-Accessible Building. ASL Interpretation available upon request. Location: 5922 Smith Ave, Baltimore. For more information: Susan Howarth, 443-676-5366.

Tuesday, January 3, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Baltimore City Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting

See December 6th listing for more details.

Wednesday, January 4

ASBC Kung Fu Lesson

More details to come - watch your inbox!

Wednesday, January 4, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Moms Understand: The Arc Baltimore Moms Support Group

For more details, see December 7th listing.



DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS . . . (CONTINUED)

Saturday, January 7, 10:00 a.m.

ASA/AMC Entertainment Sensory Friendly Film

The Adventures of Tintin. Tintin, the intrepid young reporter whose relentless pursuit of a good story thrusts him into a world of high adventure, joins forces with Captain Haddock to set off on a treasure hunt for a sunken ship commanded by Haddock’s ancestor. But someone else is in search of the ship. Rated PG.



Monday, January 9, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Baltimore County Special Education Citizens’ Advisory Committee Meeting

For more information, see November 14th listing.

Thursday, January 12, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Navigating the IEP Process

Presented by The Shafer Center. No cost. Location: The Shafer Center, 132 Business Center Drive, Reisterstown. To RSVP or for more information contact: 410-517-1113, www.shafercenter.com.

Saturday, January 14, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

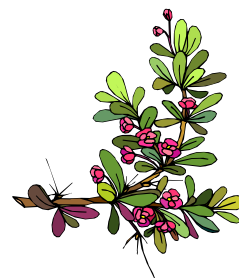
Little Kids Club! Play Date Program

See November 19th listing for more details.

Saturday, January 14, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Big Kids Club! Play Date Program

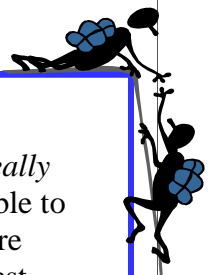
See November 19th listing for more details.



Thursday, January 19, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Guy Talk: The Arc Baltimore Support Group for Fathers

For more details, see November 17th listing.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

In looking over the Calendar, do you see a workshop or seminar you *really* want to attend but *really* can’t afford to at present? Keep in mind that each year, current BCC-ASA paid members are able to access funds to offset the cost of trainings, conferences, or workshop attendance. These funds are available from the **Charles Fowler, Sr. Memorial Fund**. To utilize these funds, submit a request before the event detailing the date, the event and funds requested. After the training, submit a copy of the registration form to BCC-ASA, P.O. Box 10822, Baltimore, MD 21234 or electronically to questions@bcc-asa.org and reimbursement will be mailed to you.





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Join us for a FREE autism event!

For Children with Autism and Their Siblings

(Children must be ages 13 and under to participate)

Saturday, November 19, 2011

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

My Gym Children's Fitness Center

9419 Common Brook Road

Owings Mills, MD 21117

RSVP IS REQUIRED!

RSVP to My Gym by Wednesday, November 16th

410-654-7575

Mygym.owingsmills@verizon.net

Rules:

- Children enter the gym bare foot.
- Parents wear socks.
- No food or drink on the gym floor.
- Parent/Guardian must sign a waiver upon arrival.



We anticipate a large interest in this event. If you are unable to keep your reservation kindly notify My Gym as soon as possible.

Welcome, New Members Join Us on the Journey

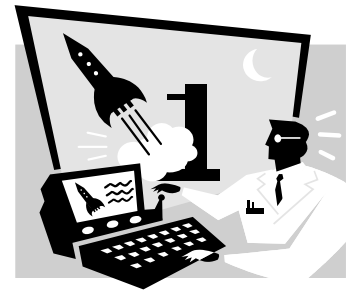
The chapter extends a warm welcome to anyone who recently attended their first support group meeting. The Autism Society exists as a resource for parents or anyone involved with a child or adult diagnosed with autism. We understand the challenges of autism and are here to help in any way we can. We hope to see you at our next meeting!

Upcoming AARG! Meeting

The next meeting of the Adult Autism Resource Group will be on **Tuesday, December 13th** from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. AARG, a sub-group of ASBC, meets the second Tuesday of every month at the home of Ellen Feifarek to work on issues that concern adults and transition-age youth with autism. Please call Linda Pearl at 410-526-5406 if you plan to attend.

Our New Website is on the Way!

We will be launching our new website soon - stay tuned for it's debut! Webmaster (and Co-President) David Savick has been spearheading this major renovation. When we go live, you'll be the first to know!



Can't ReMember if You're a Member?

If you are uncertain as to the status of your membership please send an email inquiry to questions@bcc-asa.org and we can let you know if your membership is current. Our membership year runs from May 1st to April 30th.



AND REMEMBER, IF YOU PAY YOUR 2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES AT A SUPPORT GROUP MEETING, YOU CAN GET A FREE AUTISM AWARENESS WRISTBAND, MAGNET OR PIN! IT'S A REAL DEAL!

SHHHH!



Sensitive Santa will be coming to **The Mall in Columbia on Friday, December 2nd and Sunday December 4th**. Our sister chapter, the Howard County Autism Society, is offering this wonderful opportunity for families with children who are unable to handle the "standard" Santa visit. The water fountains and music will be turned off, and families will take numbers rather than stand in line. The autism society will have activities available to entertain you while you are waiting. Don't miss this chance for your child to meet Santa . . . **he will be at the mall before the mall opens** (which is at 10:00 a.m.).



ASBC EXTENDS OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO THESE RECENT DONORS

Griffin Clabaugh
Debbie Clutts
Louis Vigliotti
LaCricia Wallace
The Greene Turtle - Westminster

In Celebration of Justin's Birthday

Lewis and Barbara Gorsuch

In Memory of Joseph Giardina, D.D.S.

Kathleen Benson
Robert L. Benson



Here's a new children's Hanukkah book featuring a child with autism:

[*Nathan Blows Out the Hanukkah Candles*](#) by Tami Lehman-Wilzig and Nicole Katzman, illustrated by Jeremy Tugeau is the story about a little boy named Jacob. Jacob loves his brother Nathan, who has autism. When Hanukkah comes, Jacob worries that Nathan might embarrass him in front of his new friend. What if Nathan blows out the Hanukkah candles?!

National Museum of Dentistry Launches Oral Health Resource for Parents of Children with Autism

The National Museum of Dentistry has created a new resource to help parents of children with autism spectrum disorders succeed in teaching good oral healthcare. Healthy Smiles for Autism is a guide that helps parents teach children with autism spectrum disorder how to brush and floss with the help of step-by-step instruction, social stories and visual sequencing cards that can be used wherever brushing happens. This guide is free & downloadable at www.healthysmilesforautism.org.

The Healthy Smiles for Autism guide was created to empower parents of children with autism spectrum disorder with usable tools to help effectively teach their children an oral health routine. The guide also provides information to help parents prepare their children for a first dental visit.

“We want to be able to give parents readily usable tools to help their children to develop a good oral hygiene regimen,” said National Museum of Dentistry Executive Director Jonathan Landers. “We’ve combined best practices for autism education, such as visual sequencing cards and rewards systems, with proven personal oral hygiene techniques to help make the process a little bit easier.”

The National Museum of Dentistry partnered with Kennedy Krieger Institute’s Center for Autism and Related Disorders and the University of Maryland Dental School to develop these best practices to oral health care for children with autism spectrum disorder.

Dental care is the leading unmet healthcare need among children with special needs and, across all income levels, children with special needs are almost twice as likely to have an unmet oral health care need than their peers without special needs, according to the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center.

The National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, develops unique learning opportunities to engage the public in discovering how to have a healthy mouth for life. Also available free to the public is the www.MouthPower.org website that teaches good oral health skills to children, and the www.GetMouthPower.org that reveals the special oral healthcare needs of adults 50+.

~ from a National Museum of Dentistry
press release



Special Needs Cub Scout Pack 117 (ages 6 -10)
Special Needs Boy Scout Troop 117 (ages 10 & up)
Venture Crew 117 (ages 14 & up)

Christian Community Church
155 Orville Road
Essex, MD 21221

Meeting Days: Monday 7–8:30 p.m.

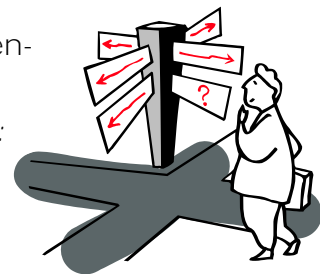
This is a new program in the Chesapeake District for boys with disabilities. Please call, come, and see what we do.

For more information contact:

Karen or Rich Gambrell
(410) 335-8435
Rgambrell@aol.com

Navigating College

The Autism NOW Center has brought out *Navigating College: A Handbook on Self-Advocacy* Written for Autistic Students from Autistic Adults.



Written by the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network and funded by the Autism NOW Center, this handbook offers tips and suggestions about several different issues that people with autism and other developmental disabilities may encounter in college. Topics include accommodations, living in the dorm, independent living, health and wellness, safety, talking to professors, discussing disability issues with others, disclosure, and participating in clubs and other social activities. To view the guide, visit: <http://autismnow.org/2011/10/31/asan-helps-current-and-future-college-students-navigate-student-life/>.

Easter Seals and Google Announce Sketch-A-Space Competition

Easter Seals and Google have announced an online competition to raise awareness about autism and employment of people with disabilities. The Sketch-A-Space competition offers an opportunity for people with autism – as well as those interested in autism – to use Google SketchUp’s free 3D modeling software for a chance to win \$3,000 and improve their resume and employment portfolio.

Google found SketchUP to be very popular among people with autism, many of whom are visually and spatially gifted and especially adept at creating 3D models. Capitalizing on strengths with Google SketchUp is one way to improve the employment possibilities for individuals living with autism – and really – Google SketchUp is just FUN for everybody!

Enter today: www.easterseals.com/sketchaspace

Contest Ends December 15th



Join Us For A Free Stylin' Good Time At



The Autism Society Baltimore Chesapeake (ASBC) is sponsoring a free swim party for ASBC member families.

Where: Kids First Swim School, Cockeysville

9970 York Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030 (410) 666-2966

When: Sunday, December 11, 2011 *Date Change*****

Time: 1:30-4:30 p.m.

In order to reserve your spot, RSVP to rsvpkidsfirstswim@bcc-asa.org

Be sure to provide parent/guardians' name(s), email address, and phone number along with the names and ages all people who will be SWIMMING.

Your email request WILL BE confirmed. Space is limited.

Please RSVP only if you know you can make it.

Important Info:

Bring your bathing suit & a towel. Changing rooms & showers are available. This is not a drop-off party; parents must stay & swim with their child/children or observe from the party room (if the child is self-sufficient in the water). There is a lifeguard on duty. Children must pass a modified "swim test" to be allowed to swim in the deep end of the pool.

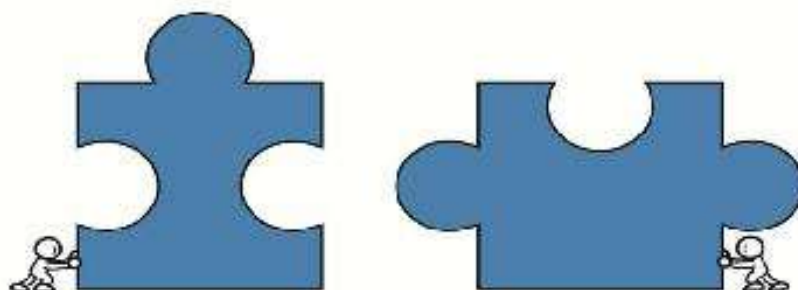
ASBC will provide drinks and snacks for the party room. Guests may enjoy drinks/snacks any time throughout the afternoon.



The Partnership Project

A Collaboration between Baltimore County Public Schools
& the Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake

Presents....



Honestly Autism Day

April 21, 2012

Where: Towson University – Union Building

Sponsored by Towson University's Department of Special Education

When: 7:45 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Cost: \$35 (includes breakfast and lunch)

Keynote Speaker: William Stillman

Sponsored by Pathfinders for Autism www.pathfindersforautism.org

William Stillman is the award-winning author of 10 special needs parenting books. His books have been featured on "The Glenn Beck Show" and the NBC-TV hit "Parenthood." To date, his books have been translated in three languages. He has also written for The Huffington Post and BasilandSpice.com. He is one of the autism authorities at Sharecare.com, an online health and wellness platform created by Dr. Oz, HARPO Productions, and Discovery Communications. As an adult with Asperger's Syndrome, William Stillman endeavors to highlight the exquisite sensitivities of our most valuable, wise, and loving "teachers." His Web site is www.williamstillman.com.

- ❖ **The day will also feature:** Breakout sessions on many autism-related topics, A panel of people on the autism spectrum to share their insights, Vendors, Door Prizes, the BCPS Parent Mobile and more!

For more information: 410-655-7933 or questions@bcc-asa.org

A Selection of email newsletters/blogs with a focus on Autism:

ASA-Net	The Autism Society's e-newsletter	http://autism-society.org/about-us/publications/asa-net-registration.html
Schafer Autism Report	Comprehensive digest of news and information about the world of autism	www.sarnet.org
Disability Scoop	Developmental Disability News	www.DisabilityScoop.com
About.com Autism	Weekly newsletter, resource site and blog	http://autism.about.com
e-Speaks Updates	Autism Speaks' e-newsletter	www.autismspeaks.org
Autism Speaks Official Blog	Daily blog from Autism Speaks	http://blog.autismspeaks.org
Autism Unexpected	Wonderfully personal blog by a parent in Montgomery County	http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/autism-unexpected/

Your Challenge?	Online (and more) Help . . .
IEP Information	http://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/community-connections/back-to-school
All sorts of services and programs available in Maryland	www.mdcsf.org
Information and resources pertaining to developmental disabilities	www.resourcefinder@kennedykrieger.org 1-800-390-3372 Email: resourcefinder@kennedykrieger.org
A fact sheet on Autism Employment	http://dps.missouri.edu/Autism/AutismFactSheet2011.pdf
Social Security: Tips on the Application Process	http://www.pathfindersforautism.org/articles/view/parent-tips-social-security--tips-on-the-application-process
Leisure Resources in Baltimore County	www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/recreation/programdivision/therapeutic/index.html
Autism Research	www.ianproject.com

Sensory-Friendly showing of:

The Muppets

Saturday, December 3, 2011

10:00 am

AMC Theatres® and The Autism Society have teamed up to bring families affected by autism a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis.

With Sensory Friendly Films, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down.

<p>AMC Columbia Mall 14</p> <p>10300 Little Patuxent Parkway</p> <p>Columbia, Md 21044</p> <p>410-423-0510</p>	<p>AMC White Marsh 16</p> <p>8141 Honeygo Blvd.</p> <p>Baltimore, Md 21236</p> <p>410-933-9428</p>
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For tickets to this unique experience, please visit the theatre's box office the day of the event.



Note: when attending the movie, remember to ask for the *sensory-friendly showing* – there may be other showings of the same movie going on at the theater but they will not be sensory-friendly!

Career Development Center To be Built

Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz has announced that the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives (NCIA) will be adding 50 new jobs when construction is complete for the non-profit organization's Career Development Center in Woodlawn.

Rising next to NCIA's headquarters in Woodlawn, the Center will house a career development program for approximately 250 intellectually disabled adults. The new building is designed to create a space that is conducive to learning with open space, natural light and an outdoor atrium. The new 19,000 square foot building will accommodate the Center's 196 workers and provide space for computer-assisted training.

"Baltimore County is proud to be home to a new center providing life-changing career training to intellectually disabled individuals," said Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz. "The learning center will support students as they work to reach their personal potential."



Essex Program benefits Kids with Autism and Their Parents

- Spring Session -

The spring session of the Children's Developmental Class at the Essex campus of the Community College of Baltimore County runs from February 11th until April 21st. It meets from 9:30-10:45 a.m. in the campus' athletic building. For more details on the program, see the September-October edition of *The BCC-ASA News* (page 14).



This Web site will give you some great ideas for working with children who have Autism Spectrum Disorders and also serve as a place to share your own insights. There's a lot of information out there so this website is attempting to present different therapies and strategies using video in a very focused and thoughtful way. The edited stories are only a few minutes in length and are partnered with an article on the same topic written by a parent or specialist...Or both!

<http://www.reallookautism.com>

To feel
hopeful
To feel
connected
To **see**
good things happening.

Featuring *our own* Adrienne Gleason,
David Savick, Maureen Rushton
and Kay Holman!

Autism Awareness Advocates

Dayna Masser, Special Educator M.S. Ed

The more that you read, the more things you will know.

The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.

~ Dr. Suess

This is especially true for the fifth grade class at Garrison Forest School in Owings Mills. As a part of their summer reading assignment the students read *Rules* by Cynthia Lord, a book about a young girl with a brother who has autism. Throughout the book she tries to define what is "normal," learns to accept her family and not to be afraid of what others think. The simple reading assignment has grown into lively class discussions, concern, research and real life experience for the fifth grade girls at Garrison Forest. This topic was especially personal for one student, Serena Shafer, whose younger brother was diagnosed with autism. The class invited Helen Shafer, Serena's mother and founder of The Shafer Center, for a visit to Garrison Forest on October 4th. After the meeting the students unanimously decided to adopt the cause of Autism Awareness as their yearlong community outreach project. They have given themselves the name of "Autism Awareness Advocates."

The "Autism Awareness Advocates" will be visiting the Shafer Center on November 1st. The Shafer Center for Early Intervention was founded in 2006 by Helen and PJ Shafer to serve preschool through second grade students who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The Shafers created the Center to help children reach their maximum potential - it began with nine students including Hayden, Helen and PJ's son who was diagnosed with autism, and now serves 55 students. The center provides classroom instruction, one on one Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy and provides support to students within schools throughout the area. The Shafer Center uses a team approach which includes special education teachers, a speech language pathologist, occupational therapists, physical therapists and ABA therapists in order to best serve each student's individual needs. The Shafer Center provides a caring environment for children and their families by focusing on "the can" rather than "the cannot."

During their visit to the Shafer Center the "Autism Awareness Advocates" will observe classroom instruction, one on one ABA therapy sessions, participate in presentations as well as assist in making materials for the center. The "Autism Awareness Advocates" are passionate about spreading their knowledge about autism and volunteering at various autism events throughout the community. Marion Wright Edelman says "You really can change the world if you care enough," and now that autism is an issue that each fifth grader at Garrison Forest cares about, they can make a difference for children with autism in the future, and that is a powerful inspiration.

Rules

by Cynthia Lord

A Newberry Honor Book

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors.

But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

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Heidi Shoemaker
Erica Solliday
Newsletter: Mary Ellen Curtis
Website: David Savick

Chapter Phone: 410-655-7933

Website: www.bcc-asa.org

E-mail: questions@bcc-asa.org

Support Group Meeting

The next support group meeting will be **Thursday, December 1st** at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital. Support group meets on the **first Thursday** of every month. Childcare is *not* available.

Directions to Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital:

FROM NORTH OF BALTIMORE:

Take the Beltway (I-695) to the Jones Falls Expressway (I-83) south. From I-83, take the Northern Parkway exit, 10B West. Make a right turn off the exit ramp and make an immediate right turn onto West Rogers Ave. (the first street off the exit ramp). Go north on West Rogers Ave.; the hospital is on the right.

FROM BALTIMORE AND SOUTH:

Take the Jones Falls Expressway (I-83) north to the second Northern Parkway exit, 10B West. Turn right onto West Rogers Ave. (which is just past the on-ramp from southbound I-83). Go north on West Rogers Ave.; the hospital is on the right.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

AUTISM SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE-CHESAPEAKE

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail (**required for newsletter delivery**): _____

Child's Name: _____ Child's Birthday: _____

Child's School or Program (Optional): _____

If you prefer to receive a hard copy of the chapter newsletter by mail, please check here and add an additional \$10 to your dues payment to help offset the cost of printing and mailing.

Additional donation to BCC-ASA: _____ Thank You!

Make checks payable to BCC-ASA and mail to:

BCC-ASA, P.O. Box 10822, Baltimore, MD 21234

Please note:

BCC-ASA does not share information on our members with any other organization

ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00

CIRCLE ONE:

Individual with Autism

Family

Professional

Student