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Mission Statement

Down Syndrome Association of Acadiana will provide families with a support network, sharing experiences from pre-birth of a child through the stages of education and adult living within The community. Support resources include newsletters, new-parent information packets, parent-match services, community education, and special events.

From our Vice President

Hope everyone had a great summer!!! The organization has been busy with some exciting activities for the kids.

The Easter Egg Hunt was, as always, a great success. The kids were thrilled with the fun jump and puppet show. Every child's basket was filled to the brim with eggs and candy. The Easter bunny made a grand showing to the delight of everyone. The picnic at Cattfish Heaven was also a wonderful spring event. The fishing and swimming were popular as was the face painting and the delicious food. The weather always seems to be beautiful for these events!!!

The art camp at the Children's Museum has been growing in popularity each year. The kids always have so much fun discovering the different activities the museum offers. Although the different areas at the museum don't change, the interest of each child differs from year to year. Each year the children seem to be fascinated by a different section. Of course the singing, coloring, drawing and painting are always a hit.

A special thank you to all those that attended the Lose The Training Wheels program. It was a HUGE success. It brought tears to the eyes of so many to see our little ones riding bikes by themselves!!! It was beyond words!!! Check out the website for some great photos.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the 2011 Buddy Walk. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29th at Parc International. Start forming your teams and getting ideas for a theme. This year promises to be even bigger and better than ever. We will have a number of the usual activities and food booths along with some new, exciting ones also.

We look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Laura Trahan
DSAA Vice President

Membership Drive

DSAA's annual membership drive is in full swing. Your annual membership provides the organization with the funds to continually offer educational programs, informative bi-monthly meetings, parent support and numerous fun activities for our children and their families. Please support your organization by sending in your membership renewal. We want to continue to offer our active membership the very best! If you have not received your membership letter, please call us at 337-234-3109. You can mail your \$20 membership fee to DSAA, P. O. Box 81323, Lafayette, LA 70508. Thank you for your support!

"Seek the wisdom of the ages, but look at the world through the eyes of a child."

~Ron Wild

Board Officers

- Marlene Venable.....President
Laura Trahan.....Vice President
Trisha Darbonne.....Secretary
Julie Romero.....Treasurer

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Molly Guidry.....Media Relations
Pam McFarland..... Meeting Coordinator
Loretta Girouard.....Board Member
Dawn Anslem.....Board Member
Cindy Paschal-Durel.....Office Manager

Brag Section



Ellie Grace Guidry completed her first swimming lesson this summer! She loves the water and made some great friends!

MARIA GUILLORY IS WALKING...just in time for her 3rd birthday!! She is also a big sister. She is learning her colors and counting too! We are so proud of her!!



Eric Ford, 11, received his 1st Degree Recommended Black belt in Taekwondo. Eric broke four boards with his punching and kicking skills including a run-jump side kick as shown in the photo. We are so proud of him!

Peyton Anslem received a personal invitation to rock the stage with his favorite band, Travis Matte and the Zydeco Kingpins, at the 75th Shrimp and Petroleum Festival in Morgan City during Labor Day weekend.



Brandon Carter holding his trophy from bowling with Dreams Foundation League in August! We are proud of him!

Seth James Viator finished Pre-K and he did VERY well. He made 4 on September 29th. He recognizes all the letters in the alphabet and says most of them. He can count to 10 and is learning to count to 20!



Congratulations to Tony Piontek for becoming a Lowe's employee!!

Birthday Greetings !!

May

Jennifer LaBiche
Garrett Muguira
Brandon Carter
Elliott Venable
Bryant Theriot
Ashlyn Peterson
Matthew Brumbach
Geraldine Jolivette
Lindsey Menard
Lennis Delahoussaye
Bryson Curtis
J'Marion Harmon
Molly Butcher

June

Carrie Dutreix
Lance Perry
Kevin Melancon
Addison Boudreaux
Mary Claire Ardoin
Elliott Guinn
Ava Claire Thibodeaux

July

Elmo Lasseigne III
Dustin Porche
Matthew Denton
Darrin McCoy
Alex Lohr
Rylee Lamb
Nicole Morris
Tessa Hardy
Claire Goudeau
Talia Meo
Corey Gibbens
Elizabeth Fonenot
Sean Grassi
Lindsey Dupuy
Kelly Bergeon
Russell Pillette
Adam Gilmore

August

Carlin Hoffpaur
Peter Escott
Carly Bourque
Kevin Leger
Aaron Dartest
Eric Ford
Steven Gilley
Tritt Thibodeaux
Joel Marcel
Sarah Latiolais
Laurie Leal
Jobi Taylor

September

Linden Oliver
Natalie Holmes
Jack Juul
Jordan Manlove
Linzi Coleman
Travis Delcambre
Marc Dupuy
Austin Brister
Kristen Tucker
Alyssa Courville
Nicholas Sinistere
Trevor Moore
Amelia Stelly
Seth Viator II
Christopher Stephens

October

Jacob Sonnier
John Miguez
Ronnie Simms
Breeonny McCoy
Janie Girouard
Hannah Schexnayder
Crystal Tullos
Drew Fuqua
Maria Guillory
Krystal Roosa
Jacob Istre
John Mouton
Daniel Medrano
Kristen Daniels
Isaiah Gardner





Hello everyone!

I hope you are as excited as I am for the 7th Annual DSAA Buddy Walk. It seems each year the teams grow in number, in team participants and yes, creativity! I am certain this year will be no exception! Team registration will begin soon so be sure to log onto www.dsaa.info regularly for more information and updates.

We have prepared the team packet and it is now available online. I encourage all who are interested in creating a Buddy Walk team to download the team packet today. This packet contains all the information you will need to create and organize a successful Buddy Walk team.

Information about team registrations, pledge incentives, collection of pledges and event day is included in this packet. Be sure to start early and set a goal for your team! For our veteran team captains, welcome back! For our new team captains, welcome and thank you for your commitment!

Dawn Anslem
Buddy Walk Team Coordinator



National Appointment

Anita Ford, DSAA Founder and past President, has been appointed to serve on the National Down Syndrome Society's Affiliate Advisory Board. NDSS AAB will focus on a formal communication process for each of the four NDSS Programs between NDSS and the affiliate network consisting of Community Support, National Policy Center, Public Awareness Initiatives, National Buddy Walk and how they can strengthen the support for the needs of the community. Congratulations Anita!



Wow! How amazing to see our children come in on Monday afternoon with most of them not being able to ride independently, and watch them progress through the week with the culmination on Friday of seeing them riding two wheel bikes by themselves!

Not only were the lives of the rides forever changed, but the lives of everyone who witnessed the amazing transformation. Especially the volunteers!

Fridays ceremonies brought much joy to everyone, and a lot of tears. Such a proud moment for everyone.

A special thank you goes out to everyone who was involved with this wonderful event. You all rock! DSAA is very proud to have brought this event to our area.



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| October 29th | DSAA Buddy Walk. Parc International. 9am—1 pm. |
| December 11th | DSAA Annual Christmas Party. City Club at River Ranch. 2pm—5pm. |

dsaa

Down Syndrome Association of Acadiana
P O Box 81323
Lafayette, LA 70508

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PUBLISHER

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Marlene Venable Julie Romero

PUBLISHING INFORMATION

The DSAA Voice is published 4 times a year. This is a service of the DSAA, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide information, support and resources to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and their communities.

Registered members will receive our newsletter quarterly. Associate members will receive it for a three issue trial basis.

Submissions to the newsletter are due by the 12th of even numbered months. Ideas, articles, and pictures for the newsletter should be sent to the newsletter chair on our web site.

DSAA does not endorse or recommend any therapy, institution, treatment, etc. and does not promote any particular political, educational or religious view. Inclusion of an item does not necessarily imply promotion or approval of its sponsors. The editor reserves the right to make corrections as appropriate and in accord with established editorial practice in material submitted for publication.



Down Syndrome Association of Acadiana, Inc.

P. O. Box 81323
Lafayette, LA 70508-1323
(337) 234-3109
dsaa@dsaa.info
www.dsaa.info

Advisory Committee

Paul Gibson, Chair
Dr. Jude Bares
Margaret Coady
Marlene Venable
Trisha Darbonne
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