

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wheels Around The Park Just Around The Corner September 25

The Wheels Around The Park planning committee has been busy for months working to make 2010's event the best yet. The center piece of the day is a walk around Coca Cola Field followed by a hot dog lunch. Throughout the day there will be informational materials, games, activities, and some very impressive entertainment by young people with Down syndrome. We are happy to have some old favorites coming back to showcase their talents along with a few new ones.

This year Pete Gallivan, WGRZ Channel 2 News reporter, will emcee the day. We will also be joined by the University at Buffalo Dental School's Smile team and the Western New York Mason's child

identification program, CHIP.

If you have never been to Wheels Around The Park, please join us Saturday, September 25 and check it out. If you have come in the past, bring along friends and family! Brochures went out in the mail the first week in August. If you did not receive one or need additional copies, you can download them from the the DSPG website at www.dspgwny.org.

Please contact Amy Monson at amymonson@roadrunner.com with any questions or for additional information. Come celebrate the diversity that makes Western New York a great place to live with a day filled with fellowship and fun!

September 15 – Kick-Off Meeting

Our first meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday evening, September 15, at 7pm, in M200 at Medaille College. This will be our kick-off meeting to catch up with each after our busy summers and to share some favorite, little-known information and some that our members have learned at the recent NDSC conference.

Note that the meeting will be held in a different room due to a scheduling conflict. M200 is on the second floor of the Main building. We will post direction signs.

We welcome all attendees to share their favorite local programs and services for their children that no one else seems to know about. We will also discuss some future plans for the parent group including the process through which we hope to pass our updated by-laws. Copies of the proposed by-laws will be available at this meeting and on our website. We are always looking for ideas and help. Feel free to speak up and volunteer. There is no better way to get to know people.

We welcome you to join us to catch up and share some homemade desserts and coffee.



Halloween Party – October 24

Kids of all ages enjoy a Halloween party, so share your holiday with DSPG on Sunday, October 24 from 1-4pm in the cafeteria at Saint Mary's High School, 142 Laverack, Lancaster. Everyone is welcome to come in costume.

This year's entertainment will include crafts like pumpkin and cupcake decorating, games, karaoke, and a special performance by a magician. Please bring a snack if your last name begins with A-M and a dessert or sweet if it begins with N-Z. We will provide beverages. RSVP to Lynda at 628-6157 by October 20.



MORE UPCOMING



EVENTS

November 10 Speech Panel

This meeting will feature a panel of speech therapy providers who specialize in various modalities including PROMPT, Tomatis and other methods. This will not be a debate, but a discussion of the benefits each method has to offer our children. There will be time for questions for the panelists after the initial panel discussion.

The meeting will be held in our regular location in M102 in the Main Building at Medaille College. We will begin with some business at 7pm followed by a vote on the proposed updates of our by-laws.

Young Athletes

Our first session of the Special Olympics Young Athletes Program was so much fun for the entire family that we will run it again starting in September. During this session, we hope the toddlers and their siblings will work on some very rudimentary sports skills in addition to the usual play.

The program will be held in the Medaille College gym on the first and third Sundays of the month from 2-3pm from September 19 to December 5.

If you have a child between the ages of 2 and 7 and are interested, please e-mail us at dspgwny@hotmail.com. We are also interested in any suggestions to make the program even better. The more, the merrier; this is a lot of fun. See you Sunday, September 19 at 2pm.



Special Thanks to Our Donors

Thanks to all the generous individuals and businesses that have sponsored Lose The Training Wheels and Wheels Around The Park.

Also as always, our thanks go to all the individuals who donated to DSPG through the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County.

Holiday Party – December 4

There will be a bit of a different twist to this year’s annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 4, from 11am until 2pm. As usual, the party will be hosted at the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, 3860 Main Street, in Buffalo. The students always do a great volunteer job of making us feel welcome at their school and making the party a success.

This year the music for dancing will be provided by our friend DJ Hank. Nickel City Reptiles and Exotics (www.nickelcityreptiles.com) will be paying us a visit with some extraordinary animals; this is sure to be exciting.

DSPG will provide drinks, pizza and dessert. Please bring an appetizer or a dish to pass. If you would like Santa to give your child or children gifts, please bring wrapped ones. If you have any questions, contact Amy (875-1241) or Maggie (884-6384).

News From the Teen Group

The kids in the teen group continue to strengthen their friendships through regular social activities. The parents feel as though they can now step back though this has been a long process. Anyone just joining, please remember this takes time, but is incredibly rewarding for the teens and their parents.

We are getting feedback from families whose teens attend activities that they really like getting together. We would like to expand our group by having more frequent activities, making it easier for parents to not have to attend every event, and to make them more affordable for everyone.

The Teen Group would like your input.... How often would you like your teens to get together? Once or twice a month? Would you like 3 or 4 parents to rotate staying with the teens so other parents get a break? What activities would you like to see included? What, if any, fundraising ideas do you or your teens have to cover some of the cost? The group needs a name as well.

Summer is a busy, fun filled time for everyone, so please respond when you have a moment. Include your teen in this.... they have a lot of great ideas!

If you have a teenaged child who would be interested in joining or you have some ideas to share, please contact Charmaine, 930-1548 or cuebelhoer0106@aol.com.

Lose The Training Wheels 2010

This summer's Lose The Training Wheels bicycle camp was again a great success. Thanks to all the sponsors and the hard work of a very small, but dedicated committee, 40 individuals with all kinds of special needs either learned to ride a two-wheeled bicycle or are well on their way.

The week-long camp held at the East Aurora High School amazed parents, participants and volunteers alike. DSPG was planning to skip a few years before hosting the camp again, but so much enthusiasm has been generated we are considering a camp in 2011.

We are looking for a location in a more central part of Erie County and an organization to co-host the camp with us. We are also looking for a few good volunteers for the organizing committee. If you can help with any of the above, let us know. The definite decision will be made at a meeting in September so please contact us at dspgwny@hotmail.com with any information as soon as possible.



Nick and Alex ride bikes at LTTW 2010.

Welcome New Families

We would like to welcome the

Spears, Gorczynski, Schmidt, Campbell, Garrity, Goodman and Slisz families.

Please say hello and introduce yourself to them at an event.

Four Scholarships Available

DSPG is excited to offer a scholarship of \$250 to four families attending any national conference on Down syndrome in the coming year. Someone from the family must share some information they learned at the conference at one of our meetings.

Examples of upcoming conferences include the Down Syndrome Education Conference in Cleveland, Ohio on November 3-5, 2010 and the National Down Syndrome Congress Convention in San Antonio, Texas on August 5-7, 2011. Other educational experiences may qualify, just let us know what they are.

We encourage you to apply by e-mail to dspgwny@hotmail.com. We think this is a great way for all of us to keep up to date on the newest information.

A Great Internet Resource:

Ever visited the Riverbend Down Syndrome Parent Support Group's website? If not, you are in for a great treat. Try surfing to <http://www.riverbendds.org/index.htm?page=home.html> and you will find an amazing, and constantly changing, vast source of information and inspiration.

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Calendar of Events



September 15- Kick-Off Meeting,
M200 (Note change of
location.), Medaille College,
7pm

September 25 - Wheels Around The Park,
Coca Cola Field, 11am-2pm

October 24 - Halloween Party,
Saint Mary's High School,
1-4pm

November 10 - Speech Therapy Panel,
M102, Medaille College,
7pm

December 4 - Holiday Party,
Buffalo Academy of the
Sacred Heart, 11am-2pm

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February, May, August and November.

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