DSPG NEWS

November 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3 – Holiday Party

Come celebrate the holidays with DSPG family and friends at our annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 3, from 11am until 2pm. As usual, the party will be hosted by the students at the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, 3860 Main Street.

There will be games in the gym for the younger kids and entertainer Glenn Colton will return with some music and fun for kids of all ages. If you are interested in your children receiving a gift from Santa, please bring wrapped and labeled ones. The Sacred Heart students will organize Santa's visit.

In keeping with the holiday spirit, we are asking that everyone who attends the party bring an item of food. Families with last names beginning with A-M, please bring a side dish and families with last names beginning with N-Z, please bring a dessert. DSPG will provide beverages. You **MUST** RSVP to Amy (875-1241 or amydowning@roadrunner.com) or Maggie (884-6384) by November 27 to let them know what you are bringing.

This is one of our oldest and best attended events. We look forward to starting the holiday season festivities with all of you.

Valentine's Dance – February 11

Make your Valentine's Day extra special this year by dancing the evening away on Saturday, February 11, from 5:30-9pm at Macgruders Restaurant, 4995 Broadway in Depew. This is another popular event for all ages.

Hank will provide the dancing music, and DSPG will provide pizza and drinks. Please bring a dish to pass or a dessert. If you have any questions, call Lynette (873-0018). Lynette would greatly appreciate RSVPs by February 6 in order to plan the food.

Technology for Our Kids: Apps, iPads & More! -January 11

For ideas on how to get the most out of those new tech items you purchased over the holiday season, join us for hands-on training on the latest apps, websites and tech information on Wednesday evening, January 11 at 7pm in M102 at Medaille College.

Tammy Roberts, a speech therapist from Bornhava, and a team of specialists will be introducing some great, age-appropriate apps and websites for you to use with your kids.

Tammy and a few other professionals who work in different specialty areas with students preschool through middle school will be bringing some iPads for everyone to experiment with. They will also be talking about PCs, tablets, mobile phones and more. Bring your favorite tech product and learn how to make the most of it.

March 4 – Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Auction

Back by popular demand, the Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Auction will be held on Sunday, March 4, from 4-6:30pm. This year we are hoping that the cafeterias at West Seneca East Senior High School, 4760 Seneca Street, will be large enough to accommodate this growing event.

Dinner will again be provided by Rosina's and will include spaghetti, meatballs, a roll and a side salad. Adult dinners will be $7 each and a child's meal will cost $4. Desserts and drinks will also be provided. The Basket Auction will follow.

Our last auction was huge due to the amazing generosity of our families and the local community. If you know of anyone interested in donating a basket, please contact Tracey (228-5002). Tickets will be available from Janet (695-1299) and Tracey.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for further information.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Recreation Exchange - March 14

Last year, this meeting generated a large number of terrific ideas for summer (and all year round) recreational activities. We possess, each of us and all of us, an amazing wealth of information about local opportunities. So share your summer recreation experiences and learn about others at 7pm on Wednesday evening, March 14, in M102 at Medaille College.

Welcome New Families

We would like to welcome the

Boyle, Griffin, Morley, Naab, Schohn, Sheffield, Sungula and White families.

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

DSPG Updates

~The complete list of titles in our lending library is now available on our website, www.dspgwny.org under the Info and Resources tab. Please take a look and see if there is anything that interests you. We are also open to suggestions for new media to purchase. Contact Anita (741-3848) to borrow any resources or to pass along any suggestions.

~There are still copies of the 2012 calendar available for purchase. *Celebrate 2012 With Our Kids* is a great gift for family, friends and therapists. They are $10 each and will be available at the Holiday Party or by contacting Gretchen (834-0853).

~We also have car magnets available for sale for $5 each. These oval car magnets that say "I Love Someone with Down Syndrome" also make excellent holiday gifts. These will be available at the Holiday Party or by contacting Amy (874-4753).

Activity Groups

For the last few years, we have had two age-specific activity groups running: Young Athletes for kids 2-7 and the Teen Group. We are interested in expanding these groups since both parents and their kids have found these activities to be such rich social opportunities for their whole families.

The Special Olympics Young Athletes Program runs the first and third Sundays of the month from 2-3pm in the Medaille College gym. We continue to have a great time playing and working briefly on some very rudimentary sports skills. New families are always welcome. Please contact Amy (amymonson@roadrunner.com) for further information.

The core of kids in the teen group continues to strengthen their friendships through social activities, but they are looking for new members. We encourage anyone with a teenager to contact Anita (741-3848). All ideas and assistance are welcome.

We also invite anyone with a tween interested in starting a group for this age range to contact us. We would be happy to help with the initial organizing. There are a variety of ways of structuring these groups and none of them require too much of a time commitment.

Please contact a board member if you have any interest in any of these activity groups.

Special Thanks to Our Donors

Our sincerest gratitude to all of the family and friends of Herbert Lotter who donated to DSPG in his memory.

Thanks also to the friends and family who donated in loving memory of Judith Flick.

We would like to again thank Harold B. Rice Coins and Stamps for providing the postage for this month's newsletter.

And as usual, thanks to all the individuals who donate to DSPG through the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County.

An important note with respect to United Way donations: as of this September, DSPG will actually receive 100% of the money that you earmark for us.

Step Up for Down Syndrome A Big Success Despite Weather

Thanks to the almost 700 people who joined us on October 1 for Step Up for Down Syndrome. On that cold rainy day, it was wonderful to see so many families in attendance.

We hope you enjoyed the changes we made to DSPGs largest event of the year. The one mile walk from Coca Cola Field to the Naval Park was a scenic and welcome addition. We hope you enjoyed the additional activities as well, even though they had to be squished under the tent because of weather.

Now that we have had our first year of bad weather after three years of beautiful days, hopefully we can look forward to blue skies in the future. Be sure to save September 29 for the 2012 Step Up for Down Syndrome event at Coca Cola Field.

We are always looking for committee members to help organize this huge event. If you have any interest in helping out in any way, large or small, please let Heidi know (566-2620).

In Memorial

The DSPG board was profoundly saddened by the tragic news about the Crance family, one of our members. We extend our most heartfelt sympathies to the family. Many of us were deeply moved by the tragedy.

DSPG is in the process of arranging a response. We will let you know when we have the specifics.

LynnMarie Show: A Great Dessert

On October 26, Grammy nominated Nashville entertainer LynnMarie mesmerized us with her one woman performance *Wrap Your Heart Around It: One Woman's Journey from Depression to Dessert.*

LynnMarie sang and spoke about her experiences after learning that her now 5 year old son, James, had Down syndrome. The show, infused with humor, raw emotions and lots of accordion music, made the audience laugh and cry in equal measure.

The wisdom LynnMarie accumulated on her journey, because it is delivered with a dose of laughter, is wonderful tonic for any of us living with any kind of difference or stressor in our lives. We all truly enjoyed LynnMarie's music and her encouragement to live our lives according to our hearts.

For more information about LynnMarie, visit lynnmarie.net and next time she comes to town, don't miss the fun.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has updated its health care guidelines for children with Down syndrome. Find the complete text of the article at http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2011/07/21/peds.2011-1605.full.pdf

DSPG Board Members

Presidents:

Heidi Wieczorek 566-2620
Dan Wagner 674-2591

Vice Presidents:

Leah Marchewka 631-7505
Gretchen White 834-0853

Treasurer:

Janet Poreda 695-1299

Librarian:

Anita Ballow 741-3848

Secretary:

Bonnie Zon 632-0137

Members at Large:

Amy Adler 874-4753
Lynda Carver 908-6837
Tracey Flick 228-5002
Amy Monson 677-0604
Trish Winnicki 648-8984

President Emeritus:

Carol Hetzelt 832-4972

Calendar of Events

December 3-	Holiday Party, Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, 11am-2pm
January 11 -	Technology Meeting, M102, Medaille College, 7pm
February 11 -	Valentine's Dance, Magruders Restaurant, 5:30-9pm
March 4 -	Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Auction, West Seneca East Senior High School, 4-6:30pm
March 14 -	Recreation Exchange, M102, Medaille College, 7pm

DSPG News is published quarterly in February, May, August and November.

DSPG of WNY, Inc.
547 Englewood Avenue
Kenmore, New York 14223