Connecting the Pieces

serving families along the gulf coast for 10 years

Task Force Created to Honor Life Tragically Cut Short



In Memory of Owen Black

On May 17, 2013,6-year-old Owen Black, a child with autism, wandered from the Perdido Key condo where he was vacationing with his mother. Two days later, a tragic outcome was confirmed. During those two days, numerous agencies and volunteer organizations worked tirelessly under the direction of Sheriff David Morgan of the Escambia County Sheriff's Office.

One year later, Sheriff Morgan created the Owen Black Task Force for Missing Disabled Persons. This group

of agencies, under the leadership of ECSO Deputy Troy Brown, is in the process of writing a mission statement. The group will seek to improve communication between agencies about specific special needs and work to raise awareness of resources that can assist in the event any person with special needs goes missing.

As a first step for this group, Autism Pensacola, in partnership with FSU-CARD has created an Autism Emergency Information Team to

be on call as a resource for situations when a person with autism goes missing. This team will provide information on autism to the agencies involved in a search, as well as provide support to the family involved. Sgt. Jimmy Donohoe of the Pensacola Police Department conducted the training for professionals who were interested in being involved in the volunteer group. Sgt. Donohoe, who is also a member of the Autism Society of America's Safe & Sound Task Force, will serve as a key member of the Info team.

Other agencies involved in the Task Force include Alzheimer's Family Services, Escambia Search and Rescue, KlaasKIDS, and the Pensacola Police Dept. All these agencies are very excited about working together to support those with special needs, and hope to reduce the likelihood of tragic outcomes.

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Surfing in the Sun

A wonderful organization has been hitting the beaches this summer along the Gulf Coast! Autism Surfs is an amazing group of volunteers with one purpose – to support those with autism as they explore the magic of surfing!

Started by surfer Ricky Weeks, who connected through surfing with



his son with autism – the mission of the organization is to provide an environment for children with autism, and their families, to experience the surf, sun, and sand.

Parent Kat Lea had this to say about the group, "As a parent, watching my little guy (Preston) out there learning to surf was a truly rewarding event. For almost two hours, he got to play and be himself and was not up against any of the communication obstacles he faces in his day to day activities."

Great things are happening every weekend with Autism Surfs. So, come out and give it a try – all are welcome! The volunteers are patient and will work with any individual with autism who'd like to get up on a board. Watch the organization's Facebook page – https://www.facebook.com/AutismSurfs/timeline for updates and details. You can also email the group at autism.surfs@yahoo.com.



Preston enjoying the waves at an Autism Surfs event. Photo courtesy of In Focus Photography, LLC.

Here is the July schedule -

Okaloosa Island — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - July 13 Panama City Beach — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - July 19 Pensacola Beach — 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - July 27 PAGE 2 Connecting the Pieces

From the President's Pen



This summer marks an important anniversary for my family. In May, 1994 my husband and I took our 4 year old son to see a doctor 3 hours away from our home seeking answers about his behavior and communication challenges. After 3 days of questionnaires, watching him play with various therapists and struggling to keep him calm and entertained in a strange place, all while becoming more and more sleep deprived thanks to the challenge of sleeping in a hotel room, we

were sent on our way- with no answers! The answer would come at another visit in July of that same year. I can still hear the developmental pediatrician saying 'David has High Functioning Autism'. My tears were of relief over being handed a map that would guide us to understanding our child. Then I remember them shoving a pile of papers and brochures across the table at me. When was I going to have time to read that?!!

So much has changed over these past 20 years--I certainly hope parents are given more information more quickly than we were! There certainly are more ways to connect now and more opportunities for accessing therapy. I know that there is much more awareness of autism and there seems to be a growing understanding. I hear so many stories of kindness--they really do outweigh the occasional negative tales.

I know that I have changed. My life has not been what I expected as a 20 something mom who planned to stay home a few years and then return to teaching. It has been different and I think, far richer. Autism has transformed a wanna be elementary teacher into a business woman who

still teaches and works to connect others for the greater good.

With autism, we are given huge challenges AND huge blessings. The challenges make the smallest progress seem miraculous. David has come so far, but still faces daily challenges. I still work everyday to help him understand how amazing he is and how much potential he has. So many people have helped us over the years to achieve all he has done. I think all parents of those with autism have an increased capacity for gratitude because we have had to rely on so many to help us along the way. There have been far more wonderful teachers, therapists, doctors and counselors than I can name. We should remember to express our gratitude to these angels everyday.

So where are we going in the next 20 years? It seems as hard to imagine that now as it was to imagine my little boy as the grown man I see before me. But we must imagine and work to create a brighter future for all those living with autism. We must work to celebrate the gifts and mitigate the challenges so they can reach their full potential and find their place making a difference in the world. What hasn't changed is my firm belief that working together makes the most difference. If we listen to each other, expect the best of each other and treat each other with kindness, I know we can create the world we are seeking for our children-whatever age they are.

I hope you'll continue to work with us here at API for this brighter world. We all need each other.

Susan Byram

API Council

Joan Fitzsimmons, Council President Rebecca Aman, Bill Aman, Shawnon Babb, Elizabeth Bockman, Jean Brown, Bobby Cochran, Wanda Cochran, Julia Cornish, Myra Fowler, Regina Harris, Holly Hoskamer, Tina Ivey, Kat Lea, Rita Lung, Tammy Mendiola, Cynthia Norton, Michael Owens, Rocky Parra, Jonathan White

API Council is a group of volunteers dedicated to making a difference. Everyone is welcome to attend council meetings and find their own place to serve. We have a variety of committees where you can make a difference.

Email info@autismpensacola.org for information on council needs.

API Staff

Susan Byram, President/CEO
Jessica Lapen, Program Director
Jacqui O'Connell, Webmaster
Rebecca Aman, Bookkeeper
Amy Scott Lorton, Executive Assistant to CEO,
Special Needs Education Consultant
Suzie West, Office Assistant

2014 API Executive Committee

Julian Irby, Chairman

John Peacock, Vice Chairman

Peg Nickelsen, Secretary

Bonnie Sferes, Treasurer

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Kat Lea
Sue Straughn
Teri Levin
Malcolm Thomas
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Joe Webb
Tom Northrup
Amy Wilson
Tim Wyrosdick

Kevin Doyle, Ex Officio

Past Chairs: Quint Studer, Ted Kirchharr, Fred Donovan

"Connecting the Pieces" Gala Successful

On behalf of Autism Pensacola, our Board of Directors, and Cate and Collier Merrill, we would like to announce the success of our 11th annual "Connecting the Pieces" Gala which took place on Thursday, April 24 at the Sanders Beach Community Center. Over three hundred members of our community attended the event, all who have a passion for autism. The event commenced with the National Anthem, sung by Reid Soria, followed by a blessing over the food by David Byram. Both young men are successful adults living with autism.

The program also included music by the Will Fink Trio, cocktails provided by Bob

Tyler Toyota and a beautiful song by Amy Irby, daughter of Julian Irby, our Board Chairman. We would like to thank the chefs who prepared and served the many delicious courses to the attendees, especially Chef David Penniman of Classic City Catering. David



Sandy and Peggy Sansing accept the Sharon and Logan Fink Community Award.



Some of our Gala Chefs



Collier and Cate Merrill with Susan Byram

was phenomenal as our coordinator for all the many restaurants that participated in the night's event. The Artisan Cheese Selection was provided by The Wine Bar; McGuire's and David Penniman's Classic City Catering created the appetizers; the talented chefs from The Bodacious Olive - Betsy LaGallais and Sue Shattuck - constructed the salad; H2O's own Chef Dan Dunn prepared the entrée; and Chef Trina Confusione from The Fish House completed the meal with a delicious dessert. Our gracious hosts, Cate and Collier Merrill, were the perfect duo to engage the 300 plus guests in attendance. The "Connecting the Pieces" event raised over \$180,000 for the programs of

API, including Kids for Camp, our summer learning lab. This summer, 80 individuals with autism will be a part of the summer program. One of the highlights of the evening was the Sharon and Logan Fink Community Award. The recipient of this award was, Sandy Sansing. The award is given to a leader who exemplifies the spirit of the Finks in their support of the community and Autism Pensacola.

Autism Pensacola would like to thank all of our hard working volunteers who spent countless hours making this year's event incredibly special, as well as our staff.Because of the gracious donations from the silent raffle and live auction items to paddle pledges, more families will be able to enjoy a summer of learning at Kids for Camp!

For more information on how to donate to Autism Pensacola, please visit our web site - www.autismpensacola.org.



The ever-popular Gala Silent Auction

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Our Heartfelt Thank You to our Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors:

The Merrill Family and The Fish House, Atlas, and Jackson's Steakhouse

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Thank You to Steps for Autism Sponsors



March 29, 2014 Pensacola State College







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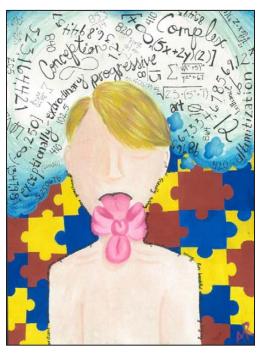
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Autism Pensacola 2014 Art Contest Winners

As part of Autism Awareness Month, API hosted the second annual Art Contest for all area schools; public and private grades, K-12.

This year's theme, "Autism: seeing the world through their eyes," was well received with all grade categories participating.

Art teachers throughout both counties incorporated Autism facts



in their curriculum, providing students with a better understanding of Autism which was reflected in their artwork.

Judging was completed with the assistance of Museum educator, Cortlandt Glover and all artwork was displayed at the Pensacola Museum of Art on Gallery Night, April 4, 2014.

Entrants and their families attended the exhibition and awards reception sponsored by Liberty Sertoma. Ribbons were given to our 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The winners were:

Steps for Autism: A Team Effort

Despite Mother Nature's attempt to dampen our enthusiasm, Steps for Autism 2014 was a huge success! A last minute change of venue to Marcus Pointe Baptist Church enabled us to hold our event as scheduled with both inside and outside activities for families to enjoy.

We are so very grateful to Destry LeBrun of PURE Friendship Ministries for thinking of us as the rain poured down and offering us an inside option! And a huge thank you goes out to all the leaders at Marcus Pointe Baptist Church for welcoming us with open arms! We are very pleased to include PURE Friendship Ministries and Marcus Pointe Baptist Church among our community friends.

Funds raised by this year's walk will be used to increase community awareness, improve safety, and provide quality-of-life programs for those living with autism in our two-county area. A big thank you goes out to all of our fundraising teams for your commitment to our cause!

Your efforts helped make this our most successful walk to date-exceeding our goal of \$50,000! We would like to thank our presenting sponsor, Cox Communications, as well as our other sponsors for their support. By working together we are making a positive impact on the lives of many families!

Category: Grades K-2

1st Place: Eva Johnson, Suter ES, Grade 2 2nd Place: Rose Molina, St. John School, Grade 2

3rd Place: Zoe Wade, Suter ES, Grade 2

Honorable Mention: Alyssa Landry, St. John School, Grade 2

Category: Grades 3-5

1st Place: Matthew Varias, St. John School, Grade 4 2nd Place: Aaron Sank, Lipscomb ES, Grade 5 3rd Place: Sophia Sarikaya, Lipscomb ES, Grade 5 Honorable Mention: Hailey Ward, Gulf Breeze ES, Grade 4

Category: Grades 6-8

1st Place: Gabriella Ozakasar-Perry, St. John School, Grade 8

2nd Place: Emily White, St. John School, Grade 6 3rd Place: Tyler Ryals, St. John School, Grade 6

Honorable Mention: Kalynn Blair, St. John School, Grade 7

Category: Grades 9-12

1st Place: Alanna Rose, Escambia HS, Grade 11 2nd Place: Mike Faror, Escambia HS, Grade 11 3rd Place: Jasmin Rhea, Milton HS, Grade 11

Honorable Mention: Diamond Harris, Escambia HS, Grade 9

Alanna Rose's art was used on our program for this year's Gala. Thanks to the committee, Amy Lorton, Cynthia Norton and Joan Fitzsimmons for making this a special event. Thanks also to Cortlandt Glover and the Pensacola Museum of Art for all their help with judging and the reception. Special thanks to Liberty Sertoma for their generous sponsorship.



Parent Empowerment Program Offered in September

The Parent Empowerment Program is offering a fall session to educate parents on the basics of Applied Behavior Analysis. The PEP Class will be offered beginning September 8th and will be 6 Monday nights in a row from 6-8:30pm. Sitters will be provided for this class.

IMPACT100

Some of the benefits of PEP include, helping parents understand the reason behind behavior, learn-

ing how to reduce frustration and stress in the home, discovering if technology will support a child's learning.

While attending theeight 2.5-hour group classes, parents will have the use of an iPad. As part of the class, parents will also get 4 hours of individualized consultation with a Sacred Heart Autism Center intern, receive 2 books on the Individualized Education Program, and have access to online classes on the IEP process.

Autism Pensacola visits Imagination Station

Autism Pensacola is inviting its families to a special autism-friendly play date at WSRE's Imagination Station. The event is set for 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, August 7. Located at the Community Maritime Park, this playroom features all the fun of your child's favorite PBS characters.

Activities generally target preschoolers and younger, primarily. But on this special day, the Imagination Station is open to all individuals with autism, as long as they have adult supervision.

Kids, parents, grandparents and friends enjoy spending time together at WSRE's Imagination Station. There is so much to do - read books, play with the Dinosaur Train, explore online learning games at PBSKids.org on the touchscreen computers, take a ride on the Barney tractor... and much more! API is thrilled to offer this special time for our members to come out and play! See you there!

Imagination Station is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 9 a.m. to noon and during Blue Wahoos home games! Check it out!

Upon successful completion of this class, you will be eligible to apply for an iPad grant, to receive a device at a reduced rate. Selection is based in part on class participation and commitment.

If you are interested in thisclass, please visit our website, www.autismpensacola.organd fill out the interest form so we can be in touch with you for more details. **Coming Soon: PEP Two!**

Call for Nominations

Autism Pensacola's Board of Directors is a group of community leaders who volunteer their time to make a difference for families living with autism in the greater Pensacola area. Each member of our Board is expected to:

- · Attend four board meetings each year
- Attend at least one event sponsored by API each year
- · Be informed about API mission, services, policies, and programs
- Review agenda and supporting materials provided prior to meetings
- · Make a personal financial contribution to API
- · Inform others about API and encourage their support
- Suggest possible nominees to the board
- Keep up-to-date on developments in the arena of autism
- Review with special attention matters related to finances and evaluating the President/CEO

Board members are elected in the fall to serve a three year term. Any member may be re-elected to a second term, but then generally must take at least one year off the board. Officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee are elected by the board at the first meeting following the general election.

This is a call for nominations to the board. Any nomination should be made to John Peacock, Vice President and Chair for the Nominating Committee by email at director@autismpensacola.org by August 6. If email is unavailable, you may call the API office at 434-7171 and an email will be sent on your behalf.

Special Olympics Sports Offered

Special Olympics offers sports opportunities throughout the year in both Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Special Olympics is open to all persons with an intellectual disability – regardless of the level or degree of disability. Participation is open to individuals ages 8 and up.

Escambia Co. bowling begins at Cordova Lanes on Tuesday, July 15, and Liberty Lanes on August 9. Santa Rosa bowling starts Saturday, July 19, at Oops Alley in Pace. Gymnastics will begin Friday, July 18, at First City Gym in Pensacola. Powerlifting is a year-round sport, hosted by Riviera Fitness in Pensacola.

Surfing practice is held on Pensacola Beach at Parking Lot F, just East of Portofino from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, with the next practice Saturday, July 19. There is also a South Santa Rosa surfing practice on Saturday, August 2, just East of the Navarre Pier. Stand Up Paddle practice is held every Thursday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. next door to Red Fish Blue Fish Restaurant on the Bay side of Pensacola Beach. It's hosted by Coastal Paddle Company.

SO has coaches, equipment and location for softball. All they need are athletes! This could be a Unified Team, which means open to those without disabilities as well as Special Olympic athletes.



Michael Stone is the area's new director. To join a sport, simply call 850-291-6234 or email him at mstone@specialolympicsescambia.org or mstone@specialolympicssantarosa.org.

Practice times:

- Bowling at Liberty Lanes 10-12 Saturdays start Aug 9th.
- Bowling Cordova Lanes 5:30-6:30 Tuesday evenings start July 15th.
- First City Gym Pensacola is Gymnastics 6-7 Friday evenings stating on the 18th.
- Powerlifting at Riviera Fitness 12-1 M thru F.

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Brag Corner

College Graduate, Ryan

As I reflect on the last several years, I recall a conversation I had with our first VR counselor. "Frankly, I'm not sure why you are here, why would you consider college for your son?"

"Why? Why WOULDN'T I consider college for my son?"

And we promptly walked out. That was 6 years ago...

Ryan is graduating from the University of Florida, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He will proudly receive his hard-earned Bachelor of Science in Horticulture.



Ryan

I have always believed that once we figured out what his passion was, that he would succeed. While Ryan was attending PSC he needed a filler course, and chose a horticulture class. His instructor contacted me sometime during that semester and told me that he had a gift, and we needed to do something with it. We visited the University of Florida satellite campus located on PSC's Milton campus shortly after the conversation and the path for Ryan was set. Ryan and his love of plants is such a bittersweet story.

My mom was always the green thumb in the family. Growing up, there were always plants everywhere in our home. Ryan and my mom were very close. I often felt like this was meant to be.

Ryan had to do an "internship" for school. This brought him to the

Arc Gateway Nursery. He is still at the nursery as a volunteer and beginning in June will start receiving payment for his efforts!

We have entered a new arena and I am so proud of Ryan! I tell you all this, because our successes come in small bits. We have always encouraged Ryan to do his best.

Ryan, you are my joy and inspiration. Congratulations as you enter the next chapter of your life!! --Submitted by Jacqui O'Connell

Cox Inspirational Hero Award

Autism Pensacola would like to recognize Josh Wilhelm for being awarded the Cox Inspirational Heroes Award.

Josh, a student at Escambia High School received this award because of his artwork that has had a big impact on others in the classroom, teaching them to appreciate each other.

Living with Autism, Josh struggles with social anxiety, he uses his artwork as a way to express himself. He's placed twice in Escambia County Art Shows and placed second in Drawing



Josh

at the Pensacola Museum of Art Youth Art Focus Student Exhibit. Josh gives back to his community too. He has raised over \$2,000 for the Pearl Nelson Development Center, an organization that helped him as a child. He's looking to raise his fundraising efforts even more in the upcoming year. Congratulations Josh!

Kids for Camp Tours



Kaleb

Kids for Camp 2014 is going strong, and we want YOU to make plans to visit. For more than 10 years, the generosity of this great community through our annual Gala has ensured our families have experienced summers of progress. We are grateful for our many partnerships that make camp successful – including the Sacred Heart Autism Center, the Escambia County School District, PURE

Friendship Ministries, local businesses, and others.

We invite API board members, our volunteer council members, donors, and interested families to come see what camp is all about.

To tour the camp, please call the office and sign up. You can also schedule a tour by emailing camp@autismpensacola.org. Be sure to mark your calendar to join our End of Camp Celebration on July 31 at 10am at Washington High School cafeteria! This is a great way to get an overview of camp if you can't make it by for a personal tour.

Camp runs through July 31 at Washington High and Holm Elementary. Camp serves individuals with autism, ages 2-25. This is a fiveweek, intensive learning program. Included in the camp is our peer-mentor program, designed to provide social opportunities with typical aged children. Camp also relies on our extensive Teen Volunteers who while mentoring their peers with autism also gain insight and service hours.

Kids for Camp was created in 2003



CJ

by Judy Burns, a mom whose son lives with autism. Unable to find a summer program for her son, she partnered with Autism Pensacola, and with help from Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church and Gulf Breeze Rotary Club, created Kids for Camp.

In 2007, Kids for Camp expanded from being simply a summer camp to a summer learning lab. API began providing educators with training on best practices for teaching children with autism, and providing children on the spectrum with a high-quality educational program during the summer.

Project Summer Support Inclusion: The belief that everyone belongs

So often, for families with autism, the summertime stretches out like a yawn, with nothing to fill the time. Most typical summer camps don't 'get' our kids or don't know how to make their programs accessible to our children.

As we work to create a community that is inclusive and accepting of our loved ones with autism, API has once again partnered with the National Inclusion

Project to offer Project Summer Support. The program seeks to create spaces in our community for our children with autism to participate and thrive in summer recreational programs.

This year, API is working with both the Northeast YMCA and UWF's Explore Camps. Last year's partner, Pullum Family YMCA in Navarre, has become a full participant with the National Inclusion Project, working to support families with special needs all year long.



To give families an incentive to try a local community program, API will reimburse 50% of a child's first-week tuition (up to \$90 – based on availability of funds) at a local community program, like the YMCA, UWF's summer programs, PSC's Kids College, etc. Priority will be given to our partners in inclusion.

Funding is available to any family with a child with autism and is interested in participating in a recreational program. Preference will be given to API members.

To apply for support, download an application by going to www.autismpensacola.org/news.html.

For questions about this program, email Jessica Lapen at camp@autismpensacola.org or call the office (850) 434-7171.

API Looks to the future - Adults with Autism

On June 3rd, under the leadership of API volunteer Tammy Mendiola and with the guidance of our friend MJ Ziemba of the Florida Inclusion Network, over 30 parents gathered to dream about the future of our children with autism. Many in the group had children who are over 18, but over half the group had younger children.

MJ helped us discuss and imagine what we would most like to see available in our community for adults with autism. The top 5 things were - Life School (to prepare individuals with autism for the 'real world'); Social/Recreational Opportunities; Rewarding Work (with appropriate pay); Career Camp (a place for individuals to sample various careers); and a location for all of these ideas to happen.

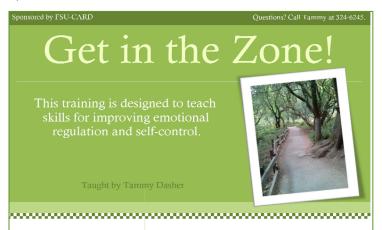
As a follow up to this meeting, Autism Pensacola hosted a Summit on Adult Services, inviting several agencies who currently serve adults or who are in the process of developing programs to serve adults. The summit was moderated by past API president, Quint Studer. Agencies in attendance were Arc Gateway, Arc Santa Rosa, UCP, Pyramid,Inc., Gulf Coast Enterprises, PURE Friendship Ministries, Project Empower, Vision of Hope, Project Search and



Kids for Camp's Jobs program participants volunteer at Manna Food Pantries in 2013.

Hope that Heals. These groups pledged to create a community calendar of activities for adults and to work together to maximize opportunities for the tsunami of adults with autism that is heading our way.

This summer, parents will be holding a discussion group during Kids for Camp to begin some concrete steps toward more options for adults with autism. Please call the office if you are interested in helping us work toward improving the lives for adults across the spectrum.



July 11

July 18

August 1

August 8

August 15

Trouble controlling your emotions?

This training will help you learn to recognize when your emotions are getting out of control and what to do when that happens. The classes are based on *The Zones of Regulation*, a book by Leah M. Kuypers. The lessons have been modified to be better suited for older teens and adults.

This is a five-week training. Classes will be offered on Fridays from 11:00-12:00 in the food court of Cordova Mall. After the initial presentation of the lesson, participants will be encouraged to buy lunch and return to the group for discussion and social skills practice.

You must register for this training! Call Karen at 416-4495 no later than July 9th.

This training is for CARD clients aged 16 or older.

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parent Partner Support Program







How can we help you?

Navigating the education system with a child with autism can be an overwhelming task. Becoming an effective advocate for your student with autism is the purpose of Autism Pensacola's newest initiative,

PPSP- the Parent Partner Support Program.

What is PPSP?

As a service to our community, Autism Pensacola is offering a series of individualized special education support sessions for families in our area who have a student with special educational needs. The program features 3 individualized courses of approximately 2 hours each providing families tools and resources to more successfully navigate the IEP/section 504 process though working in partnership with schools.

Consultant Amy Scott Lorton brings the benefit of personal experience to the table, as well as professional training in IDEA and the IEP process, parents' rights, school obligations, and parent options.



Calendar of Events

Check our website often for additional events and details!

JULY

Saturday, July 12 -- 6:30pm - API goes to the Wahoos! Call 434-7171 for ticket information.

Wednesday, July 16 -- 9:30am - Chat with Autism Pensacola's intern, Brittany, at Bad A** Coffee Company

Saturday, July 19 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Respite at Marcus Pointe Baptist Church, 6205 North W Street. Register: (850) 501-7142.

Tuesday, July 22 -- 9:30am - Getting started with APD. Susan Byram, Washington High School, Camp Young Teen Hallway (near Athletic Entrance)

Wednesday, July 23 -- Logan's Roadhouse Give Back event to support API.

Tuesday, July 29 -- 9:30am - What can API do for you? Susan Byram, Washington High School, Camp Young Teen Hallway (near Athletic Entrance)

AUGUST

Friday, August 1 - 11am - Support Chat, Autism Pensacola office, 3916 N. 10th Ave. BYOL--Bring your own lunch and come share time with those who 'get' life with autism.

Monday, August 11 -- 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Evening Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, 5203 Elmira St., Milton. Back to School with your Team, Amy Lorton.

Friday, August 22 – 10 a.m. – Grandparents of Autism Pensacola meeting, API office.

Wednesday, August 27 -- Logan's Roadhouse Give Back event.

Thursday, August 28 – 10 a.m. – API Council meeting, API office.

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 5 - 11am - Support Chat, Autism Pensacola office, 3916 N. 10th Ave. BYOLunch.

Monday, September 8 -- Six-week PEP Class begins.

Friday, September 19 – 10 a.m. – Grandparents of Autism Pensacola meeting, API office.

Thursday, September 25 – 10 a.m. – API Council meeting, API office.

OCTOBER

Friday, October 3 - 11am - Support Chat, Autism Pensacola office, 3916 N. 10th Ave. BYOLunch.

Friday, October 17 – 10 a.m. - Grandparents of Autism Pensacola meeting, API office.

Tuesday, October 21 -- 6pm - API Annual Member meeting, Pollak Training Center, Arc Gateway, 1000 E. Fairfield (corner of 10th & Fairfield).

Thursday, October 23 -- 10 a.m. – API Council meeting, API office.

New Members

Teresa Anderson Shawnon Babb Ayeshia Blankenship Christen Boutwell Hope Brown Karen Cassel Elena & David Clark Charles & Kim Clarke Pamela & Luiz Dias Terry Eucker Jerome Evans Bonnie Faircloth Margaret Gendron Dorothy Grace Millicent Grav Diane & Richard Hahner Andre Hall

Joan & William Harbuck Catherine Hedden Krystal Holland Stacy Hynek Timothy Joachimi Brenda Frve. Wade Johnson. Dena Acha Arlene Jordan Keith Kinder Candice Kobacker & Amber Beaslev Jessica & Danny Lapen Gretchen Levinson **Brittany Linton** Denise Lukas Brittany Martinez Angela Mathis

Summer Mathis Katie Owens Angela & Michael Owens Lauren & Craig Ramsay Patricia Randolph Teresia Raymond Daffraneeze Riley Elba Segura-Martinez Sharon & Ronald Stebbins Jennifer & Slade Stinson Mary Theresa Sudduth David & Chiquita Thomas Katy Westbrook Dawn Wiggins Richard Williams Kellie Wilson **Christy Woolard**

API Contact Information

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Need a Car?

Thank You to Bob Tyler Pre-Owned Cars!

Bob Tyler Toyota Pre-Owned Cars

will donate \$100 to API

for every vehicle sold. in the month of August.

We thank Bob Tyler and his staff for this amazing gift!

Please spread the word to anyone looking for a pre-owned car and help support this effort.



CAPTAINS FOR KIDS

FREE EVENT

Orange Beach, AL To benefit kids with special needs!

- Dolphin cruises
- Sailing excursions
- Parasailing
- Fishing charters

Come have some fun!

Saturday, September 6, starts at 9 a.m.

Venues Include: San Roc Cay Marina, Tacky Jacks, Outcast Charter Docks, Zeke's Marina Participating Companies: Pleasure Island Parasail, Chute for the Sky Parasail, Perdido Key Parasail, Zeke's Marina, Wild Heart Sail, San Roc Cay 'Southerner' Fishing Vessel, ABC Parasail

Please call (850) 377-6920 to preschedule!