

Down in the Southland

Friends Don't Count Chromosomes!

Volume 1, Issue 7

February 2012

Ink from the Inc.

Information on the latest organizational happenings

Things are always busy in the background of Down in the Southland and January was no exception! We are in the process of building our newest Ages & Stages group for the children born in 2008, 2009 & 2010! Keep your eyes open for the '08-'10 play dates on the calendar!

Some other things still under construction include: financial planning/special needs trust meeting, math, open gym time, open swim time, and spring field trips! Sib Shops, cooking classes, assistive technology and literacy are also still on the radar. Monthly parent meetings are also in the works. Everyone's continued understanding is appreciated while we work through the maze of helping everyone meet the needs of our kids and our families!

Planning for our 2nd Annual Walk for Down in the Southland will be starting soon! If you are interested in helping in any way, or have a talent or treasure to add to the fun and festivities, please send an email to boardofdirectors@downinthesouthland.org and we will make sure it gets to the Walk Committee! Watch the newsletter for upcoming info about the Walk Committee.

LOOKING AHEAD...

GARAGE SALE... We need your HELP! For those of you who want to teach your children to help others, especially friends, this is a great opportunity. The Gryga family will be having a garage sale on Friday, June 1st and Saturday, June 2nd. They are looking for volunteers and donated items. All profit made from the sale will directly go to the Trey Gryga Research Foundation.

Down in the Southland Walk

Can you believe it's time to start planning our walk already? Our first walk committee meeting will be in March, so if you are interested in being a part of the committee or just helping on a subcommittee, please email

boardofdirectors@downinthesouthland.org and put 'walk' in the subject.

You will receive an email describing the committee & subcommittee positions & levels of commitment.



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February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Music Class 4 p.m.	4
5	6	7 4-5:30 Open Gym	8	9	10 Music Class 4 p.m.	11
12 Cooking Class 	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17 Music Class 4 p.m.	18 05' -07' Monthly Play Date
19	20	21 Mardi Gras	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24 02'-04' Monthly Play date	25 08' - 10' Monthly Play Date
26 IEP Ice Breakers	27	28	29			



March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Cooking Class 	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21	22	23 02'-04' Monthly Play date	24
25 Cooking Class 	26	27	28	29	30	31

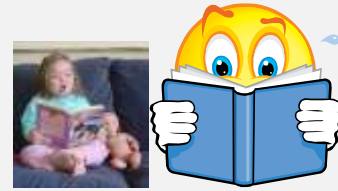
The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring. ~Bern Williams



EVENTS AROUND TOWN

ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER WILL BE HOSTING ITS ANNUAL PARENT INSTITUTE DAY AT PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AND COSTS \$35.00. FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE GOOD SHEPHERD WEBSITE.

ALSO, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH, ST. XAVIER UNIVERSITY (ORLAND CAMPUS) AND STARNET WILL BE HOSTING AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AND COSTS \$35.00. CHECK THE ST. XAVIER UNIVERSITY WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.



LITERACY/TUTORING PROGRAM

OUR MONTHLY UPDATE ON THE TUTORING PROGRAM

Down in the Southland offered a literacy training session in January. Thank you to all of the parents who attended. A HUGE thank you to Peggy Marchionda, who presented the training. We are still in need of more if we want to service all interested families. If you know of someone, please have them email Lisa or Peggy with their contact information to info@downinthesouthland.org with LITERACY in the subject field.

TOUCHMATH TRAINING

We will be hosting a free Touch Math training. TouchMath is a multisensory program that uses its signature TouchPoints to engage students of all abilities and learning styles. Check out their program at www.touchmath.com. Watch your email for more details about the upcoming training.

Down in the Southland Board of Directors:

President: Juliette De Nova 708-614-6118

Vice President: Lisa Pringle 708-535-1438

Secretary: Rita Barnes 708-655-5208

Treasurer: Peggy Marchionda 708-258-6963

Member-at-Large: Rachel Thornberry 708-599-4212

For more information about Down in the Southland email info@downinthesouthland.org with DOWN IN THE SOUTHLAND as the subject

Happy Birthday!!

February Birthdays

Emma Ratliff 2/3

Alex Gowaski 2/5

Marisa Marchionda 2/7

Shelby Marchionda 2/11

Cassandra Barnes 2/11

Bailey Gryga 2/13

Nathan Gass 2/14

Spencer Gryga 2/15

Madeleine Blouin 2/17

Brendan Lewis 2/18

Jaden Gryga 2/23

Amanda Blount 2/27

March Birthdays

Nathan Pringle 3/4

Amy Chisholm 3/8

Iris Thornberry 3/13

Arianna Soto 3/13

Lauren Blount 3/13

Emily Chudzik 3/29

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

IN THIS SECTION OF OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, WE WILL PROVIDE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR GROUP, OUR DIRECTION, OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT ANYONE WANTS TO ASK (RELATING TO DOWN SYNDROME OF COURSE!). PLEASE EMAIL QUESTIONS TO INFO@DOWNINTHESOUTHLAND.ORG IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR QUESTION TO BE ASKED ANONYMOUSLY, PLEASE INDICATE THAT IN YOUR EMAIL.

LOOK WHAT I DID!!

Each month, this space will be a place to share our children's recent accomplishments. Send your child's recent successes to owner-downinthesouthland@yahoo.com

Audrey Chisholm competed in the 100M Snowshoe Competition in the Special Olympics Young Athletes Program!



