

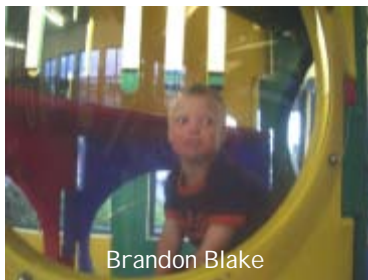


WVDSA Monthly

Willamette Valley Down Syndrome Association

Pizza Party at Papa's!

How's that for alliteration? With no definite meeting determined for May, Debbie Lisle and Cory



Brandon Blake

Harrington managed to pull together an impromptu pizza party on our meeting night at Papa's Pizza in Salem. The phone tree was put into action, with good results!

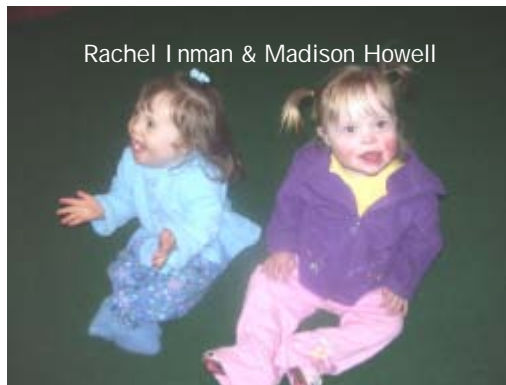
According to Cory, about 30 people showed up for a wonderful evening of good food, great play for the kids, and a chance for parents to get together and chat.

Desi Blake, one of our parents from Salem, commented that she appreciated the way the siblings of other families helped out with the

Blake's small children. Actually, Brandon—their son with Down syndrome—did all right with all the climbing around, but his

younger sister, Kyli, needed to be rescued a few times! What a great report! It's neat the way the siblings of a child with Down syndrome seem to be tuned in to "watching out" for other children, too.

It's also wonderful that, in the absence of a scheduled meeting of the WVDSA,



Rachel Inman & Madison Howell

people jumped in and helped get something set up. We have lots of new parents in the group who need our support—just like we needed the support of "experienced" parents when we were getting started with this new adventure. Being consistent with our scheduled meetings is critical when it comes to making sure someone else is getting the contact they're needing at this time.

WVDSA
4272 NW Pintail Place
Corvallis, OR 97330

Volume 5, Issue 8

June 1, 2005

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Looking Ahead

Mark your calendars:

June:

No information about meetings has been sent to me yet. We will get the word out through our telephone tree.

July:

Tuesday, July 12th—we will be meeting at 10:00 AM in the parking lot of the En-

chanted Forest for our 2nd annual family get-together.

Saturday, July 23—

Barbecue at Gleneden Beach south of Lincoln City. We will give more information and directions in the July issue.

Volcanoes Baseball—

Cory Harrington is making arrangements for us to be able to attend as a group. More

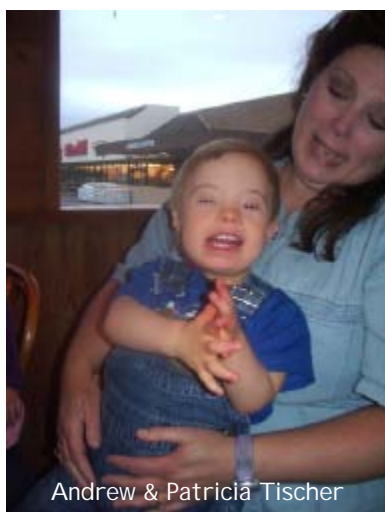
details later.

August:

Tuesday, August 20th—

Annual Family Picnic at Avery Park in Corvallis. We will be meeting at 6:00 and potlucking salads & desserts and bringing our own meat to barbecue. The group will pick up the tab on beverages. This is a fun event! Plan to come!

More Pictures from Papa's Pizza



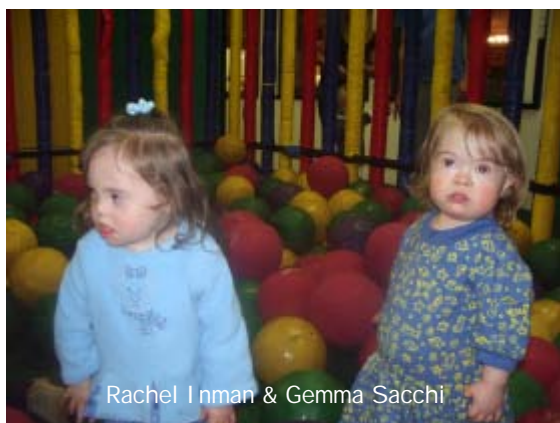
Andrew & Patricia Tischer



Kim & Madison Howell & Andrew & Patricia Tischer



Gemma Sacchi



Rachel Inman & Gemma Sacchi



Kim & Madison Howell

June Meeting?
 (Scheduled for Corvallis
 this month)
 (You will be notified if
 the meeting will be
 taking place!)

More Upcoming Events

As hard as it is to believe, we're only a little over four months away from the **2005 Buddy Walk!** Keri Prince is already hard at work organizing this year's event, but she needs **HELP!** This isn't a one-person job!

We will be scheduling monthly Buddy Walk Planning Meetings for anyone interested in helping out this year. This can be as intensive as being the "PR" person, contacting newspapers and radio or TV stations. It can also be as light a duty as making phone calls to remind people about the Buddy Walk or writing thank you notes to contributors. Any help you can give will take some of the burden off of Keri!

This year's Buddy Walk is scheduled

for **Saturday, September 17** at the Riverfront Park in Salem—near the Carousel, as usual. This date is a week earlier than our previous, tentative date, because of availability of the Carousel building and patio that we use. It's also earlier than many of the national Buddy Walks, because we're hoping for better weather in September than October.

You can expect to be getting called by Keri, if you have expressed any interest in helping with the Buddy Walk. If you haven't talked to her yet, the contact information is on page 4 of this newsletter.

Please give this some thought! We had a very successful Buddy Walk last

Year, but it took lots of involvement by group members. Let this be the year that you volunteer your time!

~*~*~*~*~*~

Membership: So far we've had two people send in their \$25 membership fee for 2005. Ouch! I admit; I'm not one of the two! If you have been meaning to send in your money, please do so. We'll be calling people on our mailing list soon to find out what their intentions are concerning membership. If you send in your money to Treasurer Mark Medeima, you won't be called! :c) The only ones who are exempt from this are new members who signed up at the 2004 Buddy Walk. "Scholarships" are available if you need assistance. Let us know!

Summer Activities—Under Construction!

As some of you may have noticed, getting meetings and activities organized can be a major undertaking. We have board members scattered from as far north as McMinnville and as far south as Corvallis; as far east as Lebanon and as far west as Newport. Getting information in to me, the editor of the "WVDSA Monthly" can be a major headache—especially because not everyone uses the computer and e-mail as regularly as I do.

In a perfect world, people would be sending me story contributions, pictures, notices of upcoming meetings, and all sorts of newsworthy items via my computer. I would then transfer all that wonderful information into the newsletter and my job would be much easier. Sigh!

Unfortunately, we don't live in a perfect world. To be fair, since I published my deadline information last month, I received three e-mail items for this month's newsletter, so the wheels of progress, although squeaky, are moving in a forward direction!

One of the things that is coming together for the summer is "extra-curricular activities"! For several years, members of the WVDSA in Corvallis have been meeting at lunchtime on Wednesdays in a park. It's an opportunity for the parents (mostly the moms) to get and chat while the kids play on the equipment and enjoy a picnic lunch.

I haven't heard yet whether they are still planning to continue this tradition, but I'm happy to see that the idea is catching on with others.

Cory Harrington has scheduled a series of park meetings for the Salem/Keizer area (although anyone can attend, even if you don't live there). Dates and times are as follows:

Thursdays at 3:00—June 23, July 21, and August 18.

Saturdays at 10:00—June 11, July 9, and August 13.

These get-togethers will be at Riverfront Park in Salem (our Buddy Walk locale). Cory says "All family and friends are welcome to come. Feel free to bring blankets, lunches, games, strollers, etc. We'll meet around the playground; feel free to come any time." The event will be cancelled if it's raining. If you have questions, call Cory at 503-463-9788.

Rachel Sargent has organized a barbecue get-together on the coast in July. Gleneden Beach, south of Lincoln City, has been chosen as the location of this event—also open to anyone interested in attending. Rachel will have more details to come, so check the July Newsletter for more information. In the meantime, put "Family Barbecue" on your calendar: **Saturday, July 23!** It ought to be a fun time for everyone!

Tuesday, July 12th, has been chosen as the day we'll plan to meet at the

Enchanted Forest south of Salem. Some of you may wonder why we picked a week day...and why the morning. From past experience, we've found that the Enchanted Forest can be very crowded on weekends and afternoons. Our kids don't always do so well when over-stimulated, which tends to be what happens when there are lots of people present. Temperatures in July can also be very hot—another factor to consider.

Meeting in the morning—right when the park opens—gives us an opportunity to enjoy the park while it's fairly uncrowded and while temperatures are cooler. This way, we can get together for lunch and, if our kids are tired, take them home before things get confusing or too hot. People who took part in the Enchanted Forest day last summer seemed to enjoy themselves! Hopefully, we'll be able to get a few more families involved this year. We keep hoping that we'll get a group rate from the park eventually, but that may happen in the future, as more people get involved.

So, mark your calendars! Plan to attend some or all of these activities! Organize your own in your neck of the woods (and be sure to let me know, so I can advertise it in the newsletter!)

Let's keep the Willamette Valley Down Syndrome Association active!

For Child of the Month Entries: Submit your child's information to: Gretchen Davey 370 Center St Lebanon, OR 97355 wvdsa@ookla.com

Directions to June WVDSA Meeting (IF we meet!)

WVDSA Meetings at the Corvallis site can be reached by following these directions:

Coming from I-5 - follow Highway 34 into Corvallis, coming over the bridge just east of town. You will be on Harrison Street, a one-way street heading west. *Follow this until you get to the intersection with Kings Blvd. At this point, you will want to be in the right hand lane, because just as you go through the intersection, a sign will say

"Right Lane Ends". You will remain in the right hand lane, however, because you will turn into the parking lot of Grace Lutheran Church before the lane ends. We are meeting in the Fellowship Hall at the north end of the building. You'll see other cars parked near the entrance.

If you're coming in on 99W from the north or south, turn right (from the north) or left (from the south) at Har-

rison and follow the directions from I-5 from *.

If you have any questions, call:

Cory Harrington at (503) 463-9788 or

Gretchen Davey at (541) 451-5215.

We hope to see you at the meeting, if there is one!

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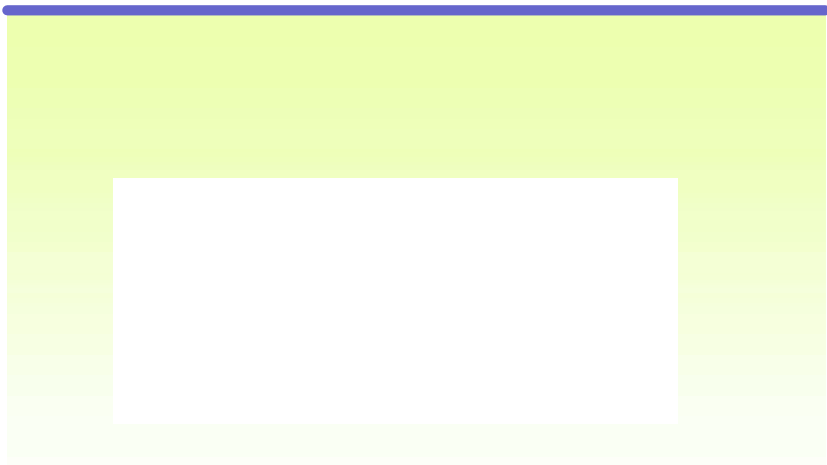
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Comin' Around the Corner...

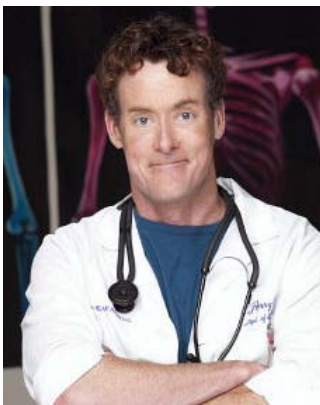
Dear WVDSA Members,

Desi Blake, one of our member parents (she and husband, Eric, have a son, Brandon, with Down syndrome, and a younger daughter, Kyli) brought this article to my attention. She's one of my "stars", using e-mail and the Internet to contribute to the newsletter!

Desi recently discovered an online article that was featured in the iParenting.com website—an internet community for parents. They have a monthly "Dad of the Month" article and one of their October issues featured John McGinley—a relatively well-known actor who happens to have a son with Down syndrome. Here is an excerpt from that article:

"While you may not recognize John McGinley's name right off the bat, you're sure to know his face. With more than 50 impressive movies to his credit including *Platoon*, *Wall Street*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Seven*, *Any Given*

Sunday and more, he's quite an accomplished actor. But his latest and most favorite project to date is his role as the quirky Dr. Perry Cox on NBC's Emmy-nominated *Scrubs*.



"Scrubs is the best gig I've ever had," says McGinley of the show, which was the No. 1, first-season comedy last year. 'As an actor, it's great to play a strong leader with a heart of

gold. Dr. Cox is a reluctant mentor to the rookie doctors he trains.'

"In real life, it's the leadership role of Dad to 5-year-old Max, born with Down syndrome, that McGinley takes most seriously. 'I'm just completely in love with Max,' he says. 'He just completely redefines my universe. He's just a stunningly beautiful little boy.'

"When Max was born, McGinley says he immediately hit the books to learn everything he could about Down syndrome,

and his expertise today is remarkable. He's an active advocate for Max, working to give him opportunities to help him develop and acquire the mental and physical skills that he needs. "The learning curve is through the roof on picking up on all this kind of stuff," says McGinley.

"Next fall, Max will head to kindergarten for the first time, which McGinley thinks will be a great experience. 'The number one way Max learns is by mimicking or mirroring others,' he says."

To read the entire article, go to iParenting.com (<http://iparenting.com/>

[dad/1002.htm](http://iparenting.com/dad/1002.htm)).

Author of the article is Lyn Mettler, an assistant editor for iParenting.com.



Enjoy!
Gretchen Davey
Editor, WVDSA
Monthly