



WVDSA Monthly

Willamette Valley Down Syndrome Association

WVDSA 2005 Spring Social

As usual, this was an "if only you'd been there!" type of social! Inclement weather, scheduling conflicts, etc., kept the numbers of attendees down, but Rachel Sargent and Katie Ross did a terrific job of bringing the islands to Oregon for a Spring Luau!

There was way more food than we could all eat, but that didn't stop us from trying! Our entertainment was provided by members of the Hawaiian Club from OSU—their hula dancers, to be specific. We've had the privilege of seeing them dance before—about 5 years ago—but they're as good as ever, even though different students make up the group now.

The kids in the audi-

ence were transfixed by the dancers and a couple of them—Becca Davey, for example—ended up on stage trying to follow their moves. The good-natured students let any of the kids who wanted to join them do so, which was a big deal to the kids! Afterwards, several of



them ended up on stage, doing their own version of the island dances from Hawaii, Tahiti, Fiji and other of the Polynesian Islands. Lack of skill was no match for tons of enthusiasm!

The event was held at the new Corvallis Senior Center, which turned out to be a ter-

rific location! A park with a fabulous playground area is located right out the back door of the center, so if we use this location again—maybe when it's raining a little less—the kids will have a super place to play!

We sure wish all of you could have been there!

WVDSA
4272 NW Pintail Place
Corvallis, OR 97330

Volume 5, Issue 7

May 1, 2005

In this issue:

WVDSA 2005 Spring Social	1
Looking Ahead	1
Future Child of the month submissions	2-3
Directions to the May meeting	3
Comin' Around the Corner	4

Looking Ahead

In an attempt to give people enough advance notice for them to arrange their schedules accordingly, we have pre-scheduled several upcoming events and are giving you these dates so you can mark your calendars:

May & 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 Enchanted Forest for our 2nd annual family get-together.

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 the Spring Social



Becca Davey takes mental notes while Eli Hirsch dances with one of the OSU girls.



New Members:
Sarah & Julia Kruse



Heather shows Becca her moves while Becca dreams of being "Lilo!"



Jordan Sargent dances with Becca Davey while Julia watches.



Jordan shows some radical steps while Becca and Laura Estreich cheer him on!

04/23/2005

May Meeting?
(Scheduled for Salem this month)
7:00 PM
Willamette ESD
2611 Pringle Road SE
Salem, OR
(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!

Editorial—Gretchen Davey, “WVDSA Monthly” Editor

One important thing about a monthly newsletter is that it needs to come out *monthly* so people can depend on it to keep them in the loop of what is happening in our group. For several years I have committed myself to see that this happens and have had the support of the Willamette Valley Down Syndrome Board to do so, regardless of the fact that the newsletter is one of our largest single expenditures in our annual budget. As President Mike Moore said recently, “The newsletter is the glue that holds our group together!”

What isn't widely known is that, as editor, I make sure that the newsletter gets published each month. If I don't have enough words to fill it up, I find articles online or get information about upcoming meetings of interest to parents of special needs children. It would be nice if I had regular contributors, who felt the burden to have a monthly column in the newsletter or who wanted to be the person “in charge” of keeping us notified about coming events.

So far, no one has stepped forward to do any of that, so I'm continuing to try to keep the newsletter full of interesting information, pictures of “our kids” and anything else I can find to fill the pages. I'm only one person, however, and don't always feel as creative as I need to be.

We received some feedback recently, telling us that when the newslet-

ter doesn't come out in a timely manner, they aren't able to make the necessary plans to attend the meetings and activities that we sponsor. I totally agree with these people, that if the newsletter doesn't get out as close to the first of the month as possible, it cuts down on the potential attendance at our monthly meetings and the special events that are scheduled three times a year.

I apologize for any inconvenience this causes our WVDSA members and supporters! My goal is to mail the newsletter as close to the first day of the month as possible. In fact, I'd prefer to mail them out two days before the first day of the month.

Unfortunately, a late newsletter usually means I'm waiting on a contribution from someone who has expressed an interest in getting an article or announcement in that month's newsletter. Often I have the publication ready to print, except for that item, and end up having to fill in the spot with a picture or something, just to get the newsletter out as close to on time as I can.

This is one of those months. I haven't received any information about the meeting for May or June—important stuff if we're going to have anyone in attendance—and it's held up this mailing so far. This doesn't mean the person in charge is a failure; time slips away from all of us and a monthly commitment comes a whole lot more quickly than you

realize when you have a deadline!

At any rate, I'm declaring here and now that I am going to set a new deadline for the “WVDSA Monthly” of the 21st of each month. That will give me a week to get things ready to go and printed for a mailing on the 28th of each month. If anyone would like to contribute something to the newsletter, please keep the deadline in mind. If I receive it after the deadline, I'll put it in the next newsletter (unless it's time-sensitive, which means it won't get out in time to be useful to anyone).

Along the same lines, I would happily welcome any contributions from any of you who receive this newsletter. If you'd like your child featured as “Child of the Month”, please send me a few pictures and some pertinent information about your child. If you don't feel secure in your writing skills, send me the basic information and I'll write it up for you. If you are able to e-mail me the information (including the pictures) that is my preferred method of getting submissions. If you can't do that, though, send me the information in the mail and I'll scan the photos and put them in. The photos will be returned to you; a SASE helps me do this quickly.

My goal is to keep you informed!

Your humble servant, Gretchen

For Child of the Month Entries: Submit your child's information to: Gretchen Davey

**370 Center St
Lebanon, OR
97355**

wvdsa@ookla.com

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!

Directions to May WVDSA Meeting (IF we meet!)

To reach the Willamette ESD at 2611 Pringle Road SE in Salem:

From the North: Take I-5 S to Exit 253 - Hwy 22 to North Santiam/Stayton - and bear right on ramp at sign reading “Salem and OR-99E Business”. This is also Mission St. *Continue on this for 1.0 mile. Turn left on 25th St. SE and go South for 0.4 miles. Turn right

on McGilchrist St. SE and go west for 0.8 miles. Turn left on Pringle Rd. SE and go south for 0.1 miles to the WESD.

From the South: Take I-5 North to Exit 253 - Hwy 22 to North Santiam/Stayton. Take a left at the light, onto Mission Street, and *follow the directions from the north.

WVDSA
4272 NW Pintail Place
Corvallis, OR 97330

Editor: Gretchen Davey

Phone: 541-451-5215
Email: wvdsa@ookla.com

President: Mike Moore

Phone: 541-753-3975
E-mail: mmoore105@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Mark Miedema

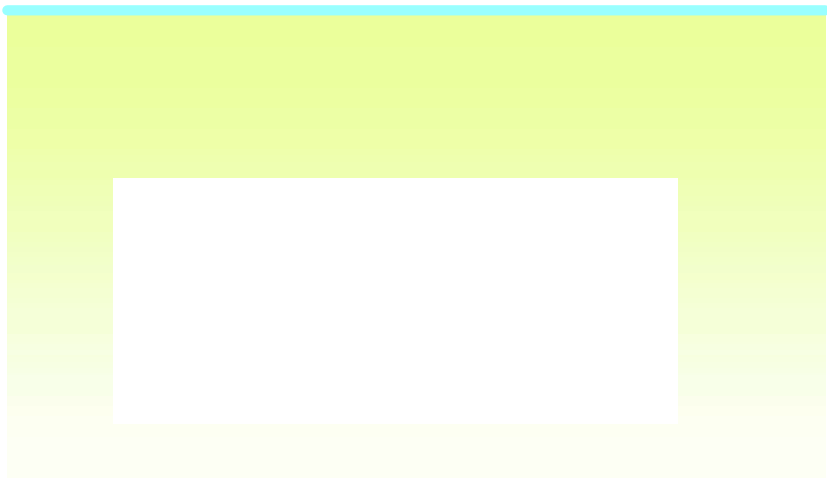
419 Dorcas Dr N, Keizer, OR 97303
Phone: 503-390-0567
E-mail: miedema@comcast.net

Buddy Walk: Keri Prince

1490 NE Carly Ct, McMinnville OR 97037
Phone: 503-434-8618
E-mail: arkprinc@msn.com

New Parent Packets: Cory Harrington

Phone: 503-463-9788
E-mail: wvdsacory@yahoo.com



Comin' Around the Corner...

Dear WVDSA Members,

A list of upcoming events:

May 7, 2005 What Parents Need to Know About the IEP Process - at the Providence Seaside Hospital in **Seaside** from 9:00 AM - Noon. Please contact Shirley Lusty for more information or to register at slusty@orpti.org.

May 7, 2005 What Parents Need to Know about Statewide Assessments - at the Providence Seaside Hospital in **Seaside** from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. Please contact Shirley Lusty for more information or to register at slusty@orpti.org.

May 9, 2005- A Closer Look at State-wide Assessments for Students with Disabilities from 10:30 - 4:30 at the Providence Hospital. in **Medford**. Registration is required, please contact Robin Wortman at rwortman@orpti.org

May 9, 2005- What Parent's Need to Know about Statewide Assessments from 10 - Noon at the West Linn/Wilsonville School District Board Room. in **West Linn**. Registration is required, please contact Victoria Haight at vhaight@orpti.org

May 10, 2005 - 504/IDEA/ADA, a Comparison in **Albany** at the Fairmont Building from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Registration is required, please contact Leah Skipworth at lskipworth@orpti.org.

May 10, 2005 - Behavioral Issues: Disability or no Disability: Temperament and

your child at home, school, and in the community at Providence Portland Amphitheater from 6-8- PM.

May 12 2005 - Behaviors in the IEP -at the Benton County Child Welfare Office from 6:30 - 9:00 PM. Registration is required, please contact Leah Skipworth at lskipworth@orpti.org.

May 16, 2005 - Parent Professional Partnerships at Clemens Primary School in **Philomath** from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Registration is required, please contact Leah Skipworth at lskipworth@orpti.org.

May 17, 2005 - Transition to Kindergarten - At the Brattian House in **Springfield** from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Registration is required, please contact Leah Skipworth at lskipworth@orpti.org.

May 24 and 25, 2005 - IEP Partner Training - at the Oregon School for the Deaf in **Salem** from 9 - 4 both days. Please contact Karen Ripplinger for more information at 503-581-8156 ext. 212 or email kriplinger@orpti.org.



May 24, 2005 - Transitioning your child to Kindergarten at Providence Portland Amphitheater from 6- 7 PM.

May 24, 2005 - Transitioning your child from High School at Providence Portland Amphitheater from 7-8 PM.

May 27, 2005 - IEP Product in Eugene from 10 - Noon. Location to be announced. Registration is required, please contact Leah Skipworth at lskipworth@orpti.org.

May 31, 2005- A Closer Look at State-wide Assessments for Students with Disabilities from 9 - 3 at the Providence Hospital. in **Portland**. Registration is required, please contact Robin Wortman at rwortman@orpti.org

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Hello! I am writing to you from **The Up With Downs** Support Group in Clarksville, Tennessee. I wanted to let you know about some Down Syndrome Awareness products we are selling that your members may be interested in! Please check out our e-store and pass it along. There's no better way to raise awareness! Thank you for your time!

<http://www.cafepress.com/t21club>

Renee Garcia

Up With Downs

Clarksville, TN

(931) 302-7395

CAmommy2KJ@aol.com