

# PODS NEWSLETTER

Parents of Down Syndrome Support Group

A Division of The Arc of NEPA

February 2009

Prepared by: Kristen Finnerty



## The Buddy Walk Is Around the Corner

The 2009 Buddy Walk will be here before we know it. Now is the time to start approaching possible sponsors and donors for our event. The Buddy Walk Committee also needs volunteers, so if you are interested in helping with this year's Buddy Walk, please contact Steve or Kristen Finnerty at 570-585-2962, [steven\\_finnerty@comcast.net](mailto:steven_finnerty@comcast.net) or [finnertyk@comcast.net](mailto:finnertyk@comcast.net).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE  
NEXT PODS MEETING, SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 22, 2009 at 6PM**

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Don Broderick**

**Executive Director of The Arc of NEPA**

Discussion to include The Arc's services & a tour of the facility.

The meeting will be held at The Arc at 115 Meadow Avenue in Scranton.



## Picture of the Month



Jake Hart, 15 months & his  
puppy Arthur, 11 months.



Lekotek is a program that offers monthly play sessions for children with special needs birth to 12 years old. Compuplay sessions and summer camp are also offered to young children and teens.

**Contact Sally McCullon at  
587-5892 ext. 24 for more  
information.**

# I Can Do It!



My name is Corrinne Kropa. I am 8 years old. I am a second grade student at Roslund Elementary in Tunkhannock. I enjoy all my classes, but Spelling is my favorite.

I enjoy swimming and attend swim lessons at the YMCA in Dunmore. Last summer I attended Gymnastics camp at the YMCA. I love lots activity. I like to go for walks and play on my swing set. I also like to roller skate and ride my bike. My favorite summer activities are swimming and horse back riding. I have been riding horses for several years and I am comfortable and confident in the saddle.

I am in my fourth year of dance lessons. I do tap, ballet, and jazz. This is lots of fun for me. I am going to have a solo part at my recital this year. My mom is very proud of my dancing!

I am a member of a Brownie Troop. I have been a model for Toys R' Us and Target, and also appeared in *Parents Magazine*.

My favorite places to visit are Disney World and Sea World. I love the dolphins. I like to visit the trains at Steamtown too. I like reading books and playing computer games. I really enjoy going out to eat and shopping.

*Corrinne is the daughter of William and Jeanne Kropa. She was born in April 2000 at Hershey Medical Center. She was born 7 weeks premature and required surgery at 3 days old. She has been in excellent health since then. William is an electrical worker. Jeanne works in Law Enforcement for the state. They also have a another daughter, Shayna, age 7.*

We know that our children with Down Syndrome can do fantastic things, and we want to hear what your child can do, no matter how big or small. Each month we will include a section to share milestones and achievements of our children with Down Syndrome. Whether it is horseback riding or getting a first tooth, we want to hear about it! Send your submissions to Kristen at

[finnertyk@comcast.net](mailto:finnertyk@comcast.net).



## President Obama's Agenda for Americans with Disabilities:

### The plan addresses four issues:

- **Education:** Obama and Vice President Joe Biden call to fund the IDEA, early intervention for children with disabilities and universal screening. They "will also authorize a comprehensive study of students with disabilities and issues relating to transition to work and higher education."
- **Health care:** Obama and Biden seek to restore and enforce the ADA, fund the [Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2007](#), improve mental health care, and provide "affordable, accessible health care for all."
- **Employment:** The administration intends to impose new laws "that require the federal government and its contractors to employ people with disabilities," offer accommodations to private-sector employees to hire people with disabilities, support small businesses owned by people with disabilities, and encourage "employers to use existing tax benefits to hire more workers with disabilities."
- **Residences:** Obama and Biden intend to enforce the [Community Choice Act of 2007](#), streamline the Social Security approval process, and create a "national insurance program to help adults who have or develop functional disabilities to remain independent and in their communities."
- Obama and Biden also specifically addressed autism and provided three key points of action:
- Boost funding for autism research, treatment, screenings, public awareness and support services.
- Improve lifelong autism treatments, interventions and services.
- Enforce universal screening of all infants and rescreening for all 2 year olds.

# Conferences, Workshops & Research Studies

**The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education is pleased to announce the following training opportunity:**

Title: "Transition: It's Not Just for Kids - Parents Need Transition Plan Too!

**Session 1** - You Can't Move Forward Until You Move Backwards  
March 3, 2009

Webinar and/or phone conference call  
12:00 PM-1:00 PM or 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

**Session 2** - It's a Brave New World: An Introduction to Secondary Transition  
March 24, 2009 -

Webinar and/or phone conference call  
12:00 PM - 1:00 pm or 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Session 3** - The GPS of Secondary Transition  
April 4, 2009 Videoconference

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - Brown Bag Discussion (optional)  
PaTTAN Harrisburg  
PaTTAN King of Prussia  
PaTTAN Pittsburgh

Other downlink sites across Pennsylvania

You may register directly on-line by visiting [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net) and entering the Registration On-line page.

For information on program content, contact Michael Stoehr, 800-446-5607 ext. 6864 or 412-826-6864 or [mstoehr@pattan.net](mailto:mstoehr@pattan.net)

For general registration information, contact Mary Gordon at 412-826-6871 or [mgordon@pattan.net](mailto:mgordon@pattan.net).

## **MARRIAGE WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Over the next three months the Parents Loving Children through Autism Foundation will focus on Marriage. We will hold two workshops and a Strong Healthy Marriage Conference.

We will bring in two experts in the field. Joanne M. Judge MS, LSW, who has over twenty years experience with working with families and Robert Naseef. Ph.D Author of Special Children Challenged Parents who has a full time practice in psychology specializing in working with families of children with special needs

Workshops and Conferences will all be held at Allied Services Board and Conference Rooms  
For Information call the PLCTA headquarters:

**341-3388**

**February 16** - Keeping the Marriage Fresh

Joanne M. Judge, MS,LSW 7:00pm-9:00pm

**March 23** - What to do when one spouse checks out.

Joanne Judge, MS LSW 7:00pm-9:00pm

**May 16** - The Strong Healthy Marriage

Robert Naseef Ph.D Author of Special Children Challenged Parents, Joanne Judge MS, LSW

9:00am – 4:00pm

## **The Trisomy 21 Program at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Hosts Sixth Annual Trisomy 21 Symposium April 4, 2009**

This one-day symposium provides up-to-date clinical information and therapeutic approaches on select topics applicable to individuals with Trisomy 21. For more information contact 215-590-5263 or [www.chop.edu/cme](http://www.chop.edu/cme)














## **Kennedy Krieger Institutes Seeking Volunteers for Research Study**

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore is seeking volunteers with Down Syndrome between the ages of 36-54 months. The study includes developmental research assessments and parent interviews.

**For more information contact:**


**1-877-850-3372 or  
[reach@kennedykrieger.org](mailto:reach@kennedykrieger.org)**

## PARENTS OF DOWN SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP CALENDAR

| Sunday   | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday   |
|--|--------|---------|-----------|---|--------|--|
| 1-Feb  | 2-Feb  | 3-Feb   | 4-Feb     | 5-Feb   | 6-Feb  | 7-Feb  |
| <b>SUPERBOWL SUNDAY</b><br>   |        |         |           | Swimming Class at YMCA<br>6:20pm-7:10pm<br>                            |        |  Challenger Soccer<br>10am-11am |
| 8-Feb  | 9-Feb  | 10-Feb  | 11-Feb    | 12-Feb  | 13-Feb | 14-Feb   |
|  |        |         |           | Swimming Class at YMCA<br>6:20pm-7:10pm<br>                            |        | Karate<br>2-3pm<br>             |
| 15-Feb   | 16-Feb | 17-Feb  | 18-Feb    | 19-Feb  | 20-Feb | 21-Feb   |
|  |        |         |           | Swimming Class at YMCA<br>6:20pm-7:10pm<br>                            |        |  Challenger Soccer<br>10am-11am   |
| 22-Feb   | 23-Feb | 24-Feb  | 25-Feb    | 26-Feb  | 27-Feb | 28-Feb   |
|  <b>PODS MEETING</b><br>@ The Arc of NEPA<br>5pm - Board Members<br>6pm - General Meeting |        |         |           | Swimming Class at YMCA<br>6:20pm-7:10pm<br>                              |        | Karate<br>2-3pm<br>               |
| 1-Mar  | 2-Mar  | 3-Mar   | 4-Mar     | 5-Mar   | 6-Mar  | 7-Mar  |
|  |        |         |           | <b>NEW SESSION BEGINS</b><br>Swimming Class at YMCA<br>6:20pm-7:10pm<br> |        |  Challenger Soccer<br>10am-11am   |
|  |        |         |           |   |        | Karate<br>2-3pm<br>               |

**2009-2010 PODS BOARD MEMBERS**  
**Chairperson:** Kristen Finnerty, 585-2962, finnertyk@comcast.net  
**Treasurer:** Sherry Durkin, 383-9818, durkin705@comcast.net  
**Social Chair:** Cindy Rossi, 383-7300, philrossi1@verizon.net  
**Secretary:** Jeanne Kroppa, 983-0425, jpkc@pjd.net  
**Buddy Walk Chair:** Steve Finnerty, 585-2962 or steven\_finnerty@comcast.net  
**The Arc Liaison:** Kelly Carey, 587-0885, rexfordtrail@epix.net

**PLEASE CONTACT KRISTEN FINNERTY AT 585-2962 or finnertyk@comcast.net for more information on the activities listed.**

 **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**PODS MEETING** February 22nd, 6pm  
**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:**  
 Don Broderick, Executive Director of The Arc of NEPA  
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