



May 20, 2011

Join Our Mailing List!



ABOARD *Autism Weekly*

Advisory Board on Autism & Related Disorders

412.781.4116 or toll free: 800.827.9385

ABOARD'S MISSION:

There is considerable debate throughout the autism community about the cause of autism and issues such as vaccination, diet, inclusion, and appropriate therapies. Legislative acts can also influence services to those with autism. Our policy is to inform. We trust that individuals will assimilate the information we provide and make the best decision for their children and clients.

The entire mission statement can be found at
<http://aboard.web.officelive.com/aboutus.aspx>



ABOARD invites you to.....

AUTISM OUTDOORS!

Saturday, June 11th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Rain or Shine! At Allegheny Commons Park next to Lake Elizabeth
(behind the National Aviary) on Pittsburgh's North Side.

A FREE event provided by Venture Outdoors
for people with autism and their families. Activities will include:

KAYAKING - CLIMBING WALL - BIKING - GEOCACHING (treasure hunting with GPS)



Snacks and drinks provided RSVP not required,
but appreciated to help us arrange for enough supplies.

To register go to www.aboard.com

To volunteer or sponsor call ABOARD at 412.449.0165
or email autismnews@aboard.org.

Presented by Venture Outdoors
for the families of Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders (ABOARD)



Join **ABOARD** at this **FREE** fun filled day!

**OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES WITH ASD
bring the entire family, staff & care givers!**

[Click Here to Register!](#)

**We are getting a great response for this event and still are
looking for sponsors or support!**

Our biggest need is water and snacks for the day!

**If you would like to sponsor or interested in sending a small donation
or gift card to help purchase these items please contact
Rebecca Williams-Thomas at ABOARD 412-449-0165**

**Still time to get your ticket to
support ABOARD!**

PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
COMMUNITY PARTNERS CONCERT WITH
BOYZ II MEN
JUNE 23, 2011 • 7:30 PM • HEINZ HALL

PSO
LOH
LARAIA

Join the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Resident Conductor Lawrence Loh for the eighth annual PSO Community Partners Concert. This year's performance features the sounds of Boyz II Men and the winner of the renowned 2011 Sphinx Competition, Paul Laraia. The PSO's Community Partners Concerts have raised more than \$539,000 for partnering nonprofit groups since they began in 2004.

Pittsburgh Symphony Community Partners

Concert Featuring BOYZ II MEN

Location: Heinz Hall

Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 7:30 PM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Tickets may be ordered in any of the following ways:

calling the PSO Box Office at 412.392.4900 or toll-free: 1.800.743.8560

ordering online at pittsburghsymphony.org/communitypartners

coming to the PSO box office in person (600 Penn Ave., in Heinz Hall)

23845 ABOARD - Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders

100% of your ticket purchase benefits ABOARD!

[Click Here for General Conference Information](#)



2011 Conference on **ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICITY AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS**

CONFERENCE DATES

Pittsburgh, PA—June 24, 2011

Morgantown, WV—July 15, 2011

www.envirototoxicityandkids.com

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Today's eblast is provided free to the families through the support of our sponsor!

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QUICK LINKS

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NEWSLETTER

Click here to learn about
What's Happening
at ABOARD and all our
upcoming events, conference
and seminars for 2011!



Part of UPMC Insurance Services, Community Care, a recovery-focused non-profit managed care company that manages mental health and substance abuse services, proudly supports the mission of ABOARD. Visit www.ccbh.com.



**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR FOR HELPING
PROVIDE THIS SERVICE TO OUR FAMILIES
FOR FREE!**

.....Feature.....

Disaster preparedness for persons with autism

Based on the background research of Stephen M. Shore, the Autism Research Institute website noted that many of the ideas relevant to disaster preparedness for the autism spectrum disorder (ASD) population are already being used and materials already exist that can push education and awareness

<http://www.mb.com.ph/articles/318412/disaster-preparedness-persons-with-autism>

Research



Vaccination and Autism - IMFAR Study

One study that was presented at [IMFAR](#) that many people were looking forward to learning more about was an abstract about 'Childhood Vaccinations and ASD: No Relationship Between Number or Schedule of Vaccinations and Diagnostic Outcome or Severity.'

This study concluded that 'These results suggest that childhood vaccines do not increase children's risk of developing autism and do not exacerbate the disorder severity in children who are later diagnosed with autism.'

<http://pediatrics.about.com/b/2011/05/16/vaccination-and-autism-imfar-study.htm>

Sporadic mutations identified in children with autism spectrum disorders

Researchers sequenced the protein-coding sections of the genomes of affected children and their parents to find mutations. Scientists at the University of Washington (UW) Department of Genome Sciences have identified several sporadic or "de novo" genetic mutations in children with autism spectrum disorder. The researchers applied leading edge molecular biology techniques and massively parallel sequencing to simultaneously examine all of the protein coding portions of the genome, collectively called the exome.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-05/uow-smi051611.php

Rochester Autism Researchers Present New Findings at IMFAR

Studies include complementary medicine use, medication use, risk for lead toxicity and nutrition. Rochester researchers are presenting six abstracts on topics ranging from complementary medicine-use rates to nutritional insufficiencies in children with [autism spectrum disorders](#). They even looked at how artificial food dye might affect children with autism.

"It's incredibly important that we find the most effective interventions for children with autism spectrum disorders," said [Susan Hyman](#), M.D., chief of [Neurodevelopmental and Behavioral Pediatrics](#) at URM's [Golisano Children's Hospital](#) and an active autism researcher and clinician.

"We also need to examine whether traditional and non-traditional treatments may be helping or causing harm, and what roles environmental factors may be playing in autism."

<http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/news/story/index.cfm?id=3198>

Rural



Pa. House panel approves GOP budget alternative

The welfare changes include \$160 million in projected savings from rooting out waste, fraud and abuse in safety-net programs. It also includes \$70 million in savings from pushing a June 2012 payment to nursing homes into July, which is in a new fiscal year; and \$50 million in increased copayments on participants in programs such as optional Medicaid services or families with higher incomes that depend on subsidized services such as autism counseling.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9N5TCUO0.htm>

Tentative settlement reached in suit against Bethel school

A federal lawsuit stemming from accusations that a Bethel Park School District employee kissed, touched and engaged in other "sexual contact" with an autistic student has been tentatively settled. U.S. District Judge David S. Cercone wrote in an order Friday that "a settlement has been reached as to all aspects of plaintiff's complaint." Neither the plaintiff's lawyer, nor the district, would reveal terms. Any settlement must be approved by the school board.

The lawsuit alleged that district officials knew that bus aide Paul Kirtley Sr. had behaved inappropriately, and repeatedly, with a special needs student called Jane Doe in court filings, but did not stop it. Mr. Kirtley, 77, pleaded guilty last year to endangering the welfare of a minor and indecent assault.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11134/1146514-55.stm#ixzz1Md5mBBSH>

Judge dismisses autism lawsuit against Gateway

An attempt by two families to get federal courts to change the way the Gateway School District educates autistic children was dismissed Tuesday by U.S. District Judge Arthur J. Schwab, but their attorney said it will be renewed. One family, whose members have not been named in court documents, sued in October, saying that they were told that their son was progressing at Ramsey Elementary School. But when he advanced to Moss Side Middle School, they learned that he was still at the first- or second-grade level. Another family joined, and they sought class action status and demanded retraining of district personnel. Judge Schwab found that the families didn't complete the mandatory pre-lawsuit dispute resolution process outlined in federal law, and the fact that they claimed to represent a class of people didn't allow them to opt out of that route. He said the first family had a due process hearing scheduled at one point, but pulled out in favor of the lawsuit.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11138/1147226-56.stm#ixzz1MocxKOO9>

Education



12-Year-Old Cumming Boy Headed to College

A 12-year-old Georgia boy with incredible gifts despite a lifelong struggle with Autism is heading to college in the fall. The first thing you may notice about Alex Beach is that he is bigger than other kids at martial arts practice. At the age of 12 he also has a giant intellect. He is fluent in Japanese and Latin, composed his own music, and is a whiz at chess.

http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/dpp/news/local_news/12-year-old-cumming-boy-headed-to-college-20110511-tm

Events/Info



ABOARD Support Group Meeting

For a complete listing of the ABOARD Support Groups please see our website at www.aboard.org !

Just Us Parents - Autism Support Group

Find support, encouragement and help in your parenting of a child on the Spectrum Autism, PDD-NOS, Aspergers. Meet other parents; Support one another; Share information and ideas; Get resource information; Meeting the needs of those who attend.

Location/Address Panera Bread Company at 7217 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
(Across from Ross Park Mall)

Time 7pm to 9pm

Monthly First Monday of the month.. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 6

Contact Name Astrid Camille Arroyo and Maureen Wirth

Contact Phone 412-358-0393 or 724-625-0284

Contact Email la.bella@verizon.net or mhwirth@gmail.com

Perspective Program: Intervention Research Study for Adults with ASD

The Perspectives Program at the University of Pittsburgh is developing new non-drug interventions to meet the unique needs of adults with autism spectrum disorders. Individuals with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder NOS, between the ages of 16-40, are now being accepted into the program. All participants will receive one of two new experimental interventions, Cognitive Enhancement Therapy or Enriched Supportive Therapy, at no cost. Participants must be able to come to the University of Pittsburgh on a regular basis. A new session is beginning soon. To enroll or find out more information contact 1-866-647-3436 or autismrecruiter@upmc.edu.

Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent Lane to Speak with Parent-Majority Special Education Task Force

Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Linda Lane will speak with the Local Task Force on the Right to Education (Special Education) on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 6 PM. The meeting will take place at ACHIEVA, 711 Bingham Street (Southside). Parent questions for Superintendent Lane about special education topics at the Pittsburgh Public Schools should be sent to the Chairperson Christine Buffington cnpavlik@msn.com.

Wesley Spectrum Creative Arts Music Recital

The Wesley Spectrum Services Creative Arts Program is proud to announce the 4th Annual Music of the Heart Recital, a celebration of the children and young adults served through the Wesley Spectrum Creative Arts Program. This year's recital will be held at 2:00 on Sunday, June 12 in the Katz Performing Arts Center at the Jewish Community Center of Pittsburgh. Current members of

the program demonstrate their skills and passion for the arts through instrumental playing, singing, dancing and digital media. Donations will be accepted to benefit the Creative Arts Program.

Sensory Friendly Films

Kung Fu Panda 2

Saturday, June 4, 2011

10:00 am

AMC Theatres® and The Autism Society have teamed up to bring families affected by autism a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis.

With Sensory Friendly Films, the movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down. For tickets to this unique experience, please visit the theatre's box office the day of the event.

AMC Waterfront 22

300 West Waterfront Dr.

West Homestead, PA 15120

The Watson Institute Summer Programs - Still Accepting Applications!

The Watson Institute is still accepting applications for our acclimation to college program, ACCLAIM. We are offering ACCLAIM at Robert Morris University, CCAC Allegheny Campus, and Carlow University. For more information about our programs, visit us online at www.thewatsoninstitute.org, or contact us at (412) 749-2883

LIFE SAVING FOR OUR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Wednesday June 1 at 7pm in South Allegheny High School Auditorium. Guest Speaker: Cynthia Garfold for the Western PA Search and Development Center. She will give valuable information on opening communication between special needs children and first responders, as well as, other important topics and Q&A. Sponsored by The Glassport Crime Watch and South Allegheny High School's Special Needs Department. This presentation is FREE to all.

Special Needs Activity Program S.N.A.P.

Is a fun and interactive class for children with special needs. Our purpose is to increase the participants' activity, as well as comfort level, with fitness both on land and in the water. This unique program will allow children of all abilities to experience the joy of physical activity and sport! ***SPACE IS LIMITED*** *Please be prepared for water activity on June 11th & June 25th To Register Please Visit The Community & Recreation Center at Boyce Mayview Park www.livesmarterplayharder.org 412-221-1099 412-221-6964(F) Saturday: June 4th, *June 11th, June 18th *June 25th: Ages 6-11 - 9-10AM and Ages 12-18 - 10-11AM - 4 Classes: \$35.00

The Infant Brain Imaging Study at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

The Center for Autism Research (CAR) is looking at how to identify early brain features that may help improve early detection and intervention for infants at risk for autism. We are enrolling families who have an infant 12 months or younger who have an older sibling with autism, or an older sibling who is typically developing. Babies will come to CAR at 6, 12, and 24 months for developmental evaluations and MRI scans. Parents will receive feedback reports at no cost and will be paid for

their time and travel. To learn more, please contact Stephanie Colantonio, Research Assistant autism@email.chop.edu or 267-426-4914.

Autism Spectrum in your Classroom: It is All About Relationships

This 3-hour event will define Autism Spectrum Disorder and provide participants with insight into the current research and interventions for children with Autism in their classrooms. As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to: Understand ASD definition, diagnostic criteria, myths, latest research in cause and treatment; be familiar with early benchmark for developmental signs and goals for children; identify developmental signs and red flags for children with ASD; and develop an action plan of goals and interventions for use in their classrooms with all children.

6/18/2011

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Office of Child Development (OCD)-University of Pittsburgh

PDO: Southwest Regional Key

PD Instructor: Gloria Rodriguez-Ransom [CI-0906000]

Workshop Code: 029-1204-10/11-K05243

Registration deadline: 6/10/2011

\$15.00 registration fee made out and addressed to:

Gloria J. Rodriguez-Ransom, LPC

Office of Child Development

400 North Lexington Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Allegheny Department of Human Services presents HOPE Spin the wheel to wellness

The spin the wheel of wellness is a free workshop for caregivers to spend some time focused on physical/health wellness, financial wellness, and interpersonal wellness. The day will consist of dynamic speakers, relaxation activities, raffles, a continental breakfast, lunch and networking time to meet with other caregivers from Allegheny County. This event will be held on Monday May 23rd from 9am-2pm at 1 Smithfield St. Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Contact Maya Lyles at (412)-350-3351 to RSVP

The Butler County Family YMCA to Partner with Wesley Spectrum Services to Offer an Inclusionary Summer Therapeutic Activities Program for Children with Autism

The Butler County Family YMCA is partnering with Wesley Spectrum Services to offer a supportive and inclusionary summer camp experience for children with an autism spectrum disorder. The Inclusionary Summer Therapeutic Activities Program (I-STAP) camp will run Monday through Friday, July 11 through August 12, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The camp fee is \$125 per week, plus the cost of field trips.

Campers will participate in arts and crafts, group games, teambuilding and environmental activities, swimming, and weekly field trips. Wesley Spectrum will provide a Camp Behaviorist and Camp

Specialists to offer 4:1 support for campers while integrating therapeutic and individualized interventions based on the principals of Applied Behavioral Analysis. To ensure that each child benefits from participation, all children must meet camp eligibility criteria. Children must be between the ages of five and twelve, have a current Autism diagnosis, Medical Assistance, a prescription for an I-STAP program, as well meet all clinical admission criteria. Contact the Wesley Spectrum Intake Office at 724-443-4888 for an initial phone screening.

F.A.N. Family Autism Night in the Borough of Franklin Park

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2011

Where: Blueberry Hill Park Activity Center

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Fee: \$6 per child

\$8 per adult

We invite your entire family out for a fun and safe place to have dinner together, be yourselves, and socialize with other families.

Crafts and games will be provided to allow the children time to work on socialization skills, or give brothers and sisters a time on their own, while also allowing parents to network and talk.

Dinner will be provided by Eat 'n Park with gluten and dairy free options.

Seating is limited, so register early...

NO LATER than June 15, 2011

Contact Bonnie Hoolahan with any questions at 412.364.4115 ext. 347

REGISTER NOW For

[save the date]

JOEY TRAVOLTA

FILM WORKSHOP

For Students and Young Adults,
ages 14-25



July 18-29th, Monday through Friday
from 10a.m.-3p.m.

This workshop is specifically designed to meet social, communication, IEP, transition, and/or vocational goals.

Please contact us with any questions you may have regarding payment schedules and other sources of funding.

[call or email AHEADD for more information]

877.AHEADD.1 (877.243.2331) | www.aheadd.org | admin@aheadd.org



CLICK HERE TO MAKE A PERSONAL DONATION TO ABOARD!

Your donation qualifies as a charitable deduction. ABOARD is registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Charitable Organizations. To receive a copy of the official registration and financial information, please call 800-732-0990 within Pennsylvania or visit www.dos.state.pa.us.

ABOARD is a member of the The Chamber of Commerce



United Way

United Way of Allegheny County Contributor Choice Agency Number 9817

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Find us on Facebook 

You can also

add a CAUSE Toolbar so every web search will help ABOARD generate funds! <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/toolbar>



GOODSEARCH.COM or GOODSHOP.COM - Select "ABOARD"

OUR MISSION

ABOARD IS DEDICATED TO MAXIMIZING THE SOCIAL, EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL POTENTIAL AND POSSIBILITIES OF PENNSYLVANIA CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS WITH AUTISM AND RELATED DISORDERS. THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION, EDUCATION & TRAINING, AWARENESS BUILDING AND COLLABORATION, WE PROVIDE HOPE AND HELP TO PENNSYLVANIANS CONFRONTED WITH THE CHALLENGES OF AUTISM.

412 - 781- 4116 or 800 - 827- 9385

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