

For our May 4th Meeting, we present:

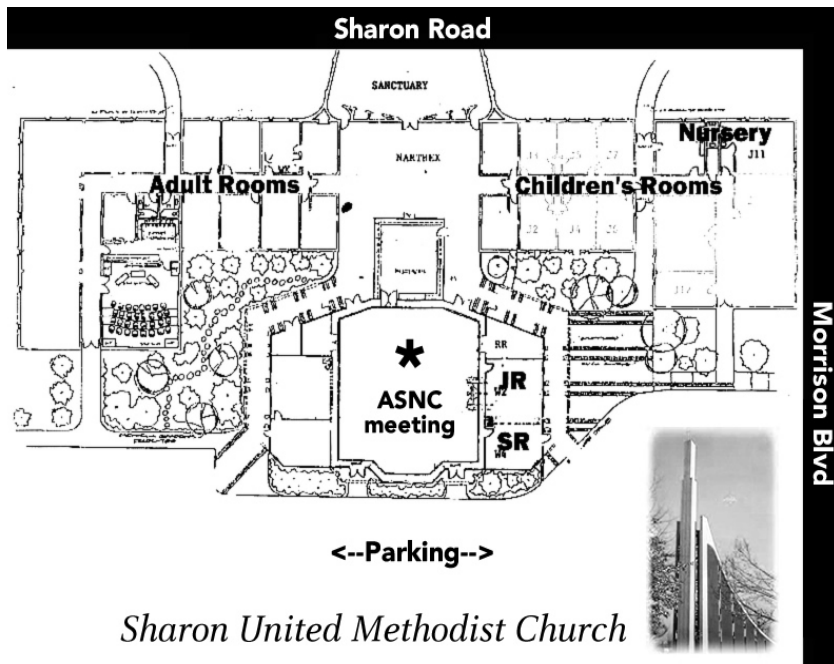
Kathy Fallin: *CMS Autism Program Specialist*

Gina Smith: *CMS Director of Grade Level Curriculum*

Come learn about the variety of settings that serve our kids from Metro to Mainstream, and the skills a child can learn best in each setting! We will also learn about testing changes thus far, but there are more to come.

Doors open at 7 pm. Announcements begin at 7:15. Sessions will begin at 7:25.

Need Childcare at the Meeting?
Call Kathy Snyder by May 2nd 704-341-0199 or kos101@earthlink.net



Remember, our meeting room has been changed to the Multipurpose Room -middle of the building on the parking lot side. Enter the door by the portico.

Meeting Location: Sharon United Methodist Church-4411 Sharon at Morrison Blvd, Charlotte. (Across from South Park Mall – Cheesecake Factory side) Use Morrison Blvd. Entrance to park around back. Our room near the middle of the building.



President's Note:

Summer is almost here. The weather has been teasing us with days in the upper eighties and warm nights. I'm yearning for the slower pace of summer when we follow a more relaxed, but still busy schedule with time for walks in the woods, a dip in the neighborhood pool, ball games, and trips to family out of town.

Summer brings a change of pace for our local chapter. Some board members will be rotating off the board, while others are looking for "Committee Work" so that their board commitment will better fit the needs of their busy lives. We are looking for parents, relatives, or professionals willing to volunteer their time for the betterment of families facing autism in our community. Those with older more settled children and time on their hands are definitely welcome. New parents with a strong desire to network are needed too. Board member duties include the ability to attend most of the monthly support meetings the first Thursday of the month and monthly board meetings the following Tuesday. There must be a willingness to work on a team: to be able to form opinions which will work for the advancement of our group, even though the project may not be your personal choice. Most of all there must be a willingness to work on special projects. Ideas are great, but they don't go far if no one carries them out. Charlotte is growing and so is the number of families who find themselves on our path. In the future, ASNC will be growing to meet the needs of those in our area. Family input will be necessary to guide the programs which will evolve. Those already involved will be the best candidates for filling those roles. So here is your chance to get involved and use skills needed to shape our future. Okay now that's off my mind!!

As you are reading this the Aware Fare has probably already happened, although at my writing, it has not happened yet. I would like to take the time to thank all the people who spent time supporting our event. In a way this year's event was easy because of the work of those before us. Over the past four years, Betsy Gustafson created a framework of tasks to be done so that the event could run smoothly. She had established relationships with several media outlets to promote the event and brought in several businesses and restaurants that have served us over the years. Although she did not run the event this year, Betsy was always ready to check our details and make sure we were on track. She also took on little jobs at the last minute and made sure they got done. Linda Campbell also made our job easier. In the past, she helped us establish relationships with most of the restaurant groups that support us. When we approached her contacts, they were just as warm, friendly and interested in helping again. Because of her dedication in the past, our lives were easier. The new guard has worked hard too - learning unfamiliar tasks and trying to keep the ball rolling. Kathy Snyder got everything we needed to assemble packets and helped get things out quickly. Missy Sargent and Paul Hicks have done beautiful work with graphics designing for all of our work. Their hard work was not as easy as it seems. We could tell "wedding day stories" about this project, but we won't. Even non-board members have stepped up to the plate to help out. The Cavanaughs, the Ceraldis, and Elizabeth Phillippi all brought in corporate sponsors and restaurants again this year. Kristine Dankenbrink brought in two five star sponsors single handedly- which is more than we have ever had!!! Mary Brooks Brown and Bob D'Amelio helped spread the word at the Charlotte Business Expo. Christi D'Amelio, Cindy Williams, Amy Gatch, Patty Flores, Shelley Reilly, Lisa Pangalos, Eric Mitchell, Charles Reitz, and Barbara Reitz all did work behind the scenes to help spread awareness. Big t-shirt orders from A.G., Selwyn, Morehead, and Idlewild Elementary and restaurant take out orders the day of the event; all kinds of people did their part to help out. Now it is done and we are quite thankful for all of you who gave of your time to help out. BIG SIGH!

Nancy Nestor, ASNC-MCC President

May Events

May 4th: ASNC-MCC Parent Support Meeting

The Latest on Educational Options and Testing with Kathy Fallin- Autism EC Director with CMS and Gina Smith- CMS Grade Levels Program Director; 7-9:00 PM; Sharon United Methodist, 4411 Sharon Rd.

May 6th: Transition to Adulthood Workshop

sponsored by ASNC
Saturday, 9:30AM- 12:30PM
Conference Room, 5501 Executive Dr. Charlotte
rsvp to Kim Tizzard or Nancy Popkin: 704-941-6992

May 7th- Shine: Church for people with ASD

Huntersville United Methodist 3:30 – 3:50 pm
contact: Rev. Monica Humpal at 704-875-1156
monica@huntersvilleumc.org.

May 11th & 12th TEACCH Charlotte

Surviving Summer: A workshop for Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders 9-4:00; cost- \$150. NC residents
Contact: Alice Battle: 704-563- 4103
E-mail: battlealice@bellsouth.net

May 15th: STAR Support Group

7:00 PM. Longhorn Steakhouse, Pineville
Contact: pammccarthy@carolina.rr.com ~ call 704-849-7991

May 18th: Coffee Time

9:30 AM Caribou on East Blvd.

June Events

June 1st: ASNC Support Meeting.
We will play Autism Buzzword Bingo.

June 1st: Deadline for TEACCH Summer Classroom Training Registration

Call Jean Williams at 704-563-4103 or e-mail jeanw@med.unc.edu

June 17th Carolinas Computer Access Center of the (CCAC) Open Lab

June 19th – 30th: CCAC Herzog System Typing Keyboarding Classes

TEACCH Summer Classroom Training Program for Professionals who work with Autistic Students

Sessions: June 26-30th
July 10-14th
July 17-21st
July 24-28th

Location: Myers Park High School
2400 Colony Road
Charlotte NC. 28209

Training Staff: Dr. Joyce Lum and
TEACCH Charlotte staff

Training is classroom oriented and will provide direct, supervised experience in a demonstration classroom that has students with autism. Participants will experience working with children of different ages and different skill levels. TEACCH Staff will make use of an intense period of learning, as well as, presentations and demonstrations while working with autistic students. Through the experience, participants will gain a familiarity with the characteristics of autism, classroom assessment for students with autism, structured teaching methods, communication strategies, social and leisure training, behavior management strategies, and skills for working with families.

Cost: \$525. for five days which includes training manual, snacks, lunch, and CEU credits. Attendance is required for five days to receive CEUs.

Contact Jean Williams for application
at 704-563-4103 or
jeanw@med.unc.edu

CCAC Summer Programming

Carolina Computer Access Center, an assistive technology resource center located on the campus of First Ward Elementary School in Charlotte, offers programs throughout the year to teachers, parents, individuals and groups. Demonstration and training on use of various educational software is ongoing. CCAC's Lending Library has over 400 software program titles from which to choose from baby/ toddler levels up to adults. A number of books and augmentative speech devices are also available.

This summer's Offerings:

- 1. Open Lab to explore software--the whole family is welcome- Free, but reservations are needed to insure computer and staff availability.
Three Saturday Dates:
June 17, July 15, & August 12
Times: 10 AM - noon or 1:00- 3 PM
depending on preferences of those registering**
- 2. Herzog System Typing/ keyboarding an alphabetic approach to typing.
For students ages 9 and up
Dates available:
June 19-30 or August 7-18.
Fee -\$100 for all 9 sessions. Students have to be able to attend one hour classes 9 week days in succession.**

**Registrations accepted by June 2.
Please call 704-342-3004 with
questions and to register.**

If you are unable to attend any of the programs, you may still wish to visit CCAC and perhaps join our Lending Library. Once again, our phone number is 704-342-3004.



Selwyn Elementary Student wins Do the Right Thing Award

When Selwyn Elementary principal, Mrs. Beasley, called on teacher nominations for their Do the Right Thing Award, self-contained autistic class teacher, Lora Caudill thought she had a student worthy of winning. At the beginning of the school year one of her students, Michael Martin, had asked her to help him spend more time in the mainstream. He really wanted to be “out” all day. Ms. Caudill had a plan, but needed Michael’s commitment to make it work. Together they created six goals for Michael to work on. Ms. Caudill recognized how difficult it is for one of her students to gain self-control with so many factors in the regular environment working against them. She was hopeful that Michael could attain his goal, but realistic about how difficult it would be for him to do so without someone to help him stay focused. He was strong in his vows to make it work, so they developed goals to be kept in a daily goal planner and she taught him how to monitor his own success several times each day. Because of his determination in attaining his goals and honesty about his progress, Michael made great progress this year. For some time now, he has been mainstreamed the entire day. He has continued to do a great job, even on days when things don’t go so well.

Of course Michael’s family is very proud of him for the award and for all of his hard work, which led up to his winning. With middle school just around the corner, you can be sure Michael will continue using the skills that served him so well this year at Selwyn.

We are very proud of Michael too. It is not often one of our children show such determination and make such big strides in a school year. Our pride is also extended to Lora Caudill, his teacher, who had faith in him and the courage to help him try. No one likes failure and often it is easier to take the safest course; but that is not how we must live in the real world. We must take chances and create plans to follow while we strive for success. Selwyn Elementary also deserves congratulations. This is one of many things done by their dedicated staff to promote personal social and emotional growth for our kids. Great Job!!

Note of Thanks:

Our last meeting was very informative. We would like to express our thanks to Chantelle Wolpert of Duke University's Human Genetics Studies for her update on autism research. We had good attendance at the meeting, but if you were unable to make it, here are some of the highlights:

Over the past ten years, geneticists have studied two genes and have been able to link genetic abnormalities to a few conditions that co-exist with autism. Now they must study ten other genes to determine if subtle differences or genetic combinations can be linked to unknown conditions occurring with autism. It could take several more years before all genetic possibilities are explored.

Through their studies, researchers have seen some correlations: such as a positive relationship between fathers with ASD and sons with autism. This finding suggests that X chromosome defects are not responsible for causing some forms of autism. For more information on autism research at Duke Center for Human Genetics go to www.autism-pdd.net/research.html. The site contains information and facts from several studies.

If you have a family member with autism and your family has not been involved in the studies, but would like more information, please contact Heidi Cope at 1-888-385-3288 or e-mail: autism@mail@chq.duhs.duke.edu. All testing is free and confidential. Much of the preliminary information is gathered through telephone interviews and blood sampling is done by a research team member at your home, so travel to Durham is not necessary.

Attention All Parents Using ASNC Meeting Childcare:

For parents needing childcare during our meetings, it is very important that you call to reserve your spot and call back if you need to cancel. We pay all of our workers for their time watching your children and we need to be sure to have enough adults to provide a safe, enjoyable environment. Because changes can be made at the last minute, and we can hire more people if needed, we ask that you keep us informed of your plans. Remember to call Kathy at 704-341-0199 to reserve or cancel your spot.



Help us get over the hill!

300 applications needed for DMV to produce the plate.

Current count - 190

Interested? Visit www.autismsociety-nc.org and download an application

For our June Support Meeting we present:

Our End of the Year Party: Spectrum Bingo!!

Have fun with your old friends and make some new ones.

Walk for Autism Research Carolinas Chapter



NAAR and AUTISM SPEAKS working together

We are looking for new families, friends, doctors, hair dressers, teachers, business vendors, and the list goes on... Please join us in any way you're able to help our cause!

Walk Date:

Sat. Oct. 7, 2006
Lowes Motor Speedway
Concord, NC

But we need you NOW!

Contact:

Mary Brooks-Brown
@ 704-321-3352 Home
704-968- 9796 cell or
www.autismwalk.org/carolinas

Let's work to solve the puzzle!

Autism Awareness

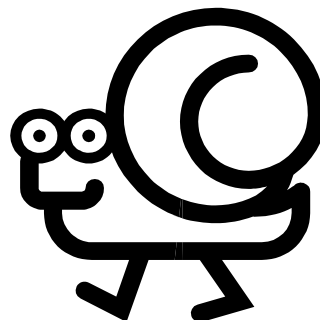
The Ad Council and Autism Speaks announce a National PSA Campaign to Increase Awareness

From www.adcouncil.org :

“Together with **Autism Speaks**, we've launched a new campaign that hopes to raise awareness of the prevalence of autism. Some form of the disorder affects 1 in 166 children. The PSAs, including *Car Seat*, encourage parents to visit www.autismspeaks.org to find out more about autism, including the warning signs... All of the PSAs communicate the startling statistic that 1 in 166 children are diagnosed with some form of autism. The PSAs also encourage parents of young children to visit www.autismspeaks.org to learn the signs of the disorder.”

The campaign launched in April 2006.

Won't that make Nancy's life easier?!



Save the Snails!

Help ASNC –Meck save on postage by receiving Autism Matters in email.

Email njpopkin@aol.com to sign up.

*SURVIVING SUMMER –
PARENT TRAINING FOR FAMILIES &
CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN
WITH AUTISM*

May 11 and 12, 2006

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
APRIL 28TH

SESSIONS INCLUDE:

- LEARNING STYLES OF CHILDREN WITH ASD
- KEEPING STRUCTURE IN SUMMER
- SUMMER LEARNING ACTIVITIES
- SCHEDULES AND CALENDARS FOR TRIPS
- SOCIAL STORIES
- MAKING STORYBOOKS FOR VACATIONS
- COPING TOOLBOXES
- OPTIONAL MAKE & TAKE

**PARENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND EVEN
IF THEY MUST ARRIVE EARLY OR LEAVE
LATE.**

Offered By: Charlotte TEACCH
A Division of UNC Chapel Hill
5501 Executive Center Drive, Charlotte, NC

Alice Battle Charlotte TEACCH Center
Phone: 704-563-4103 Fax: 704-563-4112
E-mail: battlealice@bellsouth.net

**Mecklenburg MadHitters- Adaptive
Baseball League**-for youth and teens
ages 6-21 with disabilities.

Location: Adaptive Field at the Marion Diehl
Recreation Center, 2219 Tyvola Road

GAME DATES: May 6, 13, and 20 (Saturdays).
TIME: 9:00-11:00am.

PRACTICE DATES: May 4, 11, and 18
(Thursdays) **PRACTICE TIME:** 5:30-6:30pm.

Fee: \$50.00 (for weekly games & practices)

Contact: Vernice Gallon at 704.432.3049

**Transition to Adulthood
Workshop**

*Sponsored by the Autism Society of
North Carolina*

Saturday, May 6th 9:30AM-
12:30PM
Conference Room, 5501 Executive
Dr. Charlotte

rsvp to Kim Tizzard or Nancy
Popkin: 704-941-6992

Following the May 6 Transition to
Adulthood Workshop, **Leica Anzaldo**,
ASNC Director of Community Services, will
be leading a discussion regarding ASNC
beginning to provide services for adults
diagnosed with autism in Mecklenburg
County. We want to get feedback from
parents who would benefit from adult
services for their child with autism so we
can develop a plan.

If you would like to attend this meeting, you
must RSVP to make sure we have enough
space.

RSVP to Nancy Popkin and Kim Tizzard,
ASNC Parent Advocates, at 704-941-6992
or by email at npopkin@autismsociety-nc.org
or ktizzard@autismsociety-nc.org



Coffee Time!

May 18th: Coffee Time

9:30 AM Caribou on East Blvd.

Cole #1

Fearless, feral ninja stalks
Chocolate syrup prey
An early bath time, piglet?

Cole #2

Toilet blockage waiting
Goldfish-cracker crime scene
Where are our pants?

Cole #3

Secret-knowing, ocean-going
Puddle-jumping child
Blue-eyed bathtub bear cub
Yawns intoxicating smile

- *With Love to Mommy/Jenny*

*Send us YOUR funny or excruciating
stories for Autism Matters.*

Email: phicks@dogdaddy.com

We Need Your Help - Become a Member!

Join the Autism Society of North Carolina
Membership Form

ASNC Membership (circle level)

Family or individual*	\$30*
Contributing	\$50
Supporting/Corporate/Agency	\$100

*indicate ASNC Chapter name below and ASNC will give back \$10 to your local chapter.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (h) _____ (w) _____

Email _____

ASNC Chapter Name _____

Type of membership(s) (e.g. asnc-family) _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Mail all memberships to ASNC to:

Autism Society of North Carolina

505 Oberlin Road, Suite 230, Raleigh, NC 27605-1345

**ASNC – Mecklenburg County Chapter
c/o Nancy Nestor – President
3846 Lipton Lane
Mint Hill, NC 28227**