

**PLUK eNews For the Week of August 11-15, 2003
Volume 2 Issue 6**

Welcome to the weekly PLUK eNews!

We are proud to present news of interest for Montana families of children with disabilities and chronic illnesses, and for the professionals and educators who serve them, however, it does not constitute an endorsement.

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Smoke over Glacier Park.

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- View an *archive* of all Weekly eNews at <http://www.pluk.org/eNews.htm>

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##

Tae Kwon Do for Kids, August 25, Billings

PLUK, in conjunction with the Shining Mountain Tae Kwon Do School, is offering a Tae Kwon Do workshop for children. The workshop will be at Shining Mountain Tae Kwon Do School, 1615 Alderson Avenue on Monday, August 25 from 2 - 3PM. The workshop will be conducted by Kyle Baluka and his assistants. Please register for this workshop by calling PLUK at 255-0540.



##



RJ Cooper is coming to Billings Aug 28th!

RJ Cooper, a specialist in assistive technology for adults and children with disabilities, will be coming to **MSU-Billings on August 28th** for an **all-day workshop** sponsored by Parents, Let's Unite for Kids and Region III CSPD. During the workshop, Mr. Cooper will evaluate "learners" for a half-hour while demonstrating hardware/software developed by his company. Mr. Cooper has 18 years of experience in problem solving with individuals with various disabilities and ages. Caregivers, parents, professionals and students are all welcome to attend. There is no charge for the workshop. For more information on R.J. Cooper and his products, see his website at <http://rjcooper.com>. (Demo CDs are available at PLUK and the Region III CSPD at the Montana Center on Disabilities).

For more information or to sign up for one of the 8 available half-hour evaluation sessions, contact Roger Holt at Parents, Lets Unite for Kids at 255-0540 or e-mail rholt@pluk.org.

##

Join PLUK at the 3rd annual Founders Day Celebration, September 3rd, Billings

This is PLUK's 19th year of serving Montana families and everyone is invited to the third annual event celebrating the founding of PLUK! Founder's Day is scheduled for September 3rd at 6pm at the Mansfield Center in Billings, Gail Gray will be the keynote speaker. She is the current director of Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services. Attendance is free, but seating is limited.

Anyone interested in attending should call Sheryl at the PLUK office at 255-0540 for reservations, as seating is limited.



##



Reserve your space for Dinosaur Day with Jack Horner, October 11, Billings

A special day of activities, featuring paleontologist Jack Horner of the Museum of the Rockies, is planned for October 11.

The event, titled Dinosaur Day, will include a Workshop for Kids, where Horner will meet with the participants and give a presentation on the field of paleontology and dinosaurs in Montana. The workshop will be held on the Montana State University-Billings campus.

That night, Horner will speak at a dinner for all ages at the Billings Sheraton Hotel. He will talk about how Montana is a dream state for paleontologists and about his work in recent years at Montana sites.

Horner is recognized as one of the most prolific paleontologists in the world. He was the model for Alan Grant in the "Jurassic Park" movies and served as a consultant on the sets.

For information on Dinosaur Day, ticket prices or to reserve tickets for either the Kids Workshop or the dinner, call PLUK's Office at 255-0540 or 1-800-222-7585. Space is limited for both activities.

##



"Make Me a Millionaire" Coupons

The Billings Gazette has started the 2003 version of "Make Me a Millionaire". These coupons will be printed in **The Billings Gazette** daily through September 27. To "buy" items the coupons need to be clipped from the paper and collected and traded for items to be auctioned. **The Billings Gazette** will be holding weekly auctions as well as the final auction on September 27.

PLUK is collecting these coupons in order to bid on some of the items scheduled for the auction. We will use any items we acquire to help raise money at upcoming fundraisers.

Please collect these coupons and drop them off or mail them to PLUK at 516 North 32nd Street, Billings, MT 59101. You don't even have to clip the coupons! Just bring the newspapers to us and we will have volunteers clip them.

SO, START SAVING "MILLIONAIRE" COUPONS NOW!

##

Government/Legal:

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY SAYS NATIVE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ARE UNDERSERVED

WASHINGTON-The National Council on Disability (NCD) today released its report, People with Disabilities on Tribal Lands: Education, Health Care, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Independent Living (http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/tribal_lands.html), which documents that American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) with disabilities living in tribal lands are not receiving the services they are entitled to.

The report reflects the results of a project that was developed and guided to completion in collaboration with AI/AN representatives of people with disabilities, their families, and tribal community leaders.

NCD has targeted the significant, unmet needs of unserved and underserved people with disabilities, including people from diverse cultures, as a policy priority. While people from diverse cultures constitute a disproportionate share of the disability community, they also have unique needs in addition to those experienced by other people with disabilities. With an estimated 22 percent disability prevalence rate, according to national research data, American Indians and Alaska Natives have the most disproportionate rate of disabilities and limited opportunity for access to culturally sensitive programs and services of all races. This is compounded by factors such as high poverty and school dropout rates, geographic isolation from state or local district rehabilitation services and health care, and limited employment options.

Read the complete press release at: <http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/news/r03-428.html>

##

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY APPLAUDS ADMINISTRATION'S NEW COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON-The National Council on Disability (NCD) commends the Administration for its newly proposed "New Freedom Initiative Medicaid Demonstrations Act of 2003," which would help Americans with disabilities transition from nursing homes or other institutions into community-based living settings.

According to NCD chairperson Lex Frieden, "NCD applauds the President's new legislative proposal, which will help eliminate many barriers to full participation in community life for people with disabilities. NCD supports the President's commitment to changing policies that unnecessarily confine people with disabilities to living in institutions. Helping people with disabilities who want to live in their own homes by providing community-based programs that foster independence and community participation is good public policy. Congress should act quickly to enact this proposal."

Read the complete release at: <http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/news/r03-430.html>

##

US Dept. of Commerce Unveils New Initiative to Advance the U.S. Assistive Technology Industry and Meet the Technology Needs for Disabled Americans

July 24 2003 - Speaking on behalf of Commerce Secretary Don Evans, Under Secretary for Technology Phil Bond today unveiled an eight-point Department of Commerce initiative to support the development of assistive technologies and to promote the U.S. assistive technology industry. Bond's announcement came at a special exhibition, featuring 31 assistive technology exhibitors, held to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

"This initiative not only serves our domestic needs by speeding new technologies to individuals with disabilities but it also seeks to expand the U.S. assistive technology industry and boost exports of our products and services," said Secretary Evans. "Since President Bush launched the New Freedom Initiative in February 2001, the Department of Commerce has been working vigorously to turn its promise into reality. We conducted a two-year survey of the industry, we came out with a report this past February, and now we're acting on the recommendations in that report."

View the complete release at: <http://www.technology.gov/PRel/pr030724.htm>

##

Oyez! The Supreme Court, Now on MP3

By JEFFREY SELINGO

The United States Supreme Court is known as one of the least public of all government institutions. Cameras remain off-limits in the courtroom and official audio recordings are usually released months after the justices hear a case.

Despite calls for the court to follow Congress's example in allowing cameras to broadcast its proceedings, the ban is unlikely to be lifted anytime soon. Indeed, Justice David Souter told a congressional committee in 1996 that "the day you see a camera come into our courtroom, it's going to roll over my dead body."

But that hasn't stopped Jerry Goldman from trying to give more people access to the court's proceedings. Mr. Goldman, a professor of political science at Northwestern University, is taking the original audio recordings of the Supreme Court and turning them into MP3 files for free distribution on the Web (<http://www.oyez.org>).

"The human voice contains so much more information than a transcript," Mr. Goldman said. "The anger, the humor, the irony, the frustration, make this a real emotive listening experience."

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/07/technology/circuits/07cour.html?ex=1061216944&ei=1&en=ea4a31e9d765c7aa>

##

News:

Building on the success of the Family and Medical Leave Act

[Stephanie Bornstein, Charlotte Fishman](#), August 5, 2003, San Francisco Chronicle

Ten years ago, during debate over the passage of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, opponents predicted it would cause the demise of the U. S. workplace, and even the economy. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, claimed that mandating the FMLA would not only "destroy job growth and economic growth," but would also "foster a bias against hiring women of child-bearing age." The late Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., echoed that similar mandates in Europe "contributed to a stag[nant] economy and unemployment."

Today, on the 10th anniversary of the FMLA's enactment, history has proved the detractors wrong. According to a study by the Department of Labor, the FMLA has allowed more than 35 million workers to take needed time off from work with virtually no negative impact on employers. Eighty percent of employers covered by the FMLA reported that the law had a neutral or positive effect on their profits and productivity. Eighty-five percent of employees reported either neutral or positive effects when their co-workers took FMLA leave.

Read the complete article at: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2003/08/05/ED118362.DTL>

##

BAUCUS LAUNCHES VISIONNET VIDEO CONFERENCING FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE

Senator Says State-of-the-Art Program Can Help Boost Montana's Economy, Bridge Distances In State

July 29, 2003 (Washington, D.C.) – Montana Senator Max Baucus today held a "virtual meeting" using a new state-of-the-art video conferencing system from his Washington, D.C. office with VisionNet representatives in both Great Falls and Billings.

VisionNet, based in Great Falls, is a consortium of five telephone cooperatives that uses video conferencing to conduct real-time meetings. The company has built a video conferencing network across Montana that will allow Baucus to conduct meetings, chats, and work sessions with Montanans in more than 100 locations.

During the video conference, Baucus praised the technology saying it will help him better serve his "900,000 bosses."

"This is tremendous," Baucus said while "virtually interacting" with the Vision Net representatives in Great Falls and Billings.

"This technology will not only help us work together to create jobs, boost education, and better connect with rural communities, but allows all Montanans to connect with anyone, anywhere as well."

Baucus said he is "excited to put it to good use" and will use VisionNet's videoconferencing service again by holding an August meeting with health care providers on the Medicare and prescription drug legislation pending before Congress.

Bill Baillie, director of marketing and sales at VisionNet's headquarters in Great Falls, said today's video conference showed how effective the service is for communicating over great distances.

Read the entire article at: <http://baucus.senate.gov/~baucus/Press/03/07/2003729C00.html>

##

'Approved' Is Relative Term for Ed. Dept.

By Lynn Olson, Aug 6 2003

At a Rose Garden ceremony in June, President Bush proclaimed that every state had a federally approved plan for ensuring that all students are proficient in reading and math by 2013-14. But follow-up letters lay out a host of conditions that states must meet before their accountability plans under the "No Child Left Behind" Act of 2001 are deemed "fully approved."

In fact, the U.S. Department of Education told only five states—Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Oregon, and Texas—that their plans were fully approved as of July 1. Another six—Florida, Missouri, New Jersey, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming—heard that they would receive final approval as soon as they confirmed that interpretations of specified provisions in their plans were correct.

Thirteen states and the District of Columbia still need to have their accountability plans approved by their state school boards or legislatures to bring them into compliance with the law, a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Many more must provide additional information to the Education Department before receiving full approval.

Read complete article at: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=43account.h22>

##

PROMISING APPROACHES FOR CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Some of the nation's fastest-improving urban school systems are raising overall academic performance while reducing achievement gaps among students of different racial groups. But instead of taking a school-by-school approach, they are tackling education reform on a district-wide basis. In a brief, non-technical video posted on its Web site this week, MDRC, the nonpartisan, not-for-profit public policy research group, profiles some of the most promising lessons drawn from big city school districts. Drawing on research done in partnership with the Council of the Great City Schools, MDRC senior researcher Jason Snipes explains the formidable challenges large urban school districts face and preliminary findings about how districts found common strategies to overcome them. Dr. Snipes discusses how they created a common vision for reform, assigned clear responsibilities and accountability for the school board, superintendent, and school-level administrators and teaching staff, developed uniform district-wide curricula and instructional guidance for teaching reading and math, and used data to measure success and improve classroom performance.

http://www.mdrc.org/announcement_hp_32.html

##

Tall Ships accessible for disabled

By Karen Meyer

August 1, 2003 (Chicago) — More than 20 sailing vessels are docked along the shores of Lake Michigan and the Chicago River as part of this weekend's Tall Ships Festival.

For the first time, people with mobility disabilities have access to some of the ships. Chicago is the first city in the Great Lakes region to provide access for people with disabilities. Three of ships are accessible.

Read the complete article at:

http://abclocal.go.com/wls/news/karenmeyer/080103_disable_tallships.html



##

Health/Medical News:

Stressing Out at the Start of School

(HealthDay is the new name for HealthScoutNews.)

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1437&e=10&u=/hsn/20030806/hl_hsn/stressingoutatthestartofschool&sid=95864962

TUESDAY, Aug. 5 (HealthDayNews) -- Parents should help their children deal with the stress they often feel during the first weeks of school.

That advice comes from Lisa Boyum, a pediatric and adolescent psychologist at National Jewish Medical and Research Center.

"The first and most important step is listening to your child. It underlies everything else. Sometimes listening is enough to initiate the changes you want," Boyum says in a news statement.

She offers a number of tips for parents who want to help their children cope with the stresses of school.

- ❖ Eat together. This gives everyone a chance to talk about the day and whatever issues came up. Talking about a particular concern can help children find the answers they need. Dinner table interactions also help children practice their social skills. Conversations at the dinner table also help parents better monitor what their children are doing and the issues they're facing.
- ❖ Boyum also recommends parents create other opportunities for children to share what's on their mind. That may include regular, predictable activities such as driving to school, walking the dog or washing the dishes. They all provide children with opportunities to talk.
- ❖ Children are often more comfortable bringing up a difficult topic if they know the activity has a finite length that limits potentially unpleasant conversations, Boyum adds.
- ❖ She suggests parents shouldn't rush their answers to their children's questions and concerns. If parents are too quick to speak and interrupt their children with advice or analysis, children can get irritated because they feel the parent is lecturing rather than listening. "It can be OK not to have an answer immediately. It's more important to let the child get things out," Boyum says.
- ❖ If you don't have an answer, tell your child you need some time to think about it before you reach a conclusion.
- ❖ It's also important to reassure your children that they're not alone in their school-related concerns. Make it clear to them that many other students are struggling with the same worries. You can even share some of your own fears and mistakes as a student.

For more information than you ever wanted on stress go to:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/stress.html>

##

Lawsuit Filed Over 1939 Stuttering Study

By TODD DVORAK, Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa - For six months, Mary Nixon and 10 other orphans were relentlessly belittled for every little imperfection in their speech to test the theory that children become stutterers because of psychological pressure.

Sixty-four years later, the experience still stings.

Nixon, now 76, and some of the other test subjects sued the University of Iowa earlier this year over lifelong psychological problems they say stem in part from the 1939 experiment.

Read the complete article at:

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1437&e=10&u=/ap/20030806/ap_on_he_me/stuttering_study&sid=95864958

##

Mental Woes Rife Among America's Youth

By Amanda Gardner, HealthDay Reporter

(HealthDay is the new name for HealthScoutNews.)

MONDAY, Aug. 4 (HealthDayNews) -- America's young people seem to be suffering from a disproportionate level of major depressive episodes, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance abuse problems.

In a new study appearing in the August issue of the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, about 16 percent of boys and 19 percent of girls met the current criteria for diagnosis for one of these three disorders.

Read the complete article at:

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1417&e=10&u=/hsn/20030805/hl_hsn/mentalwoesrifeamongamericasyouth&sid=95832453

##

Transition/Employment/Housing/Advocacy:

"Evaluation of Young Disabled People's Peer Mentoring/Support Project"

This report has been published recently on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation website. The project developed a range of activities to help young people with disabilities develop their confidence and skills as they move into independent adulthood. The report can be found at: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialcare/813.asp>

##

Technology/Web/Resources:

ACCESS LOANS AVAILABLE FROM the Digital Credit Union - DCU

http://www.dcu.org/loans_visa/index.html

Members of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) can join the Digital Federal Credit Union (DCU) to take advantage of this new loan product. Access Loans are now available for any product, device, or building modification designed to assist someone with a disability. Borrow from \$1,500 to \$25,000 or more for up to 72 months with no down payment required. The borrower need not be the beneficiary of the purchase. Qualified purchases include, but are not limited to:

- Powered-non-vehicle transportation such as scooters, power wheelchairs, stair-climbing power chairs, all-terrain wheelchairs.
- Manual transportation such as standard manual wheelchairs, custom sport wheelchairs, and specialized hand cycles.
- Adaptive computer and communications equipment such as air tube systems for spinal cord injuries, voice systems for the blind, educational and rehabilitation systems for children and adults.
- Durable medical equipment such as slings for lifting paraplegics and quadriplegics, breathing systems, specialized beds.
- Rehabilitative equipment such as motorized equipment that exercises muscles and limbs
- Accessible building modifications such as bathroom and kitchen accessibility, ramp installation and widening doorways.

MOBILITY VEHICLE LOANS ALSO AVAILABLE

If you have a disability, there are several types of modified vehicles on the market to help you get around. Unfortunately, lift-equipped vans, vehicles with hand controls, and other modifications can be very expensive. DCU can help make them more affordable by spreading the cost over time. The borrower need not be the beneficiary of the purchase.

You may open a Mobility Vehicle Loan from \$5,000 to \$100,000 and take up to 120 months to repay.

DCU offers convenient repayment methods, including electronically, at a DCU ATM, at any DCU branch, or by mail with a loan payment coupon. If you direct deposit your net pay, Social Security, or pension into your DCU Checking Account and make electronic payments for the full term of your loan, your interest rate will be 1/2% below that for other payment methods. Rates are also based on your personal credit history.

Join AAPD so you can take advantage of DCU's financial benefits. There is no fee to join the credit union; all you have to do is open a savings or checking account for as little as \$5.00. If you are already an AAPD member, or if you would like to join AAPD and DCU at the same time, you can call DCU directly for further information and an application at 800-328-8797 (800-395-5146 TTY). Or visit DCU's website at <http://www.dcu.org> for further information and applications.

##

Teaching Every Student in the Digital Age: Universal Design for Learning

David H. Rose & Anne Meyer, ASCD, 2002

Available on-line at <http://www.cast.org/TeachingEveryStudent>

"Teaching Every Student in the Digital Age: Universal Design for Learning" is the result of 15 years of thought, research, and development conducted by the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) and a number of collaborating individuals, schools, districts, and states. The book is divided into two sections. The first addresses the concept of Universal Design for Learning; the second addresses the practical application of UDL in the classroom. CAST was founded in 1984 with a mission to develop and apply technologies that would expand learning opportunities for individuals with disabilities. . In the years since CAST's inception, however, CAST has shifted toward a new position: the use of technology to transform the nature of the curriculum itself. CAST has published this work in both traditional form and in an online electronic version, demonstrating the flexible, interactive nature of networked digital materials.

##

Buy refurbished apple computers

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

User ID: apple / Password: music

PLUK is an Apple User Group and you may use the logon above to access special deals on Apple computer equipment. Just tell them you are a member of PLUK!

##

What can you do online at the Social Security Web Site?

<http://www.ssa.gov>

To see if you qualify or to apply for benefits:

- [Find out if you're eligible for Social Security Benefits](#)
Use our screening tool to help identify all the different Social Security programs for which you may be eligible.
- [Estimate your benefit amounts](#)
Use our benefit planners to calculate your benefits. (You can do this any time.)
- [Apply for Social Security Benefits](#)
Apply for Retirement, Spouse's, or Disability (including the Adult Disability Report) benefits online.

Note: If you're an Advocate, Attorney or Third Party Representative, [we need additional information from you on the application.](#)

- [Begin or continue the Adult Disability Report](#)
No matter what kind of disability benefits you are applying for, you must give us information about your medical, work, and education history to help us decide if you are disabled.
- [Check the status of your online application](#)
If you applied online for Social Security Retirement, Spouse's, or Disability benefits you can check the status of your application.

##

Most Popular Girls and Boys Names for 2002

From the Social Security Web Site: <http://www.ssa.gov>

Boys

Jacob
Michael
Joshua
Matthew
Ethan
Joseph
Andrew
Christopher
Daniel
Nicholas

Girls

Emily
Madison
Hannah
Emma
Alexis
Ashley
Abigail
Sarah
Samantha
Olivia



##

Back-To-School Transitions: What Parents Can Do

By Ted Feinberg, Ed.D., and Kathy Cowan

Getting a new school year off to a good start can influence children's attitude, confidence, and performance both socially and academically. The transition from August to September can be difficult for children and parents. Even children who are eager to return to class must adjust to the greater levels of activity, structure, and, for some, pressures associated with school life. The degree of adjustment depends on the child, but parents can help their children (and the rest of the family) manage the increased pace of life by planning ahead, being realistic, and maintaining a positive attitude. Following are a few helpful suggestions to ease the transition and promote a successful school experience.

Read the entire article at: <http://www.naspcenter.org/b2shandout.html>

##

ATA Announces New Interactive Information Service

The Alliance for Technology Access (ATA), a national network of assistive technology resource centers, vendors, community-based organizations, and individuals, today announced the launch of The Hub, a free interactive service that provides quick and efficient data on assistive technology products and services. The Hub (<http://www.ATAccess.org/hub>) is the ATA's method of providing a central exchange for people, both sellers and users of technology tools, to interact and exchange information. Unlike search engines, which often return thousands of irrelevant links, The Hub makes it easy for users to find the right assistive technology and connect with the corresponding provider.

##

Training/Workshops/Conferences:

CSPD Region I August workshops:

“CRISS” Creating Independence through Student Owned Strategies, August 13-15, Glendive

This workshop is directed to all content area teachers. Project CRISS represents an integration of research-based practices in reading comprehension, vocabulary instruction and in the models of teaching. Teachers will learn various strategies to present material to help students learn content information. Through application of the strategies, students will gain the ability to apply processes of learning to new experiences. Visit www.projectcriss.com for more information.

Presenter: Maureen Danner

8:30 – 3:00

August 13, 14, 15 (1/2 day) at the Carney Center (Glendive Medical Center) in Glendive, MT (Glasgow site was cancelled)

“Bully Proofing Your Program and Teaching Students How to Stop Bullies”, August 15-16, Glasgow & August 18-19, Miles City

This workshop is very important for teachers, childcare providers and parents to be aware of the characteristics of a bully and the warning signs of a victim. It will provide research on the prevalence of bullying in our country. Bullies that are not stopped and taught new ways to deal with differences will grow up to use these same behaviors in relationships and workplace settings. Every student has a right to an environment that is free from harassment and physical harm.

The objectives of this workshop are: 1) Identify the characteristics and warning signals of a bully. 2) Identify the characteristics of a victim. 3) Identify the emotional trauma caused from bullying. 4) List techniques to teach children to use to stop bullying. 5) Identify strategies to bully-proof the building.

Presenter: Terry Becker-Fritz

8:00-4:00

August 15, 16 – Glasgow High School Auditorium

August 18,19 – Miles City Community College (rooms 106 & 107)

For more information or to register, please contact:

Helen Murphy at 406-485-2143 (H) or dmurphy@midrivers.com

##

REGION V CSPD ROUNDUP

Administrators, general educators, special educators, paraeducators, parents, agency personnel, and others interested in meeting the needs of all kids are invited to participate in all the following workshops.

For information and online registration, go to <http://www.cspd.net>.

TEACCH August 11-13, Whitefish

This workshop provides hands-on experience with materials for participants on the fundamentals of the TEACCH method for working with students with autism and related disorders. Presented by Dr. Roger Cox and Susan Boswell from UNC's TEACCH program.

Sensory Integration Tool Kit, August 12-13, Whitefish

Teachers in today's classrooms, usually without medical training, are being asked to teach students with special needs. Some medications require a doctor's prescription. Some can be taken "over the counter". The SI TOOL KIT facilitates the use of "over the counter" occupational therapy strategies to promote sensory integration in classrooms and homes. Presented by Diana Henry, Occupational Therapist.

August Institute, August 13-15, Missoula

Come and get geared up for the new year with strategies to work with ALL students! Workshops will be held in areas of differentiated instruction, behavior management, low incidence disabilities, early childhood, technology, legal issues, reading & literacy, social skills, and paraeducator training. The list of workshops include the following:

- Multi-Sensory Approach to Teaching: Reading – Part 1
- Orientation to Special Education Academy
- Interpersonal Skills Academy
- Meaningful Work – a Proactive Strategy for Preventing Discipline
- I see it and I understand: visual strategies for children with special needs
- Managing Antisocial behavior
- Common Threads among the rags
- Augmentative communication devices
- Building parent-professional partnerships
- Assistive Technology for successful inclusion
- Packing for college
- Let's read it again – fun preschool literacy activities
- Project RIDE
- Asperger Syndrome and classroom strategies
- Inspiration – hands-on workshop
- Grief and loss
- Framework for poverty
- e-text and WYNN
- Speaking powerfully to advocate for change
- Helping kids take charge of their challenges
- Effective tools for teaching all learners
- What do positive behavior supports look like in preschool
- School and home strategies for children with autism
- Grief in schools
- There is more than one way to use a computer
- Adolescent suicide awareness and prevention training

Paraeducator academy – August 19-20, Kalispell

This two day academy will address skills needed for paraeducators. Participants have the choice of participating in 1) Behavior Management OR 2) Instructional Strategies These academies were developed by the Para Center at the University of Denver.

Paraeducator academy – August 21-22, Libby

This 15 hour academy focuses on the effective supervision of students on playgrounds, in lunchrooms, on school buses and in other instructional settings. Modules include 1) General Principals of Student Supervision, 2) Lunchroom Supervision, 3) Playground and Instructional Environment Supervision and 4) School Bus Supervision. This workshop was developed by the Para Center at the University of Colorado in Denver.

Administering the new WISC-IV, August 26, Billings
Administering the new WISC-IV, August 27, Missoula
Administering the new WISC-IV, August 28, Great Falls

Dr. Roger Frame from the Psychological Corporation will be presenting a workshop for Montana psychologists on the new WISC-IV including new features, psychometrics, and administration. Attendees are encouraged to bring testing kits if they have them.

Understanding Social Cognitive Deficits across the school and home day, November 4, Polson

Designed for parents and professionals to understand the inner mind of persons with social deficits including those high on the Autism Spectrum (Aspergers Syndrome) or with a Non-Verbal Learning Disability.

The Nuts and Bolts of running social thinking programs, November 5, Polson

Designed for professionals teaching small group lessons; parents are welcomed to attend. Small group activities will occur across the day and emphasize how to educators can bring together socially awkward students. A follow-up session will be scheduled for participants to connect back together and review progress, problem-solve, share ideas and consult with Michelle via a conference call.

Improving the decoding & fluency of struggling readers, November 17, Kalispell

Improving the decoding & fluency of struggling readers, November 18, Missoula

Part 1 of a three-part series designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading. Sessions can be taken individually, but it is recommended they be taken as a series.

Differentiated Instruction, January 21-22, 2004, Polson

This workshop will address the diverse learning needs of students in our schools. Participants will explore the concepts and principles of differentiated learning. They will investigate instructional and management strategies that can be used in academically diverse classrooms

Closing the Vocabulary gap: robust vocabulary instruction, February 2, 2004, Kalispell

Closing the Vocabulary gap: robust vocabulary instruction, February 3, 2004, Missoula

Part 2 of a three-part series designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading. Sessions can be taken individually, but it is recommended they be taken as a series.

Click of Reading Comprehension, April 19, 2004, Missoula

Click of Reading Comprehension, April 20, 2004, Kalispell

Part 3 of a three-part series designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading. Sessions can be taken individually, but it is recommended they be taken as a series.

Interested in any of the above workshops? Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: <http://www.cspd.net> or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##

Nurturing Toddlers, Billings, Aug 12 – Oct 28

The Family Tree Center in Billings is offering this 12-week course to parents. Contact them at 252-9799.

##

Seminar on "The Management and Control of Refractory Seizures Utilizing VNS Therapy™ in People with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Particularly Those Who are in Independent Care Facilities (ICF'S)."

This seminar is scheduled for August 14, 2003, from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Continuing Medical Education (CME) accreditation will be offered, and a blue-ribbon panel of experts will be presenting and moderating these sessions. You will be able to interact with these experts online to respond to any questions you might have.

You can register through EP (<http://www.eparent.com>) to participate. To view more details of the seminar, please click on this link: <http://www.eparent.com/webinar/>

##

Autism Montana! 2003, August 15, Butte

Speakers:

Raun Melmed, M.D. a nationally recognized Pediatrician will consider "Diagnosis, Treatment, Toilet Training, Sleep, Behavior, Medication Challenges"

Eustacia Cutler, the mother of Temple Grandin, brings insight into "Raising Temple Grandin."

For more information/registration contact:

Future Horizons, 721 W. Abram St., Arlington, TX 76013 Tel 800-489-0727

Register on line at: <http://www.FutureHorizons-autism.com>

##

Integrating SETT into the Assistive Technology Plan, August 18, Helena

Terry Lankutis, Education and Technology Consultant, and Leslie Mullette, MonTech Technology Coordinator will present the basics of the SETT process (student, environment, tasks and tools) as a team-based approach to make assistive technology decisions. The session will be from 9am-4pm at the Front Street Learning Center. For information, contact Cheri Larson at 447-8585 or 431-9246.

##

West 47th Street documentary showing Aug 19, Billings

This film is about Fountain House, a 50 year old rehabilitation center. Screening will be at the Deaconess Health Conference Center Room A, August 19 at 6:30pm. NAMI of Billings is the sponsor. Call 256-2001 for more information.

##

Positive Approaches to Solving Severe Behavior Challenges, Billings, Aug 19-22

The IABA and Bitterroot Valley Education Co-op, MSU-Billings and OPI are sponsoring four seminars to promote positive practices in the field of challenging behavior. Visit http://www.iaba.com/brochures/billings_flyer.pdf for more information.

##

National Down Syndrome Congress, August 22-24, Philadelphia PA

<http://www.ndscenter.org/newsAndEvents/convention03/convention.html>

As you think about your summer plans, I hope that high on your list is participating in the National Down Syndrome Congress' 31st annual convention in Philadelphia. When I look back over the past thirty years at the life of my son, Todd, I see that my dreams and hopes for him were often conceived or shaped by individuals I met and heard at

national events. In addition, those occasions were key in helping me figure out concrete next steps and strategies to make the dreams become reality.

This year's NDSC convention features outstanding speakers including self-advocates, parents with professional expertise, and committed professionals. Their presentations will cover the life span. Whether your child is an infant, toddler, school age, young adult, or mature adult, there will be many choices for you.

Participants tell us they are especially inspired by the involvement and example of the self-advocates whom you will see as leaders in all parts of the convention.

The NDSC is committed to making the convention as affordable as possible for families. By carefully managing our costs and through the generosity of our speakers who donate their time, we are able to keep the cost of registration low for a national convention of this scope and quality.

Whatever the age of your family member or student with Down syndrome, you are sure to find both information and inspiration at our convention August 22-24.

I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Judy Mart, President

##



RJ Cooper is coming to Billings Aug 28th!

RJ Cooper, a specialist in assistive technology for adults and children with disabilities, will be coming to **MSU-Billings on August 28th** for an **all-day workshop** sponsored by Parents, Let's Unite for Kids and Region III CSPD.

During the workshop, Mr. Cooper will evaluate "learners" for a half-hour while demonstrating hardware/software developed by his company. Mr. Cooper has 18 years of experience in problem solving with individuals with various disabilities and ages. Caregivers, parents, professionals and students are all welcome to attend. There is no charge for the workshop. For more information on R.J. Cooper and his products, see his website at <http://rjcooper.com>. (Demo CDs are available at PLUK and the Region III CSPD at the Montana Center on Disabilities).

For more information or to sign up for one of the 8 available half-hour evaluation sessions, contact Roger Holt at Parents, Lets Unite for Kids at 255-0540 or e-mail rholt@pluk.org.

##

"Choices": Montana's Senior and Long-Term Care Conference, Sep 3-5, West Yellowstone

The Community Services Bureau (part of the Senior and Long Term Care Division of the Department of Public Health and Human Services) is having its fifth annual conference in West Yellowstone on September 3, 4 and 5, 2003. The theme of the conference is "Choices", emphasizing that Montanan's have the right to choose how to live in their communities. On a professional, or a personal level, the sessions are designed to encourage and excite you with their content and presentation!

Some of the session topics include: a multi-disciplinary panel discussion on ethical dilemmas; the benefits of laughter and music to improve mood and reduce pain; cultural competence; the New Freedom Initiative; burnout and compassion fatigue; Children's Special Health Services; Sexuality and Aging; Medicaid eligibility; the long term care ombudsman program; and challenges of caregiving and Alzheimer's.

The keynote speaker is Fred Cowie, whose theme will be "Caregiving, Collapsing, and Continuing On." Fred has a varied background in disaster and emergency services, and is currently a consultant with Montana Department of Justice regarding meth lab conferences. He is an entertaining and highly sought after speaker, having spoken at many conferences and training sessions on topics such as stress management, emergency preparedness, and personal development. Fred is also an artist, and the father of a young man with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. In recent years he has gone from his role as parent, to caregiver, to paid caregiver, and now has once again reverted to his role as "Dad."

For more information, or to register for the conference, call Karen Antonick at 406-444-6995.

##

Addiction, Recovery and the Family, September 11-13, Whitefish

The 8th Annual Rocky Mountain Mental Health Symposium, sponsored by Pathways Treatment Center & Kalispell Regional Medical Center, is scheduled for September 11-13, in Whitefish, MT.

This symposium will provide a forum for exploring the most up-to-date information on addiction issues facing families, as well as the treatment applications facilitating recovery.

For information & registration, call 866-755-4658, or visit <http://www.mtreservations.com> or <http://www.krmc.org>.

##

Autism and Sleep Disorders, Billings, Sep 26



The Sleep Summit scheduled for September 26 in Billings will include a session on Autism and Sleep Disorders, Friday, September 26 from 2:00-3:00pm.

Dr. David Harrell will share information on his research on the sleep of autistic children. He also has experience with autism on the practical side (autism appears within his family).

There will be sessions all day on sleep issues. The summit will take place at the Burns East Auditorium in the Mansfield Education Center (located on 12th Ave across from Saint Vincent Hospital in Billings). There is no charge for attending.

For more information, contact Karen Allen at the Sleep Center, 238-6815.

http://stvincenthealthcare.org/our_health_services/neurology_sleep_disorders.asp

##

Conference on Social, Emotional and Academic Interventions for Students with High-Functioning Autism and Asperger Syndrome with a Special Session on Bullying Preventions, October 3-4, Boise, ID

<http://www.asperger.net/conferences.htm>

Speakers: Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D. & Rebekah Heinrichs, MSN, M.S.Ed.

CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

As a result of attending this conference, participants will be able to:

- Understand the characteristics of Asperger Syndrome
- Understand and implement sensory interventions Implement academic, social and behavioral interventions that facilitate school success
- Teach hidden curriculum items to their students
- Understand how to prevent bullying from occurring in schools

##

Augmentative Communication Workshops in the Rockies, October 2, Billings

This CAMA sponsored session will present a number of the leading manufacturers of AAC hardware and software at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center on October 2, 2003. For complete information, go to <http://www.aacproducts.org>

##

Fourth Annual Conference on Autism and Asperger's: Mapping the Journey, October 17 & 18, Edmonton, Alberta

<http://www.keystotreasures.com/>

Take advantage of our early registration special by September 15, 2003.

Oct. 17, 2003, Carol Gray

Carol is the editor of the Jenison Autism Journal, and is a consultant to students with ASD through the Jenison Public Schools (Jenison, Michigan). She is also the president of the Gray center, a facility dedicated to individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and those who work alongside them to improve mutual understanding.

Oct. 18, 2003, Dr. Tony Attwood

Dr. Attwood is a world-renowned expert on Asperger's Syndrome and author of the best-selling book of that name.

"The most significant issue that parents face is a lack of understanding and inappropriate attitudes towards those with Asperger's Syndrome." -*Dr. Attwood*

##

Echoes of Abuse: Traumatic Brain Injury, October 30-31, Billings

The Brain Injury Association of Montana and Billings Area Family Violence Task Force are sponsoring the 14th annual McGuire Memorial Conference on Family Violence to be held in Billings October 30-31.

##

Workshops on Communication Strategies for Children with Severe and Multiple Disabilities: August 4 - October 6, 2003

Presented by Oregon Health & Science University, and in association with the Oregon Institute on Disability & Development (UCEDD) these two-day workshops are designed for professionals and parents and address Pre-symbolic Communication and Tangible Symbol Systems. A special half-day seminar for parents is also offered, free of charge. Strategies are especially appropriate for children with low-incidence disabilities including severe cognitive limitations, deaf blindness, autism spectrum disorders and multiple disabilities. Academic, continuing education credit, and ASHA credit will be available. Presented at three locations this summer and fall.

For more information contact: Alexandra Dorinson, 1-800-410-7069 ext. 102, dorinson@ohsu.edu. Visit the website at <http://www.designtolearn.com>.

##

Technology Conferences, August - October

Distance Teaching and Learning, Madison, WI, August 13-15.

See <http://www.uwex.edu/disted/conference/>

Information Technology: "From the Classroom to the Boardroom," Philadelphia, PA, August 13-17

<http://www.bdpa.org/ccentral2003.cfm?CFID=710318&CFTOKEN=38639016>

"Making Information Technology Work for Rural Communities: High Speed Telecommunications Services are the Future Building Blocks of Rural America." Washington, DC, September 28-October 1. See <http://ruraltelecon.org/RTC03/rtc03.htm>

Closing The Gap: Computer Technology in Special Education and Rehabilitation, Minneapolis, MN, October 14-18. See <http://www.closingthegap.com/>

##

Announcing: A Series of Conference Calls on the Social-Emotional Development of Young Children

The Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, with support from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, is launching a series of 10 conference calls focusing on the social-emotional development of young children (birth through five years old). The target audience for these calls includes early care and education providers, agency administrators, technical assistance providers and others working with young children and their families.

THESE CALLS WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 1:00-2:30 pm (EST) ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

Date	Topic
9/24/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring Cultural Competence in Practices with Young Children and Families
10/29/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brain Research• Attachment
*11/19/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curricula for Promoting Healthy Social-Emotional Development
*12/17/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Screening & Assessment for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers
1/28/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Impact of Maternal Depression and/or Substance Abuse on Young Children
2/25/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Young Children Involved with Child Welfare
3/31/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ECMH Consultation Models
4/28/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationship-based Interventions
5/26/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children & Trauma

National experts will serve as presenters, as will practitioners who are involved in promising practices. Presentations will highlight effective strategies for delivering family-driven, culturally appropriate services in community-based settings. Up to 200 individuals per call will be able to participate on a first-come-first serve basis. Handouts, including PowerPoint presentations, will be provided to people who register for the calls.

****Please send an email to mk73@georgetown.edu (MelKisha Knight) if you want to be added to the list for the first call.
Materials will be emailed to you. More information to come!

##

1st International Conference on Family-centered Care, Sep 4-6, Boston MA

WHEN: September 4, 2003 - September 6, 2003

WHERE: Boston, Massachusetts

HOSTED BY: Institute for Family-Centered Care

DESCRIPTION: Family-centered care is an approach to the planning, delivery, and evaluation of health care that is grounded in mutually beneficial partnerships among patients, families, and health care providers. It is founded on the understanding that the family plays a vital role in ensuring the health and well being of family members of all ages.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.earlyonmichigan.org/Conferences.htm#5>

##

FROM PRACTICE TO POLICY AND BACK AGAIN: 19th Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Oct 12-14, Washington, DC

WHEN: October 12, 2003 - October 14, 2003

WHERE: Washington, DC

HOSTED BY: Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.earlyonmichigan.org/Conferences.htm#6>

##

Fun Events

Tae Kwon Do for Kids, August 25, Billings



PLUK, in conjunction with the Shining Mountain Tae Kwon Do School, is offering a Tae Kwon Do workshop for children. The workshop will be at Shining Mountain Tae Kwon Do School, 1615 Alderson Avenue on Monday, August 25 from 2 - 3PM. The workshop will be conducted by Kyle Baluka and his assistants. Please register for this workshop by calling PLUK at 255-0540.

##

PLUK Founders Day Celebration, September 3rd, Billings



This is PLUK's 19th year of serving Montana families and everyone is invited to the third annual event celebrating the founding of PLUK! Founder's Day is scheduled for September 3rd at 6pm at the Mansfield Center in Billings, Gail Gray will be the keynote speaker. She is the current director of Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services. Attendance is free, but seating is limited.

##

Blue Jack Band Benefit, September 20, Bozeman

The Bozeman area Associate Board is planning a benefit concert on September 20 featuring *The Blue Jack Band*. *The Blue Jack Band* plays a wonderful mix of jazz and blues and has broad



national recognition. In recent years they opened for legendary blues performer B.B. King and others. Further details on locations, times and other announcements will come soon. Call PLUK's office if you are interested in being involved, 255-0540.

#



Missoula Children's Theatre Tour, October 5-11, Kalispell

The Flathead Valley Associate Board is working on a fall event. They have been meeting regularly and finalizing details at this time. It will involve a weeklong project for children to perform a play in the Kalispell area. The dates are October 5 through the 11th. This event will link up with the Missoula Children's Theatre. The Theatre will send staff to Kalispell to handle the auditions, training and direction for the entire week. For more information or to be involved with the event, call Stephanie Luehr, PLUK's representative in Kalispell at 881-4421. Details and plans on the event will be provided and there are presently positions to be filled on the planning committee. Volunteers are needed.

#

Dinosaur Day with Jack Horner, October 11, Billings



A special day of activities, featuring paleontologist Jack Horner of the Museum of the Rockies, is planned for October 11.

The event, titled Dinosaur Day, will include a Workshop for Kids, where Horner will meet with the participants and give a presentation on the field of paleontology and dinosaurs in Montana. The workshop will be held on the Montana State University-Billings campus.

That night, Horner will speak at a dinner for all ages at the Billings Sheraton Hotel. He will talk about how Montana is a dream state for paleontologists and about his work in recent years at Montana sites.

Horner is recognized as one of the most prolific paleontologists in the world. He was the model for Alan Grant in the "Jurassic Park" movies and served as a consultant on the sets.

For information on Dinosaur Day, ticket prices or to reserve tickets for either the Kids Workshop or the dinner, call PLUK's Office at 255-0540 or 1-800-222-7585. Space is limited for both activities.

#

Magical Tymes Party, November 11, Missoula

The Missoula Associate Board third annual "Magical Tymes Party," has been scheduled for November 11, 2003. Deborah Hayes Hyde is the Chair of the event and Ramona Holt is chairing the Sponsorship Sub-Committee. For the last two years, this event has been held in conjunction with a play at the Missoula Children's Theatre. In addition to the play, participants may attend a "wine and cheese party" and a silent auction.

This year the play is *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Companies and groups are now lining up to sponsor the event and the committee assures us that it will be the best to date, by far! For more information on how to become involved, call PLUK's office at 800-222-7585 and we can put you in touch with the planning committee.

#

Be sure to mark your calendar with these future events:

- Kids at Heart Banquet, February 7, 2004, Billings
- Sports Festival, March 2004, Billings

#

Selected Sources:

1. *Monday Morning in Washington, DC*, <http://www.inclusionresearch.org>
2. *Rocky Mountain DBTAC*, <http://www.adainformation.org>
3. *Transition Newsflash*, Montana Center On Disabilities, <http://www.msubillings.edu/transition>
4. *PEN Weekly NewsBlast*, <http://www.publiceducation.org>
5. *Reference Points: Transition updates from the TATRA Project*, <http://www.pacer.org/tatra/tatra.htm>
6. *Lisa Simmons, The Ideal Lives Express*: <http://www.ideallives.com>
7. *The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar* <http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm>

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Mission Statement: Parent's Let's Unite for Kids unites parents, professionals, families and friends of children with special needs to support one another, and share information for the benefit of their children.

Vision Statement: Given information and support, individuals with disabilities and their families will feel empowered to advocate for themselves and participate fully in educational and community opportunities.

Statement on accessibility: Today, we endeavor to be conscious of the need for making all electronic information accessible as we are aware of physical accessibility issues in our community. For design guidelines visit: <http://ncam.wgbh.org/cdrom/guideline/>.