

Calendar of Events

- December 5th **Holiday Party**
Buffalo Academy Sacred Heart
11AM
- January 13th **Transitions from EI/CPSE/CSE**
Medaille College, Room M102
7PM
- February 6th **Valentine Dance**
Magruders
4995 Broadway, Depew
5:30PM
- February 20th **UB Bulls Basketball**
Alumni Arena
175 Webster Road
Amherst 14221
3:30PM
- March 6th **Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Auction**
The Columbus Hall
2735 Union Road, Cheektowaga
4:00PM

The DSPG News is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November



DSPG of WNY, Inc.
547 Englewood Avenue
Kenmore, New York 14223



REMINDER: Save those Pop Tops! If you are interested in a collection house please contact michgiambra@gmail.com Ronald McDonald House of Buffalo benefits for the donation of collected Pop Tops.



DSPG News

November 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOP Soccer Starting in Amherst November 7

TOP Soccer is a program for all athletes with special needs, ages 5-19. Amherst Residency is not required. The next session will begin November 7, 2015@ 6:30pm at the Village Glen - 162 Mill Street, Williamsville.

The program is set to run on the following dates:
November 7, 14, 21, December 5, 12, 19, January 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, 27

REGISTER at http://www.amherstsoccer.com/Registration/index_E.html or e-mail registrar@amherstsoccer.com for more info or questions about TOPSoccer.

Holiday Party December 5th

Celebrate the holidays with DSPG family and friends at our annual Holiday Party, Saturday, December 5, 11am-2pm. Students at the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, 3860 Main Street, will continue their long tradition of hosting. Enjoy games for the younger kids as well as Buffalo Animal Adventures. If you would like your children to receive a gift from Santa, please bring them wrapped and labeled. DSPG will provide pizza and beverages and families are requested to bring an item of food. Last names beginning with A-M please bring a side dish and N-Z please bring a dessert. RSVP to Barb at bb.wakefield1@verizon.net by November 27 to let her know what you are bringing.

Transitions from EI/CPSE/CSE January 13th

Join us Wednesday, January 13 at 7pm in room M102 at Medaille College where Vicki Rubin from ECDC will speak on the transition process from Early Intervention to school age.

**** At 6:30pm, prior to our meeting, we invite you to bring any gently used materials your child has grown out of, (books, DVDs, halloween costumes, etc.), to share with another family. Please do not leave any unclaimed items behind.**

UB Bulls Basketball Game February 20th

Bring your family to watch the UB Bulls take on Bowling Green courtesy of the DSPG on Saturday, February 20 from 3:30 - 5:30pm at Alumni Arena. Activities for kids and concessions will be available.

For tickets contact Janet Poreda at janpo788@aol.com. Immediate family only please.

Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Auction March 6th

The 2016 Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle will be held at The Columbus Hall, 2735 Union Road Cheektowaga, 14227 from 4pm – 6:30pm on Sunday, March 6. We are looking for a few volunteers for the event, and will also be accepting basket donations along with donations of baked goods for the dessert table. If you are interested in donating a basket item, please email Barb Wakefield at bb.wakefield1@verizon.net. To volunteer or for ticket information call Trish Winnicki at 445-2177.



Valentines Dance February 6th

The Valentines dance will be Saturday, February 6, 2016 from 5:30 to 9:00 pm, at Magruders, located at 4995 Broadway in Depew. Please RSVP by Monday, February 1, so that we can ensure adequate food and seating. The DSPG will provide pizza, salad and drinks. Families with the last names A-M are to bring dessert, and families N-Z will bring an appetizer.

Since the dances are so well attended we are requiring an RSVP in advance in order to prepare the space and ensure that we are within capacity limits of the venue. Please RSVP to Lynette at liph@roadrunner.com

Thank You To Our Donors

Jim and Kathy Andruschat & LaVerne and Sue Weber - raised money at a neighborhood fundraiser along with family and friends.

Kevin Slachciak & Say Cheese - donated the proceeds from the Say Cheese Golf outing.

St. Mary of Swormville Roman Catholic School - donated all proceeds from a dress down day.



Congratulations to Our New Board Members!

Five Board Members were elected at our Annual Meeting on September 16. Treasurer, Janet Poreda, Secretary, Bonnie Zon, Communications Coordinator, Michelle Giambra and two Members-at-Large, Jason Brydges, and our newest member Wendy Slisz.

Congratulations and thank you for your service to our group!

Welcome to the following new families:
The Williams Family

National Down Syndrome Convention

The next NDSC Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida: July 21-24, 2016
Keep an eye on their website for more details:
<http://www.ndsccenter.org/the-convention/>



<https://www.facebook.com/DSPGWNY>

Step Up for Down Syndrome 2015

We had a beautiful day for family and friends to gather for the 8th annual Step Up for Down Syndrome Awareness Walk on September 26. Thanks to everyone who came out to support our kids. Special thanks to the Bisons, Strictly Hip, Moving Miracles, Danceability, Katie Schneider Photography and all our generous sponsors:

- Basil Toyota
- West Herr Automotive
- Azerty
- Classic Windows and Doors
- Eberl Iron Works
- In Memory of Ethan Michael Ciesiulka
- Lakeside Concrete
- TEAM NICK
- The Quilted Squirrel
- Tops Friendly Markets
- Wende Correctional Facility
- Affordable Tent & Bounce
- Architectural Resources
- Bornhava
- Landmark Wealth Management
- L & M Financial Services
- Parent Network of WNY
- SKROBACZ & Company Certified Public Accountants, PC.
- Stamm Law Firm
- Wegmans
- Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled
- Four Seasons Child Care
- Grove Roofing Services, Inc.
- Kenmore Volunteer Fire Dept
- The Ballow Law Firm
- Webster Szanyi, LLP



DSPG Fall Dance

The Fall Dance was a huge success! The kids danced the night away with music from Hank the DJ and loved their hand painted pumpkins donated by Adella. Thank you Adella! It was an enjoyable evening for all.



A Day at Fantasy Island

Beautiful weather contributed to a fun day at the DSPG Picnic held at Martin's Fantasy Island on August 2nd. We held our largest picnic this summer with 128 people in attendance. Tickets were sold to group members for only \$15 which included all day admission to Martin's Fantasy Island along with a buffet lunch. The DSPG donated \$1,000 this year to keep the cost reasonable for our families. We are looking forward to another enjoyable picnic in 2016!

DSPG Scholarships

We would like to remind our members that the DSPG offers 4 conference scholarships per year (\$250.00 per scholarship). Scholarships will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. A proof of conference registration must accompany the request in order to be awarded. Individuals who have been awarded a DSPG Scholarship will be requested to present information received from the conference either in writing which will be featured in a future publication of our newsletter or presented at a DSPG meeting. There is a limit of one scholarship awarded per family per 5 year period. For more information please contact the DSPG at dspgwny@gmail.com



Young Athletes

We are looking for new families to join our Special Olympics Young Athletes group. The program will run from 2:00-3:00 in the Medaille College gym. Children ages 2 1/2 to 8 enjoy games and activities that develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Young Athletes is an early introduction to sports and to the world of Special Olympics. The children learn new things, play and have lots of fun! If you have a child between the ages of 2 and 8 who are interested, please contact Melissa Garrity at mgarrity76@gmail.com. The Young Athletes, as with all Special Olympics programs, it is open to all children with developmental disabilities.

DSPG BOARD MEMBERS

Presidents:

Amy Monson
677-0604

Barbara Wakefield
983-2140

Vice Presidents:

Gretchen White
834-0853

Trish Winnicki
445-2177

Treasurer:

Janet Poreda
695-1299

Communications Coordinator:

Michelle Giambra
517-7961

Secretary:

Bonnie Zon
632-0137

Members at Large:

Jason Brydges
830-8636

Tracey Flick
228-5002

Leah Marchewka
631-7505

Wendy Slisz
465-7574

President Emeritus:

Carol Hetzelt
832-4972