

DAP-PAC Donation Form

I would like to make a donation to the Delaware Autism Program's Parent's Advisory Council on behalf of:

_____ (Student Name)

Enclosed is my donation in the amount of:
\$ _____

If making a donation of more than \$200, complete the portion below to receive a Thank You letter that can be used as a tax receipt.

NAME: _____ (First & Last)

ADDRESS: _____

(According to current tax laws, you only need a receipt if you donate more than \$200 to any one non-profit organization)

Please make checks payable to:

DAP-PAC

NO CASH PLEASE!

Please complete and return this donation form along with your check to the person who gave you this brochure. Or, you may mail it directly to DAP at:

**Delaware Autism Program
144 Brennen Drive
Newark, DE 19713
ATTN: PAC MAILBOX**

Donations are also now being accepted online at:
<http://dap-families.bravehost.com/>
Click on "Fundraising/Online Donations"

**We sincerely thank you for your support of the autism community in Delaware and everywhere!
Valerie Wells, President,
Parent's Advisory Council.**

Other Ways You Can Help

Box Tops For Education

Collect Box Tops For Education. Send them in to school at any time of the year with the student's name & "Box Tops".

DAP earns 10 cents for every Box Top collected.

Our '08/'09 goal is 6000 Box Tops for a profit of \$600!

That's less than 17 box tops per DAP family.

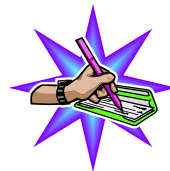
With your help, we can do it!



By far our most lucrative fundraising partnership is our ink cartridge recycling program with over \$1000 earned last year.



This program couldn't be easier! Simply bring or send your used ink jet and laser cartridges into school. We send them to Rapid Refill for cash!



Tax deductible donations are accepted throughout the school year. Make checks payable to PAC. Thank you for your support!



**The Delaware
Autism Program's
Parent's
Advisory
Council**



**All About Autism
and the
Delaware
Autism
Program**

*Together We
Make a Difference
For Our Children
And Our School*

All About Autism and the Delaware Autism Program

About Autism

Autism by definition is a term that refers to a collection of neurologically-based developmental disorders in which individuals have impairments in social interaction and communication skills, along with a tendency to have repetitive behaviors or interests. The severity of autism varies greatly, from individuals with little or no speech and poor daily living skills, to others who speak and function well in most settings.



The face of autism

Most autistic individuals look like you and I with no outward signs of a disability. However these same individuals may throw a tantrum or display self-injurious behaviors for no apparent reason. That is why it is often difficult and sometimes a source of great anxiety for parents of autistic children to be in public settings with their children. Awareness that not all screaming children are misbehaving or lack parental control is the key to acceptance. This, I believe, is something that every parent and person who works with autistic individuals strives for.

1 in 150 babies born in the United States will have some form of autism. This is up more than 300% from only 10 years ago. Much of this can be attributed to better diagnostic skills by practitioners. Others say that the environment is growing increasingly saturated with chemicals and preservatives that were not present even as recently as 20 years ago.

The Delaware Autism Program

The Delaware Autism Program or DAP is the nation's largest public school that is dedicated to serving autistic individuals. We are a year-round program who's student's can range in age from birth to 21. Currently, our

youngest student is 2 years old.

We are currently serving more than 330 students at the DAP. However, we have 12 month rolling admissions so our student numbers can change monthly.

The main "headquarters" of the DAP is located at The Brennen School in Newark, DE where we serve more than half of our student population. However, we have classrooms in 14 other Christina School District schools as well as pre-school classrooms at 2 local churches. DAP classrooms have a very low student to teacher ratio. The average class has 5 students, 1 teacher and 1 paraprofessional.

Currently, we have more than 275 staff members at DAP which include, Classroom teachers, Paraprofessionals, Speech Therapists, Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Adaptive Pys-Ed Teachers, nurses, administrators, office staff and support personnel.

DAP has been a pioneer in many of the therapies used worldwide for individuals with autism. With assistance from DAP's amazing staff, former DAP director, Andy Bondy developed the PECS or Picture Exchange Communication System in which a student will show a picture to express his/her wants or needs was developed right here in Delaware. The PECS system is used worldwide by individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities.

DAP is truly a special and unique place for our very special children to learn and grow. We are so very lucky to have such a program.

Where Does the Money Go?

The money we raise each year is put to good use in a variety of ways from staff appreciation & fun student events to supplies need by individual classrooms and beyond.

Here's a list of events/items that the PAC funds for the students, staff and families at the Delaware Autism Program:

- **Free Childcare for all PAC Meetings** and PAC sponsored presentations.
- **Holiday Staff Appreciation** Event where all 250+ staff members receive a holiday gift

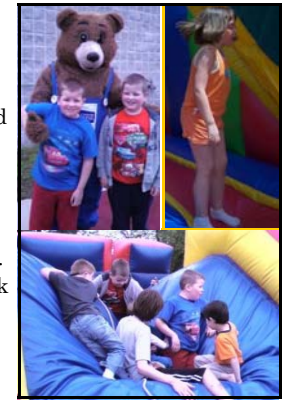


Movie Night

- **DAP Family Movie Night** where we show a movie on the big screen in the gym and allow students to walk around, make noises, etc. All with no SHHHHH's from anyone.

- **DAP Dinner Dance** where our older students gather for a prom style event giving them important social opportunities that their typical peers also enjoy.

- **DAP Day of Fun** where we completely fund a carnival style event for students and their families where they can enjoy moon bounces, mid-way games, character visits and yummy treats. And parents can check out our more than 30 vendors who offer information and products to make their lives easier.



Staff Appreciation Breakfast

- **Spring Staff Appreciation Breakfast** where we set up as well as deliver breakfast treats for each and every staff member at DAP.

- **School Donations:** The PAC makes donations to individual classrooms based on needs and to the school community such as the 3 adult tricycles donated just this year.

Our Goal

Our goal this year is to make \$10,000 with this drive which is just slightly more than last year. That's just about \$28 per family to easily reach that goal.

Please know that your dollars count! We understand that not everyone will be able to donate a large sum of money. That is why we want you to know that no amount is too small. All of the money will add up in the end.

Additionally, the classrooms with the highest dollar amount of donations, will receive a Pump It Up Party which our kids LOVE!

So, please, reach into your hearts and pockets and give what you can to a great cause.

Thank you in advance for your support of DAP and autism in Delaware and everywhere!

THANKS!!