

WHAT'S NEW

Salinas Circle for Children

Meeting Date

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

6:30pm to 8:00pm

Location: JG Parker Office
1368 South Main St, Suite A
(next to Portobellos)

Rodeo Volunteers

Save the Date!

Friday, July 10th
Bull Xing Tent
Aerosmith Concert

Friday, July 17th
Bull Xing Tent
California Rodeo

Saturday, July 18th
Bull Xing Tent
California Rodeo

Can You Help??

Fill out the attached application to bring with you

Sign up for an ABC class

Contact Vickie at vickie.casacca@robinsonfresh.com for further information

President's Message

It is really hard to believe we are already half way through 2015. We have accomplished quite a bit so far but I think the second half of the year will be even more rewarding, challenging and exciting...hopefully everyone is ready to pitch in. First I want to express my deepest thanks to Kathy and Kelli Hemenway, their committee chairs and all the members and volunteers who helped with the Chalk in the Park. It was a fabulous day at Spreckels Park with just spectacular weather, awesome artwork and artists and lots of fun for everyone. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the 5th Annual Chalk in the Park in 2016.

Hopefully everyone is planning on volunteering for the Aerosmith Concert and the Rodeo, we need at least 10 bodies for each shift. Please try and rope some family and friends into helping out. We are being paid for our assistance with their event and we want to give them our support. There is an attachment for an application that every volunteer must fill out and include a photocopy of your PHOTO ID (Driver's License or Passport). Please make sure you turn it into me at the next meeting if possible or e-mail it to me. Remember the last ABC class is June 16 from 6pm to 10pm.

We need to hold our Annual Event this fall for a number of reasons; to keep our name out there with the community, to keep our contact lists current and most importantly to raise money to give back to the special needs children who so desperately need it. Please try to remember that when we are working to plan and organize this year's event.

See you all at the Meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd

Vickie



Kathy Hicks!!





Recipe of the Month

Cool down this summer with these refreshing lemonade recipes



Success Stories from Parents from Around the US

My daughter, Aimee, is autistic. She didn't talk and would not give me any eye contact. I had traveled to visit my mother, and before I left, I had purchased pull-ups for nighttime, but I forgot to bring them.

It was evening and Aimee had some orange juice. She gave me the sign language for more. I then said (more or less to myself rather than her), "Oh, I forgot the pull-ups. I'm afraid if you have too much to drink you'll wet the bed. I should've brought them." She continued to sign "more." I continued to mutter. Finally, she looked me in the eyes, and fervently said, "I," pointing to herself, "want more," giving sign for more, "or-ange juice, please." Needless to say she got her juice!



My youngest son, Brayden, was born three months premature with heart and brain defects. He is now 4 1/2 years old. He is multi-handicapped. When he was young, the doctors told us he probably wouldn't survive, much less ever sit, walk, talk, or eat. He began eating orally a year and a half ago. He began talking one year ago, and is now nearly age appropriate in expressive communication! The most exciting accomplishment, however, is his walking. He had a bilateral tendon release on his hamstrings and gastrocs last November. Since recovering from the surgery, he began pulling to stand, cruising furniture, and could take up to 6 independent steps, even without his walker! Only other parents of children with special needs can understand the intense emotion that surrounds such feats!

Now, he is walking around the house with little assistance and now able to squat to pick something up and stand up again without help!! I cannot wait for the day that he can walk up to those nay-saying doctors and show them who is really in charge!!



My oldest son, Justin, is 5 ½ years old and has Down syndrome. He is in a Life Skills class this year, but after Christmas break he started integrating into regular kindergarten class for social times (centers, library, music, recess, etc.). This has helped both his speech and socialization. We just had his end of year ARD and I am very proud of several points. 1) He is scoring, on average, approximately a 4-year-old level academically. 2) He will remain in Life Skills as core class, but has been moved up to FIRST GRADE for inclusion opportunities. 3) Testing done indicated Justin scored 109 in SOCIAL SKILLS (normal range is 90 to 100). He is my social butterfly and everyone instantly falls in love with him. It is nice when I pick him up from school and several other kids from different classes run up to tell Justin "BYE." Everywhere we go, I see kids tapping there mom saying, "Momma, Momma - that's Justin!" He makes me very proud!

Outside of school, we are involved in Special Olympics. He has recently taken pictures on a police motorcycle to be used for fund-raising and at a law enforcement recruitment for personnel to participate in the annual "Torch Run." The Torch Run is law enforcement's effort to support Special Olympics both personally and financially.

Justin and Matthew have learned to swim without any "floatie" assistance! They are even diving in the shallow end of the pool picking up objects off the bottom, and swimming greater distances underwater. They go swimming at least 2 or 3 times a day!

We have recently learned that Matthew has a high-functioning form of autism. Although doctors tried to initially account for Matthew's speech delay by having an older sibling with delays, we now know that is not true (and I never believed it anyway!) I do believe, however, that Justin's vibrant personality has helped Matthew have the social skills he does maintain. If it were not for Justin, I believe Matthew would be even more "closed." Academically, Matthew is very advanced. He just turned 4 and can already write and spell at least 10 words, can count to 30, and memorizes everything. I am VERY proud of the accomplishments of BOTH my boys!!



Have an article, event, recipe or feel good moment you would like to share in our next newsletter, contact Kelli at salinascircle@aol.com

Thank you to ALL that made 2015's A Chalk in the Park a HUGE Success!!

Special Thanks to our
Dedicated Chairpeople
who made it all possible!

Diana Lee
Artist Chair



Paula Taylor
Entertainment Chair



Maribel Ferreira
Publicity Chair



Carolyn Sanders
Logistics Chair

Vanessa Hernandez
Vendor Chair



Kathy Hemenway
Kelli Hemenway
Event Chair

