

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Educational Development Center

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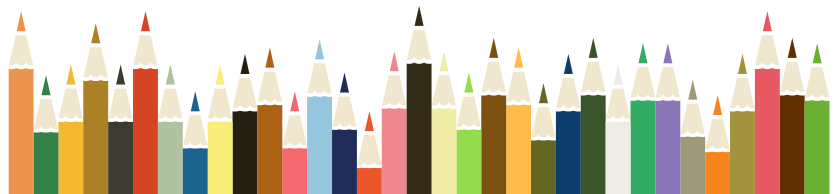
June 21 & 22

Wyndham San Antonio
River Walk



Julia Spalten

Julia Spalten is a happy 5th grader at Cambridge Elementary. Julia is like many 11-year-old girls, she loves to be around her friends and family, her dogs, Luna and Crockett, she loves family trips to her grandparent's ranch as well as annual trips to Louisiana to visit her cousins and extended family. Her favorite activity may be going to the beach in Port Aransas every summer. Julia has a mischievous side... she often giggles as she takes the ponytail holder out of her beautiful brown hair once her mom has perfected it. Julia has played T-Ball, been to camp at Camp CAMP and been snow skiing. The pride she feels is evident when she's accomplished a new goal, like



kneeling to stand with little assistance, or taking just a few more steps which help her navigate her room more independently.

Julia's home is filled with laughter and loud chatter, the kind of happy noise you'd expect to hear in a house with four daughters. Julia's twin, Kate, is in 5th grade and Avery is in 3rd grade at Woodridge and younger sister, Emily is in kinder at Howard. Julia also attended Woodridge thru the 3rd grade until the district combined the Student Support Team class into one based out of Cambridge taught by Libby Rokowski.



Julia was diagnosed in utero at 20 weeks with Dandy Walker Syndrome and severe hydrocephalus. In very simple terms, Dandy Walker Syndrome (DWS) is a congenital malformation that affects development of the brain, specifically the cerebellum, which controls muscle coordination, cognition and behavior. The 4th ventricle fills with excess fluid, putting pressure on the cerebellum and brainstem.



These malformations can result in problems with movement, coordination, mood, intellect and other neurological functions. Hydrocephalus often accompanies DWS and also causes accumulation of fluid in the brain. The increase in pressure causes the brain to develop incorrectly and can cause headache and seizures. Julia's case of hydrocephalus was so severe that it affected all areas of Julia's brain. At that early appointment, Erin and William, Julia's parents, were told that Kate had no visible health concerns, but Julia's complications were serious. Their specialist couldn't tell them whether both girls would make it to birth; they faced the excruciating wait to see whether Julia would survive or if the excess pressure on Julia's brain would cause problems not only for her, but also put Kate's life at risk. They were cautioned that if Julia made it, she would have a multitude of unknown issues

caused by the damage the pressure of fluid placed on her brain. Erin and William were surrounded by family and friends who waited with them and prayed. Kate and Julia Spalten were born September 7, 2007 at 34 weeks. Julia spent three months in the Neonatal ICU at Methodist Children's Hospital. Family would quickly understand that Julia was a miracle.

Julia began receiving multiple therapies thru Easter Seals and the Sunshine Cottage at an early age for her developmental delays and hearing and vision impairments. Before her 3rd birthday, then AHISD Vision Impairment teacher, Roberta Carlson, contacted the Spaltens and began making weekly visits to their home. Roberta collaborated with

Julia's team of therapists to ensure Julia was given every opportunity available. Erin says of Ms. Carlson, "Roberta was such a blessing. She helped with our transition to school services which started when Julia was 3." Julia rode "Mr. Albert's" (longtime bus driver, Albert Cruz) bus and began attending Howard ECC. The late and beloved Linda Duffy and Laurie Miracle were two outstanding teachers in Julia's early school career. Erin is grateful for the support the school district has shown Julia and the Spalten family. She adds, "to have Julia in the same schools as her sisters has been really special."

Today, the district provides many of the therapies Julia's had since she was very young; Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), Speech Therapy (ST). Julia works



Julia & Ms. Daisy

with Pam Waniewick for Audio Impairment therapy and Monica Deutchman for Visual Impairment and Orientation and Mobility services. Julia's day isn't over when the school bell rings, she has daily therapies that include speech and physical therapy. She's been at Cambridge for two years and has made some friends and had experiences separate from her twin, Kate. Erin was initially apprehensive about the move. It had taken several months for Julia to learn how to navigate Woodridge using her gait trainer or wheelchair to accomplish many of her functional tasks. Erin was frustrated for Julia's sake because all of that hard work would be for naught and she'd have to relearn a new campus. Erin recalls the first time she and Julia visited Cambridge a few weeks before school started, "I'd dropped Julia and her nurse off at one (wheelchair accessible) door, went to park, then entered at the front door. I

couldn't find them anywhere. The school confused me and I didn't see how a visually and hearing impaired kid in a wheelchair was ever going to go anywhere independently." Erin was happily surprised at how quickly Julia learned her way around her new campus. A few weeks after the move, Erin went to visit and witnessed Julia go from the SST class in one wing of the building to her 4th grade class across the building and up a floor. Having kids at two different elementary campuses has been logistically tough on Erin, too. Holiday parties, parent conferences, concerts, often scheduled around the same time, make it difficult for her to attend everything. "The logistics of parking and loading her and her wheelchair is daunting sometimes", shares Erin. In spite of the challenges associated with having children at different schools, Erin knows the move was ultimately very good for Julia. Cambridge welcomed her with open arms. In terms of the educational and functional support the program provides, Erin praises the Student Support Team led by Libby Rokowski. In turn, Libby is impressed by Julia's resiliency and resourcefulness. "She has really wowed me over the past two years with her ability to problem solve and use her strengths to get her needs and wants met". Libby also notes



Addison, Julia & Ms. Daisy

the special relationship she has with Ms. Daisy who has been with her since 1st grade and moved to Cambridge when Julia did. “You can see the bond they have together and how much Julia trusts her and how she will work so hard for her”. Another special bond that Julia has is with Addison, her best friend in class. Julia seeks Addison out when they’re in class together and has big smiles for her when they play and dance at the end of the day. In retrospect, Erin can see how good the move has been for Julia. She calls it a blessing in disguise. Erin has seen Julia grow in many ways. Seeing Julia in the 4th grade musical, *Schoolhouse Rock*, alongside her peers, “nearly brought me to tears,” she confesses. Erin has watched Julia’s confidence grow as she shows perseverance, adaptability and increased independence.

The Spaltens are excited to see what the Junior School will hold for Julia next year. They’re also thrilled that Kate and Julia will be on one campus together again. Kate is excited about it, too. She looks forward to being able to see Julia during the day and checking in on how she’s doing. At 11, Kate shows great insight and maturity. She often says, “Don’t judge people on how they look.” When asked what she wishes people knew about her sister, Kate says, “Julia is the sweetest and most hard working person I know. She is happy pretty much all the time and loves being around others. If people took the time to get to know her, they would see that too”. In the end, Julia wants what we all want; to be seen, understood and accepted. To borrow the motto from the Unified Champions Club, “we’re more alike than different”.

12th Annual Lemonade Stand



Spring time in San Antonio finds kids across town readying their bicycles and practicing figure 8s for Bike Rodeo. At Cambridge, Bike Rodeo also means Lemonade Stand! 2019 marks the 12th time that the SST class has made and sold lemonade to thirsty classmates. The event, launched by former SST teachers, Heather Craig and Natalie Brown in

2007 gives SST students the opportunity to work on various life and social skills such as following a recipe, measuring, counting money and greeting customers. The proceeds help offset the cost of some of the activities that they participate in during the spring.

Woodridge Elementary

Felicia Pendleton, Resource Teacher



Felicia Pendleton is one of the “new” faces at Woodridge Elementary this year. Felicia comes to Alamo Heights ISD after teaching for seven years at Stephens Elementary in Madison, WI. At Stephens, she was the K/1 Cross Categorical Teacher, co-teaching in kinder and 1st grade classrooms. She collaborated with general education teachers to implement the best teaching strategies for the children in their class. Her students’ diagnoses ranged from Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder, Oppositional Defiance Disorder and Deaf/Hard of Hearing. She has vast experience with students with Kabuki Syndrome, Epilepsy, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and a range of other health impairments. She credits the experience of working with a diverse population of students for deepening her knowledge and strengthening her implementation of teaching strategies. Felicia adds, “working in an inclusion district really helped solidify my philosophy that all students can contribute positively to any education setting.”

Felicia left San Antonio to attend the University of Wisconsin- Madison in 2006 with an intent to major in Biology. During her Freshman year, Felicia enrolled in a class that required all students to complete 30 service hours. She had many organizations to choose from and found the opportunity that best fit into her school and work schedule at an elementary school. Her responsibilities were to help during an after school program where she was paired with a 1st grade boy who had Autism, which at the time, she knew nothing about. Felicia reflects that she had no idea what she’d signed up for but that her semester with him, “opened my eyes and heart to a whole new world. By the spring semester of my freshman year, I changed my intended major to Special Education.”

At Woodridge, Felicia is an In-Class Support teacher in 2nd-5th grades. Felicia supports English Language Arts, Reading and Math. She partners with 10 teachers throughout her school day, brainstorming with them about methodologies to best reach their students’ school-based needs. Felicia also plays an integral role in the ARD process, collaborating with staff and families. When asked about what she enjoys most about her job, Felicia points to being able to work with an “array of learners and being able to see their ‘a-ha’ moments happen in all different ways and at different times.” Her advice to parents wanting to be strong advocates for their children is to be willing to let the staff know “what you’re feeling, thinking, wondering.” She encourages parents to ask lots of questions and to ask for more information or clarification if something is unclear. Felicia compares the ARD process to being on a team. She says, “I like to tell parents that we

are all on a team and they are the captains; they have known their child longer than the school-based team and have great insight into who their child is.”

When Felicia isn't encouraging her students, she uses her time to give back to her community. While in Madison, Felicia was the director of a non-profit clinic which provided free medical, dental, mental-health, and self-care services. She is trying out different volunteer opportunities to find the one that is the best fit for her and meshes with her passions to improve the lives of others. For fun, she enjoys attending shows at the Majestic, attending concerts and visiting museums. This summer, Felicia plans to spend some time back in the Midwest before traveling with friends. When asked what she'd like parents to know about her, she says, "I am dedicated to the lives of the students I am entrusted with. I am devoted to the validation of thoughts, curiosity, and emotions that are not easily expressed. I am steadfast in advocating for the rights of my students.”

Felicia can best be reached via email at fpendleton@ahisd.net. Her conference time, by appointment, is from 12:50-1:50 daily.

Junior School Unified Champions Club Launch

“The Unified Champions Club is an opportunity to bring a culture of acceptance for all in our community. There are many situations that are challenging in life and if we can come together as partners we can overcome those challenges. This school-based initiative is a perfect way to start social inclusion at our campus and to reach out to students as a safe and committed setting for friendship, equality and belonging. The Erase the R-Word Pep Rally was just one example of many whole school engagement activities that the students are preparing for. We are excited for our students and where their leadership will take our school.”

Naiomi Salcedo
UCS Sponsor, AHJS

“The JS Unified Champions Club is such a wonderful opportunity for our students. The High School has led the way and showed us the amazing things we are capable of accomplishing as a unified group. Our leadership board is a strong group of students with all abilities who are dedicated in ensuring that all peers are accepted and valued. The atmosphere of inclusion is one we hope this club creates here with our 6-8th graders. This is a unified generation and these kids are going to make great things happen together!”

Isabel Arranaga
UCS Co-sponsor, AHJS



Back: Gia Barrera, Mya Gonzalez, Alden Jonas, Mrs. Salcedo, Sofia Cook, Adlyh Meza. Front: Julieanne Escamilla, James Veeder, James Ramirez and Lori Mendoza

“At the beginning of the club, we started off with six people. Now we have 17 members. Joining this club is important to me because I believe that everyone should receive an opportunity to do fun things and be included in many activities. It also taught me many things such as, ‘We are more alike than different.’ Being able to have everyone together brings me joy. What inclusion means to me is that we are all together, having fun together, and helping each other out.”

Sofia Cook, 8th grade.

“The word inclusion is not a word you can play around with. It means something to people. Inclusion is important because this world is based on groups and people need to focus on that we are **all** people. It’s not just whether you have a disability or not.

It’s everyone all together. This club shows that we don’t believe that people should be separated because of what we can’t do and it’s important to me because I don’t play around with people who make a mockery of this club or the “R” word or anything of that capacity. We are all united.”

Gia Barrera, 7th grade.

“Inclusion means to support people and to help everybody to be included.”

Alden Jonas, 8th grade

What does inclusion mean to me:

“It means all of us coming together to work, to play, to work with everyone.”

What does the club mean to me:

“I get to hang out with everyone.”



Junior School Unified Champion Club members:
Alden Jonas, Tito Newby, Mya Gonzalez, Adlyh Meza, Gia Barrera and Sofia Cook

What do you plan on doing in the future?

“I want to go to the spurs game and be on a sports team with my club.”

Tito Newby, 8th

“Inclusion means doing things together. I have met a lot of new friends. I want to do unified sports and have fun with my new friends.”

Mya Gonzales, 7th grade

“The Unified Champions Club is a group of kids with all [kinds of] abilities who come together and support each other to do fun events and volunteering tasks. The club means that all of my friends get to come together with [different abilities]... so we can all have fun together and spread a good message. In the future I plan to expand the group and spread the words [about] our group to help make our group grow bigger and get stronger...”

Adlyh Meza, 7th grade

Courtney Murray, JS Science Resource Teacher

When Courtney Murray left her hometown of Brownwood, TX to attend the University of Texas, she planned to study kinesiology. That changed sometime around her third year as she began to concentrate on an education focused degree. Ultimately, Courtney earned a degree in Youth and Community studies with a specialization in Disability studies and a minor in Kinesiology.

She obtained an alternative teaching certificate after realizing that she had a real passion for disability studies. She comes to the Junior School from East Central ISD where she worked for three years. During the three years at East Central, Courtney taught general education science, co-taught English/History/Science, and taught Life Skills in a supported classroom.

At the Junior School, Courtney has focused on teaching science, since it has always been a passion of hers. She is a co-teacher for all three grades of science classes. She enjoys having the challenge of being creative in science and researching new ways to support her special education students so that they are successful every single day. She also relishes the opportunities she has to build relationships with her students, “it comes natural to be able to communicate and build those bonds with...my students”. Courtney goes on to add, “they bring creativity, and a new outlook on life into the classroom, that makes the class that much more enjoyable.” Courtney also appreciates that the district fosters inclusivity. Her advice to parents is to prepare for ARD meetings

either by asking questions of staff beforehand or seeking out resources such as trainings that provide guidance on setting good academic and social goals. Courtney encourages parents to work as a team with school staff and to be a voice for their child to foster success.

On a personal note, Courtney shares her home with two dogs, Rita and Roxy. Rita is an Australian Cattle dog and Roxy is a Black Mouth Cur/Hound mix. Both dogs love to accompany Courtney on runs. Courtney’s hobbies include participating in CrossFit, restoring antique furniture, attending sporting events, especially Longhorn football games, and painting. Her summers have recently been spent working on her master’s degree in Instructional Leadership with a concentration in Special Education. This summer she is looking forward to teaching Summer school at the junior school, and going on a fishing trip to Florida with her family.

Courtney is available to speak with parents from 10:25-11:10 or from 3:15-4:00 but the best way to reach her is by email at cmurray@ahisd.net



Rachel Bray

Junior School Resource Teacher

Rachel Bray is a new resource and co-teacher at the Junior School this year, but she's no stranger to Alamo Heights, having graduated class of 2012.

Rachel attended Texas State University where she majored in Early Elementary Education and is certified to teach all grades with a concentration in English as a Second Language. After graduation, Rachel taught in a behavior unit in Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD and decided to become certified in Special Education. Given the opportunity to teach at her alma mater, Rachel jumped at the opportunity.

Rachel co-teaches English in all three grades, partnering with three teachers to tailor accommodations to each student's need. Rachel enjoys co-teaching because she gets to work with many different students at various levels each day, which is both challenging and rewarding. She also teaches two reading resource classes.



Of her role, Rachel says she really enjoys seeing the progress her students make, both academically and personally. Rachel understands that parents want what is best for their child and have great intuition. Her advice to parents is to be willing to communicate with staff, "If you have concerns about your child, ask. If you think something is out of the ordinary, ask....when something is going on, you know if it needs to be addressed."

When she's not working with students, Rachel likes to spend time with her puppy, Dixie. She loves kayaking and generally doing anything outdoors. She unwinds by reading and spending time with friends. Rachel spends her summers working for a river company in New Braunfels and traveling.

Rachel has been to New York, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Rome, London and parts of Switzerland. This summer, Rachel plans to take her first cruise, when she will visit Cozumel, Belize and the Roatan Peninsula. She will also be visiting Las Vegas for the first time.

Rachel says she's really enjoyed her first year teaching at the Junior School and is grateful to the parents for being supportive.

If you need to set up a time to speak with Rachel, you can email her at rbray@ahisd.net.

Christina Montalbo is a new resource Math teacher at the High School. She's known since 3rd grade that she wanted to teach math. Christina majored in math at Texas A&M, Corpus Christi and got a teaching certificate through the A+ Texas Teachers program. She started her teaching career six years ago teaching math at a charter school, Afton Oaks, which was attached to a rehab facility for at risk youth. Two years later, Christina moved to Rockport to teach at Rockport-Fulton high school where she served as a math inclusion teacher before having the opportunity to move to Costa Rica. In Costa Rica, she taught middle and high school math and "realized I love the special education side of teaching." Upon her return to the San Antonio area, she pursued a job at Alamo Heights in the special education department. Ms. Montalbo co-teaches Geometry, wherein she provides additional support to students in a general education Geometry classroom setting. This might look like modifying assignments to a student's specific needs by means of color coding, defining terms or providing formulas. She also teaches a class on general employability skills where students explore career and/or college options to determine what might be a good fit for the future. In her Math resource class, Christina focuses on real world use of money helping students learn to calculate percentages, taxes, discounts and other functional applications of currency.

Christina enjoys working with her students and says they challenge her daily and she learns a lot from them. When I asked her to describe what she means by challenged, Christina says, "it's a challenge to get some students motivated to want to learn math skills, but it's also a challenge to modify and figure out what works with each specific student....Teaching, in general, can be challenging, but it is very rewarding."

Christina is originally from Helotes, TX and has lived in the San Antonio area most of her life except for her time in college and the few years that followed. She moved back last summer when she took the position with Alamo Heights. In her off time, she enjoys traveling. One notable trip was to the Virgin Islands which she and her sister won as a prize playing Wheel of Fortune in 2015. They helped pay for their parents to go as well and made it a family trip. More recently, Christina traveled to Colombia, where her boyfriend is from, over the Thanksgiving break. There they visited Bogota, Medellin and Santa Marta. She went on a three week trip to Asia over the Christmas holidays where she backpacked thru China, Cambodia and Vietnam. When not trotting around the globe, Christina spends time with her dog, Bella, a retriever mix she adopted from SNIPSA 5 years ago and her boyfriend and his 3 year old Bernese Mountain dog, Lucas.



The best way to reach Ms. Montalbo is by email at cmontalbo@ahisd.net.



SXSW EDU 2019

By: Erika Guerrero

This March I had the opportunity to be a guest speaker on a panel for Special Olympics at the SXSW Educational Conference. Tim Shriver hosted the panel and led a question and answer session. I sat alongside Special Olympic Athlete Tajha Llerant, Special Olympic Athlete and former NFL athlete Jamaal Charles, and Former Unified Partner and Buffalo Bills athlete Eddie Yarbrough. We discussed the challenges that we face as advocates for inclusion and how we can help the Unified Generation succeed across the education system.

Special Olympics were sponsors of the SXSW Educational Conference and had a significant presence throughout the conference. Alamo Heights had former students Carrie Mullins, and Ivalis Guajardo represent as Special Olympics Global Ambassadors. They shared their unified perspective during panels, at the demonstration booths, and meet and greets throughout the week.

Overall, the conference was a fantastic experience. I was able to meet other educators from around the country. I was able to share my experiences helping to grow the Unified program, and I picked up some new ideas that I think will be a great addition to the Unified Club. Keep an eye out next school year new Unified opportunities.



Unified Champions HS Club

National Banner Recognition

By: Bellaxandra Stephenson- Unified Partner
Claire Mask- Unified Athlete

In 2018, our Alamo Heights High School received National Banner Recognition for being a Unified Champion School. The Special Olympics Unified Champion School program is aimed at promoting social inclusion by implementing unified activities that affects the school climate in a positive way. We achieved this recognition by meeting the 4 pillars of a Unified School; unified sports, inclusive youth leadership, whole school engagement and self-sustainability.

To increase the spirit of unified culture at Alamo Heights High School we have many Unified competitive Sports teams such as: basketball, bowling, and track. Claire Mask states that her favorite part of basketball is “having fun and cheering on each other”. In basketball, partners and athletes play on the same court against other Unified teams.

Our Unified Club Leadership board is also made up of athletes and partners. This allows everyone to have an equal voice and opinion on what we are planning and a diverse amount of ideas. We plan holiday parties, going to prom & homecoming, school-wide educational advisories and opportunities to attend school events such as football and basketball together. This school year we celebrated our Speak Kindness campaign, this is a branch from Spread the word to end the word. We created an advisory about the importance of using Person First language.

The Unified Champions club leadership creates and implements campus and district wide opportunities for inclusion. We have a Unified Theater program that many students are enrolled in, they have performed in two plays that were open to the community this year. Claire Mask states that her favorite role was acting as an Elf in a romantic comedy. She also enjoyed playing Rapunzel in the Law & Order production. Claire shares, “ the acting was good and everyone was a good sport”.

We as a club work hard to be self-sustained, recently we had just completed our 3rd annual Caroline Gose 5k. This 5k was a great success as we had about 200 attendees. The funds we raise allow us to continue to grow our program and participate in different activities throughout our school and to enter competitions.

Our club was honored to be one of two schools in Texas to have received this recognition. Together we hope to continue following in the footsteps of the former leadership board and create some brand new footsteps of our own. Our goal is to make Unified Champions Schools a staple of our district!

Congratulations, Erika!



Erika Guerrero received a surprise visit from HEB representatives in early March when she learned she was selected as a regional finalist for the 2019 Excellence in Education Award. Erika's award comes on the heels of being selected as Alamo Heights High School campus Teacher of the Year. Way to go, Erika!

KUDDOS, KELLY!

Kelly Masters also received recognition recently for being selected the Campus Teacher of the Year for Cambridge. The award is based on peer submittal and campus wide voting. Kelly works collaboratively with teachers across all grade levels to support academic and emotional success. Well deserved, Kelly!



Type to enter a caption.

Caroline Gose Run, Walk or Roll into Inclusion

The 3rd Annual Caroline Gose 5k was held on April 6. The light rain didn't stop an enthusiastic crowd from participating. AHHS Cheerleaders were on hand to encourage participants as they crossed the finish line. Winners for various divisions were recognized and everyone had fun.



50th Annual Special Olympics Texas Summer Games

San Antonio was host city to the SOTX Summer Games from May 2-5. The four-day event was the largest competition of the year, featuring almost 3,000 athletes from across the state. Events ranged from individual sports like gymnastics, tennis, equestrian events to soccer and track and field events. Cambridge student, Addison Roland, was part of the Opening Ceremony with Team ROPER (Riding Opportunities Promoting Exceptional Riders). Ever the helper, Addison assisted some of her teammates in their own events.

The Junior School's own Genevieve Russell participated in gymnastics and won 5 medals. Congratulations, Genevieve!



SOMERSET RELAYS



Closing thoughts....

Can you believe the 2018-2019 school year is at it's close? The last year has been a blur! I've enjoyed learning more about my role, about the Special Education process in Texas, about resources available to our children, about our great district and amazing teachers but especially about our exceptional kids and the family members who love and support them. I'm encouraged by all of you who are in the trenches daily, advocating for your children, whether 3 or 23, and gently pushing them towards independence and understanding that at our core, we all want the same thing; to be seen as valuable members of our community and to do meaningful work. After all, as our students are learning, we are more alike than different.



I want to hear from you! Please let me know how I can come along side you to help your child reach his/her full potential. Email me at mharrison@ahisd.net.

Michelle Harrison

Alamo Heights Special Education Parent Liaison and Wyatt's mom

Spring 2019

STARFISH SUMMER CAMP 2019

Registration opens March 4!



***STARFISH SOCIAL CLUB
11230 WEST AVE
SAN ANTONIO, 78213***



***For more information, visit us at
[http://www.starfishsocialclub.org/
starfish-summer-camp.html](http://www.starfishsocialclub.org/starfish-summer-camp.html).***

Spring 2019



15th Annual TxP2P Statewide Parent Conference June 21 & 22, 2019

Registration is open!
For more information:

www.txp2p.org

866-896-6001

We can't wait to see YOU!!!



Session Topics

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Advocacy | Self-Advocacy |
| Autism | Self-Determination |
| Behavior | Special Education |
| Medical | Transition |
| Mental Health | And more! |



Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk

111 E. Pecan Street

San Antonio, TX 78205

Phone: (855) 516-1090

www.wyndhamsariverwalk.com

Summer Resources 2019

Camp Blessing- <https://campblessing.org/> Camp Blessing makes an iconic experience—summer camp—available to campers whose challenges prevent their participation elsewhere. Camp Blessing is designed and prepared to meet the varying needs of campers diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities who may also use wheelchairs, walkers or crutches. Registration begins in early spring and spots fill up quickly. *Currently only able to accept female campers.*

Charis Hills- <https://charishills.org/> Located in the North Texas Hill Country area (Dallas), Charis Hills is a Christian Summer Camp that offers kids with learning differences and social difficulties—those with ADD, ADHD, high-functioning Autism, Asperger's disorder, and other special needs—an opportunity to come to a place of acceptance.

Camp CAMP- <https://www.campcamp.org/> Summer Camp is a series of six-day, five-night sessions for children and adults, aged 5 to 50 years, with a variety of special needs, and their siblings. CAMP modifies traditional summer camp activities to include everyone, regardless of the severity of the camper's physical or developmental needs. Each camper is assigned to a Tribe based on gender and age with a camper:counselor ratio ranging from 1:1 to 4:1, depending on the need of the camper.

Cibolo Summer Camp- <https://www.cibolo.org/> The Cibolo Nature & Herff Farm offers inclusive summer camps for children. Nature Camps, Adventure Camps, and Art Camps weekly throughout the summer for ages 5-12. Contact Shasha McCracken at shasha@cibolo.org or at (830) 249-4616 with questions.

Deer Creek Camp Friends' Week- <http://www.deercreekcamp.com/christian-summer-camps/friends-week/> Friend's Week at Deer Creek Camp is a wonderful opportunity for children and adults with special needs to attend a **Christian Special Needs Summer Camp** in Texas. Friend's Week is a very special part of our ministry, touching the lives of many families every year. We rely on incredible volunteers who serve as CIA's (Christians in Action) to provide a 1:1 camper to "buddy" ratio, giving every camper the love that they need and deserve.

Epilepsy Foundation- Camp Brainstorm <https://epilepsycamp.com/> Camp Brainstorm is a dream opportunity for children with epilepsy located at Camp Aranzazu in Rockport, TX. It is a place to make friends, develop skills, and try new activities in a safe place.

FREE TO CAMPERS! June 17-21

Camp Neuron- <http://www.eftx.org/programs-services/camps/camp-neuron/> Camp Neuron offers a safe and fun residential camping experience for children and teens

living with epilepsy. Children and teens, ages 8-14, with the primary diagnosis of epilepsy or seizure disorder. Free to Campers. June 30-July 6.

Equessence. <https://equessense.org/> Providing experiential riding for children, teens and adults with a wide range of abilities and needs. Day Summer Camps as well as individual and group lessons are available. 6062 Youngsford Road, Marion, Texas 78124 (210) 367-3485 or (830) 387-0076 Email for more information: info@equessense.org

Eva's Heroes- <https://evasheroes.org/summer-enrichment-program/> The Eva's Heroes Enrichment Program provides an inclusive environment for individuals 14 years of age and up to interact and learn with their peers, helps adolescents and young adults increase their ability to function independently and allows individuals to learn the value of teamwork. June and July camps dates. Choose from 7 week-long sessions that run from 9-4.

Good Swim- <http://good-swim.com/> Good Swim provides “real” swimming lessons for children of all ages and abilities. We work with many children whose special needs are not apparent once they are in the water. Water becomes “the great equalizer”. Lessons occur in a specially designed pool at the instructor’s home in San Antonio, Texas. The teacher is a Fellowship-trained Developmental Specialist with more than 30 years’ experience. We have taught swimming to infants as young as 3 months and adults up to 80 years old. Lessons available throughout the summer.

Kinetic Kids- <https://www.kinetickidstx.org/> Sports and recreation classes for children with special needs throughout the summer and school year.

Lions Camp- <http://www.lionscamp.com/> Overnight week long camp for children with a physical disability (7yo-16yo), Diabetes (8yo-15yo) and Down Syndrome (12yo-16yo). Free with Lion sponsor. 9 Sessions per summer. Dates on website. *contact Michelle for information on Lion who will sponsor students from AHISD

Marbridge Summer Camp- <https://www.marbridge.org/short-term-care/summer-camp/> Week-long overnight camps in South Austin for young adults 16-30 with cognitive delays. Must be independent with activities of daily living and able to ambulate and transfer independently. **Only remaining openings are for female campers in sessions 7 (7/28-8/2) and 8 (8/4-8/9)

Mission Road Summer and Outreach (SOAR) Program- <https://missionroadministries.org/programs/children/soar-summer-camp> Mission Road Ministries annually offers the S.O.A.R. - Summer Outreach and Recreation - Program to our resident children as well as children from the community with intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD). Day camps are week long throughout the summer at their campus in South San Antonio. Spaces are very limited.

Respite Care of San Antonio- <http://respitecaresa.org/> (Locations vary) Parents Night Out/Family Day Out and Day Care/Overnight Respite for School aged children up to 17yo. Siblings are welcome at certain events. Registration must be completed prior to services. Summer Program also available. Please contact Respite Care of San Antonio directly or visit them online for details.

Saddle Light Center: Therapeutic Horseback Riding- <http://thesaddlelightcenter.com/> Therapeutic riding for kids, teenagers and adults with neurological, learning, orthopedic, emotional, and other disabilities for a yearlong program. Summer Session available.

Special Reach- <https://www.specialreach.com/> Special Reach provides a summer enrichment program and Friday Party Nights where children with special needs can foster independence by building social skills, improve physical fitness, and developing healthy outlets for stress reduction through structured, fun activities. Summer Enrichment Program: Ages 6-18, July 8-12, July 15-19, July 29-Aug 2, and Aug 5-9 from 9 am–3 pm. Extended hours per request. Some scholarships available. \$200/week for child with special needs, \$100 for sibling.

Starfish Summer Camp- <http://www.starfishsocialclub.org/> Starfish Summer Camp is open to everyone between the ages of 4 and 18. There are no ability or disability requirements. The majority of our students have autism; other common diagnoses are ADD/ADHD, learning disabilities, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, and genetic disorders. We also have students who have no diagnosis. Our only limitations are toileting and medical care; we do not have the staff or facilities to assist with toileting or medical needs. If your child has a personal nurse or attendant, they are welcome to come to camp with your child to assist with specific needs. Please see the website for more specific information and registration. Several weeks available during the 2019 summer. Registration now open.

Summer on the Hill- <http://www.spectrumcommunities.org/> Join us in July for a 5-day residential college experience at Trinity University. This program is available for ages 18-26 who have mild Autism Spectrum Disorder that are interested in exploring college options. Session will be held June 23-27, 2019 at Trinity University. Phone: 210-610-8822-contact Betty Williams. Tuition is \$900 per student.

Texas Elks Children's Services- <https://texaselks.org/> Provides children with special needs and in foster care an opportunity to try new things and experience new memories. Lots of activities. No fee, first come first served basis.*** All sessions are full; registration for 2020 will begin in early spring 2020.

Triple H Equine Therapy- <https://www.triple-h.org/> Therapeutic riding facility for people with special needs located in Pipecreek, TX.

YMCA Monarch Academy- <https://ymcasatx.org/programs/camps/summer-day-camps>
At the Y, we strive to be inclusive and to provide programs for all youth, including opportunities for fun and physical activity for youth and teens with special needs. Our doors are open to all, regardless of age, ability, faith, gender or income, will have the opportunity to experience camp. Located at Monarch Academy, adjacent to Morgan's Wonderland, this summer camp experience helps to improve the lives of individuals with special needs by equipping them with essential skills to reach their maximum, individual potential.

Sensory Friendly Outings:

DoSeum- Exclusive Hours for Inclusive Play. <https://www.thedoseum.org/beyondlimits>

Magik Theatre- <https://www.magiktheatre.org/shows/outreach/> The Magik Theatre offers sensory-friendly performances for patrons on the autism spectrum or with other cognitive disabilities. During a sensory-friendly performance, house lights are kept on, sound levels are lower, audience members are free to talk and leave their seats during the performance, a designated quiet area is provided, outside snacks are permitted, and audience numbers are kept smaller, to offer an experience that will be both enjoyable and comfortable.

Santikos Sensory Friendly Screenings- <https://www.santikos.com/san-antonio/silverado-16/sensoryfriendly> Free Admission screenings for guests with intellectual special needs. 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month @6, see website for locations, dates and movies offered.

AMC Sensory Friendly Screenings- <https://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films> AMC is proud to partner with the Autism Society to offer unique movie showings where we turn the lights up, and turn the sound down, so you can get up, dance, walk, shout or sing! Our Sensory Friendly Film program is available on the second and fourth Saturday (family-friendly) and Tuesday evenings (mature audiences) of every month. Please check your local theatre listings for specific showtimes.