



Park Cities Learning Disabilities Association
Unlocking learning for all kinds of learners

www.pclda.org

Keys to Unlock the Mind

winter- January 2011

Park Cities Learning Disabilities Association is a non-profit organization of persons interested in advocating for the education and well being of children who learn differently.

PCLDA, founded in 1975, is one of the largest LDA chapters in the country. All the monies for student and educator scholarships, speakers, publications, website and other community education activities are generated through memberships and fund raising events.

Keys to Unlock the Mind, our newsletter, serves to publish responsible information and opinions to better inform our members and the students they serve. Publication of information does not imply endorsement or recommendation. Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the PCLDA.

Upcoming PCLDA events:

Monday February 7: 11:30am-1:00pm

in 5/6 Assembly Room at MIS/HPMS.

Making Sense Out of Your Child's Senses

The Park Cities Learning Disabilities Association is hosting a Lunchtime Lecture on Monday February 7, from 11:30am to 1:00pm in the 5/6 Assembly Room at MIS/HPMS.

Our featured speaker is Sally Fryer of Integrative Pediatric Therapy. Sally is one of Dallas' best child development specialists. She will be speaking on Sensory Issues. This is a free event and lunch is provided!

Please bring a friend!

Thursday February 24: 7:30 pm

PCLDA Evening Gathering hosted by:
Cheryl Rhodes 2712 Westminster 7:30 pm

Melanie Watson will be speaking about the differences in and IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act) and Section 504 (of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and how our children may qualify for either. These laws affect the support our children receive in school and should be well understood by all of us. She will be a wealth of information!! We hope to see you there!

**2010-2011
PCLDA
Board of Directors**

Co-Presidents:

Hollee Mills and Meredith Roever

President Elect: Paige Elliott

Secretary: Angela Malone

Treasurer: Tina Gwinn

Treasurer Elect: open

Parliamentarian: Kari Mason

Scholarships/Teacher Grants:

Cheryl Rhodes

Membership/Database/Website:

Nici Bremer

Newsletter: Kelly Schorr

Publicity: Meredith Roever

Pool and Garden Tour Co-Chairs:

open

Flower Sale Chairs: Kathy Iacuone,

Carol Wilson

Hospitality: Robyn Galerston

Social Events: Linda Pepe

Teacher Appreciation: Angela Malone

School Liaisons:

Armstrong--Tina Gwinn, Bradfield--

Robyn Galerston, Hyer--Poppy

Suarez, UP--Wendy Smith,

MIS/HPMS--Terrie Redding, HPHS--

Susan Mooney, Shelton--Michelle

Schwartz, Oak Hill--open, Dallas

Academy--open, Preston Hollow

Presbyterian--open

SEPAC representatives from PCLDA:

Hollee Mills, Lee Ann Millard

AD HOC: Emily Howley

PCLDA Calendar

Feb 7-- Making Sense out of Your Child's Senses

Feb 24--Melanie Watson

March 1 – Spring Flower sale begins

March 28 – Flower sale orders due

April 14 --Flower sale pick up 3617 Caruth 12-6 pm

Apr 12--Teacher Appreciation Assembly

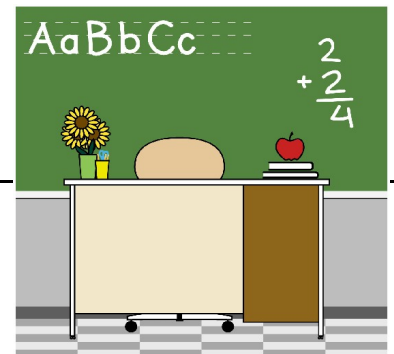
MIS 7/8 3:30-5

Teacher Appreciation Awards
Nominations Sought

Each year PCLDA celebrates their annual Teacher Appreciation Awards. The awards are given each spring to one teacher at each of the seven HPISD campuses and one counselor in the district. They will be given out April 12 3:30-5:00 in the 7/8 room at MIS.

The awards are given to educators to recognize their unique and outstanding contributions to teaching children with learning differences. The winners each receive a check for \$500.00, but all persons nominated are recognized at the award ceremony and receive a gift from PCLDA.

These awards are based entirely on parent nominations. We need the help of students and parents to nominate those individuals that have set them selves apart because of their dedication and care for our children. Go to www.pclda.org for more information.



Dale Lawrence Scholarship

PCLDA is proud to fund scholarships for graduating seniors in the Park Cities. These scholarships are open to all seniors that have a diagnosed learning difference. The scholarships provide financial assistance during the first year of college. Handled through Highland Park education foundation, applications will be made available to those qualifying students. Deadlines must be adhered to for scholarship consideration.

This scholarship fund is named in honor of Dr. Dale R. Lawrence, former HPISD Superintendent of Instruction from 1986-1990, and principal of Robert S. Hyer Elementary School from 1982-1985. Dr. Lawrence recognized the individual differences in children and supported positive teaching methods.

Dear Members,

For many years our organization has offered the Dale Lawrence scholarship to graduating Seniors of PCLDA members. These scholarships are named in honor of Dr. Dale Lawrence, former Superintendent of Instruction for HPISD and former principal of Hyer Elementary School. These scholarships are only given to students who have successfully dealt with a diagnosed learning difference and to families who have been PCLDA members for at least three years.

We would love for all our graduating seniors to apply for one of these scholarships. Here are the specifics you need to know:

- 1) Graduating Senior with plans to pursue their education in a post secondary environment
- 2) Parents must be active PCLDA member for 3 years
- 3) Application form found on-line at HPISD.org
- 4) Application form becomes available February 7th - 25th
- 5) Essay required - topic below
- 6) Established diagnosis of a learning disability

Please encourage your senior to apply!!!

Dale Lawrence Scholarship Essay:

In terms of your learning difference and its impact on your education, describe the challenges you have faced and how your hard work in high school has prepared you for college. At the top of the essay, please list the diagnosed learning difference you have, when you were diagnosed, and by whom you were diagnosed.



PCLDA
Spring Flower Sale
Coming Soon!



Order dates: March 1-28

Pick up date: April 14
12-6pm 3617 Caruth Blvd.

Don't forget about PCLDA Spring Flower Sale when planning your spring blooms! We offer a variety of several spring flowers.

Order forms will be on our website soon. Go to www.pclda.org and click on flower sale for more information.

PCLDA is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization. Proceeds go towards scholarships for high school seniors who have successfully dealt with a learning difference, teacher continuing education and the EDGE program--"booster" classes held during the summer.

**Have information for
the newsletter?**

Please email Kelly Schorr
kjschorr@yahoo.com



*click the link below to
find PCLDA!*

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Park-Cities-Learning-Disability-Association/131521110229653>

PCLDA Volunteer Opportunities

Please consider the PCLDA when weighing volunteer opportunities. We have a variety of choices to fit large or small time commitments. We are always looking for energetic concerned parents who want to get involved in this important organization.

Please contact one of our co-presidents

Meredith Roever

msroever@sbcglobal.net

Hollee Mills

holleecat@charter.net

Helpful Community Organizations

SEPAC - Special Education Parent Advisory Committee: In an effort to provide excellent educational services and facilitate communication, Highland Park Independent School District has established a Special Education Parent Advisory Committee. The 20-member committee is committed to working in partnership with parents, the schools, and the district. The committee, which is comprised of parent liaisons from each campus and other community members, meets monthly. Those who have a special needs child and wish to voice concerns through another parent, are encouraged to contact the appropriate campus representative. Parent representatives to the committee can be found on the previous page, or on the Special Programs website at www.hpsid.org.

PASE - Parent Association for Special Education: Parent organization that works to keep special education families in touch with each other and the school district and improve the educational and social opportunities for children who receive special education services in HPISD.

Warrior Parents of Dallas- A parent group formed to support each other in the journey of our children with autism spectrum disorders. The group meets monthly, hosts a speaker and exchanges helpful information to maximize the future success of ASD kids. To receive updates go to their Facebook group! Here is the link:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=225157118413>

Dallas Dyslexia Information Group (DDIG)

Affiliated with the Dallas Branch of the International Dyslexia Association
Provides information on Dyslexia, Learning Differences, and related topics.

Bob 214-351-1985

This group now meets on the second Monday of the month, except for December.

7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Meetings are now held at The Winston School

5707 Royal Lane

Dallas, Texas 75229

214-691-6950

Upcoming Community Events

February 5 – “Hard 2 spel Dad” at 1:30 Come and see Texas Rangers Infielder IAN KINSLER speak about Learning Differences at 12:45 prior to the show. The American League Championship trophy will also be on display. Call 214-740-0051 Dallas Children's theater

February 7-- The Texas Transition Conference planning group wants you to know that they have applied for funding for parent stipends for the 2011 Conference (February 7-9, 2011 in Austin @ Doubletree Hotel) and will post the information on their website at <http://ttc.tamu.edu/>. This is just a heads-up and is all of the information we at TxP2P have. Watch the <http://ttc.tamu.edu/> website for an upcoming announcement about whether or not they received funding for the parent stipends. Please be sure to contact Texas A & M (<http://ttc.tamu.edu/> or cgrenwelge@tamu.edu), not TxP2P, to apply for the stipends. FYI: To encourage the attendance of parents and youth with disabilities (16 and older), TTC is offering a reduced registration rate of \$120/person for these individuals.

February 8--NAA-NT PARENT NETWORKING AND SUPPORT GROUP MEETING for Parents of Younger Children, Held the 2nd Tuesday of Each Month, Next meeting is February 8th, 2011 - 8:45 am - 10:00 am, Corner Bakery (940 N. Central Expwy) Plano, Tx. Hosted by: Ms. Nanci Roessner and Ms. Nagla Moussa.

February 8-- Parent Support Group tonight at 6:00pm for Children's Autism Project. Held at UT Dallas Callier Center, 1966 Inwood Road, Dallas, TX. 75235. For more info, call Hillary Carrington, 214.456.7700 Hillary.carrington@childrens.com.

February 8--Rethink Autism (<http://www.rethinkautism.com>) is offering a free online webinar, "Key Components Of An Effective School-Based Autism Program," for school district leaders, teachers and parents on Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 3p EST / 2p CST, presented by Jamie Pagliaro, who is the Executive VP at Rethink Autism and Founding Executive Director, NY Center for Autism Charter School.

February 9 --February Warrior Lunch, "Comprehensive Planning for Your Child" (estate, guardian, life insurance, CPA); Where: Central Market, Lover's and 75; When: Wednesday, February 9, 2011 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

February 10-- "Success After High School" with Michael Berryhill, Certified PATH Trainer, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Huffines Recreation Center, 1500 Apollo Rd, Richardson, TX in the Huffines Room. Fee to attend \$50. Free childcare! Register at www.cor.net/parksonline.

February 12-13--Jesters at Highland Park United Methodist Church - Please support a first time ever in Dallas performance by a special needs (age 16+) theater group (Jesters) Saturday February 12 at 6pm or Sunday February 13 at 4pm at Highland

Park United Methodist Church. The group has been rehearsing since September. Tickets \$10 online at hpumc.org/jesters or can be bought at the performance. Questions call Nancy Himes 214-373-1789

February 14 -- 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. Dallas Dyslexia Information Group (DDIG) Affiliated with the Dallas Branch of the International Dyslexia Association The Winston School 5707 Royal Lane Dallas, Texas 75229 214-691-6950 presentation: Erin Phifer, M.A. LPC, *Learning Disabilities, Sensory Issues, & Social Skills – The Brain Connection*. Two CEU's are given to Academic Language Therapy Association members, LD professionals, Educators, and other Professions. *These presentations are free and open to the public.*

February 15-- NAA-NT PARENT NETWORKING AND SUPPORT MEETING for Parents of Children of All Ages, 3rd Tuesdays of Each Month, Next meeting is February 15th, 2011 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Corner Bakery (940 N. Central Expwy) Plano, Tx. Hosted by: Ms. Dori Schaefer and Ms. Nagla Moussa.

February 15-- Reminder for Parent Support Group tonight at 6:00pm for Children's Autism Project. Held at UT Dallas Callier Center, 1966 Inwood Road, Dallas, TX. 75235. For more info, call Hillary Carrington, 214.456.7700

February 16-17--Michelle Garcia Winner Conference. ON the 16th, Michelle will explore the Social Thinking concept of "perspective-taking", which makes the research into Theory of Mind practical for individualizing treatment of students and the related and expanded Social Thinking-Social Communication Profile that helps to objectively define seven different levels of social learners. From this basis, she will present a number of educational strategies, including a 4-step model for developing social and communication skills. On February 17th, she will explore all the latest strategies that have grown from the core Social Thinking curriculum, including those related to the highly popular Superflex superhero comic book curriculum. (Ethan loves learning from Superflex and as a result I am a BIG fan!) Teaching Social Thinking and related social skills encompasses a wide base of social emotional functioning. This workshop will target specifically Social Thinking lessons for a range of students all of whom could be described as on the higher end of the autism spectrum and with like disabilities - ranging from the socially aloof Emerging Perspective Taker, to the socially engaged but often behaviorally problematic clever student, to the specific challenges of preschool students. WHAT: Michelle Garcia Winner's Social Thinking Workshops on High-Functioning Autism, Asperger's, ADHD and Undiagnosed Social and Communicative Challenges; WHEN: February 16-17, 2011; WHERE: Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S Main St, Grapevine, TX 76051; Rates if register prior to 2/1: Professional 2 Day Attendance: \$315; 1 Day Attendance: \$170; Parent or Nonprofessional College Student; 2 Day Attendance: \$280; 1 Day Attendance: \$150. A Congressional award-winning therapist and author, Michelle developed the Social Thinking program for treating students with Asperger's, HFA, ADHD, NLD and other

social and communication difficulties. The Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders published research supporting her methods for high-functioning autism and Asperger syndrome. She serves on the panel of professional advisers of the Autism Society of America and runs a small clinic in San Jose, CA. Michelle's books and curriculum materials are used in schools, homes and therapy rooms around the world. Register: <http://www.socialthinking.com/workshops/404-dallas-feb-16-17-2011>

February 17--HPISD Parent Support Group - 9:30-11:00 am "Sibling Relationships". Held at Bradfield Elementary Conference Room and run by Lana L. Raley, M.S., LPC (raleyl@hpsid.org) open to anyone who has had a child in PPCD, in a LIFT or on the autism Spectrum. Meetings are open-ended - you are welcome to come for all or part of any meeting.

February 22-- Reminder for Parent Support Group tonight at 6:00pm for Children's Autism Project. Held at UT Dallas Callier Center, 1966 Inwood Road, Dallas, TX. 75235. For more info, call Hillary Carrington, 214.456.7700
Hillary.carrington@childrens.com.

February 24-- John Elder Robison will have a show on the Discovery channel entitled "INGENIOUS MINDS," airing on Feb 24 on Discovery Science. Set the TIVO!

February 24-- "Guardianship and Trusts" with Richard O'Connor, Attorney at Law, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Huffines Recreation Center, 1500 Apollo Rd, Richardson, TX in the Huffines Room. Fee to attend \$50. Free childcare! Register at www.cor.net/parksonline.

March 1-- Reminder for Parent Support Group tonight at 6:00pm for Children's Autism Project. Held at UT Dallas Callier Center, 1966 Inwood Road, Dallas, TX. 75235. For more info, call Hillary Carrington, 214.456.7700 Hillary.carrington@childrens.com.

March 8 --March Warrior Lunch with Advocate Mara LaViola, "Bang for Your Buck"; Where: Central Market, 75 and Lover's; When: Tuesday, March 8, 2011 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

March 8 --Reminder for Parent Support Group tonight at 6:00pm for Children's Autism Project. Held at UT Dallas Callier Center, 1966 Inwood Road, Dallas, TX. 75235. For more info, call Hillary Carrington, 214.456.7700 end_of_the_skype_highlighting; Hillary.carrington@childrens.com.

March 14 --Spend your spring break having fun with friends swimming, doing arts and crafts, playing games with friends and bowling. Bring snack, lunch and a drink each day. Bring Swim gear on designated days. Class: 117309; Dates: Mon to Fri March 14 to 18; Time: 10am-3pm; Ages: 8yrs-21yrs; Tom Muehlenbeck Center, 5801 W Parker..., Plano Texas. Cost: \$150. Addy Hjarpe, MS, Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor 972 -941-7327

March 14--Spring break idea: Adventure Camp is a day camp for ages 5-21 with intellectual and related disabilities. Camp is held M-F during spring and summer breaks w/ siblings. 9am-3pm with extended care available. Activities include crafts, games, entertainment, swimming, free play and field trips. Camper to staff ratio is generally 4:1 and is often supplemented by volunteers. Melody Berryhill @ mberryhill@arcdallas.org

March 15--KidSpeak Spring Break Camp, 4530 Beltway Dr., Addison. March 15th - March 17th (Tuesday - Thursday); Group 1 (ages 3 - 5): 9:00 - 11:00 FULL; Group 2 (ages 6 - 8): 11:00 - 1:00 5 open spots. \$320.00; \$20.00 Registration Fee (Registration deadline March 7th); -\$300.00 Camp Fee. More info (214) 636-087 or amanda@kidspeakdallas.com.

March 22--Reminder for Parent Support Group tonight at 6:00pm for Children's Autism Project. Held at UT Dallas Callier Center, 1966 Inwood Road, Dallas, TX. 75235. For more info, call Hillary Carrington, 214.456.7700 Hillary.carrington@childrens.com.

March 29-- Reminder for Parent Support Group tonight at 6:00pm for Children's Autism Project. Held at UT Dallas Callier Center, 1966 Inwood Road, Dallas, TX. 75235. For more info, call Hillary Carrington, 214.456.7700 Hillary.carrington@childrens.com.

Saturday, April 9-- Sneak Peak for Really Cool Event April 9, 2011! Warrior mom Mary is organizing a really cool autism concert for next April. She is taking reservations for tickets at this time...tickets to go on sale 1/11. Email dallasrocksagainstaautism@gmail.com for tickets. Mary has already sold 200 tickets! Here is her message: "I am organizing an event called 'Dallas Rocks Against Autism,' to benefit the Elizabeth Birt Center for Autism Law and Advocacy and BRAINS FOR AUTISM. The event will take place April 9, 2011 at the Sons of Hermann Hall, featuring comedy, 2 great bands playing classic rock from the 1970's, tex-mex cuisine, cash bar, live and silent auctions, and guest speakers. Tickets are \$25 and will go on sale in January 2011. I know this invitation is early, but there will only be 400 tickets available, so I am taking reservations to insure I set aside tickets for Warrior Moms and their friends. Once the publicity starts, the event will most likely sell out quickly. We are also always appreciative of corporate sponsors and donations. Any sponsor will be featured on the event's web page, which should be up in October, which will link to the EBCALA's website and Brains for Autism website, and give sponsors national recognition and publicity. Thanks for your consideration, and keep us in your prayers that we are successful and can make a difference for children with autism." Yeah, Mary! "Like" it on FB here: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Dallas-Rocks-Against-Autism/146039232098041?ref=ts>

April 9-- Dallas Rocks Against Autism Warrior End of Year Dinner; Where: El Fenix at

1601 McKinney, Concert at 3414 Elm Street, When: Saturday, April 9, 2011 at 6pm.

April 28--Registration now open for Spring 2011 ARI conference; Renaissance Waverly Hotel, Atlanta, GA| April 28-May 1; low rates for parents.
<http://www.ariconference.com/>.

Wednesday, May 18-- HBOT Panel; Where: Central Market, Lover's and 75; When: Wednesday, May 18, 2011, 11:30am.

May 25-May 29--AutismOne & Generation Rescue Announce, "Autism Recovery on a Budget: Empowering Parents." Get control of your child's health while getting control of the costs. The Westin Lombard Yorktown Center, 70 Yorktown Center, Lombard, Illinois. Autism Sticker Shock: How Can I Afford It? After the shock of diagnosis, one of the first thoughts parents have is, "I will spend whatever it takes to help my child." It's understandable, but not the most helpful reaction. In fact, it can work against you. Every parent worries about costs. It's the silent alarm that goes off whenever a treatment is considered. How much does it cost? Can I afford it? Yes You Can! You may think that the treatments your child needs must be expensive to be good. We often mistakenly believe how much we spend directly relates to how much we can help our children. Lay down your fears. From palate to poops costs do not dictate quality. We'll show you how to provide the best treatments without costing you an arm and a leg. Keynote: Saturday, May 28, JENNY MCCARTHY and BYRON KATIE: CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER.

Saturday June 4 -- Autism One Round table Coffee; Where: Central Market, Lover's and 75; When: Saturday, June 4, 2011, 9-11am.