



AUTISM YUKON

Summer Issue 2006



Autism Yukon's Office Officially Opens!

Inside this issue:

- AY Office Opens* Pg. 1
- President's Message* Pg. 1
- Siblings Wanted* Pg. 2
- Meet the Board* Pg. 3
- Membership Changes* Pg. 3
- Our Shining Stars* Pg. 4
- Library Corner* Pg. 4

On April 24, 2006 our office was officially staffed and opened to the public. Thanks to funding from Family & Children's Services, we were able to hire an Executive Director and open our doors to the Yukon community.

Leah Davy Ryckman was hired early April to take on this exciting challenge. A long time Yukoner with many years board & administrative experience, Leah looks forward to working with families and serving her community.

Her summer hours are 9:00-4:00 Monday-Thursday. Be sure to stop by, see the office and meet Leah.



Message from the President

I am thrilled to be writing this for Autism Yukon's first newsletter. It hardly seems possible how far we have come in just over a year. From meeting in various family's homes to a storefront office, executive director and thriving board. The dedication of everyone involved in Autism Yukon has been astonishing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of Autism Yukon

and the community for their dedication and support. A very special thanks to our executive director, Leah Davy Ryckman for her warmth and enthusiasm.

We are busy planning our Fall 2006 training events and various Autism Yukon activities and projects.

Looking ahead, October is Autism Awareness Month and we will be

planning specific events to commemorate the month. If you would like to assist, or for more information on AY, please contact either Leah or myself.

I'd like to thank the board for this opportunity and I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

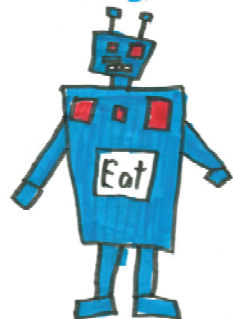
Regards,

Kathy Nixon, President

**October is
Autism
Awareness
Month!**

Join AY Today to receive early notice of upcoming events and training opportunities!

Jack as



Robot

“Jack as a Robot”

Art Work Contributed by
Jack’s big sister Madylin (age 8)

Sibling Network Proposal—Brothers & Sisters Wanted!

Autism Yukon will be submitting an application to the Youth Investment Fund & other funding sources for the creation of a recreation and support network for youth siblings of people with disabilities.

This program will have a coordinator help facilitate recreational and social opportunities just for the brothers and sisters of our children with ASD, and other disabilities.

You’ll gain valuable leadership

skills, be active, and meet friends who might share some of the same experiences you are going through.

We already know you are special. The sibling (you!) plays an important role in the life of a person with a disability. This will be a time to celebrate your valuable contributions to our community and to your family. We’ll have some fun, eat food, play games and other recreational stuff.

Our current idea is to have 12

spaces for siblings age 6 to 16. We’ll meet 2 Saturdays each month starting January to June. Participants will not have to pay anything expect arrange a ride to the meeting site. (Most likely the CWG Center).

Call 667-6406 if you want more information or you are interested in putting your name on the list.

If we are successful at getting the necessary funding we’ll notify all those who expressed an interest. **STAY TUNED!**

-Fun Craft Idea-



Submit your

CRAZY CRAFT idea to
info@autismyukon.org

Make a Balloon Blob!!

Great for tactile sensitivities, stress management or just plain fun!

You’ll need:

- Regular balloons
- All-purpose flour
- A funnel

1. Blow up a balloon and keep it inflated for at least 1 min-

ute. Do NOT tie a knot in the end. After 1 minute, let all the air out.

2. Fit a funnel into the open end of the balloon. Carefully spoon flour into the funnel, tapping and shaking the funnel to get the flour into the balloon. Put as much flour into the balloon as you can.

3. Remove the funnel. Tie a

knot in the end of the balloon.

4. Wash and dry the balloon blob.

5. Draw a face or design on the blob if you like. Push, pull, and stretch it into different shapes. Have fun!



Name this Newsletter!!!

Can you think of an interesting and original name for our
Autism Yukon Newsletter?

It will be distributed Quarterly and will go to all our directors, members and friends of our society. Submit your ideas by September 1st and our name will be chosen at the first fall board meeting.

**The person/family who submits the winner will receive a family day pass at the
Canada Games Center!**

Be creative! Be original! E-mail or send Leah your suggestions to

info@autismyukon.org or fax 667-6408.



Dr. J visits the Yukon

Her clients call her Dr. J.

Dr. Jill Calder works with individuals with brain injuries as a rehabilitation specialist in Kamloops BC. "That's my day job" she tells the group of over 80 participants at the *Case Management for Autism* workshop held April 28, 2006, "Jake is my job the rest of the time". Her 14 year old son has autism. Diagnosed at 4, his mom has made a quest of understanding Autism and educating others.

Families, teachers, professionals and caregivers attended this informative workshop. Through laughter and personal stories of the struggles she's faced, she gave hope to many parents and a better understanding to teachers and professionals about the future for people with Autism.

A family session was held on Saturday the 29th. Over 30 parents and family members shared their journey and had a

chance to chat one-on-one with Dr. Calder. It was a very rewarding session.

Special Thanks to Dr. Calder for a wonderful workshop. Our office received many positive comments from participants who attended.



Participants at the April 28, 2006 Workshop

Membership Changes at Autism Yukon

The board has decided to create a more formal membership process. This is important so we could track member changes and have accountability for voting processes at our Annual General Meetings. We want to encourage all of you on our current distribution lists (e-mail and regular mail) to

consider becoming a member of our valuable organization. Membership has rewards and privileges including receiving subsequent issues of this newsletter, free sign-out of resource materials and voting rights at our AGM.

New memberships are available immediately. If you cur-

rently have your name on our distribution list, and wish to become a member or learn more about the different types of membership, please contact the office.

If you want to receive more issues of this newsletter, be sure to join AY today!

**Autism Yukon 06/07
Memberships are now
available.**

**Contact the office to
become a member
today!**

MEET THE BOARD

On July 6th, 2006 we held our Annual General Meeting and elected the new Board of Directors of Autism Yukon for 2006/2007.

We have a dedicated mix of parents, therapists and members of our community bringing together an exciting new energy for Autism Yukon this coming year.

Welcome to Jill, Debra, Alison, Karen and Lisa—new to the board this year but certainly not new to our organization. You all bring different strengths and we thank you for your commitment to Autism Yukon.

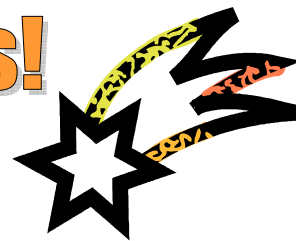
Our special thanks & goodbyes to Mike Nixon and Jerome McIntyre for their commitment to the 05/06 board. We thank you for all your time and we look forward to working with you again in the future.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006/2007

Kathy Nixon—President
Georgette Aisaican—Vice President
Laura MacDonald—Co-Vice President
Lisa Rawlings—Secretary
Dan Pederson—Treasurer
Alison Kalnicki—Director
Jill Walton—Director
Debra Banham—Director
Serena McKone—Director
Donna Groening—Director
Julie Robinson—Director
Karen Macklon—Director.

Introducing...

Our shining stars!



Summer Issue 2006

If you have something you'd like to share for our shining star corner, please submit to the Autism Yukon office. Our shining stars are all ages, and contributions can be poems, art work or stories...

Contact Information

508 F Main Street

Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 6K8

Phone: (867) 667-6406

Fax: (867) 667-6408

E-Mail: info@autismyukon.org

Watch for our Website Launch in
Fall 2006 www.autismyukon.org

Website Under Construction



This Masterpiece was contributed by Darby, Age 6
Thanks for sharing your artwork Darby!

The Library Corner

Did you know that we have a resource Library in our Autism Yukon Family Room?

We have books, DVD's and resource manuals for lending, or if you'd like a quiet escape, feel free to sit in one of our cozy arm-chairs and curl up with a book and a cup of coffee or do some research right in our own office.

As a member of Autism Yukon, you can sign these books out for free. Other

wise we ask for a refundable \$25.00 refundable deposit.

We have a wide assortment of resource information for parents, preschool educators, teachers, and self advocates (and just for those who want to *know more* and *grow more* in our community!). Each newsletter will highlight a book or DVD for your interest.

This issue we're highlighting "Aquamarine Blue 5" edited by Dawn Prince-Hughes.

This book is a series of

biographical essays from college students living with ASD. They are emotional and inspirational stories of their journeys through childhood and into the adult education system.

Approx 130 pages, for the young adult, or adult reader. Swallow Press, 2002.

Come see this, and more at the AY Library!

