



800 Friedens Road Suite 200
St. Charles, MO 63303

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #6
St. Charles, MO 63301

Save the Dates



**Our 16th Annual Hopes and Dreams Gala will be held on May 6,
2011 at Old Hickory Golf Club in St. Peters at
7:00 pm. Our theme will be Friday Night Fever.
You don't want to miss it!**



**For more information or to R.S.V.P. please contact Ebony Pollard
at epollard@factmo.org or 636-949-2425 ext. 221**



F.A.C.T. Newsletter

Spring 2011



FACT's 2nd Annual Trivia Night



Over 150 people of all ages brought their trivia savvy to FACT's 2nd Annual Trivia Night. This year's theme was "Through the Decades" and there was plenty of laughter and friendly competition between the participants at each of the tables. There were 19 tables with eight players to a table. Table 13 dominated and won the competition with wild enthusiasm to the amusement of the trivia night attendees and FACT successfully raised \$10,000!

Of course there were raffles and prizes to be won! Prizes included two 3 month memberships to Club Fitness complete with t-shirts and handy gym bags, a shop vac, two movie night baskets filled with various DVD's, movie theater candy and popcorn, an Irish basket and a kids' Step 2 Play Station. There was also a 50/50 drawing and the prize was a cool \$286.00! Round sponsors included Adeline's Kitchen, Anheuser-Busch, David Gould's Door to Door Laundry and Aluminum Can Recycling Service, Mayor of St. Charles, Patti York, Old Hickory Golf Club, Sabre Equipment Corporation, Thomson Printing and Willow's Way.

Special thanks to our Administrative Coordinator for Programs, Heather Lytle, and Administrative Coordinator for Operations, Jennifer Brooks, who worked especially hard to make this event fun for all and to the rest of the FACT staff who helped by volunteering their time or buying tickets and tables.

FACT would also like to thank it's Board of Directors for attending the trivia night and bringing a fun group of people with them, the round sponsors for their generous support and the rest of the trivia night participants who spent a fun Friday night with us for a good cause; helping us to continue working towards our mission of mentoring and empowering families that have children with disabilities.





Jonathan Mooney-Author of “The Short Bus” and “Learning Outside the Lines”

By Heather Lytle

At the Peak Conference in Denver, Colorado I had the opportunity to listen to Jonathan Mooney speak. To say he was vibrant would be an understatement. His story is becoming somewhat of a typical story for many school-age children. Before he went to kindergarten he was happy, had friends and was excited to begin school with his peers. As soon as he began kindergarten the differences between him and his peers started to become noticeable. For instance, he couldn't sit still. When the teacher requested that he sit still and listen, he would begin to stare out the window. Jonathan has ADHD. His brain wasn't capable of learning when he was sitting still. Movement for him was the key that unlocked the learning process. Asking him to focus on sitting still took away his ability to learn. He was called “stupid” followed by “crazy” and finally “lazy.” Teachers who learned to teach at the “school of all kids” were taught that there was one way to teach, and that any child who couldn't learn in that particular way must have something “wrong” with them.

That is until 3rd grade. His 3rd grade teacher was one of the many exceptional teachers that realize that all kids learn differently. Just because Jonathan couldn't spell, or read very well due to his dyslexia, didn't mean that he wasn't smart, or couldn't learn. All it meant was that there needed to be some creative accommodations to assist him in his learning process. That was the first year that Jonathan received straight A's. Unfortunately after leaving 3rd grade he was back in the “stupid, crazy and lazy” arena. His self-esteem plummeted. He hated school and by sixth grade he dropped out with a plan for suicide.

Obviously Jonathan didn't carry through with the plan, and went on to high school, got a soccer scholarship to college, and eventually transferred to Brown University. He was a Rhodes Scholar nominee, and graduated with a degree in English Literature. His story has a happy ending. But what about the kids that don't ever get the accommodations that they need? What about the kids who have a suicide plan that they carry out? It is important that we as a society recognize that every single person is different from each person's fingerprint to their learning style, and that there isn't anything wrong with that. We should celebrate our differences, not segregate them.

You can find out more about Jonathan Mooney by visiting www.jonathanmooney.com.

2011 Workshop Schedule

Special Education Basics	The IEP Process	Effective Communication	Child Abuse and Neglect
Mar 7 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	Mar 14 Monday 6:30 - 8:30PM	Mar 21 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	Mar 28 Monday 6:30-8:30 PM
Apr 16 Saturday 8:30 - 10:30 AM	Apr 16 Saturday 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Apr 16 Saturday 1:15 - 3:15 PM	Apr 23 Saturday 10:00 AM - Noon
May 2 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	May 9 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	May 16 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM	May 23 Monday 6:30 - 8:30 PM
June 18 Saturday 8:30 - 10:30 AM	June 18 Saturday 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	June 18 Saturday 1:15 - 3:15 PM	June 11 Saturday 10:00 AM - Noon



Seclusion and Restraints

By Denise Gould



The issue of seclusion and restraints is being decided upon for your local school district in the near future. And now is the time for you to make your thoughts and ideas known about this very important issue that will affect every student in the school district. Local Boards of Education MUST have adopted a policy on seclusion and restraint no later than July 1, 2011. Parents have valuable insight and information to share with their local school boards and school staff on this issue.

The Missouri Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities wants to support parents/guardians and self-advocates in becoming active participants in creating the policy that will govern the use of seclusion and restraint in their local school district. In order to help with your research on this issue, the MPCC has prepared a document titled “UPDATE on Seclusion and Restraint Policy in MO.” to provide you information on background and key points, a comparison of the DESE Model Policy and the MO School Board Association’s Model Policy on seclusion and restraint, as well as important issues to clarify with your local school board. A sample letter to your school board president requesting participation in the policymaking process is also provided. Visit MPCDD’s website at www.mpcdd.com and you will find a link to this information on the front page under “What’s New.”



Peak Conference 2011 Denver, Colorado

Everyone Belongs Everywhere

By Nikia Gist, FACT Advocate

In February, I had the opportunity to attend the Inclusion Education Conference in Denver, Colorado with my fellow advocates. The conference speakers all drove home a very important point; everybody belongs everywhere. When differential instruction is applied properly and diversity is accepted in its various forms, our children can be very successful in Inclusive Education.

When Inclusive Education is taught properly and in a variety of ways to accommodate different learning styles, there will be various options for children to complete their assignments successfully, independently or in group settings. Different options, such as independent work completion, working on the floor, standing while working, working in the library, working as a team or completing work in steps, encourage learning together and give everyone an opportunity to be included.

The information was insightful and encouraging to me, not only as an advocate but also as a parent. Conference speakers expressed how our children can and will suffer from low self-esteem, lack of interest, anxiety and physical ailments when they are forced to learn in a “cookie cutter environment.” I look forward to sharing this information with parents and schools in our area, in hopes that the information will be seen as an avenue to allow the children to learn in a new way and open up new options for teachers as well.

I believe that when children are given varied options of inclusion they will not only be successful in learning but will also be included in other activities with their peers. When this happens, everyone wins – the child, the peers, the staff and the family.