

The Buzz



APSEA Parent Association

Emily's Adventures

Tanya Kenney

We decided a long time ago we would not let ourselves or Emily's diagnosis hold her back. She loves to explore and try new things. Emily is now 9 years old and has Cortical Visual Impairment, CP and a severe form of Epilepsy. She is non-verbal, but lets us know what she likes and doesn't like. Emily is in a wheelchair, but also uses many types of other equipment to help her be able to do so many things.

Emily has been a Special Olympics bowler for 2 years and uses a bowling ramp. She has bowled a high of 94, and gets excited when she gets a spare.

This will be her last year competing in the Little Miss Harland Pageant. Her first year she was named Little Miss Friendship and last year she opened a lot of eyes about disabilities and was named Little Miss Sparkle.



Emily loves to go camping in the tent trailer which we go almost every weekend in the summer. We go to the beach, zoo, water slides, aquarium, etc. This past summer she even went out on a pirate whale watching tour and helped steer the ship.

With the aid of her Water Walker she loves to go

swimming and can do so independently with her friends. She spends most of her summer in the pool.

This winter her father built a toboggan on skis to pull behind the snowmobile-which Emily loves. She even tried out ice fishing this winter. We took her to North Lake on her toboggan. **Continued on Pg2**

My Time at the Seeing Beyond the Horizon Conference

Helen Smith-MacPhail

I had the pleasure of attending the Canadian Conference for Educators, Parents and Professionals of Children and Youth who are Blind or Partially Sighted on May 4th and 5th. The conference was organized by APSEA and the CNIB, who

did a great job finding informative and inspirational speakers.

Keynote speaker Robbin Keating Clark's mother had complete vision loss, and Robbin grew up to be a teacher of the visually

impaired and deafblind. A powerful advocate for the Expanded Core Curriculum, she stressed the important role parents play.

The session- Opening Doors to Adventure, focused on **Continued on Pg2**

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**I
choose not to
place "DIS",
in my
ability.
~Robert M.
Hensel**

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DHH Programs and Services

Patti Garlock

I would like to tell you more about myself and how I became apart of APSEA. I am a single mother of a 16-year-old son. He is hard of hearing and globally developmentally delayed.

I became part of APSEA when we moved from Kingston, Ontario to St. Stephen, New Brunswick. Malcolm had a very good teacher who came to see him at school on a weekly basis and she told me about the parent weekend in Halifax. So off we went to our first meeting spring of 2006. We booked a room at the APSEA residence. We shared an apartment with 3 other families. In sharing a living space you get to know people more. For those of you who do not know the residence have some

apartments for families to stay during the parent weekend. You have a private bedroom and share a bathroom, kitchen and living room. Some of the beds are a little hard but you can bring foam mattresses to help with that. It is better than sleeping on the floor. You can bring some of your own food and keep it in the kitchen. All meals are provided in the cafeteria. I must say the food is wonderful for adults and children. Staff does a wonderful job in that area.

The parent weekend is a great place to meet others with the same needs as your families have. You can learn new ideas, share joys and hardships, rebuild and gain strength to go on. The young children can go in care and they have a wonderful time.

They also make friends that they look forward to seeing each year.

Now I would like to talk about the Elk's & APSEA summer camp for DHH children. It is held in N.B. each summer for 1 week, Sunday-Friday. Transportation on a wonderful bus from Halifax to N.B. is an option. Camp is a great place again where the 7-14 year olds build relationships, life skills, independence and have a wonderful time with others who are also DHH. This also gives parents a weeklong break from the care of your child.

I can say that in the past 8 years that I have been part of APSEA my life and the life of my son has changed for the better.

Conference continued...

different programs across the country that encouraged outdoor activities. One of the programs was Courage Canada, a program that focuses on the sport of Blind Hockey.

Dr. Linda Mamer of BC facilitated a session called "Using iPads with Students with Deafblindness or Visual Impairments with Additional Disabilities". She did an

excellent job of providing information about what apps have been successful with her students.

The final event of Sunday was the opening ceremonies. I was asked to bring greetings from the Association. The key speaker was 8year old Caelin Lloyd, who wowed the crowd from the moment he drove his buggy car into the ball room. It was a very inspiring way to end a day filled with positive messages.

Check it out:

Adifferentkindofvision.blogspot.com

Famconnect.org

Couragecanada.ca

Emily's Adventures continued...

I think her favorite part was playing in the ice fishing hut.

In 2011 Emily was a wish child with Make-A-Wish Foundation and got to go to Walt Disney World. She loved the airplane ride! She loved the rides and many she could do right in her wheelchair. We stayed at an amazing place called Give Kids the World. She was tucked into bed by a 6ft tall rabbit named Mayor Clayton and has a star with her name on the ceiling of the Castle of

Miracles.

She has done many amazing things. Remember it can be scary, but never let yourself hold your kids back. Let them spread their wings and fly and never let anyone tell them they can't do something, just figure out how they can do it in their own way.



Who we are: Introducing Ross Lloyd

Ross Lloyd

Hi! I'm Ross Lloyd, currently vice president of BVI for the APSEA Parent Association. I live in rural Nova Scotia with my beautiful wife Monica, our 9 year old son Caelin and 7 year old daughter Georgia.

Caelin was born with oculocutaneous albinism and is not shy to tell you that his visual acuity is 20/200. Caelin has been receiving services from APSEA since the age of 2. These services have included home visits, assessments, short term programs, technology aids and weekly itinerant visits. Caelin has attended several weekend and weeklong summer camps sponsored by APSEA, and in 2012 we were able to attend the NOAH conference in St. Louis.

In the spring of 2012, I had the opportunity to attend the VIEWS (Parent Organization) in Ontario to learn about what they do, and May 4-6th I attended the "Seeing Beyond the Horizon" Conference in Halifax.

I want to do everything I can to make sure that our children continue to receive these wonderful services. That's why I joined the Parent Association and the APSEA Board of Directors.

There is much to do as we continue to grow and evolve as a parent association and connect with other parents to move toward a national voice. Please join us, we would love to hear from you!



Summer is Coming!

Jamie Patterson

With summer just around the corner its time to start thinking about summer activities for your kids. One of these activities that you might be thinking about are summer camps- a fun and independent choice for your growing boys and girls.

Every year APSEA works in collaboration with other organizations to bring your children camps designed for maximum fun.

APSEA/Elks Deaf Camp is being offered from August 3-8, 2014 in New Brunswick.

Camp See-Ya is being offered at Camp Brigadoon from June 29-July 4, 2014 in Nova Scotia.

All information and registration applications can be found on the APSEA website at www.apsea.ca

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.

-Helen Keller

Playground Construction is Underway at APSEA

Jamie Patterson

The APSEA Accessible Playground Committee has been very busy over the past year raising money for our new playground.

A lot of changes have happened since the last Parent Weekend, with more construction to take place this summer. The official opening is expected to be October 4th, which is exciting that it will coincide with our 2014 Weekend.

A large thank you goes out to the Lions Club for a generous donation and to the Military Police Blind Children's Fund who donated a whopping \$35,000.00 toward the project.

Thank you to Karen Keats who has been a driving force behind the project, and to all of the volunteers who have helped make this a reality.



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**Ideas for the Newsletter?
Contact Jamie**

Message from the President:

Hello All, My name is Helen Smith-MacPhail and I am pleased to be the President of the APSEA Parent Association. The Parents Association has three main goals: to provide group support and opportunities for social interaction for children and families, to recruit parents of APSEA participating students for involvement in professional development opportunities, meetings, conferences and other related activities designed to enhance the role of parents in supporting the education of their children and advancing their own educational needs and to provide information to parents of APSEA participating students regarding APSEA issues, and in consultation with other parents to bring questions, concerns, and ideas regarding APSEA related issues to the attention of school staff, administration and other school community stakeholders.

This year the parent executive has had teleconference meetings in August, October, November, March and April. We were able to meet face to face in May. We are planning the Parent Weekend for the fall. If you have any ideas for the Parent Weekend, we would love to hear them. Please send them to one of the executive members.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer!

Come join us!!!!

**APSEA
Family Fun Day**



June 14th, 2014
11am-3pm
At Centennial Park
Moncton, NB

Save the Date!

**The
APSEA Parent Weekend
is scheduled
For
October 4th, 2014**

More Information to follow...