

TALKING TIMES

a publication of the CID Parents Organization

November 2008

CID PARENTS NEWSLETTER

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CID Families get together

There were two opportunities for CID families to gather this month.

Pictures below are from the CID family potluck. Following dinner, the kids were entertained by the Doorei Traditional Korean Drummers while parents heard from a panel of parents of CID alumni.

A few families went to the pre-Halloween Eckert's fun farm this month as well.



Entertainment Book sales are still going!

We will take orders from you, your friends, and your family on an ongoing basis until **December 5, 2008**. Just place your order in the front office with DaRel, and we'll get you books right away (in time for holiday gifts!). Books are \$25, and CID parents organization benefits 20% on all sales up to 50 books, and 50% on all sales over 50 books.

Thanks to Garrett Dempsey (and family) for his outstanding sales so far!

DID YOU KNOW?

Parent Resource: John Tracy Clinic

You feel confident that your child is well educated here at CID, but do you ever wonder how you can boost your own knowledge as a parent and ability to support your child at home? The John Tracy Clinic (www.johntracyclinic.org) offers distance learning correspondence courses for parents for this reason. The distance learning materials are available electronically, or can be sent to you in the mail. They are intended for parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers with hearing loss birth to five years old. The courses will help you explore listening, language and speech development, and active ways to reinforce these at home with simple activities. And, they are all FREE of charge. Distance Learning for Parents: Correspondence Education <http://www.jtc.org/corres/index.php>

Contemplating cochlear implant surgery?

If you're in discussions with surgeons regarding a potential or pending cochlear implant surgery, consider having a conversation to learn all you can about the process. Here are some potential questions you might consider discussing (referenced from conversation with various parents and professionals on the CI circle yahoo groups listserv):

- How long have you been doing implants? How many have you done? What ages of children?
- How comfortable are you with the XX brand implant? Do you have any concerns about this brand in general (failure rates, future technology trends, etc.)?
- What are your failure rates? How many explants have you had to do?
- What are rates of infection? Risks of Meningitis?
- What method do you utilize for insertion of the implant? What is the likelihood of sparing residual hearing?
- Who at the hospital can I contact with my questions (interpreter, recovery room, etc.)?
- What does the recovery look like? How long will the "turban" bandage stay on?
- How long will steri-strips stay on the incision site? How long until we can wash his/her hair?
- How long should we anticipate he/she be out of school?
- What are the most common side effects? Chances of facial paralysis?
- Do you have any concerns about the surgery's impact on balance?
- What kind of pain medication will he/she get pre, during and post-surgery?
- How long do you anticipate the surgery lasting?
- Do you recommend (does insurance cover) the child staying overnight in the hospital?
- Will an audiologist be present during the surgery to test the electrode aptitude?

Have you considered a **medical bracelet** for your son/daughter?

Available at www.medicalert.com, medical bracelets and related services can provide an additional safety net for the health and safety of your loved one, at a minimal upfront and annual cost.

Sample inscription:

DEAF. Cochlear
Implant L, R ears.
No MRI

CID CONNECT: UPCOMING DATES

November

November 17 2pm-3pm Cochlear rep. displays assistive listening devices for implants in CID lobby

December

December 5 Entertainment book sales deadline

January

Thursday, 1 Start of CID's 95th year

February

Saturday, 7 6:30pm CID annual Trivia Night
Saturday, 28 TBD CID Parent Workshop

May

Saturday, 2 CID Ultimate Picnic at Neo

Visit www.cid.edu for the school calendar and other upcoming dates!

PARENT PERSPECTIVE

Recommended reading

Choices in Deafness: A Parent's Guide to Communication Options, 2nd Ed, 1996. Sue Schwartz Editor

Provides an overview of communication options in deaf education. The CID approach, Oral Communication, is highlighted and explained along with several other methods utilized with kids who are deaf or hard of hearing

A good resource to learn the 'lingo' of deaf education

A Sound Scavenger Hunt

Jane-Ellis Griggs, CID mother of Peter, 2yrs old

Peter and I like to take walks together. We walk around the block, holding hands, and breathing this new stuff called cool air. Lately our walks have become a scavenger hunt for sounds. We stop for countless jets and watch them until they fly into the sun, making our eyes squint. "Bye-bye" Peter says. "Bye-bye, jet" I say. Occasionally we hear a helicopter, which sounds very different from the jets with a more rhythmic, chopping sound. This week we have even been treated by the louder, more purposeful sound of a handful of fighter jets. We hear the birds, belting out their own unique songs like a tuning orchestra. "Tweet, tweet" I say. "Eet, eet!" Peter squeaks. Peter waves at cars as they pass and we imitate them with our best "Vroom, vroom."

We pass the varied yards of our neighbors, some with manicured lawns and landscaping, and some with - well some that look, you know, more like our yard. Today we passed a house which has a tree traditionally decorated with pink flamingos and Mardi Gras beads (all year-round). I have to admit that I have never appreciated this house when I have seen it in the past, but today was different. Peter and I stopped in wonder as the gentle breeze blew not one, but fourteen wind chimes on the house's front porch. Wow! The chimes laughed and gossiped with tings and sweet clangs. Peter and I smiled at each other. Our eyes widened and we pointed at our ears as we processed the new sound. "Ding, dong" I said. "Doo, dee, doo" Peter said. He finally grew tired of walking and stopped, reaching for me to pick him up. I was happy to scoop him onto my hip. He looked around for a while and then rested his head on my shoulder as we rounded the corner for home. Hearing all these exciting sounds can make a guy pretty sleepy.

Fire safety for deaf or hard of hearing children

Leanna Fenneberg, Mother of Addison, 3 years old

I don't know about you, but while I've thought about and attended to a lot of things related to my son's deafness, fire safety has not been one of them. This is on my 'to do list' to further research and actively determine mechanisms to keep our family safe from the threat of a fire.

"Nearly one-half of at home fire deaths result from fires reported between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m." (www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/fire.pdf). This is of particular concern for parents of children who are profoundly deaf or otherwise hard of hearing, given that this is the same period when most children do not wear their devices.

Various products exist on the market for this very purpose – to offer alternate forms of alerting individuals beyond the traditional sounding fire alarm. Products include smoke detectors with a flashing light similar to what you've seen in commercial establishments that are easily installed in your home and vibrating detectors that shake one's bed. One vendor available to purchase such products is Harris Communications. Visit www.harriscom.com for options.

Another information resource on the topic of fire risks for the deaf and hard of hearing can be found at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/hearing.pdf>.

Hopefully you're motivated, as I am, to begin researching this area of concern for fire safety.

SUPPORTING CID

Tribute gifts

If you, your family or friends are searching for the perfect gift, look no further! A tribute gift to CID is a great way to honor your loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. It is also an easy way to tell someone what CID means to you. The next time someone requests your wish list, suggest they honor you with a tribute gift to CID. You can make a tribute gift online at www.cid.edu or by calling Tracy Kodner at 314-977-0222 / tkodner@cid.edu in the development office.

Matching Gifts

If you or someone you know does make a gift to CID, remember to find out if your employer makes matching gifts. There is usually a simple form for you to complete that can double or even triple your gift to the school.

Workplace Fundraising

Some employers sponsor programs like "Jeans Friday" that allow employees to make donations to a nonprofit in exchange for the privilege of where jeans on Friday. Often times, you can recommend your favorite nonprofit (CID!) to be the beneficiary during a given month. Find out what your employer does to support the local nonprofit community and add CID's name for consideration – employers often give to the organizations their employees care about most. If your company has a formal application process for charitable gifts, contact Christy Maxfield at 314-977-0225 / cmaxfield@cid.edu to find out if CID may be eligible to apply and how the school's request could benefit from letters of support from parents like you.

Volunteer

CID's development and communications team can always use your help. To serve as a volunteer, or share your own fundraising ideas for CID, please contact Christy Maxfield at 314-977-0225 / cmaxfield@cid.edu.

CID Family updates

3 Cheers for...

Kennedy Berghoff, who received her first cochlear implant this month

Shayna Hemesath, who received and activated her first cochlear implant this semester

Peter Griggs who learned to put his implant coils back on by himself when they fall off

Introducing...

Getting to know CID staff

Name Amy Tighe

Position Business Manager

How Long 12 years

What do you like about working at CID?

I believe in the mission of CID. While some people think for my position, 'You deal with numbers all day', I get to see the families behind the numbers and how CID impacts their lives.

You might see her most

- During financial aid meetings
- Greeting folks during after school care from the office



Contribute to the CID Parents Talking Times

Email any ideas for things to include, content you've written, accomplishments or news you want to share about your family, pictures, etc. to fennebel@slu.edu for consideration for inclusion in the next issue (February, 2008)