
COMMUNITY PRAISE

News, Events & Resources for Parents of Neurodiverse Learners

Don't Miss our Holiday Party

Sunday December 9
5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Veterans Hall

Don't forget to stop over at our Holiday Party for Kids and Parents alike. We will have fun crafts and games for kids and Holiday Cheer for the parents too! We would love to see all of you.

FUN FRIDAYS! **Movie and Pajama** **Party for Kids and** **Parent. DEC 14th**

Friday December 14th will be our first FUN FRIDAYS! event. Pizza, Movie and Pajamas! Please let us know if you and your child would like to be included in these events Send a note to Charlene Reis at charlenereis.skbs@gmail.com



PRAISE Family Volunteers at Basket Brigade

Making the Holidays Special

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Basket Brigade. This year PRAISE families participated in a great Piedmont tradition with the Girls Scout's Basket Brigade. We filled and wrapped 5 giant baskets with Turkeys and all the trimmings then we delivered them to deserving families around Oakland. It was a very rewarding day for everyone!

In December we will host our **Annual Holiday Potluck Party** at the **Piedmont Veterans Hall** on **Sunday December 9th from 5-7pm**. This is a chance to hang out with other PRAISE Parents and enjoy some holiday spirit! You should receive your invitation by email but if you haven't yet joined PRAISE and would like join us, here is a link with the details <http://evite.me/WAxXGhPDRY> We'd love to see you there!

NEURODIVERSITY Speaker Series

January 10, 2019

7:00pm-8:30pm

Havens Library IEP Workshop

Don't miss these great speakers. Our first Speaker will be **Lilian Ansari**. She will hold an IEP workshop with Q&A.

E-Soccer, Camps and Sports

E-soccer is ongoing, happening at Havens and you can drop in any Saturday 10:30-11:30. It runs through November 17. To sign up! <http://bit.ly/2gxJ1Uw> They will also have spring e-soccer as well if you miss this one!

Coffee & Chat with FPQK

Fun Parents of Quirky Kids is a group parents who get together for morning coffee to discuss all things Special Needs. Please email Ann Dowley at adowley@igc.org Coffee & Chat with FPQK

Alameda County Transitions Faire 2019

Helpful information about the transition from High School into Adulthood with lots of supports.

December 14th is our first **FUN FRIDAYS! Event**.

These FUN FRIDAYS are designed with our kids in mind! Sometimes, not everyone is invited to all the birthday parties, so we wanted to create special parties that your kids are always invited to! They will have a different theme but always fun for all ages. It will be like going to a family friends house where the kids will have an activity and the parents can hang out separately. This is our way letting kids know that everyone is included and Everyone Belongs. This won't be a drop off but a parent and child party. It will be a Movie, Pizza and Pajama Party at the home of Ina Kim. If you are interested in getting on the invite list please email Charlene at charlenereis.skbs@gmail.com



Our **Neurodiversity Speaker Series** is starting Spring semester with an **IEP workshop** from **Lilian Ansari on January 10th 7:00 pm -8:30pm at the Havens Library** Don't miss it! Parents can learn about the process of collaborating with the school staff to develop an Individualized Education Program for your child. She will have a ton of great information and there is sure to be a very beneficial Q&A session at the end. More info to come on our speaker series. Check our website at piedmontpraise.org

For our older kids, Alameda County is holding its **Transitions Information Faire** in **March 23, 2019**

How to reach out to your PRAISE Representative?

If you are interested in joining PRAISE or have some questions reach out to your school Rep!

Havens Elementary

Ina Kim ikim78@gmail.com

Meredith Lamont

meredithlamont@gmail.com

Beach Elementary

Hieu and Minh Le

hieuminh@sbcglobal.net

Wildwood Elementary

Janel Thamkul

janel.thamkul@gmail.com

Piedmont Middle School

Sabrina Smith

sabrinasmith@yahoo.com

Piedmont High School

Cat Castoreno

catherine.castoreno@bhghome.com

LINKS

Join PRAISE if you haven't
<http://bit.ly/2qASxGn>

understood.org great website for parents with students with learning differences.

eyetoeyenational.org organization for students to advocate for LD at schools and universities.

getspeechify.com Speechify is an app that can read anything on your computer in a human voice.

9:30am-3pm at the College of Alameda. 555 Ralph Appezzato Memorial Parkway, City of Alameda. This is for students 14-22 and their families to learn more about the transition process and adult service providers. Contact Sandy Soliday sandi.soliday@acgov.org or for more information call 510.267.3261.

If you are looking for Coffee and a Chat please join FPQK! **Fun Parents of Quirky Kids** is actually not a PRAISE sponsored event but you'll see many of the same faces. Its a parents brunch, usually on a week day, and a great opportunity to support one another along the journey of having kids with different needs. Its a chance to ask questions and get resources. If you would like to get on the list for the next **FPQK brunch** please email Ann Dowley at adowley@igc.org

Finally, PRAISE would also like to take a minute to welcome Hillary Crissinger to the school district. She is new Director of Special Education and will be also be holding Special Education Advisory Meetings. The next one will be **December 11 5:30-6:30** in the Haven's Library. We would also like to acknowledge Cory Smegel, who will be the new rep for PRAISE on the Piedmont School Board. We are looking forward to working with her. PRAISE also supports the district differentiation specialist Amy Symons Burke and we look forward to meeting with her this year as well. I also want to acknowledge our awesome PRAISE board who volunteers their time putting together these amazing events.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year!

Charlene Reis
PRAISE president, Mom to Riley and Theo



