



Connection

P.G. Chambers School – *Discovering the unique potential within every child.*

Celebrating 50 Years of Magic

The staff and Board of Trustees at the P.G. Chambers School welcome you to join in "Celebrating 50 Years of Magic."

On November 13th, P.G. Chambers School will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a black tie extravaganza, *Celebrating 50 Years of Magic*, at the Park Avenue Club in Florham Park. Bank of America, Wyeth, Atlantic Health System, CR Bard and Neiman Marcus are sponsoring this magical event. The evening will feature a special magic show by *The Gleasons*, a husband and wife duo who have toured over 65 countries and currently produce and direct their own major illusion show, "Embrace the Mystery," at the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas.

Celebrating 50 Years of Magic"
Brought to you by....



While marking an important date in our history, *Celebrating 50 Years of Magic* is also an important fundraising event through which we hope to raise support for the School's *Assistive Communication and Technology (ACT) for Kids Program*.

The *ACT for Kids Program* was developed seven years ago by speech, occupational and physical therapists at P.G. Chambers School, and teaches children to use computers and other technologies for communication, learning, and everyday tasks, giving them greater independence and improving their overall quality of life.

During recent years, computers and other technologies have expanded and enriched our lives and given many children with disabilities options not imagined a decade ago. Today, a nonverbal child can "speak" with the help of an electronic communication aide, a student with learning disabilities is able to master math facts using a computer game, and a child with a physical disability can bypass a conventional keyboard with a touch screen.

The School's mission is to discover the unique potential within every child and that is basically what the gala



The Gleasons combine elegance, mystery and wonder into every magic performance.

event is all about...celebrating the magical transformation that follows when children recognize the potential within themselves. Our goal in organizing the gala is to ensure this "magic" continues for another 50 years.

With the proceeds from *Celebrating 50 Years of Magic*, we hope to give every student at P.G. Chambers School the opportunity to create their own magic with today's technology. For more information about tickets to the event or support for the *ACT for Kids Program*, please contact JoAnn Hansen, Development Director at (973) 829-8484 x109.

What is Apraxia?

“Typically, children with Developmental Apraxia understand language much better than they are able to use language to communicate.”

Author: Kelly M. Bretz, M.S., CCC
Speech Language Pathologist

“My child doesn’t babble,” “My son is not speaking,” and “I don’t hear many consonant sounds.” These are concerns echoed by many of the parents that we speak to every day, and may be indicative of a number of different speech and language problems, one of which is known as Developmental Apraxia of Speech (DAS). With Developmental Apraxia, the muscles used for speech production are not weak or paralyzed, but rather the coordination of muscle movements and the ability to repeat specific movements of the mouth, lips and tongue is impaired.

Developmental Apraxia of Speech (DAS) occurs in children and is present from birth. Characteristics of apraxia range in severity from mild to severe and appear to affect more boys than girls. Children with Developmental Apraxia have difficulty putting sounds and syllables together in the correct order to form words. They also tend to make inconsistent mistakes when speaking. For example, they may say a word correctly, but then have trouble repeating it. They may also say a word or sound several times before they say it correctly. Another common characteristic of children with



Kelly Bretz at the P.G. Chambers School works with Sean using touch prompts to make the “W” sound.

Developmental Apraxia is the incorrect use of speech inflection and rhythm, which is also important in accurately communicating the meaning of words or phrases. Typically, children with Developmental Apraxia understand language much better than they are able to use language to communicate.

In order to properly identify a child with apraxia, a certified Speech Language Pathologist should do an assessment of a child’s speech and language function. A speech and language sample should be fully analyzed for the following: number and variety of consonants/vowels, speech sound errors, imitation of oral motor movements, melody and vocal ‘expressiveness’, receptive and expressive language skills. Treatment for apraxia involves improving a child’s ability to learn and imitate new speech sounds and refine how and in what sequence they are articulated. It is also important to develop a way for the child to functionally communicate, verbal or nonverbal, that will help them express daily wants and needs. To speak with an expert on apraxia, call Mindy Porcelan at the P.G. Chambers School, Communication Department at (973) 829-8484 x241.



P.G. Chambers School

15 Halko Drive, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey 07927

Officers of the Board of Trustees

Steve Vittorio, **President**
Linda Kaugher, **First Vice President**
Adrienne Kirby, **Second Vice President**
Lori Solomon, **Treasurer**
Susan Seamans, **Secretary & Executive Director**

Board of Trustees

Patricia Chambers	William Haskel	Bobbi Phillips
Peter Crimi	Robert Iannaccone	Cathy Walsh
Gloria Dodd	Eric Monsen	Thomas Walsh
Craig Hall	Mary Mulholland	

This publication is designed to promote awareness of P.G. Chambers School programs, services, accomplishments and needs. For more information about P.G. Chambers School, call 973-829-8484.

Resources for Apraxia

If you would like more information on apraxia, please visit: www.apraxia-kids.org

www.kidsspeech.com

www.ninds.nih.gov

www.rarediseases.org

or call the

Apraxia-Kids Helpline (412) 343-7102.



"Providing Avenues to Help," the PATH Group at Cendant posed for us after presenting their generous donation raised by hosting a "Blue Jeans To Work" Day for their employees.

Applause

A special thank you to the PATH volunteers at Cendant

Cendant's PATH volunteers conducted a Blue Jeans Day on Friday, June 18, 2004 to benefit P.G. Chambers School's new Art and Music Therapy Program. PATH stands for "Providing Avenues To Help," and that's exactly what Cendant does for its employees who participate in this volunteer community service team of approximately 100 employees.

"PATH provides the employees at Cendant with an opportunity to volunteer with as many or as few projects as they choose," as shared with us by a member of the PATH team. "Many people want to volunteer but cannot find the time at home, so Cendant provides its employees with an outlet to get involved in providing assistance to local groups and charities, helping people and organizations in our community."

The PATH group was created by the "Administrative Connection," a group of Administrative Assistants at the Parsippany Campus who met every other month to network and share ideas and tips with each other. The group wanted to expand their scope by adding a "Community Involvement" committee, which began as a committee of three. Over the last year and a half, the PATH group has evolved into a driven team of 100 members. Some of the organizations they have actively supported this past year include: Community Soup Kitchen of Morristown, Morris View Nursing Home, March of Dimes, St. Huberts, Toys for Tots, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, and many more.

We applaud the management and Board of Directors at Cendant for their leadership and support of the PATH volunteers, and we express our heartfelt appreciation to the PATH volunteers who selflessly give of their time, money and energies to help others in need.

Menus for the Mind

We look forward to a fantastic *Menus for the Mind* Lecture/Luncheon series this year with special guest speakers beginning with Newsweek's chief political correspondent, senior editor, and deputy Washington bureau chief Howard Fineman on November 11th; followed by Lynn Donohue, author of the critically acclaimed memoir, *Brick By Brick: A Woman's Journey* on March 3rd; and finally, Anna Quindlen, best-selling author of four novels (*Blessings, Black and Blue, One True Thing, and Object Lessons*), and four non-fiction books (*A Short Guide to a Happy Life, Living Out Loud, Thinking Out Loud, and How Reading Changed My Life*) on May 5th.



Donna Soos, Consumer Market Executive at Bank of America, one of our Menus for the Mind sponsors, visits with our students.

This year's *Menus for the Mind* sponsors include: Bank of America, The MCJ Foundation, Amelior Foundation, Pfizer, Normandy Real Estate Partners, LLC, and Aventis. Without their support, we would not be able to continue to meet the ever growing need of children and families from a nine county region of Northern New Jersey. Our *Menus for the Mind* Lecture/Luncheon Series is one way that these companies give back to the communities in which they live and do business.

Each lecture/luncheon is held at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston, from 11:30am until 2:00pm. A ticket for the series is \$330, of which \$220 is tax-deductible. Please call JoAnn Hansen, Development Director at (973) 829-8484 x109 for tickets or additional information.



Family and friends enjoyed fun in the sun at our first Annual Concert in the Park held in our Learning Park at P.G. Chambers School.

P.G. CHAMBERS SCHOOL TRIBUTE FUND

In Honor Of: Happy Father's Day

Jerry Solomon
Florence Solomon

Happy Birthday

Thomas Baio
Laurene and Ralph Inglese

David Kaucher
Diane and Syd Kitson

Patricia Chambers
Gloria Chai
Chambers Family
Rachel Cofield
Noelle M. Jencarelli
Timothy Lloyd Pope Consulting

In Honor Of: General

Lynn Formanes
Joey Morales-Ward

Kim Stucky
Joey Morales-Ward

Wedding guests of
Emily and Scott Pranis

In Memory Of:

Sarah Maddux Davis
Mrs. Peter J. Skurla

Sadye Goldstein
Eileen Baty
Janet Kutzman
Linda Russell
Susan Seamans
Diane Thomas
Mary Walsh

Jake Haskel
Mikela Lewis
Elizabeth and Alan Cohen

Jurgen Braunschweiger
Helen Goldberg

Kate Moran
Eileen Baty
Diane and Vincent Thomas

Joseph Onorata
Barbara and Tom Wallack

Dr. Al Provolski
Lori and Jerry Solomon

Abigail Schmidt
Gail and Don Anderson
Paul Lattan, The Baker's Dozen
Violette and Amal Boctor
Cargill's Vital Wheat Gluten Team
Chris, Emile, Kim, Heather and Emil Carrar
ConAgra Foods
The Divack Family
May and Terry Eason

Steve and Darlene Feder
Beth and Tony Gallagher
Susan & Ken Harmonay
Brian Head
Ann Marie and Tony Hester
Mona and John Hiserodt
Karen Kowalski
Angela and Don Lepore
Edee Levey
Loar & Young, Inc.
Ted Longacre
Sharon and Thomas Masiello
Melba and William McCurry
Josephine and Lawrence Moss
Old Farmers Road School PTA
Mary Osterman
Joanne and Peter Perrault
Dustin Potter
Thomas Cooper, Quality Ingredients Corporation
Judy and Steve Reynolds, and Neighbors at Bradford
Poppy and Donald Reynolds
Arthur, Eric, Art IV, Tina, Rick, Chloe and Zachary Reeble, Maysel Goss, Judy Schmidt
Schoenberg Salt Co., Inc.
SWK Technologies, Inc.
Susan Thomas
Richard Andre, Verdugt b. v.
Linda and Stephen Wilkinson
Judith and Harry Zingg
Stephen Wharton Segalas
Garden Club of Morristown

Gifts to our Tribute Fund are a thoughtful way to remember or honor a friend, associate or relative while providing needed funds for the programs offered at P.G. Chambers School. An acknowledgement is sent to you and to the person or family of the individual recognized. Your name and the purpose of the gift is also mentioned in our Connection newsletter. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Concert In The Park

We'd like to thank the many families and supporters of our First Annual *Concert in the Park*, a benefit which took place in August to support the school's new *Art and Music Therapy Program*. Guest performers at our outdoor concert, which was held in our Learning Park, included singer, songwriter and guitarist, KO; and singer, songwriter and saxophonist, SOOZ.

Sponsors of our first *Concert in the Park* Tropical Jamboree included: **Cendant, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., PNC Bank, BASE, Thomas Baio Architect, P.C., Hudson City Savings Bank, and Verizon.**

We'd also like to recognize our Parent Planning Committee who worked so hard to make this day special... Linda Clark,

Andrea Szott, Karen Gallotto, Toni Sharabba, Colleen Stout, Joyce Beyers, Amanda and Chuck Riffenberg, Anna DeBellonia, Ginny Jakimowicz, Theresa Petrasek, Marge DiMuro and Joyce Reilly-Ruiz.



Proceeds from the *Concert in the Park* will support the introduction of concerts and residencies for the children and teaching workshops for our staff, which are coordinated by Jumpstart, an arts consulting firm in Morris County that designs and runs interactive arts adventures for children and families.

We are pleased to report that our first concert/residency and training workshop has been scheduled this fall with World Musician, Andy Wasserman. Andy will share with staff and students his view that the human heartbeat shapes the musical sounds that link us all.

Summit Area Public Foundation and the F.M. Kirby Foundation Provide Support for... Parenting Workshops

Through funding provided by the Summit Area Public Foundation and the F.M. Kirby Foundation, the following Parenting Workshops will be offered this fall. If you are interested in attending any of the following workshops, please contact the individuals listed underneath each workshop.

October 27th, Early Care Program for Children with Autism: Learning from One Another – 7-9:00pm

Please join our panel of parents who will be discussing the challenges of raising children with autism. Five families will share their experiences and participate in an informal discussion of issues faced by parents of preschoolers through high school age students. Questions about education, nutrition, social and behavioral challenges and managing family needs will be addressed by these families who have developed strategies from living with and caring for their children's special needs. Contact Sarah Ehinger, Social Worker, at (973) 829-8484 x121 to reserve your spot.

November 10th, DAD'S NIGHT OUT! How "Rough & Tumble Play" is not only fun, but is essential for your child's development, Amy Krynicki, OTR 7-8:00pm

Come join us to make "sense" out of sensory processing. We will come together to learn about the different sensory systems. You will discover how to identify the types of sensory input your child may be seeking or avoiding. We will explore a variety of activities that will help you understand

the impact that sensory input has on your system. These activities can then be carried over at home with your child.

This program is specifically for dads with children from 18 months to 3 years of age. Contact Sarah Ehinger, Social Worker, at (973) 829-8484 x 121 to reserve your spot.

November 10th & 11th, Strategies for Parenting: A Two-Part series – 7-8:30pm

Network with other parents and learn new strategies for managing behaviors of children with special needs. This workshop will focus on Goals for Promoting Positive Behavior, Building Your Child's Feelings of Worth, Hearing Your Child's Behavior, Basics of Discipline, Clear and Consistent Consequences, Difficult Behavior Unresolved, Transitioning with Social Stories, and Parenting as a Team. Contact Penny Mjolsness, Social Worker, at (973) 829-8484 x120.

Professional Workshops/Conferences

November 15-16, 2004: Promoting FUNctional Outcomes in Pediatrics: Learn Neuro-Developmental Treatment strategies to add fun and function to your treatment of children with mild to moderate neurological impairments. Presenter: Jane Styer-Acevedo, PT. Course held at P.G. Chambers School. Contact: Nancy Altshuler, PT and Conference Coordinator at Chambers School (973) 829-8484 x167.

P.G. Chambers School Auxiliary Fundraiser

Based on numerous requests, note cards designed by children at P.G. Chambers School are now available! Get yours while supplies last!

These lovely 4" x 5" note cards are blank inside and perfect for all occasions. Each packet of note cards comes with 8 cards (4 different designs) and envelopes all nicely packaged in a protective pouch. Each packet is sold for \$10.00, and all proceeds go directly to support P.G. Chambers School. While quite practical for personal use, the note cards also make wonderful holiday gifts for your friends and family members.

To order your cards, please use the following form. If you'd like to pay by credit card, please contact JoAnn Hansen at (973) 829-8484. Thank you for your support!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Please send me _____ note card packets for \$10 each. Please include \$1 additional to cover the cost of postage and handling. My check totaling \$_____ is enclosed.

Please make checks payable to: *P.G. Chambers School Auxiliary* and mail to: Mitzi Seri, 45 Sherwood Drive, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046



BIRTHDAY BOOK CLUB

The *Birthday Book Club* invites families and friends to honor their child's birthday or other special occasion by purchasing a book for the P.G. Chambers School's Library/Resource Room. The child's name is permanently inscribed on each book that is donated. A special thank you to parents who have supported the *Birthday Book Club*. For more information about *Birthday Book Club*, please contact Jilby Mullen at Chambers School.

Birthday Book Club Honorees and Donors:

Emily Baio from Monica and Thomas Baio
Caitlyn Branch from Ken and Maryann Branch
Nicholas Brennan from Lisa and Michael Brennan
Michael V. Burrini from The Burrini Family
Jessica Calvetti from The Calvetti Family
Jadeliz Garcia from Jessica and Fred Garcia
Raffi Hollander from Barbara and Larry Hollander
Sean McClellan from Lee McClellan
Michael Sirota from The Sirota Family
Danielle Sass from Susan and Hal Sass
Kaitlyn and Julia Sklow from The Sklow Family
Mary Rita Tortorello from Maryanne and Pat Tortorello
Mary Yoon from Amy Yoon

WISH LIST ITEMS...

- Child-safe mirrors (no smaller than 10" x 10") for the children to use as a reference in making facial expressions and sounds.
- Play Kitchen to be used in the housekeeping area to promote dramatic play/role playing.
- Rifton Seating System to help children with physical disabilities to sit at a classroom table (\$1300).
- Small adapted tricycle to allow children who don't walk the opportunity to ride a bike and potentially to have some independence while moving (\$1200).
- Red and Blue bolster swing to provide vestibular input (\$400).
- Music Education and Therapy Requests - Suzuki Keyboard, Snare Stand, Parachute, Hanging Cymbal, Cymbal Stand, Classical Magic Curriculum, Williams Digital Piano, Adjustable height piano bench.
- Bell Choir Requests involve special switches which provide adapted access for children with physical disabilities:
3 Jelly Bean Switches (\$129),
3 Spec Switches (\$147),
1 Big Mac Switch (\$43).
- Acoustic guitar (\$200).

If you find it more convenient, we would be happy to use your contribution to directly purchase a Wish List item in your name.

Connection

Staff – Fall 2004 Newsletter

Susan Seamans Executive Editor	Sharon Cutler Distribution Manager
JoAnn Hansen Managing Editor	Kelly Bretz Writer / Photographer
Edee Levey Contributing Editor	Joyce Kwasney Writer
Scott Olson Creative Director	Penny Mjolsness Writer
Sue Rehnquist Copy Editor, Writer	Arlene Sklow Writer
Carolyn Young Production Manager	

Connection is published three times annually by P.G. Chambers School, located at 15 Halko Drive, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927. Please feel free to contact us by calling (973) 829-8484 or e-mailing info@ChambersSchool.org. You may also visit us online at www.ChambersSchool.org.

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Cedar Knolls, NJ
Permit No. 23