



TREASURE VALLEY
DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

TVDSA Newsletter

In This Issue

TVDSA has some exciting activities coming up in March. Please mark your calendars for both the World Down Syndrome Day Celebration and our first ever Paint Nite Fundraiser (details on page 1). Both events should be a lot of fun!

On page 3, Charmaine Thaner summarizes the recent Special Education Supreme Court case and how it may impact families with school age kids. She also shares multiple links for additional information.

Make sure to check out the social group activities (page 4) as all ages of kids have a fun day planned. TVDSA will have a Family meeting in both February and March. Please check out the topics. We hope to see you at one or both!

In the event that the winter snow blues have not yet ended, we have included some fresh ideas on how to keep the kids busy during unexpected no school/snow days or on the weekends (on page 2).

If you have a little extra spare time, TVDSA needs your help! Please check our wish list on page 6 for areas of help needed.

Stay warm, stay safe, and stay happy!

Monthly and archived TVDSA newsletters are available on our website at: www.idahodownsyndrome.org for viewing and sharing.

Newsletter Editor: [Celena Auger](#)

February 2017

TVDSA Paint Nite



Sunday, March 26th from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Raise your glass to a NEW kind of night out! Paint Nite® invites you to create art over cocktails at Big Al's in Meridian. Grab your friends and spend two hours drinking, laughing, and flexing your creative muscles, all while giving back to TVDSA. There's no experience necessary and we'll provide all the supplies, so you don't have to worry about a thing (except having a great time!). Must be of legal drinking age (21+). Food and drink may be purchased at the event.

The event begins promptly at 3:00 pm. Attendees must be checked in by 2:45pm. Please allow extra time to find parking and get settled. If you're coming with a group make sure you arrive early to get seats together.

Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

Tickets are \$45 each and \$15 of each ticket goes back to TVDSA!

We hope you'll join TVDSA for an afternoon of painting, laughing, and socializing all while giving back to TVDSA. You'll also be increasing awareness of Down syndrome so the whole community will recognize and accept the greatness we see in our loved ones, not just the differences.

~ Save the Date ~



**TVDSA's 2017 World Down Syndrome Day Celebration
Tuesday, March 21st**

Details (time, location, etc.) will be available in the March newsletter.

Contact [Erin Rosenkoetter](#) if interested in helping with this event, or if you have any questions.

TVDSA Calendar of Events

February 6th:

TVDSA Family Meeting
6:30pm-8:00pm at North End
Collective Church Topic: What
Every Parent Needs to Know
about Assistive Technology.
Contact: [Charmaine Thaner](#)

February 7th:

TVDSA Board Meeting
A New Leaf 7:00pm-9:00pm
Contact: [Kristie Oakes](#)

February 11th:

Adults in Motion and Cool Club
Pinz Bowling Center, Meridian
4:00pm- 6:30pm
Contact: [Brenda Taylor](#)

February 21st:

Best Buds and Lil' Buddies
Valentine Blast at Wahooz,
Meridian, 4:00pm- 7:00pm
Contact: [Danielle Williams](#)

February 23rd:

Mom's Night Out!
Thai Basil in Meridian at 6:00pm
Contact: [Reme Echevarria](#)

March 6th:

TVDSA Family Meeting
6:30pm-8:30pm at North End
Collective Church Topic: Buddy
Cruise and Becoming An
Entrepreneur.
Contact: [Charmaine Thaner](#)

March 21st:

**TVDSA World Down Syndrome
Day Celebration**
Contact: [Erin Rosenkoetter](#)

March 26th:

TVDSA Paint Nite, 3:00pm-5:00pm
Big Al's in Meridian
Contact: [Reme Echevarria](#)



Google Adds Details on Accessibility by Shaun Heasley



A small change to Google Maps could make a big difference for people with disabilities. Alongside information about a business's hours, telephone number and address, the search giant is now including details about whether or not the location has a wheelchair-accessible entrance.

"It's a step towards providing more information about the accessibility of places around the world," said Elizabeth Davidoff, communications manager for Google Maps.

Source: [Disability Scoop](#), February 17, 2017

Just in case the "Snow Days" are not done...

Here are some various activities for all ages to keep themselves busy during the Idaho snow days we have been experiencing this year. I believe we all hope they are over, but just in case. . .

1. **Play board games** - You can never go wrong with a good board game. Choose from one of your kids' favorite games, or maybe introduce them to one from your childhood. From Clue to Candy Land to Monopoly, you can keep everyone busy for a few hours.
2. **Do a puzzle** - Puzzles are not only time consuming, but stimulating as well. Just because the kids are off from school doesn't mean they can't do some mind-stretching activities. There are many different levels to choose from.
3. **Bake some treats** - Why not bond while making something delicious to share? Bake some cookies or cupcakes together. Take turns mixing ingredients and have everyone decorate his or her own treat. Not a baker -make a snowman with marshmallows, pretzels and chocolate chips.
4. **Build a fort** - Whether it is outdoors with snow or indoors with a bunch of pillows, sheets and blankets, they can build an ultimate fort.
5. **Put on a play**- Tap into your inner actor or actress and put on a performance for each other. You might choose to act out your child's favorite movie or bedtime story. Want to be even more creative? Make it an art project. Create your own puppets out of socks or paper bags and do a puppet show.
6. **Snow Art** - Fill spray bottles with water and a bit of food coloring. Send the kids outside and have them create masterpieces just by spraying the snow! This is so easy to do and one that can entertain from toddlers to teens and every age in between!
7. **Bring Winter Inside** - When the temperature outside dips too low, bring the snow in for a fun change of pace. You can do this by filling plastic buckets or even the bathtub with snow and then letting the kids use their imaginations to play. They can use toy cars to make roads, make imaginary scenes using small toys or make "mountains" for their dolls to ski or toboggan down.

Of course a great way to end off a snow day activity is with a nice cup of hot chocolate and a snuggle under a warm blanket dreaming of spring and summer!

Sources: "Trapped inside? Let the games begin" [Philly Voice](#), January 26, 2015
"More Snow Day Activities" [The Chaos and the Clutter](#)

U.S. Supreme Court Hears Special Education Case How Will This Impact Your Child? By Charmaine Thaner

Have you ever had to speak up so your child gets an appropriate education? Is your definition of appropriate the same as what the teacher or the administrator says? Chances are you've had some disagreements on what the school is obligated to provide for your child. Parents, school districts, and courts have been wrestling with the meaning of "appropriate" for many decades.

On Wednesday, January 11, 2017 a student with autism had his day in court ... not just any court, the U.S. Supreme Court. Pete Wright, nationally known attorney for students with disabilities, said this important case will have long lasting impact on our children.

Parents in this case argued their son was not making progress in the public school. After many years of trying to get changes made, they placed him in a private school. The parents requested the school district reimburse them for the costs of the private school.

The school district argued that Drew had made some educational progress when he was in the district and therefore, were not obligated to pay for his private school education.

Let's first look back at what happened in 1982 when the Supreme Court looked at what was considered an appropriate education for students with disabilities. You probably have heard of the Rowley case. A young girl, Amy Rowley who had a hearing disability used hearing aids. Her parents requested a sign language interpreter for her at school. She was doing well in school, but not as well as she could have if she had had a sign language interpreter.

In 1982, in the Rowley case, the Justices ruled that IDEA requires "meaningful" access to a public education, but that doesn't mean states must "maximize" the potential of children with disabilities. The Court stated that the child's individualized educational program (IEP) should be reasonably calculated to enable the child to receive educational benefit. The Justices also declined to set a single national way to determine if the education provided under IDEA is sufficient.

The parents' position in this new case is that Rowley doesn't take into account the changes in IDEA when it was reauthorized in 1997 and 2004 and the changes in federal education policy. They contend students need more than access, they need to make progress.

For more insider details about this case, [watch the video](#) to find out what the 3 attorneys said in their opening arguments to the Supreme Court Justices. You'll also learn what the Justices responses were. [Click here](#). If you're on the go, listen to the podcast. [Click here](#). You can also read a summary, [here](#).

Copies of the court transcripts are available, [click here](#). An audio file of the opening arguments at the Supreme Court can be downloaded, [click here](#).

Will the Supreme Court Justices raise or lower the bar for what is the level of educational benefit that districts must give students with disabilities in order to provide them with a free and appropriate public education (FAPE)? Many parents, advocates and attorneys don't see how the standard could be any lower than what it is now.

Resources: Supreme Court Links for Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District

- YouTube Video [click here](#)
- Podcast [click here](#)
- Blogpost [click here](#)
- Transcripts [click here](#)
- Oral arguments [click here](#)



TREASURE VALLEY
DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

Social Groups Page

Moms Night Out!

Hello Amazing TVDSA Moms!

With all this snow, it is time to get out and enjoy a meal cooked by a Thai chef. The next **Moms Night Out!** will be **Thursday February 23rd, 6:00pm**, at **Thai Basil** located at 3161 E Fairview Ave. Ste. 110, in Meridian. TVDSA will pay for your dinner and a soda.

I look forward to spending time with all of you again.

Please RSVP by February 22nd to Reme Echevarria by email at moms@idahodownsyndrome.org or by text 208-866-4095 so I can let the restaurant know how many moms will be coming.



TVDSA February Family Meeting

Monday, February 6th

6:30pm-8:00pm

North End Collective Church, 1723 W. Eastman St., Boise

Topic: What Every Parent Needs to Know about Assistive Technology.

Would you like to know what the experts recommend to help your child with their communication? Are you confused by all the apps available and wonder which ones would be best for your child? Then mark your calendars for Monday, February 6th! Bring a friend or two with you.

Anne Kuhlmeier, well-respected expert on augmentative/alternative communication and childhood apraxia of speech will share her passion of working with children and adults with complex communication needs.

Anne will be joined by Brenda Janot, Program Library Coordinator from the Idaho Assistive Technology Project. Both guest speakers will demonstrate some communication devices, text to speech and speech to text software, educational software and devices, and recommended educational and speech/language apps. Childcare will be provided.

Questions? Contact: [Charmaine Thaner](#)

Best Buds & Lil' Buddies

Best Buds and **Lil' Buddies** will be having a **Valentine Blast** at **Wahooz** on Tuesday, **February 21st** from **4:00pm to 7:00 pm**. TVDSA will pay for a wrist band for each child with Down syndrome to enjoy rides and the Kiddie Cove.

Additional children can participate for \$15 each, or \$5 if only doing the Kiddie Cove.

We look forward to seeing you there. We will meet at the Kiddie Cove for your wrist bands at

Cool Club & Adults in Motion

Cool Club and **AIM** will be going bowling on Saturday, **February 11th** from **4:00pm-6:30pm** at **Pinz Bowling Center** at Wahooz Family Fun Zone located at 1385 S. Blue Marlin Lane, in Meridian.

Roll on over there no time to spare! We're going bowling and we want to see everyone there. TVDSA will pay for the bowling and shoe rental for a person with Down syndrome and one guest. There will be appetizers and drinks provided along with prizes awarded.



4:30pm. If you show up later than 4:30 you will have to call Danielle to get yours. Please note there are some height requirements to go on some rides so please look on the website and be prepared for what your child can or cannot do so that there's no one disappointed. It should be a super fun day!

If you have any questions about either group, please feel free to contact [Danielle Williams](#) or call: 208-794-8995.



Please text (208-724-5226) or [email](#) Brenda **by February 8th** so we know how many lanes to reserve.

For more information about Cool Club, please contact [Brenda Taylor](#) by email or text/phone: 208-724-5226.

For more information about Adults in Motion (AIM), please contact [Kathy](#).



Conferences, Workshops, Webinars & TVDSA Scholarship Information

**Legal Planning for Life After 18
C.K. Quade Law, PLLC and
Idaho Families of Adults with
disAbilities**

**Free Educational Seminar
Saturday, February 4th**
from 8:30am-12:00pm
at ICON in Meridian

**Topic: Special Needs Planning:
Transition, Social Security Eligibility,
Medicaid, Supported Decision
Making and Alternatives, Estate
Planning – Special Needs Trusts**

Registration from 8:30am, Educational
Seminar starts at 9:00am. CEU's and
Certificates of Attendance available
for attendees.

RSVP: fileclerk@charquadelaw.com

**IPUL Workshop
Wednesday, February 8th**
from 6:00pm-9:00pm
at Idaho Parents Unlimited
4619 W. Emerald, Ste. E, Boise

**Topic: Planning for a Healthy
Transition**

This training prepares youth for
transitioning to adulthood with a
goal of independent healthcare
management.

[Please RSVP](#)

Unable to attend in person? You
may also be interested in
attending one of two webinars on
the same topic. Tuesday, February
28th at [11:00am](#) or [9:00pm](#).

To contact IPUL: 208-342-5884 or
parents@ipulidaho.org

**6th Annual Family Caregiver Conference
Saturday, February 11th**

8:00am-1:00pm
At BSU's Student Union Building 1700 University Dr.
in Boise

Registration is \$10.00 and includes conference,
resource expo, breakfast, snacks and parking.
[Click here](#) for more information or to register.

You may also contact Mary Holden
at 208-426-5899

**Tools for Life Secondary Transition and
Technology Fair
March 6-7th**

Red Lion Hotel, Pocatello, ID

Tools for Life is for secondary educators, post-
secondary educators, special education staff,
therapists, counselors, service providers, job
developers, and especially high school students
with disabilities and their families. Over 45
breakout sessions by state, regional and national
experts on higher education, employment,
community life, relationships, recreation,
guardianship, assistive technology and more.

Registration is \$75.00 per adult and \$10.00 per
student. Hotel room and food stipends available.

Contact: 1-800-432-8324 Register today!

2016-2017 Think College Webinars

Registration is FREE, and includes live participation as well as a link to the
recorded webinar for use after the event.

**Winter 2017 Research Summit
Wednesday, February 8, 2017** at 11:00am-12:30 pm

Think College Research Summits bring together stakeholders from across the
country to discuss current research on inclusive higher education for students
with intellectual disability. Cindi May's presentation is called "A Comparison of
the College Experience for Students with and without Disabilities." This research
provides preliminary insights into the college experience for students with IDD
by comparing the perceptions and experiences of students with IDD to those of
students without disabilities and students with mild learning disabilities (MLD).
Brian Freedman and Laura Eisenman will be discussing "Dynamics of Mentoring
Relationships." This qualitative study analyzed mentor/mentee relationships in
regard to mentors' perspectives on their roles and mentoring mechanisms.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**"You Belong Here": Building BRIDGES to Students' College Success (Bonds,
Respect, Inclusion, Discourse, Guidance, Engagement, and Support)
Thursday, February 23, 2017** at 1:00pm-2:00 pm

This panel-led session will teach participants how to build a comprehensive
student success program for first-generation and historically underserved
students. Audience members will gather ideas to help them develop
collaborative bridges within their institutions and, in turn, make academic and
sociocultural connections with students/families.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

TVDSA Scholarships

**Did you know that TVDSA supports members in gathering information at local
and national conferences and/or workshops?**

The TVDSA Scholarship program is NOT income based, so all TVDSA members
are eligible. Please see our [Scholarship application](#) for the guidelines and
how to apply today.

~ Save the Date ~

TVDSA March Family Meeting

Monday, March 6th

6:30pm-8:30pm

North End Collective Church, Boise

**Topic: Buddy Cruise and Becoming An
Entrepreneur**

*Go on a conference at sea! Joyce Dunn will
share information about Buddy Cruise 2017's
events, special activities, and workshops.
Joyce's daughter, Rebecca will speak about
her entrepreneur business, Livin' My Dreams
and encourage other self-advocates to
combine their passion with a business.*

Childcare will be provided.

Questions? Contact: [Charmaine Thaner](#)



TREASURE VALLEY
DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1404
Meridian, Idaho 83680
(208) 954-7448

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.idahodownsyndrome.org

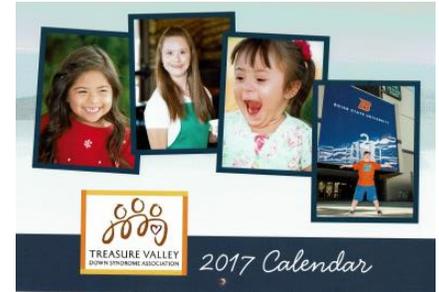
Check us out on
[Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

Have you gotten your 2017 TVDSA Calendar?

The 2017 TVDSA Down Syndrome Awareness Calendars are still available for \$15.00 each.

What a great way to start the New Year. Perfect for friends, family, your child's doctors, school personnel or church members. Keep awareness of Down syndrome going all year long.

Please contact Kris Goodwin at: fundraising@idahodownsyndrome.org to get yours!



Interested in Helping TVDSA?

Here are some current openings to volunteer:

- **Buddy Walk Chair and Committee Members:** Seeking dedicated people to make the 2017 Buddy Walk a success. Please contact [Kristie Oakes](#) or [George Taylor](#) for more details.
- **TVDSA Board Members:** Seeking an individual willing to serve on the board, meet once a month, and help advance TVDSA's mission. For more information, please contact [Kristie Oakes](#).
- **Lil' Buddies Coordinator:** Interested in organizing 6-8 activities / gatherings during the year for children ages 0-5 and their families? Please contact [Andrew Kopping](#).
- **Dinner Auction Committee:** TVDSA needs volunteers to help organize a dinner auction fundraiser in 2017. Interested? Please contact: [Reme Echevarria](#).
- **Technology Committee:** TVDSA needs volunteers to participate in a Technology committee. If you are a professional technology expert or just a self-made techie, we can use your input. If you are interested please contact [George Taylor](#).
- **Golf Tournament Committee:** TVDSA will be hosting another Golf Tournament in 2017 and needs volunteers to help organize the event. If you are interested please contact [George Taylor](#).

The mission of the Treasure Valley Down Syndrome Association is to enhance the quality of life for persons with Down syndrome by promoting inclusive environments, providing accurate information to parents, families, and the community, and by advocating respect, dignity, and appropriate supports for people with Down syndrome.

Board of Directors:

President: [Kristie Oakes](#)
Vice President: [George Taylor](#)
Co-Fundraising: [Kristine Goodwin](#)
Co-Fundraising: [Reme Echevarria](#)
Self-Advocate Chair: [Dylan Thaner](#)
Board Member: [Charmaine Thaner](#)

Treasurer & Spanish Contact: [Lucy Olmos](#)
Secretary & Membership: [Paul Auger](#)
Community Outreach Chair: [Erin Rosenkoetter](#)
Programs Chair: [Andrew Kopping](#)
Marketing Chair: [Alix Hilton](#)

For more information, articles, past newsletters and more, please visit our website: <http://idahodownsyndrome.org>
Mailing: PO Box 1404 Meridian, ID 83680; Check us out on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)