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Partnerships for Success
Cindy Saylor
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Partners' Club

Darius Goes West: The Roll of His Life

Please join us for an Exclusive Screening & Special Appearance by the Cast and Crew

Proclaimed "A Classic" by The Los Angeles Times, and the most decorated film of 2007, this movie tells the story of 15-year-old Darius Weems from Athens, GA leaving home for the first time. Darius and his accompanying friends-turned-filmmakers have a specific goal: to get his wheelchair customized on MTV's hit show, Pimp My Ride. Travel with this all-male crew as they discover joy, brotherhood, and the knowledge that life, even when imperfect, is always worth the ride.

This is a FREE event to all Partners' Club Members on May 14, 2009 at Gainesville State College 5:00 – 7:30pm

Hosted by F.A.C.E. Club - Gainesville State College & Partnerships for Success

Partners' Clubs Participate in Disability Day at the State Capitol

More than 2,000 Georgians gathered at the State Capitol this past February 25 to heighten public awareness and to communicate support to legislators for increased services for people with disabilities.

Partnerships for Success brought the largest group, more than 170 students and teachers, to participate in Disability Day at the Capitol this year; for many it

was a chance to visit the State Capitol for the first time, while it was a repeat performance for others.



Apalachee students at the rally

While gathered on the Capitol's steps, presenters informed us about the 10-year anniversary of the Olmstead decision. Also, a very inspiring keynote speaker, Brad Cohen and author of "Front of the Class: How Tourette Syndrome Made Me the Teacher I Never had." The book was a 2008 CBS Hallmark Hall of Fame movie, and talked about the opportunities he didn't have because of the lack of understanding about his Tourette Syndrome.

Students wore red T-shirts proclaiming the day as Disability Day and gathered in the Freight Depot before and afterwards to volunteer their time in set up and recruiting signatures for the large banner which was displayed for the 11th annual event. A great lunch was donated by "the Varsity".



Students had the opportunity to meet and discuss issues with State Senator Lee Hawkins (pictured), Rep. Doug Collins, and Rep. Carl Rogers

Club Activities

West Hall High School

In January, members stayed afterschool and enjoyed refreshments while watching the documentary “Darius Goes West.” We are looking forward to meeting Darius at Gainesville College on May 14th. West Hall Partners Club also attended Disability Day at the Capitol in February. (Picture attached - signing the banner). Our Partners Club members recently made posters for the Relay for Life Dime Drive at West Hall High School.



West Hall Students signing Disability Day Banner

Apalachee High School

We have been really busy! In February we hosted a Valentines’ Day Dance for students at both Apalachee and Winder-Barrow high schools. This was a fantastic event and everyone is ready for another event like this! Also, in February, Apalachee went to Disability Day at the capitol and went to eat at the Varsity afterward.

Even though students had to be at school longer (it was an early release day for us), everyone learned a lot and enjoyed themselves. This experience was a real eye opener for the whole group, particularly hearing about the way adults with disabilities are treated. While we were there, many students and teachers were interviewed by newspapers and radio stations which led to a two page write up.

For March we are planning to attend Apalachee’s theatre production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. We are also planning a cookout for May to say good-bye to our seniors!

North Hall High School

Members attended Disability day at the Capitol and spent some time with their state Representative Doug Collins. They watched as he conducted some business on the House floor and had many questions for him. Congratulations to the new officers for the 2009-10 school year! They are:

- Pres.-** Brittany Hand , Chelsea Craig, Kimberly Franklin
- VP-**Nick Quinn, Nikki Page, Rebekah Dunnell
- Activities-**Durham Harris, Megan Grier, Laura-Grace Myers
- Publicity-**Anna Matthews, Stephanie Seabolt, Drake Gordon
- Secretary-**Miranda McDaniels, Jordon Collins, Jessica Dewitt
- Treasurer-**Leigh Anne Stephens, James Dickerson, Jennifer Puett
- Historian-**Avery Mckinney, Brittany Gunter, Robert Troop

Colquitt County High School

Welcome to our newest club!! They have been very busy since starting the Club in January. The students developed the motto for CCHS Partnership for Success; *φιλια*, which is Greek and translates into friendship.



Club Members with Chick-fil-A owner Bret Young discussing successful employment attitudes

Kayla Anderson, Rebecca Hampton, Rashad Johnson, Lashay Howard, Avery Castleberry, and Kelvin Holmes attended Disability Day at the Capitol.

We teamed up with the CTI program to raise money for Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. Members of each organization worked together to create tickets to sell to students to get out class 5 minutes early for lunch or at the end of school. Together, these organizations raised almost \$400.00 for Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.

Upcoming Events

THE PARTNERS’ CLUB SPRING DANCE

**Saturday, April 18th
6pm to 9pm**

East Hall county community center
RSVP to: sarah.donnini@gmail.com or, 770-534-6656 by April 17

*Pizza and drinks will be served!
A D.J. will be playing music and providing entertainment all night!
Bring yourself and your dancing shoes!*

Sponsored by Gainesville Disability Resource Center, Inc

DARIUS GOES WEST SCREENING

Thursday, May 14 Gainesville State College

Coordinators

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