



Autism Is Often Under-Diagnosed



By Dr. R. Pletsch

little communication skills. While others are like "The Good Doctor" on a TV series, but most are between these two extremes.

Autism is characterized by communications and social difficulties or deficits. They can display repetitive behaviors, or have fear of loud noises or bright situations. The authors state that professionals believe early diagnosis is crucial and suggest screening as early as 18 months. Because of recent research, it is easier for professionals to determine. There seems to be a stigma that being a developmental disorder, it means my child is "crazy". Therefore, like some other problems, people try to ignore them. But this will not make it better or disappear.

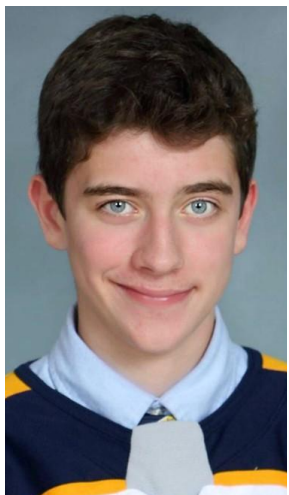
If you think there is a problem, seek help. I suggest Autism Speaks, an organization that helps families and supports research. They will have their annual Walk for Autism at Soldier Field on May 30th. They have dozens of booths sponsored by organizations that can give you an idea of what can be done or if anything needs to be done.

Teachers can be a great help because, unlike Mom and Dad, they see many children daily and some for years and can be a good introduction to the help available through the school. Many people that do their research find wide range from severe to moderate and often find they are worried about nothing.

A study conducted by Rutgers University recently released a study in the journal Autism Research that concluded that one fourth of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder go undiagnosed. Personally knowing the prevalence of Autism, I looked into the research. The study analyzed records of 266,000 8-year olds and found 4,550 met the diagnostic criteria for Autism and that 1,135 had not been diagnosed. The Center for Disease Control in 2018 stated 1 in 59 children were estimated to be on the spectrum.

The findings suggest Black and Latino students have a higher rate of not being diagnosed. This can be partially explained by a lack of knowing the signs. All Autistic children do not have the same indicators. Some are severe and have

IHS Hockey League Skater of Month



M. ZANIN

De La Salle student-athlete Michael Zanin '23 was chosen the

Illinois High School Hockey League's Junior Varsity Division One Skater of the Month for December 2019.

The Chicago South Meteors finished the regular season with an overall record of 19-13 and took first in the Big Bear Tournament in Darien, IL.

"As a freshman, Michael is our leading scorer and first-line center," head coach Nick Holmes said. "He does not take penalties and is a class player."

Michael is enrolled in the Honors Program and is ranked in the top eight percent of the Class of 2023.

Catholic Scouting Awards Presentation At Holy Name Cathedral



The Archdiocese of Chicago's Catholic Committee on Scouting held their annual Religious Awards Presentation at Holy Name Cathedral on Jan 26th. Units, youth and adults can earn awards, such as the National Catholic Unit Excellence Pope Paul VI, Ad Altare Dei, Pope Pius XII and St. George. The Iroquois Trails District P.T.A.C. was represented by members of Troops 1439 and 810 with the Rev. Peter Wojcik, Director of Parish Vitality and Missions as Officiant. Any boys ages 6 to 17 who are interested in Scouting can have a parent contact Ed Melkonian at (312) 316-5825 for more information. Pictured in front row are Richard Mecardo (Pope Pius XII) T1439, Max Gonzalez (Ad Altare Dei) T810, Jan Niznik (Ad Altare Dei) T810, Rev. Peter Wojcik, Christen Webb (Pope Pius XII) T1439 and Jacob Gonzalez (Ad Altare Dei) T810. Middle row : Karen Mercardo (Committee Member) T1439, Sharon Cisneros (Religious Counselor) T1439, Nathaniel Rios (Ad Altare Dei) T810 and Roy Gonzalez (Committee Chairman) T810. Back row: Al Mercardo (Asst Scout Master) T1439, Joseph Mercado (O / A Ehalluchit Chapter Chief) T1439, Dan Brady (Committee Member) T1439 and Ed Melkonian (Religious Counselor) T1441.

MPCA Essay Contest Winners



State Senator Tony Munoz and the McKinley Park Civic Association sponsored an area-wide Essay contest, titled My Hero is. The winners from Evergreen Academy Middle School were presented tickets to the Awards Banquet on March 8th. Pictured are Assistant Principal Deb Polak, R. Morena, G. Rios, and Dr Pletsch of the MPCA.



Pictured from Greene School are Senator Tony Munoz, L. Cruz, Z. Martinez, Principal Shelley Lugo-Cordova and Assistant Principal Myrna Villafuerte. Not pictured is G. Torres.

High Grades For De La Salle Athletes

De La Salle Institute announces that of all the varsity sports it had been competing in the fall season, a perfect 9-of-9 received the Illinois High School Association Team All-Academic award for maintaining a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher.

Lauded were boys and girls cross country (head coach Eric Crosby); boys and girls golf (head coaches Vince Correa and Fred Muehleman); football (head coach Mike Boehm '92); boys soccer (head coach Francisco Martinez '98); girls swimming (head coach Roberto Rodriguez '15); girls tennis (head coach Amanda Biman) and girls volleyball (head coach Anna Marassa).

Since the 2004-05 school year, 134 De La Salle teams have been honored for academic excellence.

Family Programs At Archer Heights Library

The Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer will conduct Toddler Time which features early literacy tips, books, fingerplay, rhymes, flannel board, stories and songs on Thursdays, Feb. 13th & 20th from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Discovery Play is open, unstructured playtime for young children and their caregivers on Thursdays, through Feb. 20th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Kids Art Cart has supplies like colored pencils, pipe cleaners and yarn for children to create their own projects on Saturdays, Feb. 22nd from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

The second Monday of the month writer's group will provide feedback on various styles on Feb.

13th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Writers should bring 3-4 pages of their work for consideration.

Adults and teens may enjoy a Bubble Painting workshop on Saturday, Feb. 22nd from 2 to 3 p.m.

Family film screenings will be available on Saturdays, Feb. 15th at 2 p.m.

Adult book clubs for Polish will continue on the 3rd Wednesday of the month with English on the 4th Wednesday.

A special story time for ages 0-6 will be held on Mondays, Feb. 24th and March 30th from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Children may attend in pajamas and enjoy music and movement.

Homework assistance is provided on Mondays and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m.

Applications For U.S. Census Jobs

The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring. Recruiters will be at several Chicago Public Library locations taking applications for various census jobs which provide: \$29.50 per hour enumerator pay rate, flexible hours, weekly pay, and paid training.

Job seekers may apply locally at Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer on Monday, Feb. 24th and Wednesday, Feb. 26th from 1 to 6 p.m.; Brighton Park Branch Library, 4314 S. Archer and Tuesday, Feb. 25th from 4 to 6 p.m.; Chicago Lawn Branch Library, 6120 S. Kedzie on Sunday, Feb. 16th from 1 to 3 p.m.

The Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State, will accept applications on Sunday, Feb. 16th, to 1 to 5 p.m.; Monday: Feb. 24th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays: Feb. 18th, 25th, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday: Feb. 19th, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursdays: Feb. 20th, 27th, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Fridays, Feb. 14th, 21st, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

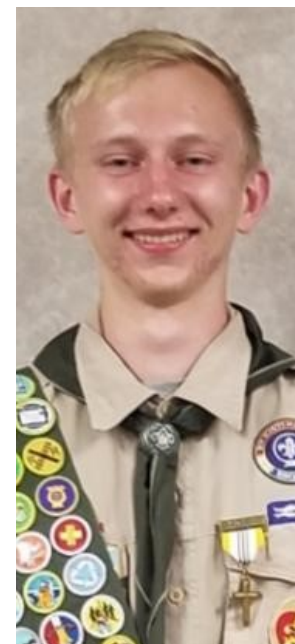
Dean's List At Trinity Christian

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement, Trinity Christian College of Palos Heights, released the Dean's List for Fall 2019. Undergraduate students who attend full-time and earned a 3.5 grade-point average are recognized. Local scholars are: Nathan Alonso, Cassie Cline, Alexandra Lopez, and Laila Rodriguez.

Dean's List At Connecticut

Connecticut College announces students named to the dean's list for the 2019 fall semester. Local scholars are Marissa Domantay, 2020, Dean's High Honors, Art; Hannah Gonzalez, 2023, Dean's Honors, Undeclared; Stephanie Lopez, 2021, Dean's Honors, Behavioral Neuroscience and Kiara Rivera, 2021, Dean's Honors, Theater.

Court Of Honor For Eagle Scout



A. BISCHOFF

Adam managed 22 volunteers to paint 64 fire hydrants from the Village of Elmwood Park. He was inducted into the Order of Arrow on Sept. 10th, 2016; into Brotherhood on June 4th, 2017; and continues to be a Dan Chief for Cub Scout Pack 67 out of Rivert Forest. Adam has earned 48 BSA merit badges on the trail to Eagle, as well as the Ad Altare Del Religious Award on January 27th, 2019.

His parents Jeanine & Scott Bischoff, and sister Riley are past residents of Archer Heights.

Circuit Court Schedules Tour

The Circuit Court of Cook County will celebrate Women's History Month on Wednesday, March 11th, with a tour of the Richard J. Daley Center courthouse, 50 W. Washington st. at 10 a.m. Highlights will include a visit to a courtroom to observe a civil trial in progress, an informal question and answer session with a panel of women judges and the opportunity to meet a representative of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois.

Participants will receive a copy of the court's guide which offers information about how the court is structured, explains the basics of trial proceedings and includes a directory of services.

Reservations are recommended at (312) 603-1927 by Friday, March 6th. The tour is aimed at persons age ten and older, with a maximum of 35 persons to a group.

For more information about other tours and general information, visit www.cookcountycourt.org.

Coronado Honored

Bryon Coronado was named to the Deans' List at Drake University of des Moines, Iowa.

Honorees must have earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher during the Fall 2019 semester.

Dean's List At Lewis University

Just under 1,500 students were honored on the Lewis University Dean's List for the 2019 Fall Semester.

Honorees must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours during the semester with a grade point average of at least 3.5 and with no "D" or "F" grades.

Local scholars and their major are Matthew P. Carroll, Secondary Education and Mathematics; Tyler J. Cichy, Aviation Flight Management; Samantha Kos, Psychology and Biology; Joshua J. Kostecka, English; Konrad Kozina, Criminal Justice; Ashley A. Lopez, Accounting; Andrea J. Martinez, Biology; Jessica Martinez, Combined Special Education and Elementary Education; Melissa Martinez, Accounting; Leonardo Matera, Forensic Criminal Investigation; Cameron Mendiola, Aviation Maintenance Management; Rabah Merzoug, Air Traffic Control Management; Blanca Orozco, Criminal Justice; Megan C. Pirelli; Leah Siwinski, Psychology; Alyssa J. Streeter, Exercise and Movement Science; Kaitlyn M. Szymkiewicz, Early Childhood Special Education; Robert M. Thomsen, Radio/TV Broadcasting and Lisa M. Williams, Elementary Education

Literacy Center Needs Tutors

The Aquinas Literacy Center, 1751 W. 35th st, needs volunteer tutors to help adult immigrants learn English during 90 minutes per week. All tutoring is in English. Opportunities are available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The next tutoring workshop will be conducted Friday, March 13th from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, March 14th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Attendance on both days is required. For more information or to register, contact sabrina@aquinasliteracycenter.org (773) 927-0512.

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BrightonParkLIFE.com
To complement our weekly edition The Brighton Park-McKinley Park Life has launched a website. On it can be found general information about us, recent and past issues, advertising information and a calendar of free local events. We encourage our readers to check back often for new updates!

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