
March 2018

Girls on the Spectrum

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Hello and welcome to the Girls on the Spectrum Newsletter! The goal of the Newsletter is to share with parents and friends upcoming events and news related to the Drop-in and to the Parent's Support Group.

New Funding announced in the 2018 Federal Budget for people on the Autism Spectrum

\$20 million in federal funding will go toward supporting people with ASD with \$10.9 million of this funding going towards the creation of the Autism-Intellectual-Developmental Disabilities National Resource and Exchange Network (AIDE). AIDE will be led by the Pacific Autism Family Network which operates out of Richmond, B.C. and the Miriam Foundation out of Montreal, QC. This network will provide access to science-based information. The remainder of the funding will go to the Public Health Agency of Canada to develop new innovative programs for people living with ASD and programs to reduce stigma around autism spectrum disorder.

April 2nd is World Autism Awareness Day!

As April 2nd is World Autism Awareness Day, Girls on the Spectrum Drop-in will be celebrating by "Raising the Flag" on Sunday, April 8th. We will also be on Parliament Hill on Wednesday, April 18th at 12:15 p.m. for "Autism on the Hill". Hope you can join us!

<http://www.autismonthehill.ca/>



Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 8th

7-9 p.m. Parent Support Group – ABC Pediatric Therapies, 1939 St. Joseph Blvd. Orleans

Sunday, March 11th

Drop-in - Free psychotherapy consults available with Melanie Robarts

Sunday, March 18th

Drop-in - Music Therapy with Jennifer Cunningham

Sunday, March 25th

Drop-in - Pet therapy visits with Experience Unik



Opal enjoying a visit with Woody the guinea pig from Experience Unik.



Girls on the Spectrum Parent Support Group

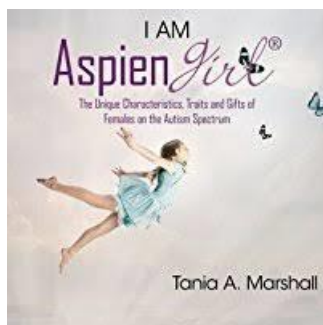
The Girls on the Spectrum Parent Support Group meets on the **second Thursday** of the month. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 8th, from 7 – 9 p.m. at ABC Pediatric Therapies located at 1939 St. Joseph Blvd. in Orleans. Coffee, tea and treats will be served. Hope to see you there!

Book of the Month

I am Aspiengirl: The Unique Characteristics, Traits and Gifts of Females on the Autism Spectrum by Tania Marshall

A beautiful picture book by Tania Marshall that "showcases the unique characteristics, traits and gifts of young females on the Autism Spectrum". I found this book to provide a very positive message to girls on the Spectrum and really enjoyed flipping through it with my daughter. *I Am AspienGirl* was awarded a 2015 eLIT Gold Medal Award.

<http://www.aspiengirl.com/>



ASD Info Fair, RA Centre Monday, March 26th – 6 p.m.

Guest speakers include Racing with Autism – raising awareness about autism through storytelling, author Teresa Murphy talking about her book "A Kinder Way – A Parent's Crisis Intervention Plan", and Ottawa Police Services will be speaking about the Autism Registry.

Spaces are limited – please register at the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/asd-info-fair-monday-march-26-2018-6-9pm-registration-43749643361>

Girls on the Spectrum will have a table set up with brochures and pictures from our group – Hope you stop by!

Autism Ontario Events

Visit Autism Ontario's Eventbrite page to learn more about great activities for kids on the spectrum in our area.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/autism-ontarioautisme-ontario-east-amp-south-east-regions-and-kawartha-haliburton-northumberland-amp-peterborough-counties-3254265508>

Inside out for Autism

Wear your shirt **inside out** to support Autism Awareness and Acceptance!

Visit the website for more information on how you can plan an event at your school or work anytime between April 2nd and October 31st, 2018.

<http://insideoutforautism.ca/>

Girls on the Spectrum will have their **Inside Out day** on April 15th!