

# PACE Setter

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER for EDUCATION

Connect • Support • Educate



Phase 1 of the Sunny Days Preschool campus renovation has started! We are renovating the interior spaces for our younger campus, which includes the early intervention program at Sunny Days Preschool, the Kindergarten (K-2), and our Little Faces Behavioral Services classroom.

Currently, our facility is worn out and less than ideally configured to meet the rising demand for our services. Plus, the classrooms and workspaces have endured years of heavy use with noticeable wear and tear. Assistant Executive Director Karen Kennan stated: "We've enjoyed many years of activity in these modular buildings which were already old when we started the early intervention program more than ten years ago. We are excited about this opportunity

to give our facility a face-lift as well as a more efficient floorplan. Early intervention is often the key to giving young children with autism the greatest chances to attend mainstream school and lead independent lives. With the ongoing and growing need for



both educational and behavioral services in our area, it is critical that we expand our capacity to reach more families in need."

**ntero Real Estate Foundation, with special thanks to Nisha Sharma, awarded PACE**

-continued Page 2-

PACE Presents  
**TAPAS & TUNES**  
At The TRITON MUSEUM  
Saturday, November 11th 5-9 PM

- Tapas & hand-crafted Sangria
- Live Spanish Music and Dancing
- Triton Museum curated artwork exhibits
- Silent Auction, Raffle, & Fund-A-Need benefit for Sunny Days Preschool

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>  
VIP COCKTAIL HOUR  
5:00 – 6:00 PM  
VIP Cocktail Hour Limited to 30 Guests

TAPAS & TUNES EVENT  
6:00 – 9:00 PM  
[www.pacificautism.org/events](http://www.pacificautism.org/events)

PSRT PARSLEY SAGE ROSEMARY & THYME

## Ask a Therapist *By Amelia Lalley M.A.*

Amelia Lalley, M.A. is a Lead Behavior Therapist in the San Jose Faces location and is part of the Little Faces Clinical Team.

Following directions is a skill that a child uses to show that he or she understands the meaning of words and sentences. Many children with autism have difficulty developing language skills and following verbal directions.

### Q: How can I help my child improve at following directions?

A: This is a common question from parents. First, it is helpful to understand the problem, then we can find solutions to help your child better follow directions.

#### PROBLEM:

Here are 4 main reasons your child may not follow directions.

1. They don't understand the direction
2. They don't hear the direction
3. They don't want to follow the direction
4. To get extra attention

Let's look at some solutions to these barriers!

#### SOLUTIONS:

How to give a direction:

- Give directions one at a time and avoid extra language. Remember the 3 "S"s: Short, Simple and Specific!
- Make sure your child is paying attention: Many of our children struggle with attending, make sure they are facing you and/or making eye contact.
- Tell, don't ask! If given a choice, many people would opt out of following directions! Rather than "Can you throw this away?," state positively, "It's time to throw this in the trash."
- If it is a direction your child cannot do by themselves, help them be successful by providing assistance!



Motivate your child & choose reinforcers:

- Before giving your child directions, brainstorm 10 different reinforcers they enjoy the most. When your child follows directions, give them one of these reinforcers.

These reinforcers can include:

- Attention (specific praise "You did a perfect job following directions, and putting that in the trash!"; tickles, hugs, quality time doing an activity together, etc.). It is important to make sure your child gets lots of attention for following a direction, not for ignoring it.
- Items or an activity (favorite toy, a preferred game, outside time, a movie, music, etc.)
- Food (any small portion of a favorite treat!)
- Token (a token symbolizes working towards a reinforcer. If you and your child's ABA team are working with tokens together, this is a great opportunity to incorporate their token system!)

When to use the reinforcer:

- Determine what you think your child will want for following the direction, and what you have available. In some cases, it is useful to tell your child what is available for following the direction.
- Give your child the reinforcer right after they follow the direction! When teaching something new, give them the reinforcer every time. The reinforcer can be faded gradually as they become independent and compliant with the direction.

Remember: Change doesn't happen all at once!

**Patience and persistence** are key when helping your child grow! Always feel free to consult your Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) team!

For more behavioral management tips go to [www.porchlighteducation.org](http://www.porchlighteducation.org)

## A Message from the Executive Director

By Kurt Ohfs, Executive Director

**P**ACE is committed to advocating for families with individuals affected by autism. Recognizing that planning for the "future" is a daily preoccupation for most of the parents we serve, we continually focus our efforts on long-term planning objectives to help all families affected by autism. Simply stated, we are creating a legacy agency to support individuals affected by autism.

**T**o be a parent of a child with autism is to be a parent that is continually trying to identify the next phase of evolution for a child's development. Every passage is a milestone, every graduation means change that requires planning. It is a process we are continually refining and a process that needs long-term legacy facilitation and funding. Working together, PACE and parents are strong advocates for these individuals and our strategy is to help everyone create more independent lives.

**A**s we plan for the future of PACE, an agency that strives to be a forward thinking, long-term advocate for your

family, we are confident that the legacy you give to PACE will benefit many in similar situations and bring hope and peace of mind to their lives. One way to ensure ongoing care for loved ones affected by autism is to designate financial resources for their future. FreeWill is a way to include PACE in the legacy you leave. It is a way to inspire our community to bring more services for families affected by autism. It is a way to give yourself reassurance that there will always be someone looking out for your child beyond state social service programs. Every legacy gift supports the future of these children!

### PACE Board of Directors

Paul Lacy, President  
Tom McGovern, VP  
David Setti, Treasurer  
Kurt Ohfs, Secretary  
Jeff Fallick  
Lisa Grisalin  
Harry Lopez, Esq.  
Tom Marchok  
Debbie McCarroll  
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Mark Peper

## Sunny Days Preschool cont'd

**a generous \$15k grant.** We were able to replace two non-functioning accordion door/walls in the facility with permanent walls with interior doors and viewing windows that allow families and visitors to watch the children in the classrooms without disrupting the activities. The viewing window is a critical and a much welcomed change as the presence of visitors touring our classrooms can be a challenge for our kiddos who may get distracted and dysregulated by unanticipated changes to their classroom routines.

**T**he changes are now visible. When families returned to the preschool after the Labor Day week of vacation they found that the office, therapy space and Little Faces Clinic had all been moved. With the Little Faces behavioral clinic now occupying the former office space we've more than doubled the footprint of the clinic, allowing us to offer services to more clients throughout the day.

**T**he preschool office can now be accessed through the second exterior door and sits directly in front of teacher Jessica's classroom. The new location makes it convenient for parents to sign in, drop their child off and check in at the office in one easy trip.

**A**s funding allows we anticipate additional upgrades to the facil-

ity including: adding sensory spaces, making upgrades to the bathrooms, flooring, and walls; new furnishings,



Sunny Days teacher, Jessica & Little Faces Supervisor, Elise Tran

additional outdoor playscapes and improved landscaping. We are in the process of applying for multiple grants from local foundations to raise necessary funds, although this is only a part of the fundraising we need to complete this project. Our fall event, **Tapas & Tunes** Fund-A-Need will also benefit the preschool renovation. We invite you to enjoy tapas, sangria, and Spanish music, on November 11, 2017, for an evening of fun and philanthropy to help us renovate the preschool.

**If you would like to take a tour of our Sunny Days facility please contact Savannah Stump @ 408-551-0312 to arrange for a visit.**

For info about **Tapas & Tunes** contact Kellie Welch at 408-625-6193.



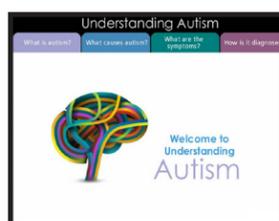
The Porchlight Education Series is a free e-learning training approach that offers solutions to common daily challenges a parent or caregiver may confront in the world of developmental disabilities.

### Subjects in the Module Series include:

- Perseveration
- Eating habits
- Tantrum-related events
- Health, wellbeing and safety
- Toileting issues
- Prompting
- Communication
- Labeling
- Following Directions

Children with autism very often have deficits in language, social, and behavioral development. These modules can help you teach your child to develop life skills.

Where can you begin to gather the resources necessary to teach your child? Porchlight Education Series will give you some ideas on how you can embark on this journey.



PACE now has an extensive library of 50 Modules.

[www.porchlighteducation.org](http://www.porchlighteducation.org)

## FREEWILL



One of the most powerful ways to change lives is through education. A gift in your will leaves a legacy that makes an extraordinary impact on continuing to provide education and care to the people and families affected by autism for generations to come.

**Did you know that fewer than 30% of Americans have up-to-date legal wills?** PACE has partnered with FreeWill to give you a free, easy way to make a legal will.

Creating a will allows you to support the people and causes you care about most. Make your will for free today in less than 25 minutes and leave a legacy to create a world where people of all abilities can live a fulfilling life.

[www.pacificautism.org/donate/legacy-giving](http://www.pacificautism.org/donate/legacy-giving)



## Ways You Can Help

### • Make a donation

By Mail: 1880 Pruneridge Ave.  
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Online: [www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org)

By phone: 408-245-3400

• Double your gift- **make a matching gift contribution.** To include PACE in your workplace giving options, please contact **development@pacificautism.org**.

• Go to **www.escrip.com** and enter PACE's ID number: **472692** to register your credit and reward cards.

• Choose PACE on **Amazon Smile** ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com))

• Donate your old vehicle to **Donate for Charity!** Call 866-392-4483 or use their website **www.donateforcharity.com**. Donate for Charity handles all the details and distributes the net proceeds to PACE!

## PACE School

By Manju Prabakaran, School Administrator

“Train people well enough so they can leave.

Treat them well enough so they don't want to.”

Sir Richard Branson

At Pacific Autism Center for Education, we pride ourselves on the exceptional level of compassionate care and educational services delivered to each and every one of our students. The unquestionable driving force behind our continued success in serving this special population is the people working in this organization. Every day, our employees bring with them their passion, diligence, and innovation in various capacities to collectively change the lives of our students, their families, and their communities.

Every PACE team member is valued as an appreciable asset from day one. PACE makes a consistent investment in their personal well-being and professional development. Our staff starts their PACE journey with a foundational PACE designed educational training in Autism Spectrum Disorders and behavior management. Throughout their career with PACE, scheduled and needs-based training keeps every team member up-to-date with the most current knowledge on instructional and behavioral practices to improve their mastery.

However, training is just part of the equation, feeling valued by PACE is recognized as being a vital factor in our success as an integrated organization.

PACE school is a place of high-energy, fast-paced decisions, safety, and awareness and requires a great deal of physical and emotional investment by our staff. Supporting personal well-being and creating a culture of appreciation and positivity can make a huge difference between our staff looking forward to coming to work or dragging themselves to work. PACE encourages open feedback for our staff in the form of improvement plans and recognition structures like staff of the month, hi-fives, thank you notes, and an annual staff picnic.

In addition to training and recognition structures, PACE has systems to ensure our staff engage and network with their professional community serving children with disabilities and autism. All the structures and systems support our underlying philosophy – *PACE employees make up the heart of the organization. Treat the heart right, and we have a healthy organization.*



## PACE's Youth Leadership Committee

By Kellie Welch, Fund Development Associate

It's a new school year, which means a new year for the PACE Youth Leadership Committee (YLC). YLC is a yearlong program for local high school students who wish to serve the autism community. Candidates are selected based upon grades, community contribution, and an interest in autism.

We launched the 2017-2018 YLC year with a meeting in September and now they are off and running. This year, YLC has 11 returning members including the YLC President, Joseph Cho, and 9 new members.

The 2016-2017 Youth Leadership Committee was very successful. One part of the YLC mission is to spread autism awareness. They lead "Operation Enable" workshops at local high schools which, gave teens an interactive experience of 'what it would be like' to have autism. Through these demonstrations, they hope to build better community acceptance and awareness of the difficulties that individuals with autism endure. For the first time in YLC history, YLC partnered with the clubs at Monta Vista High School in hopes of getting greater attendance at the workshops. 30 students attended the Operation En-

able workshop, and it was noted as the most effective workshop of the year! This year, YLC hopes to host even more workshops.

In April, Autism Awareness Month, YLC hosted the "Voices for Autism" concert in Santana Row for the third year in a row. The event included 7 local youth musical groups who performed on stage to raise money for PACE. The 2017 concert was the most prosperous in its history and raised over \$1,000 for PACE – the YLC



students are determined to build off of last year's success and to have an even more successful 2017-2018 concert.

The Youth Leadership Committee is ready to bring greater awareness to the autism community in the coming year.

## Residential News

By Marta Weinstock, Marketing and Development Manager

The PACE Residential Program is a homelike, family environment with two children homes and four adult group homes licensed to serve residents from 6 to 59 years of age. Our homes provide a comfortable setting for our residents, enabling them to develop daily living skills and to lead more independent and productive lives built on the foundation of personal choice and independent decision-making.

PACE has developed deep roots within our community. One relationship that has been an asset for our group homes for the past four years is the relationship with the Sunnyvale Elks Lodge. We have two residential homes based in Sunnyvale. Alan, one of our friended Elks members, is from the Hawaiian islands. He and his members welcomed us with that Hawaiian spirit, and now we are Ohanaa (family). At first, our outings were simple pizza parties and a sincere interest in getting to know PACE and our residents. This annual event turned quickly into a wonderful BBQ with games and donations, all catered and sponsored by the Elks members. Alan graciously invites us and each year he says, "how about a BBQ for your staff and residents?" It also gives

PACE an opportunity to share about autism and the importance for the residents to feel welcome in their community.



This summer, the Elks Sunnyvale Lodge's BBQ was fun for all and the members gave much needed kitchen wares for all of the homes and a generous donation of \$700. Sabra Nokamoto, PACE Group Home Administrator, reminisces, "tears came to my eyes when they told me they raised funds for the homes." We are very blessed to be adopted by the extraordinary Sunnyvale Elks Lodge members.

Mahalo Nui Loa, we look forward to next year.



## AFP (Association of Fundraising Professionals) Donor Bill of Rights

PACE Donors...Did you know there is an association of fundraising professionals?

The PACE development team is actively involved in AFP, attending workshops, luncheons, serving as mentors, and on the AFP 2017 Ethics Committee.

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Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the not-for-profit organizations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

I. To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.

II. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.

III. To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.

IV. To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.

V. To receive appropriate acknowledgment and recognition.

VI. To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.

VII. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.

VIII. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.

IX. To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.

X. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.



### THANK YOU 2017 BAY AREA REAL ESTATE ROUNDTABLE & GOLF CLASSIC !!!

PACE BENEFITTED FROM TWO SUCCESSFUL EVENTS THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS CORPORATE EVENT SPONSORS, DONORS AND GOLFERS! BECAUSE OF **YOU**, PACE MADE GREAT IMPROVEMENTS TO FACES BEHAVIORAL SERVICES, THE PACE SCHOOL, AND RESIDENTIAL HOMES.



## PACE Setter

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**Editor:** Marta Weinstock

**Contributors:** Amelia Lalley, Karen Kennan, Sabra Nakamoto, Manju Parbadaran, Marta Weinstock, Kellie Welch

**Executive Director:** Kurt Ohlfs

**The PACE mission:** To enhance the lives of people impacted by autism, through innovation, exceptional education and compassionate care.



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ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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**Black Friday. Cyber Monday.**

**#GIVINGTUESDAY™**

**November 28, 2017**

Giving Tuesday is observed on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving in the United States. It was created in 2012, to celebrate giving and charitable acts during the holiday season.

MAKE A DONATION TO PACE ON GIVING TUESDAY  
[www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org)

It's the 10th ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC!  
NEXT FALL  
SEPTEMBER 28th, 2018

**PACE 2018 Golf Classic**

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER FOR EDUCATION

Save the Date!

Friday, September 28th, 2018



## PACE Donor Highlight Patrick Schneider: Shooting for Philanthropy

By Kellie Welch, Fund Development Associate

Patrick Schneider, a local teacher, varsity basketball coach, father of three, and Pacific Autism Center for Education (PACE) School Parent, found a way to offer his skills and deep love of basketball to support community philanthropy.

Patrick grew up in nearby Marin County where his father was a well known high school basketball coach. Basketball not only coursed through his veins from a young age, but more importantly so did coaching.

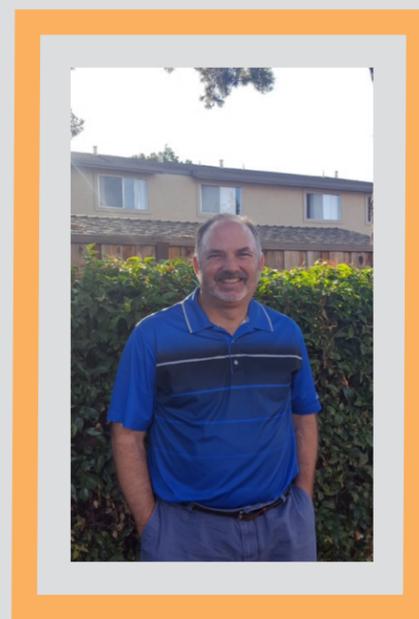
He fondly remembers the summer when his high school basketball coach was running a Cardinal Basketball Camp up in the mountains. Patrick warmly recalls the rides to camp with his coach and Rene Herreias, who later went on to become the University of California, Berkeley Basketball Coach in the 60's.

He reminisced and said that he recognized how lucky he was to be put in these circumstances where he was surrounded by tremendous coaches, whether it was his father, his high school coach, or even Rene Herreias. All

of these mentors were completely open about their basketball expertise and shared the tips of coaching great athletes.

Patrick has threaded basketball throughout his entire life; 27 years ago, he started a fulfilling career as a teacher and basketball coach at Bellarmine College Preparatory. The Schneider's began their family soon after and realized their life was changing dramatically. Their middle child, Michael, was diagnosed with autism. Patrick and his family sought out extensive resources for Michael and as a family, they began to dedicate their time, money, and attention to the autism community. The family also developed a deep appreciation for caregivers of individuals with autism and autism advocates.

After his youngest child was born, Patrick realized that there was an opportunity to turn his expertise in basketball into philanthropy for the autism community. Basketball is his passion, and autism is near and dear to his heart. Patrick and the Bellarmine basketball coaching staff now host annual coaching clinics for



local elementary school and National Junior Basketball (NJB) coaches.

The coaching clinics donate all proceeds to a non-profit autism organization. The clinics are popular and include topics like: "defense is not a bank robbery," "planning practices," or this year's "shooting for victory." During the clinics, the coaches have an opportunity to see the Bellarmine staff work with the Bellarmine basketball teams, participate in small groups to brush up on technical training, and learn creative ideas to reinforce skills. In the end, coaches leave the clinic refreshed and energized to have a great season.

Patrick's journey with PACE began in 2012 when Michael became a PACE student. His parents always hoped that he would be eligible for a school like PACE, with its strong reputation in the autism community. Through research, time, and a little luck, Patrick's son Michael was placed at PACE.

Patrick quickly realized that PACE was the ideal organization to donate the Bellarmine basketball clinic proceeds. Before Michael attended PACE, he designated the donations for a larger autism organization. After becoming intimately involved with PACE, he realized his donation could make a bigger impact if he gave to his son's school: a smaller, local autism organization. Patrick said, "At PACE, I know that every little bit helps and is appreciated, that my donation will be put to good use and have an impact on the programs." Since then, PACE has been the lucky beneficiary of the Bellarmine coaching staff's generosity.

Patrick's giving is never-ending. He also donates his time by volunteering at local PACE fundraising events.

PACE is lucky to be surrounded by families like the Schneider's – families that are invested in their children, PACE, and the greater autism community.