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.”

Nisha Sharma

Sunny Days Preschool

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER for EDUCATION
Connect • Support • Educate

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

TAPAS & TUNES EVENT
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH
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
PACE 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.

To 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.

As 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
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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.

Sunny Days Preschool cont’d

a generous $15k grant. We were able to replace two non-functioning accordion doors/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.

The chances 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.

The 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. As funding allows we anticipate additional upgrades to the facility including: adding sensory spaces, making upgrades to the bathrooms, flooring, and walls; new furnishings, 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 Savanah Stump @ 408-551-0312 to arrange for a visit.

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

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

Ways You Can Help

- Make a donation
  By Mail: 1880 Pruneridge Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95050
  Online: 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)

- 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 Prabadaran, 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 Educa-
tion, we pride ourselves on the ex-
ceptional level of compassionate care and
educational services delivered to
each and every one of our stu-
dents. The unquestionable driving
force behind our continued success in
serving this special population is the
people working in this organiza-
tion. 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 invest-
ment in their personal well-being and
professional development. Our staff
starts their PACE journey with a foun-
dational PACE designed educational
training in Autism Spectrum Disor-
ders and behavior management.
Throughout their career with PACE,
scheduled and needs-based training
keeps every team member up-to-
date with the most current knowl-
edge 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 organi-
zation.

PACE school is a place of high-ener-
gy, 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 recogni-
tion structures, PACE has systems
to ensure our staff engage and network
with their professional community
serving children with disabilities and
autism. All these 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 organi-
zation.

PACES Youth Leadership Committee
By Kellie Welch, Fund Development Associate

It’s a new school year, which means
a new year for the PACE Youth Lead-
ership 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 contri-
bution, 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 “Opera-
ration Enable” workshops at local high
schools which, gave teens an interac-
tive 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 indi-
civids with autism experience. For the
first time in YLC history, YLC partnered
with the clubs at Monte 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 which
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 com-
fortable setting for our residents,
enabling them to develop daily
living skills and to lead more inde-
pendent 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 as-
set 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 friends Elks members, is
from the Hawaiian islands. He
and his members welcomed us with
that Hawaiian spirit, and now we
are Oahana (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 spon-
sored 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 Nakamoto, 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.

Donor Bill of Rights

I. To have access to the organization’s most recent financial statements.

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

III. To have the opportunity for their donations to be handled with respect and confidentiality to the extent provided by law.

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

V. To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.

VI. To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and 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 BENEFİTTED FROM TWO SUCCESSFUL EVENTS THANKS TO OUR
GENEROUS CORPORATE EVENT SPONSORS, DONORS AND GOLFERS!
BECAUSE OF YOU, PACE MADE GREAT IMROVEMENTS TO FACES BEHAVIOURAL
SERVICES, THE PACE SCHOOL, AND RESIDENTIAL HOUSES.

3
The PACE mission: To enhance the lives of people impacted by autism, through innovation, exceptional education and compassionate care.

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

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’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.