



April 2018

A Message From

Ryan C. Eisenberg, Executive Director



Autism Awareness

This past week, along with Pacific Autism Center for Education (PACE), AchieveKids screened a film called Swim Team. As part of Autism Awareness month, and in our pursuit to help build stronger and more inclusive communities, we felt this film offered us an opportunity to help spread awareness, and it offers us a strong message of community and the importance of togetherness.

As humans, all of us feel as if we are “on an island” at times in our lives, feeling isolated. This feeling happens all too often for our students, and our families. Feeling misunderstood, not having a network of others who share the same experiences, and being unsure of the decisions we make contribute to this sense of an island. What I truly appreciate about this film is how well it demonstrates the importance of community and of belonging. Swim Team effectively shows not only the benefit for the students, but also for their parents.

This year AchieveKids launched the **Parent Café**. Our goal is to not only share updates on the school, but to provide a community of understanding, belonging, and support for our families. As a community of learning, it is important to me, and our values, to ensure we offer a sense of belonging for everyone at our schools. I have appreciated our growing participation throughout this year in the Parent Café and am excited for our next meeting on April 19th, where a friend of our community, Aaron, from the Laughing Giraffe Therapy, will join us as a guest speaker.

This film and our Parent Café remind us that we are in this together. Not just as a school, but as contributing members of our community. Join us in helping develop strong, more inclusive communities, and in helping to create awareness about learners of all abilities.

Together We Can Achieve!

Ryan C. Eisenberg, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Save the Date!

Seventh Annual AchieveKids Reach for the Stars BBQ

Saturday, June 2

5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Palo Alto Campus

STAR Award Honoree: Phil Bookman



Spotlight on Former AchieveKids Parent and Student:



My son and I attended the screening of Swim Team this week and we both enjoyed it. Brian is on the Autism Spectrum and attended AchieveKids for fifth, sixth and seventh grade before transitioning back into our local public school. Watching the movie, I related to so many of the situations and emotions faced by the parents, particularly grief, worry and frustration. It is easy to feel very isolated and overwhelmed when you have a special needs child.

One of the things that I appreciated most when Brian started attending AchieveKids was joining a community that “got” my child. Not only did teachers and staff work with him on academic, social and behavior goals, but I met other parents facing similar challenges. For the first time Brian was invited to a birthday party and had play dates. I think they were as important for the parents who attended as the kids. Even though Brian left AchieveKids six years ago, I’ve stayed involved with the school in large part because of the strong sense of community it fosters.

For more information on how you can sign up for a school tour or to learn more about our program please contact: Karin Klarreich, Director of Development at 650.213.5286 or kklarreich@achievekids.org

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