

# Happy PAAL-o-ween

The month of October was a busy month for the PAAL staff. Here are some of the highlights:

The PAAL parents staffed an autism / PAAL awareness table at ACAC for an entire week at the request of the club. The event was a part of a general community health awareness project initiated by ACAC. The PAAL booth had a premiere location right inside the front door. The high profile location allowed the display to be seen by every person entering and leaving the fitness club. The PAAL parents were available at the booth to answer general questions regarding the nature of autism, the historic misunderstandings of the disorder, the FABULOUS progress and MEANINGFUL AND ENJOYABLE QUALITY of life places like ACAC ( and the people who go there ) are giving our kids by embracing them as members of THEIR community who just need a little help from their friends..

October was also the opportunity for the staff to attend the Autism New Jersey conference in Atlantic City on October 16 – 17th. CONGRATULATIONS to Kaori Nepo, our Clinical Director, Avi Glickman, our Director of Community Education, and Gloria Satriale, our Executive Director on a HOME RUN in their presentation of **"Essential Elements for Effective Community Based Transition Programming"**. Autism New Jersey Executive Director, Linda Meyer, was told by a participant who had attended the conference for the past 17 years that the PAAL presentation was one of the most informative, innovative and best presentation they had attended in a long time. Following the presentation, there were so many follow-up questions that the conference organizers had to ask those remaining after the presentation to clear the hall for the next event.

On October 23 – 24th the entire PAAL staff traveled to the annual Organization for Autism Research (OAR) conference in Arlington, Virginia. In addition to the excellent learning opportunity for our teachers, once again our Director of Community Education – Avi Glickman – and our Clinical Director – Kaori Nepo – were presenters at the conference. The presentation for the OAR conference was entitled: **Technology as a Tool for Teaching: Innovative Community Instruction for Individuals with ASD**. And once again, the presentation was well received by the large audience.

Watch this space for MORE exciting news to come ...

