



# PAAL Pages

*A Newsletter for the Preparing Adolescents for Adult Life Community*

VOLUME ONE

WINTER 2009

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## NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW STUDENTS AND NEW COMMUNITY PARTNERS !!

By February 1st, PAAL will add two new teens to our student body!! Following a glowing first quarter quality review by our Professional Advisory Panel, PAAL received the green light to expand. Although many students are currently waiting for a chance to enroll in PAAL, we remain dedicated to a slow, structured homogenous growth. We are thrilled to be able to admit one male and one female to continue our gender balanced student body.

PAAL partnerships also continue to grow as we enter the new year. PAAL is privileged to welcome **Evergreen Cleaners, VIP Pizza, Red Robin Restaurant,** and the **Wawa Corporation** to our list of Community Partners. While we are looking forward to long-lasting alliances with all of our new partners, the addition of a regional chain like Wawa as a partner opens many new doors to PAAL students. With Wawa stores located throughout the region, students will be able to quickly apply skills learned in the education environment to a job of their own at a Wawa store convenient to their home.



## PAAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL AUTISM THINK TANK IN NEW YORK CITY

Executive Director of PAAL, Gloria Satriale, has been invited to participate in the **Advancing Futures for Adults with Autism: Think Tank** that will be held on January 23rd and 24th in New York City. Hosted by the New York Center for Autism, Gloria will join other national autism experts from across the nation to discuss and develop innovative models relating to residential, vocational, and recreational needs of the adult autism community.

### PAAL PLACES TO BE IN 2009 ....

1/16 - 1/17	Evidence-Based Interventions for Teaching Individuals with Autism Bucks County, PA
2/6 - 2/8	ABA 2009 Autism Conference, Jacksonville, FLA
3/20	Penn Autism Network Conference, Philadelphia, PA
3/28	2nd Annual Autism Conference
5/22 - 5/26	35th Annual ABA Conference

## PAAL PRESENTS...

The reputation of PAAL's unique programming continues to spread throughout the autism community. In addition to the recent presented for the National Autism Training and Technical Assistance Partnership (NATTAP) in Ohio this past November, the staff will be presenting at these upcoming events:

- ◆ The 2nd Annual Autism Conference of the Association of Applied Behavior Analysis in February in Jacksonville, Florida.
- ◆ The University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine Autism Conference in Philadelphia; the Bucks County Association of Applied Behavior Analysis in Bucks County, PA in March.

## MECA Admitted to PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program

Offering potential donors a tax break in exchange for their contribution is an excellent way for a non-profit to bolster contributions and MECA has recently added a valuable fund raising program to its toolbox that does just that.

In December, MECA was notified that it was accepted into the **PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program** as a scholarship foundation. A special thanks goes out to Jim O'Brien for his work in getting us through the three month application process.

For business owners in Pennsylvania, the EITC Program is a great way to maximize their contributions to their favorite charities while reducing their tax liability. Businesses authorized to do business in Pennsylvania who are subject to one or more of seven PA taxes (see box ) are eligible to participate in the program. Contributions made to an approved organization

**If your business pays any of these state taxes you are eligible for the EITC program.**

- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Capital Stock Franchise Tax
- Bank and Trust Company Shares Tax
- Title Insurance Companies Shares Tax
- Insurance Premiums Tax
- Mutual Thrift Institution Tax
- Personal Income Tax of S corporation shareholders
- Personal Income Tax of Partnership partners

create tax credits for the business. These tax credits may be applied against the tax liability of a business for the tax year in which the contribution was made. The contributor will receive a 75 percent tax credit off the top of their state income tax bill. They can increase that tax credit to 90 percent of their donation if they commit to making the same contribution for two consecutive years. That's a major incentive to many donors with only a little bite to their wallet.

Banks, title-insurance companies, and large corporations use these programs heavily to direct contributions, but businesses of EVERY SIZE can benefit from this program. For small businesses it's a great way to maximize their charitable contributions.

### **Do you own a small business ? Do you work for a company that is looking for a tax credit in 2009 ?**

If you have a small business or you work for a business or corporation that would like more information about participating in the EITC Program, contact Jim at the school. We can send you more details about getting your company involved in this GREAT fund raising program for the school. Becoming a donor is easy.

A single-page form enrolls any eligible business in the program. And after the contribution has been made, MECA will provide the business with the information required to take advantage of the tax credit.

## RECYCLING PROGRAM TO EXPAND EARLY IN 2009

The PAAL Recycling Program got underway several months ago with the delivery of a 10 cubic yard Paper Retriever container to the Education Center by the Abitibi Company. Since then, staff members, families and neighboring businesses have been 'feeding' the distinctive green and yellow Paper Retriever bin.

The program is now set to begin an exciting new phase - a full-scale recycling program / micro business for one of our community partners - Brandywine Hospital. In the next few weeks, additional Paper Retriever bins will be delivered to the

hospital and bright blue recycling bins will begin to appear throughout the hospital. This will be the hospital's FIRST recycling program and we are thrilled that they have selected PAAL to be their partner in their efforts to "Go Green". On a regular schedule, PAAL students - working under the direction of our staff - will collect recyclable paper from throughout the hospital. These jobs will provide many opportunities to acquire social and navigation skills.

The campaign called - **Be a PAAL, Recycle Now!** - is expected to be fully operational in early 2009.