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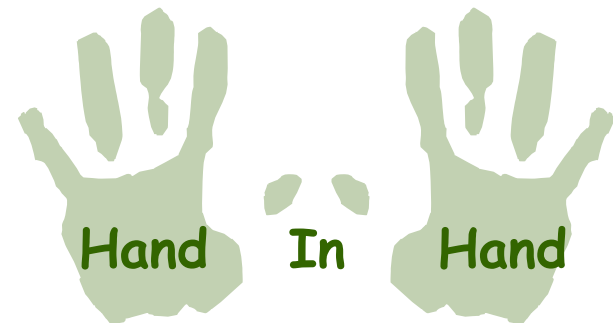
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# Autism Awareness Month



**Across Bayonne**

**Bayonne School District  
April 2009**



**Bayonne Board of Education**  
669 Avenue A  
Bayonne, New Jersey 07002

April 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Autism Awareness Month is observed every April. Autism is a complex neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain, particularly in the areas of social interaction and communication.

The Bayonne School District recognizes Autism Awareness Month as an important opportunity to promote awareness and support the Simpson Baber Foundation for the Autistic, our partner in the Busy Bee Program for Children with Autism at Bayonne Medical Center. Busy Bee is an early-intervention program which is a collaboration of the Board of Education, the Foundation, the Bayonne Medical Center, and the City of Bayonne.

The Bayonne School District along with Pamrapo Savings Bank has planned the 5th Annual *Hand in Hand Across Bayonne* fundraising drive in recognition of Autism Awareness Month. I hope that each parent/

child will participate in the program by purchasing a "caring hand" for a donation of one dollar or more. The hands will be displayed throughout the schools. All contributions will be forwarded to the Foundation to benefit autism programs.

I am happy to report that last year's total contributions from teachers, parents/children exceeded \$13,000.00. The Simpson Baber Foundation was able to fund the Busy Bee Program, field trips, the Life Skills Center at Bayonne High School and Woodrow Wilson School, and provided other district recreational resources throughout the school year, due to your generosity and support.

Thank you for caring! Together, we can make a difference in promoting autism awareness, hand-in-hand!

During the month of April, please help us, once again, to make a difference in the lives of children with autism.

Sincerely,

A vertical column of three handprints in shades of green and yellow, positioned between the two columns of text.

*Patricia L. McGeehan*

Patricia L. McGeehan, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools