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CONFERENCE EDITION, 2008

DBMAT: We Have a Voice - See Us, Hear Us

36th Annual Family Conference
~ October 10-12, 2008 ~
Camp John Marc

Notes from the Conference Planning Committee:

This learning weekend is for adult family members and service providers. In order for both parents and extended family members to attend and participate in the program sessions, exceptional onsite childcare is available for your children with disabilities and their siblings. Children have their own planned fun activities separate from the adult learning sessions and activities. So, come prepared to learn, participate, have fun, make friends and enjoy the weekend.

***Please read all the enclosed information, fill out and return all necessary forms by September 5th, 2008 to our Conference Registrar:
Christine Givens 22910 Briarhorn Dr. Spring, TX. 77389***

If your child is a client of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, (DARS), Division for Blind Services, please contact your child's Program Specialist prior to registration.

Conference contact numbers are: **Christine: 281-370-8195 Steve: 512-336-7859**
Positive Connections Line: 432-264-6780 Rosa: 915-595-3853 (Spanish Speaking)

Business Meeting

DBMAT's Annual General Membership and election meeting will be held during this conference weekend on Saturday, October 11, 2008 at 3:30 PM at Camp John Marc. According to DBMAT's by-laws, the DBMAT general members should be notified in advance of the general membership meeting about the nominees for the upcoming Board of Director vacancies. The Nominating Committee, appointed by your president, presents the following nominees for the 2008-2010 terms:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Vice President - Wayne Thompson | Member-At-Large - Jackie Carter |
| Secretary - Melanie Knapp | Member-At-Large - Rosa Douglas |
| | Member-At-Large - Cindy Hunley |



Other nominations from the floor will be accepted until 1:00 PM on Saturday, October 11, 2008. A short description of all nominees' relevant experience will be presented prior to voting. Only paid members of DBMAT can vote.

DBMAT Vision: Quality intervener services are provided to all deafblind individuals lifelong.

Method: DBMAT will work with Texas State Agencies and schools to increase the availability of skilled intervener services.

Some of the activities of DBMAT are supported in part by the Hilton-Perkins Program of the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA. The Hilton-Perkins Program is funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation of Reno, NV. DBMAT appreciates this support.

Deadline to receive Registration Forms and Child Vital Statistic Forms by DBMAT is September 5, 2008.
Questions? Call Christine: 281-370-8195 Steve: 512-336-7859
Positive Connection: 432-264-6780 Rosa: 915-595-3853 (Spanish Speaking)



For Your Information

(Please read carefully and keep for reference)

"DBMAT: We Have a Voice - See Us, Hear Us"

36th Annual Family Conference ~ October 10-12, 2008

This weekend is co-sponsored by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), formerly, Texas Department of Human Services (DHS), Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS-DBS) formerly, Texas Commission for the Blind (TCB), Texas Education Agency ~ Deaf-Blind Outreach Project (DBO) at TSBVI, and the Deaf-Blind Multihandicapped Association of Texas (DBMAT). DBMAT appreciates this support of families. The DBMAT Conference Planning Committee is diligently working to bring about a relaxing, fun-filled, learning weekend for all of our conference participants in a pleasant rustic environment. This conference is designed for families of children & adults who are deaf-blind multihandicapped, deaf-multihandicapped, blind multihandicapped and the professionals who serve them.

IMPORTANT: Forms

Pre-registration by the **deadline of September 5th, 2008** is required in order to attend this learning weekend. The Conference Registration Form must be filled out by both the families and the professionals who plan to attend. The Child Vital Statistic **Form must be filled out on both sides** by families **for each child** (disabled & siblings) you plan to bring and have listed on the registration form. (Please make copies of this form, front & back, for **all** your children.) All children must be accompanied by a family member or guardian. If your child is a client of DARS, DBS, please clear your travel reimbursement & registration fee with your child's Program Specialist before registering for the conference. Note: If you plan to bring a nurse, attendant, or any individual who is not a family member to care for your disabled child during the weekend, please be sure to include the individual's name and phone number on the DBMAT Child Vital Statistic Form. A background check is required on anyone caring for your child who is not a family member.

On-Site Check-In

Onsite check-in is required on Friday Night, between 6 - 10 P.M., for all participants planning to stay on the campgrounds. In order for you and your children to complete the intake process, you must plan to arrive on site **after 6 P.M. and prior to 10 P.M.** In consideration for the other campers, check-in volunteers, childcare workers and nurse, this ruling must be courteously followed. There will be a sandwich/snack buffet supper available for you and your children between these hours.



Accommodations

Camp John Marc, located at Morgan near Meridian, Texas, is a lovely campsite with air-conditioned cabins. Plan to share the ten-bed cabin with others. We try our best to match cabin occupancy comfortably for all participants. If you choose to stay elsewhere, your room accommodations are at your own expense. Rooms, meals and childcare are furnished onsite for families. Families are encouraged to opt for the 24-hour respite care available at either Kid Kamp Cabins or Sib Site Cabins. Rooms and meals are provided to professional participants onsite.

Creature Comfort

Although there are sleeping cabins with A/C, this is a campsite! Camp John Marc is accessible with a single designated vehicle parking area. Drop-off area is available in the front of the main buildings. There is no outdoor lighting ~ **please bring flashlights to maneuver after dark.** Bring pillows, sheets, blankets, towels, face cloths, soap, shampoo, casual clothing and closed-toe shoes for yourself and each of your children. (**Pack each child's belongings separately.**) Bring an alarm clock for your awakening. Shower sign-up sheets will be available in each adult cabin. We start our activities **early** each morning with a family & friends breakfast served in the dining hall. Bring any other special items you or your children need, particularly their medications and instructions, toys, napping stuff, etc.

Art Contest - "Open to All"



The ART CONTEST is back and is open to everyone who would like to enter! It is time to pull out those creative ideas in whatever art form you choose. Whether you **PAINT, SCULPT, KNIT, CROCHET, MOSAIC, DRAW, OR BUILD YOUR ART.....WE WANT IT!** All entries will be displayed Saturday in the dining area. On Saturday night, prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Your creations will also be showcased and sold in the **LIVE AUCTION** on Saturday night.

KID KAMP and SIB SITE

Childcare is available in four (4) models for your children. We encourage parents & guardians to place their children over three (3) years old at **Kid Kamp** which includes day activities and staying over-night with peers under adult supervision. **Sib Site** is for siblings only who are over seven (7) years old and would like day activities and sleepovers with other sibs. Girls and Boys have separate cabins and are supervised by adults. While both these sites are distinct, they are within walking distance of the cabins of adult conference participants. In order for everyone to have a great time, we feel it important to give parents respite from their children and the children respite from their parents during this weekend. There is also **Infant Day Care** available for children under age 3 and **Camp Day Activities** for children who will occupy their parents' cabin at night.

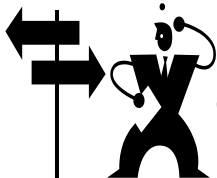
AUCTIONS ~ Silent and Live

Now is the time to contact your local merchants, neighbors, co-workers, school chums, friends and family to request donations of new and good used items for our annual auction fund-raisers. Those that have attended these events with us before know there will be many great bargains available for purchase and bidding. Please assist us by **gathering and bringing** several items with you to donate to our auctions. DBMAT appreciates your support. Fun for everyone!



? Direction Signs

Camp John Marc has posted signs along the way from Morgan. Morgan is about 7 miles north of Meridian and 30.9 miles south of Cleburne on Texas Highway 174. DBMAT signs are also posted on these country roads. A detailed map is included in this Conference



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36th Annual Family Conference & Workshop

October 10-12, 2008



Agenda at a Glance

-Tentative-

Friday: Arrival & Check-in

Saturday:

8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast	
9:00 – 9:45	Welcome & Introduction of Agency's represented	Paul Welch & Steve Schoen , DBMAT Kathi Montalbano - DB Waiver Rachel Simpson, Brad Carlson, Jacquelyn Carter -DBS David Wiley, Edgenie Bellah & Crew – TSBVI Outreach CC Davis – Helen Keller National Center
9:45 – 10:35	Intervenors and Credentialing Updates	Linda Alsop, Ski-Hi
10:35 – 10:45	Break	
10:45 – 11:45	Deafblind Teacher Certification: Another Piece to Quality Education	Dr. Roseanna Davidson & Amy Parker, Texas Tech University
11:45 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 1:30	Legislative Update	Representative Susan King Legislative Committee
1:30 – 2:20	Advice on the Legislative Process	Karen Denglish-Seal, Lawyer
2: 20 – 2:30	Break	
2:30 – 3:30	Writing Your Story Workshop	Dawn Choate, The ARC of Texas Jeanine Pinner, Parent to Parent
3:30 – 4:00	DBMAT Business Meeting	DBMAT Board Officers with support from TSBVI and DBS
4:00 – 5:00	Awards/Committee Updates and Social/Free Time	(Snacks and soft drinks provided)
5:00 – 6:00	Dinner	
6:00 - TBD	DBMAT – Family Fun Activities	(In the Barn-Covered Pavilion)
8:00 - TBD	Auction	(In the Saddle Room)

Sunday:

8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast	Meet Your Neighbor –Texas Style
9:00 – 10:00	Guardianship & Special Needs Trusts	June Griffin, Lawyer
10:00 – 10:15	Break	
10:15 – 11:15	Person Centered Plan	David Wiley, TSBVI Outreach
11:15 – 11:45	Closing Remarks	Paul Welch and Steve Schoen
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch & Depart	

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DBMAT CHILD VITAL STATISTIC FORM Information for Child Care Workers

Please make as many **copies** as you need to fill out **both** sides of this form for **each** child (disabled and siblings) you have registered as attending our family weekend **with** you. **Each child** must have pertinent information submitted to us by September 5, 2008 to ensure an enjoyable time for all. Thank you.

Please Print Clearly In Ink:

Parent(s) Name(s) _____ (Cabin Assigned _____)
(Accompanying child & attending conference) (Leave blank/campsite)

Contact Number _____ (if more information on your child is needed)

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CHILD: **Disabled** **Sibling**

Name _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____ Age _____

- This child is **under age three (3)** and will be cared for in **Infant Day Care Only**.
- This child is **over age three (3)** and will participate in **Camp Day Activities Only**.
(Child will stay with parents at night.)
- This child, who is over age 3, will participate in **Kid Kamp**. (24-hour supervision)
- This **SIBLING** (over age 7), will stay with his/her peers at **Sib Site**. (24-hour supervision)
- A **nurse/attendant/individual other than a family member** will care for our disabled child during the weekend. Name _____ Phone #: _____

Please check one of the following:

- Yes!** This child can participate in all camper activities.
- No!** This child can not participate in the following activities: _____

DESCRIBE THIS CHILD'S:	
Mobility Needs ~	Vision ~
Communication Level ~	Hearing ~
Diet/Eating Habits ~	Behavior Issues ~
Sleep Patterns/Needs ~	Seizure Activity ~
Toileting Issues ~	Self Help Skills ~
Favorite Activities ~	Dislikes ~

PLEASE CHECK IF CHILD is IN: CLASS _____ HCS _____ DB WAIVER _____

Be sure to fill out the other side of this form, too. ⇨

DBMAT CHILD VITAL STATISTIC FORM -Page 2-

Please provide all information about **each medication** this child takes:

Name of Medication	Dosage Given	Time Given	Special Instructions

Please label and "baggy" each medication dosage per child for the weekend.

Please list **every** physical, medical, and mental condition of this child (include recent surgeries):

- 1.) _____ 4.) _____
- 2.) _____ 5.) _____
- 3.) _____ 6.) _____

To assist this child enjoy the weekend, I / We offer the following suggestions & hints:

Is there ***anything*** else we should know about this child?

If there is a major problem/occurrence regarding this child, please seek me / us out at the meeting, activity or cabin site for assistance. _____ (*Initial*)

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

I / We give permission for this child to participate in all camper/respite activities, unless otherwise noted on this form, and do hereby release Camp John Marc, DBMAT, and the conference sponsors from any and all liabilities during this weekend.

(signed) _____ (dated)

I / We give permission to DBMAT to take photos/videos of my / our family's activities, especially my/our child, during this weekend and to use our names, if appropriate, for positive publicity/advocacy purposes.

(signed) _____ (dated)

All information is otherwise confidential and is held only for the purposes described.

This VS Form must be filled out, returned, and received by the deadline so that we may plan appropriately for your child/children. DO IT NOW! Thanks!!



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REGISTRATION FORM

~ Please print in ink all information that applies ~

Family Information:

Adult Names _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Mobil Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Name of Child with Disabilities _____ Age _____ Sex _____

Visually Impaired Hearing Impaired Other _____

These Siblings will also attend:

Name _____ Age ____ Sex ____ Name _____ Age ____ Sex ____

Nam _____ Age ____ Sex ____ Name _____ Age ____ Sex ____

Sleeping Arrangements:

- Yes! I / We will be using the sleeping facilities at Camp John Marc.
- No, I / We will be staying off the camp site at my / our own expense.
- As an adult, I have a serious sleep anomaly or dysfunction which might disturb others or that requires medical observation by the nurse.

From 6:00 to 10:00 P.M. on Friday, October 10th, the following activities will take place: On Site Check-In, Cabin Assignments, Conference Packet Pick-up, Child Care Introduction, Buffet Snack/Supper and Social Time with others. (We encourage you to come in on Friday Night and you must arrive prior to 10 P.M.)

I / We plan to arrive at _____ (P.M./A.M.) on _____.

Number of people for meals: Friday _____ Saturday _____ Sunday _____

Be sure to fill out the other side of this form, too. ⇨

REGISTRATION FORM -Page 2-

Assistance Needed:

- As a family member, I request mileage reimbursement for travel.
- As a family member, I request
 - Spanish Interpreter
 - Sign Language Interpreter
 - I/We do not require an Interpreter for any members of our family
- As a professional interested in participating in the conference activities, I understand that childcare/ travel reimbursement are for families who have members with disabilities and that I will be responsible for my own room and board.

Registration Information:

<i>Registration Fees</i>	<i># People</i>	<i>\$ Amount</i>
\$ 30.00 per each immediate family member		
\$ 50.00 per each extended family member		
\$ 75.00 per professional		
Totals		

NOTE: If you have an open case with DBS, please contact your Program Specialist for financial assistance

NOTE: We encourage all members to attend. If other assistance is not available, limited scholarships are for direct family members upon determination of eligibility. For more information, contact DBMAT Positive Connection Line at 432-264-6780.

Method of Payment:

- Check - Please make checks payable to DBMAT.**
- State is Covering Expenses**

Return all forms with registration fee to:

Christine Givens-DBMAT Conference 22910 Briarhorn Dr., Spring, TX. 77389

Registration Deadline Is September 5th, 2008

Space is limited so send in your registration early!

Camp John Marc's phone # is (254) 635-8811. See you there in October!

Please carry this map with you for reference as you travel.

CAMP JOHN MARC

3247 County Road 1105, Meridian, TX 76665

From Ft. Worth:

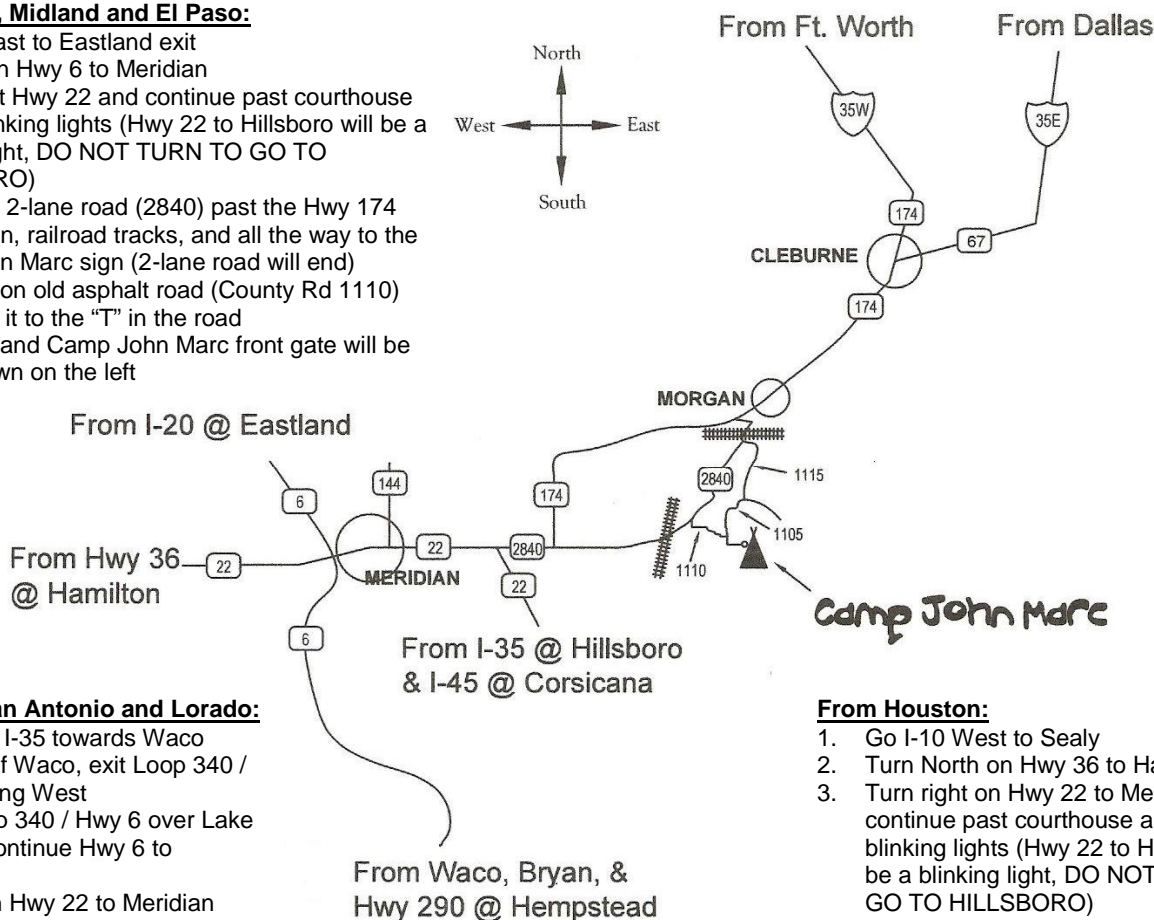
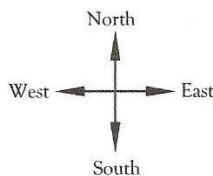
12. Go South on I-35W to Burleson/Cleburne, exit Hwy 174 South
13. Stay on Hwy 174 going through Burleson, Joshua and into Cleburne (15 miles from I-35W)
14. Continue past the courthouse in Cleburne
15. Follow Hwy 174 for 30.9 miles to Morgan
16. Turn left at the Camp John Marc sign in Morgan which is the next street past the flashing yellow light
17. Go 2/10 of a mile to "T"
18. Turn right, go 1/10 mile
19. Turn left past the railroad tracks (look for Camp John Marc sign)
20. After traveling 1.4 miles, use caution over the low water bridge (no rails)
21. Continue another 3.6 miles to "T" (look for Camp John Marc sign)
22. Turn right and go 1.5 miles to stone Camp John Marc entry gate on left

From Dallas:

1. Go South to US 67
2. Just before Cleburne, exit Business 67
3. At the courthouse in Cleburne, turn left on Hwy 174 South
4. Follow Hwy 174 for 30.9 miles to Morgan
5. Turn left at the Camp John Marc sign in Morgan which is the next street past the flashing yellow light
6. Go 2/10 of a mile to "T"
7. Turn right, go 1/10 mile
8. Turn left past the railroad tracks (look for Camp John Marc sign)
9. After traveling 1.4 miles, use caution over the low water bridge (no rails)
10. Continue another 3.6 miles to "T" (look for Camp John Marc sign)
11. Turn right and go 1.5 miles to stone Camp John Marc entry gate on left

From Abilene, Midland and El Paso:

1. Go I-20 East to Eastland exit
2. Go right on Hwy 6 to Meridian
3. Turn left at Hwy 22 and continue past courthouse and all blinking lights (Hwy 22 to Hillsboro will be a blinking light, DO NOT TURN TO GO TO HILLSBORO)
4. Follow the 2-lane road (2840) past the Hwy 174 intersection, railroad tracks, and all the way to the Camp John Marc sign (2-lane road will end)
5. Turn right on old asphalt road (County Rd 1110) and follow it to the "T" in the road
6. Turn right and Camp John Marc front gate will be further down on the left

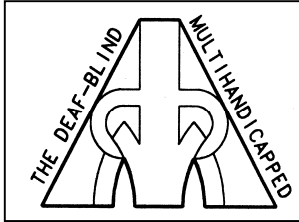


From Austin, San Antonio and Lorado:

1. Go North on I-35 towards Waco
2. Just South of Waco, exit Loop 340 / Hwy 6 heading West
3. Stay on Loop 340 / Hwy 6 over Lake Waco and continue Hwy 6 to Meridian
4. Turn right on Hwy 22 to Meridian and continue past courthouse and all blinking lights (Hwy 22 to Hillsboro will be a blinking light, DO NOT TURN TO GO TO HILLSBORO)
5. Follow the 2-lane road (2840) past the Hwy 174 intersection, railroad tracks, and all the way to the Camp John Marc sign (2-lane road will end)
6. Turn right on old asphalt road (County Rd 1110) and follow it to the "T" in the road
7. Turn right and Camp John Marc front gate will be further down on the left

From Houston:

1. Go I-10 West to Sealy
2. Turn North on Hwy 36 to Hamilton
3. Turn right on Hwy 22 to Meridian and continue past courthouse and all blinking lights (Hwy 22 to Hillsboro will be a blinking light, DO NOT TURN TO GO TO HILLSBORO)
4. Follow the 2-lane road (2840) past the Hwy 174 intersection, railroad tracks, and all the way to the Camp John Marc sign (2-lane road will end)
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6. Turn right and Camp John Marc front gate will be further down on the left



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Deaf-Blind Multihandicapped Association of Texas (DBMAT)
909 Mountain Park Drive
Big Spring, TX 79720
432-264-6780 (voice & fax)

Conference, 2008 Edition

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(When copying this conference newsletter for others, please include all pages and information.)