

e-Beat

July
2003

Dear Friend,

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July, rather than January, is the first month of the year in the Best Buddies calendar. Putting our mission in action begins at the Best Buddies Leadership Conference, hosted this summer by Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana July 24 – 27, 2003.

Student leaders from over 800 high school and college campuses will participate in this intense, action-packed event. This year's theme, Driven2Lead, sums up the kind of enthusiastic, high-energy students attracted to the Best Buddies mission.

All members of the e-Buddies team will be driving that energy into a commitment by each student to enroll their chapter members in e-Buddies. We'll be paying special attention to helping these leaders understand the impact an e-Buddies friendship can have.

Remember to salute the flag and our freedom on July 4th! I know I will.

Best,

Lisa Derx
e-Buddies Director

The e-Beat is published online monthly at www.ebuddies.org.
We welcome your contributions.
Please send them to eBuddiesComments@bestbuddies.org.



Ask Emerson

All of your e-Buddies questions answered here!

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “The only way to have a friend is to be one.” In the spirit of those inspiring words, Ask Emerson is a feature designed to help you be the best friend you can be. Each month, we will select a question or two for responses. Send your questions to eBuddiesComments@bestbuddies.org.

Dear Emerson,

Is there anyone else I can write to while my e-Buddy is away on vacation this summer?

Signed,

Eager to e-mail

Dear Eager,

While we cannot rematch you while your e-Buddy is away, there is a way for you to connect with your fellow participants. Visit the e-Buddies Online Community! The Online Community is only for active e-Buddies, and it has message boards, a directory of e-Buddies participants by interest, and links to the current and past editions of the e-Beat. You can also update your personal information such as your mailing address or e-mail address.

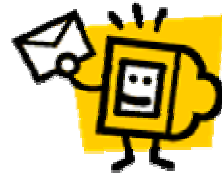
To log-on, go to www.ebuddies.org, and scroll to the bottom of the page. Click on the button that says “e-Buddies Only”. You will need your user name and password. If you don’t have this information, contact us at eBuddiesComments@bestbuddies.org, and we will sent it to you.

Have fun exploring the e-Buddies Online Community, and I hope you meet many new friends!

*Signing off,
Emerson*

Conversation Starters

It's finally summertime! It's time to relax and enjoy the warm weather.



Many of us will spend the summer months doing exciting things and vacationing in exotic places. Some of us will get summer jobs to help make a little extra money.

Summer is an exciting time; how will you and your e-Buddy spend it?

You could ask:

What is your favorite summer activity? What are your plans for the summer? Are you going to the beach this year? Do you like to swim? Do you have a summer job? Where will you be working? How is the weather where you are? Is it hot? What is your favorite summertime food? What exciting things are you doing this summer?

Online with...



This month, we're talking with Andrew Campbell, an e-Buddy from Florida

e-Beat: How long have you been an e-Buddy?

Andrew Campbell: I have been in e-Buddy for one and a half years.

e-Beat: Why did you want to be an e-Buddy?

Andrew Campbell: I love e-Buddies because they can make the difference in someone's life.

e-Beat: How do you think e-Buddies makes a difference in the lives of others?

Andrew Campbell: It can make life of other e-Buddies much better and more fun.

e-Beat: How often do you get on-line?

Andrew Campbell: I am on the computer all the time!

e-Beat: What three words would you use to describe e-Buddies?

Andrew Campbell: e-Buddies is cool, very good, and friendly.



Best Buddies Spotlight

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

By Lauren Taintor, e-Buddies Program Manager, Best Buddies Pennsylvania

Great news for the e-Buddies program!! Recently, e-Buddies received a grant from Special Olympics to promote the program to athletes throughout the year. Several e-Buddies staff and a Best Buddies program staff will be boarding a plane and heading to the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland. It is a great opportunity to encourage participation in the e-Buddies program to people all across the world!

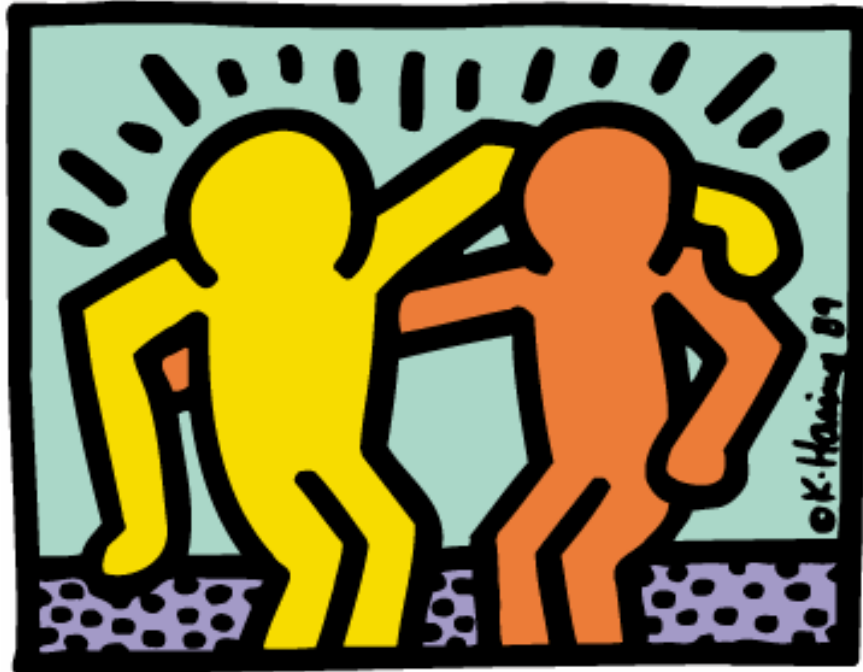
The Games, which draw more than 7,000 athletes and 2,000 coaches from over 160 countries, will last from June 20th-29th. It is also the largest sporting event in the world this year! To give a better understanding of the magnitude of the Summer Games, it is said that over 30,000 volunteers will be necessary to run the event. Eighteen official sports and three demonstration sports will be represented, including aquatics, powerlifting, bocce, football, and volleyball. Each athlete is only allowed to participate in one sport. The athletics category, which consists of track and field events, is expected to be the most popular sport, drawing an estimated 1,211 athletes.

This year, the mission of the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games is "To provide in Ireland a unique and unparalleled sporting and cultural experience for the athletes taking part, from 160 international delegations all over the world, as well as for their coaches, families, volunteers and sponsors, combining the excitement of sport with the opportunity for personal distinction, achievement and pride."

Three e-Buddies program managers, as well as two staff from e-Buddies Headquarters in Washington, DC, and a regional director from Best Buddies Headquarters in Miami, will be attending the Games in shifts. e-Buddies will have a booth, next to the computer center complete with internet accessible computers, where athletes can stop by to pick up information or sign-up on the spot! Any English-speaking athlete is invited to join. Information about both Best Buddies and e-Buddies will be available.

The e-Buddies team could not be more excited about this wonderful opportunity to both promote the program and to witness a sporting event like no other. According to Meghan Crary, e-Buddies program manager from Florida, "I think the e-Buddies experience in Ireland is going to be unbelievable. Being able to promote the program in such a way is really going to make all the difference." With the official oath of the Special Olympics in mind, "Let me win, but, if I cannot win, let me be brave, in the attempt" we wish the athletes the best of luck and LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

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