



e-Beat

**August
2003**

Dear Friend,

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Another definition for august is inspiring awe or admiration. In this month of August, as teachers across the country head back to school, I think the adjective “august” applies to them. The dedication, the creativity, the patience, the great good humor I have seen teachers bring to their special education students truly inspires my awe.

This month, we at e-Buddies are reaching out to all special education teachers, inviting them to enroll their students in e-Buddies. We have materials, including our *e-Buddies Guide to Internet Literacy*, available as classroom supports. Find out more at www.ebuddies.org.

As these last days of summer wind down, remember to write your e-Buddy and share what was memorable about the season.

Best,

Lisa Derx
e-Buddies Director



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,

School is starting, and I'd like to get more people in my school involved in e-Buddies. How should I do this?

Signed,

e-Buddies for Everyone

Dear Everyone,

That is great that you want to get more people involved in e-Buddies at your school!

The best way for you to help is to talk to the Special Education teachers at your school about e-Buddies. We have even developed a guide to help Special Education teachers use e-Buddies in their classrooms! For more information about the e-Buddies Guide to Internet Literacy, copy this website into your Internet browser: <http://www.ebuddies.org/teach/guide/index.html>.

If the Special Education teachers in your school would like more information about e-Buddies, they can contact us at eBuddiesGuide@bestbuddies.org, or (202) 266-2293.

*Signing off,
Emerson*

Conversation Starters

The summer is already winding down. In only a few weeks, it's back to school, or work, to get back into our daily routines. Now is a great time to look back and reflect on what you have done over the summer.



Many of us spent the summer doing exciting things and vacationing in exotic places. Others spent the summer working at a summer job, and will be returning to school in the near future. Some of us have been working at our full-time jobs all summer, watching those who haven't been working jealously, but still enjoying the longer days and warmer weather.

Ask your e-Buddy about what they've been up to all summer and if they have any plans for the coming weeks.

You could ask:

How was your summer? What was your favorite part of the summer? What did you do? Did you go any place special for vacation? Do you have plans to go anywhere soon? Are you going back to school? When do classes start? Are you looking forward to it?



Best Buddies Spotlight

THE DRIVE OF BEST BUDDIES

By Lauren Taintor, e-Buddies Program Manager, Pennsylvania

It's that time of year again. Best Buddies high school and college student leaders are once again packing up their bags and heading Midwest for the Leadership Conference 2003. The conference is in its' 14th year of existence, and is being held at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana from July 24th-27th. Students from over 800 high schools and colleges from around the country will come together to gain valuable leadership skills that are so important in running a successful Best Buddies chapter.

The theme of this year's conference is Driven 2 Lead, as Indiana is the site of one of the largest, most exciting car races, the Indianapolis 500. At the conference, students will learn the eight cylinders of leadership, friendship, commitment, motivation, ideas, resources, understanding, and service. The four-day conference will include intensive and in-depth training in chapter management, fundraising, intellectual disabilities, networking, and much more. In addition, the students will have the opportunity to socialize with other students, like themselves, who have chosen to spread the mission of Best Buddies. There will be several entertainment activities, including a pool party, a Hawaiian Luau, and a concert, and several guest speakers.

The students are not the only ones to attend the Leadership Conference. Best Buddies program staff from across the country attend a Pre-Conference from July 20th-23rd, where they will have the opportunity to meet other staff, learn new leadership skills, and practice their sessions that they will be leading once the students arrive. Both students and staff will stay in dorm rooms for the duration of the conference.

This year's Leadership Conference strives to be the best ever. Students will leave having made wonderful friendships and will be well equipped with the necessary tools to lead successful chapters in their respective schools. The student leaders are at the heart of our organization, and Bill Maurer, e-Buddies Virtual Volunteer Manager says it best when he states "Leadership Conference is a great opportunity to get to know our student leaders. Without them, there would be no Best Buddies." Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines!

BEST BUDDIES®



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