



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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January 2, 2008

Dear Principal:

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, the Autism Society of Wisconsin will be sponsoring its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Autism Awareness Essay Contest. This year, the essays will be entitled "Our Friendship, Including Autism." The contest is being held to recognize students with autism spectrum disorders and students who support other students with an autism spectrum disorder.

We are asking that you please forward the enclosed letter, addressed to teachers, along with the Essay Contest Entry Form and guidelines to classroom teachers to share with their students. Students or classes who choose to participate are required to submit their essays to their school guidance counselor no later than March 3, 2008. If you have any questions or comments, please email [asw@asw4autism.org](mailto:asw@asw4autism.org) or call 920-553-0278 or 888-428-8476 toll-free.

We appreciate your participation in this project to promote Autism Awareness Month.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth Burmaster'.

Elizabeth Burmaster  
State Superintendent

EB:nbl  
Enclosures



Education, Advocacy and Support

January 2, 2008

Dear Teacher:

Do you have students who are friends to someone with autism? Or perhaps you have students who have autism themselves. We are interested in hearing about how friendships with students with autism work for other students and/or your classrooms. Are there any differences in friendships with a student with autism? Is there anything difficult about having a friend with autism? Is there anything special or unique? What sorts of friendship activities do you do? How has your friendship made you a better person or your classroom a better place?

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, which is held in April of every year, the Autism Society of Wisconsin will be sponsoring its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Autism Awareness Essay Contest. This year, the essays will be entitled "Our Friendship, Including Autism". The contest is being held to recognize students with autism spectrum disorders, and students who support other students with an autism spectrum disorder.

Students or classes who choose to participate are required to submit their essays to their school guidance counselor no later than March 3, 2008. Guidelines and the entry form have been enclosed.

Please make sure that each essay is stapled to the appropriate entry form, that all entry forms are completely filled out and mailed to **ASW, P.O. Box 165, Two Rivers, WI 54241**, with a postmark no later than **March 14, 2008**.

If you have any questions or comments, please email [asw@asw4autism.org](mailto:asw@asw4autism.org) or call 920-553-0278, toll free 888-428-8476.

We appreciate your participation in this project and look forward to honoring students for their efforts in promoting autism awareness in their schools and communities.

Sincerely,

*Jane Pribek*

Jane Pribek  
Executive Director

Executive Director  
Jane Pribek

Administrative Assistant  
Chris Behnke

Executive Board

President  
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Central Wisconsin  
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Northeast Wisconsin  
Southeast Wisconsin

P.O. Box 165, Two Rivers, WI 54241  
(920) 553-0278 • 1-888-4-AUTISM (WI only)

Fax: (920) 553-0034

[www.asw4autism.org](http://www.asw4autism.org) • Email: [asw@asw4autism.org](mailto:asw@asw4autism.org)



Autism Awareness Team Essay Contest

OUR FRIENDSHIP, INCLUDING AUTISM

Who can enter: Students in grades K-12

Categories: K-2nd grade – draw a picture or write about what it means to have a friend with autism.
3rd - 12th grades – write an essay about what it means to have a friend with autism.

Prizes: Prizes will be awarded in four categories:

- K-2nd grade
• 3rd-5th Grade
• 6th-8th Grade
• 9th-12th Grade

1ST PRIZE: \$200 GIFT CERTIFICATE
2ND PRIZE: \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE
3RD PRIZE: \$ 50 GIFT CERTIFICATE
Prizes awarded in each category

How to enter: Essays can be of any length. The completed bottom of this sheet must be attached to your essay/drawing and given it to your school guidance counselor by March 3, 2008. The guidance counselor will mail all entries to: ASW, P.O. Box 165, Two Rivers, WI 54241 no later than March 14, 2008.

\*\*\*Theme: Your essay/drawing must coincide with the theme of the contest. Your team can consist of two members to an entire class, but MUST include a student with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Participation in the essay/drawing needs to be by all members of your team, including the individual with ASD.

Winners will be notified by telephone and/or mail, and honored at the Autism Society of Wisconsin Annual Conference in Green Bay on Friday, May 2, 2008.

Autism Awareness Essay Contest Entry Form
Due: March 14, 2008.

Student's name Home Phone #:

STUDENT'S ADDRESS

School School Phone #: Grade:

SCHOOL ADDRESS STREET CITY STATE ZIP