

# KIDS TOGETHER NEWS

*All the latest from Kids Together Playground!*

**WELCOME!**

It's September and the kids are back in school, but there's still plenty of fun coming up at Kids Together Playground! We've had a busy summer! We've celebrated the playground's 22nd birthday. We SPRUCED up the playground, popped up with storyteller Willa Brigham, and teamed up with La Farm Bakery at the Lazy Daze Arts & Crafts Festival. Now, we're busy getting ready for the *Walk, Run & Roll* for Inclusive Play, our signature fundraiser, back after a two-year hiatus. There's plenty of news here, so read and enjoy, then go outside and play! We'll see you at the playground!

## **WALK, RUN & ROLL WITH US! CELEBRATE INCLUSIVE PLAY!**

After a two-year hiatus, the annual **Kids Together Walk, Run & Roll for Inclusive Play** is returning!

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 8**. Join us at the playground at 10:00 AM for games and raffles. Meet KATAL the KT Dragon Mascot for a high-five and photo opp. Gather at the starting line at 10:30, then walk, run, or roll along the Hinshaw Greenway, to MacDonald Woods Park and back – a 1.4-mile route. Go at your own pace, and do the whole course or just part of it. When you return, sing along with Makin' Music's Jody Weaver, enjoy refreshments, and buy those last raffle tickets. We'll announce the raffle winners at 11:45, then we'll say "See you next year!" at noon.

This is the *only* fundraiser we hold at the playground. Proceeds go toward future playground improvements.

Find our sponsors and more on the next page!



**Walk, Run & Roll  
for Inclusive Play  
Saturday, October 8  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

\$5 per person  
or \$15 per family.  
Register [here](#).



## A great big KT Thank You to our *Walk, Run & Roll* Sponsors!

**WALK** with these great sponsors!

Carolina Parks and Play  
Harris & Company  
Insurance  
Kumon Cary - Farm Woods  
Taylor Family YMCA  
Ward Family Law Group

**You can be a sponsor, too!**  
Sponsorships start at \$100.  
Details [here](#).

**RUN** with these great sponsors!!

Brogden Orthodontics  
Cary Pediatric Dentistry  
Window Works Company  
Kids Together Board of Directors



## And About Those Raffles . . . .

We'll have plenty of raffle prizes, thanks to the generosity of local businesses and individuals. Take a peek at just a few!

Buy your raffle tickets when you [register online](#) or on-site.



Aqua Plasma Car  
donated by Learning Express

Ocean & Sand Sensory Bin  
donated by Learning Express



Kids Bike - Like new!  
Donated by Oak City Cyclery &  
and an anonymous friend

## STORIES AND SONGS WITH WILLA



Our favorite storyteller and KT board member, *Willa Brigham*, enchanted us with her stories in a pop-up event on May 29. We heard about a king who had something unusual on his head. We also heard a story about a bag whose contents kept changing in surprising ways. And, of course, whenever Willa is leading, there will also be a song or two. We really liked the one that told us how everyone has a special talent. Thank you, Willa, for sharing your special talents with us!

## TEEN COUNCIL SPRUCES UP KTP

We don't know why, but it seems every year the worst of the weeds congregate in the Preschool Play area. That's why we were happy to see six Teen Council members sign up for the toughest kind of volunteer work – pulling weeds! Teen Council volunteers joined KT board members Pat Fish and Marla Dorrel for a two-hour work session on July 2. Considering that we started at 8:30 am on a Saturday morning on a holiday weekend, we were extra impressed with the initiative the teens took to help us out.



On September 3, we called on *SPRUCE* and the teens again and they responded, with eight teens joining us on another holiday weekend to remove the last of those pesky weeds!



Thanks, Cary Teen Council! We are also grateful to Cary's *SPRUCE* program for organizing the volunteers and providing bags and much-needed work gloves.

## KAY'S BRICKS – A TESTIMONIAL



While reading our last edition of the KT News, long-time KT supporter Kay Struffolino saw our request for testimonials and responded with this message.

Thanks, Kay, you've won a KT Tumbler!

Grandparents, Godparents & New Parents ~

What better way to honor those special kids than a brick or two at Kids Together Playground! When my grandsons were born I did just that. As they grew, I loved seeing their names when we visited the playground. Now the oldest has graduated from three colleges and is about to get married, so I am ordering an upgraded brick. It will include my “new” granddaughter’s name and my grandson’s new title, Doctor.

What a great gift you can share with those you love!

- Kay Struffolino

### YOU CAN ORDER AN ENGRAVED BRICK, TOO!

Honor a child, a parent, a grandparent, or a best friend with an engraved brick at KTP! We'll send a certificate acknowledging your gift, then follow up with the honoree when their brick is installed. We place an order annually, with new bricks installed by June, each year. Order yours [here!](#)



### WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT KTP?

Is it the swings? The slides? The picnic area? The sand? We know you love Kids Together Playground, so how about telling us what you love? If we publish your testimonial in our next newsletter, we'll send you a KT gift! Send your testimonial (and a picture, if you like) to [kt@kidstogethercary.org](mailto:kt@kidstogethercary.org).



## KTP TURNS 22 – WE CELEBRATE!

What fun we had on Sunday, June 5, celebrating **the 22nd birthday of Kids Together Playground!** We started by decorating party crowns. Sixty-three children used stickers and crayons to customize their own. We called KATAL the KT Mascot to join us, and we shared lots of hugs and high fives. Marla Dorrel told a rhyming story about the people who spearheaded the playground effort. Then we made our own refreshments – Roly Poly Fruit Juice Slushies. The slushies were cool and refreshing and especially sweet when accompanied by a homemade cookie, baked with love and donated by KT Board Member Karen Gray.



Thank you to all the KT Board Members and volunteers who helped make our day a great success: Willa Brigham, Liz Brignac, Marla Dorrel, Karen Gray, Sarah Kahn, Brennan Liming, Jane MacNeela, Janice Sitzes, and Tricia Tiu. **Mark your calendar for next year's party: Sunday, June 4, 2023.**



## MOMENTS IN KT HISTORY

*Kids Together Playground was a labor of love, undertaken by our community years ago. In each edition, we'll look back and remember our KT roots.*

### **The Walk, Run & Roll for Inclusive Play – How it all began**

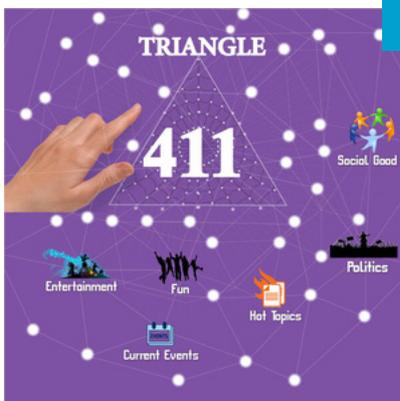
We held our first Walk, Run & Roll for Inclusive Play in 2018, but its roots go much farther back, all the way to 2010! It started as the KT Family Fun & Fitness Walk, and we raised \$110. In 2012, it became the Walk for Inclusiveness, and continued under that banner through 2017. In 2018, we changed the name again, and the Walk, Run & Roll for Inclusive Play took off like a rocket! At our last Walk, Run & Roll, in 2019, more than 100 kid and adults participated, raising almost \$4,000! We can't wait to see what happens this year! Register [here!](#)

## LA FARM AND LAZY DAZE A WINNING MATCH FOR KT!



There's nothing lazy about our friends at [La Farm Bakery](#), and there's nothing lazy about our KT volunteers, either! This year's Lazy Daze Arts & Crafts Festival was a hot one, for sure, but that didn't keep hungry festival goers from picking up those yummy pastries and breads at the La Farm booth. La Farm's Tina Phan greeted everyone with a smile as she took orders. Our volunteers filled those orders and kept smiling, even as the temperatures rose. Thank you to Liz Brignac, Sue Chaploney, Marla Dorrel, Pat Fish, Danelle Gambrell, Karen Gray, and Tricia Tiu. We're so lucky that KT partners with La Farm, who donates a generous portion of the proceeds for the two-day festival to KT. Thank you, La Farm!

## KT MAKES NEWS ON NATIONAL PODCAST



We were delighted when Mary Insprucker, host of [Triangle 411](#), invited KT President Marla Dorrel to talk about Kids Together Playground in her national podcast. The interview covered the playground's distinctive features and history. Marla also spoke about KT's current activities and gave tips to others who might want to develop a similar playground in their community. You can listen to the podcast anytime [here](#).

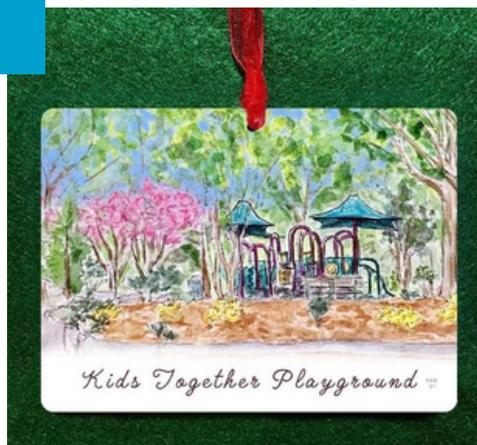
## HAVE YOUR PARTY AT KTP! RESERVE THE SHELTER NOW!

Looking for a great place to have a party? You can rent the picnic shelter at KTP through the Town of Cary. Get all the details [here](#).



## GIFTS FOR YOU, GIFTS FOR KT!

Looking for a unique gift? Lew Wilson Art has ornaments and prints of favorite places in Cary, Apex, and other triangle locations. They even have Kids Together Playground! Here's the best part: When you **enter coupon code KTP at checkout**, a generous 20% of your purchase comes to KT! Browse and buy [here](#)!



Thank You!

Your donations help us do more!  
More activities!  
More programs!  
More fun!

To show your support for KT  
with a gift, click [here](#).

## WE ♥ OUR KT MEMBERS!

Liz Brignac	Jane Mac Neela
Lori Bush	Sarah Martin
Sue Chaploney	Kerry McCarthy
Marla Dorrel	Reif Counseling
Ken George	Services, PLLC
Karen Gray	Don Seay
Robert Harrison	Janice Sitzes
Mary Insprucker	Kay Struffolino
Tullie Johnson	Tricia Tiu
Sarah Kahn	Julie von Haefen
Scott Lassiter	Ed & Carolyn Yerha
Paul Zevgolis	

You can be a KT member, too! Find giving levels, benefits, and all the details [here](#).

## A BIG KT THANK YOU TO OUR NEWSLETTER TEAM

Liz Brignac   Marla Dorrel   Rose Reif   Paul Zevgolis



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