



### **Student Clubs Spotlight**



The Santa Margarita Catholic High School Student Club for Autism Speaks was formed in 2007 by Caroline and Lauren Christ-Vitto. Since then we have made it our mission to make an impact at the high school level. We now have over 100 members and we are very involved with holding fundraisers at our school to benefit Autism Speaks. For the 2008 Orange County Walk our club held a fundraiser called "Change For Autism" In every classroom at the school there were donation cans and in the course of two weeks we raised over \$1,500.

This year we have already started raising money for the 2009 OC Walk. We have a campaign called "lollipops for a cure" in which classrooms around the school have lollipop trees and teachers sell them to the students.

We have a lot of different fundraising events going on in April for Autism Awareness month including: Rubys Diner fundraiser on World Autism Day, a week long bake sale, and a screening of *Autism the Musical*. In addition to fundraising we feel it is important to help our community. We are partnering with Kelly McKinnon & Associates on a community based recreation program called "Parks For All".

"Parks For All" is specifically designed for children with challenges in the areas of socialization, communication and social play. "Parks For All" will be coordinating with the Santa Margarita School Club for Autism Speaks! This will be a once a month program at a specific park in which we will be out there volunteering for the day. We are very excited to be involved with Kelly McKinnon & Associates and are excited for our [first park day](#) on April 18th!

#### ***April 2- World Autism Awareness Day- (Report from Rancho Santa Margarita)***

The SMCHS School Club for Autism Speaks sold t-shirts to be worn on April 2nd, World Autism Day. Over 100 students at SM wore there special event t-shirt. From 4-9pm on April 2nd we held a fundraiser at Rubys Diner to also benefit the walk. It was a great community event having



support from families and high school students. The event raised over \$400 with all proceeds benefiting Walk Now For Autism Orange County.



### April 18- ParksForAll

*ParksForAll* is a community-based recreation program, specifically designed for children with challenges in the areas of communication, socialization and play. Parent support, a sense of community, acceptance and equality is our ultimate goal. Kelly McKinnon & Associates has teamed up with the Santa Margarita School Club for Autism Speaks, to bring this volunteer-run community project to your neighborhood! Our program, the first of its kind in Orange County, and possibly California, will feature different parks, where parents and volunteers can work together to create fun park experiences for all, including games, organized activities and a sense of community. We had our first *ParksForAll* event on April 18th. Below are pictures from that day! Be sure to come to our next *ParksForAll* on June 6th from 9-11!

