

DANDELION CLUBHOUSE

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VIRTUAL CLUBHOUSE FOR TWEENS AND TEENS WITH AUTISM AND THEIR FAMILIES OFFERING LITERACY, DRAMA, FAMILY SUPPORT AND AUTISM EDUCATION

Welcome to the first edition of the Dandelion Clubhouse Newsletter! Keena and Liz have been hard at work this Fall giving presentations, throwing virtual parties (Halloween in partnership with The Helix School was a blast!) and gearing up for our new classes starting in January. What is Dandelion Clubhouse, you ask? We are an online program educating and inspiring tweens and teens on the spectrum, empowering parents, and teaching the greater community about autism. We are passionate about reading, science, drama, and world cultures as we seek to promote academic, social-emotional and cultural literacy. Finally, we strive to educate neurotypical young people, teachers, and parents in order to create a world that is "autism literate."



Classes Starting January 12th, 2021

Keeping in mind that kids have been cooped up for the past year, Keena and Liz have created a series of dynamic multi-sensory classes that take students on inner and outer journeys this winter.

Dandelion Drama will coax kids out of their shells and inspire creativity with peers.

Global Mystery Adventures will find students exploring new cultures and solving mysteries to foster perspective-taking and problem-solving.

Journey to the Center of the Brain will be co-led by animal tour guides Dandelion and Jefie, to discover the brain's role in learning, planning, imagining and regulating.

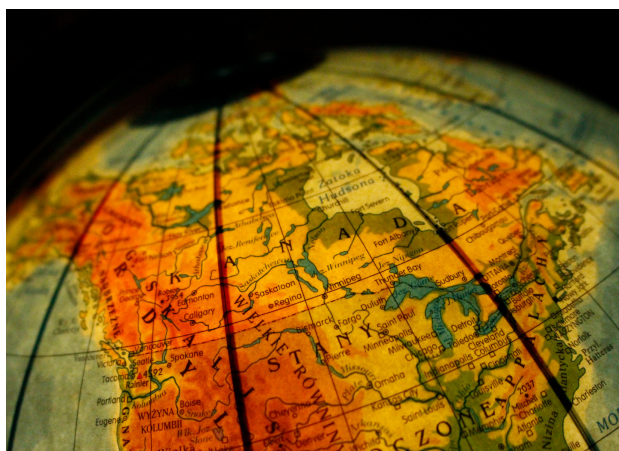
Go to www.dandelionclubhouse.com for details and sign up info or send us an email at keena@dandelionclubhouse.com.

Journey to the Center Of the Brain

Skills
Self - Awareness
Executive - Functioning
Emotional - Regulation

Schemas:
Planning
Emotions
Memory
Learning

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DANDELION GOES GLOBAL

Keena and Liz will be teaching a class on autism to students in Pakistan this winter... virtually, that is! This venture is just the beginning of our Dandelion Ambassador Program, where students around the globe can take our live virtual courses to become autism ambassadors and junior facilitators in our classes. The long term goal is cross-fertilization between neurotypical and neurodivergent cultures. This program is inspired by the work of Dr. Pamela Wolfberg and her Integrated Play Group (R) model.

FAMILY CLUBHOUSE

All of us are feeling the effects of being separated from extended family this holiday season. Family zooms can be dysregulating for your child or teen, with their abundance of auditory stimuli and lack of structure. Combining your child's interests with family traditions, Keena and Liz will facilitate an autism-friendly family zoom session, connecting across neuro-differences and generations. Inspired by their work at The Helix School, Keena and Liz will teach families techniques and activities to inform future get-togethers- be they virtual or in-person.

DANDELION IN THE NEWS

Liz and Keena have an article coming out in the March 2021 edition of **Autism Parenting Magazine** about using "sensory pathways" to help improve reading comprehension. By introducing personalized, compatible sensory exposures that inform the storyline, children with autism have higher chances of connecting with the plot. When parents can incorporate a sensory experience (a smell, a sound, a texture) that is related to the narrative, it brings the story to life for their child by activating engagement and igniting background knowledge. This not only makes reading pleasurable for the child but increases their comprehension. Children with autism often have sensory fascination or intolerance, which will inform what parents choose when designing the experience. Embellishing the storyline with sensory elements that intrigue children is an effective avenue to draw them in, while simultaneously eliminating any sensory distractions that could be preoccupying their attention. Look out for **Autism Parenting Magazine** in March to learn more or sign up for one of our classes to see our signature sensory methods in action!

