



April is Autism Awareness Month



Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and autism are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors. Autism affects 1 in 45 children. This number has increased within the last several years. With this increase many of us know families that have a child with autism or may have a family member on the autism spectrum. Autism Speaks is an organization that provides information about Autism and resources for families while funding research for the cure.

We would like to show our support for the children with autism and their families at the ELC and other schools in the district by participating in the **Autism Speaks Walk for the Cure in Chicago on June 1st, 2019**. We would welcome anyone who would like to attend and walk with us at the event in Chicago. You can register to attend the walk at autismspeaks.org under Team ELC 2019. For those who are unable to attend, but would like to show their support we are accepting donations for our team, selling puzzle pieces, and selling t-shirts. The puzzle piece is the official logo or symbol for autism awareness and support. Puzzle piece donation slips are available in each of the school offices and can be purchased for \$1 or more and sent back to the ELC. Any other donations can be sent to the ELC, or online at the following link or searching for Team ELC 2019 on Autism Speaks Walk website. <http://act.autismspeaks.org/goto/teamelc2019> Checks can be made payable to Autism Speaks.

The ELC staff, students and families will show their support by participating in the **ELC Autism Walk Family Day Event on May 7, 2019 from 9:00-10:30**. We will be walking around Heritage Park and enjoying healthy snacks after the walk.

Thank you for your support,

Lei Ann Dedic, Team ELC Captain



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.