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## **Bermuda Autism Support and Education**

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**For immediate release:**

### **Premier to proclaim World Autism Awareness Day**

BASE marks Autism Awareness Month with new website, workshop

**Hamilton, Bermuda, March 23, 2011** – Bermuda Autism & Support invites the community to join Premier Paula Cox, MP, JP on the steps of City Hall, Hamilton next Friday (April 1) as she proclaims World Autism Awareness Day in Bermuda.

Bermuda will join autism communities around the world in celebrating the fourth annual WAAD that was established following a 2007 United Nations resolution. It is one of only three official condition-specific United Nations Days and aims to bring the world's attention to autism, a neurological and developmental disorder that affects tens of millions.

The event will also mark the beginning of Autism Awareness Month in Bermuda and coincides with the 10th anniversary of Bermuda Autism Support & Education (BASE). The organisation was formed in 2001 to raise awareness of autism and provide support for families, educators and professionals.

World Autism Awareness Day shines a light on autism as a growing global health crisis. The cause of autism is unknown and it is estimated that about one in 110 children have some form of autism.

WAAD activities help to increase and develop world knowledge of the autism epidemic and provide information regarding the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention. Additionally, WAAD celebrates the unique talents and skills of persons with autism and is a day when individuals with autism are warmly welcomed and embraced in community events around the globe.

The WAAD website states: "By bringing together autism organisations all around the world, we will give a voice to the millions of individuals worldwide who are undiagnosed, misunderstood and looking for help."

For more information about WAAD worldwide, visit [www.worldautismawarenessday.org](http://www.worldautismawarenessday.org)

### **BASE to hold workshop**

As part of Autism Awareness Month, BASE is bringing in leading autism teacher, consultant and author Dr. Paula Kluth for a special one-day workshop.

The workshop - "You're Going To Love This Kid: Educating Students with Autism In Inclusive Schools" – will be held at Mount St Agnes Academy on April 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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Dr. Paula Kluth works with teachers and families to provide inclusive opportunities for students with disabilities. In the workshop participants will learn practical ways of supporting students with autism spectrum labels and other disabilities within a general education classroom.

The workshop costs \$35 (including lunch) and qualifies as six hours professional development.

Participants can register online at [www.bermudaautism.org/events/](http://www.bermudaautism.org/events/) and the first 35 people to register will receive a free copy of Dr. Paul Kluth's book, "You're Going to Love This Kid!"

### **New look for BASE website**

To coincide with Autism Awareness Month, BASE this week relaunched its website, [www.bermudaautism.org](http://www.bermudaautism.org). The expanded site not only provides information about BASE and its services, but also links users to a wealth of information about autism.

BASE consultant Susannah Cole said: "Our site is now a comprehensive online clearing house of resources for people with autism as well as parents, professionals and educators. It provides clear and easy access to the most up to date and effective information and resources from a wide range of credible sources that represent the diversity of opinion within the autism community."

The site includes a complete guide to the resources, services and support available in Bermuda as well as a 24-hour autism news feed, a new BASE YouTube channel and links to leading online learning programmes.

Ms. Cole added: "The site really helps us further our stated mission to 'increase public awareness of autism and help to ensure that individuals on the autism spectrum are given opportunities and resources to achieve their full potential'."

The site was designed by Bermudian media company, Kaleidoscope Media Ltd.

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### **About B.A.S.E.**

Bermuda Autism Support and Education Society (B.A.S.E.) is a community-based, non-profit organisation that provides autism-related information, referral, advocacy, training, and support to families, professionals, and community members. We strive to increase public awareness of autism and help to ensure that individuals on the autism spectrum are given opportunities and resources to achieve their full potential.

For more information visit [www.bermudaautism.org](http://www.bermudaautism.org)