

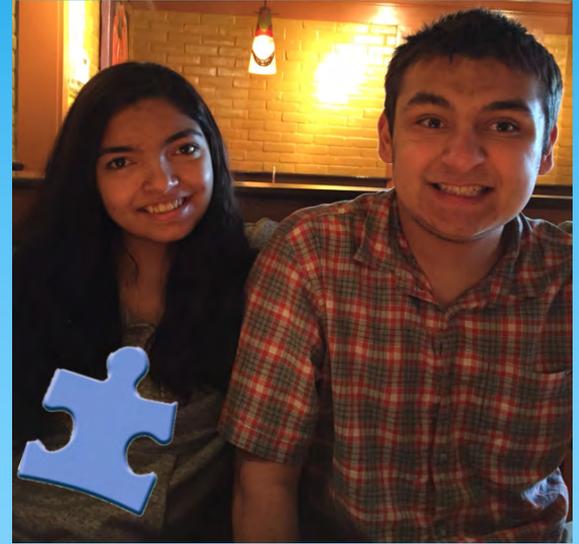


# My Name Is Andrew

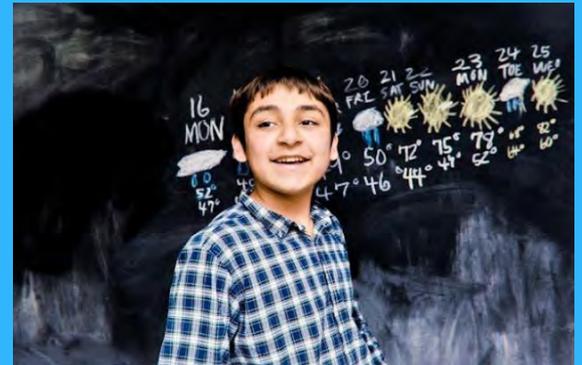
MGH Child Neurology Course 9/6/17  
– Andrew Collins & Laurel Collins, M.Ed.

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My name is Andrew and I am 18 years old. I was born on August 14<sup>th</sup>- it was a Saturday. I can tell you what day of the week you were born on. I am in 12<sup>th</sup> grade at a school called Hopeful Journeys in Beverly. I live with my mom and have 3 sisters and two cats.



One thing that make me super special is that I have autism. I was diagnosed with autism when I was 2 at Mass General by Dr. Krish. My brain works differently than many kids. I like to learn about unique things like weather, presidents, and maps. I memorize calendars. I love my teddy bears. I still am working on learning to read better and how to be a good friend. I want to be a meteorologist when I grow up.



I work hard every day to not let autism get in the way too much. I don't know where I want to live when I get older. I love my family and my teachers. I do walks to raise money for Autism Speaks. It's hard to go to the hospital & doctor's appointments because it is very busy. The rooms are also very boring. My doctors are usually patient. I sometimes have a hard time following directions for the doctors, but I try. One thing my mom says is hard is getting appointments with the right doctors for me.

This was my team at the Autism Speaks walk. My team has great people on it, including Dr. Kristen. She does not make me feel anxious and she likes my bears too. She is proud of me for working at Yogibo and Golden Living. I clean and organize things at Yogibo and deliver mail to older people at the nursing home.

