

The SEPTA SCENE

2009-2010
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A Letter from the President...

Can you believe fall is here? I always look forward to this season and get excited about the changes it brings, but this month I am even more excited about the upcoming programs SEPTA has in store for you! Before I share that info with you, I would like to thank Karen Riggs and Sandy Bell for coming to last month's meeting and giving us a better understanding of how the ECS (Exceptional Children's Services) department is set up, who the staff members are, and who our points of contact are at each school. It was very informative and helpful. It was also great to meet some of you and have a chance to share a few of our experiences. I would love to meet each one of you so please introduce yourself to me at the next meeting. It is nice to put names with faces!

Speaking of our next meeting, I am so excited to tell you about a wonderful opportunity we have to participate in a series of three workshops focusing on exceptional education.

The workshops will be presented by FIND of Louisville. If you are a parent or a teacher of a child with an IEP or a 504 plan, you should make an effort to attend these trainings! I have personally attended two workshops by FIND and came out feeling much more confident and better able to partner with my ARC committee to discover the best ways to

address my children's educational needs.

The Family Information Network on Disabilities (FIND) is a Community Parent Resource Center. Staffed by parents of children with disabilities, FIND helps parents better understand their child's disability, trains parents and professionals on education laws, and works to improve outcomes and educational results for all children. FIND is funded by the U.S. Department of Education to provide support and training in Jefferson County. Anyone in our state can go to Jefferson County to attend a workshop or call the FIND office with questions or concerns. However, they cannot go outside of Jefferson County to provide trainings. So, we are going to take three "field trips" and go to them for our October, November and January meetings. Please save the dates on your calendar and make an effort to attend. Don't forget, these trainings are FREE but you must RSVP to me if you are coming.

Donna.Allen@insightbb.com or
243-2694

Next Meeting
October 13, 2009
Northeast Christian Church
9900 Brownsboro Road
Louisville, KY 40241
7:00-8:30PM

Please RSVP to
Donna Allen at
donna.allen@insightbb.com

Details on Upcoming FIND of Louisville Training Sessions

**Special Education
The Law 101**

Date: Tuesday, October 13th
2009

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Location:

Northeast Christian Church
9900 Brownsboro Road
Louisville, KY 40241

The first training in the series will address Special Education Law. This training offers an introduction to your child's/student's rights under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and Civil Rights Law 504. You will learn ways to advocate for your child's/student's success in school.

The Evaluation Process

Date: Tuesday, November 10th
2009

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Location:

Northeast Christian Church
9900 Brownsboro Road
Louisville, KY 40241

The second training in the series will address evaluations. This training will focus on who can make a referral, pre-referral activities, parental consent, evaluation timeline, evaluation team, eligibility determination, evaluation musts, learning the lingo and what happens if you don't agree.

Topic: IEP Workshop

Date: Tuesday, January 12th
2010

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Location: TBD

The third training in the series will address The IEP Process. This training will educate you on what an IEP is and what is included in the IEP. It will show you steps on how to fine tune the IEP document to reflect your entire child's/student's unique needs to lead toward positive educational outcomes. You will also learn techniques to use in developing goals and objectives to meet the child's individual needs.

Don't forget to save these dates and to RSVP!

WE NEED YOU!

SEPTA is working collaboratively with each school and their associated PTA to effectively get information about special education to families and teachers. However, each PTA and school are very different. This has made it very difficult to keep track of how each school does their registration, open houses, newsletters, emails, etc. We thought we could better serve each individual school if we had a member of SEPTA representing each one. Basically, you would be a liaison between your child's school and SEPTA, assuring that we are getting information out appropriately and keeping us informed about the workings of your individual school. At our last meeting we filled half of the positions.

We still need someone to represent the following schools:

Harmony
Kenwood Station
La Grange
Liberty
EOMS
OCMS
SOMS

Buckner Alternative High

Please contact Rich Allen if you are interested in volunteering for this. rich.allen@insightbb.com

MORE NEEDS!

On our website we have names of members that have agreed to be a point of contact for a specific disability area. This means that they have allowed SEPTA to put their contact information on our website. If a member has questions or concerns about that specific area, they can call the contact person to receive support. These are the areas that are covered at this time:

Down Syndrome
Developmental/Cognitive Disabilities
Sensory
SSI
Medical Waivers
Residential Services
Support Employment
Guardianship
Transition
Child/Parent Advocacy
ADHD
Cerebral Palsy
Autism/Asperger's Syndrome

We still need contacts for support in the following areas:

Emotional Behavioral Disability
Traumatic Brain Injury
Hearing/Visual/Orthopedic
Impairments

Also you can suggest other areas you could provide support in.

Please contact Rich Allen if you can volunteer in this capacity.
Rich.allen@insightbb.com

PTA PROVIDES TRAININGS TO HELP YOU ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN

Speaking Up for Children

The Kentucky PTA will offer a Grassroots Advocacy Training for PTA/PTSA members to learn how to advocate for children at the legislative level.

Date: Wednesday, October 21 / 11 AM- 10 PM and Thursday, October 22 / 9AM – 2PM

Registration: \$50.00 which includes materials, lunch and supper on Wednesday, lunch on Thursday, and one night's lodging 2 to a room at the Frankfort Hampton Inn

Deadline for registration: October 13

There is a limit of 25 people. Confirmation, location and complete agenda will be sent to members who have signed up after the deadline.

PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND AND LEARN HOW TO SPEAK UP FOR CHILDREN!

Step Up for Kids Conference

Whether you are a new advocate or an experienced voice, come learn strategies for creating genuine change for the children in your community and across the Commonwealth. Join other child advocates from across the state for the 2009 Step Up for Kids Conference!

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Location: Gheens Academy
4425 Preston Hwy
Louisville, KY 40213

Cost: Free!!!

Come learn more about the 2009-2010 Blueprint for Kentucky's Children and prepare for the 7th Annual Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol on Thursday, February 18, 2010! Mark your calendar for both events!

PTA REFLECTIONS – SPECIAL GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The PTA Reflections Program is an opportunity for parents and educators to encourage the creativity and lifelong learning of ALL students (preschool through grade 12) by expressing themselves through words, pictures, music, dance, film, and other art media.

The National PTA Reflections Program does not have a special division for students with developmental challenges or disabilities. Instead, parents may choose to place their child in the Reflections Program grade division that best reflects the child's developmental age. Parents may contact their child's teacher(s) for developmental age suggestions or parents may simply place their child based on their classroom grade.

The Kentucky PTA Reflections Program supports the above options, but also has an optional Special Needs division. Entries into the "Special Needs" division may be recognized from local through state levels, but will not be eligible for the National PTA Reflections Program.

To summarize, parents may choose to submit entries for students with developmental challenges or disabilities in one of the following ways:

- Grade division that best reflects the child's developmental age
- Grade division of the child's classroom
- Special Needs Division

We hope you choose to use Reflections to help recognize, support, and enhance your children's continuous process of self-discovery. Please contact your school's PTA Reflections Chairman if you have questions about your school's program and submission deadlines. I can't wait to see how the children interpret this year's theme "**Beauty is...**"

We Need Donations for the SEPTA Resource Library!

We are collecting books and other resources about children with special needs. Bring any books, magazines and reference materials that you may have to the next SEPTA meeting or drop them off in the office of your child's school. These reference materials will be donated to the Oldham County Public Library for circulation. A SEPTA bookplate will be placed in the front of each book to acknowledge the source. If you have questions about the relevance of the books you have, you may contact SEPTA by using this link:

<http://www.septaofoldhamcounty.org/wordpress/contact-for-library-donations/>

