

September 2010

SEPTA of Oldham County

Special Education Parent Teacher Association for Oldham County Schools

www.septaofoldhamcounty.org



About SEPTA

SEPTA of Oldham County was formed in the spring of 2009 by parents of children with special needs.

We are proud to be the first Special Education PTA in Kentucky, joining an estimated 135 chapters nationwide.

SEPTA brings together special families and our schools to build partnerships in the school setting and our community. We are committed to working with our school district and our PTAs to ensure that all children receiving special education services are empowered to reach their full potential. Our goals:

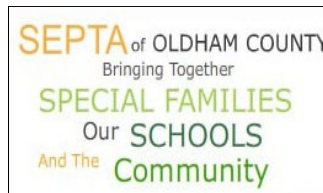
1. Share information and resources
2. Improve communication between schools, families, and the community
3. Provide support for our members

First Meeting of the New School Year

Join us for our first meeting of the 2010-2011 school year, Tuesday, September 14, at 7:00 p.m., in the cafeteria of South Oldham High School.

During this Open House, you can

- meet Exceptional Children Services (ECS) staff, SEPTA board members, and other parents of children with special needs;
- learn about programs planned for SEPTA meetings this year;
- hear what teachers and staff members are learning via Professional Development opportunities;
- Take home helpful resources,



such as contact information for Exceptional Children Services staff and board members of SEPTA of Oldham County, and a handout to help you decode the acronyms used in special education;

- ask questions and network with parents and staff who understand what you and your child are experiencing.

The Open House will also include a short general meeting of SEPTA to approve the 2010-2011 budget.

If you have questions or need more information, contact SEPTA's vice president for information, Liz Glenn, lizglenn00@gmail.com.



About SEPTA

For news between meetings, upcoming events, meeting dates and more, visit and bookmark our website, www.septaofoldhamcounty.org.

This newsletter is distributed via email to members of SEPTA of Oldham County and posted on our website, www.septaofoldhamcounty.org.

If you have information you'd like included in a future issue of this newsletter, send details to Leah Bradley, leahbradley07@gmail.com.

Hope Huddles Presents: Life Transitions

Thursday, September 2, 6:00—7:30 pm

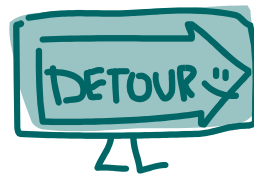
Oldham County Arts Center, 7105 Floydensburg Road in Crestwood

Many children are anxious about change; whether is a move, a change in schools, a person or pet joining or leaving your household, or a change in schedule.

Samantha Perkins, Behavior Therapist for Seven Counties, will help guide parents and caregivers through what to expect from a child experiencing change and how they can help ease their child's anxiety.

Attend "Life Transitions" on Thursday, September 2, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for a free dinner, free childcare and door prizes! Please RSVP so arrangements can be made for enough childcare providers and food for everyone.

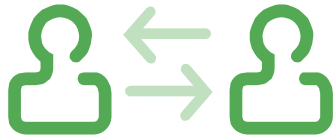
Call Kathy Alsup, 472-6257.



Parent Support Groups provide

- Advocacy
- Encouragement
- Empowerment
- Friendships
- Knowledge
- Natural Supports
- One Voice
- Training
- Understanding

Hope Huddles is made possible by funding through OFL and Seven Counties Services.



Parent to Parent



Schools, doctors, therapists, the commonwealth of Kentucky—all of them provide (and inundate) parents of exceptional children with tons of information. No parent can absorb it all, which is why it's so important to talk and share information with other parents.

You're invited to share your favorite tip or resource with other members of SEPTA by emailing

it to leahbradley07@gmail.com, then watch our monthly newsletter for the wisdom of parents who have "been there," too.

For example, one of the best things about living in a digital age is that we can access information or an understanding ear at any hour of the day or night. Facebook, in particular, provides a helpful connection to both conversation and resources.

One helpful page on Facebook is "Making Room," a page authored and managed by Michael Woods, a married father of triplets, each one on the autism spectrum. He works as an Autism and Inclusion Specialist for St. Louis' largest school district and shares helpful information from his perspective as a father and an educator.

Now, what do you recommend?

The **Kentucky Partnerships for Families and Children (KPFC) Leadership Academy** focuses on helping emerging leaders learn how to use their voice for making change occur for themselves and their communities. This training is free and is for parents/primary caregivers *and* young adults (16-24 years old) with an emotional, behavioral, mental health and/or substance use disabilities.

The Leadership Academy is October 15-17, 2010. For more information contact KPFC; 800.369.0533 or kpfc@kypartnership.net.



Advocates from across Kentucky will gather in Louisville for the 2010 Step Up for Kids Conference to celebrate National Step Up for Kids Week and to prepare for the 7th Annual Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol, February 17, 2011.

- Where: The Gheens Academy, 4425 Preston Highway, Louisville, KY 40213
- When: Tuesday, October 5, 2010, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Cost: Free, including lunch

For more information or to register for the conference visit www.kyyouth.org.

Voice Your Concerns

The Kentucky State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC) advises and assists the Department of Education regarding the provision of appropriate services for children with disabilities. The public is encouraged to comment, either by email or by attending a meeting.

For more information, contact Renee Scott, renee.scott@education.ky.gov, or the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), 502.564.4970.



The next SAPEC public forum is

October 14, 2010

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Lake Barkley State Resort Park
in Cadiz, Kentucky

The purpose of this forum is for families and professionals to voice their concerns to the panel and panel members will pass them along to KDE.

Support Parents

Kentucky's Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN) has created Family to Family (F2F) Health Information Centers to provide support to families of individuals with special needs. The centers are staffed by Support Parents (mentors) who are parents of special needs children and have been through experiences similar to yours and want you to benefit from their experience. The hope is to reduce the feelings of isolation and provide a safe, listening environment, along with a wealth of information to other families.

For more information, contact Debbie Gilbert, 502.595.4459, ext. 279.

2010 DeaFestival

The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) is sponsoring its ninth annual **DeaFestival**, September 4, in downtown Horse Cave, Kentucky. The accessible one-day event celebrates the language, culture, and diversity of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

DeaFestival 2010 continues the tradition of offering free admission to the public, thanks to the generous sponsors and community supporters.

For more information, contact the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 502.573.2604.