

THE SOUTH RIVER ADVOCATE

Vol.5 Issue 6

The Newsletter of SEPTA of South River

March 2004

www.specialeducationpta.org

info@specialeducationpta.org

Information Line (732) 651-7157

Coming Events:

March 3rd: S.E.PTA meeting, S.R. Public Library

**Open Parent Forum starts at 6:30 pm*

General meeting 7-9pm

March 10th: Transition Planning Seminar

Special Guest Speaker: Alice Hunicut ~SPAN

South River Middle School Library

March 15th: S.E.PTA 2004 Scholarship Application available to students of the South River Public School District.

March 25th: "Helping Your Kids Cope with Teasing and Bullies." 6:30 pm E. Bruns. Public Library. Call (732)745-3180 to register

April 3th: S.R. Recreation Easter Egg Hunt @Varga Park starts promptly at 10am

April 7th: S.E.PTA meeting, S.R. Public Library

**Open Parent Forum starts at 6:30 pm*

General meeting 7-9pm

**Planning for the 1st Annual Family Fun Day & Community Picnic.*

April 30th: S.E.PTA 2004 Scholarship Submission Deadline.

Transition Planning Seminar

March 10th 7-8:45pm

South River Middle School Library

Special Guest Speaker: Alice Hunicut

Once again, S.E.PTA is extremely pleased to be able to present a transition planning seminar for parents of students with disabilities who are or will be entering transition planning as part of their I.E.P.

Transition planning concerns student ages 14-21 years of age who are classified or section 504. This essential component of a student's I.E.P. is an important part needed to address and prepare for life skills / job placement/ and adult services such as government assistance and various government / state programs, transportation skills and community supports to help the student succeed in having productive and smooth transition to life after public/private school.

Alice Hunicut presented this workshop to our members and the community last year- parents were extremely pleased with the wealth of information and direction she supplied during her last seminar.

Don't miss it!

Parents Coffee

Meets weekday mornings 9:30 – 11:30

A support group for parents and guardians of special education students is sponsoring monthly morning coffees during the school year. This informal group meets monthly. For more information and meeting locations call

Vivian Paulus (732) 297-4028

Meetings dates are:

Thursday, March 11

Thursday, May 13

S.E.PTA 2004 Scholarship Applications Available March 15th

The Special Education PTA of South River 2004 Scholarship applications will be available to students of the South River School District on March 15th, 2004.

This scholarship is open to any special education student of the South River School District, graduating in June 2004 and enrolled in a secondary school, trade school, or college for the fall of 2004. Special education students of the South River School District can

currently be enrolled "in district" or in a "public/private" or "private school" setting. Deadline for scholarship applications is April 30th.

Students interested in applying can obtain an application from the Office of Special Education of South River Public Schools or visit the S.E.PTA website: www.specialeducationpta.org and print application from menu list.

Winner will be notified by Monday, May 10th 2004.

Good luck to all who enter!

SEPTA would like to thank

Disability Services & Advocacy, LLC

www.dsausa.net

For sponsoring the mailing of our Newsletters

Our Thoughts and Prayers

are with our troops in the Gulf and around the world. May they all come home safe and sound.



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Notes for Your Child's Upcoming I.E.P. Meeting:

With the retreat of cold winter days and the melting of the snow parents of special education once again anticipate the **"Annual I.E.P. Meeting"**.

As the parent of a child in the special education system it is **essential** that parents make every effort to attend this very important meeting concerning their child. This meeting outlines your child's exposure to academic concepts, the various educational programs that the school will employ to help your child grasp, learn and utilize the topics and subjects presented to them over the course of the next year.

So how should parents prepare themselves for the I.E.P. meeting?

*Parents should start with reviewing their child's progress reports from the school year – including related service program (ex. Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy). Make notes of any questions you may have as to progress or lack of progress in certain areas, things that concern you, and things from your child's current IEP that are not covered in the progress reports you received.

Make notes/comments in the margins –review it against the current IEP for progression of academic and educational growth.

Note any questions you may have concerning any item or portion and bring your child's current IEP to your upcoming IEP meeting. Review the goals and objectives given for the new academic year (2004-2005) against what is in your child's current IEP to make sure there is an advancement of educational growth in the goals and objectives that are listed.

*IEP Goals and Objectives for the upcoming year are decided at the "Team Meeting".

Make it a point to discuss (in writing) with your child's teacher(s) and related service therapist(s) any goals or objectives you would like to see implemented in the upcoming IEP year before your scheduled IEP meeting.

***Most importantly ASK QUESTIONS and MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS PUT IN WRITING IN THE FINALIZED DOCUMENT which will be handed to you at the end of the IEP meeting.**

You have 10 days after the IEP meeting date to request changes to be made to the document you were given at the end of the I.E.P. meeting
BUT ALL REQUESTS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING! (that means NO PHONE CALLS)
AFTER 10 DAYS THE I.E.P. WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS WRITTEN.

REVIEWS and Parent Comments:

S.E.PTA held it's first presentation of **"Learn How to Manage It All"**, a workshop designed to provide parents with tools, resources and an organizational system to help negotiate the special education system and provide insight on how to organize information concerning their child(ren). Parents who attended this workshop were given a binder/organizational system, informative CD Rom containing educational/state/government /web resources, information on related special education topics and recreational opportunities for the special needs population.

Parents left this workshop with a wealth of information and a sense that one step at a time they can "learn to manage it" and gain better advocacy skills to help their child now and in the future years.

Look for an encore presentation of this workshop in August/September of 2004.

"Helping You Kids Cope With Teasing and Bullies"

Parent's Information and Discussion Group of the Middlesex County Special Child Health Services will be hosting a Free Public Workshop on March 25th at 6:30 pm at the East Brunswick Public Library.
Special Guest Speaker: Helene Knee -St. Peter's Univ. Hospital
Please call (732) 745-3180 for more information or to confirm attendance – please leave your name and telephone number.

Reminder to Parents:

If you have a question concerning the Special Education System (how it works), educational issues, goals and objectives, or resources for your child- S.E.PTA would like to extend an open invitation for Parent's to bring their question(s)

"Open Parent Forum" held from 6:30 -7pm at the South River Public Library on the following dates:

Wed. March 3rd,

Wed. April 7th

Wed. May 5th

Wed. June 2nd

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Books to use as a Guide for Goals and Objectives for Your Child's Next IEP

General IEP Goals and Objectives:

Writing & Implementing an IEP: A Step-By-Step Plan

By Thomas Lovitt
(Available at the LRC-C)

Steps to Independence

By Baker and Brightman
(Available at the So. River Public Library)

Creative Play Activities for Children with Disabilities

By Lisa Rappaport Morris and Linda Schulz

Carolina Curriculum Guide

*basically pre-k to k, early grade school
(Available at the LRC-C)

Hawaii H.E.L.P. Strands / HELP Program

(Available through Therapo Co. and LRC-C)
Centers basically on birththrough3 years and 3- 6 years of age

Addison-Wesley Active Learning Series:

Active Learning for Twos

Active Learning for Threes

Active Learning for Fours

Active Learning for Fives

By Cryer, Harms, Ray
(Available at the LRC-C)

The IEP Primer and the Individualized Program: Preschool through Postsecondary Transition

By Beverly A. School PhD
And Arlene Cooper PhD
(Available at the LRC-C)

Linking IEPs to State Learning Standards: A Step-By Step Guide

By Lynda Miller and Lauren Hoffman
(Available at the LRC-C)

Individual Transition Plans:

The Teacher's Curriculum Guide for Helping Youth with Special Needs

By Paul Wehman
(Available at the LRC-C)

Action Alphabet: Sensorimotor Activities for Groups

By Kathleen L. Herring BA and Suzanne Wilkinson, B.S. OTR/L
ISBN: 076-1647-597-MT399 \$41.95

Practical Ideas that Really Work for Students with ADHD

By Kathleen McConnell, Gail Ryser and Judith Higgins
ISBN: 076-1618-481-MT399 \$51.00

What's the LRC-C?

The Learning Resource Center – Central (LRC-C) is a state funded Library located at 2351 Rt. 130 So. in Dayton NJ.

LRC-C is a specialized library offering resources and services to educators and parents serving students with disabilities. Annual membership fee is \$2.00

For more information on the LRC-C please contact them at (732)274-5570 or visit them on the web at:

www.state.nj.us/njded/lrc email: lrccent@doe.state.nj.us

Relative Service IEP Goals/Objectives:

Speech:

Teaching Spontaneous Communication in Autistic and Developmentally Handicapped Children

By Linda Watson, Catherine Lord,
Bruce Schaffer and Eric Shapler
(Available at the LRC-C)

IEP Companion- Communication Goals for Therapy in & Out of the Classroom

By Carolyn C. Wilson, Janet R. Lanza and Jeannie S. Evans
Grade: from birth to adult.
(Available at the LRC-C)

The Source for Aphasia Therapy

By Lisa A. Arnold
(Available at the LRC-C)

Speech & Language Difficulties in the Classroom

By Deirdre Martin and Carol Miller
(Most public library can interlibrary loan this book - listed in the Suny College at New Paltz)

Visual Strategies for Improving Communication: Practical Supports for School & Home.

By Linda Hodgdom

Occupational and Physical Therapy:

OT Goals: Occupation Therapy Goals & Objectives Associated with Learning

By Partners in GOALS
Grade level k-12
(Available at the LRC-C)

Curriculum Based Activities in Occupational Therapy an Inclusion Resource

By Lisa Loiselle and Susan Shea
(Available at the LRC-C)

The Consulting Therapist: A Guide for OTs and PTs in Schools.

By Barbara E. Hanft and Patricia A. Place
(Available at the LR-C)

Motor Development Program for School-Aged Children (2nd Ed.)

By Jeanne Shanks Sellars Ed. D., PT

Fine Motor Dysfunction: Therapeutic Strategies in the classroom

By Kristin Johnson Levine M.S. Ed., ISBN: 076-1647-04X-MT399

Hands at work and play: Developing Fine Motor Skills at School and Home

By Janice Miller Night M.S. Ed and Mary Jo Gilpin Decker B.S. OTR

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Future SEPTA Events:

March 3: SEPTA Parent support group SR Public Library 6:30 – 7 pm

March 10: Transition Planning Workshop – Guest Speaker: Alice Honeycut

March 15th: S.E. PTA 2004 Scholarship Applications available

April 7: SEPTA Parent support group SR Public Library 6:30 – 7 pm

April 30: Deadline for submission for SEPTA 2004 Scholarship applications

May 5: SEPTA Parent support group SR Public Library 6:30 – 7 pm

June 2: SEPTA Parent support group SR Public Library 6:30 – 7 pm

Help Wanted:

Would you like to help with our Newsletter, or Website? Have you come across an interesting book, article or website that deals with education, special ed., disabilities, or parenting that you'd like to share with others? Write a short summary and we'll love to put it in newsletter and web page.

Interested in obtaining a copy of the S.E.PTA of South River's Special Education Resource CD?

Contact S.E.PTA at (732)651-7157 or

Email us at: info@specialeducationpta.org for ordering information. Cost \$7.50 (includes ship/handling fees)

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