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SEPTA would like to thank

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The Advocate

*"Every Child is Born with Wings...
Make it a Choice to Educate and Advocate
for the Chances for All Children to Learn to Soar"*

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The Advocate

The Advocate is the free public newsletter of the Special Education PTA of South River.

Published monthly from August to June of each year by the Executive Board Members of the S.E.PTA - this newsletter is mailed directly to families of classified students of the South River Public School District from the Office of Special Education. Additional copies are available at the South River Public Library. Past editions of the Advocate can be downloaded from our website. Interested individuals may sign up for our electronic newsletter and a listing of other newsletters related to special education issues by visiting our website at:

www.specialeducationpta.org

Questions related to the Special Education PTA as an organization, the services we provide, and our calendar of events can be answered by telephone at (732)751-7157 or by email at info@specialeducationpta.org

If you would like to submit letters or articles, post information or contribute pictures to be included in future editions of The Advocate please contact our newsletter by email at: SRPTAAAdvocate@aol.com

Transition Planning

"Keys" and "Links" essential for successful transition from school to adult life.

S.E.PTA was pleased to host Alice Hunicut of SPAN for an evening filled with essential information on the key components and necessary links for support that classified students need for a successful transition to Adult life from a school setting. Armed with easy to understand outlines on strategies and activities needed in a good transition plan- Alice presented a well rounded discussion on what should be included when writing up a meaningful and through transition plan.

The six key ingredients

discussed:

1. Instruction
2. Related Services
3. Community Experiences and involvement socially within their community
4. Development of Employment and Post-School Living Objectives
5. Acquisition of daily living skills
6. Functional vocational evaluation

Alice presented a simple method to utilize Transition Planning to "drive" the IEP process"

*Identify the student's post school goals.

*Identify / get an accurate level of the student's performance level (PLOP).

*Statement of transition services needed. (Concerning education/ courses needed to achieve transition goal)

*Statement of needed transition services (concerning long range goals)

*Annual goals (consider this as the yearly goals needed to complete the goals of the transition statement).

*Short Term Objectives and Benchmarks: needed to insure that all areas of need are addressed for the yearly goals and ultimately the Transition Statement is achieved.

If your child expresses the wish/ desire to go to college after High School it is critical that evaluations

documenting the need for any accommodations in taking the required tests (PSAT and SAT1 or SAT2) be current and sent to the College Board in a timely manner; it is recommended that the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Eligibility Forms at the end of the student's first year in High School.

For more information on accommodations for testing visit the College Boards website: www.collegeboard.com

Consider these time frames as an important reference when considering your child's transition planning:

Age 14 yrs:

Write a Statement of Transition-your child's long range educational plan. What your child desires as their vocation / profession and if they need college, vocational, or trade school to achieve that goal.

Age 16 years:

Write a Statement of Needed Transition Services: (continue to pg. 3)

What Role Does Genes Play in ADHD?

Doctors at the National Institute of Health are conducting a nationwide study to identify specific genes that contribute to Attention Deficit

Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Participating families must have a least two children, and at least one with ADHD (between the ages of

7 and 17). No travel is required for this study; all information will be collected over the telephone and through the mail. Participants will receive study-related test at no cost.

Call 1-800-411-1222

(TTY # 1-866-411-1010).

Your participation may help doctors develop a new treatment for ADHD. The National Institutes of Health is part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Reprint through the courtesy of Exception Parent Magazine. Article: "ADHD: What Roles Do Genes Play?" appeared in the March 2004 edition.

S.E. PTA

Summer Meetings:

The Special Education PTA will be holding meeting on:

June 5th

July 28th

August 4th

From 6:30-9pm at the South River Public Library.

We will be planning future workshops, seminars, guest speakers and family events for the next school year.

Parents and their children interested in "helping out" or who have an idea for something you would like S.E.PTA to do next year always welcome to attend!

Thinking Summer Camp?

Where do you start in looking for a summer camp for your child ?

It can be down right frustrating, aggravating and stressful trying to find "the right" (not to mention paying for) summer camp for your child with special needs.

Lucky for you— we have a few good places (and reasonably priced) to start your search!

East Brunswick Camp Daisy

Offering a varieties of programs in a wide range of age groups

Contact the East Brunswick

Recreation Dept. /Daisy Program at (732) 390-6797

Old Bridge- Camp Robin

Contact Old Bridge Recreation Dept. at (732) 721-5600 or

(732)765-0968 for more information.

Raritan Valley YMCA-

Camp Yomeca

Call (732) 257-4114 for more information.

Other sources of information:

Information Line

of Middlesex County

1-888-908-0458

Family Support Center of NJ

1-800-372-6510

Sayreville Association for Brain Injured Children (BIC) -Camp Donna

(Please contact the S.R. Dept. of Special Ed. for more information on this program.)

You can also purchase the S.E.PTA Special Education Resource CDROM which has a county by county listing of all current recreation programs for people with disabilities at your leisure.

Family Fun Day-June 27th-

What's Going On.. And How Parents Can Help

It looks to be exciting and we hope you think so to!

At the last S.E.PTA meeting on April 7, 2004 we started planning this event— and we hope you like our ideas for events.

As you know, S.E.PTA is planning it's first "Family Fun Day" for June 27th from 2-4pm at Varga Park on William Street, So. River. We really want this event to a memorable for the special needs

children and their families of South River to enjoy together while getting to know one another.

Activities to be included that day:
*Clown *Pony rides or petting zoo
*balloons *games and *prizes.

However,

WE NEED

**PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS
FAMILY MEMBERS TO HELP!**

We need parents to sign up to

help out at this event by May 30th. Currently, we do not have enough people to run this event and we will forced to cancel it if we do not get commitment from parents to help out.

If you would like to help please call Bill at (732)651-7157 or Pat at (732) 221-7100.

Don't Delay!

We need to have your help immediately!

If parents do not sign up to help out, S.E.PTA will not have enough people to run this event and will be forced to cancel Family Fun Day at Varga Park...

TECH Connection ... Computers and more.

From the small green awning tucked in the mist of Haddon Ave. off Rt.35 in Shrewsbury, NJ lies the most extensive array of computer assistant devices and software for any student/person with special needs. The Tech Connection is a wonderful place that parents and their special needs students can "try-out", sample, (and YES!) take home computer software and various devices such as adaptive keyboards, mouse,

switches etc.) to make sure that the product is the right "fit" for their child.

TECH connection also offers:

"Drop in Hours" in which you can preview a large variety of software products and adapted input devices at your leisure—just call to schedule a time.

Need help in searching for something?- they will guide you through the process of finding a software

program or device.

TECH Connection also runs computer workshops and hosts a variety of professional workshops through out the year.

For more information on any of the mentioned programs call (732) 747-5310 or visit: www.techconnection.org

There is a yearly membership fee (s) for the TECH Connection and the TECH Connection "Lending Library Program".



Transition Planning: "Keys" and "Links" (continued from pg.1)

a coordinated long range plan for life included the needed "links" (community, county or state programs) for support.

Linking the needed programs, services and supports should be discussed between the child's case manager, the parent and the child (encouraged where applicable) so that there is no miscommunications as to who is to contact the agencies/programs identified as

necessary "links" in your child's statement of transition- and your child becomes registered/enrolled. Some programs have a "wait list" so the sooner the contacts/links are established and your child is enrolled the sooner the services can be provided upon high school graduation.

For more information on Transition Planning visit the State Wide Parent Advocacy Network

(SPAN) at www.spanj.org or contact SEPTA by email at www.specialeducationpta.org

"Transition Services" means a coordinated set of activities for a student, designed within an outcome-oriented process, which promotes movement from school to post-school activities including post-secondary education, vocational training, integrated employment (included supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation. N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.3 1

Spotlighting Unique Software Programs for Students with Special Learning Needs...

Discrete Trial Trainer- Ver.2

There is a relatively new software program on the market that offers parents of children with special needs a new way to expose their children to concepts such as: classification, counting, identification, matching, math, money, phonics, sequencing, spatial relationships, time, word analysis, WH questions and word recognition. Enhancing education through a software program that uses the proven teaching methods on Applied Behavioral Analysis; it provides individualized instruction in an universal design which includes a broad scope of content with great reinforces and for the parents-evidence-driven progress reports.

This program is designed to be used by children who are developmentally between

the ages of 2 and 9 years, who are easily distracted or overloaded, have difficulty following directions and require moderate to substantial repetition. The wonderful aspect of this program is that parents can customize the "rewards" (with a choice of hundred of reinforces, interactive features that reward and motivate children. The best part of this software is the fact that it will automatically adjust as different skills are mastered.

Parents can enjoy a 60 day trial version of Discrete Trial Trainer for \$19.00.

Standard Bundles of this software for home use (single computer/single family) is \$99.00 with an additional subscription for upgrades and support for an additional \$49.00 (single computer/single family).

For home use ordering information visit Discrete Trial Trainer website at:

www.dttrainer.com/homepricing or call Acceleration Educational Software at (803)233-0541.

Universal Reader-

Universal reader is a wonderful program which will read web pages, email, and downloaded books as well as other documents "out loud" by selecting text (highlighting with the mouse) and clicking on it to have the program read out loud to you. A great idea for children/adults who utilize the web for information and use email but (due to a visual or cognitive disability) have a hard time understanding language in the print format. The speech sound quality's great though the program utilizes the AT&T digitized voices.

Universal Reader cost \$29.00

For more information visit: www.readingmadeeasy.com

NEW FROM THE WEB:

www.elea.org

The Ethel Louise Armstrong Foundation is offering a scholarship from \$500.00 to \$2000.00 a year to provide financial assistance for a woman with physical disabilities who are enrolled in a college or university graduate program in the United States.

For more information on the scholarship requirements and to receive an application packet... Please visit www.elea.org and follow the links to scholarship section of the website.

Application deadline is June 1st 2004.

www.yai.org

View the YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities 25th Annual International Conference; "The Keys to Success in Developmental and Learning Disabilities" May 3-7 2004 in New York City at www.yai.org

The Special Education PTA of South River

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We're on the Web!

www.specialeducationpta.org

**"Every Child is Born with Wings....
Make it a Choice to Educate and
Advocate for the Chances for
All Children to Learn to Soar"**

*Special Education PTA of South River was founded by a group of parents
who wished to promote the education and advocacy rights of the special
needs children of their community..*

By providing parents with the tools and effective advocacy skills ~

We endeavor to keep this goal a reality so that

**Every Child Will Fulfill Their Dreams
and Learn to Soar.**

Interested in obtaining a copy
of the S.E.PTA of

South River's Special Ed.

Resource CD-Rom?

Contact S.E.PTA

At (732) 651-7157

Or Email us at:

info@specialeducationpta.org

Cost: \$7.50

(includes ship/handling fees)

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 edu-
cation, special ed., or parent-
ing that you'd like to share
with others? Write a short
summary and we'll love to
put it in our newsletter and
web page.

Up Coming Events:

May:

***Make sure you contact
your senate representa-
tives for IDEA reauthori-
zation –it is slated to go
to the floor the beginning
of May.**

May 1st : Registration dead-
line for LRC-C program,

Literacy in the Home:

*Families Helping Young Children
with Disabilities Become Better
Readers and Writers (Grade K-2)
cost \$17.00 per person. Call 732-274-
5579 for more information.*

May 5th: S.R. Public Library

SEPTA Parent Forum 6:30pm

SEPTA Meeting 7pm

Scholarship meeting

May 15th: LRC-C program

*Literacy in the Home..." call
732-274-5579 for more informa-
tion or to register.*

June:

June 2nd: S.R. Public Library

SEPTA Parent Forum 6:30pm

SEPTA Meeting 7pm

Awarding of Plaque to

2004 S.E.PTA Scholarship winner

June : S.R. High School
Auditorium

Senior Awards Night

June 27th: Varga Park S. River

SEPTA Family Fun Day 2-4pm

Join the fun... pony rides, clown

Fun and games!

July:

July 28th: S.R. Public Library

SEPTA Parent Forum 6:30pm

SEPTA Meeting 7pm

Topic: Calendar

next years programs and events

August:

August 4th: S.R. Public Library

SEPTA Parent Forum 6:30pm

SEPTA Meeting 7pm