

# The South River Advocate

Volume 1, Issue 2    The Newsletter of Special Education PTA of South River    January 2000

[http://www.geocities.com/septa\\_srnj](http://www.geocities.com/septa_srnj)

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## What's Happening:

### SEPTA Calendar 1999/2000

Wed October, 20	Dawn Bladzinski from South River Library
Wed November 17	Video: FAT City What it is like to be Learning disabled
Wed December 15	Holiday Party Bring your favorite holiday desert to share.
Thur January 20	Dr. Marino: Student Personnel Services programs, grants and Budget
Wed February 23	Barbar Selekoff "Increasing School Successes Through Skill Development."
Wed March 15	TBA.
Tue. April 11	TBA
Mon May 8	TBA – Special Education Week!

### South River Board of Education:

Mon. January 24	Pre-meeting Board Conf Rm. 7:30
Thur. January 27	Meeting HS Library 7:30
Tues. April 18	School Board & Budget elections

### Middlesex County Special Child Health Services

Meetings are held at the East Brunswick Library at 7:30 and are free and open to the public  
Tuesday January 18                      TBA

### New Jersey State Bar Foundation

Seminars are held at the New Jersey Law Center One Constitution Square, New Brunswick For directions call (732) 249-5000  
To Register for a Seminar call 1 (800) FREE LAW

January 12,	7-9 pm	Special Needs Trusts
February 26	7-9 pm	Child Custody/ Grandparents Rights
March 9	1-3 pm	Medicare/Medicaid Maze

## FOR SALE

The South River High School PTSA is selling RAM FLAGS for \$15 Show your sprit and buy one to hang in from of your home. Contact JoAnn Devlin 254-2895 or Mary Graham 257-5669

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I hope everyone has settled into the new school year and has had fun, relaxing joy filled holiday. I'd like to thank everyone who has come to our meetings. The Ice Cream Social and Holiday Party were especially well attended.

We have some interesting topics for our next two meetings. In January, Dr Marino will talk about the programs, grants & the budget for Student Personnel Services, (it is a lot more than just Special Ed.). In February Barbara Selekoff will discuss how children learn and what skills they can gain that will help them in school. This will be beneficial to parents of elementary & middle school children who are learning disabled, at risk or identified for compensatory education. This promises to be one of our more interesting meetings.

Several parents have asked about a support group. So if there are enough people who would like to get together and form a support group we will give that a try. Please call (732) 432-6747 and let us know how often you'd like to meet, what topics or problems you would like to discuss.

Don't forget to visit our web site for lots more information. If you don't have a PC or access to the internet, just stop by the South River Library, they have several PC with access to the internet for you to use:  
[http://www.geocities.com/septa\\_srnj](http://www.geocities.com/septa_srnj).

*Bill Sellar*



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# Executive Board

## Meetings

The Executive Board meets on the first Thursday of each monthly during the school year all SEPTA members are welcome to attend. Anyone with concerns, questions or interested in getting involved is encouraged to attend or to contact any of the Board members. As you can see, we still have several openings on the Board so if you want to make a difference in your child's education please consider getting involved.

## Members

President	Bill Sellar
Vice President	George Borgstede
Secretary	Debbie Angley
Treasurer	Patty Borgstede
Procedures & Bylaws Chair	Open
Faculty Rep	Open
Administration Rep	Dr. Judy Marino
Membership Chair	Open
Fundraising Chair	Open
Legislative Chair	Open

## How to Contact SEPTA

There are several ways to contact SEPTA,

- ◆ Mail: SEPTA of South River, 81 Johnson Place, South River, NJ 08882
- ◆ E-Mail [septa\\_srnj@geocities.com](mailto:septa_srnj@geocities.com)
- ◆ Phone: Bill Sellar 613-5144
- ◆ Or contact any of the Exec Board members



## Useful Internet Sites:

<http://www.njpta.org> : Web site of the New Jersey State PTA. There is a variety of useful information for all parents, not just PTA members

<http://www.reedmartin.com> : Reed Martin is an attorney with 28 years of experience in Special Ed Law. There is of information concerning Special Ed law, including an n Advocacy Tip of the Week, Ask Reed Martin, and a free on-line newsletter you can subscribe to.

<http://www.taalliance.org/ptis/nj>: Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of New Jersey is a non-profit web site, which provides parents, educators, medical professionals and caretakers with information regarding children with disABILITIES. They have links to hundreds of web sites about Disabilities.



## A SAD FAREWELL TO

Lisa Lucarelli, the school district's Occupational Therapist has resigning effective Nov 14. We all wish much success in the future. Nancy Schon-Caralan will be joining her husband as he attends medical school, out of state.

## A WARM HELLO TO

**Sangeeta Monga** who has been hired to replace Lisa. Sangeeta has over 18 years of experience, many of them working with children.

**Dr. Mariana Pedro Medlin** has been hired as a replacement for Nancy Schon-Caralan. Beginning on February 1, 2000. Dr. Pedro-Medlin received her doctorate form Rutgers University, has had several years of experience working on a child study team in a public school. She is fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

## Legislative Update

Currently there is a bill in Trenton (S-1492) "The Physician-Dentist Fellowship and Education Program to Provide Health Care to Persons with Developmental Disabilities". This bill would appropriate \$2.5 million to establish a program to provide physicians and dentists with graduate and continuing medical and dental education to provide these services to persons with developmental disabilities.

The bill was passed the New Jersey Senate and Assembly. However, Governor Whitman has given it a condition veto. Her changes have passed the Senate and are due before the full Assembly on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

## HMO HORROR STORIES ?

Unfortunately many Special Ed children require extra medical attention. In this age where HMO's are getting larger and more interested in making a profit and less interested in providing QUALITY health care to their subscribers your voice can be heard. The NJ Hospital Association is compiling stories of medical claims that have been denied and will be presenting these to our State legislators. So if you have had a problem please

CALL: 888-FIX-HMOS

