

# ***The South River Advocate***

Vol.3 Issue 1      The Newsletter of the Special Education PTA of South River      September 2001  
[http://www.geocities.com/septa\\_srnj](http://www.geocities.com/septa_srnj)      email: [septa\\_srnj@geocities.com](mailto:septa_srnj@geocities.com)      Information Line (732)432-6747

## **Coming Events:**

### **Sept. 4:**

School Starts

### **Sept. 6:**

SEPTA Exec. Board Meeting  
7-9pm S.R. Elem. Library

### **Sept.11:**

Middle School Back to School Night  
7-9pm

### **Sept. 13:**

High School Back to School Night  
7-9pm

### **Sept.15:**

Kool Kids Bowling Registration  
Mid-State Lanes

### **Sept. 18:**

SEPTA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social  
7-9pm, S.R. Cafetorium.

### **Sept. 19:**

Elementary School Back to School  
Night 7-9pm

### **Sept.22:**

Kool Kids Bowling League Starts,  
Mid-State Bowling 2-4 pm

### **Sept.24:**

Board Of Ed. Pre-meeting 7:30pm

### **Sept. 27:**

Board of Ed. Meeting 7:30pm

### **October 4:**

SEPTA Exec. Board Meeting 7-9pm  
at the South River Elem. Library.

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### **October 20:**

#### **Developing an IEP / Least Restrictive Environment workshop.**

10:30-2:30 pm at the South River  
Public Library.

Guest Speaker: Penny Dragonetti  
SPAN Regional Director

A light lunch will be served between the  
two workshops. Each workshop runs  
approximately 2 hours long.

Please register for this event by calling the  
SEPTA information line at  
(732) 432-6747 or by emailing SEPTA at  
[septa\\_srnj@geocities.com](mailto:septa_srnj@geocities.com)

## **Welcome Back to a New School Year!**

It's a new year, a new beginning and SEPTA would like to welcome everyone back to another school year. We would like to welcome to South River Schools:

Elementary Principal: Mr. Sherman

Elementary Asst. Principal: Dorothy Unkel

Middle School Principal: Mr. Appleblatt

### **A Message from the President of SEPTA**

*everychild.onevoice.* That's the tag line of National PTA's new image campaign. I attended the campaign's kick off at the National PTA convention in Baltimore this summer. At first glance it appears that they forgot 15% of the children in this country qualify for Special Education. I spoke to out-going National PTA President Ginny Markel about this, only to find out that National PTA had given this issue a great deal of thought. It turns out that 2 of the children in the ads have Multiple Sclerosis and a third is wearing a 'Medic Alert' bracelet. So when you hear that phrase in the coming months you can be assured that the PTA is concerned about every child.

Just as the National PTA is changing to meet the needs of today's parents so is SEPTA changing. Last year we awarded a scholarship to a graduating special education student, he'll be attending a program for automotive technology this fall. This year we are planning on hosting more speakers on special ed issues, just look on page x for a preview of some of the workshops. Also you can expect to find a lot more information on our website. The most recent addition is the districts 'Corrective Action Plan / Needs Assessment' for our Special Education program. In the near future the website will include information on the Child Study teams and the Special Ed Teachers

I would like to encourage all parents to join and support SEPTA, we are here to help you help your children. So if there is topic you would like us to cover, or some other way that we can help, or if anyone would like to help out on any of our committees. Please let us know

*Bill Sellar*

**More on the Self-Assessment Process in South River...**

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**As you may be aware of the District of South River will be entering the second half of the Self-Assessment Process this year. During this school year, the State Monitoring Team from the N.J. Dept. of Special Education will be in residence with in the South River Public Schools for one week to complete their assessment of the Special Education Department. During this time they will review the district's compliance with special education laws and policies and once again, there will be a public forum meeting. This public forum meeting will be run by the N.J. Dept. of Special Education not by the school district. They will be asking you to comment on all aspects of dealings with the Dept. of Special Education in the course of your child's education while enrolled in the South River Public Schools system. It is very important that you, as a parent and advocate for your child's education, attend and give voice to you and your child's experiences. Your child's educational goals and achievements start with your involvement in their education. Remember you have the right to (1) ask questions, (2) it is important that you as your child's advocate participate in your child's annual I.E.P. meetings, and (3) stay in contact with everyone who is involved with your child's education. You may think that you do not have the time but it is your child's educational growth (or lack of it) that ultimately pays the price in the end. There are many organizations throughout**

**SEPTA's Calendar for the 2001-2002**

**School Year:**

*This year SEPTA will be hosting a wide range of informative workshops and hopefully offering the students of South River more in the way of recreational and social outlets by organizing programs starting in summer of 2002.*

Please mark your calendars for the following workshops and recreational opportunities:

**September:** Kool Kids Bowling League starts at Mid-State Bowling Saturdays 2-4pm Mid-State Mall, E. Brunswick (Runs approx. 13 weeks)

SEPTA's 3rd Annual Ice Cream Social 7-9pm South River Cafetorium

**October:** SEPTA/SPAN workshop: Developing an IEP for Achievement and The Least Restrictive Environment 10:30- 2:30 pm at the South River Public Library, 55 Appleby Ave., South River \*Please register for this workshop by contacting SEPTA at (732) 432-6747 or by emailing SEPTA at: [septa\\_srnj@geocities.com](mailto:septa_srnj@geocities.com)

**November:** "Parent's Role in Self-Assessment, monitoring & Corrective Action" Get involved and help local school **Districts get in compliance with** Special Education regulations. Presenter: representative from the DDC.

**December/ January** Tax Deductions for your Special Needs Child. Find out what you can deduct on your next tax return.

**February** "Strategies for Diverse Learners~ Applying the latest research to improve achievement for all students" Speaker: Lynda Fote~ Learning Plus

**SEPTA Needs Parents to Help with Upcoming Programs:**

SEPTA will be starting some new programs this year. We are currently researching several different programs that will allow us to bring to our students (with various needs) a recreational program that they can participate in. Anyone interested in helping SEPTA with this project, please contact us immediately. We would really like to offer more socialization and recreational opportunities to students and the best part- **we hope to run these programs for free to our students and their families!**

We will also be running several different fundraising programs this year to help generate funding for our newly founded SEPTA scholarship and for future programs and guest speakers. If you can help out and donate a few hours – you child(ren) will certainly enjoy the benefits of your time.

Please fill out the questionnaire below and return it. We will be contacting you shortly.

***Thank you!***

**I will be able to help SEPTA with:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Popcorn sales
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recreational Programs / Planning events
- \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Speakers / Seminars/ Workshops
- \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Refreshments for Workshops/ Seminars
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parents Helping Parents Meetings

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form to school in an envelope marked "SEPTA" or you may mail to:  
SEPTA  
81 Johnson Place  
South River, NJ 08882

***Special Education  
Parent Teacher Association  
of South River***

**Membership Application**

**2001-2002**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty/Staff \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Dues: \$\*.\*\* per person  
# of Memberships \_\_\_\_\_ x \$\*.\*\* = total: \_\_\_\_\_

One year MAILED subscription to the South River Advocate \$3.00 (S&H) \_\_\_\_\_  
NOTE: The South River Advocate is distributed FREE via backpack express, E-mail and available on our web site.

Tax Deductible Donation \_\_\_\_\_

**In order to serve you better please take a minute to fill out this questionnaire:**

Do you have a Special Needs Child/ Children? Yes / No

If so what age? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have access to E-Mail? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like information sent to your e-mail and if so What is the address?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have access to the World-Wide-Web? Yes / No

Would you be interested in information distributed over the Web? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
What Topics or Subjects would be of interest to you?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How can SEPTA help you and your child?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in being on one of the committees?  
\_\_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_ Refreshments \_\_\_\_\_ Membership

\_\_\_\_ Special events \_\_\_\_\_ Speakers \_\_\_\_\_ Legislative

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this completed form to school in an envelope marked "SEPTA" or mail to

SEPTA  
81 Johnson Place  
South River, N.J. 08882

# September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Labor Day	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> First Day of School	<b>6</b> SEPTA Executive <b>Board Meeting</b> 7-9pm	<b>7</b> HS Football Pep Rally	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Grandparent's Day	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Kool Kids Bowling <b>Registration at</b> Mid-State
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> SEPTA- Annual Ice Cream Social 7-9 pm Cafetorium Rosh Hashanah Begins	<b>19</b> Rosh Hashanah Ends	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> First Day of autumn Kool Kids Bowling starts 2-4pm
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Pre-Board of Education Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Yom Kippur Board of Ed. Meeting	<b>28</b> Middle School Dance 7:30-10pm	<b>29</b> Homecoming Kool Kids Bowling 2-4pm
<b>30</b>	<p align="center"><b>SEPTA October Events:</b>  <b>Saturday Oct. 20, 2001:</b> SEPTA and SPAN Workshops  <b>"Developing an IEP (individualized Education Program) for Achievement and Least Restrictive Environment"</b> 10:30-2:30 pm            at the South River Public Library, 55 Appleby Ave., South River, N.J.            Each workshop will run approximately 2 hours. A light lunch will be served between workshops. Please register for this workshop by calling SEPTA at (732) 432-6747 or by emailing us at: <a href="mailto:septa_srnj@geocities.com">septa_srnj@geocities.com</a></p>					

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