

THE SOUTH RIVER ADVOCATE

Vol. 3 Issue 5

The Newsletter of SEPTA of South River

February 2002

http://www.geocities.com/septa_srnj

septa_srnj@geocities.com

Information Line (732)432-6747

Coming Events:

January:

Feb 4th: SEPTA/SPAN workshop "Developing an IEP for Academic Achievement"

Elementary School Library 7-9

Please Register (See Calendar for details)

Feb 7th: SEPTA Board Meeting 7pm S.R. Elem. Library

Feb 12th: SEPTA workshop "Strategies for Diverse Learners" Middle School Cafetorium 7-9 pm

Please Register (See Calendar for details)

Feb 14th: Report Cards (K - 12)

Feb 18st: President's Day- **No School **

Feb 21th: Middlesex County Special Child Health

Meeting: E..B. Public Library 7:30 pm

Feb 25th: Board of Ed. Pre-Meeting 7pm Admin. Office

Feb 28th: Board of Ed. Meeting 7pm H.S. Library



January was an important month for education reform in New Jersey and across the county.

First New Jersey enacted legislation that gives School district across the state as much as \$25 million in additional funds to cover the cost of special education students above \$40,000 per pupil. This additional funding starts in the 2003 - 2004 school year.

Second, on January 8th President Bush re-authorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). For the first time in its 36 year history the ESEA defines the term parent involvement based on National PTA's National Standards for Parent and Family Involvement. This definition of parent involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning, that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's education at schools, and that parents are full partners in their children's education included, as appropriate, in the decision-making and on advisory committees.

Letter from the President (cont.)

Three years ago, National PTA initiated the Parent Act, which sought to strengthen, parent participation policies in ESEA. The Parent Act provisions included in the bill would:

- ensure Title I families can access data on their child's progress in terms they can understand;
- have states collect and disseminate information about effective parental involvement practices to ensure schools know how to encourage and expand parental participation;
- have states and schools describe how the use of education technology will be used to connect schools and families;
- require professional development activities to include training on how to involve and work with parents in their child's education;
- require states and districts to annually review parent involvement activities to ensure effectiveness;

Bill Sellar

← continued

The Special Education PTA of South River would like to thank the following for their generous donation to help fund our events and programs:

Laffin

Cheverolote~Oldsmobile of South River, NJ

Thank You

THE SOUTH RIVER ADVOCATE

Vol. 3 Issue 5

The Newsletter of SEPTA of South River

February 2002

http://www.geocities.com/septa_srnj

septa_srnj@geocities.com

Information Line (732)432-6747

South River to Start an Adaptive T-Ball League

The South River Dept. of Recreation will be starting an adaptive t-ball league for children with special needs in March of 2002.

Registration fee per child will be \$20.00 and children must supply their own mitt. All other equipment including t-shirts and hats will be provided by the South River Recreation Department.

*This program is run entirely by the South River Dept. of Recreation.

Practices will be held on Saturday mornings at Varga Park in South River and will run for 12 weeks.

If you are interested in signing your child up for t-ball this spring, please fill out the attached form. SEPTA will be contacting you in early March to notify you of registration dates and practice schedules as a courtesy to our community.

Child's

Name: _____

Age: _____ School: _____

Parent/Guardian's

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

I would be interested in helping coach in this league.

No, I am not able to help coach at this time.

Yes, I would like to hear about future SEPTA events by mail or by email.

Please return this form with your child to school in an envelope marked "SEPTA"

Or mail to:

SEPTA of South River

T-ball league

33 Pulawski Ave.

South River, NJ 08882

Comments on the IDEA

The Secretary of Education invites written comments from the public on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to assist the Department in preparing for reauthorization of the Act in 2002. In order to ensure that comments are considered by the Department in preparing its legislative proposal on IDEA, you should submit comments before February 25, 2002.

All comments concerning the reauthorization of IDEA should be addressed to Thomas Irvin, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education, and submitted by one of the following methods:

1. Internet. We encourage you to send your comments through the Internet at the following address: Comments@ed.gov. You must use the term IDEA Reauthorization in the subject line of your electronic message.
2. Surface Mail. Alternatively, you may submit your comments via surface mail to: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Mary E. Switzer Building, Room 3086, Washington DC 20202-2570.

The Dept. of Education is seeking comment on the following specific areas:

(1) Accountability. How, and to what degree, are children with disabilities being included in State and local accountability systems? What barriers exist to inclusion of these children in the accountability systems? What recommendations do you have to eliminate these barriers?

(2) Personnel Issues. In what areas of special education and related services (or early intervention services) are States and school districts (or lead agencies) experiencing problems in finding and retaining qualified personnel? Are funds that are available at the Federal, State, and local levels being used effectively to address personnel shortages? For teachers, administrators, and others responding to these questions, what recommendations do you have to alleviate personnel shortages? ...

(3) Parent Involvement. For parents of children with disabilities, what barriers to meaningful participation in your child's education have you experienced? For school districts, what barriers have you faced in ensuring meaningful parent involvement? For parents and professionals involved in the early intervention program under Part C, what barriers have you experienced? In each of these cases, have you experienced any efforts to increase parent involvement that you believe are successful? If so, please describe them.

(4) Transition to Post-School Endeavors. To what extent are school aged students with disabilities routinely participating in their IEP meetings? What barriers exist to full implementation of the IDEA's current transition requirements? What recommendations do you have to eliminate these barriers?

In submitting your comments, please identify the area of your involvement in special education, regular education or early intervention, as well as your role, if any, in that area (e.g., parent, teacher, student, service provider, administrator, or researcher). In addition, if appropriate to your comments, please identify the specific Part and section of IDEA that is the subject of your comments, and specify why the statute needs to be amended.

More information on the US Dept of Education's Request for Comments can be found on SEPTA's Website or Contact SEPTA at (732) 432-6747

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 “Developing an IEP for Academic Achievement” 7-9pm S.R. Elem. Library Please register	5	6	7 SEPTA Exec. Board Meeting 7pm S.R. Elem. Library	8	9
10	11	12 “Strategies for Diverse Learners” 7-9pm S.R. Cafetorium Please register	13	14 Report Cards (K-12)	15 Middle School Dance 7:30-10pm	16
17	18 President’s Day School Closed	19	20	21 Middlesex County Special Child Health Services: 7-9 pm East Brunswick Public Library	22	23
24	25 Board of Education Pre-Meeting	26	27	28 Board of Education Meeting		

To Register for either SEPTA workshop on February 4 and February 12th
Please call SEPTA at (732) 432-6747 or email us at : septa_srnj@geocities.com
 We ask that you register to insure that enough materials are available at each workshop.