

The South River Advocate

Vol.3 Issue 7 _____ The Newsletter of SEPTA of South River _____ April 2002

http://www.geocities.com/septa_srnj

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Information Line (732) 432-6747

Coming Events:

April 8: School reopens

April 8-10: 5th grade education trip

April 10: **SEPTA Board Meeting**
7-9pm Elementary School Library

April 11: NJ Bar Foundation 'Health Insurance, HMO's and Appeals' 7-9 p.m

April 16: **SEPTA Workshop:**
"Sensory Intergration Therapy"
Guest Speaker: Anne Cahll
7-9pm S.R. Middle School Library

April 16: End of 3rd marking period

April 18: Special Child Meeting: "An Overview of the Alliance for Disabled In Action's Services: The Needs of Children with Disabilities and Community Resources"
7:30 pm at the E.B. Public Library

April 26: **Deadline for the SEPTA 2002 Scholarship.**

April 29-30: ESPA testing

April 30: Report Cards sent home.

SEPTA To Donate Books on Special Education to the South River Public Library

The Special Education PTA of South River will be donating books on Special Education and related issues to the South River Public Library. They should be available to checkout in the next few weeks. ***The titles are:***

The ABC's of Learning Disabilities by B. Wong

The Child with Special Needs: Encouraging Emotional and Intellectual Growth by S. Greenspan

Self-Esteem Games: 300 fun Activities by B. Sher

A Parent's Guide to Special Education: A Practical Handbook by D. Smith

Unraveling the Mystery of Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders by K. Seroussi

Complete IEP Guide: How to Advocate for Your Special Ed. Child by L. Siegel

Steps to Independence: Teaching Everyday Skills to Children with Special Needs by B. Baker

Smart But Stuck: Emotional Aspects of Learning Disabilities and Imprisoned Intelligence by M. Orenstein

Something's Not Right: One Family's Struggle with Learning Disabilities by N. Lelewer

Life Beyond the Classroom: Transition Strategies for Young People With Disabilities by P. Wehman

A Parent's Introduction to Behavior Modification by J. Wilson

Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy- The Special Education Survival Guide by P. Wright

Understanding and Managing Child Behavior in the 90's by A. Wildermann

**If you know of a special education related book that SEPTA should put on the donation list for next year- Please let us know!*

Special Education Monitoring

Last year the School district began the process of Assessing its compliance with the Federal & State Special Education regulations. In January the New Jersey Dept of Education conducted their on-site monitoring evaluation of the district. In March they published their findings in a report to the district. You can view the report on our website, an along with the districts Corrective Action Plan that was submitted last June as part of the districts Self-Assessment.

SEPTA WOULD LIKE TO THANK
THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS:

**LAFFIN CHEVROLET -OLDSMOBILE
OF SOUTH RIVER**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Legislative Alert:

Courtesy of Exceptional Parent Magazine Feb.2002

"Rethinking Special Education for a New Century"

Those who are interested in special education and its current status in US legislative policy can download a free PDF version of "Rethinking Special Education for a New Century" located at <http://www.edexcellence.net>
Or call (888) 823-7474 for a free copy. This 14chapter volume scrutinizes the education now being received by 6 million children with disabilities in the US, and it is published with the participation of the Progressive Policy Institute.

"President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education"

President Bush created the Commission on Excellence in Special Education in October of 2001. The Commission is to collect information related to federal, state and local special education programs and to recommend policies for improving the education of students with disabilities. The Commission is charged to produce a final report to the President by this summer that contains findings and recommendations in nine areas:
**Cost-effectiveness, *Improving Results, *Research, *Early Intervention, *Funding Formulae, *Teacher Quality and Student Accountability, *Regulation and Red Tape, *What Models Work in the States, and *Federal vs. Local Funding*

For more information, visit the commission's Web site:
<http://www.ed.gov/inits/commissionsboards/whspecialeducation/index/html>

New Free NICHC Autism Fact Sheets Available:

A new series of free fact sheets describing the latest research findings on understand Autism, its causes and potential treatments are now available from NICHC.

Titles include: Autism Facts; Autism Question and Answers for Healthcare Professionals; Autism and Genes, Autism and the MMR Vaccine; Rett Syndrome; NICHD/NIDCD network on Neurobiology and Genetics of Autism; The Collaborative Programs of Excellence in Autism. Call (800) 370-2934 or visit <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/autism>

Reminder:

Deadline for the SEPTA 2002 Scholarship is April 26, 2002.

Good Luck to all applicants and the winner will be announce in May 2002

10 Brain Power Tips for Kids:

1. Show your child love and affection:

Showing your children that you love and appreciate them and creating a caring environment at home triggers better memory recall, thinking and problem solving skills.

2. Feed your child breakfast everyday:

Children get about one-fourth of their nutrient needs from breakfast, and research shows that skipping breakfast impairs children's performance in school.

3. Ensure your child receives 9-10 hours of sleep each night:

Adequate sleep contributes to several important learning, emotional, behavioral, and performance related functions.

4. Schedule regular health checkups for your child:

regular physicals, immunizations, hearing and vision screenings are key to monitoring your child's overall health needs.

5. Take an active role in your child's education:

Parents who are involved in their child's learning enhance their child's academic success.

6. Dedicate 10-60 minutes a day to your child's homework:

Show your child that you think homework is important by staying involved in their assignments.

7. Set high, but realistic expectations for your child:

Foster a love of learning by keeping children challenged academically and setting realistic goals for their learning level.

8. Engage your child in cultural art activities:

Participation in extracurricular activities has been linked to academic achievement in children.

9. Ensure your child participates in 1 hour of physical activity daily:

Research has shown that there is a link between regular exercise with improvement in self-esteem, discipline, some cognitive tasks and classroom behavior.

10. Give your child time for creative play:

Creative play helps with core academic skills important for reading, writing language development and problem solving.
Parents can take the Brain Power Quiz at www.quateroatmeal.com under "What's New" For more information or to view the Brain Power Tips for Kids online visit www.pta.org

The Special Education PTA of South River
Presents
A workshop on

“Sensory Integration Therapy”

April 16, 2002

7-9 pm

at the

South River Middle School Library

81 Johnson Place, South River, N.J.

Special Guest Speaker: Anne Cahl

A registered occupational therapist, certified in sensory integration and praxis testing (SIPT-certified) and NJ school systems certified.

This free workshop introduces the parent to an over view of Sensory Integration Dysfunction (DSI) and how it may affect a child at school and in the home.

Come learn about Sensory Intergration Therapy and how it can be used to improve gross motor, fine motor, perception, motor planning, organizational skills, activities of daily living, play, socialization, self-esteem, and more.

*For more information about this workshop,
please contact SEPTA at (732)432-6747 or email us at septa_srnj@geocities.com

SEPTA of South River

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*Child Advocacy

*Special Education Rights

*Informative Workshops

*Parent & Child Support

Special Education PTA ~ Every Child ~ One Voice

April

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<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	*Spring Holiday * * Schools Closed * * Spring Holiday * * Schools Closed*					
7	8 School Reopens 5 th grade Outdoor Education Trip	9 5 th grade Outdoor Education Trip	10 5 th grade Outdoor Education Trip SEPTA Board Meeting 7-9	11 Health Insurance HMO's & Appeals 7-9pm NJ Bar Found.	12	13
14	15	16 SEPTA Workshop: "Sensory Integration Therapy" Middle School Library 7-9pm	17	18 Special Child Health Services Parent's Support Group Meeting 7:30pm E.B. Public Library *See below for more information	19	20
21	22 Middle School Principal/Parent Round Table 9am	23	24	25	26 Elem. School Principal/Parent Round Table 9am	27
28	29	30 Report Cards Grades 1-12				

Special Child Health Services Family Support Group Meeting:

7:30 pm at the East Brunswick Public Library

Topic: "An Overview of the Alliance For Disabled In Action's Services: The needs of Children with Disabilities and Community Resources"

Guest Speaker: Ms. Deborah Bain

To confirm attendance, please call
(732) 745-3180

New Jersey Bar Foundation

The New Jersey State Bar Foundation offers free law-related seminars to the public at the New Jersey Law Center off Ryders Lane in New Brunswick.

Admission is free but advance registration is required.
Please Call 1 800- Free Law to register.

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