

THE SOUTH RIVER ADVOCATE

Vol.4 Issue 1

The Newsletter of SEPTA of South River

September 2002

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Coming Events:

The Special Education PTA **only** fundraiser, **Kidstuff discount coupon book, will run from Sept.9th-20th.**

Sept. 4: School reopens

Sept. 9th: SEPTA fundraiser Starts

Sept.10: HS Back to School Night 7-9pm

Sept.13th: HS Fall Pep Rally

Sept. 18th: ES Back to School Night 7-9 pm

Sept. 19th: MS Back to School Night 7-9pm

Sept. 20th: SEPTA fundraiser Ends.

Sept.23rd: Board of Ed. Pre-Meeting 7pm

Sept. 26th: Board of Ed. Meeting 7pm

Sept. 27th: MS Dance 7:30pm

Sept. 28th: Sensory Integration International Walkathon Roosevelt Park, Edison 8am.

Sept.30th: HS Spirit Week

October 5th:

Kool Kids Bowling League Registration.

Register for this league from 2-4pm at Mid State Bowling, E. Brunswick. This league is open to special needs students (no age restrictions) and their siblings.

Come join the fun!

KidStuff Fundraiser

The Special Education PTA of South River will run it's **only** fundraiser, **Kidstuff Discount Coupon books,** from Sept.9th-20th.

These books contain discount coupons from many useful places:

Clothing and shoe stores, party stores, office supply stores, many different places to eat, Outlet shopping centers, Toy and gift stores and most importantly- fun places to take the kids!

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to help us fund our:

***SEPTA Scholarship**

***Guest Speakers / Programs**

***Introduction to Music Appreciation for the Self-Contained Pre-School Classes**

***Special Education Resource Library**
(Started at the South River Public Library)

***And future programs we hope to bring!**

*Kidstuff books also are wonderful holiday gifts for friends and family members!

Thank you for your support!

**SEPTA would like to thank Laffin-Chevrolet of South River Magnifico's of East Brunswick for their generous donation.
Thank You!**

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President's Committee on Excellence in Special Education Report is Now

Available:

The Committee on Special Education report and findings is now available to read online at:
<http://www.ed.gov/inits/commissionsboards/whspecialeducation/reports/pceseinalreport.doc>

This 89page document contains the committee's findings and recommendations for correcting the problems currently embroiled in the system for educating special education student's nation wide.

Summary of the PCESE report:

1. IDEA generally provides basic legal safeguards however; the current system often places process above results, and bureaucratic compliance above student achievement, excellence and outcomes.
2. The current system waits for the child to fail instead of aiming for prevention and intervention. Student's do not get help early when that help can be most effective.
3. Children placed in special education are general education children first...they are not separable at any level-cost, instruction or even identification.
4. When children fail to make progress in special education-parents do not have the adequate options and little resources.
5. The culture of compliance has often developed from the pressures of litigation, diverting much energy of the public school's first mission: educating every child.
6. Many of the current methods of identifying children with disabilities lack validity.
7. Children with disabilities require highly qualified teachers-there is a desire for better preparation, support and professional development related to the needs of serving these children.
8. Research on special education needs enhances rigor and long-term coordination necessary to support the needs of children, educators and parents.
9. Focus on compliance and bureaucratic imperative in the current system, instead of academic achievement and social outcomes, fails too many children with disabilities. Too few successfully graduate from high school or transition to full employment... despite provisions in IDEA providing for transition services.

On the Books Shelf:

An interesting book parent of special education students may wish to look at:

**Better IEP's: How to Develop Legally
Correct and Educationally Useful
Programs 3rd Ed.** By Barbara D. Bateman
and Mary Anne Linden.

This book is a comprehensive guide for parents to make sure their child's IEP is written to covers all of their child's special education needs.

Divided into chapters on each step of the IEP process (from evaluation, classification, to writing and implementing an IEP to procedural safeguards) each chapter ends with a simply review and reference chart for parents to use. Stocked with helpful tips and suggestion for parents this book focuses on giving the parents the necessary tools to but them on track to helping the school districts develop an IEP to promote their child's educational growth (in all areas) to succeed. Most importantly, this book gives the reader samples of good (and bad) IEP's as a reference. Giving effective and simple advise in how to insure that your child's IEP is written in a manner that it contains items that your child will need to make the most of his or her educational this book maybe should be re-titled: "IEP's: Getting It Right."

It really is a book every parent of a special education student must read.

**This book is currently on order by the South River Public Library. If it is not yet available at the South River Public Library please ask the circulation desk about an inter-library loan.*