

THE SOUTH RIVER ADVOCATE

Vol.4 Issue 5

The Newsletter of SEPTA of South River

March 2003

www.specialeducationpta.org

info@specialeducationpta.org

Information Line (732) 651-7157

Coming Events:

March 1-9: AT&T Family week at the Theater.

March 5: *Board of Ed* Presentation on New Primary School Middle School Cafetorium 7 pm

March 6: SEPTA Board Meeting SR Elementary School Library 7-9 pm

March 11: Special School Bond Referendum Middle School Cafetorium 1-9 pm.

March 11: COSAC Support Group Meeting at South River Public Library 7:30pm

March 13: Special Education Parents Coffee in South River 9:30 am

March 21-22 SPAN Conference Ramada Inn Conference Center, East Windsor

March 24: *Board of Ed.* Pre-Meeting Board Conference Rm. 7 pm

March 27: *Board of Ed.* Meeting High School Library 7 pm.

April 1: SEPTA Workshop Dr Stephen Gordon What You Need To Know About Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavioral Intervention Plans

SEPTA to add to

Parent Resource Library:

The Special Education PTA of South River will be donating several books and videos to the South River Public Library on various topics of interest to parents of children with special needs.

If any parents would like to make a suggestion please contact SEPTA. These books / videos will be available to parents in the next few months. For more information, please visit our web site: www.specialeducationpta.org

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Abilities Expo April 11-13

SEPTA has Coupons for FREE admission to the Abilities Expo at the NJ Convention and Expo Center in Edison. See the April issue of the *Advocate* for more details.

Parents Coffee

A support group for parents and guardians of special education students is sponsoring monthly morning coffees 9:30 – 11:30 during the school year. This informal group meets monthly. For more information and meeting locations call Vivian Paulus (732) 297-4028.

The March Meeting will be in South River

Need More Info?

SEPTA has several free copies of manuals for parents and teachers. If you would like a copy for yourself please call SEPTA's Information line.

The Right to Special Education in New Jersey, A Guide for Advocates. Created by the Education Law Center and sponsored by the NJ State Bar Foundation. This manual is designed to help advocates, including parents, obtain special education for children with disabilities.

Tool for Teachers. Compiled by the NJ Developmental Disabilities Council. This provides basic information and guidance in best practices strategies for including students with disabilities in general education. While this was developed for teachers, parents will also find this very helpful.

The Special Education PTA
Of South River

Would like to thank the following local business
for their recent donations:

Laffin Chevrolet
Of South River
Magnifico's Ice Cream
Of East Brunswick
Thank You!

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Interested in a Summer Camp or Summer Recreation?

If you are a parent and interested in finding a summer camp or summer recreation program for your child

Start looking now.

Because of the high demand and limited amount of spaces available these programs fill up fast.

Who can you contact to get more information on summer camps and recreation programs? There are many organizations that can assist you in finding out more information on camps and summer recreation programs in your area:

The Office of Recreation
N.J. Department of Community Affairs
Telephone: (609) 292-6243
“Guide to ACA-Accredited Camps”

Information Line of Middlesex County
Telephone: 1-888-908-4636

State Office on Disability Services
(for local recreation resources)
Telephone: 1-888-285-3036

Middlesex County
NJ Assoc. of County
Offices for the Disabled, Inc
Telephone: (732) 745-4013

Or visit this website:
www.kidscamps.com

SEPTA 2003 Scholarship:

The Special Education PTA of South River is once again offering a \$250.00 scholarship to a special education student of South river who will be continuing their education upon graduation. Interested students can receive an application from their special education teacher or contact Dr. Marciante, Director of Special Education, South River Public Schools at (743) 613-4073.

*Applications must be received by April 17, 2003

Winner will be notified in early May
Good luck to all applicants!



AT&T Family Week at the Theatre
The New Jersey Theatre Alliance will be sponsoring its 6th annual AT&T Theatre Week. There will be more than 100 events across the state including several in New Brunswick.

Most are free and others are discounted.

The events run from March 1 through the 9

For more information
call (800) 843-2787
or visit their web site
www.familyweek.com

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Help Wanted:

Mothers, Fathers, Grandparents and Guardians who are concerned with their child's education are wanted and NEEDED by SEPTA to help-out on a variety of projects. We realize how crunched for time everyone is, especially parents of Special Needs children are so it does not matter how much or how little time you can help out, or when that time of day is. In as little as 1 hour a month you can help SEPTA, help you and other parents of Special Needs children.

If you are interested, please come to one of our meetings, call our Information line or e-mail us. We would love to hear from you

New K - 2 School Bond Referendums

The South River Board of Education will be holding a special bond referendum on Tuesday March 11 from 1 – 9pm on a proposed new K – 2 school. As many parents know the enrollment in the Elementary school has grown more than what was predicted when the school was first designed.

The new school is expected to cost \$11,939,795 however this will be offset by \$5,243,920 in state contributions. That's over 40% of the total cost of the school a tremendous savings to the local taxpayers!! This State funding may NOT be available if this Bond Referendum is defeated

Look for more information in your mail from the Board of Education or attend the Public Presentation on March 5 at 7 pm in the Middle school Cafetorium.

SPAN Conference 2003 Making the Connections for Student Success

Friday March 21 9:00 am - 4:15 pm

Saturday March 22 9:00 am - 3:45 pm

Ramada Inn National Conference Center, East Windsor, NJ

Forty-two informative and interactive workshops over two full days covering important topics in several areas:

Diversity and Discrimination	Special Education	Health Care Needs
School Reform	Early Childhood	Family Strengthening
Violence Prevention	Juvenile Justice	Parent to Parent

- Parents and professionals exchanging past experiences and new ideas
- A wide array of exhibits in areas of education, health and advocacy from across the state sharing free information and resources
- Inspiring guest speakers and informative workshops
- With workshops, presentations, discussion panels and a great opportunity for networking with other parents and professionals, the SPAN conference is an event you afford to miss.

You can Register for this conference

by phone 1-800-654-SPAN

fax 1-973-642-8080

on line www.spannj.org

mail Statewide Parents Advocacy Network

35 Halsey St, 4th Floor

Newark, NJ 07102

	Regular	At Door
Friday	\$80	\$100
Saturday	\$80	\$100
Both Days	\$150	\$190

What You Need To Know About Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavioral Intervention Plans

Tuesday April 1st, 2003

7 – 8 pm

South River Elementary School Library

81 Johnson Place, South River, NJ

Guest Speaker: Dr Stephen Gordon

Of Behavioral Therapy Associates, Somerset NJ

Learn to use positive behavioral supports to achieve goals with cooperation from your child or student.

Make learning difficult tasks easier in a positive atmosphere promoting mutual rewards for all involved.

For more information on this

Free public workshop

Please contact SEPTA at

(732) 651 – 7157

or visit our website at

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