

THE SOUTH RIVER ADVOCATE

Vol.4 Issue 7

The Newsletter of SEPTA of South River

May 2003

www.specialeducationpta.org

info@specialeducationpta.org

Information Line (732) 651-7157

Coming Events:

- May 8:** Special Education Parents Coffee
- May 11- 17:** Special Education Week
- May 13:** High School Concert, High School Auditorium 7 pm
- May 14:** SEPTA General Membership & Board Meeting SR Elementary School Library 7-9 pm
- May 15:** Middle School Concert, Middle School Cafetorium 7 pm
- May 16:** High School Prom
- May 20:** Elementary School Concert Grades 1 & 2 Middle School Cafetorium 7 pm
- May 21** Elementary School Concert Grades 3 & 4 Middle School Cafetorium 7 pm
- May 26:** Memorial Day – School Closed
- June 3:** South River Senior Awards Night, High School Auditorium, 9 pm
- June 4:** SEPTA Board Meeting SR Elementary School Library 7-9 pm

And the 2003 SEPTA Scholarship Winner is...

SEPTA would like to congratulate
Ricardo Lourenco!

As this years scholarship recipient. This year it was especially difficult to select a winner. We would like to wish Ricardo Lourenco and all of everyone else who applied the very best. May all of you attain the goals you have?

Good luck to all our graduating seniors!

Our Thoughts and Prayers
are with our troops in the Gulf. May they all come home safe and sound.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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.

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!

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. It does not matter how much or how little time you can give, or even when that time of day is. In as little as 1 hour a month you can help SEPTA, help yourself 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

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SEPTA ELECTIONS:

At SEPTA's May 14 meeting we will be holding elections for officers for 2003-2005.

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate of officers.

President	Bill England
Vice President	Patty Borgstede
Treasurer	Bill Sellar
Secretary	George Borgstede
By-Laws Chair	Emily Grasso
Faculty Rep	Open

Any current member can vote or run for an office.

EDUCATION NEWS

Do you want to know what is happening in Education around the country? SEPTA's web site has a new page with links to the Education pages of many National news sites, like:

CNN	MSNBC
US News & World Report	Star Ledger
Philadelphia Inquirer	New York Times
The Los Angeles Times	Washington Post

You can access our page from our menu or just go to –

www.specialeducationpta.org/ednews

SEPTA to add to Parent Resource Library:

We are putting the finishing touches on the list of books and videos that SEPTA will be donating to the South River Public Library. Currently on SEPTA's donation list are books on Special Ed Law, IEP's and ADD/ADHD. 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

Ever "Been There...Done That?" Now how about putting it to some good use!

The Special Education PTA is asking for parent volunteers to help other parents in special education.

We would like to set up a program where parents can contact other parents who have "Been there...and done that" with questions concerning special education and related issues.

We would like to set up a contact for each grade level (ex. Parents of children who have recently completed Pre-school, Elementary, Middle, and High School) in which parents with children entering that level of education could contact the "tier parent(s)" by either telephone or email during hours set by the "tier parent".

Remember when you and your child started out in each stage of the special education process: the uncertainty regarding procedures, tests, where to get information, and just plain where do you start in all this ... Help put your experiences to good use and help someone else benefit from what you've learned.

Tier parent support would be kept confidential and would be up to the tier parent how much time they could volunteer.

If you are interested please contact

SEPTA by email at infor@specialeducationpta.org or

Call SEPTA at (732) 651-7157.

Help us make the phrase "Been there...done that" mean more than learning by trial and error... Let it be a way of offering knowledge and guidance to someone who could use it the most.