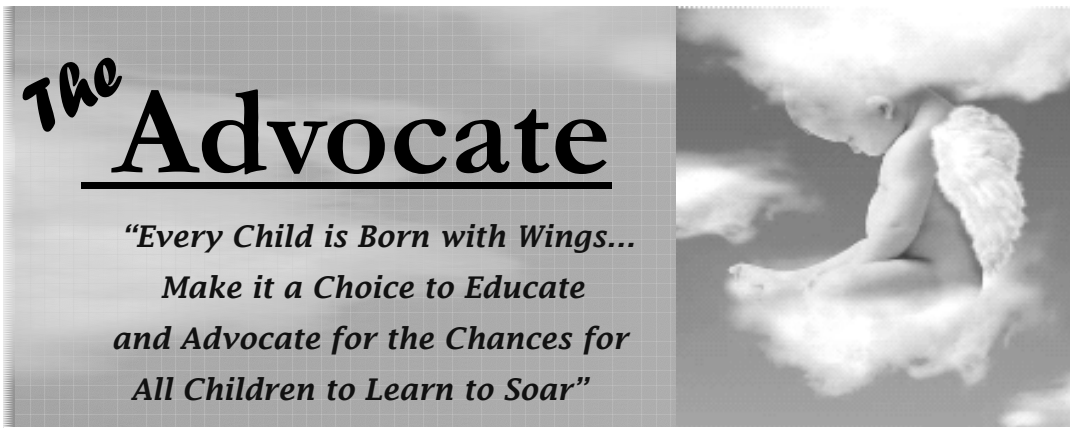


SEPTA would like to thank
Disability Services & Advocacy, LLC
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 For sponsoring the mailing of our newsletters.



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The Advocate
 The Advocate is the free public newsletter of the Special Education PTA of South River.
 Published monthly from August to June of each year by the Executive Board Members of the SEPTA - this newsletter is mailed directly to families of classified students of the South River Public School District from the Office of Special Education. Additional copies are available at the South River Public Library. Past editions of the Advocate can be downloaded from our website. Interested individuals may sign up for our electronic newsletter and a listing of other newsletters related to special education issues by visiting our website at:
www.specialeducationpta.org
 Questions related to the Special Education PTA as an organization, the services we provide, and our calendar of events can be answered by telephone at (732)651-7157 or by email at info@specialeducationpta.org
 If you would like to submit letters or articles, post information or contribute pictures to be included in future editions of the Advocate please contact our newsletter by email at: SRPTAAvocate@aol.com

SEPTA welcomes our New President

We would like to take a moment and welcome our new president, **Barbara Malgioglio**. Barbara joined our executive board last year and has contributed some fresh new ideas and energized us to grow and expand our services to the students and families of South River.

This year we will endeavor to create more programs and events in which our classified students can be included, take an active part in their community and be acknowledged for the wonderful accomplishments that they achieve on a daily basis in which parents and adults should stand up and cheer them for. This year we will

be issuing monthly certificates to students for their outstanding achievements toward each monthly theme, for which their teacher's acknowledged them for. Each student will receive their award at the following month's SEPTA meeting, including a special gift from the SEPTA Board. We will be altering the SEPTA "Be A Reader" reading incentive program so that parents can hand in the reading logs directly to the South River Public Library— and students receive their free DVD or VHS rental immediately. Lastly, we realize how difficult it may be for parents to attend meetings— as an added incentive to help you to stay involved with special education in South River School District we will be handing out

"goodies" to all who attend the scheduled meetings in appreciation and as a thank you for making the commitment to the classified children of South River.

Barbara Malgioglio

Working together we can achieve far greater results for our children than struggling alone.

Support Our Troops
 Find ways each day so say thank you to the service men and women with acts of kindness for the services they provide for our country.

SEPTA Monthly Awards

SEPTA will be issuing monthly student awards to students, primary –middle school, who are nominated by their teachers. Awards are will be given out to the student and their parents at the following month's

- SEPTA meeting.
Monthly Theme's for the 2005-2006 School Year:
 September: Perpetually Prepared
 October: Creative Thinker
 November: Good Citizen
 December: Kind and Caring

- January: Attentive Listener
 February: Positive Attitude
 March: Outstanding Role Model
 April: Extraordinary Effort
 May: Consistently Cooperative
 SEPTA meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the Month at 6:30pm at the S.R. Public Library

NEWS FROM THE WEB:

NASCO Special Education Learning Essentials

www.eNASCO.com

Nasco's 2005 Special Education Learning Essentials free catalog is now available to the public.

This catalog offers hundreds of products specially selected to help teach disabled students from kindergarten through the 12th grade.

The 80 page catalog features over 200 new products in a wide range of areas:

- *sensory *manipulatives *puzzles
- *communication & language
- *basic academic skill tools *math
- *money *life-skills
- *pre-vocational & work skills training tools *arts & crafts
- *music *videos *games

NASCO Special Education Learning Essentials also offers regularly online special education newsletter, lesson plans.

To request a free catalog by telephone call toll free 1-800-558-9595.

New Housing Website Launched*

A new website that will help people with disabilities and others find housing that is both affordable and accessible has been recently launched. The New Jersey Housing Resource Center was funded through a Federal Real Choice Systems Change grant that was awarded to the NJ Division of Disability Services.

The Website provides an online tool for finding and listing affordable housing, helping people with disabilities explore housing options, and links. Information is updated biweekly and the service is free. The goal of the site is to create a single "one-stop" place that

could be used both by people who are seeking affordable and accessible housing and by people who have affordable housing, accessible housing available for rent.

Partners in creating this website are the Department of Community Affairs and the Housing Finance Mortgage Corporation. To check it out, go to **www.njhousing.gov**

**This article first appeared in print in "Monday Morning" August 2005.*

"Monday Morning" is a newsletter produced by the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities.

F.Y.I. Kool Kids Bowling League

The Kool Kids Bowling League, a league for classified students and their siblings, will be holding its fall league registration on **September 24 from 2-4pm at Majestic Lanes off Rt. 9** in Hopelawn /Woodbridge.

The Kool Kids league will start on **October 1, 2005** and will bowl for 18 weeks on Saturdays from 2-4pm. At the end of the 18 weeks an award ceremony/ party is held were all participants receive a trophy and Visa gift certificate. League is open to children ages 3 years and up. Registrants can choose to bowl either one or two games (with or without bumpers) per week.

A \$7.00 registration fee per child will be charged when registering for the league. Weekly bowling fee includes the cost of shoe rental and use of a bowling ball.

Cost per week:

1 game \$6.00 or 2 games \$8.00

For more information please call the SEPTA information line at (732) 651-7157.

****If you need directions to Majestic Lanes, please contact them at (732) 826-6800.***

"All persons, with or without disabilities, smile in the same language"

*Honorable Margaret J. Giannini, MD, FAAP
United States Dept. of Health and Human Services*

Mark your Calendar:

**The next SEPTA meeting will be held on
Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30pm
at the South River Public Library.**

Come learn about the exciting programs we are planning this year! Join a committee & help!

Gov. Codey enacts \$200 million “Special Needs Trust Fund” for housing

Governor Codey recently signed into law the “Special Needs Housing Trust Fund” for \$200 million dollars to be used to create 10,00 affordable housing units designed for people with developmental disabilities and mental health issues. This project, projected to be spread out for the course of 10 years, will allow 2,500 people who are currently housed in state psychiatric hospitals and developmental centers to move to outside living, Codey said.

The wait for housing is averaging 10 years, for people with developmental disabilities said Thomas Baffuto, executive director of the New Jersey Arc. He said of 1,500 of the 3,000 people in state developmental centers could be moved to outside housing if it was available. He said there are 6,000 clients living with families, including many elderly parents, who are on the waiting list.

“This is a humanity issue...that deals with a need to help these families and treat our clients with respect and dignity,” said William Testa, executive director of the Morris County ARC.

Information for this article was summarized from an article, “Codey enacts \$200M housing law: People with mental illness will benefit from Special Needs Trust Fund” written by Lawrence Ragonese (Star-Ledger Staff writer). This article appeared in the Star-Ledger on August 4, 2005 pg 32.

The SEPTA 2005 Holiday Party: We are asking for parents to help us make it a success!

Last year, SEPTA undertook an new initiative and hosted the 1st SEPTA Holiday Party. Our movie event was a wonderful party were classified students and their families could enjoy the spirit of the season while viewing the movie, “The Polar Express.” We were extremely pleased by the large turnout of students and their families to this event! We would like to continue hosting this party but we need parents to volunteer and assist in the planning.

If you can volunteer time to:

- *to make telephone calls
- *help assembly gift bags
- *drop off flyers to the schools

We would love to hear from you!

Any parent wishing to join this committee and take an active part in planning this event please give us a call or attend the October 5 meeting at 6:30pm

Please call Barbara at (732) 613-6323 or Pat (732) 432-0663.

Whatever assistance or time you can volunteer can really make a difference in the success of this year’s holiday party!

**Show
You
Care!**

“Embracing All Children”

Silicone bracelets will be on sale at the SEPTA table during “Back To School Nights” Cost \$2.00 each
Be sure to get yours!

Autism Publications Released:

The Department of Education recently released the New Jersey Autism Program Quality Indicators. The APQI describe effective models of educating students with autism spectrum disorders. These models represent best practices from clinical experiences and research findings. The APQI will provide districts with information and guidance to plan, improve, and administer programs for students with autism. In addition, it will provide a program evaluation tool for both parents and educators. Copies for reference and loan are available at the LRC (Learning Resource Center , telephone 732-274-5570.) The publication can also be downloaded from the Dept. of Education website:

www.state.nj.us/education
select **Special Education**, then
**Information for Parents and
Districts**

Remember to support your school by collecting Box Tops for Education

It is something quick and easy you can do for your school everyday!

**SEPTA is planning
to host family
friendly activities
and play dates for
everyone to enjoy!**

**If interested in
joining or help plan
upcoming events or
activities please contact
Barbara at (732) 613-6323
or Pat at (732) 432-0663.**

SEPTA

November 2nd Meeting: "Beyond F.A.T. City"

(Frustration, Anxiety, & Tension: Experience what it is like to have a learning disability)

For those of you who may have seen the original production of *"How Difficult Can this Be? The F.A.T. City Workshop"* by *Richard Lavoie* in which the viewer experiences the same frustration, anxiety and tension that children with learning disabilities face in their daily lives this follow up documentary, *"Beyond F.A.T. City"* focuses on those three all too familiar feeling families of children with learning disabilities face. This new documentary will focus on the history and philosophy of the F.A.T. City project, the major trends and issues in the field of learning disabilities since 1987 and the challenges ahead for parents and educators in relationship to special education.

"Viewing the world as a person with a learning disability is a real "eye opener"...anyone who works in field of special education or has a special needs child should watch this movie." - Anonymous

NJ Bar Association

Free Public Workshops:

The New Jersey Bar Association will be hosting the following free public workshops:

November 3:

Medicare- Medicaid Maze 1-3pm

Special Needs Trust 7-9pm

November 16:

Special Education Law 7-9pm

** You must pre-register if you are interested in attending any of the above mentioned workshops by calling the Law Center at 1-800-Free Law.*

The workshops will be held at the Law Center, 1 Constitution Square (off Ryder's Lane), New Brunswick.

For more information on the NJ Bar Association visit them at www.njsba.com or call 1-800-Free Law

South River Public Library Programs:

September Children's Programs:

Sept. 12: Zzzz Bedtime Stories & Other Activities
Ages 3-6 years 7pm

Sept. 13: Gerbils, Goldfish and other class pets
Ages 5-7 years 4pm

Sept. 15: Toddler Time (ages 18-36 months) 11am
Preschool Pals (ages 3-5yrs.) 4pm
Rockin' Readers (all ages) 7pm
Kindermusik Demo: *please call library for class times*

September Adult Programs:

Sept. 22: Adult Book Group Discussion Meeting
7:30pm Book: "Wait Till Next Year"

Sept. 27: Internet & You! 7pm

October Programs at a Glance:

Oct. 3: Zzzz Bedtime Stories & Other Activities
Ages 3-6 years 7pm

Oct. 6: Toddler Time (ages 18-36 months) 11am
Preschool Pals (ages 3-5yrs.) 4pm
Underwear (ages 5-8yrs) 7pm

Oct. 13: Rockin' Readers (all ages) 7pm

Oct. 15: Indoor Play (all ages) 1:30pm

Oct. 17: Indoor Play (all ages) 4pm

Oct. 20: Toddler Time (ages 18-36 months) 11am
Preschool Pals (ages 3-5yrs.) 4pm
Art & Crafts Extravaganza (all ages) 7pm

Movies Showing at the Library in October:

** Pooh's Heffalump Halloween*

September 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 School Starts	7 SEPTA Meeting 6:30pm S.R. Public Library	8	9	10
11	12 Primary Back to School Night 7pm SEPTA Note card Fundraiser starts	13	14 Primary School Sally Foster Fundraiser starts	15 High School Back to School Night 7pm	16	17
18	19	20 Elem. School Back to School Night 7pm	21 Middle School Back to School Night 7pm	22	23	24 SEPTA Kool Kids Bowling Registration 2pm
25	26	27 Primary School Picture Day	28	29	30 Primary School Sally Foster Fundraiser ends	

October 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 SEPTA Kidstuff Discount Coupon Book Sale	4	5 SEPTA Meeting 6:30pm S.R. Public Library	6 Primary Entertainment Book Sale Starts	7	8
9	10 <u>School Closed</u>	11 Primary PTA Exec. Board Meeting 7pm	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Primary Entertainment Book Sale Ends	19	20 Primary School Popcorn Sale	21 SEPTA Kidstuff Discount Coupon Book Sale Ends	22
23	24	25 Primary School Book Sale Starts	26	27	28 Primary School Book Sale Ends	29
30	31 Happy Halloween!					

The SEPTA of South River

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South River, New Jersey 08882
Information Line: (732) 651-7157
E-mail: info@specialeducationpta.org

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www.specialeducationpta.org

"Every Child is Born with Wings....
Make it a Choice to Educate and
Advocate for the Chances for
All Children to Learn to Soar"

*The SEPTA of South River was founded by a group of parents who
wished to promote the education and advocacy rights of the special needs
children of their community..*

By providing parents with the tools and effective advocacy skills ~

We endeavor to keep this goal a reality so that

Every Child Will Fulfill Their Dreams
and Learn to Soar.

Interested in
obtaining a copy of the
**SEPTA of
South River's
S. E. Resource CD-Rom?**
Contact SEPTA
At (732) 651-7157
Or Email us at:
info@specialeducationpta.org
Cost: \$7.50
(includes ship/handling fees)

Help Wanted:

Would you like to help with
our Newsletter, or Website?

Have you come across an
interesting book, article or
website that deals with
education, special ed., or
parenting that you'd like to
share with others? Write a
short summary and we'll love
to put it in our newsletter and
web page.

SEPTA Up Coming Events:

October 6:

SEPTA Meeting

6:30pm
So. River Public Library
(upstairs meeting room)
"Planning & Organization for
the SEPTA Holiday Party"

November 2:

SEPTA Meeting:

6:30pm
So. River Public Library
(downstairs meeting room)
"Beyond F.A.T. City"
Frustration, Anxiety & Tension:
reviewing the major trends and
issues in the field of learning
disabilities and the challenges
ahead for parents & educators.

SEPTA Fundraisers for 2005-2006:

Design Your Own Note Cards

This fundraiser will run Sept. 12 through Sept. 23, 2005. Your
note cards will arrive the week of Nov. 14, just in time for your
holiday correspondence!

Kidstuff Discount Coupon Books

This great book contains discount coupons for over 250 stores and
business. discount coupon book will go on sale from **October 3 -
October 21, 2005.**

Baja Fresh Fundraiser: April 27, 2005.

Special Education Week Bracelet Sale:

We will be selling adult sized silicone bracelets imprinted with
"Embracing All Children" for \$2.00 each

Bracelets will be on sale the week of **May 8-12, 2006** and at our
table during the Back to School Nights at the
Primary, Elementary, and Middle Schools in September.

We appreciate your support for our small PTA during these
fundraisers. The money we make from these fundraisers directly support our
scholarship, holiday party, workshops and resource library donations.