

November 2005
Volume 7 , Issue 2

SEPTA would like to
thank

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The Advocate

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



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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 Nov. 2 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

SEPTA will be distributing free informational materials

that will reinforce the message of "Beyond F.A.T. City" to all those who attend this workshop.

To ensure that we have enough materials for all those who wish to attend, please register by calling SEPTA at (732) 651-7157 or emailing SEPTA at SRPTAAvocate@aol.com.

***Refreshments will be served and Door Prizes will be given out.**

Join us for a fun evening!

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.**

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.

NEWS FROM THE WEB:

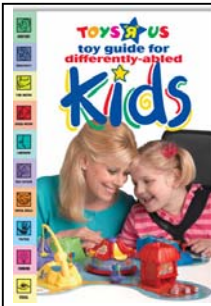
www.mapsexoffenders.com

An aid in assisting parents in the fight against sexual predators has now become available to parents in New Jersey.

“The company uses state databases to provide information about sex offenders including their addresses, photos, criminal and vehicle information.”¹. A red bubble will appear on the map of the of the city or town entered alerting parents of a registered sex offender.

Though still in testing phase this website is another tool for parents to use to keep their children safe.

1. “Sex-offender Web site will aid residents in state” The Associated Press.



Trying to find a gift item that will enhance your child’s skills?

Toys R Us has compiled a catalog that categorizes toys by the skills (motor, phonetic, following directions, etc.) that they enhance. This catalog is now available online for parents at: http://toysrus.richfx.com/catalog_toysrusdiffernetlyabled_a/roto_differentlyabled_a.html?catolog

SEPTA Membership Application

SEPTA Membership Application 2005-2006

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Type of membership:

parent faculty/staff other

of memberships _____ x \$6.00 each

Membership Total : _____

Tax Deductible Donation: _____

Grand Total: _____

Your support has allowed us to provide for an annual scholarship to a graduating Senior of the South River School District, the SEPTA Holiday Party, an annual donation of books, computer programs and magazines to the SEPTA Resource Library in the South River Public Library and a variety of speakers for the parents and teachers of our community.

Thank you for caring about the children in our community and for supporting SEPTA!

If we make our goal to live a life of compassion and unconditional love, then the world will indeed become a garden where all kinds of flowers can bloom and grow.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross
Swiss-Born American Psychiatrist & writer

*Join us for the
2nd Annual*

SEPTA Holiday Party

Join us as we board....

The Santa Express

The scenic Black River & Western Railroad locomotive train ride with Santa Claus.



Date: Sunday, December 4, 2005

Time: 11:30 am

Place: Black River & Western R.R. Station, Flemington, NJ

Cost: \$8.00 for 1 parent and 1 child combination ticket for 2005-2006 SEPTA members*

**To qualify one parent of the house hold must be a 2005-2006 SEPTA member.*

\$12.00 for 1 parent and 1 child combination ticket for non- SEPTA members

Additional children's tickets can be purchased for \$4.00 each.

**For Safety Reasons: A Parent or Guardian Must Accompany Any Child Attending This Event At All Times!*

Show your Black River & Western ticket stub from this event at the Information Center at Liberty Village Premium Outlets and receive a **FREE** VIP Coupon Book for hundreds of dollars of additional savings at participating stores.

.....
Yes, I would like to attend the 2nd Annual SEPTA Holiday Party!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ Email _____

Number of tickets: _____ at \$ 8.00 for 1 parent & 1 child ticket () Yes, I am a 2005-2006 SEPTA member.

_____ at \$12.00 for 1 parent & 1 child ticket () No, I am not a SEPTA member.

_____ at \$4.00 for an additional child ticket.

Total amount enclosed: _____ . Please make checks out to SEPTA of So. River.

Please mail to: SEPTA Holiday Party

81 Johnson Place, South River, NJ 08882

*Deadline for ordering tickets: November 14, 2005.

Have a question about the SEPTA "Santa Express" Party? Call Pat at (732) 432-0663.

So. River Public Library Events:

November 14: 7pm
So. River Cafetorium

“Lion, Witch & the Wardrobe”

C.S. Lewis’s famed *Chronicles of Narnia* comes to life with a touring production of “The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by the talented cast from Youth Stages. Recommended for children ages 6 yrs and up.

November 21: 7pm
S.R. Public Library

Author Visit:
Susan Roth

Join us for a special evening as the Library welcomes celebrated Children’s book author & illustrator, Susan Roth.

Each Month the S.R. Public Library offers free public movies for the whole family to enjoy! Contact the S.R. Public Library for more information.

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 Resource Library Donations for 2005

We are proud to announce that the SEPTA Resource Library Collection is growing at the South River Public

Library. Each year, SEPTA donates books, a special education magazine subscription, computer software and VHS/ DVD materials pertaining to special education issues to our local library. This year’s donated materials should be available to the

public soon. We are pleased to announce that the computer software programs purchased will now be available for patrons to borrow from the library as well. So stop in and browse the SEPTA Resource collection today!

SEPTA 2005

Donations:

Magazine subscription:

Exceptional Parent Magazine (1yr)

DVD:

Baby Babble: Speech Enhancing DVD for Babies & Toddlers.

Books:

*The ADD Answer: How to Help your Child Now-With Questionnaires and Family-Centered Action Plans to Meet Your Child’s Specific Needs.

*A Parent’s Guide to Special Education.

*Enzymes for Autism and other Neurological Conditions.

*What Your Doctor May Not Tell You About Children’s

Vaccinations.

*The Late Talker: What to do if your Child isn’t talking yet.

*Childhood speech, Language and Listening Problems.

*The Special Educator’s Books of Lists.

*The Special Educator’s Complete Guide to 109 Diagnostic Tests.

Computer Programs:

Earobics Step 1
Earobics Step 2
Earobics 1

These computer programs are phonic basic and help improve spelling and reading comprehension skills.

*Materials should be available at the end of November or the beginning of December 2005.

Autism Is A World

A voyage into the world of Sue Rubin, an autistic woman. She was diagnosed as autistic and treated as mentally retarded until the age of 13 years of age when she began to communicate with the help of a keyboard.

This enlightening documentary thrusts the viewer into the experiences an autistic person lives with daily. It also dispenses the

myth that all people with autism (or any other communication disability for that matter) are mentally retarded as they were in the past. This documentary indirectly points to finding ways to showcase a disabled person’s contributions and open up areas of opportunities for them instead of categorizing them with preconceived notions of the extent of “their abilities.”

Autism:

“...Really hate it because non verbal autistic people are not given an opportunity to show their intelligence”

Sue Rubin

28 yr old autistic woman

Lecturer & motivational speaker

This ground braking CNN documentary is now available at the So. River Public Library.

November 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Primary PTA Meeting 7pm	2. SEPTA Workshop "Beyond F.A.T. City" 6:30pm <i>S.R. Public Library</i>	3 NJ Bar Assoc.: Medicare-Medicaid 1-3pm Special Needs Trust 7-9pm	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>South River Public Schools Closed ****South River Public Schools Closed</i>						
13	14	15	16 NJ Bar Assoc.: Special Education Law 7-9pm	17 Prim./Elem. Popcorn Sale	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<i>South River Public Schools Closed</i>						
27	28	29	30			

December 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 SEPTA Holiday Party: "Santa Express"	5	6 Prim./Elem. Holiday Sale Starts	7 SEPTA Meeting 6:30pm	8	9 Prim./Elem. Holiday Sale Ends	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<i>South River Schools Closed December 26, 2005– January 2, 2006 for Winter Recess</i>						

The SEPTA of South River

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

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We're on the Web!

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. Email it to:
SRPTAAvocate@aol.com

Up Coming Events:

November December January:

November 2:

SEPTA Meeting:

6:30pm

So. River Public Library

"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.

Informative Materials will be dis-
tributed; to insure all attending will
receive a copy; please register by
calling (732) 651-7157.

**Refreshments & Door Prizes will
be given out.*

Join us for a fun evening!

December 4:

SEPTA Holiday Party!

December 6-10

Primary/Elem.
Holiday Shop Sale.

December 7:

SEPTA Meeting:

6:30pm

So. River Public Library

**So. River Schools Closed
from Dec. 26 to Jan. 2, 2006*

January 4:

SEPTA Meeting

6:30pm

So. River Public Library

February:

February 1:

SEPTA Workshop

6:30pm

So. River Public Library

***"IEP & Transition
Planning: Tips for
making both easier on
you and your child"***