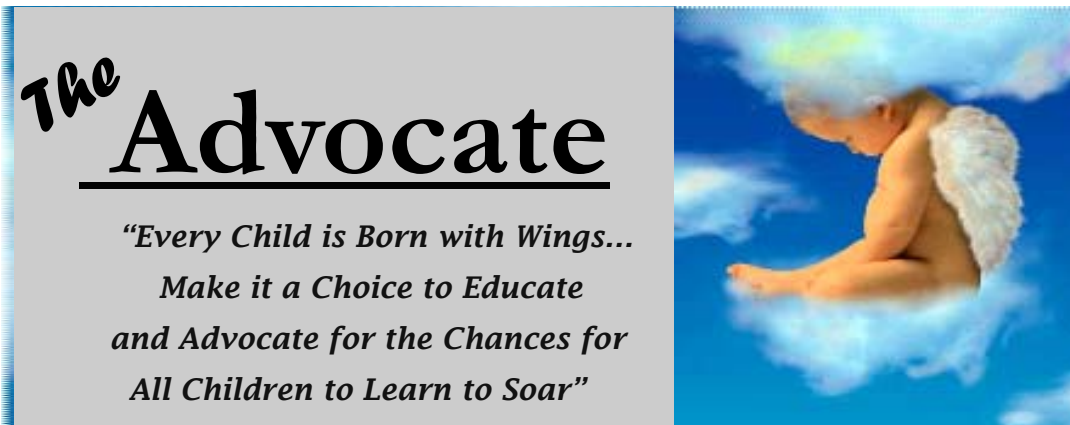


SEPTA would like to thank
Disability Services & Advocacy, LLC
www.dsausa.net
 For sponsoring the



Inside this issue:	
<i>SEPTA Holiday Party</i>	1
<i>What's New Concerning Spec. Ed. in South River</i>	1
<i>New from the WEB</i>	2
<i>Words to Inspire You</i>	2
<i>Raritan Valley YMCA</i>	2
<i>Insert: SEPTA Events Flyer SEPTA Reading Log</i>	3 & 4
<i>Thank you to our local businesses for donations</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	6

SEPTA 2nd Annual Holiday Party: Fun Aboard the Santa Express!

On Sunday, December 4 the Special Education PTA (SEPTA) held its Second Annual Holiday Party by attending the "Santa Express" at the Black River & Western Railroad. Those attending were treated to a 1 hour scenic train ride through Ringoes & Flemington, N.J. A special appearance by Santa highlighted this event for the children. We would like to extend special thanks to the parents and children who attended and shared this special day with us. This was a wonderful way for families to share the "magic" of the Holiday Season with others.

SEPTA would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

For more information on Black River & Western Railroad train excursions please call (908)-797-7300

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:
SRPTAAadvocate@aol.com

What's New Concerning Special Education in the South River School District

Congratulations to Lisa Michallis, the So. River Director of Spec. Education

The Special Education PTA of South River (SEPTA) would like to extend warm wishes and congratulations to Lisa Michallis, the Director of Special Education in South River, on the birth of her son in October.

We wish her and her family endless joy and blessing with their new little one.

Faculty Change in O.T. Provider

For those whose children receive occupational therapy service as part of their I.E.P. in district:

Sangeeta Monga resigned her position as O.T. in October 2005.

NEWS FROM THE WEB:

Kudos to HBO for their documentary entitled:

“I have Tourette’s But Tourette’s Doesn’t Have Me”

This documentary takes a candid look at the lives of more than a dozen American children who have Tourette’s Syndrome. Told by children who have Tourette’s Syndrome; it is brutally honest in it’s account of how this neurological disorder affects their lives. These children are wonderfully articulated and candid as they explain how the “ticks” and “verbal out burst / noises” and “excessive compulsive tendency” affect their school work, social experiences and how different medications currently marketed to help affect their lives. It also approaches Tourette’s Syndrome from the outside with commentary from school mates and friends of the children interviewed.

The underlying message is that inclusion and enlightening peers and the public about one’s disability go along way in improving the success and self image of children with disabilities.

Some statements from this documentary:

“I feel more confident because I know one kid, one friend of mine will accept me no matter what I do....”

“I hate substitutes. Tourette’s and substitutes don’t mix”

“Kids with Tourette’s Syndrome are just like any other kid...with just a few disabilities....but basically like any other kid.”

* **“I Have Tourette’s But Tourette’s Doesn’t Have Me”** is 28 minutes in length and is currently available on Comcast On Demand.

Raritan Valley YMCA to Offer More Programs Geared to the Special Needs Population in the Future

SEPTA is pleased to announce that the Raritan Valley YMCA (currently utilizing St. Mary’s School off Whitehead & Jackson) is looking to expand its program offerings to students with special needs. Gina Stravic, the program director of the YMCA, has been actively meeting with SEPTA for ideas as to the types of programs children with special needs can be included in as well as implementing and designing specific program offerings that those with special needs may benefit from.

Starting in January 2006, the Raritan Valley YMCA will be offering a special needs swim class at the Cook College Pool.

This class is limited in size to allow for students to receive more

one to one instructional time and reinforcement of skills.

Once the long range planning and building is completed at the YMCA’s new site location on Tice Lane in East Brunswick; it is the YMCA’s hope to be able to provide a more diverse program selection in which children with special needs will be able to find programs tailored to their needs.

The Raritan Valley YMCA will be looking into starting a skill building /“challengers” program next, once the swimming program is established.

For more information, please

Parent/Child Workshops in Music/Movement & Art for Children with Autism or Autistic Behaviors

VSA Arts of New Jersey is now offering **free** 10 week classes for children ages 3-17 years of age. Designed to enhance communication, social, cognitive and motor skills through art and music; these classes are offered at two different locations in New Brunswick on Saturdays starting February 4th. Class times range from 9am to 3:30pm. Classes run approximately 1 hour. Instructors are experienced art and/or music therapists.

Registration deadline is Jan. 12, 2006

For a registration form please call VSA arts of New Jersey at (732) 745-3885

Words to Inspire You:

“The attitude you have as a parent is what your kids will learn from more than what you tell them. They don’t remember what you try to teach them. They remember what you are.”

Jim Henson
It’s Not Easy Being Green and Other Things to Consider”
By Jim Henson. The Muppets, & Friends

SEPTA Free Public February Workshop:

IEP & Transition Planning:

Tips for making both easier for you!

7:00pm Wed., February 1

at the South River Public Library

55 Appleby Ave., South River, N.J. 08882

Learn how to prepare yourself for your child's IEP meeting or transition in services with easy tips & strategies that help you to work with your school to provide the best possible IEP for your child!

***Door Prizes**

***Free materials and handouts will be distributed at this meeting.**

***Refreshments will be served.**

**To register for this free public workshop please call
The Special Education PTA of South River
(SEPTA) at (732) 651-7157 or
email [SRPTA Advocate@aol.com](mailto:SRPTAAdvocate@aol.com).**

When registering, please remember to include your name and telephone number

SEPTA would like to thank the following local businesses for their generous donations to our organization's programs and services:

South River
Automotive
Repair LLC
178 Hillside Ave.
South River, NJ
732-651-8000

Golden East Garden
Chinese Restaurant
50 Prospect St.
Mid-State Mall
East Brunswick, NJ
732-257-3737

Colonial Diner
560 State Hwy 18N
East Brunswick, NJ
732-254 -4858

Matecki's
Service Center
91 A Jackson St.
South River, N.J.
732-254-9500

We thank you for your support !

The SEPTA of South River

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

NONPROFIT ORG

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 39

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:
SRPTAAadvocate@aol.com

Up Coming Events:

January:

Jan. 4:

SEPTA Meeting

6:30pm

Parent Open Forum

7pm

Meeting Starts

*This meeting is open to the
public and children are
always welcome with their par-
ents.

Light refreshments will be
served.

February:

Feb. 1:

SEPTA Free Public

Workshop:

IEP & Transition Planning:

Tips for making both easier
for you and your child

7pm at the So. River
Public Library.

***Door Prizes &
Free Materials
for Parents**

Please register if you plan on
attending by calling
(732) 651-7157 or email
SRPTAAadvocate@aol.com

March:

March 1:

SEPTA Free Public

Workshop:

Summer Camps Recreation

7pm at the So. River
Public Library

Please register if your plan
on attending by calling
(732) 651-7157 or email
SRPTAAadvocate@aol.com

March 3: SEPTA
2006 Scholarship Appli-
cations available today