

SEPTA would like to thank
**Disability Services
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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"*

Inside this issue:

Summer Camps & Recreational workshop	1
Information Concerning Special Ed. In S.R.	1
New from the WEB	2
IDEA 2004 Reauthorization information	2
Worth Reading & Words to Inspire You	2
<u>Insert:</u> SEPTA Event Flyer & Thank you to our local businesses for donations	3 & 4
SEPTA Reading Log	5
Upcoming Events	6

SEPTA March 1st Meeting Topic Wed., March 1:

Summer Camps & Recreational Programs

Join us on Wednesday, March 1st at 7pm as we provide a free overview of the various recreational programs for special needs children / students of all age groups. We will be providing parents with a multitude of handouts and a copy of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs/ Office of Recreations complete list of statewide recreation programs for children and adults with special needs. For those who are interested in summer camp options for their children, we will also offer summer camp information, handouts, internet resources and information on subsidizing camp costs through various state and government resources & organizations.

Please register for this event by calling SEPTA at (732)651-7157 or email SEPTA at info@specialeducationpta.org

Please include the subject line: "March workshop registration" in your email.

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@verizon.net

Information Concerning Special Education in So. River Public Schools

For those whose students receive "related services" as part of their I.E.P., SEPTA is pleased to announce that the South River School District is now requiring the respective therapist to send home a slip verifying that the child did see their therapist that day. We would like to acknowledge the South River Board of Education commitment in their effort to provide documentation and ensure to parents that I.E.P. services are provided to the students whose disabilities require these much needed services.

**We are pleased to announce
 that the
 Special Education PTA of
 South River (SEPTA)
 received the
 N.J State PTA Award
 on Nov. 18, 2005 for
 "Outstanding Website"**

We would like to offer special thanks to our "web master," Bill Sellar, for his time, effort and devotion in maintaining our web site.

NEWS FROM THE WEB:

February is Black History Month

As we celebrate Black History Month here are a few websites that celebrate the history, people and places that have contributed to the African-American History in the United States

The Underground Railroad

At this National Geographic web site go on an interactive and perilous journey to freedom as you pretend you are a slave who has decided to escape.

**national-
geographic.com/features/99/
railroad**

African-American World

This web site includes a time line of African- American history, photos, and articles about race, arts, and culture, and interactive kid's room, and a detailed interview with the first African-American child to desegregate an elementary school.

pbs.org/wnet/aaworld

Black History Past to Present, an Interactive Treasure Hunt

Answer questions in this treasure hunt styled web site that are linked to resources about African-American history that will lead the viewer to the correct answer.

**Kn.pacbell.com/wired/BHM/
bh-hunt-quiz.html**

*Article information appeared in Central Jersey Family Magazine January 1-February 15 issue; Clipboard Section entitled: "February is Black History Month" by Warren Hynes

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA)

For those parents who are interested in the IDEA reauthorization and the proposed changes that will affect special education services and regulations; Troy R. Justesen, acting director of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), U.S. Department of Education had recreated a web site that provides a series of topic briefs including summaries relevant for 19 topics including citations from the law and cross- references, when applicable, to related briefs. Additionally, visitors to the IDEA 2004 web page can view news and information concerning proposed regulations, public meetings, consideration of comments and suggestions, law and policies and technical assistance related to the reauthorized law.

To utilize these tools and information resources, please visit:

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/idea2004.html>

Worth Reading

The Special Educator's Books of Lists by Roger Pierangelo, Ph.D. is an excellent reference book for any parent with a child in special education. This 614 page book is divided in parts/chapters of easily assessable information and is available at the S.R. Public Library.

Part 1: **Legal Issues in Special Ed.**

Part 2: **Foundation of the Special Ed. Process**

Part 3: **Specific Exceptionalities**

Part 4: **Special Education Assessment**

Part 5: **IEP Information**

Part 6: **Eligibility Committee**

Part 7: **Classroom Instruction
Techniques for Children with
Disabilities and Special Needs**

Part 8: **Transition Services**

Part 9: **Parent Education**

*Parents who are facing the planning of transition services for their children should note that part 8 of this book is very extensive and worth reading to include funding resources and services in your child's I.E.P. transition service for when their children reach age 21 and leave

Words to Inspire You:

If just one person
believes in you deep
enough & strong
enough-
Believes in you hard
enough & long
enough-
Before you knew it,
someone else would
think-
"If he can do it, I can
do it"
Making it two.
Two whole people
who believe in you.
And maybe you can
believe in you too.

Robbin & the Muppet Gang

From the book:

*"It's Not Easy Being Green
& other things to Consider"*
by Jim Henson, The
Muppets and Friends

SEPTA Free Public March Workshop:

Summer Camp & Recreational Programs

available to Special Needs Children and Students

7:00pm Wed., March 1

at the South River Public Library

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

Recreational Programs

Learn about the many wonderful recreational programs offered throughout the year that are designed for children with different abilities to enjoy.

Summer Camps

Explore the variety of camp offerings of available from day camps to sleep-away camps, those that offer therapeutic services to those that let your child enjoy the fun and excitement that camp offers.

***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 info@specialeducationpta.org

When registering, please remember to include your name and telephone number so we can contact you in case of a weather cancellation.

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

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

Rafano & Wood
A Professional Law Corporation
129 Main St.
South River, N.J.

**Golden East Garden
Chinese Restaurant**

50 Prospect St.
Mid-State Mall
East Brunswick, NJ
732-257-3737

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

**Shop Rite
Supermarkets**
Corporate Offices

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

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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

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@verizon.net

Up Coming Events:

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 your plan
on attending by calling
(732) 651-7157

March:

March 1:

SEPTA Free Public
Workshop:

Summer Camps & Recreational Opportunities

7pm at the
South River
Public Library

Please register if your
plan on attending
by calling
(732) 651-7157

SEPTA 2006 Scholarship

Applications for the SEPTA 2006
\$250.00 Scholarship for graduat-
ing special education students
will be available starting March 3,
2006. Applications will be avail-
able at the Office of Special Edu-
cation or from our website.

This scholarship is open to spe-
cial education students who are
residents of the town of South
River; attending either the public
schools or private school as
deemed by the I.E.P. For more
information on this scholarship
and requirements please call
SEPTA at (732) 651-7157 or visit
our website at:

www.specialeducationpta.org