

September October
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Volume 9 , Issue 1



**SEPTA's 10th
Anniversary**

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"*



From the Desk of

Donna Kennelly

On August 6th South River School District welcomed a new Director of Special Education. Donna Kennelly comes to us with over 13 years of Special Education experience. She has taught in both public and private schools in Monmouth and Ocean counties. She worked as a Supervisor of IDEIA-B and presenter for the Professional Development Academy for the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission.

She is busy organizing the office to her likings and looks forward to working with the students, teachers and parents in the district.

The Editor

This year marks SEPTA's 10th Anniversary. In the first ten years we have been able to present a variety of workshops, ranging from *Early Childhood Literacy*, to *Parents Rights in Special Education*, to *Transition Planning*. We have started a Special Needs Collection at the South River Public Library. Our Web Site www.specialeducationpta.org is also loaded with resources and information for parents. Because of these and other programs we have received awards from both the National and the New Jersey PTAs

For SEPTA to continue to exist and grow we need your help. If you would like to get involved, come out to a meeting, send us an email (nfo@specialeducationpta.org) or call our Hotline (732 651-7157).

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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: info@specialeducationpta.org

Can you spare a few minutes a
month?

**Would you like to help us plan our Holiday Party
or Spring 2008 Event?**

**We are actively looking for anyone who would be willing to help
plan or just help out with
either of these events....**

Resource Desk: People with Disabilities find a Ride Online



People with disabilities have a new resource to help them find transportation to work, school and other activities.

Through a federal grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Division of Disability Services now offers “NJ Find A Ride” at www.njfindaride.org.

NJ Find A Ride contains information about a variety of public and private transportation options, availability and costs. If a users needs a ride, they may submit information about their destination and when the ride is needed. Transportation providers can also register on the NJ Find A Ride website to become a part of the available resources for users.

The website provides links and phone numbers to transportation resources in New Jersey and helps users better understand the range of accessible transportation services.

Free Public Workshops Series offered by SEPTA of South River

How Hard Can This Be?

What Do You See When You Look at This Picture?

Wed., Oct 17

At 7pm

For “How Hard Can This Be?
The F.A.T. City Workshop”

Wed., Nov 21

At 7pm

For “Beyond the F.A.T. City
Workshop”

at the So. River Primary School Media Center



Now, discover what a child with a learning disability sees...

For the first time in years, these parents and educators are asked to sit on the other side of the teachers desk. They are required to recite aloud and complete timed spelling and writing activities under great pressure. I play the role of an unforgiving - and informed—teacher. I yell. I scold. I ridicule. I interrupt. I embarrass. (“Try harder!” “Pay attention!” “Are you trying to be funny?” “Why can’t you do this? Everyone else can.”)

The workshop gives teachers (and parents) the opportunity to “walk a mile” in the shoes of the students who invariably cause complications and disruptions in the classroom. By viewing the world through the eyes of the child, teachers gather insights into a child’s troubling behaviors. As I often remind my audiences, “The pain that a troubled child causes is never greater than the pain he feels.”

Before we can fully understand the feelings of another person, perhaps we must first see the world as he or she does.

SEPTA Membership Form

SEPTA needs your support to continue to provide you and your children with the programs, speakers and activities you currently receive.

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, recreational programs for special needs children and a variety of speakers for the parents and teachers of our community.

Please help us to continue our commitment to the special needs children and their families.

Please mail the below membership form to:

SEPTA of South River

81 Johnson Place, South River, N.J. 08882

Please cut on dotted line and return lower half to SEPTA

SEPTA Membership Application 2007-2008

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

of memberships _____ x \$6.00 each

Membership Total : _____

Tax Deductible Donation: _____

Grand Total: _____

Would you like information sent to you via email on upcoming events/workshops?

Yes ___ No ___ Email: _____

Would you be interested in being on one of these committees?

*Fundraising _____

*Refreshments / Baking for meetings _____

*Membership _____

*Special Events / Holiday Party _____

*Speakers/Meeting Topics _____

*Resource Library _____

*Scholarship _____

*Teacher Representative _____

* Other / Where I am need most _____

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

mark your calendar!

Up Coming Events:

October:

Oct. 17

SEPTA Meeting

So. River Primary School Media Center

Parent Forum 6:30pm-7pm

Workshop Starts 7pm

"How Hard Can This be? The
F.A.T. City Workshop"

November:

Nov. 1

New Jersey State Bar Founda- tion,

Workshop on "Special Education
Law" 7-9 pm to be held at the New Jersey Law
Center in New Brunswick. Admission is free but
advance registration is required, by calling 1-800-
FREE LAW

Nov. 21

SEPTA Meeting

So. River Primary School Media Center

Parent Forum 6:30pm-7pm

Workshop Starts 7pm

"Beyond The F.A.T. City Work-
shop"

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:
info@specialeducationpta.org