



The Messenger

Special Education Newsletter for Parents

Partners for Success
Resource Center
A Resource for Families
and Professionals

New to the Library!

**New Evening Hours!!!!
Come and Browse**



Watch Me Learn - Friends

DVD for children embarking on Social Skills

Watch Me Learn - Basic Life Skills—DVD

Video Modeling

ADD/ADHD Smart Solutions - DVD

OT For Children with Autism - DVD

Feed Me I 'm Yours - Food made easy for finicky eaters.

Breaking the Vicious Cycle - Intestinal Health through Diet—the Autism Connection

The Complete Guide to Asperger 's Syndrome

To borrow: Call 410-751-3955 or email clsense@k12.carr.org

...school year that is! With a new year comes new resolutions. One way to help ensure school success for your child is to resolve to become informed and effective in your child's education plan. Are you confused about the special education process or your rights? Do you understand the content of the IEP itself? If you are unsure about any of these issues you can call the Partners for Success Center for prompt answers to your questions. This year, the PFS Center will offer workshops on various topics including the basics of special ed. These workshops will be advertised in this newsletter and also each school will be sent notice 2-3 three weeks in advance. Check with the special ed office in your school. New this year the resource center will be open evening hours once a week. Please call the center for details. We look forward to a refreshing and successful year for all students.

Cindy Senseney
Parent Liaison



Support Groups

Families of Children with Autism Support (FOCAS) - Monthly meetings held third Thursdays 410-857-1596.

Chesapeake Down Syndrome Support Group— Support and advocacy 410-321-5434.

Autism Society of America -Baltimore Chesapeake Chapter - Parent support and advocacy 410-655-7933.

Therapeutic Riding Program—410-848-3029 or www.trp4h.org

CHANGE, Inc.— Respite care information and funding, rolling access grants, camp info, support groups 410-876-2179.

Free Mealers—Gluten Free-Casein Free diet support group. Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, 7-9 PM at St. James' Episcopal Church, 1307 N. Main Street, Mt. Airy MD. Contact Anna Letaw at 410-795-7950.

Pathfinders for Autism— Contact Rebecca Rienzi, rrienzi@pathfindersforautism.org or call 410-769-8221.

Wanted: Parent Input

The Carroll County Special Education Citizens Advisory Council (SECAC) is a committee established by Carroll County Public Schools to seek meaningful input from parents, community partners, service providers, educators, and administrators on local issues about the achievement of students with disabilities. The Local SECAC enables the director of special education to collaborate with others and has the potential to make positive changes in the delivery of special education services.

We encourage all parents who have concerns and a desire to bring about positive change in a constructive manner to become active members in this process. The beginning of the school year is the best time to get involved! First meeting is scheduled for September 18th, 9 am -noon. The meeting will be held at the Agriculture Center in Westminster. For directions or more information, call or email Cindy Senseney in the Partners for Success Center, 410-751- 3955.



Workshops

Sept. 20—What everyone must know about ADD and ADHD , Learning Disabilities of Southern Maryland, Register 301-884-4662 or email griestbeary@verizon.net 25.00 (lunch included)

Sept 22—Everything you wanted to know about SSI and SSDI—7:00—9:00 pm at Jewish Community Services in Baltimore. For more information or to register, please call 410-466-9200

Sept 26—Fantastic Friday at Fallfest!!! Exclusive matinee for the special needs community, 10:00 am—1:00 pm. \$15.00 Armband includes rides, lunch and drink. Music, games, scarecrow making, bingo, door prizes. Call Marshall Green at 443-340-7014

October 3—Including Students with Autism—MCIE sponsored workshop at the Meeting House in Columbia, MD, 8:30—4:00, 125.00 per person. For more info call 410-859-5400 or email mcie@mcie.org.

October 23-24—Annual Autism Conference at Sheppard Pratt. Special pricing for families of children with autism—One day—135.00 both days 260.00. For details and to register www.autismconference.kennedykrieger.org

October 27—Respite Awareness Conference—Maritime Institute Conference center in Linthicum, MD. AM and PM workshops, breakfast, lunch, exhibits, and networking. Call 410-859-5700 to register.

FYI online—For great negotiating tips and techniques, take a look at this brief presentation on Positions and Interests from CADRE. www.directionservice.org/cadre/understanding_pos.cfm



Online Helps

New website—Carroll Alternative Playgroups for parents in Carroll County to assist in setting up play dates and playgroups for children with special needs. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Carroll_Alternative_Playgroups/ This group is designed to bring together children with special needs for play dates and playgroups in the Carroll County, Maryland area. We also welcome children without special needs who would like to participate in a playgroup or play date with children of all abilities. You can find other parents and children in your area who are also looking for play dates, and you decide who to contact. If you already participate in a playgroup for children with special needs that you would like to promote feel free to post your information here. Welcome! We hope you will find lots of fun and friends for your children.

www.mdecgateway.org—Early Childhood Gateway. Loads of information for early learning. Creative play and developing executive functioning skills, school readiness, development and much more. Great resource for special needs families!

www.math-drills.com - tons of free worksheets

www.aplusmath.com - can customize worksheets to be printed (free)

www.behavioradvisor.com—information and practical tools for teachers and parents wishing to address behavior



ACTION ALERTS!!

SURVEY FOR FAMILIES

The Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Mental Hygiene Administration are seeking input from parents, caregivers, educators, student service professionals, clinicians, advocates and others to determine what term Maryland should use in place of "emotional disturbance" (ED) for students coded 06 in special education. Please complete the two question survey by clicking on the link below. Your opinion counts! www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=XybhVO6yJKJ6Jqr1mkHZUA_3d_3d

END THE WAIT NOW

If you are on the DDA Waiting List or already receiving services, know someone who is, or care about this critically important issue - the time to act is now. The Governor will only make this a priority if he hears from many, many people urging his support. Email the Governor requesting the end to DDA waiting lists. Be sure to include your name & address www.governor.maryland.gov/mail (Choose Topic: Health Care Issues) For more information on the Waiting List Campaign, go to www.endthewaitnow.com