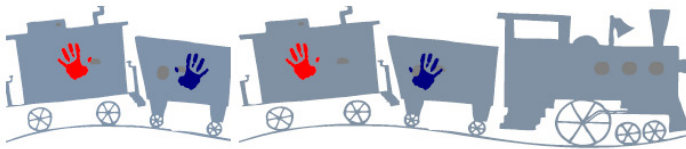


FALL 2009



Get on board with the Brick Township Special Education PTA



THE SEPTA EXPRESS

SEPTA Executive Board Officers 2009/2010

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Welcome to SEPTA, the Brick Township Special Education Parent Teacher Association. We invite you to come join us for another exciting school year!

The Brick Township Special Education PTA was formed in 2004 to address the issues parents may encounter when their children have special needs. SEPTA helps parents by bringing together people who have an interest in special education. Our PTA provides a forum, enabling parents, teachers and experts in the field of special education to share their knowledge and experience. We encourage your membership and participation. SEPTA will frequently have guest speakers from different organizations associated with specific disabilities. We share information on laws, services and local workshops. Most importantly, we provide a supportive environment to parents.

Let's not forget about the kids! Throughout the school year SEPTA hosts several events for children with special needs. In the past we have had an Easter Egg Hunt, Holiday Craft Party, Night Out at The Blue Claws and our yearly Halloween Festival just to name a few. We are in the process of planning many more activities for this upcoming school year and we hope you will join us!

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2009-2010 SEPTA Meetings



OCTOBER 26th (Meet and Greet)	MARCH 22nd
NOVEMBER 30th	APRIL 26th
JANUARY 25th	MAY 24th
FEBRUARY 22nd	JUNE 14th

All meetings are held at Veterans Memorial Middle School Auditorium at 100 Hendrickson Road Brick at 7:30 PM

Visit our website at www.bricksepta.org for SEPTA news & events.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As a parent of a special needs child, I can still remember the day my son received his diagnosis. My very first wish for my son was a magic wand. Not a magic wand to "fix" him, but a "wand of kindness" to wave over all the people with whom he came into contact. The Special Education PTA has been that "magic wand" for myself and many others for the past five years. We have been able to go on outings and participate in events with others who not only understand and have kindness, but also lend a helping hand. The friends I have made here, I will always treasure.

This will be my second term as President of SEPTA and words cannot express the thrill I get from seeing a smiling child's face at a Blue Claws game or making a craft with a friend at Halloween Fest with the Challenger League. Most important is the relief on parents' faces they realize no one is judging them. SEPTA has more great events and outings planned for this year. Please join us for our meetings where we can come together with a cup of coffee, listen to a guest speaker and get to know each other.

Sincerely,
Kim Vaccaro
SEPTA President



SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

NJ SCHOOLS NAMED TO AAFA HONOR ROLL

TRENTON -Sept. 11 2009

New Jersey has been honored by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) as one of 6 states to implement outstanding policies regarding Asthma and Allergy awareness, management and prevention.

The policies and guidelines cited include allowing students to self-administer medication, guidelines for the management of food allergies and the administration of epinephrine, as well as district policies regarding the emergency administration of epinephrine pre-filled

auto-injectors.

In response to this honor New Jersey Education Commissioner Lucille E. Davy stated, "During the school day, asthma and allergies can pose serious health problems for children and urgent situations for educators. It is important that schools throughout the state have the proper policies in place to help students manage their allergies or asthma and to respond effectively should a health emergency arise."



The New Jersey Dept. of Health, recently reported that 15% of children in NJ have been diagnosed with Asthma.

According to the CDC, an estimated 3 million American children were reported to have a food allergy in 2007. This represents an 18% increase from 1997.

Children with Food allergies are 2 to 4 times more likely to have asthma or other allergies than those without.

How to Advocate for Your Child

Contributed by Jackie Chadwick

How do you know your classified child is placed correctly and is receiving the services he or she needs? There are so many resources available, the task can be overwhelming. The most important thing is to be well informed and everything else will follow.

Educate yourself: Learn everything you can about your child's diagnosis including latest research and treatment options. -Make a list of questions before you go. Next, learn about the special education process. Familiarize yourself with **IDEA, PRIDE, Section 504 and The No Child Left Behind Act**. Understanding your child's educational rights help you be a more effective advocate for him or her.

Network: Get to know parents of other classified children, classmates are a great start. Most parents are more than happy to share their experiences. Attend some of the events advertized in flyers sent home in your child's backpack. For example, **Brick Recreation Challenger League** provides opportunities for special needs children to participate in a structured sports program. Sign up and get to know other parents.

Get out there: Attend local seminars and support groups. These organizations provide a wealth of information about services, and programs geared towards children with special needs.

Here's the bottom line: As a parent, there is nothing more important you can do with your time. Your child is your most precious asset and cannot, in many cases ask for help by him or herself. It's up to you.

Suggested Reading



Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy : The Special Education Survival Guide and Wrightslaw: Special Education Law, 2nd Edition. (both books by Peter W. Wright and Pamela D. Wright). Also, see their website at www.wrightslaw.com

The Out of Sync Child : Recognizing and Coping with Sensory Processing Disorder (Revised Edition). by Carol Stock Kranowitz

Treating Autism: Parent Stories of Hope and Success. by Stephen M. Edelstein and Bernard Rimland

RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

DDD — New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities

Juniper Plaza, Suite 1-J
3499 Rt. 9 N. Freehold, NJ 07728
Ph: 732-863-4500
Fax:732-863-4406
www.nj.gov/humanservices/dds

Family Support Center of Monmouth /Ocean county

2516 Rt. 35 N. Manasquan, NJ 08736
Ph: 800-372-6510
Fax:732-528-4744
www.fsnj.org

Statewide Parent to Parent Network (SPAN)

35 Halsey St. 4th fl Newark, NJ 07102
Ph: 800-654-SPAN
Fax: 973-642-8080
www.spannj.org

POAC (Parents of Autistic Children)

1999 Rt. 88 E. Brick, NJ 08724
Ph: 732-785-1099
Fax:732-785-1003
www.poac.net

ARC of Monmouth

1158 Wayside Road
Tinton Falls NJ 07712
Ph: 732-493-3604
Fax: 732-493-3604
www.arcofmonmouth.org

BRICK SEPTA

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SEPTA EXPRESS edited by
Nicole Barresi.

Comments, contributions or suggestions for this newsletter are always welcome. Please contact us at our website.

www.bricksepta.org



Brick SEPTA is an affiliate of the National Parent Teacher Association We are always welcoming new members. Membership is \$6 per year and entitles each member to the following National PTA benefits:

- ◆ Representation on capitol Hill
- ◆ Representation on the US Presidential Appointed Committees
- ◆ Representation before health and welfare, legislative programs, projects, research and training materials
- ◆ Annual conventions which include training and exhibitors.
- ◆ Exclusive offers from corporate sponsors

BarnesandNoble.com -members save **5%** on all online purchases in addition to other discounts up to **40%**.

S&S Worldwide— Leader in catalog and online products for education, crafts, recreation and therapy for more than 90 years. PTA members receive a **10% discount**.

Membership applications are available for download from our website at www.bricksepta.org



LOCAL EVENTS



Toms River Mayor's Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities Information Fair.

Oct. 27th 6:30-9:00PM

Toms River Intermediate North School 150 Intermediate Way.

- ◆ Meet with representatives of agencies and organizations to get advice and support on meeting the day to day challenges for people with developmental disabilities
- ◆ Children Welcome—Door Prize-Free Refreshments
- ◆ For more info call: Fay Wilson 732-341-6455

Special Needs Story Time

Thursday November 12th, 4:00PM Ocean County Library/Brick Branch

- ◆ All ages and abilities welcome. Registration begins **October 29th.**

POAC (Parents of Autistic Children)

provides free educational and training workshops for parents and teachers. The following workshops will be held at POAC's Brick office at 1999 Route 88 E. at 7:00 PM.

- Nov. 11th Preparations for Turning 18**
- Nov. 19th Advanced Social Skills Training**
- Dec. 12th Living with Autism Planning For the Future**
- Dec. 16th Government Programs**

Register for any of POAC's events at their website www.poac.net or call 732-785-1099.

