



THE SEPTA EXPRESS

Get on board with the
Brick Township
Special Education PTA



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Brick Challenger Holiday Party



Brick SEPTA was honored to sponsor a craft table at this year's **Brick Challenger Holiday Party** on December 11th at the Brick Rec. Center.

As in past years, the special education students of Brick Township and their families were treated to an evening of great food, music and lots of holiday cheer. Special guests included: *The Conductor from The Polar Express* and **SANTA CLAUS**, who brought toys for all the children!



SEPTA would like to thank **Matt Reinhold** and *Grease Lightning* for providing the music that kept everyone dancing, our volunteers

and of course, all of our friends from **Brick Recreation**, especially **Dan Santaniello** and **Don Warn**.

Please support our current SEPTA FUNDRAISERS:

50/50 RAFFLE — \$5 per ticket
Winner will be drawn at our June 6th General Meeting.

Van Holten's Chocolate Fundraiser
\$3 per bar: milk, white or dark



Please see a SEPTA Eboard member for all purchases!

BRICK SEPTA is now on FACEBOOK!



www.facebook.com/bricksepta

click "like" to receive statuses and updates.



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The SEPTA EXPRESS

Edited by: Nicole Barresi

SEPTA MEETINGS - Only 3 left!

**** FREE Childcare at all meetings****



April 11th

- Dan Santaniello of Brick Recreation and special guests
Will discuss the upcoming referendum vote and how this effects us all. Light refreshments will be served.

May 16th

- Executive Board Elections

June 6th

- Drawing of 50/50 Raffle winner
Installation of new officers



**All Meetings at: Educational Enrichment Center (EEC)*

Multipurpose Room, 100 Hendrickson Ave. Brick at 7:30 PM.

Remember to visit our website and click on GOOGLE CALENDAR for instant reminders of all SEPTA meetings and events.

WELCOME SPRING!



BRICK SEPTA ANNUAL SPRING EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 16th 11AM-12 noon

Windward Beach Upper Playground/Picnic Area

BRING YOUR OWN BASKET!

Please RSVP to btsepta@gmail.com or on Facebook

SPOTLIGHT: CCSSI (Common Core State Standards Initiative)

At our **March 16th General Membership Meeting**, **Cathy Lindenbaum** of the **NJPTA & OCCPTA** spoke to SEPTA about the **National and State PTA's** support of the **Common Core State Standards Initiative** and its relevance to special education.

What is the CCSSI?

Developed by a partnership of the **National Governor's Association**, the **Council for Chief School Officers**, and funded by a grant from the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, the **CCSSI** is a multi-state led effort to develop a "**clear and consistent set of K-12 academic standards**," across all 50 states.

Currently, each state has a different set of educational standards, which means that expectations for student learning vary greatly, depending on where you live. By implementing a common set of curriculum standards nation-wide, the goal of the **CCSSI** is to better prepare America's students for real-world success in college and the global workplace. To date, the **CCSS** have been adopted by more than 44 states, including NJ. Full implementation of Math and Language arts standards is expected by September of 2012.

How does this apply to Special Education?

IDEA, (**Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act**) insures that students with disabilities must be challenged to excel within the **general curriculum** for preparedness and success in their post-school lives, including college and careers. When the **Common Core Curriculum Standards** change, so do the expectations of what students with disabilities need to learn at each grade-level. Essentially, the adoption of new standards will raise the bar, for ALL students, including those with disabilities. Ultimately, parents of Special Education students should focus on their child's IEP in the following ways:

Annual Academic Goals: should be based on the new

CCSS (with appropriate modifications) starting with the date of **CCSS** implementation. You may request that this be written into your child's **IEP**. Doing so, increases your child's opportunity to receive his or her "**Free and Appropriate Education**."

Supports and related services: should be designed to meet the requirements of the new **CCSS** as well as the unique needs of your child. This includes instructional supports, homework accommodations, and therapies. All supports and instructional accommodations *should not change the standards, but allow students to learn within the framework of the NEW standards.*

Assessments: with implementation of the **CCSS**, assessment schedules, methods and requirements **will change**. Therefore, you will need to understand how any new testing procedures could effect your child's ability to perform. Eventually, all assessments will be **technology based**. In short, your child will need to learn how to take a test on a computer. Even if your child already requires certain accommodations or separate standardized testing, you might want to specify some technology goals and objectives in his or her IEP.

Assistive Technology: (*speech devices, laptops, PDA's etc.*) If your child has difficulty communicating, reading, writing or completing schoolwork, he or she may benefit from an **assistive device**. Ask your CST if this is an option for your child in the face of a changing curriculum.

Advocacy—Work with teachers and the CST: An open dialogue with your child's teacher(s) is essential. When and how are the **CCSS** to be implemented in the classroom? How can you ensure your child will make progress toward his or her annual goals in a changing academic environment? Will school district personnel receive professional development workshops in conjunction with the **CCSS**? Get informed and work together with school professionals to find the right fit for your child.



For more information on the
Common Core State Standards Initiative,
including

"A Parent's Guide To Student Success"
please visit the **NEW JERSEY PTA Website**

@ **www.njpta.org**



Local Events



Autism Family

Services of NJ

Presents a series of workshops in recognition of Autism Awareness Month:

"Guardianship & Estate Planning: What Parents and Siblings Need to Know"
April 5 6:30PM - 8:30PM

"Oh NO!! It's Time to Schedule that Appointment."
April 13, 6:30PM - 8:30PM

"My Grandchild has Autism, Aspergers, or PDD-NOS"*
April 15, 10:00AM - 12:00PM

"Everyday Technology Unique Accommodations"
April 21, 6:30PM - 8:30PM

"Autism Awareness, Where is it for Adults with Autism?"
April 28, 10:00AM - 2:00PM

"Healthcare for People with Disabilities"
May 3, 6:30PM - 8:30PM

For more information, please visit the **Autism Family Services of NJ** website at:

www.autismfamilyservicesnj.org

*Unless specified, all workshops will take place at:

Family Support Center of NJ
2516 Route 35 North
Manasquan, NJ 08736

SPRING IS FINALLY HERE...GET OUT AND WALK!!!



"WALK FOR A DIFFERENCE"

Saturday, April 2nd

First Energy Park (Lakewood Blue Claws Stadium)
Lakewood, NJ

Registration at 11AM—Walk begins at 12 Noon

Brick SEPTA will sponsor a table at the resource fair at this year's **POAC (Parents of Autistic Children) "Walk For A Difference."**

POAC is NJ's largest provider of free Autism training and education for parents, teachers, and friends of children and adults with Autism. They also provide free workshops to law enforcement and first responders, as well as sponsor year round events for the Autism community. Funds are raised from private donations and their annual walks. This year's walk is particularly important because it is to be held on World Autism Day.

As in past years, there will be a **resource fair, entertainment and refreshments** for the whole family. Registration is required but admission is free. To register or join a team please visit their website at www.POAC.net.

PLEASE VISIT THE BRICK SEPTA TABLE
for child-friendly activities, and fundraiser information

THE FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK "WALK FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW" Shore Walk

Sunday, May 15th

Seaside Heights Boardwalk

Registration 11AM- Walk at 12 noon

The **Family Resource Network** provides a casual **5K walk** to provide low-cost services to families living with chronic illnesses and developmental disabilities. Activities will include mascot appearances, arts and crafts and face painting. Lunch provided by the **Beach Bar**. For more information and registration details please visit : www.walkforabrightertomorrow.org

