

**MEDFORD SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEDFORD SEPAC**

NEWS & INFORMATION

***Massachusetts News ~ New Anti-Bullying Law
Districts required to have plans by 12/31/10***

**Issue November/
December 2010**

District's Bullying Prevention Plan

Districts around the state of Massachusetts are required to develop Bullying Prevention Plans and Policies in response to a new anti-bullying law that mandates every District in Massachusetts have these procedures in place by the end of December 2010.

Medford's proposed response to this can be found at:

<http://www.medfordpublicschools.org/2010/12/district-bullying-prevention-plan-draft/>

The Administration is seeking responses from the community:

You can email your comments at feedback@medford.k12.ma.us or attend the Public Hearing that will be held on Monday, December 20 starting at 7pm at City Hall.

SEPAC Board Members ~ School Contact

Contact your school representative for special education-related questions.

Early Childhood,
Brooks & Roberts Elementary,
Curtis-Tufts,
Medford High School, &
Medford Vocational School

Contact: Kathy Aluia at kaluia@comcast.net or 781-956-8770

McGlynn Middle School,
Medford High School,
Medford Vocational School, &
Out-of-District Students (Privately placed by parents or district)

Contact: Mary Finn at maryfinn@comcast.net or 781-391-2353

McGlynn Elementary

Contact: Kathie Hunt at kevinjhunt@aol.com or 781-391-6148

Andrews Middle School &
Columbus Elementary

Contact: Jen Maunsell at falcomaunsell@yahoo.com or 339-221-2002

Columbus Elementary

Contact: Kelly Tello at kellytello@comcast.net

SAVE THE DATES! ~ SEPAC Events & Meetings

Thursday, February 10 at 6:30pm ~ "Basic Rights in Special Education" Clare Vann, Attorney &

Speaker from Federation for Children with Special Needs

Location: McGlynn School Library, 3004 Mystic Valley Parkway, Medford, MA

Register by contacting Mary Finn at 781-391-2353 or maryfinn@comcast.net

Medford SEPAC General Business Meeting: The purpose of a general meeting is to plan, review, & discuss SEPAC initiatives and to vote on agenda items that come before the board. Dates: December 14
Meetings are held at the South Medford Fire Station Community Room at 7:00 pm.

Additional Event Information (Within & Outside of Medford)

“NEW! Parent Group ~ For Parents/Guardians of Children with Special Needs” ~ There is a “NEW” parent group at the Medford Family Network: For more information or to register, contact Marie Cassidy 781-393-2106.

Become a Special Education Surrogate Parent: SESPP (Special Education Surrogate Parent Program) is seeking volunteers to provide a voice for children who don't have a parent to speak for them in the special education process. Volunteers will attend a training session in which special education laws and regulations, the IEP process, and the role of the Special Education Surrogate Parent will be reviewed. Local sessions are scheduled for Oct 19 in Boston and Nov 2 in Lexington. For more info, call 508-792-7679, email sespp@earthlink.net or visit www.sespprogram.org.

EMARC Teen Sibling Group (Ages 13-19): EMARC coordinates a support group for teens who have a brother or sister with special needs. Group meets every other Wednesday at the West Medford Community Center. For registration and information, contact Chenine Peloquin at 781-942-4888 ext4036 or Rec@theemark.org.

Dec. 15 at 6:30pm, “Best Friends, Worst Enemies: Understanding the Social Lives of Children”
Held at Watertown Middle School, 60 Waverly Avenue, Watertown
Speaker: Dr. Michael Thompson, co-author of “Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys”
More at www.michaelthompson-phd.com

Therapro, Inc Seminar Series: Seminars are free and held from 9am-11am
Location: 225 Arlington St, Framingham, MA Register at info@therapro.com

Jan 22 “National Handwriting Month” Speaker: Peggy Morris, OTR/L

Feb 26 “The School Assessment of Motor & Processing Skills” Speaker: Lou Ann Griswold Phd, OTR/L, FAOTA

Mar 20 “S’Cool Moves for Learning” Speaker: Debra Wilson (Note: Held on Sunday from 10am-12noon)

Carroll School Speaker Series: For questions, contact edavidson@carrollschool.org

Jan 7 at 8:45am “The Special Education Process” Speaker: Michele Amato, Educational Advocate
Location: Lincoln Campus-The Cole Room in the Storrow House, 25 Baker Bridge Road, Lincoln

Feb 4 at 8:45am “Language & the Brain”

Location: Waltham Campus-The Great Hall, 1841 Trapelo Road, Waltham

Children’s Hospital Boston-Down Syndrome Allen C. Crocker Speaker Series: December 13 is the next session. Contact Angela at 857-218-4329 or angela.lombardo@childrens.harvard.edu or visit [http://www.childrenshospital.org/clinicalservices/Site1921/Documents/speakerflyerMDSC%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.childrenshospital.org/clinicalservices/Site1921/Documents/speakerflyerMDSC%20(2).pdf)

Workshops for Executive Function Skill Development with Sarah Ward M.S., CCC/SLP
Registration is open for fall workshops. For info, check out www.executivefunctiontherapy.com

Planning a Life~ Making the Most out of High School: This two day conference is hosted annually by the Federation for Children with Special Needs. The program offers transition planning information to include: vision development, self-advocacy issues, how to develop individualized transition goals, housing postsecondary education, employment options and more. This year’s program will be held on November 5 & 6 in Worcester, February 4 & 5 in Boston, and April 1 & 2 in Springfield. For more info, contact Terri McLaughlin at 617-236-7210 ext 336 or tmclaugh@fcsn.org. Registration is necessary and there is a fee

of \$100 per person or \$150 per family. Space is limited, so register early.

SAVE THE DATE!

2011 Family Leadership Series: February 4 & 5; March 4 & 5; April 8, & 9

The series is organized into three two-day workshops and includes food and overnight lodging. You must be able to commit to the entire event. Event is free. Deadline is January 15, 2010. Contact Ellen Scoggins at ellen.scoggins@yahoo.com.

2011 Annual Conference of Federation for Children with Special Needs: Sat, March 12

More info to come. To register, go to www.fcsn.org.

Shriver Center Research Opportunities

The Shriver Center conducts an extensive program of research on the causes, treatment, and prevention of intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as understanding typical development. They are currently looking for children and adults with and without disabilities to participate in a variety of research programs.

To see a list of Shriver Center studies currently recruiting participants, with links to a description of each one, visit <http://www.umassmed.edu/shriver/recruit.aspx>

You may also call the Shriver Center Human Studies Office at 781-642-0047 or send e-mail to shriver.recruit@umass.edu to get more information about studies that are currently recruiting participants.

On-going Resource & Information

Special Education in Medford Public Schools:

For contact listing, service information, 504 or Title II resources?

Site link: <http://www.medfordpublicschools.org/departments-programs/special-education-pupil-services/>

List of National and State organizations & government agency websites:

Link: <http://www.medfordpublicschools.org/departments-programs/special-education-pupil-services/links/>

Looking for information on MCAS?

Overview of MCAS: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/overview.html?faq=8>

“A Parents Guide to Special Education”: Written in collaboration between the Federation of Children with Special Needs and the Massachusetts Department of Education.

Link: <http://www.fcsn.org/parentguide/pguide1.html>

Federation for Children with Special Needs: Offers training, resources and information to families and individual with special needs. The Parent Training Center has trained consultants who will respond to questions specific to your child's issues and information about educational advocates. Phone 617-236-7210 or visit www.fcsn.org

Consumer Empowerment Funds: Reimburses expenses for training of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Prior approval is necessary. Call or visit website for contacts, program guidelines and application. Phone: 617-770-7676 or visit www.mass.gov/mddc/cefp/index.htm

Get Help with Universal Home Design: The all-volunteer organization, HomeFreeHome, Inc., provides free and low cost architectural design services to people with permanent disabilities who need to remove barriers and open up access in their homes. To apply for these services, fill out the questionnaire on HomeFreeHome's website at www.homefreehome.org. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated for feasibility of your proposed project and (if you are selected), assign a local volunteer architect.

*To request that an event be posted, contact kaluia@comcast.net.
Posting requests are subject to review of the SEPAC Board.*