

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

NEWS & INFORMATION

***October is National Awareness Month
for Down Syndrome & Dyslexia***

Issue October 2010

To learn more...

About Down Syndrome~

Visit~

Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress or MDSC at www.mdsc.org

National Down Syndrome Society at www.ndss.org

Attend~

The "MDSC 7th Annual Educators Forum, Innovative Teaching Strategies ~ Building Bridges to Inclusion for Students with Down Syndrome": Designed for educators across Massachusetts to learn about best practices in educating students with Down Syndrome in an inclusive classroom. Registration is \$125. The event will be at the College of Holy Cross on Nov 18 from 8am-3pm. 6 PDPs are available for this event. Visit www.mdsc.org or call 800-664-MDSC for more info.

Read~

Road Map to Holland, Jennifer Graf Groneberg

(Note: Our apologies. This newsletter did not get out in time to advertise the Buddy Walk which took place earlier in the month. Information about the walk can be found at www.mdsc.org or www.ndss.org.)

Participate in Research~

The Foundations Research Study at the UMMS/E.K. Shriver Center: Is a study whose purpose is to develop and/or improve on educational procedures for individuals with developmental disabilities. Participants include typical developing children and adolescents (ages 5 to 10) and those with autism spectrum disorders, intellectual disabilities and Down Syndrome between the ages of 5 and 22. Families will be compensated for time and participation. For info, contact Vicky at 781-642-0047 or shriver.recruit@umassmed.edu

About Dyslexia~

Visit~

Massachusetts Branch of the International Dyslexia Association at www.dyslexia-ma.org

Tufts University, Center for Reading & Language Research at <http://ase.tufts.edu/crlr/Home.html>

Attend~

"Red Flags: How to Identify Early Struggling Readers" on October 20 at 7pm. Join Medford's SEPAC as we host this event. Presented by the Massachusetts Branch of the International Dyslexia Association or MABIDA.

Read~

Proust and the Squid, Maryann Wolfe

Participate in Research~

Brain Research at the Gabrieli Lab: This research is conducted by the Language and Reading Team at the Gabrieli Laboratory for Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience. This research seeks to better understand brain differences associated with developmental dyslexia and other reading and language disorders. It involves Behavioral and MRI testing. Families are compensated for participation. For info, contact gab

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

October 20 ~ “Red Flags: How to Identify Early Struggling Readers” MABIDA at 7:00pm

Location: Brooks Elementary School, 388 High Street, Medford, MA

November 4 ~ “Effective Communication” Federation for Children with Special Needs at 6:30pm

Location: Brooks Elementary School, 388 High Street, Medford, MA

Date TBD ~ “Basic Rights in Special Education”

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: November 30, December 14

Meetings are held at the South Medford Fire Station Community Room at 7:00 pm.

Additional Event Information (Within & Outside of Medford)

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.

“Rethinking School Discipline: The Think Kids Approach”: Oct 28 at 6:30pm
Speaker: David Whelan, PsyD Location: Cambridge Citywide Senior Center, 806 Mass Ave, Cambridge
Program is free and hosted by Cambridge SEPAC. For info, contact rippsey@cpsd.us or 617-593-4402

Wrightslaw Conference in Nashua, NH: Oct 28 from 8:30am-4:30pm
Hosted by the NH Parent Information Center is offering Special Education Law and Advocacy Training.

Pete Wright will be presenting this conference at the Courtyard by Marriott in Nashua. To register, go to <http://www.parentinformationcenter.org/>.

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

Oct 23 "Using Sensory Stories to Promote Self-Regulation" Speaker: Victoria Nackley, OTR
Nov 6 "Understanding How the Sensory Processing Measure Assessments can Identify Sensory Processing Disorder" Speaker: Tara Glennon, OTR
Dec 4 "Using Music with Sensory Integration" Speaker: Eve Kodiak

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

Basic Rights: Mon, Nov 29 at 6:30pm-8:00pm
Presented by the Federation of Children with Special Needs Sponsored by: Somerville's SEPAC
Location: Kennedy Elementary School, 5 Cherry St, Somerville, MA. All are welcome.

Planning for the Future of Your Child with Special Needs: Tues, Nov 9 from 7pm-9pm
Hosted by Professional Center for Child Development, 32 Osgood St, Andover, MA
Register by calling Ellen at 978-475-3806 ext217 or email ellen@theprofessionalcenter.org. Discussion will include: estate planning; special need trusts; keeping your child eligible for public benefits; & funding children's trusts. For more info, visit www.theprofessionalcenter.org.

"Building a Home": A conference on the complex issues families face in securing supportive living arrangements for their adult children with developmental disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, the people who love and support them, service providers and innovative thinkers. Planned & organized by MA Families Organizing for Change in collaboration with The ARC of MA, The Arc of Greater Haverhill~Newburyport, EMARC, The Federation for Children with Special Needs and Riverside Community Care.

Saturday, Nov 13 from 8:30am-3:00pm
Brandeis University, Harold Hassenfeld Conference Center, 415 South Street, Waltham, MA

To register, contact Asta Orthman at aorthman@riversidecc.org.

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
More info to come. Event is free. For more info, contact Lauri Medeiros at rjmede@aol.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.

Special Education Resources

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/>

“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.*