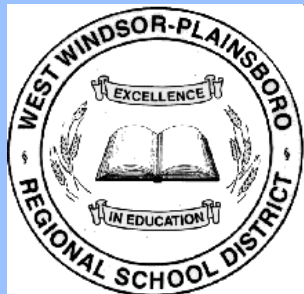


# West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District Special Services Department NEWS!



Karen Slagle, Director of Special Services  
Samantha Tognela, Supervisor PS-3  
Karen Abrams, Supervisor 4-8  
Melissa Levine, Asst. Principal/Secondary Supervisor 9-12

Fall 2018 ~ Winter 2019

## The Knights' Armory (HSN School Store) opened for business on November 1, 2018.

The store was created to provide work opportunities for the Special Services Job Skills A class. The students are learning how to take inventory on items, make orders for low stocked merchandise, deliver items that have been purchased online, advertise, cashier using Square technology and develop soft-skills when dealing with staff and customers. The class also developed a website so that orders can be made online and they will deliver that next day. Please visit our website to check out our store online. <https://squareup.com/store/the-knights-armory>

—Submitted by Ms. Jen Bard, High School North



A fully equipped 'apartment' is under construction at HS North. One classroom has been converted for the purpose of teaching students how to live on their own. Students will be provided with the tools to learn to operate appliances, prepare meals, clean up after themselves, etc. The 'apartment' is fitted with kitchen appliances including a stove/oven, microwave, dishwasher, toaster and refrigerator. The washer and dryer will facilitate students learning how to do laundry. Students will also learn how to make a bed, and change the bed sheets. The Life Skills being addressed in this program are designed to foster student independence in their living environment.

The students in the **Community Based Instruction (CBI) program** at Community Middle School have been very busy learning about how to navigate the mall. Students have been learning about expected behavior at the mall, the types of stores that they can find at the mall, and how to navigate the mall using a mall directory (map).

Our CBI outings to Quakerbridge Mall have also allowed students the opportunity to practice making purchases and managing their money. Students really enjoyed being able to purchase lunch or a snack in the food court. The most exciting part was that students were able to practice skills that their middle school peers are working on!

Currently, some of the students are working on a PowerPoint to share with their parents about what kinds of stores they like to visit at the mall, how they like to get from floor to floor when they are there (escalator, elevator or stores), and what they want to learn more about. Our program is so excited about the future trips that we will be taking the students on in the community! The B. bus has allowed for students have authentic learning experiences in the community! (Jen Davis, R.achel Oertel, and Brianne Verhoog)

## News from the Village Preschool Team:

- ♦ The team at Village School was awarded a grant from the **West Windsor Plainsboro Education Foundation**. The grant is titled, "**Preschool is Full STEAM Ahead!**" Preschool students at Village School will have an opportunity to interact and learn about various STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts & math) materials in their outdoor learning environment. Students will be able to explore STEAM, lessons will be implemented using STEAM ideas, and purposeful learning will take place in our outdoor environment. Preschool is Full STEAM Ahead!
- ♦ On Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, West Windsor Township's Landscape Architect/Arborist, Dan Dobromilsky, came to Village School to talk with all of the Preschool Students about trees. He was our special visitor for our "Trees" Unit from Creative Curriculum! Attached are some pictures of his presentation and a display from classrooms Ms. Locane and Ms. Kempler's classrooms from our unit.



## West Windsor swimmer wins multiple medals at national Special Olympics

The West Windsor resident had to make room for four more medals after earning three golds and a bronze at the Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle, Washington, in July. "I just want to keep going for more," Lee said.

The 30-year-old has continued to develop over the years into a top-notch swimmer. The USA Games was her best performance yet at a major meet. She won the 200-meter freestyle, the 100-meter backstroke and swam the backstroke leg for the 4x50 meter medley relay team from Team New Jersey. She also picked up a bronze medal in the 100-meter freestyle.

"She was utterly incredible," said Stephanie Johnson, the head coach of Team New Jersey. "She was dominant. We knew she was good. We didn't know she'd do as well as she did. To come home with four medals with the level of competition we saw is incredible. It's difficult to get to nationals, but the way she performed was outstanding.

"In 2011, she was swimming 50 yards," said her mother, Bonnie. "Now she's doing 100s, and actually when Margo was picked to be on the team, they had two different levels of swimmers that could be picked, and she was in the higher level because she swam the longer races.



Lee is a local product that helped Team New Jersey flourish at nationals. Overall, the six swimmers from New Jersey took home nine gold, three silver, two bronze, two fourth-place and one fifth-place award.



Former Community Middle School Panther and Special Olympian, West Windsor resident, Margo Lee, Class of 2003 shows off one of the gold medals she won at the Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle in July.

**Alternate Activities for Holiday Fun:** Holidays can be fun, full of classroom celebrations, activities, special visitors and games. These types of events can be overwhelming for some of our students. While we feel that it is important for children to participate in these social activities, we also feel that it is important to provide opportunities for students to have a quiet location where they can participate in alternate activities that allow for sensory breaks. The MRS Child Study Team set up an alternate activity area for the Harvest Celebrations as well as during the Winter festivities. Students had an opportunity to go to a room that was decorated yet, dimly lit. Several activities were set up including: books for reading, crafts, coloring and the ability to listen to soft music. The alternate activity room was staffed by the Child Study Team and was very successful. Many students took advantage of the room and had some special time with Case Managers. This allowed for all of our students to be able to enjoy the holidays in a way that was sensitive to individual needs.

**Pop-Up-Shop:** The Millstone River Child Study Team set up a Pop-Up-Shop prior to the Thanksgiving Break. Students in need were invited to come to the “store” and “shop” for needed items. Many of our students enjoyed the shopping experience and were thrilled to go home with some gently used clothing and warm coats for the winter.



**Book Drive:** The Millstone River Child Study Team hosted a book drive for new and gently used books. Many Millstone River Staff members donated to the cause. Children in need and who are reluctant readers were invited to come to the book drive and choose a couple of books to take home over the winter break. The drive was very success-



“Students in Mr. Eggerts math class engaged in various carnival-style games as a culminating review for a math unit. Games included a cup toss, hop-scotch, and basketball. Students earned money for giving their best effort, which was exchanged at the end for prizes at the end of the carnival. Addition, subtraction, and the use of money were all incorporated for this fun-themed math day! Students budgeted for prizes they wanted to redeem and were required to add and subtract their money, make change, and use positive communications with teachers and peers.”  
Submitted by, Mr. David Eggert, Millstone River School



**April 2nd, 2019** World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognized day on 2 April every year, encouraging Member States of the United Nations to take measures to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder throughout the world. It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly resolution "62/139.

**World Down Syndrome Day** is an internationally celebrated day of recognition, acknowledged by the United Nations, that is held on March 21st each year to symbolize the 3rd copy of the 21st chromosome in individuals with Down Syndrome (Trisomy21). In celebration of **World Down Syndrome Day, The Down Syndrome Association of Central New Jersey (DSACNJ) will be hosting its 5th annual "Rock Your Socks Off Dance Party"** to be held a  
on **Saturday, March 23rd**  
To register: <https://ryso.eventbrite.com>



180 Ewingville Road, Ewing, NJ 08638

(866) DOWN SYN

(866) 369-6796



**Autism New Jersey is the largest statewide network of parents and professionals dedicated to improving lives of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.** Self-advocates, families, the professionals who work with them, government officials, the media, and concerned state residents all

turn to Autism New Jersey for information, compassionate support, and training. Our public policy work in Trenton, annual conferences, and information line (800.4.AUTISM) are just a few of the ways we make a difference for New Jersey's autism community. Visit their website at: [www.autismnj.org](http://www.autismnj.org)

Visit <https://dsacnj.shutterfly.com/>  
**The Down Syndrome Association of Central New Jersey (DSACNJ)** is a non-profit parent support group. Visit the website for information and resources for activities and parents. Established to assist families of children and adults with Down syndrome (i.e., Trisomy 21).

**Planning for Adult Life** is a statewide project funded by the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) to assist young adults (between the ages of 16-21) with developmental disabilities and their families in charting a life course for adulthood. They offer a variety of resources including Informational sessions, webinars, and resource guides/materials.

Visit <http://planningforadulthood.org/>  
**The Arc of New Jersey** website, for information on their many



The West Windsor Plainsboro Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association (WWP SEPTSA) was established in 2011, in response to parents seeking an organization where the families of special needs students were directly involved in managing an organization supporting other families of special needs students. This Parent Teacher Student Association encourages both parents and students (middle and high school) to share their experiences and knowledge with others facing similar challenges.

Please visit our website (note new address) at [www.wwp-septsa.org](http://www.wwp-septsa.org) to find our membership form and more information, and like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/septsa/>. Please return the membership form and payment to your child's school in an envelope marked SEPTSA Membership.

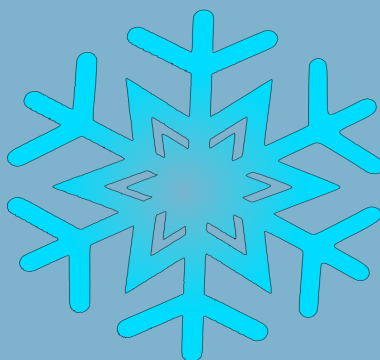
**Upcoming Programs:**

January 17, 2019 7-9 PM  
*Transitioning to College: Student to student discussions between college students and high schoolers with 504s, IEPs, or unclassified learning challenges.*

*Classico Tomato Pies,*  
 38 Princeton Hightstown Road, W. Windsor

January 30th, 2019 7 PM  
*How to Effectively Use the IEP to Advocate for your Child*  
 Community Middle School

May 8, 2019 Autism Day  
 at  
**SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE**  
 Jackson, NJ  
 Six Flags will transform Great Adventure into a sensory-friendly environment where individuals on the spectrum, and their families and friends, can enjoy a full day in the park without worry.



**Special Education Parent Advisory Group (S.E.P.A.G.)**

**Meeting on: February 27th, 7:30 pm @ Community Middle School (location is tentative)**

**All school districts in New Jersey are required to have a SEPAG to help provide input to the Special Services Department on issues having to do with special education. In initial meetings held last year, parents identified a number of key issues. This meeting will follow up with a focus on COMMUNICATION.**

**Please come to this meeting to discuss your concerns regarding communication between parents and the school district regarding special education services. This meeting is intended to be an open forum, for parents only, to constructively discuss issues. With questions or to RSVP, please contact Jennifer Riccards at [jenballen@yahoo.com](mailto:jenballen@yahoo.com).**

(This meeting is conducted in alliance with SEPTSA, the WWP Special Ed. Parent Teacher Student Asso.)

## Important Information for Parents: Regarding the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (S.E.M.I.)

The SEMI program reimburses school districts for funds the district has expended providing health-related services (i.e. speech, occupational and/or physical therapy, CST evaluations, nursing services, etc.) to students who are receiving special education services and who are also eligible to receive health benefits under Medicaid. Upon initial classification, and then annually, parents will be asked by CST case managers for consent so that the district can seek reimbursement from Medicaid for any health-related services the district has provided to student who meet the SEMI criteria noted above. We must have parental consent before we can seek reimbursement from Medicaid. No information will be submitted without parental consent and this program does not affect a family's insurance benefits. Parents of special education students who receive benefits under the Medicaid program are encouraged to provide consent for the district to seek this reimbursement. Please speak with your child's CST case manager for additional information or to receive additional information. Thank you!

### Sensory-friendly places to go and things to do in the area

#### Air Trampoline

111 Route 35, Aberdeen  
732-583-3000  
Airtrampolinesports.com  
First Sunday of the month at 10:00 AM

#### American Museum of Natural History

Central Park West at 79th Street,  
Manhattan, NY 212-769-5100  
Amnh.org  
Discovery Squad from 9:00-10:00 am on  
select Saturday mornings

#### AMC Theaters

Freehold, Hamilton, New Brunswick  
Amctheatres.com  
Second and fourth Saturday

#### Bowlero

1 Carolier Lane, North Brunswick  
732-846-2424  
Bowlero.com  
Autismspeaks.org

#### Slocum's Bowling Center Ewing ~ Family Event

for Special Needs Children ~ ALL AGES welcome  
Call to ask about special needs dates  
609-799-0909 x1719

#### Diggerland

100 Pinedge Dr. West Berling NJ  
856-768-1100  
diggerlandusa.com

#### The Intrepid

12<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 46<sup>th</sup> Str on Pier 86  
Manhattan 212-245-0072

Intrepidmuseum.org

Contact for info on special sensory  
friendly events

#### Metropolitan Museum of Art

100 Fifth Avenue at East 82<sup>nd</sup> St,  
Manhattan  
212-535-7710

Metmuseum.org

Sensory map to indicate quiet or lower

light areas

#### Paper Mill Playhouse

22 Brookside Dr, Millburn, NJ  
973-376-4343  
Papermill.org

#### POAC Autism Services

1989 Rt 88, Brick NJ  
732-785-1099  
Poac.net

#### Raritan Valley Community College Plan- etarium

118 Lamington Road, Branchburg, NJ  
908-526-1200 Raritanval.edu

#### Sahara Sam's

536 Route 73, West Berlin, NJ  
856-767-7580  
Sahasasams.com  
Special needs nights at the indoor water  
park—call for dates

#### Sky Zone

600 Hadley Road, South Plainfield, NJ  
Skyzone.com

Sensory friendly hours

July 30 from 10-11 am

August 7 from 6 to 8 pm

August 27 from 10-11 am

#### State Theatre

151 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick NJ  
732-246-7469

Statetheatrenj.org

#### Union County Arts Center

1601 Irving St, Rahway NJ

732-499-8226

#### State Theatre

151 Livingston Avenue, New  
Brunswick NJ 732-  
246-7469

Statetheatrenj.org

#### Union County Arts Center

1601 Irving St, Rahway NJ  
732-499-8226

Upac.org

#### William Paterson University,

Shea Center for the Per-  
forming Arts 300

Pompton Road, Wayne, NJ  
973-720-3178 Wpunj.edu

Below is a list of Ski Resorts that advertise programs for children with motor or cognitive disabilities and autism. If interested, please contact the program directly for more information both about the types of supports offered and the costs.



## **NEW JERSEY**

### **Mountain Creek Ski Resort – Vernon**

Children as young as 4 years can take private or group ski lessons from experienced, patient instructors, while budding snowboarders age 5 and under can take lessons at the on-site Ringlet Park. 973-827-2000

**Campgaw Mountain –Mahwah** Campgaw offers group and private lessons for kids, including a group lesson for ages 4–6. 973-327-7800

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

**Blue Mountain – Palmerton, PA** Located about 45 minutes from the NJ/PA border, Blue Mountain is well worth the drive. 610-826-7700

### **Shawnee Mountain – East Stroudsburg, PA**

This Poconos ski resort, located right on the border of NJ, is known for being very family-friendly and packed with child-approved amenities. 570-421-7231

### **Camelback Mountain, Tannersville, PA**

Pennsylvania Center for Adapted Sports offers ski and snowboard lessons at Camelback Mountain in Tannersville, PA for ages 5 and up. [Camelback Mountain Adaptive Ski](#) – 215-765-5118

## **NEW YORK**

### **Adaptive Sports Foundation**, Windham Mountain, Windham, NY

Based out of the Gwen Allard Adaptive Sports Center at Windham Mountain, ASF is the largest adaptive ski and snowboarding program in the Northeast. The program caters to people with special cognitive or physical needs ages 5 and up. [asfwindhma@mhccable.com](mailto:asfwindhma@mhccable.com) or visit the website.

**STRIDE Adaptive Sports**, Catamount Mountain, Hillsdale, NY STRIDE offers a slew of adaptive sports programs, including skiing and snowboarding, sled hockey, snowshoeing and a ski race team.

### **Best Day Foundation**

Thunder Ridge, Patterson, NY

### **Belleayre Adaptive Snow sports Program**

Highmount, NY: offers an adaptive snow sports program with lessons for people with physical challenges, blindness, autism or developmental delays.

The Center for Autism Research at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia is offering workshops for parents of toddlers through elementary age children—our age group at Town Center.

A second workshop is being offered for parents of children between the ages of 9-15 and deals with concerns of parents as their children with ASD enter adolescence.

## Next Steps Workshop for Families

*-A Workshop for Parents/ Caregivers Supporting Young Children Newly Diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)*

Wednesday, January 30, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM EST

This workshop is geared towards parents/caregivers of toddlers through elementary school-aged children who have recently been diagnosed with ASD. Topics will include an overview of ASD, available therapies and treatments, how to decide what interventions to pursue, and tips for accessing community supports and resources.

## Next Steps Into Adolescence

This workshop is geared toward parents, caregivers and professionals supporting individuals with ASD who are between the ages 9-15.

Thursday, February 28, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM EST

Parents of pre-adolescent children *also* need support. By the end of elementary school, parents begin to look toward the future. They begin to think about what their children will be when they “grow-up” and worry if their children will ever “catch-up” academically and socially. All in all, the transition into adolescence can be a difficult one and a time when many families recognize the life-long planning associated with ASD.

Both programs will be held at the main campus in Philadelphia.

Roberts Center for Pediatric Research  
2716 South Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19146

Presenters will include experts in developmental and behavioral pediatrics, speech and language pathology, occupational therapy, social work and psychology. There will be an opportunity for question and answer dialogue with these presenters. Participants will also engage in a discussion with a panel of parents who have made the next steps with their children.

### Register to attend in person

\$25 for parents/guardians\*

\$45 for professionals\*

### Register to participate online (NEW!)

\$15 for virtual attendees (limited spaces available)

For more information contact:

Susannah Horner, LCSW  
Center for Autism Research at CHOP  
[horners@email.chop.edu](mailto:horners@email.chop.edu)  
267-426-4910