



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

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Spring 2019



April is Autism Awareness Month!

In April, the Millstone River staff & students hosted its annual "Autism Walk" in recognition of Autism Awareness month. Millstone River staff & students collected monetary donations and participated in a school wide walk to bring awareness to the special

needs community.

Proceeds from this year's walk benefitted Visitation Home in Yardville, NJ. Visitation Home is a non-profit organization that runs a group home serving the developmentally challenged. People with disabilities live together as a family in Visitation Home. They believe that it is through these relationships that they discover each other's gifts and the inherent dignity of each individual. This home depends primarily on the generosity of their benefactors. Anyone still wishing to donate may contact Margaret Delre at margaret.delre@ww-p.org.

The Child Study Team at Town Center wishes to thank all TC staff & students for opening their hearts (and purses and wallets) to benefit students with autism.

Between the money raised by folks buying autism pins (Thank you EDP kids and staff!) and their generous donations, \$500 was donated to Autism NJ from Town Center.



Pictured are Town Center students enjoying the new playground equipment that has recently been installed, and is designed specifically for our special needs students.



Autism-Specific Events & Programs



The Eagles Autism Challenge is taking place on **Saturday May 18th, 2019**. There are a variety of ways to participate including a bike tour, 5k run/walk, and a sensory walk.

Guests can also just buy tickets for the finish line celebration within Lincoln Financial Field or there is a free viewing area outside of the stadium. Lots of individuals from the organization (players, cheerleaders etc.) attend. It is a really great event and fundraiser- super positive environment and extremely fun to be a part of!



Chuck E. Cheese's: Several Chuck E. Cheese locations provide a “Sensory Sunday” event, normally the first Sunday of every month. Autism-sensitive considerations include reduced lighting, noise, trained staff members, and food and game considerations.

More Details: Participating locations include: Bricktown, Bridgewater, Cherry Hill, Deptford, East Hanover, Edison, Jersey City, Mays Landing, Paramus, Union, Wayne, **West Windsor**.

Time: First Sunday of every month, 2 hours before open time.



Sesame Place, located just 30 minutes North of Philadelphia and 30 minutes west of Trenton, became **America's first autism certified theme**

park. Partnering with The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards, Sesame Place trains every one of its staff members and offers specialized dining options, quiet rooms, low sensory areas, low sensory parade viewing, a ride accessibility program and more. Staff are trained on topics ranging from sensory awareness, to motor skills, social skills, and surrounding environment awareness. All of the park's rides are ranked on a special sensory guide from 1-10.

Location: 100 Sesame Rd, Langhorne, PA 19047

Date/Time: [View Calendar](#)

Phone Number: (215) 702-3566

Website: [Sesame Place](#)

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.





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

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://planningforadultlife.org/>

The Arc of New Jersey website, for information on their many services and resources for graduating students and their parents.

The West Windsor-Plainsboro Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association (WWP SEPTSA)



Please visit our website (note new address) at www.wwp-septsa.org to find our membership form and more information, and like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/septsa/>.

5/19 - 4-6 pm, McCaffrey's Cafe - Parents of students with special needs hold meetups the 3rd Sun of the month during the school year. Please come to chat and share experiences.

5/23 - 3-4pm, HSN Upper Dining Hall - SNSA is open to all students with classified or unclassified needs, and to siblings and friends that support them. Meeting will discuss summer volunteer opportunities and social gatherings.

6/14 - 12-1:30pm, Inviting members and volunteers for a volunteer appreciation lunch and to elect new officers. RSVP to KKZ4@Verizon.net by 6/10.



The First Day of School Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides support for special education students. The foundation honors the memory of Eli Thomas Waller. Eli was a 4 year old pre-school student at Yardville Elementary School in Hamilton who passed away from the Enterovirus in September 2014. The mission of the First Day of School Foundation is to provide financial assistance for school-related and therapeutic expenses for Special Education students and families.

Several West Windsor Plainsboro Special Education teachers were awarded grants this year from the First Day of School Foundation. For more information, to donate, or to nominate a teacher or classroom, please visit their website:

<http://firstdayofschoolfoundation.org/>

Please join them for their next Fundraiser at the Trenton Thunder Game on Sunday June 9th at 1:00pm

Tickets can be purchased through:

<https://groupmatics.events/event/Firstday?r=3>

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (S.E.P.A.C.)

Wednesday, May 29, 7:30-9 pm, Community Middle School. Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) meeting. All parents of students with IEPs or 504 plans are welcome to join! This will be an open discussion and sharing of information about all topics of concern to parents. As we work through IEPs and plans for next year, many families are struggling to make sense of the best next steps for their children. This is especially challenging if a child is graduating to another school. Please join your fellow families facing similar issues. Questions or RSVPs (appreciated but not necessary!) please contact Jennifer Riccards at jenballen@yahoo.com.



Resources for Siblings of Children with Autism

Support Groups

Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center Summer 2019 Sibling Group (Siblings ages 6-13)

Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center, 151 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Wednesday evenings, May 29 through July 24 from 5:00 to 7:00pm

This is an opportunity for siblings of children with autism to share their own experiences, learn more about autism, talk about dealing with daily stress and mostly to have fun!! Bring a positive attitude. Pizza and drinks will be provided at every session.

For more information or to register, please contact Allison Hawkings at APH68@GSAPP.RUTGERS.EDU

Sibshop at the ARC of NJ

905 Livingston Avenue, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Young sibs may need help figuring out how to form a healthy relationship with their sibling with an intellectual or developmental disability. It is vital to check-in often to ensure that an open dialog is established. Young sibs have many questions, but not always the language to verbalize their emotions. Support groups and other sib friends can be a lifeline for children.

Sibshops provide young brothers and sisters peer support and information in a lively, recreational setting.

For more information contact Cheryl Crick, (732) 246-2525 or email ccrick@arcnj.org

Here are some sibling resources recommended by the ARC:

Developmental Disability Awareness Coloring Book

Welcome to Adventures From My World! (comic book)

- All About My Brother, By Sarah Peralta
- Brotherly Feelings: Me, My Emotions, and My Brother with Asperger's Syndrome, By Sam Frender
- Views from Our Shoes: Growing Up with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs, By Donald Joseph Meyer
- Special Brothers and Sisters: Stories and Tips for Siblings of Children with a Disability or Serious Illness, By Jessica Kingsley Pub
- My Brother Charlie, By Holly Robinson Peete, Ryan Elizabeth Peete, Holly Robinson Peete

Autism, My Sibling, and Me (workbook for young children, ages 5 to 10)

Brothers, Sisters, and Autism: A Parent's Guide

Sesame Street and Autism - A Sibling Story



Many thanks and credit to Mrs. Jane Frankel, MSW at Town Center Elementary School for providing much of the resource and community program content in this newsletter.

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

12th Avenue at 46th 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 82nd 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