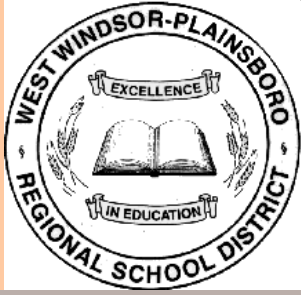


West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District Special Services Department NEWS!



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 2019

Revised Practice in Child Study Team Operations:

In recent communications with NJDOE, the district was advised to take care when providing draft IEPs to our parents prior to IEP meetings. Specifically, when a draft IEP contains placement and programming information, you as parents could feel that the program and/or placement was “predetermined” and that you were denied meaningful participation in the IEP process, even though the document is in DRAFT form.

Specifically, NJAC 6A:14-2.3 (j) references the laws governing “parental consent, notice, participation and meetings.” This portion of the Code states “the parent shall be given the opportunity to participate in meetings regarding the identification, evaluation, classification, educational placement of, or the provision of a free, and appropriate public education to the student.”

Our past practice of providing draft IEPs including placement and/or program information could be construed as violating the intent of the Code to ensure meaningful parental participation. For this reason, the district will no longer provide draft IEP documents that project a specific placement or program. Those sections of the draft IEP should be left blank, and will be discussed and determined at the IEP meeting.

Draft IEPs should include previously determined eligibility information, evaluations/reports, present levels of academic achievement & functional performance, standardized test results, strengths of the student, concerns of the parent, supports for school personnel, goals and objectives based on the student’s progress to date, and all other information typically required with the notable exception of placement and program.

In distributing draft IEPs without the placement or programming filled out in advance, we as a District ensure that you, our parents, are equal participants in the IEP process.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation as we implement this practice.



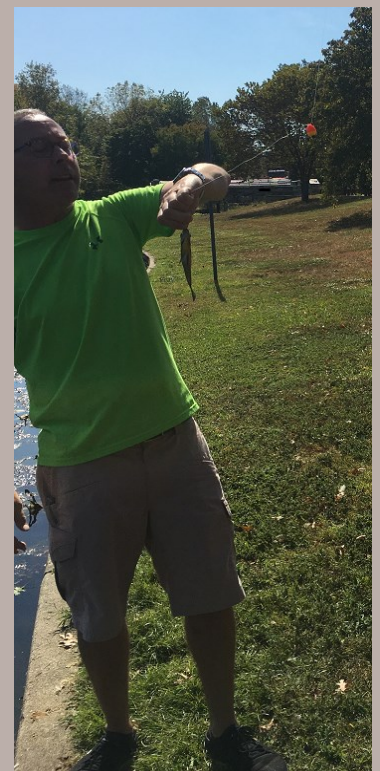
News from Community Middle School:

In September our students in our CMS Community Based Instruction (CBI) program had the chance to go fishing at Mill Pond Park.

Craig Harley, from the Plainsboro Recreation Department, led the trip and was amazing with our students! All students had a chance to reel in a fish. Some students were even able to cast the rod, catch a fish and reel it in by themselves!

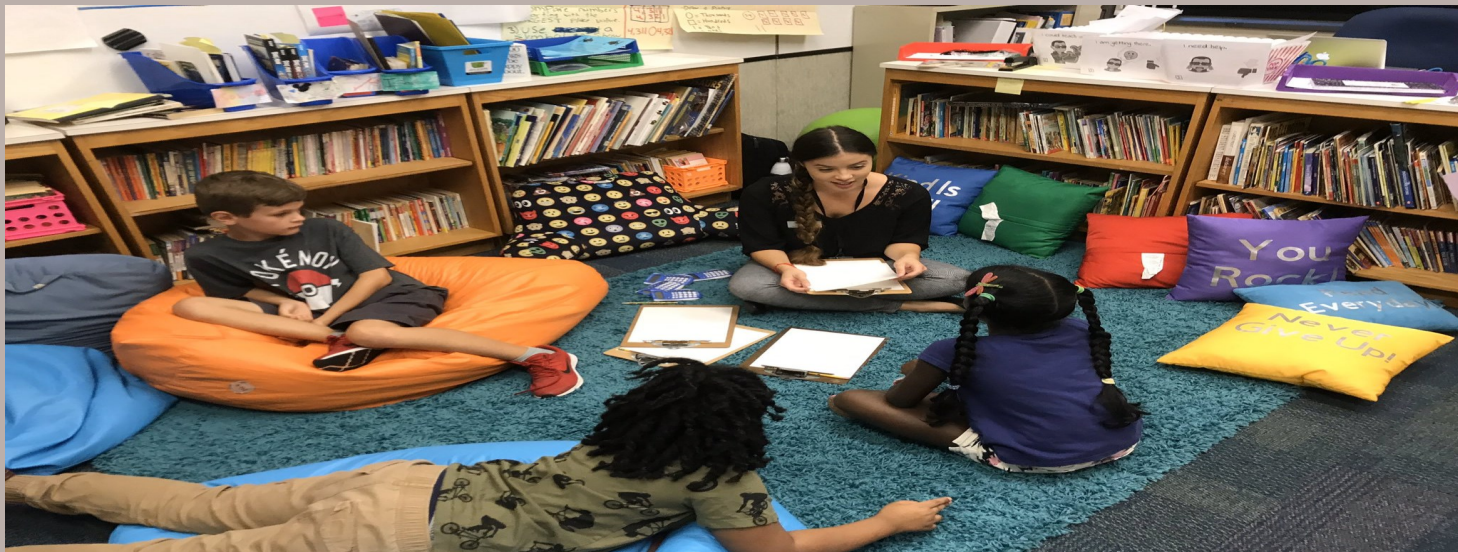
This was an amazing experience for our students. We look forward to continuing to partner with Craig in the future. Our families are excited to hear that the Plainsboro Recreation Department holds family fishing experiences in the summer, and that they are able to sign up to participate in these events with their students.

Brianne Verhoog, Jennifer Pappano & Caitlin Musumeci



Happenings in Millstone River:

Students in Mr. Eggert's math class wanted to incorporate "shopping" into their lesson on money. Students brought in pretend food items from home and created the "A-132 store!" Students were responsible for pricing items as they would see it in a grocery store, learning how to budget their money for shopping, and learned how to properly use a calculator. Students took turns being the cashiers to enhance the experience. Social interactions, activating their math knowledge, and teamwork were all aspects of what made this lesson successful!



Town Center Speech Therapy:

Core Word Fun at Town Center by Jamie Gold M.S., CCC-SLP

Some of our students at Town Center have been working hard to expand their vocabulary using Core Words.

Core vocabulary are small words that make up 70-90% of what we say on a daily basis such as 'turn', 'help', 'go', 'that' and 'up'. These words are relevant across contexts and can have many meanings. Students use verbalizations, sign language, communication books, or devices to express the vocabulary.

Here are some examples of core words and how to use them in different activities:

GO: 'GO' to make a toy car or wind-up toy move, 'GO' back to class, and request to 'GO' for a walk.

TURN: Requesting 'my TURN' during a game, 'TURN down' or 'TURN up' the volume, 'TURN off' the lights, 'TURN on' the iPad.

OPEN: Request to OPEN a door, a container, or to 'OPEN' a book.

For more information please see corevocabulary.weebly.com.

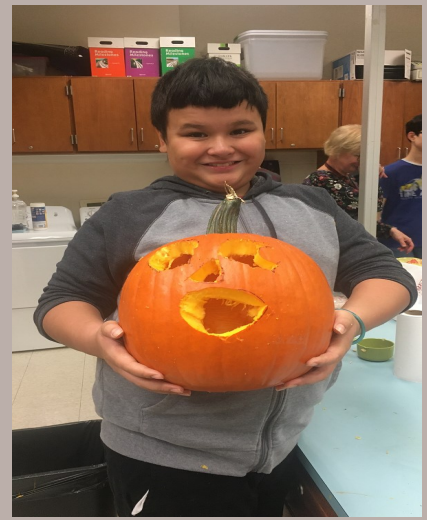


Community Middle School:

Our students had so much fun carving or painting the pumpkins that they picked! They did an amazing job carving and scraping out the inside of their pumpkins! Here is one of the pumpkins our students carved!

Everyone had huge smiles on their faces the entire time.

Brianne Verhoog, Jennifer Pappano & Caitlin Musumeci



Hawk & Wicoff Elementary Schools:

Although Autism Awareness Month does not occur until April, we would like to make you aware of an event that happens every fall. Autism Speaks, an autism awareness organization, coordinates a fundraising walk every fall in New Jersey (in several different areas). The Autism Speaks Walk is the world's largest autism fundraising event dedicated to improving the lives of people with autism. Powered by the love of parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, relatives, and supporters, the funds raised help ensure people of all abilities have access to the tools needed to lead 'their best lives'.

Autism Speaks was founded in February 2005 by Bob and Suzanne Wright, grandparents of a child with autism. Their longtime friend, Bernie Marcus, donated \$25 million to help financially launch the organization. Since then, Autism Speaks has grown into the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

The Hawk/Wicoff Elementary Schools team participated in the Central NJ Autism Speaks Walk on Sunday, October 13, 2019. This year was the first year that the walk was held at the Trenton Thunder Arm & Hammer Park. It was a beautiful day for the walk, with sunshine and smiling faces all around! Although we were small, we were mighty, as we shared our support for loved ones and many of the students who have touched our lives in immeasurable ways.

Please join us this year in showing our Hawk and Wicoff families how Hawk and Wicoff support not only Autism Awareness, but Autism Acceptance. Although it's too late to join us at the walk this year, you are still able to make an online donation through December 2019. To do so, please go to the Autism Speaks website, click on "Find a walk", put in the 08550 zip code, and click on the Central NJ walk. Next, click on Donate, then Team, and type in our team name ("Hawk/Wicoff Elementary Schools"). At that point you can make a donation. For those that joined us at the ballpark, thank you for another great walk! For all of our supporters, we thank you for your support!
Marissa Farber, M. Ed., Team Captain





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://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.



Nov. 14, 2019 @ 7pm, Community Middle School :

Deciphering Tests and Evaluations

Speaker: Teresa Taylor, Ed.Ph.D., Dir. of Special Services in Freehold RSD

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/>. Please return the membership form and payment to your child's school in an envelope marked SEPTSA Membership.



Autism New Jersey's:

TRANSITION CONFERENCE Newark, NJ
February 24, 2020

Autism New Jersey is proud to offer a conference tailored specifically to the concerns of families with children from 14 to 25 years of age. This specialized event provides caregivers and professionals with up-to-date information pertaining to this critical time in the life of an individual with autism. Careful planning to navigate the changes from school to the adult service system is necessary, and thousands rely on Autism New Jersey's assistance to do so. 12 workshops and 50 exhibits will focus on legal, instructional, and service issues specific to this important time of life.

Registration will open in December at AutismNJ.org

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

To support parents of students with an IEP or 504 plan, and to provide input to the district on special education issues, the WWP SEPAG meets regularly throughout the school year.

Please join us at any of the following times to meet fellow WWP parents of special education students and to discuss concerns you may have regarding your child! To RSVP (encouraged but not required!) or with questions, please contact Jennifer Riccards at 703-627-1269 or jenballen@yahoo.com.

— Third Sunday of every month, 4:00-6:00 pm, upstairs at McCaffreys on Princeton-Hightstown Rd. Upcoming dates:

November 17

December 15

January 12 (early because of MLK Day)

February 23 (late because of Presidents Day)

March 15

April 26 (late because of spring break)

May 17

—Parent meetings to provide feedback to the district:

Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 7:30-9 pm, location TBD

Wednesday, April 29, 2020, 7:30-9 pm, location TBD



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, Special Services Supervisor and/or Director 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

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



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