Dear GPS SES Families:

Welcome Back: We hope you have a great new school year!

Each month, the PTA Special Education Support Committee and District Administration will collaborate to bring you important news, events and updates related to special education. Our meetings provide information about special education in the district and often include speakers on current topics and issues. They are a great way to meet other parents and find support through our network of families who have children with special needs and disabilities. We hope you are having a good school year so far. Every time we do these newsletters we try to get more and more information to all of you so you can help your child and your family. If you have a topic or article you would like us to include, please e-mail us.

Sincerely,
Celia Fernandez and Teresa Ginsberg Co-Chairs SES

Special Ed Parent Forums at Greenwich High School

Each month, Chris Winters meets with parents of children with special needs. These meetings are informative and we highly recommend you stay tuned and try to get to as many as these meetings as you can. There are different speakers and topics. The meetings take place in the Media Center at 7:45am. The dates for the SpEd Parent Forums at GHS are as follows:

- Oct. 17
- Nov. 21st
- Dec. 19th
- Jan. 30th
- Feb. 27th
- March 19th
- April 30th

SES Meetings for 2011-2012

Every month The SES Reps and Co-Chairs meet. We have speakers on different topics, the following are the dates for this years meetings. All meetings are at Town Hall. Reps meet at 9:30, speaker portion of meeting starts at 10:00, all parents are welcome to come.

11/9, 12/7, 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/18, 5/16, 6/13
Each school in town has a rep for SES. Get to know your rep and look for dates of upcoming coffees at your school. Below is the list of reps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Reps</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greenwich High</td>
<td>Beth Auch, Jamie Clarke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Middle</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Middle</td>
<td>Kristen Taylor, Teresa Ginsberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Middle</td>
<td>Lauren Yoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenville</td>
<td>Anna Ksiazek, Andrea Cancellieri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton Ave</td>
<td>Bob Macintyre, Anna Sackey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cos Cob</td>
<td>Beatriz Lazano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-School</td>
<td>Allison Elaouni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkway</td>
<td>Diane Davol</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Street</td>
<td>Meilee Fu, Kim Gesell</td>
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<td>Riverside</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Lebanon</td>
<td>Karyn Vivier</td>
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<td>North Mianus</td>
<td>Yelena McRae</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISD</td>
<td>Harumi Stewart, Anna Mukerjee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Greenwich</td>
<td>Sally Young, Carol Cass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julian Curtiss</td>
<td>Shellie Hone</td>
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Check it Out

Unified Sports at GHS

There will be an informational and sign up meeting on Thursday September 22, 2011 at 2:30pm and 6:00pm in room 615 for all students interested in learning more about the Unified Sports program at Greenwich High School. Parents are welcome to attend the 6:00 meeting. Unified Sports is a registered program of Special Olympics that combines students with and without an intellectual disability to practice and compete against students of similar age and skill ability. Our program was piloted at Greenwich High School last year and experienced a huge success as approximately 80 players participated. The program attracted a diverse student body including artists, athletes, musicians, and academic club members. GHS is currently the largest Unified Sports team in the state of CT. Community service hours are awarded for students who participate. This year the season will start off with indoor soccer and will entail a number of Saturday morning practices from 11:30-1:00pm. Practices will take place in the Greenwich High School gymnasium. If interested, parents should attend the 6:00 meeting on 9/22.

If you would like additional information and cannot attend the meeting, please email erin_randall@greenwich.k12.ct.us and/or visit our website at: http://www.greenwichschools.org/page.cfm?p=9560

October 19, November 16, December 21

PIZZA MOMS meet up with other women with children with special needs for food, laughter and fun. We meet every third Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will be on 10/19 at 7pm. We will be meeting at a new location, California Pizza in the Stamford Mall. Contact Philippa Orszulak: angelmanmom@optonline.net
Join Abilis for a one mile stroll or roll through beautiful Greenwich Point Park (Tod's Point) to benefit the children and adults in the Greenwich-Stamford area with developmental disabilities.

Walk for a family member, a friend, a classmate or each other to celebrate the support, teamwork and respect Abilis encourages all year long.

http://www.abilis.us

Questions?
Kristen Runk: 203-531-1880 x110
Around the Area

News from CACLD
(CT Association for Children and Adults with Learning Difficulties)
10/17/2011 6:45 PM
Norwalk City Hall

ADHD Awareness Week Program – Kevin Kalikow, MD., will discuss his latest book *Kids on Meds* and offer up-to-date information about the most commonly prescribed medications for ADHD. Dr. Kalikow is also the author of *Your Child in the Balance - An Insider’s Guide for Parents to the Psychiatric Medicine Dilemma*. This program is free but registration would be appreciated to ensure enough seating and books. Click on this link and email us with your name, the number of people attending and let us know if you wish to reserve a book.

10/29/2011 8:30 AM
Marriott Stamford Hotel & Spa

CACLD’s 41st Annual Conference on “Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficits Through the Lifespan” – at the Stamford Marriott. Keynote speaker is Dr. Robert Brooks, a psychologist on the faculty of Harvard Medical School. The conference will also feature workshops, exhibits and a giant bookstore. Click here to join our mailing list to receive registration information.

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StudioTime for the Serious Young Artist at the Greenwich Arts Council

For special needs kids who would like to have quiet, uninterrupted time in a fully equipped art studio on Greenwich Ave (299 Greenwich Ave, 3rd Floor/Senior Center/Arts Bldg). Students can use the time to start new art projects or continue current ones. This informal instruction is open to anyone who needs help/guidance this class will be fun, encouraging and informative.

Classes, Sunday, 12:30 to 3:30pm, beginning Oct 2nd.

Tuition is $450 for five sessions. If I have 4 or more students (limit of 6), then it is $450 for 6 sessions.

MARY NEWCOMB newcomb@optonline.net  www.marynewcomb.com

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October is National Down Syndrome Awareness Month

The National Down Syndrome Society has many wonderful resources on their website [www.NDSS.org](http://www.NDSS.org), check it out to learn more!

Did you know:
- One in every 691 babies is born with Down syndrome.
- There are more than 400,000 people living with Down syndrome in the United States.
- Life expectancy for people with Down syndrome has increased dramatically in recent decades - from 25 in 1983 to 60 today.
- People with Down syndrome attend school, work, participate in decisions that affect them, and contribute to society in many wonderful ways.

- **Join the NDSS campaign to celebrate and honor the 400,000 Americans living with Down syndrome.**

Share and read stories here: [http://ndss.org/stories](http://ndss.org/stories)
The Southfield Center Parent Lecture Series

**Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**
Helping Your Child Be Organized
The challenge of helping your child become organized for school and for life is one of the most difficult areas of parenting. Dr. Christopher Bogart will discuss why organization is difficult for children and will look at what can be expected from our children at different ages. He will talk about why most children need to be explicitly taught how to become organized, and will examine how a child’s level of organization can be improved when their home life becomes more predictable. Parents will learn practical strategies to help their children become more organized.

**Wednesday, November 2, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**
Understanding the Nuts and Bolts of Your Child’s IEP
If your child is receiving special education services, then you already know that the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is the centerpiece of your child's program. Education advocates Ann McCarthy, Laurie Markus, and Amanda Gaffney will walk you through the entire IEP document, explain the key components and how they work together, and demystify the numbers that can be so overwhelming. Parents will learn how to ask the right questions and become an active participant in their child’s planning and placement team.

**Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**
Teen Stress: How to Recognize it, How to Help
Academic pressures, peer relationships, societal pressures, conflict with parents, and poor self-esteem are just a few of the stressors our adolescents face. Parents equipped to recognize the signs of teen stress will be able to implement successful coping strategies or provide the appropriate supports to help their children through this difficult time. Dr. Jeffrey DeTeso will discuss the specific types of situations impacting today’s adolescent and the many different symptoms of stress. Parents will learn strategies and tools to help their children manage stress.

**Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**
Executive Functions and Their Impact on Learning
Does your child struggle to pace himself, become easily distracted, forget to write down assignments, have difficulty getting started on tasks, become overwhelmed, or perform inconsistently? If so, your child may have deficits in executive functioning, which impact his or her learning. Dr. Timothy Heitzman will demystify the term ‘executive functioning’ by explaining what it is, and how it impacts home and school functioning, in practical terms. Parents will learn how to help their child with executive functioning deficits, through home and school-based supports.

Location: The Southfield Center for Development, 85 Old Kings Highway North, Darien
Lectures are free and open to the public. Space is limited.
Please RSVP to Christi Zacarola, 203-202-7654, christi.zacarola@southfieldcenter.com

Check out the web site [http://www.smartkidswithld.org](http://www.smartkidswithld.org) This month's e-newsletter has a lot of great information about the following topics

- Note-Taking Technology
- Transferring Colleges
- Morning Madness
- Philip Schultz: From Dyslexia to the Pulitzer Prize
AG Bell CT and Greenwich Public Schools Present Two Seminars by Nationally Renowned Pediatric Audiologist, Jane Madell

"Managing Hearing Loss in the Classroom"
and
"Succeeding with Hearing Loss"

When:

Wednesday Sept. 28, 2011
First Seminar  3:30-5:30pm
Second Seminar  6:30-8:30pm

Where:
Greenwich High School
10 Hillside Rd.
Greenwich, CT 06830

Contact:
Andrea Sherman
Board Member
AG Bell Connecticut Chapter
shermana8@yahoo.com

Click Here to See Event Webpage
and Register!
ASHA CEUs, AAA and LSLS credits available
Parents, you can help improve services for children with disabilities in CT!

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will be conducting monitoring in Connecticut in November. This visit, called a Continuous Improvement Visit, is required every five years. During the visit, OSEP will be assessing, or verifying, that key requirements of IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, are being followed and implemented.

An important part of the verification process includes hearing from stakeholders, and parents are key stakeholders. A survey has been created to provide all parents with the opportunity to provide input about their experiences with the requirements of IDEA.

The survey is brief and confidential. You are an important partner in the education process. Let your voice be heard!

Parents of Children Under 3 fill out Parent Survey Part C
Parents of Children Ages 3 to 21 fill out Parent Survey B

Prefer to fill it out over the phone? Call CPAC at 1-800-445-2722.

For more information, contact Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC) at 1-800-445-2722 or cpac@cpacinc.org

Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center, Inc.
338 Main Street, Niantic, CT 06357

www.cpacinc.org
cpac@cpacinc.org
1-800-445-2722