

Princeton Public Schools

Special Education PTO Newsletter

September 2016

News and Updates

Welcome back, Princeton students and families!

We hope you had a great summer and are looking forward to a great year. The Special Education PTO/SEPAG is excited to support students and families this year on a number of fronts. We will be using this newsletter over the year to keep you updated on our advocacy for special education students at the PTO Council (PTOC) and with Student Services, to share events and resources, and to continue to build a strong community for all students and families in Princeton.

Here is a preview of what the Special Education PTO has coming up:

- 1 **October 17, 7:00pm - 8:30 pm, John Witherspoon Middle School ACC - Special Education PTO/SEPAG Meet and Greet:** Meet the Student Services team who will share their goals for this year, informed by the spring's Focus Groups. Connect with other Special Education parents and staff.
- 2 **October 27, 7:00pm - 8:45 pm, John Witherspoon Middle School ACC- School Board Candidates Night:** Meet candidates for the school board elections and ask questions about the special education issues that affect you most!
- 3 **March TBD - Parent Education Seminar on Executive Functioning:** Learn about the development of executive functioning skills from infancy to adulthood, the role they play in the social, emotional and academic performance, and practical interventions to support their development. Followed by discussion and a chance to connect with other parents.
- 4 **May/June TBD - Student Services Focus Group:** Discussion facilitated by the Director of Student Services and team. This is a great chance to give feedback on the special education process - a chance to be a part of the process to support all kids, and to meet other parents and district staff!

Interested in getting involved with the Special Education PTO? Have ideas for what news and information you'd like to see here? Have a concern you'd like to share? Please email us at specialdpto@gmail.com!

Events and Happenings

1. [CHADD of Mercer County Facilitated ADHD Support Groups](#) - Family and Adult, beginning Monday, September 12, 2016, 7:45pm - 9:00 pm (Adult ADHD Support group AND Parents of Children with ADHD Support group)
 - Meets once a month, SECOND MONDAYS, 7:45-9:00pm
 - Registration Requested, email chaddprincetonnj@gmail.com
 - Donation: \$5 Dollars per family/per meeting
2. [Transition Planning - From High School to Higher Education for Students with Disabilities Webinar](#) by Family Support Center, September 14, 2016 12:00pm - 1:00pm
3. [Special Needs Expo NJ](#): Sun, September 18, 11am – 4pm, Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe - 100 Frank W Burr Blvd. Teaneck, NJ 07666

- Get essential information and talk to providers while activities provided for children
4. [Building Consensus: Best Practices for Successful Collaboration Between Parents & Child Study Teams](#): Wed, September 28, 3:00pm - 5:00 pm, Sage Day Princeton, 3635 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 18
 - Strategies and techniques for writing a collaborative and meaningful IEP
 5. [Dyslexia Early Intervention Lecture with Dr. Gaab](#), October 5, 2016, 7:00pm - 9:00pm, The Cambridge School, Pennington, NJ
 - Dr. Gaab, is a highly-regarded expert on neuroscience currently doing extensive research on auditory and language processing in the human brain and its applications for the development of typical and atypical language and literacy skills
 - Dr. Gaab is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital and the Harvard Medical School and a member of faculty at Harvard GSE
 6. [Beyond Medication: Improving Executive Functioning in Students with ADHD](#), Thu, October 6, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, Sage Day Princeton, 3635 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 18
 - Helping parents help their children with time management, organization skills
 7. [Learning Disabilities of New Jersey Annual Conference "Navigating the Maze"](#) Sunday, October 23, 2016, Rutgers University Livingston Campus Student Center, 84 Joyce Kilmer Ave, Piscataway
 - Keynote Amanda Morin from [Understood.org](#)
 - Attend panels and network with specialists, providers and parents
 8. [Autism New Jersey's 34th Annual Conference](#), October 27 & 28, 2016, Harrah's Atlantic City Waterfront Conference Center

Resources

Each month, we'll highlight resources and articles available. If you have found a particular resource helpful that you don't see here, please share it!

- [Princeton Recreation Department](#) has announced their [schedule for the 2016-2017 Dances for Adult and Teens With Special Needs](#).
- [Hamilton YMCA](#) has announced their fall [SKOR \(Special Kids Organized Recreation\)](#) and [SOAR \(Special Organized Adult Recreation\)](#) programs, which provide quality programming for individuals with intellectual, physical, and/or emotional disabilities.
- [FunSense](#) in Kingston is currently setting appointments for the school year. FunSense provides support for sensory issues, speech, socialization, and OT.
- Free Saturday mornings? The Princeton YMCA sponsors a community exercise group called "[Olivia's Wellness](#)". They meet every Saturday at 8am at the Community Park track. The group is welcoming with real-life knowledge and understanding of special needs. All ages welcome.
- [Schafer Sports](#) is partnering with Special Olympics NJ for a "[Unified Walking Club](#)", which will meet at a designated day and time to set goals, walk laps, and track fitness. Special Olympics will provide prizes.
- The [Plainsboro Recreation Center](#) is currently offering a variety of programs for Special Needs students including: Bumper Bowling, Expressive Arts, Dance Party, Teen Social Hours, Special Olympics Young Athletes, Swim Lessons, Inclusive Messy Fingers Messy Hands, and Inclusive Sports Play.
- [Octopus Music School](#) in Hillsborough is now accepting fall registrations. They

offer special needs music instructors and hold twice yearly special needs recitals.

- [New Jersey Audubon's Plainsboro Preserve](#) offers a variety of special needs-friendly activities. This fall there are three Family Geocaching events, a Stream Search, day and evening hikes, Animal Discovery and Craft sessions.

Question of the Month

Each month we'll feature a survey to get input to inform the agendas with the PTOC and district, in addition to getting your tips and lessons learned to share parent to parent. This month's question is:

What do you most want to learn about from the Student Services team at October's Meet and Greet?