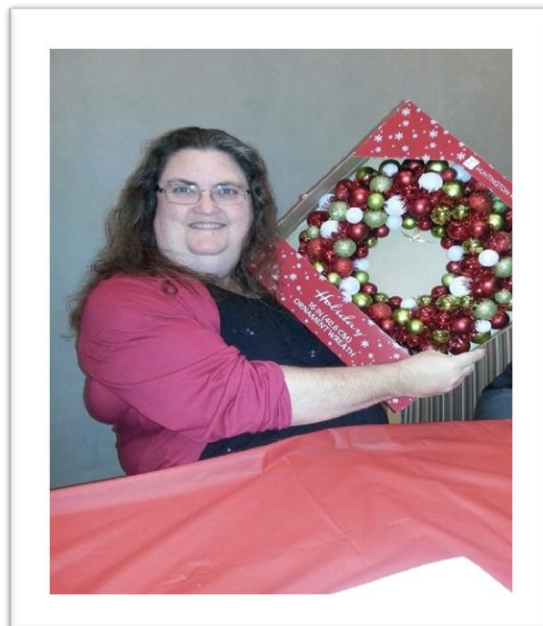


Stafford SEPTA Newsletter January – February 2015



SEPTA Holiday Party (December 2014)

SEPTA members enjoyed a relaxing potluck dinner in place of a December business meeting! Bring on the photo props and holiday cheer! Sue Smylie Daywalt won the holiday wreath!



Upcoming Events

Two opportunities to learn about the New Online IEP System (Synergy) this month SEPTA Parents this March:

*SEPTA is hosting a presentation on **Thursday, March 19, 2015** and the PRC is the week prior on **Wednesday, March 11, 2015.***

PRC Event Details

Parent Workshop NEW ON-LINE IEPs

What is SYNERGY SE?

What is an on-line IEP?

How does this look in comparison to the current IEP?

Parent Resource Center (PRC) is hosting a presentation for Stafford County Public School parents of Special Needs children. Information will be provided to families on the new on-line IEP system through Synergy Special Education and go through each section of the new IEP and describe changes from the current format to the new format. ALL families are encouraged to attend.

WHO: Mrs. Wendy Martin-Johnson Supervisor of Student Services, Stafford County Public Schools

WHEN: **Wednesday, March 11, 2015**

WHERE: The Alvin York Bandy Administrative Complex, 31 Stafford Ave., Stafford, VA 22554

TIME: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

RSVP: prc@staffordschools.net or 540.658.6710

SEPTA Event Details

SEPTA Hosted - New Online Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Presentation

Stafford County Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) is hosting a presentation for Stafford County Public School parents of Special Needs children. SPED Teachers have begun capturing student data within the new online SYNERGY System, and the current IEPs you are used to will no longer be in use after February 2015. Come learn the differences as Wendy Martin-Johnson compares the old IEP to the new online IEP.

WHO: Mrs. Wendy Martin-Johnson Supervisor of Student Services, Stafford County Public Schools

WHEN: **Thursday, March 19, 2015**

WHERE: Stafford Hospital Center Basement Conference Rooms 5 and 6

TIME: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

RSVP:

On Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/644694295657794/>

Or email staffordseptamembership@gmail.com

Current SEPTA Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held as follows

When: 2nd Tuesday of each month

Where: Stafford Hospital Center Basement Private Dining Room

Time: 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Dates: 10 Mar, 14 Apr, 12 May, 9 Jun

(May change to second Mondays of each month). Check email for further info.

SEPTA Family Fun Event Schedule

- March Splash Party @ YMCA **Date and Time TBD**
- April Outdoor Family Fun Activity ushering in Spring @ Caledon State Park - I Spy Hayride, self-guided family hike and possibly introduction to Geocaching 101 **Tentative Date: Sunday, April 26th**

- Family Pot-Luck and Membership Drive @ Aquia Landing Beach
Date: Saturday/Sunday, May 16th or 17th; Rain Date: Saturday/Sunday, May 30th or 31st

In The Community/Announcements

Superintendent Advisory Group

SEPTA's President, Dali Burgado, is currently representing SEPTA on the Superintendent Advisory Committee for SCPS. The meetings began in mid-December and run every other month at the Stafford Hospital Center.

Paragon Autism Services

417 Chatham Square
Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Provides Applied Behavior Analysis therapy (ABA) for children on the Autism Spectrum in Fredericksburg and surrounding counties.

Special Needs Lego Club

http://paragonautismservices.com/event/lego-club/?instance_id=267

Paragon Autism Services hosts monthly special needs Lego Club for children with disabilities and their siblings. We will plan for inclusion, and will have multiple play options. We'll provide standard Lego, Duplo and Mega Blocks, as well as wooden trains and tracks. Paragon Lego Club is free, but RSVP is required.

KD'z Kidz World Special Needs Family Night

http://paragonautismservices.com/event/kd-kidz-world-special-needs-family-night/?instance_id=705

From 5:00-7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of each month, Paragon Autism Services hosts a free, special-needs night for children with disabilities and their siblings at KD'z Kidz World in Stafford, VA. The event is limited to 40 participants and registration is required.

RAAC Autism Lunch & Learn

disAbility Resource Center
409 Progress Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Following the service provider portion of the monthly meeting of the Rappahannock Area Autism Council, members conduct an autism lunch and learn event to provide families a forum in which they can address questions to a diverse group of professionals that provide services to individuals diagnosed with autism. The event is free and open to anyone in the community the 4th Thursday of each month 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm.

Special Needs Life Planning Stages: Across All Generations

The disAbility Resource Center & The Washington Group Special Care Planning Team present this no cost workshop

Hyatt Place Fredericksburg-Mary Washington

1241 Jefferson Davis Highway

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

This workshop is open to families, caregivers, case managers and anyone in the community who would like to learn about the various life planning stages for individuals with special needs. Individuals with special needs face many unique legal and financial issues, this workshop will explore many of those challenges with an eye to solutions and maintaining a best quality of life. Topics include: future planning, legal instruments such as Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts, successor caregiving and asset administration on a multigenerational basis will be discussed. Speakers: Jerry L. Hulick, CLU, ChFC, ChSNC, CLTC & Richelle D. Moore, Attorney at Law.

Please RSVP by Monday, March 9th to: calford@financialguide.com or (703) 865-6502

Little Fish Swimming

301 Campus Dr

Fredericksburg, Virginia 22407-7206

<http://littlefishswimming.com/autism-speaks-scholarship/>

The Autism Speaks swimming and water Safety Scholarship Fund selects eligible organizations and programs to identify qualified financially disadvantaged individuals with autism and offer scholarship funds for swimming and water safety lessons.” We are proud to announce that Little Fish Swimming has been selected as one of the organizations to offer this scholarship. If you have a child with autism and would like to have them benefit from the Autism Speaks scholarship, please apply today!

Swimmers who are awarded the scholarship will benefit from private instruction in one of our 4 week swim sessions. We will discuss your swimmers specific needs and goals in the water and work closely with parents to accomplish these goals.

ASNV News

<http://www.thearcofva.org/advocacy/current-advocacy-issues-and-activities/waiver-redesign/>

Waiver Redesign - Big changes are coming to the ID/DD Waiver programs.

The state budget is very important because it determines the number of individuals with I/DD who will gain access to essential long-term services and supports over the next 18 months. It also determines the scope of services and supports that will be available and the quality of those services.

Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act Helps Give New Choices for Individuals with Disabilities

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/news/news-item/able-act-helps-give-new-choices-individuals-disabilities>

People with disabilities and their families will soon have another tool for saving. In December Congress passed and the president signed into law the *Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014*.

Membership News

2014-2015 New Memberships

SEPTA would like to *WELCOME* aboard new members:

1. Giancarlo Rodriguez
2. Marileytza Rodriguez
3. Barbara Smith
4. Yvonne Scanlan
5. Eileen Edwards
6. Tammy Lewis
7. Crystall Dupre
8. Carol Yeh
9. Sarah Whitlow, Park Ridge Elementary School
10. Ana Snoddy, Margaret Brent Elementary School
11. Mitzie Biddle, A G Wright Middle School
12. Nicki Burgess, Ferry Farm Elementary School
13. Dr. Susan Clark, Executive Director of Student Services/Chairperson Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

2014-2015 Membership Renewals:

The following SEPTA members have renewed their annual membership:

1. Kara Brault-Stup
2. Pete Stup
3. Janet Conley
4. Rose Sutton
5. Marilyn Matula
6. Dali Burgado
7. Luis Burgado
8. Regina Mike
9. Jennifer Lockwood
10. Jessica Porter
11. Jill Tater
12. Laura Bucklin
13. Anne Glencer
14. Maria Flavin
15. Molly Ritter
16. Carol +1
17. Diane Madden, Conway Elementary School
18. Elizabeth Wimmer, Margaret Brent Elementary School
19. Dr. Joni Johnson, Pediatric Partners for Attention and Learning, Inc.

It is always GOOD to have Special Education (SPED) teachers within the SEPTA organization!!

Membership dues are \$5 annually, and cover your membership from October 1st of one year to September 30th of the next year.

Please renew your membership online now at:

<http://staffordsepta.com/membership/>

Good News Story from SPED Teacher iPad Winner

Dear Dali and the entire Septa team,
Thank you so much for the Ipad for my classroom. We have been using it daily in lessons and activities. My students have used it in a variety of ways including keeping data on our class pet, documenting our STEM activities through photos, researching images of unfamiliar words, and much more.

An unexpected benefit is the confidence my students have gained through using it. One student is my "go to guy" when I don't know how to use a feature or app. Another student recently used it as a spell checker with the speech to text feature. He has a severe speech issue that affects his spelling. By speaking clearly into the Ipad, he is able to identify the correct word. This exercise is giving him practice in both language and reading. He loved it!

If you are ever interested in seeing how we are using it in the classroom for yourselves, please let me know. We would be happy to have a visit from you.

Again, thank you for the Ipad!

Erica

Erica King
Resource Teacher
Anne E. Moncure Elementary School

Contact Us & Parent Resources

SEPTA Executive Board Members

President: [Dali Burgado](#)
President Elect: Vacant
Treasurer: Marilyn Matula
Membership: Jill Tatter
Secretary: Regina Mike
Special Events: Kara Brault Stup
Fundraising: Vacant

Contact us:

Have an announcement to share or just questions about SEPTA and volunteer opportunities? Contact us at:

staffordseptamembership@gmail.com

<http://staffordsepta.com>

Parent Resources

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone No.</i>	<i>Fax No.</i>
Parent Resource Center	prc@staffordschools.net	540.658.6710	
disAbility Resource Center	childrc.org	540.373.2559	
Child Find	staffordschools.net	540.658.6517	
Rappahannock Area Community Services Board	racsb.state.va.us	540.373.3223	
Virginia Department of Education	doe.virginia.gov	804.225.2020	
United Way – Community Resource Guide	rappahannockunitedway.org	540.373.0041	
Autism Society of Northern Virginia	asnv.org Email: Info@asnv.org	703.495.8444	703.563.6099
Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)	peatc.org	800.869.6782	
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services	dbhds.virginia.gov	804.786-3921	804.371.2308
Fleming Therapy Services	flemingtherapy.com	540.720.2261X4	
Fox Therapy	foxtherapycenter.com	540.656.2228	
Helping Hands Pediatric Therapy Services	hhitherapy.com	540.657.1423	
Paragon Autism	paragaonautismservices.com	540.479.3889	

Services			
Tots to Teens	totstoteentherapy.com	703.507.1533	
Pediatric Partners for Attention and Learning, Inc.	info@pp4al.com	540.628.4145	540.628.4192
Autism Speaks	Autismspeaks.org	888.288.4762	