

*Regina Mike*

## STAFFORD SPECIAL EDUCATION PTA (SEPTA) WELCOME ABOARD PACKET



Dear SEPTA Families,

Welcome to the new school year! I am Regina Mike, the PTA President. My husband and I are parents of a son who was diagnosed with Autism in 2012. A Stafford County Public School (SCPS) teacher introduced me to the SEPTA organization. I have been a member since 2013.

SEPTA exists to improve the welfare of children with disabilities on an IEP or 504 Plan by supporting parents, teachers, and the Special Education community. Our SEPTA encompasses all schools in Stafford County -- elementary, middle, and high school. **How can joining a SEPTA benefit me?** Joining the SEPTA allows community members to network and provide a platform in which to share knowledge, experiences, and resources. SEPTAs provide a collaborative community of stakeholders.

Our purpose for this information packet is to let you know how the PTA works, what we do within the PTA as a whole, fill you in on what is going on throughout the year, and to let you know how you can help, and be involved. And lastly, there are a bunch of benefits you can take advantage of from the PTA membership. Some of the benefits for the 2015-2016 school year include discounts at Colonial Williamsburg, Great Wolf Lodge, Hertz rental car, and AARP just to name a few.

There will be 4 general membership meetings during the school year. The first one was held on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is October 12<sup>th</sup>. During this meeting, we will be voting on the budget. The budget will be emailed to each member ahead of time to solicit a vote. There will be several workshops for parents, a sensory toolkit workshop for teachers and a couple of fundraising activities which will need volunteers!

If you have any questions throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact me, or any one of the board members.

Very Respectfully,

*Regina Mike*  
Regina Mike

# SEPTA Points of Contact

President: Regina Mike  
Treasurer: Torwon Mitchell  
Secretary: Molly Ritter  
VP Membership: Anne Glencer  
VP Events: Open – Please Volunteer  
VP Fundraising: Dali Burgado

Email: [staffordseptamembership@gmail.com](mailto:staffordseptamembership@gmail.com)

Website: <http://staffordsepta.com>

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## Academic Year 2015-2016

### Our Communication Plan:

1. Year-at-a-glance – In here you will find an overview of all the different events, programs and fundraisers the PTA helps over the course of the year. Cici's Pizza is considered SEPTA's "Spirit Night". The 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month 5pm – 8pm. CiCi's donates 12% of its sales (dine in or carry out). These funds go towards issuing mini grants to SCPS Special Education teachers of which parents do the nominating!



Dates: 10/21, 11/16, 12/21, 1/18, 2/15, 3/21, 4/18, 5/16, 6/20

### PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR PTA

2. PTA Newsletter – We will email every member as well as publish on SEPTA's website a newsletter in November, January, March and June that detail upcoming events, programs, activities and any fundraisers. The goal will be to publish the 15th of each month. The newsletter will have a "Children's Corner". If any parent would like to submit an article or submit an accomplishment of their child, please submit an email to the SEPTA email address.
3. Facebook Updates – Facebook is SEPTA's main resource page. We will use this page to share photos, details, resources, and links to various types of information. It will highlight events whether or not SEPTA is hosting or advertisements for any local workshops, training or activities, legislation etc.

4. Email Updates – Not every SEPTA member has a Facebook account; therefore, email will be another form of communication. When there is a need for general membership voting, email will always be used to receive an accurate tally of voting. According to National and Virginia PTA Bylaws all voting passages will require a 2/3 vote.
5. Remind – Most of you probably are already familiar with this applications as most SCPS PTO uses it. SEPTA will begin to use it as a means of communication for immediate reminders of events, fundraisers and due dates. We all have the best intentions but sometimes need last minute reminder of what we forgot. You can sign up for Remind by texting @septaevents to 81010.
6. Sign-Up Genius – Since SEPTA offers childcare at Helping Hands, 2049 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Stafford, Va 22554, it will be used as a RSVP for those parents who will require it during SEPTA’s meetings held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month 7pm – 8pm. It is critical for those parents to respond as early as possible. Not only for childcare but if a workshop is occurring the presenter will require a headcount to ensure the appropriate number of copies are available.
7. Dial – In Capability – I realize not every parent will be able to attend a general membership meeting or a workshop, therefore, a free teleconference number is provided 712-432-1500 659173#. It is requested that if you use the feature, a roll call will be done at least ten minutes prior. It is critical that the meetings begin on time.

**Our Events Plan:**

September 14, 2015  
 General Membership Meeting

October 12, 2015  
 General Membership Meeting/Drive

November 9, 2015  
 Medicaid Waivers.....Ms. Jennifer Acors, RACSB  
 Fundraiser Date TBD: Bizzare selling various items

December 14, 2015  
 .....Local Service Provider Open House.....  
 Helping Hands (Speech, Occupational Therapy), Fleming Therapy (Speech, Occupational, and Physical Therapy), Comprehensive Autism Partnership (Applied Behavioral Analysis/ABA), and Paragon Autism Services (Applied Behavioral Analysis/ABA). There may be a local provider for Vision Therapy.

Note (1): location CHANGE – Stafford Hospital Basement Conference Room

Note (2): Parents are invited to come out and discuss any of your child(ren) needs via these local service providers. Some parents may already utilize these services; however, these providers will have an informational table.

January 11, 2016

Public Safety Project Lifesaver ..... 1st Sgt Darrell English  
Fundraiser Date TBD: Pancake Breakfast

February 8, 2015

Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) ACT.....Mr. Jerry Hulick

March 4, 2016

Sensory Toolkit for Teachers ..... Ms. Lisa Worcester, Helping Hands  
Fun Event Date TBD: Easter Egg Hunt

April 11, 2016

General Membership Meeting

May 9, 2016

Special Education Teacher Appreciation Week and Mini Grant Presentations

June 13, 2016

General Membership Meeting/ School's Out/ Thank You Night

**PLEASE NOTE:** When there is a workshop vice an actual General Membership Meeting, information will be electronically disseminated ahead of time. If any SEPTA member has comments regarding meeting minutes, treasurer's report, events, and/or fundraising, please bring to the Executive Board's attention right away or the *motion for acceptance will be carried.*

**Spirit Wear:**

SEPTA has been considering the sale of SEPTA tee shirts to SEPTA members and their families as a potential fundraiser. What do you all think? Would you purchase a SEPTA tee shirt?



Cost: S, M, L, XL - \$14.00  
Cost: XXL, XXXL - \$16.00

**Donations:**

If you would prefer to make a donation to the PTA in lieu of participating in our fundraising activities that is OK! Any amount helps us to support our students and teachers. You have an option to make checks payable to SEPTA or online via PayPal. Our PTA is a 501 (c)(3) organization so all donations count as a charitable contribution at tax time!

Stafford SEPTA  
31 Stafford Avenue  
Stafford, VA 22554

1. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF SEPTA?
2. WHAT ACTIVITIES DOES YOUR CHILD PARTICIPATE IN SO SEPTA CAN ASSIST WITH PLANNING ACTIVITIES?
3. WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO BE A VOLUNTEER?
4. WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO BE ON A COMMITTEE?

**For those members who haven't renewed, please do so. The 2014-2015 current membership expires 31 Oct 2015. You can renew in person on 12 Oct at Helping Hands during General Membership Drive or online via PayPal. <http://staffordsepta.com/membership/>**

**Please share your thoughts and ideas  
[staffordseptamembership@gmail.com](mailto:staffordseptamembership@gmail.com)**

**or**

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/staffordsepta/>**