

Below please find the August 7th edition of the Fairfield SEPTA Summer Star. Please note new Items are shown in Blue. Also note old issue of the SEPTA Star are now on the Fairfield SEPTA Website [www.fairfieldsepta.org](http://www.fairfieldsepta.org) If you are interested in having something published, please email your copy to [FairfieldSEPTA@gmail.com](mailto:FairfieldSEPTA@gmail.com) no later than Wednesday evening. Your item will run for a max. of three weeks, so send accordingly.

Thank you,  
Joanne Lenz

### **\*Food of Thought\***

**"Kids are curious. Kids are watching ants while adults are stepping on them."  
~Jim Rohn**

### **\*SEPTA Happenings\***

#### **SEPTA President Elect**

I am pleased to announce that Linda Pryor has stepped forward and volunteered for SEPTA's President-Elect position. Voting by the General Membership will take place at the September meeting. Linda brings a wealth of knowledge and experience and she will be a great asset to SEPTA's Leadership Team.

Elaine Davis  
SEPTA Nominating Chair

**\*Rep. for Gifted and Talented Services Committee\*** We are looking for a SEPTA Rep for the Gifted and Talented Services Committee. Since many of our children qualify as gifted and talented (criteria is based on school identification of a student or parent identification of a student) and also happen to have an IEP, I am hoping we can find someone to sit on this committee and report back to SEPTA. Each PTA, ideally, will have a Rep to send. Please contact Tina Rembish if you are interested. [MRembish1@yahoo.com](mailto:MRembish1@yahoo.com). Following is more information on this new Committee in Fairfield:

About the PTA Council Gifted and Talented Services Committee (GTS)

Mission:

The PTA Council Gifted and Talented Services Committee serves as the liaison between the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and Head of Elementary Education, who are responsible for the Gifted and Talented Program, and parents of gifted students to establish a two-way dialog for information sharing and advocacy that will help ensure that the needs of gifted and talented K-12 learners are met. Unit Reps attend monthly GTS Committee meetings, may attend meetings with Central Office administrators, and serve as the liaisons to your unit's PTA and parents of gifted students.

About Gifted & Talented Education in Connecticut Below are the position statements of the National PTA and the CT State Board of Education advocating and supporting gifted children.

\* The National PTA's position on Education Emphasis states that the, "National PTA especially recognizes the special needs of undeserved populations including children with disabilities,

limited English proficient children, homeless children, migrant children, gifted and talented children, and undocumented children in our nation's schools."

\* The CT State Board of Education's position on the education of gifted and talented states (excerpt): "No society can afford to neglect its human talent. The Board therefore encourages the state's public school districts to continue and to enhance their efforts to develop and implement a planned, suitable, challenging and integrated program of instruction for each gifted and talented student."

### **\*Outside Providers Programs\***

#### **\*Parks and Recreation- Fall Soccer\***

Although it's still Summer, it's time to sign up for Fall Challenger Youth Soccer offered for boys and girls in grades 1 - 8! Sign ups are taking place NOW at Fairfield Parks & Recreation located at 75 Mill Plain Road (or mail in the Registration Form from the Parks & Recreation Brochure attached

- choose course #1122). The fee for the program is \$25.00. If you'd like a Jersey the cost is \$15.00 (it's the same Jersey used for Rec. Basketball).

The Soccer Program's season starts on Saturday September 5th and ends on October 24th (no game on 9/19). The field location and game time will be determined by the end of August. The first half hour will be skill building fun and the second half hour we will play an organized game. Sarah Pallazo will be coaching again this Fall season!! If you have any questions please call Dianne Baxter (366-6693) or Anthony at Fairfield Parks & Recreation (256-3191).

Note: In case of inclement weather call the field hotline at 256-3144 (press 5) for field closures

### **\*Workshops and Conferences**

#### **The Family to Family Education Program**

Does someone you love have mental illness?

The National Alliance on Mental Illness Of Connecticut

Presents "The Family to Family Education Program "

12 weekly sessions offering support and education to family members of individuals with mental illness

Beginning: FALL 2009

#### **MERIDEN**

Date: Begins Monday, September 14th, 2009

Time: 6:30-09:00 PM

Location: "Coccoma Memorial HealthCenter"  
Meeting Room / Meriden - CT

Contact: Barbara at 203-710-3173

#### **FAIRFIELD**

Date: Begins Monday, September 14th, 2009

Time: 7:00-09:30 PM

Location: "First Church Congregational" - Elliot room/library

148 Beach Rd, Fairfield, CT  
Contact: Rebecca at 203-259-9779 or [thistleblu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thistleblu@sbcglobal.net)

### **STAMFORD**

Date: Begins Monday, September 14th, 2009

Time: 7:00-09:30 PM

Location: "Laurel House"

1616 Washington Blvd., Third Floor - Dining Room  
Stamford, CT 06902

Contact: Lorraine at 203-858-1477 or Candice McCallum at 203-967-2722

### **AVON**

Date: Begins Thursday, September 17th, 2009

Time: 7:00-09:30 PM

Location: "Valley Community Baptist Church" (Fellowship Hall "F")

590 W. Avon Rd. (RT 167)

Avon, CT 06001

Contact: Janet Brownstein at 860-620-7717 or [janetb1954@comcast.net](mailto:janetb1954@comcast.net)

### **WEST HAVEN**

Date: Begins Tuesday, September 22th, 2009

Time: 6:30-09:00 PM

Location: "The Errera Community Care Center"

114-52 Boston Post Road, 2nd Floor

West Haven, CT 06516

Contact: Mark at 203-430-7503 or 203-479-8050

### **MIDDLETOWN**

Date: Begins Wednesday, September 30th, 2009

Time: 6:30-09:00 PM

Location: CVH

Middletown, CT

Contact: Nancy at 860-523-4773

For more information about the Family-To-Family educational course, please contact Paloma Dee at the NAMI-CT office or by email at [familyeducation@namict.org](mailto:familyeducation@namict.org).

### **CACLD Focus Group Invitation**

Who:

We are looking for 8-10 parents of students with specific learning disabilities and/or attention deficit disorder in grades 7 through 12.

What:

Participate in a focus group to discuss the needs and gaps in current psychological assessment.

When:

Tuesday, August 18, 2009, 6 p.m.

A Pizza dinner will be provided.

Where:

CACLD Conference Room

25 Van Zant Street - 2nd Floor Suite 15-5  
East Norwalk, CT  
Parking on side of building or across the street.

Data from the Focus Group will be used as part of market and field research into the feasibility of an assessment center for college-bound students to be developed by Mitchell College in New London, CT

Mitchell College has one of the oldest and most comprehensive support programs for students with learning disabilities in the country.

Please respond by August 11. We need your input!

Email: CACLD @[optonline.net](mailto:optonline.net)

Phone: (203) 838-5010

Visit our Web Site at: [www.CACLD.org](http://www.CACLD.org)

### **Rethink Autism**

Greetings – hope you are all enjoying what’s left of the summer! Even if you have already heard about what we are doing at rethink autism, I encourage you to learn more about our web-based educational treatment platform for children with autism (<http://rethinkautism.com>) or pass along to someone else who might be interested.

Join one of our Free Live Webinars next Thursday, August 13 at 12p or 3p EST and find out how our platform can help parents and professionals:

- Create individualized ABA-based curricula
- Train staff and families in state-of-the-art teaching
- Monitor progress using automated data-tracking
- Access tools necessary to manage multiple programs

Please RSVP to: [info@rethinkautism.com](mailto:info@rethinkautism.com)

The mission of rethink autism is offering parents and professionals immediate access to effective and affordable Applied Behavior Analysis-based treatment tools for the growing population affected by autism spectrum disorders. Our web-based platform includes a comprehensive curriculum, hundreds of dynamic instructional videos of teaching interactions, step-by-step training modules, and progress tracking features. Our Senior Clinical Advisor, Dr. Bridget Taylor, personally reviews each of the lesson and training videos accompanying our curriculum, ensuring clinical integrity and the portrayal of research-based teaching strategies. We have also engaged well-respected leaders in the field of autism to guide our future development through the Scientific Advisory Board (see full list at <http://rethinkautism.com/aboutus/AdvisoryBoard.aspx>).

If you have a chance, please check out a recent piece that aired on CBS News about us: <http://wcbstv.com/video/?id=130549@wcbstv.com>

### **\*Total Learning and Therapy Center\***

Monday, August 10, 2009, 7:30 PM "Prioritizing Therapies"

Trying to figure out the best way to allocate limited time and financial resources can be overwhelming for parents of children with special needs. In this sensible talk, a counselor with over 40 years experience helps therapists and families determine a sound treatment plan.

Topics include:

- a. How to determine a child's unique needs
- b. Why taking therapies "off the shelf" is a bad idea
- c. What changes parents and teachers can make to maximize function at home and school
- d. How to boost immunity and improve sensory processing
- e. The latest on dietary modifications and nutritional supplementation
- f. The importance of visual function in language development and social emotional skills

Presenter: Patricia S. Lemer, M. Ed., NCC, Co-founder and Executive Director of Developmental Delay Resources (DDR) and Editor of EnVISIONing a Bright Future: Interventions that Work for Children and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Location: Total Learning and Therapy Center, 5893 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 203-268-8852. Registration is required for this free seminar. Please call TLTC at 203-268-8852 to reserve a space. [www.tltc.org](http://www.tltc.org)

### **\*In the Media\***

A New Blog supported by OSEP: Link Follows:

IDEA Money Watch will keep track of the use of \$11.3 billion in federal funds being provided to local school districts as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Special education advocates across the nation are keeping watch on the use of these funds and how the academic achievement of students with disabilities is improving as a result. IDEA Money Watch State-by-State Blogs report on use of funds and provide information and resources. IDEA State info provides basic data about special education students and IDEA funds going to each state. We look forward to taking an active role in the use of this unprecedented allocation of funds in support of special education! <http://www.ideamoneywatch.com/main/>

Great Education Week Article Regarding Stimulus Money.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/07/29/37speced.h28.html?tkn=YVVFbObzIJ4Aa8X%2Bs%2B9yvOyVdXCBWeEfy0yW>