



**Wake SEPTA  
Newsletter  
Volume 5,  
Issue 1  
Fall 2009**

SEPTA is a district-wide PTA that connects parents and educators of children receiving special education services from preschool through high school.

For more information:

24hr Voicemail  
919-788-2500

[Info@WakeSEPTA.org](mailto:Info@WakeSEPTA.org)  
[www.WakeSEPTA.org](http://www.WakeSEPTA.org)

Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 19472  
Raleigh, N.C. 27619

*Annual dues:  
\$6 per individual  
\$10 per family  
(2 adults per household)*

*Join & Pay Online  
Using PayPal*

# Welcome to SEPTA

Welcome to the fall Wake SEPTA newsletter. There is a host of helpful information contained here related to special education services in the Wake County schools. Imagine a PTA devoted to improving the education of all students in Wake County with special education needs. Here we are.

For those of you who are regular, active members of our organization, welcome back! It is great to see you again.

Our organization is made up of families and educators who are interested in making the Wake County special education system even better. From our group experiences, we learn of successes, big and small, and we learn of areas that need improvement. We believe that working together is the key to making special education better.

Wake SEPTA's three best tools are our email list, our in-person meetings and our website ([www.wakesepta.org](http://www.wakesepta.org)). Our email list is available to members only. (Friendly reminder: dues are paid annually, and if you haven't renewed this fall, you will soon lose access to our email list). It is a great forum to ask questions about anything related to special education, and many other relevant topics like therapies and outside resources.

As for our in-person meetings, if you missed our October meeting, you missed an open discussion with Bob Sturey, Senior Director of Special Education Services at WCPSS and several other senior administrators of the Department. It was an amazing opportunity to have an honest exchange with several critical players in the special education system.

Our website is overflowing with helpful links and resources related to special education, IEPs and resources that may be relevant to your family or situation. It is a one-stop shop for the family that has been doing this for years, or just had their first IEP meeting.

All of these SEPTA benefits are organized and coordinated by volunteers. Every member of our Board is a parent of a child with a special needs. We know how busy life can get. We serve on the Board because we believe that our collective effort can make Wake County better for all students, not just those with disabilities. We know Wake SEPTA has already made a difference. But remember, if it takes us a while to respond to your question or email, we have no paid staff (yet!)

As a housekeeping matter, the attendance at our powerful October meeting was too low to have a quorum and conduct official SEPTA business. While all of us are even more busy than parents of "typical" children, there is a tradeoff. Without sufficient attendance at our meetings, we cannot function

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completely as an organization. Make it a point to attend at least one or two of our meetings each year, so that we can continue to provide the value and services that we have provided the last several years. Our next meeting is November 19, and the topic will be balancing everything in a healthy way. I hope to see you there.

Join, renew your membership, sign on to the listserv, come to the meeting, give us a call. We are here to make the special education process work better for everyone.

Christine Ryan  
President  
Wake SEPTA

### UPCOMING SEPTA MEETINGS

**11/19/09 ■ Supporting and Empowering the Family: One Day at a Time** - presented by Kathy Honeyman, Integrated Healthcare

**1/21/10 ■ IEP Workshops** - presented by Exceptional Children's Assistance Center

**2/18/10 ■ Making Sense of Assessments** - presented by Meredith College

**3/18/10 ■ Conflict Resolution** - presented by ECAC and NC Department of Public Instruction

**4/15/10 ■ Transition to Middle School** - panel discussion

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**SEPTA meetings are held at 7 pm in the Kresge Auditorium at the Cate Center on the campus of Meredith College, 3800 Hillsborough Street just inside the 440 Beltline. See our website ([www.wakesepta.org](http://www.wakesepta.org)) for a map and directions.**

**All SEPTA events are FREE and open to non-members. No childcare is provided.**

**What if you were unable to speak for your child in an emergency?**

**Emergency Alert**



*Occupant with a disability.  
May not respond to verbal  
commands.*

[www.wakeSEPTA.org](http://www.wakeSEPTA.org) (Wake County Special Education PTA)

SEPTA is offering window clings for your home or car that alert emergency personnel that an occupant might not be able to respond to verbal commands.

We offer these clings for sale at our meetings at a cost of \$3 each or 2 for \$5. If you purchase them online, due to payment processing fees and mailing costs, they are available at \$4 each or 3 for \$10.

# Helpful Tip for a Smooth IEP

As a Parent Educator, I have found one of the best tools to work with as you think about your child is called the "Positive Student Profile".

Parents and Teachers alike will find that completing a "Positive Student Profile" for a child/student is an excellent way to "introduce" the child to new teachers and to others. The profile provides you with the opportunity to see a child's strengths and challenges in a new light, have a clearer understanding of who the child is and become better prepared to participate in the IEP process. A new profile can be completed each year as the child grows and changes.

**For more information, contact Brenda Monforti, Parent Educator, Exceptional Children's Assistance Center, Raleigh Office, (919) 571-8092, x 10, or [bmonforti@ecacmail.org](mailto:bmonforti@ecacmail.org)**

## In our Community

### **Wake County Public Schools Magnet School Fair**

November 7, 2009, 10 am - 1 pm Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School, 2600 Rock Quarry Road, Raleigh. For more information call (919) 501-7900

### **Autism Society of NC, Autism Spectrum IEP Workshop**

November 18, 2009, 10am-noon. For parents of children with Autism. Autism Society of NC, 505 Oberlin Road, Suite 230, Raleigh. Registration is free, but a \$10 donation is requested. Workshop is for adults only, childcare not provided. For more information or to register contact Lisa Townsend at (919) 743-0204 x 36 or [ltownsend@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:ltownsend@autismsociety-nc.org).

### **Cookies and Cocoa with Santa for Children with Special Needs and their Families**

December 5, 2009, 1-4 pm. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 7000 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh. Free. For more information contact Jodi at (919) 662-4600, x 257.

## Quick Resource List

*(See [www.wakesepta.org](http://www.wakesepta.org) for complete resource list)*

**Exceptional Children's Assistance Center:** [www.ecac-parentcenter.org](http://www.ecac-parentcenter.org)

**Family Support of Wake County:** [www.familysupportonline.com](http://www.familysupportonline.com)

**NC Autism Society:** [www.autismsociety-nc.org](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org)

**Triangle Down Syndrome Network:** [www.triangledownsyndrome.org](http://www.triangledownsyndrome.org)

**Wake Autism Society:** [www.wakecountyautismsociety.org](http://www.wakecountyautismsociety.org)



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PO Box 19472  
Raleigh, NC 27619  
919/788-2500  
[www.WakeSEPTA.org](http://www.WakeSEPTA.org)

# Save the Date!

**Supporting & Empowering the Family:  
One Day at a Time**

**Presented by Kathy Honeyman of Integrated Healthcare**

Meredith College, Kresge Auditorium, Cate Center  
Thursday, November 19, 2009, 7:00-9:00pm

This event is FREE and open to non-members