

FALL 2012

Dear Special Education Parents & Educators,

We, the Special Education & Inclusion Committee of Wake PTA (also known as Wake SEIC), are excited about starting the 2012-113 school year and the new initiatives we have planned for this year.

We are expanding our efforts to reach out to local PTA's to start conversations about inclusion and support for special-needs students and families. We are improving our on-line presence by updating our website, creating electronic newsletters and keeping our Facebook page active. (If you haven't joined our Facebook page yet, you can find us at www.facebook.com/wakeseic.) We will continue to provide quality workshops on special education topics and represent our committee on the Special Education Advisory Council.

We would like to take this opportunity to re-introduce ourselves; you might remember us a Wake SEPTA, from the days before we were incorporated into Wake PTA. Prior to joining Wake PTA we were trying to help schools improve inclusion opportunities and support parents from the "bottom up" by recruiting parents to work with their school PTAs. Now as part of Wake PTA we are taking a more "top down" approach by encouraging and supporting school based PTA leadership to make special education and inclusion support part of their year round programming. If you have been a Wake SEAC liaison in the past, please contact you PTA president to let them that you would like to continue to volunteer to support special education and inclusion at your school.

As part of our expanded initiative to reach out to local PTA's, we will be producing "tip sheets" listing ways to make participation easier for special-needs families at common PTA-run events and programs. We will be posting tip sheets under a special heading on our website called PTA Support. Our members are our greatest resource in developing these guides so if your school is doing something that works well or if you have a suggestion that would improve your school's ability to include special needs families in their programming, please let us know!

Want to become a member? Join your school PTA and you are automatically a member. To plug into our resources, visit our website www.wake-seic.org. There you can link to our facebook page or sign up to join our list serve for special education announcements and discussions.

We wish you great success this school year and hope to see you at our upcoming workshops!

Sincerely,

Kim Rineer, Wake SEIC Chair

For more information:

info@mail.wake-seic.org · www.wake-seic.org

wake pta
SEIC

Wake SEIC Liaisons

Wake SEIC strives to have a liaison in every school PTA to share information on current special education events and to facilitate greater inclusion of the special needs community in PTA programming. We are currently asking each PTA to find a volunteer to fill the role of SEIC liaison. Volunteers do not need any previous training or experience to volunteer as a liaison at your school. Wake SEIC will provide a training workshop and any support you may need!

Liaisons are asked to attend 2-3 meetings/workshops per year so that they can share the information they are given with their school communities. They are also asked to attend their schools' PTA meetings and work with the PTA board to make sure all events/decisions take into account the needs of all children and families in the school community. Guidance on increasing inclusion in PTA programs can be found on our website www.wake-seic.org.

Liaisons also help parents identify and understand the key school personnel involved in special education and the process for accessing services. Wake SEIC has a website full of resources for liaison to refer parents to gain more information on special education services in Wake County. Liaisons do not give advice on individual issues or attend IEP meetings.

If you are interested in serving as a liaison in your school please contact your PTA president. If you would like additional information about the role of liaisons, please contact Katie Ramsdell at kmiley08@hotmail.com.

Special Education & Inclusion Tips For Book Fairs

Many schools will be having their annual book fairs this fall. Here are some ideas for how you can include your special needs students and their families in this wonderful event:

1. Be sure all self-contained classrooms have time scheduled during the school day as a class to go and look at books to purchase, and invite their parents and student volunteer buddies to participate during this time.
2. Schedule a morning or two during your two week event to open the book fair early, before school starts, for special needs students.
3. Consider opening your evening book fair events half an hour early for special needs students and their families.
4. Provide a designated "family bathroom" for special needs students during evening book fair events.
5. Provide a "sensory room" or other designated special room to go to for children who become overwhelmed and need a bit of a break from the crowds and commotion of evening book fair events.
6. Be sure to provide pictures, signs, and other visuals to make navigating the event easier.
7. Consider including books about disabilities in your book offering or even creating a section on special needs at your event. The WCPSS website has a listing of books appropriate for each school level at <http://www.wcpss.net/special-education/disability-awareness-month/Book%20Lists%20and%20Book%20Search%20Instructions/>

October is Disabilities Awareness Month

On July 27, 2007, Governor Mike Easley signed Senate Bill 753 designating October as **Disability History and Awareness Month**. The intent of NC Disability History and Awareness Month is to increase public awareness and respect for people with disabilities.

WCPSS observes this month by providing resources for teachers to use in the classroom to promote awareness and discussion of disabilities. Each year they have improved upon the support they offer. You can check out what WCPSS has to offer at <http://www.wcpss.net/special-education/disability-awareness-month/>. Please ask your school and your PTA leaders how they are observing Disabilities History and Awareness Month and how you can help!

New Special Needs Category In PTA Reflections Program

**The National PTA Reflections Program is proud to announce
the new Special Artist Division
open to participating Parent Teacher Associations**

Students participating in the Special Artist Division may enter in any or all six art categories; Visual Arts, Photography, Literature, Film Production, Music Composition, and Dance Choreography. The new division is non-graded and limited to students whose physical, cognitive, or mental health challenges meet ADA guidelines. Qualifying students entering create their own artwork, but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult. Special Artist should follow the general rules and guidelines outlined in the Arts Category Student Rules specific to their submissions, modified only by accommodations for individuals with disabilities. The accommodation, in general, should be both specific and limited to the student's disability.

The Traditional Grade Divisions are still open and available for EVERY student. In the Traditional Divisions qualified students submit entries and receive accommodation in the grade most closely aligned to their functional abilities. All students are then recognized as part of the general student population without regard to special needs or challenges. Students can enter in more than one art category but only enter in either the Special Artist or Traditional Division, not both.

For more information including frequently asked questions and local guidelines please contact your school's PTA Reflections Chair. You may also contact Leah Williams, WCPTA Reflections, at wakereflections@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events

College Disability Services Workshop

Hosted by: **Davis Drive Middle School Special Education and Inclusion Committee (SEIC)**

Presented by: **NCSU and Wake Technical Community College**

Davis Drive M | 10/23 | T, 6:00-8:00 pm

Registration: Email LMCNEILL9@NC.RR.COM with attendee's name, school, and email address.

Helping Children Cope with Anxiety

Hosted by: **Davis Drive Middle School Special Education and Inclusion Committee (SEIC)**

Davis Drive M | 1/28/13 | M, 7:00-9:00 pm

Registration: Registration opens in November, so stay tuned for more information at

<http://wake-seic.org/upcoming-events/helping-children-cope-with-anxiety>

Understanding Special Education

Hosted by: **Wake County Parent Academy**

Millbrook HS | 10/30 - 10/30 | T, 6:30-8:30 pm

Reedy Creek MS | 10/31 - 10/31 | W, 6:30-8:30 pm

Knightdale HS | 11/01 - 11/01 | Th, 6:30-8:30 pm

Academy courses are provided by WCPSS in English and Spanish. Courses are free and taught by highly qualified instructors.

Registration: Go to www.wcpss.net. Click on the link in the upper right corner entitled **Parent Academy**.

Google Groups Online Community List Serve

Join the Special Education and Inclusion Committee **free** online list serve!

Email us at wake-seic+subscribe@googlegroups.com to join.

Our Mission

Our mission is to create a network of parents, educators, and administrators who will work cooperatively and constructively to meet the needs of all students receiving special education services in the most integrated environment, with appropriate supports in place, to ensure that the students will learn and be valued members of their school community.

Like us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/pages/Wake-SEIC/253002461414717

