

PARTNER SHIPS

VOL. 2 NO. 2

A PUBLICATION OF THE CARROLL COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL BACK TO SCHOOL 2004

WELCOME back to what we think is going to be an exciting year in the Carroll County Public Schools! While many people have been vacationing and cancelling meetings, the CarrollCo-SECAC has been busy planning the State of Special Education (in partnership with the Carroll County Department of Special Education) which will be held on **Thursday, September 23 from 6 to 9 pm at Winters Mill High School.**

"Celebrate Excellence in Education: All Children Matter" will feature six breakout sessions to include specialized math interventions, a team presentation on collaborative teaching, assistive technology, reading, making inclusion work, and self advocates talking about transition to the community. People will have an opportunity to attend three breakout sessions, and each one will last approximately twenty minutes.

As in previous years, groups and organizations from the community will have tables with exhibits and information. New this year will be a SECAC information table with an opportunity to sign up to be a part of the SECAC.

Exhibits will open at 6:00 pm, the opening session will run from 7:00 to 7:30 pm, and the breakout sessions will be held from 7:30 to 9:00 pm.

Once again there will be door prizes donated by organizations and groups in the community, and this year for the first time, light refreshments will be served. For more information or details, please contact Sharon Ihde (410-781-6610), chair of the SECAC Outreach Workgroup.

At the SECAC May elections, we voted Sharon Glass and Beth Lee to serve as co-chairpersons, Vicki Duerr as secretary and Sharon Ihde as treasurer. The new leadership will begin at the October 28 meeting.

The next meeting of the CarrollCo-SECAC will be held at Carroll Springs School on Thursday, August 26 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Please join us as we continue to "enhance services available to students with disabilities and to advocate for positive changes in special education services within Carroll County Public Schools."

See you on September 23! ✨

Did you know...CCPS is the only system in the state where all schools met Annual Yearly Progress (AYP)?

STAY TUNED...

On July 23, regulations were published in the Maryland Register to require each local school system to establish a special education citizens' advisory committee (SECAC) to advise the local school system on the needs of students with disabilities. Also, the Maryland State Department of Education has allotted \$2,500 of federal funds to each local school system to support the activities of the SECACs.

Public hearings regarding the proposed regulations are being held statewide during the month of August. To make an oral public comment, call 410-767-0858, or e-mail <awilson@msde.state.md.us>. Written comments may be sent to Ms. Donna R. Riley by fax at (410) 333-8165 and by e-mail at <driley@msde.state.md.us>. Comments must be received no later than August 24, 2004.

Action on the regulations will be considered by the State BOE during a public meeting to be held on September 28, 2004. ✨

On August 11, a meeting will be held by the Carroll County Department of Special Education concerning preschool special education services.

Discussion at this meeting will include preschool opportunities and services that can be provided through CCPS to preschool facilities, areas of concern from the preschool and parent perspective, and a plan of action will be developed to address concerns and move forward collaboratively...stay tuned...preschool services are a hot topic! ✨

CarrollCo-SECAC 2004 Meetings

January 22

March 25

May 27

August 26

September 23

(State of Special Education)

October 28

Meetings are held at Carroll Springs School (except State of Special Education) from 7 to 9 pm. A light dinner is provided at no cost.

Workgroups meet February 26, April 22, June 24, during November/December, and as arranged by each subgroup.

Co-Chairpersons

Sharon Glass Pam Miller
410-857-1596 410-552-5759

Advisor

Stephany Savar, Supervisor
Office of Special Education
410-751-3033

CarrollCo-SECAC works to develop partnerships and facilitate discussion between parents, families, community leaders, and administrators in order to enhance services available to students with disabilities and to advocate for positive changes in special education services within Carroll County Public Schools.

Partnerships strives to keep the community informed about support groups and agencies, upcoming programs, and provide pertinent information as it relates to special education and supporting families in Carroll County. It is published four times each year--Back To School, Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer. Due to space limitations, inclusion of information will be at the discretion of the CarrollCo-SECAC leadership. **Deadlines for submission of information are August 2, October 1, January 6, April 1.** Suggestions and input are welcomed. Send information--please, no large files or attachments--to <secaccarroll@yahoo.com> or to CarrollCo-SECAC Co-Chairpersons, c/o Carroll County Offices of Special Education, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Learning Disabilities, SLD and Dyslexia

The Parent Advocacy Group for Educational Rights (PAGER) is a grass-roots organization comprised of parents, citizens, and educators who work to improve the lives of children with disabilities. PAGER's main function is to help parents and communities form an awareness of what is entailed in the various disabilities and what services are needed.

Much of PAGER's focus is on how children learn to read and on the related teaching methodologies and materials. Understanding and successful remediation of learning disabilities, SLD and dyslexia is crucial since it comprises the largest segment of the special education population. As stated in the October 2003 Maryland special education census data, children identified with learning disabilities fall under specific learning disabilities (SLD), speech/language impairments, and are scattered throughout the categories of other health

impairments and multiple disabilities. Out of the thirteen categories of special education, children with learning disabilities, SLD and dyslexia comprise over 70% of the special education population.

The Maryland COMAR Regulation 13A.05.01.03 (<www.dsd.state.md.us/comar>) provides the following definition on specific learning disability (SLD):

(a) "SLD" means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations.

(b) "SLD" includes conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia.

(c) "SLD" does not include students who have learning problems which are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor impairments, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, or environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.

The July 28, 2003 issue of *Time* magazine devoted their cover story to "Overcoming Dyslexia." *Time* states that there are almost three million school children in special education because they cannot read and that up to one in five school children are living with dyslexia. Since dyslexia is an "invisible" disability, it often goes undiagnosed and unremediated with serious repercussions for the child. Dyslexia is often present in children with multiple disabilities.

Early diagnosis and intervention is key. If children with dyslexia are properly diagnosed and receive proper remediation (a multi-sensory approach to reading and writing by a certified instructor), they can achieve great success.

For additional information regarding learning disabilities, SLD, and dyslexia, please visit our website at <www.pagergroup.org> or call Jean Kraynick (410-848-9261). ✨

Additional Resource

Wright's Law <www.wrightslaw.com> provides a wealth of information on dyslexia. Peter Wright, a lawyer, is dyslexic and understands the many problems facing this particular disability.

OPPORTUNITIES

✨ **AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP MEETING: September 16, 6:30 to 8:30 pm;** Back To School Ice Cream Social, Open Forum and More!; FOCAS (410-857-1596)

✨ **AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP MEETING: October 21, 6:30 to 8:30 pm;** "Things Are A CHANGE, Inc.!!"; FOCAS (410-857-1596)

✨ **AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP MEETING: November 18, 6:30 to 8:30 pm;** "Does My Child Need An Assistive Technology Assessment"; FOCAS (410-857-1596)

✨ **FREE PASSES: October 22-24, 2004;** WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES Disabilities Expo, Chantilly; 1-866-227-2644 or <www.caringcommunities.org>

SUPPORT GROUPS

- ✨ CHILDREN WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER (CHADD) • 717-235-1268
- ✨ CHANGE, INC. PARENT GROUP • 410-876-2179
- ✨ CHESAPEAKE DOWN SYNDROME PARENT GROUP, INC. • e-mail: info@cdspg.org
- ✨ FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP (FOCAS) • 410-857-1596

- ✨ LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF CARROLL COUNTY (LDA) • 410-374-2427
- ✨ PARENT ADVOCACY GROUP FOR EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS (PAGER) • 410-876-6022/410-848-9261
- ✨ THE NOONAN SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP, INC. (TNSSG) • 410-374-5245
- ✨ SELF ADVOCACY GROUP OF THE ARC • 410-848-4124

SUPPORT AGENCIES

- ✨ CHANGE, INC. • 410-876-2179
- ✨ THE LEAGUE SERVING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES • 410-323-0500
- ✨ THE ARC OF CARROLL COUNTY • 410-848-4124
- ✨ TARGET, INC. • 410-848-9090
- ✨ THERAPEUTIC RECREATION • 410-857-2103
- ✨ THE PARENTS PLACE, INC. • 410-958-5300

- ✨ DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES (DORS) • 410-848-4456
- ✨ NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES (NICHY) • 1-800-695-0285
- ✨ MARYLAND COALITION FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION (MCIE) • 410-859-5400

PUBLIC SCHOOL RELATED SERVICES

- ✨ CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION • 410-751-3033
- ✨ CARROLL COUNTY INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM • 410-876-4437

- ✨ CHILD FIND • 410-751-3033
- ✨ MSDE SPECIAL EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION • 410-767-0652
- ✨ PARTNERS FOR SUCCESS • 410-751-3955