THE IEP

Westwood's Independent Educational Paper

A Service of Westwood's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

Volume 1 **September 2008**

Welcome!!

Welcome to our first edition of the IEP!! Our vision is that this publication will inform our SEPAC members of local happenings and events as well as spread news and information of interest to our community.

Upcoming SEPAC Events & Meetings

Wednesday, September 17, 2008
General Meeting
7-9 pm
Professional Development Room
Administration Building
220 Nahatan St.
Meet the new officers, hear about latest events, and participate in establishing our agenda and committees for the upcoming year. Voting privileges are afforded to all members whose children are on IEP's or 504 plans. Membership is free and immediate upon application.

Save the Dates!!
November 1st & 2nd
Family Portrait
Fundraiser!!

Monday, October 6, 2008
Basic Rights Seminar
7-9 pm
Little Theatre
High School
200 Nahatan St.
An introduction to families' rights and the district's responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Massachusetts Special Education Law and No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with the district, to determine the child's eligibility for special education, to plan, make decisions and to monitor the educational progress of their child.

Upcoming Local Events & Seminars

Wednesday, September 17, 2008
Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School
7 – 9 pm
Special Needs and the College Admissions Process
Presented by Christa Abbott, M.Ed

Cost: FREE
Registration not required.
Sponsored by the Lincoln-Sudbury Special Education Advisory Council
Ms. Abbott will provide an overview of the college admissions testing process for students with special needs. She will

discuss how special needs students should prepare, what accommodations are available and how to get them, and what a plan looks like for the entire process. She will also talk about the differences between the SAT and the ACT, and which test is better for different types of learners. Christa Abbott is a test preparation and academic coach in Sudbury. She specializes in working with students with diverse learning styles Visit www.sseac.org for directions.

Thursday, September 18, 2008
The Hallowell Center, 142 North Road Sudbury, MA 01776
10 – 12 Noon
7 - 9 pm
Open House and
Informational Session
Cost: Free
Learn about the Dore and My Sensory Solutions programs for children and adults with ADHD, dyslexia, autism, auditory processing and other learning difficulties.
Call 978-287-0810 ext. 126 or Email info@mysensorysolutions.com to reserve your space. Visit www.mysensorysolutions.com or www.DrHallowell.com

Wednesday, September 24, 2008
Charles River ARC, 59 East Militia Heights Road, Needham
6:30-9:00 pm
Federation for Children with Special Needs
Transition; Planning the Next Steps for Youth 14-22
This workshop addresses the issues related to designing the right curriculum and supports throughout high school so that the student will be on the right track for becoming self-sufficient and living independently after graduation. Information and strategies will be provided to help parents and students translate individual preferences and dreams into meaningful goals in the IEP

Thursday, September 25, 2008
SNARC, 789 Clapboardtree Street, Westwood
6:30-8:30pm
Federation for Children with Special Needs
Basic Rights Seminar
This workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Massachusetts Special Education Law and No Child Left Behind (NCLB). It is designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with the school, to decide the child's eligibility for special education, to plan, make decisions and to monitor the educational progress of their child.

Saturday, September 27, 2008
Artesani Park, Boston, MA
10am – 3 pm
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Adaptive Recreation Fair
Find out about local and statewide adaptive recreational programs and resources available to people of all abilities.
Cost: Free. Refreshments provided.
Activities will include a cycling fair with an assortment of accessible cycles available for use, recreation activity demonstrations, stretching for health, face painting, interpretive programs, a D.J., snacks and more! Rain or shine-enjoy the accessible recreation fair and playground.

Pre-registration is highly recommended. Visit http://www.mass.gov/dcr/universal_access/a_events.htm or call Gigi at 617-626-1294.

Saturday, October 25, 2008
Children's Hospital Boston at Waltham, 9 Hope Avenue, Waltham
10:30 am-12:00 Noon
Federation for Children with Special Needs
Basic Rights Seminar
This workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Massachusetts Special Education Law and No Child Left Behind (NCLB). It is designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with the school, to decide the child's eligibility for special education, to plan, make decisions and to monitor the educational progress of their child.
To register for this workshop please email: epilepsyconference@childrens.harvard.edu

Join SEPAC!!
Visit our website at www.westwoodsepac.org and become a member!! Membership is free and voting privileges are afforded to all members whose children are on IEP's or 504 plans.

Contact us concerning upcoming events or ideas for The IEP at jennifer.maggiacomo@comcast.net