

**Special Education and Inclusion Committee**

(formerly Wake SEPTA)

First issue of the Special Education and Inclusion Committee for the Wake County PTA

**W**elcome to the **Special Education and Inclusion Committee**  
of the **Wake PTA Council!**

As many of you know, for the past several years, the Wake Special Education PTA (SEPTA) has functioned as a stand-alone PTA to address the particular concerns and issues involving special education and students with special needs. We have built a strong core group of members who have shared information and benefited from the relationships we created. However, given the spread of our membership (all of Wake County) and our already limited time available, it was challenging to operate as a stand-alone PTA. In addition, we felt that we weren't reaching all the families that could benefit from our information. Therefore we approached the Wake PTA Council to see if we could join forces with them and integrate our mission into theirs. They enthusiastically agreed, so here we are now, the Wake Special Education and Inclusion Committee, an official part of the Wake PTA Council.

Our ambitious agenda includes getting a liaison or representative onto every PTA Board in Wake County. That liaison would be the "spark plug" within each school, and provide information and resources to parents and PTA members who have questions about special education, IEPs, inclusion, and the like. We believe the best way to accomplish that is within each school. We will still operate our listserv and our website, and we will still host meetings jam-packed with pertinent information. We want to reach out to everyone who has an interest in special education, IEPs, and the inclusion of all students in Wake County schools.

To accomplish that, we are having our first Liaison Training on Thursday, October 7 at 7 pm at the Wake County Commons building off of Poole Road. More information is included in this newsletter. \*You do not have to want to be a liaison to attend.\* This is open to the public, and we are pleased to have Bob Sturey and several other members of the Special Education Services staff attending as well. This will be a great opportunity to ask your questions about special education and inclusion. We hope to see you there!

Christine Ryan, *Committee Chair*

PS: Don't forget to join our **free** listserv at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SEPTALiaisons/join>

For more information ...

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## LIAISON TRAINING OCTOBER 7 7:00 PM

Wake County Commons Building • 4011 Cary Drive Room 100C Raleigh 27610 (off Poole Road)  
**The Special Education and Inclusion Committee of the Wake PTA Council will offer liaison training for all Wake County school liaisons and parents.**

This will be an opportunity to get a better understanding of the role liaisons are serving and information on Wake County's Special Education Services. At this meeting liaisons will be provided with online resources, notebooks, and guidelines for interacting with families. Guest speaker Bob Sturey, Senior Director of Special Education, will present an overview of services, how they are delivered, and personnel involved in special education from the individual school all the way up to senior management.

**Bob Sturey, Senior Director of Special Education Services (SES)** along with senior members of his staff will present at the October 7th meeting. Mr. Sturey has headed Wake County Public School System's Special Education Services Department for 8 years and has expertly guided the program through much growth and several major transition periods. Previously, Mr. Sturey was Exceptional Children's Program Director in Guilford County.

Mr. Sturey's presentation at the Liaison Training will include an overview of the services SES provides as well as how they are delivered. By the end of the meeting, liaisons should have a clear understanding of the chain of command from each child's service provider up to the Senior Director. Mr. Sturey and his staff have supported the efforts of Wake SEPTA and provided excellent presentations in the past. We look forward to continuing our positive relationship with SES as we transition into our new role as the Special Education & Inclusion Committee of the Wake PTA Council. With this presentation, we are sure to be off to a good start.

### What does a Liaison do?

- Attend 4 evening meetings per year with highly informative speakers that will educate on the inner workings of special education in the Wake County Schools. Liaisons will be asked to communicate and disseminate information back in your school communities.
- Be a "go to" person for parents sharing quality special education resources (both local and on the web), and help parents identify and understand the key school personnel involved and resources to get questions answered.
- Be the voice of children with special needs and their families on the school PTA board making sure all events/decisions take into account the needs of all children and families in the school. Help create a school community that values inclusion of every child and every family.

## October is Disability History and Awareness Month

Schools in the Wake County Public School System have received comprehensive information to support sharing with our students the contributions and challenges of people with disabilities this October. In 2007 Governor Mike Easley signed Senate Bill 753 into law, which designates October as Disability History and Awareness Month to ensure that all students are provided rich and meaningful learning opportunities about people with disabilities.

WCPSS Special Education Services has compiled an array of resources for teachers, media specialists, and administrators. In addition to facilitating a general awareness of disabilities, Special Education Services provides special focus on one area of disability yearly. In 2009 the additional focus was on autism.

Copies of these resources are available for public review at:

[www.wcpss.net/special-education/disability-awareness-month/](http://www.wcpss.net/special-education/disability-awareness-month/)

### Family Fun Night Spooktacular

Thursday, October 14

5:30pm-8:00pm

Join us for a FREE after-hours event allowing kids 12 and under with special needs and their families to experience Marbles in a calmer, less crowded environment.

Children are encouraged to wear their costumes for our extra-special annual Spooktacular celebrating Halloween, Fall and all things creepy crawly!

Also, don't miss this one-of-a-kind opportunity to see our feature film, *Animalopolis*, in our IMAX Theatre FREE, just for YOU!

For more information, visit the Marbles Kids Museum website at <http://www.marbleskidsmuseum.org/familyfunnight>

All Evening ...

- Witch's Potion — Visit with creepy crawlers from NC Museum of Natural Sciences
- 501st Garrison — Meet Storm Troopers, Darth Vader, & other Star Wars characters
- MOD Meetup — Meet fellow March of Dimes families
- Tech Check — Check out the latest vehicles & gadgets with NCATP
- Signing Sam — Visit with your favorite signing friend from SignTeacher SignWare

### BounceU of Apex added an event called Sensory Bounce Night

exclusively for children with special needs.

**Sensory Bounce Night is the second Monday of each month from 6-7pm and it is FREE for special needs children and their families.**

## **Yahoo Groups Online Community Forum**

Join the Special Education and Inclusion Committee **free** online forum at  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SEPTALiaisons/join>

## **For more information on the Special Education and Inclusion Committee ...**

Check us out online at [www.wakesepta.org](http://www.wakesepta.org) for a calendar of events, list of all wake county liaisons, and other local, state, and national resources that provide information, support, and services to families and educators of children receiving special education services.

## **Wake County PTA Special Education and Inclusion Committee 2010-2011 Academic Year**

### **Christine Ryan, Committee Chair**

Cynthia Daniels-Hall

Katie Ramsdell

Taryn Himmelright

Kim Rineer

Laurie Jaegers

David Simmons

Stacey Kohn

Cynthia Thimme

Brenda Monforti

