

SEPTA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What is SEPTA?	1
About E.B. SEPTA	2
Mission & Goals	2
SEPTA Board	2
Contacts E-mails	2



SEPTA

INFORMATION FLIER

2009

What is SEPTA?

SEPTA is a group of parents interested in gaining and sharing information to help all children live as participatory members of our East Brunswick district and community. We are an extension of each school's PTA, working to achieve an inclusive, accepting environment which benefits children with and without special needs. SEPTA works closely with the school district to identify and meet the changing needs of the community. Our goal is for students to assimilate into the district, access the general education curriculum, form lasting friendships, and participate in our community as respected, contributing individuals. SEPTA was instrumental in helping East Brunswick secondary level schools provide structured after-school social programs to assist all students in developing friendships and interacting with their peers. SEPTA has successfully advocated on behalf of children with special needs for programs such as inclusive yoga, techno art and an inclusive summer camp program, offered through the township's community and

recreation departments.

SEPTA hosts monthly meetings with guest speakers who present on a variety of issues related to special education and resources for children with special needs. During these meetings, SEPTA runs a free social group for teens with special needs and provides childcare for younger children. This provides a



wonderful opportunity for children to interact, develop friendships, and practice social skills in a comfortable environment. SEPTA is a constant resource to parents, providing a network of friends and colleagues to exchange information about after school programs, at-home childcare supports, community resources, and professional services.

SEPTA families have children with autism, Asperger's syndrome, cerebral palsy, ADHD, Down syndrome, learning disabilities, communication and speech impairments, speech delays, physical disabilities, and more. SEPTA recognizes that a child's disability does not define him or her as an individual, and that families have different needs and unique short and long-term visions for their children. SEPTA's purpose is to provide families with the tools and resource they need to help bring those individual goals and visions to realization. We are a support to anyone who needs it and have developed wonderful friendships among parents and children alike. SEPTA's ultimate goal is for parents and children to feel at home and valued in an inclusive social and educational district and be active participants in the diverse community that we live in. Please join our diverse community!

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Henry Ford

About East Brunswick SEPTA

"An Extension of your school's PTA"

The objective of The East Brunswick Special Education PTA is to provide information to families on a wide variety of special education topics. We strive for all students and families to make a connection within the school community. The goal is to increase a sense of tolerance, acceptance and belonging for families throughout the district. All children can learn, integrate and be included with their peers. We welcome families of classified and typical children and all educators. Join us and help make a difference. Topics are educational and informational. You do not have to be a member to attend a meeting.

SEPTA's Mission & Goals

- To provide diversity in the district so that all children can develop to their potential socially, emotionally and academically.
- To further provide the community with information so that typical and classified families can integrate successfully and assimilate as a school community.

SEPTA

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SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

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Ellen Murphy, Supervisor, Autistic Spectrum Disorders

2009 - 2010 SEPTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Vice President - Membership - Randi Farber

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Special Education Parent Advisory Board - Amy Levine

For more detailed information on SEPTA , its committees and school liaisons, visit our webpage below.

<http://teacherweb.com/NJ/FrostElementarySchool/SEPTA/>



SEPTA is committed to educate families for the good of the district to accept each other and assimilate as a school community. It is the vision for families to see that what makes us the same is that we are all different. As an extension of every school's PTA, it is the hope for all to view and treat each other equally, and to reinforce the positive things in our differences.

"We find comfort among those who agree with us—

growth among those who don't"

Frank A. Clark