



Wake Special Education PTA  
Bridging The Gap to Success

**Wake SEPTA  
Newsletter  
Volume 3,  
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November 2007**

**SEPTA is a  
district-wide PTA that  
connects parents  
and educators of  
children receiving  
special education  
services from  
preschool through  
high school.**

**For more  
information:**

**24hr Voicemail  
919-788-2500**

**[Info@WakeSEPTA.org](mailto:Info@WakeSEPTA.org)  
[www.WakeSEPTA.org](http://www.WakeSEPTA.org)**

**Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 19472  
Raleigh, N.C. 27619**

**Annual dues are \$5**

# Beam me up Scotty

Wouldn't it be nice to twitch your nose like on Bewitched or call Scotty and be magically, easily, safely transported to another location – like home or back. Oh, and yes, you are going to have to put up with all my 70s/80s cultural reference for this entire year...sorry. Anyway, too bad it isn't that easy for us, or our kids.

I know just how scary it is to have kids riding the bus these days and how very frustrating it can be to have your child riding special transportation. It is one of the reasons that I drive my younger son each day. I feel like there are so many bad stories out there in the mainstream press about regular transportation that our kids – particularly our non-verbal kids -- are easily subject to additional concerns and discriminations.

One thing we really shouldn't have to worry about is loss of instructional time due to transportation.

As you may be aware, there is an ongoing issue in some, if not all, our schools regarding students in self-contained classrooms being dismissed early due to special transportation. Just how early you ask? Well, if your child is dismissed 15-20 minutes early each day, this adds up to a minimum of 6.9 missed school days a year on the elementary level. This sends a message that expectations are very low for our kids and thus they don't need the full instructional time each day.

We have also heard of problems with inconsistent pick up and arrival times, non-working lifts, lack of child seats, tie downs for wheel chairs and on and on.

If this is the case, we all need to work with our schools to make clear how important it is for our kids to get the full instructional day and how careful they need to be in transporting them as safely and as timely as possible, every day.

If you have a transportation problem, document everything and:

- Start with the assistant principal at your school responsible for transportation as well as the transportation company
- If there is a second incident, contact both of the above as well as Brenda Nyamodi at WCPSS Transportation Department
- Third incident, all of the above plus Eddy Adams (Transportation Director) and Bob Sturey (Director, Special Education Services)
- Fourth, all above again, Superintendent Burns and your school board representative.

SEPTA board members have been in contact with senior administrators in both the Transportation and Special Education Departments regarding these issues as well as continuing to bring general transportation problems to the table at the Special Needs Advisory Council monthly meetings. *Continued on page 2*

## Educator Scholarships

**SEPTA has received a grant to fund FREE MEMBERSHIPS to teachers and other WCPSS staff. See our [website](#) or call 788-2500 for more details**

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Our voices need to be heard in a meaningful way on this issue. The PTA's motto is "Every Child, One Voice." SEPTA can be a conduit for families and the schools to work together for our kids and their needs. Support SEPTA, support your schools and you will be, in turn, supporting your kids.

## In Our Community



### Upcoming SEPTA Workshops:

**November 15th, 7pm, School-Wide, Positive Behavior Support Initiative** . Presented by John Ringo from WCPSS.

**January 17th, 2008, 7pm. Writing, Implementing and Self-Advocating for an IEP!**

**February 21st, 2008, 7pm. Resource and Summer/Track Out Programs Fair**

**March 20th, 2008, 7pm. Roll-out of the Least Restrictive Pilot Program Report.**

Presented by Bob Sturey from WCPSS.

**April 17th, 2008, 7pm. Alternative Therapies Workshop**

### Other Meetings:

#### **Holland Tour Group, Mom's Night Out**

Thursday, November 15th, 7pm. At Olive Garden restaurant in Crossroads, Cary.

Contact Sara @ 919-662-4600 X257 or [Sara@familysupportonline.com](mailto:Sara@familysupportonline.com) to RSVP.

#### **Family Support Network of Wake County Cookies and Cocoa with Santa**

Saturday, December 8th, 1-4pm. At Good Shepard Luthern Church, 7000 Creedmore Road, Raleigh. Go [to www.familysupportonline.com](http://www.familysupportonline.com) for more information.

#### **Triangle Down Syndrome Network's Fall Harvest Dance,**

Saturday, November 30, 7-10pm, Jaycee Center ages 10-21. contact Mary Zahn for more information, 467-7740 or Paula Goldberg, [pgoldberg@wralfm.com](mailto:pgoldberg@wralfm.com)



*See our website for more local workshop and event information.*



**SEPTA DOES NOT PROVIDE DIRECT ADVOCACY SERVICES TO PARENTS. RATHER, WE SEEK TO EDUCATE AND SUPPORT BOTH PARENTS AND EDUCATORS ON THE LAWS GOVERNING SPECIAL EDUCATION PLACEMENT AND SERVICES (IDEA).**

**THERE ARE RESOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY IF YOU ARE SEEKING ADVOCACY SUPPORT. VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](http://www.wakesepta.org) OR CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION.**