



**Wake SEPTA
Newsletter
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April 2008**

**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:**

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919-788-2500**

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www.WakeSEPTA.org**

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

**Annual dues are \$5
Join & Pay Online Using
PayPal at www.wakesepta.org**

Differences

Our kids are different, there is no denying that. And, for that matter, so are we. SEPTA members come from different backgrounds, family lives, ages as well as different parts of Wake County. And that makes our needs and opinions about how to best address those needs different as well.

After last month's Presidents Column, I was taken to task by one of our members. Someone who works very hard for her child and for others in her school. However, even though she and I live in the same part of Wake County, we have very different opinions on what directions the schools should take.

And that is ok. It is alright for any of us to not agree with each other, even though we all have children with disabilities; we are not all in the same boat all the time.

Even in light of our difference of opinions, I think we have lots to be proud of as part of SEPTA. Three years ago, SEPTA started with 161 members. As we begin to close the book on this year's membership, SEPTA now stands at 242 strong and growing!

We have 40 educators or specialists taking advantage of our educator scholarship program. That is wonderful news to me because it means that we continue to view the job of educating our children as teamwork between partners not adversaries.

We continue to get more and more options for great seminar topics and speakers. For two years now, Bob Sturey, Director of Special Ed Services for WCPSS, has come to talk about the state of the schools. Although it is often a place for hard questions to get answered, it is also a great opportunity for rumors to get addressed and for families to see that there are real people behind the planning and changes every year. Bob recently asked us if he could come more often and present on various topics. That is a step in the right direction as far as I am concerned.

So as the board begins to wrap up the 07-08 school year (for traditional calendar), we are starting to plan for next year. Topics to discuss, presenters to invite, ways to get our membership more involved and grown. I hope that you continue to see your SEPTA membership as valuable and be a part of our community. We need all voices to be strong!

Leslie Welch
President, Wake SEPTA

The foundation of every state, is the education of its youth.

— Diognes Laertius

Last SEPTA Meeting of the Year and Membership Renewal Time!

Please join us for SEPTA's last meeting of this 2007-2008 school year.

Along with our General Meeting and Elections, we will be having a roundtable of speakers discussing various alternative therapies for our children.

Some of the speakers will cover topics such as; music therapy, RDI therapy, sensory diets and many more. The event is FREE and being held from 7-9pm at:

Nationwide Insurance
4401 Creedmore Road
Raleigh

Visit our website www.wakesepta.org for more information or leave a message at 788-2500.

Also, it is time to renew your SEPTA membership for the 2008-09 school year.

Our fiscal year runs from July-June, so you have the next few months to get [your forms](#) in for next year.

Especially if your child will be placed in a mostly mainstream setting with resource for the upcoming year, you should renew now. It is very hard for SEPTA newsletters to reach families that are not in fully-contained classrooms, so don't miss any of our great SEPTA news next year!



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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.

In Our Community



Special Education Open House: Sponsored by the *Special Education Advisory Council for Wake County*. Wednesday, April 9th at 7-9pm. Broughton High School, 723 St. Mary's Street, Raleigh. The event is FREE but no childcare is provided. For more information go to www.wakesepta.org. To preregister, contact lisaschwab@marykay.com or 846-6105.

8th Annual Spring Carnival for Special Needs Children and Their Families: April 19th, 11am until 2pm. Brooks Avenue Church of Christ, 700 Brooks Avenue, Raleigh. The event is FREE. For more information contact 821-2400 or www.brooks.org.

Holland Tour Group: *Why do I need Single Portal?* Speaker, Susan Groeger, Single Portal Coordinator. April 22, 6:30-8:00 pm. Brooks Avenue Church of Christ, 700 Brooks Avenue, Raleigh. Event is FREE and on-site childcare is available. Contact Sara at sara@familysupportonline.com or 662-4600 x 257 to register and sign up for childcare. Childcare is limited.

NC PTA Board of Directors adds Exceptional Children's Commission

On July 27, 2007, the NC PTA Board of Directors unanimously voted to add an Exceptional Children's Commission. The purpose of this newly-formed commission is to provide information and resources for students with exceptional educational needs, their families, and teachers. In keeping with the Department of Public Instruction's definition of Exceptional Child, the commission will also include Academically & Intellectually Gifted in addition to special education issues.

The commission will advocate for legislation that would enhance educational opportunities for ALL children and collaborate with state agencies and other organizations in NC that serve the "exceptional student" populations. Assisting PTA councils or local school-level units to establish advocacy efforts for Exceptional Children is also a priority. Ruth Schallert, of Guilford County, was appointed commission chair and Leigh Menconi, of Wake County, was appointed to the commission in November. For further information contact office@ncpta.org or phone 800-255-0417

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](#) or call for more information.



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Thanks for your continued membership!