



**Wake SEPTA
Newsletter
Volume 4,
Issue 3
December
2008**

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

**For more
information:**

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

**Info@WakeSEPTA.org
www.WakeSEPTA.org**

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

**Annual dues are \$5
Join & Pay Online
Using PayPal**

Thankfulness

It is very easy to get caught up in all the craziness this time of year and forget the good things in your life.

I don't think I am going out on a limb to say that nearly all of us in this community live our lives on a constant tilt-a-whirl, some days saying "when the heck do I get off this ride?" I have found that with my family, even the small moments can become larger than life, such as taking a quick moment before dinner every night to look across the table at everyone there and share thankfulness for all that we have and good wishes for all who need it. I always find that this small moment grounds me and makes me stop and appreciate everything that is wonderful in my life and how blessed I am.

That said, I don't want to end 2008 without thanking everyone that has stepped up to reinforce SEPTA this fall. Without you, I am not sure where we would be right now. And, now especially, it is critical that we all speak together as one voice.

When I look at next year, I have many concerns for our children. With more than \$5 million cut from Wake County's school budget, I know that even if it is not said aloud, this will directly affect our kids and their special education and related services. Case in point, there is a plan to stop providing "transportation contracts" for parents of preschool children. For those of you whose children did not receive pre-K services, these contracts reimburse parents who drive their children to preschool. We had been told in the past that parent transportation was the most natural way for preschoolers to get to school, just like their non-disabled peers – the "least restrictive" form of transportation. Now it suddenly isn't. I have larger problems with this issue – for instance, three year

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*Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value.
— Albert Einstein*

olds being put into cramped cabs with older elementary students, some as old as 13 perhaps -- but this just underscores the point that SEPTA needs to speak for all our children on school issues.

I know there are MANY this year who have been affected by the back-to-base program and now, the new reassignment plan. Many of our kids can't handle being shuffled around from school to school, year after year. They need a voice. Their parents need a voice.

SEPTA needs to be that voice and actively speaking up, loud and clear.

But without your membership, support, time and effort, we won't have it. Who will speak for our children then?

I hope that this New Year's challenges are easier than I think they are going to be. For now, I am truly thankful for the support we have received and am very much looking forward to the next year with even more involvement from our membership. And, if you can find the time and energy to volunteer, please don't hesitate to contact me. You are always welcome.

In the meantime, I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. See you in 2009.

Best Wishes,

Leslie Welch
President
Wake SEPTA

SEPTA Calendar

IEP 101 Workshop & General Membership Meeting: January 22, SPECIAL START TIME! 6:30 –8:30 p.m. Back by popular demand for the 4th year! ECAC presents IEP 101, a crash course in IEP basics and fundamentals. A must for all parents.

Assistive Technology Resources: February 19, 7-8:30 pm. Meredith College Kresge Auditorium at the Cate Center. Call 788-2500 or email info@wakesepta.org for more information.

****NEW MEETING LOCATION!****

SEPTA meetings for the 08-09 school year will be held at the Kresge Auditorium at the Cate Center on the campus of Meredith College, off Hillsborough Street just inside the 440 beltline. See our [website](#) for a map and directions.

All SEPTA events are FREE and open to nonmembers. No childcare is provided.

In our Community

Marbles night The Arc of Wake County and Marbles Kids Museum present a Family Fun Night for families of children with special needs and their siblings. Located at 201 East Hargett Street in Raleigh. Call 832-2660 (ARC of Wake County) for more information. \$5 per person or a maximum of \$20 per family. Marbles members get in free with their membership cards.

Check SEPTA's website calendar for details on dates and times

Friendship café a safe place for Teens and Adults with "All Abilities" to come together for an evening of entertainment, friendship and fun! For more information, contact Sandy Floyd at 848-9866. 9200 Strickland Road in Raleigh at the North Raleigh Church of The Nazarene.

January 16, The Unitensionals Improv Comedy Team 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

February 15: Valentine's Party! 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Shining Stars Dance class Holly Springs School of Dance offers a free dance session each month to children with special needs. Each child is paired with a volunteer dancer as they explore movement through dance. Pre-registration is required by the Monday before the session so that they will have enough volunteers. Call 557-3270 for more information. 136 Oakhall Drive in Holly Springs.

January 3, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

February 7, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Family Support Network presents "Creating a Care Notebook" Parents will learn the importance of and how to keep up with all the paperwork associated with having a child with special needs. Bring your paperwork, IEP's, doctor's reports, etc. and we will make books you will be proud to take home. Brooks Avenue Church of Christ in Raleigh, 700 Brooks Avenue. Childcare is not provided at the meetings but registration is still required. Please contact Rene at rene@familysupportonline.com or call 662-4600 x257.

January 20, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Raleigh Parks and Recreation Snow Ball DJ, Refreshments and fun! Participants who need a 1:1 are welcome to attend but must provide their own assistant. Parents, workers, and chaperones do not have to pay at the door. For more information, please contact Specialized Recreation Services at 831-6640. \$5 tickets at the door or you can pre-register by visiting the Raleigh RecLink website. Use activity code 77580. Ages 14 and up.

January 9, 7:00—10:00 p.m.

ARC of Wake County Teen to Adulthood Support Meeting Millbrook Exchange Community Center at 1905 Spring Forrest Road in Raleigh. For more information, contact Mimi Harrington at 919-832-2660, ext 102

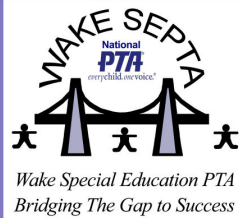
January 10- 9:00-10:30 a.m. Special Education Forum

February 14, 9:00—10:30 a.m. United CAP Services

Triangle Down Syndrome Meeting Financial Planning for Families of Children with Special Needs. Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church in Raleigh. For more information, contact Leigh

QUICK NOTE!

Proposed SEPTA bylaw changes will be posted to the website for review before the January 22nd meeting



First
Class
Postage
Required

PO Box 19472
Raleigh, NC 27619
919/788-2500
www.WakeSEPTA.org

Save the Date!



Workshop, Presented by ECAC
Meredith College, Kresge Auditorium, Cate Center
Thursday, January 22, 2009, 6:30pm-8:30pm

You must register so that we will have enough handouts. Leave a message at 788-2500 or email info@wakesepta.org.