



**Wake SEPTA
Newsletter
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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
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**

IEPS!

Our annual IEP meeting is coming soon. I always wonder, do I know enough about what progress Josh should be making to make an honest assessment of his learning status? Have I really been keeping on top of his speech therapies and such adequately? Do I understand his rights sufficiently to make impassioned pleas for more speech therapy time and better assistive technology resources?

These reasons, and so many more, are why I am a part of SEPTA. I see it as my own personal PhD program, allowing me to learn vicariously through all of you and the questions you post online, at our workshops and in one-on-one conversations. It is how I prepare for the next mountain to hurdle on Josh's behalf.

While vicarious learning has its place, nothing beats a great informative workshop. One that gets to the heart of matters and gives me tools to use in IEP meetings and beyond. And that is exactly what we have coming up for you – and me – in January.

IEPs, IEPs, IEPs! — ECAC, the Duke Law Center and Eric Fox from the Arc of Wake County are presenting concurrent sessions on the A to Z for IEPs. Last year's IEP workshop has been expanded to help not only those lost in IEP 101 minutia, but also a session on understanding our children's rights getting those IEPs implemented and one to help our older children develop self-advocacy skills as they begin the transition years.

So, if you feel lost in the IEP process – not knowing what an IEP is or what/who should be included in an IEP meeting; if you are having a tough time getting your well-crafted IEP implemented in your child's best interest; or you are in a whole new frontier of teenage years trying to bridge the gap to adulthood, you need to attend this workshop. There is literally something for everyone.

I am very much looking forward to it, and for me the timing could not be better! In order to be our child's best advocate we need to know as much as everyone else on the IEP team about not only our children but their rights! Come and join us on January 24th and keep your eyes out for further SEPTA programming this year as we all learn and advocate together.

Leslie Welch
President
Wake SEPTA

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire..
— William Butler Yeats

Resolutions

We all know how difficult it can be to reach out beyond our own homes with all the challenges we face in our own lives. However, if your New Years resolution includes finding a way to give back to your community, please consider giving some of your time to SEPTA.

It has been our great honor as a board to serve SEPTA's membership, some of us for more than 3 years now, but as our children age up and out of the school system, some of us will be moving on to the next challenges.

Giving of your time to SEPTA is not a large time commitment. Typically, our board meetings only take a couple of hours a month and our committees often less than that.

Immediately, in the new year, we will be searching for members of our Nominating and Bylaws Committees. These commitments are short-term because the committees only exist for a few months before our Annual Meeting in April in order to find board candidates and review our bylaws to see if amendments need to be proposed (respectfully). It is a low-impact way to get your "feet wet" in SEPTA involvement!

SEPTA is always looking for fresh faces but we are wanting more than that. People who feel, as we do, that ensuring that ALL children in this community have the same rights, advocacy and representation as our own.

So, We urge you to reach out and make a difference in your larger community. We know your time is precious but so are ALL our children and their ability to be seen as valued members of their schools. Through your involvement in SEPTA we can achieve just that.

Board of Directors
Wake County SEPTA

Educator Scholarships

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

Sponsorship and Support

SEPTA has been very fortunate in the past and again this year to be allowed to hold meetings at Nationwide Insurance, just behind Crabtree Mall in Raleigh. Thank you Nationwide!

We also have an anonymous donor who has sponsored more than 25 teacher and support staff SEPTA memberships in the past year.

We continue to look for new avenues of volunteerism, sponsorship, grant monies and support for meetings, newsletter printings, school liaisons, marketing materials and such. With success in this endeavor, we strive to not raise membership dues so that SEPTA is affordable for all.

If you or your company know of any potential fundraising opportunities for SEPTA, please let contact 919/788-2500.

Also, if you would like to volunteer some time to help keep SEPTA going, we always need help in both big and small ways.

In Our Community



Teen to Adulthood Parent Support Group: *Estates and Guardianships: How to Continue Making Parental Decisions After Your Child Becomes An Adult.* 1/12/07 9:30am to 11:00 am, Millbrook Exchange Community Center, 1905 Spring Forrest Road, Raleigh. For more information contact [Kathy Honeyman](#) 851-1022.

Family Support Network: 1/15/08, 6:30 pm Holland Tour Group Meeting *What's up with this behavior? It's driving me crazy!* With speaker Dr. Ann Marie Turnier, MD Behavioral Child Psychologist. At Brooks Avenue Church of Christ, 700 Brooks Avenue, Raleigh. Free on-site childcare available but you must register with [Sara](#) at 662-4600 (257).

Washington Elementary & SEPTA Co-Present: *How Difficult Can it Be* (video) --Thursday, January 31st from 7-8:30pm at Washington Elementary. Washington Elementary is located at 1000 Fayetteville Street in Raleigh, just south of the Progress Energy Center. For more information contact SEPTA at 788-2500 or info@wakesepta.org

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.



First
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PO Box 19472
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www.WakeSEPTA.org

Thanks for your continued membership!

Wake SEPTA membership has grown tremendously in the three years since our inception! Here is a snapshot of how we are doing:

	<u>November 2005</u>	<u>November 2006</u>	<u>November 2007</u>
Total Membership:	130	150	181

That is a 39% increase in two years!

*If can receive your newsletter via email, please let us know by sending an email to info@wakesepta.org.
You can help us save 55 cents each time!*

Upcoming Programming

- January 24, 2008
IEPs! IEPs! IEPs!
- February 17, 2008
*Summer Camp/Track Out
Resource Fair*
- March 2008
*The Status of our Schools: Bob
Sturey, WCPSS*
- April 2008
Alternative Therapies



Go to www.wakesepta.org for final dates, times and location of meetings

