

Hand-In-Hand

The Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC)

- **Mary Baskar**
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MARYAF@aol.com
- **PJ Shafer**
Vice Chairperson
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- **Sheila Baynes**
Secretary
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Join our
Yahoo Group,
BaltoCO-SECAC@
yahoogroups.com

Meeting Dates

2010
September 20
October 11
November 8
December 13

2011
January 10
February 7
March 14
April 11
May 9
June 13

**All meetings are
open to the public.**

7-9 p.m.
ESS Building
6901 Charles St.
Towson, MD 21204

New Members Welcome!



A joint publication of the Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC) and the Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS), Office of Special Education.
Its purpose is to provide families and staff with information related to children with disabilities.

SECAC Welcomes the New Director of Special Education

Baltimore County Public Schools hired a new director of special education, Kalisha Miller, M.Ed. Ms. Miller comes to BCPS from the Maryland State Department of Education. Prior to that assignment Ms. Miller was a special education teacher in Baltimore City and an administrator in Baltimore County. We look forward to her leadership and expertise in the new school year.



Back to School Checklist



- ☑ Review your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- ☑ Contact your child's case manager to make sure supports and services are in place for the new school year.
- ☑ Make sure appropriate staff is aware of any changes in the IEP, behavior plan, or medication needs. Don't forget the bus drivers, they need information, too!
- ☑ Plan to attend "Back to School Night!"

Special Education Advisory Committee Sets Schedule for the New School Year

The Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC) will meet on September 20, October 11, November 8, December 13, January 10, February 7, March 14, April 11, May 9, and June 13 from 7 to 9 p.m., at the ESS Building, 6901 Charles Street.

Membership is open to parents, students, family members, community representatives, members of disability organizations, educators, administrators, and all other interested persons. The committee is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the Board of Education on matters pertaining to students with disabilities in Baltimore County.

For more information, please contact Mary Baskar, Chairperson, at 410-453-6644 or by e-mail at MARYAF@aol.com.



Special Education Community Forum

*On behalf of the
Office of Special Education,
please accept this invitation
as an opportunity to:*

**Monday, September 27, 2010
7 - 8 p.m.**

Choose one of five convenient locations:

- ❖ Provide comments and share input on the approved BCPS' Special Education Staffing Plan for 2010-2011.
- ❖ Express opinions and discuss issues regarding special education services provided by Baltimore County Public Schools.

Charlesmont Elementary (Library)
7800 W. Collingham Drive, Baltimore, MD 21222

Church Lane Elementary (Library)
3820 Fernside Road, Randallstown, MD 21133

Dogwood Elementary (Gymnasium)
7215 Dogwood Road, Baltimore, MD 21244

Padonia International Elementary (Library)
9834 Greenside Drive, Cockeysville, MD 21030

Vincent Farm Elementary (Library)
6019 Ebenezer Road, Baltimore, MD 21162

If you are unable to attend but have information you would like to share, please send an e-mail to

STAFFINGPLAN@BCPS.ORG or write to us at:
Baltimore County Public Schools Staffing Plan
Office of Special Education
6901 Charles Street
Towson, MD 21204

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

Chesapeake Down Syndrome Parent Group, Inc (CDSPG)

CDSPG is a non-profit organization serving families in the greater Baltimore area, including Baltimore, Harford, Carroll, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City.

Mission: The purpose of the Chesapeake Down Syndrome Parent Group, Inc. (CDSPG) is to serve families of and persons with Down syndrome by providing information and support.

Vision: The group wishes to promote a happy, healthy, accepting environment which enables independence for people with Down syndrome so that they may reach their potential at all stages of their lives.

History: The group was founded in 1982 by eight sets of parents looking to share information and network in order to serve their children with down syndrome. Currently, the group consists of over 400 families, individuals, and organizations.

Offerings:

- *Education, support, and quarterly newsletter.*
 - Support to families.
 - Support workshops and conferences.
 - Counselor-facilitated self-advocacy peer groups.
 - Listserv for communication via the internet.
 - *A variety of social events, small, informal gatherings including playgroups, mom/dad's nights out, and a grandparent group.*

Membership:

The group is primarily for families of children with down syndrome, however, educators, professionals, and organizations are also welcomed as members.

Contact information:

Phone: 410-321-5434
Website: www.cdspg.org
E-mail: infoplease@cdspg.org



Save the Dates! New Workshops Coming This Fall!

Life Transitions: A Workshop for Parents of Teens with Disabilities

Sunday October 10, 2010, 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Abilities Network
8503 LaSalle Road
Towson, MD 21086

Come and meet with other families of teens with disabilities! Events include a keynote speaker team of a teen and mom talking about self-advocacy. Also, there will be sessions on transitioning from school-to-work and answering questions about adolescent sexuality.

Bonus: Hands-on activities and workshop for teens ages 13-19! (free with parent registration)

**Registration fee is \$10 and includes lunch.
Limited scholarships are available!**

For additional information, call Sarah Pinsker at 410-828-7700 x1259.

Sponsored by Baltimore Collaborates, a multi-agency workgroup committed to enhancing support provided to parents and caregivers of students with disabilities in the Baltimore-Metro area.

Special Education Process and Legal Rights

Saturday, November 13, 2010, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

ESS Building, Room 114
6901 Charles St.
Towson, MD 21204

This workshop is for parents and caregivers of students who have an Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and students who may need an IEP in Baltimore County Public Schools.

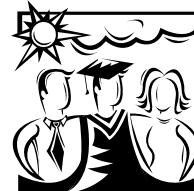
Instructors:

J. Stephen Cowles, Associate General Counsel,
Baltimore County Public Schools

And

Alyssa Fieo, Director of Legal Advocacy,
Maryland Disability Law Center

Reservations Required. Call 410-887-5443 to reserve.



Important Parent Workshops

Brought to you by the Resource Center for Families and Schools:

Applying for Social Security Income (SSI)

Answers questions about the SSI process and eligibility for students with intellectual or other developmental disabilities who are 17 or older.

October 4, 2010

What Will Happen to My Child When I am Gone?

Focuses on planning for your child's lifelong financial security.

October 18, 2010

Exploring Guardianship Issues

Answers questions about the pros and cons of obtaining guardianship for children who are over 16 years of age with intellectual or other developmental disabilities.

November 1, 2010

7-9 p.m.

All workshops are **FREE!**

ESS Building, Room 114

Greenwood Campus

To register call

410-887-5443



Sibshops



A program for siblings of children with disabilities is offering Saturday sessions.

For more information or to register call 410-578-5169.

Don't forget to register for the new fall workshops!!

See details on pg. 3

Community Bulletin Board

Family Resource Academy Supporting Resilience Within Families

Are you a Baltimore County resident raising a child with intensive behavioral health issues?

Do you find yourself feeling overwhelmed with the day-to-day challenges of parenting a child who is demonstrating challenging behaviors?

The Family Resource Academy may just be the thing that gives you the support, strength, and understanding to enhance your ability to parent a child with intensive behavioral health needs.

Childcare provided on site. Transportation is available on a limited basis for Baltimore County families who need this support to attend.

Free workshops are available Saturday mornings from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Call us at 410-252-4700 xt. 265 or email at smaskovy@cc-md.org!

Help is a phone call or email away!

Baltimore County Inclusive Education Action Group: A project of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

For more information, please call the Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education (MCIE) at
410-859-5400

Resource Center for Families and Schools What's It All About?

Promotes positive relationships among parents and professionals.

Addresses advocacy issues for children and families.

Refers families to community resources and agencies.

Encourages parents to be involved in their children's education.

Networks with families and school staff for greater communication.

Teams with other agencies in the community.

Supports parents of children with disabilities in a confidential atmosphere.

For more information, please call at
410-887-5443

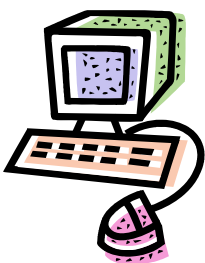
Hand-In-Hand is available online:

http://www.bcps.org/offices/special_ed/parent-resources.html

Comments, questions, or submissions to this newsletter should be directed to:

Jean Considine,
Parent Coordinator.
jconsidine@bcps.org
410-887-5443

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8401 Leefield Road,
Room 100,
Baltimore, MD 21234



Is your child at risk for: Reading Failure? A Learning Difference?

What Every Parent and Teacher
Should Know

Learn about the signs of potential learning differences in children pre-school through Grade 3 and what to do when you recognize them.

Presented by The Odyssey School
October 20, 2010, at 7 p.m.

**Interested? Call Lori Gordon at
410-580-5551 or e-mail at
lgordon@theodysseyschool.org**

