

**SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

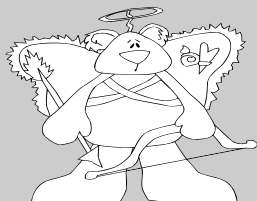
- Contact Us
- Dyslexia Workshop
- Staff Appreciation
- Legislation
- Awards
- Volunteers for 2012/2013
- Advocacy
- March Workshop
- NYS PTA
- Nassau Region PTA

Calendar of Meetings:

February 8th
Meeting
OHS School #7
Staff Appreciation
7pm
Honors & Awards

March 14th
School #3 7pm
Therapy Outside of the
Box

April 23rd
Oceanside Middle
School #9M
School Budget
Presentation



The Special Educator

septaocside.org



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FEBRUARY 2012

President's Message



Happy Valentine's day everyone!

I hope everyone had a great holiday and New Year. We have been working hard on our Staff Appreciation. With help from my officers and our Past President Paulette Palmer, we have been working diligently to bring our staff members a wonderful night and hopefully those that have been nominated this year will enjoy their evening and will be surprised.

Our January meeting was a great success with the Dyslexia workshop that was offered. I really did enjoy the presentation and hope that everyone there has a better understanding of the learning disability and how we can help children to learn and

grow. We can share the notes from the workshop with you via email, just send a request to me and I will forward them onto you.

Our next Parent tea is February 6th. It will be at Ellen Hisiger's house. All are welcome to attend. If you would like more information about this next meeting, please contact me at 766-1833 or chevy1928@verizon.net and I will make sure that you have the address and the time to be there.

Our next workshop in March is going to be exciting also. We will be hearing from people that offer therapy "Outside the Box." It should be very informative and will also give parents with special needs a different route to help

treat their children and help them open up to new possibilities.

As we look forward to the rest of the year, I would just like to remind everyone that we are always looking for people to volunteer in various capacities in SEPTA. Please consider volunteering. We always like to have new people come in and help us bring newer and brighter things to our kids. I hope that everyone enjoys the rest of the year and I also hope to see you at one of the meetings or teas.

Mary Messler
SEPTA President
516-766-1833

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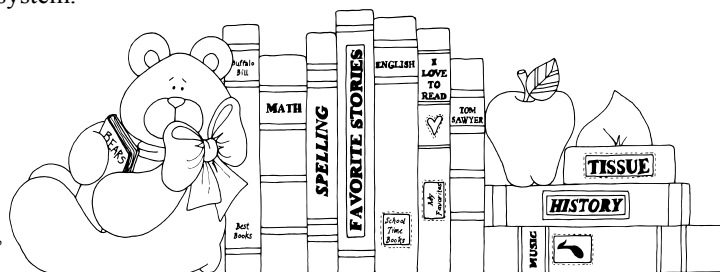
From the desk of... Dr. Jill DeRosa, Advisor

Dear Parents:

As annual review season begins, please be involved and attend your child's annual review meeting. It is your opportunity to participate in the IEP process and your input into your child's program and services for next year is crucial to his or her success. You are an invaluable part to the membership of the Committee on Special or Preschool Education, and as a team, we can better serve your child as they move through the education system.

Fondly,

Dr. Jill DeRosa
Assistant Superintendent
Special Education and Pupil Services,
Oceanside School District



Dyslexia Workshop

By: Danielle Brooks, Oceanside SEPTA Workshop Coordinator

The Dyslexia Workshop was held on January 5, 2012 at School #6. Dr. Jenny Roberts, PhD, CCC-SLP gave a comprehensive workshop on Dyslexia from early detection to intervention. She began with evidence in brain scans of the universal effect of the disorder on word reading, digit numbering, span short words, span long words and the phonological core deficits. Phonological processing, memory and testing were also discussed. The definition of Dyslexia was defined as a specific learning disability, that is neurobiological in origin. It is

characterized by difficulties with accurate and /or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding difficulties. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. (research Committee of the IDA, 2003 Lyon et al.). Dr. Roberts also discussed how to address Dyslexia in school and the different assis-



sive technologies now available to help a dyslexic student in the classroom from a scanning pen to an iPad2® to an Intel® Reader. She also gave a very detailed list of websites for both the parents and the educators to visit to assist them in their journey with our dyslexic students.

For more information or to receive a copy of the paperwork shared at the workshop please send an email to:

oceansidesepa@gmail.com

With "Dyslexia Workshop" in the subject line.

As a PTA we receive our training, information and governance from Nassau Region PTA. Please visit their website at Nassauppta.org for direct information and to see the links on their Special Education page!



Common Core Learning Standards:

Visit the NYS Education Department website:

www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/common_core_standards/



March is PTA Advocacy Month! Visit NYSPTA.org to join in on the movement to improve education!

Staff Appreciation 2012: Around the World in 180 Days— All are invited!

By: Paulette Palmer, Oceanside SEPTA Awards Chair

You are invited for a night of:

ADVENTURE, FUN & SPIRIT, as we travel around the world to celebrate our Amazing Staff!

We are going "Around the World in 180 Days", In 180 ways, to appreciate and celebrate all of our staff. The world is awaiting you!

Please join us on February 8th at 7pm, in the Oceanside High School Cafeteria, for our Annual Staff Appreciation Celebration. Performances, Honorary Life, Distinguished Service, Awards of all kinds *and* our special staff are just some of the adventures to be found...we hope to see you



Awards to be given at Staff Appreciation:

- Honorary Life
- Distinguished Service
- The Diamond Award
- Merit Awards
- Blue Rose Awards
- Lifetime Achievement



Therapy Outside of the Box— March Workshop

By: Danielle Brooks, Oceanside SEPTA Workshop Coordinator

Our March Workshop will include, Yoga, Chiropractic methods, therapeutic horse-back riding, music therapy and much more. The Workshop will be held at School #3 at 7:30pm. For more

information please call Danielle Brooks, Workshop Coordinator for SEPTA at 766-2830. If you have a workshop in mind or have a subject that you would like to see for a

workshop, please let us know by emailing your ideas to: oceansidesepta@gmail.com For information on our future workshops please visit: septaoceanside.com.

Sign up for our email newsletter, "The Informer" which is distributed monthly by sending an email to oceansidesepta@gmail.com with "subscribe me" in the subject line.



Changes to the IEP Diploma...no longer a Diploma.

By: Danielle Brooks, Cindy Goldstein & Myrna Grubman Oceanside SEPTA Advocacy Chairs

A Regents committee, on January 9th, approved a proposal to award new "Skills and Achievement Commencement Credentials" rather than Individualized Education Program diplomas to the state's high-school students who have severe disabilities and cannot achieve or earn a Regents Diploma. Some special education advocates for students with disabilities oppose the elimination of the IEP diplomas, saying that students need diplomas to find jobs. However, supporters of the change say the IEP

diplomas hold little weight and the new credentials likely would be more accepted for employment. Complete guidelines and how the skills will be documented are not yet available. Since the elimination of the "Local Diploma" students with IEPs and severe disabilities have had only 2 choices for a graduation document, Regents Diploma or IEP

Diploma. The Regents committee wishes to add a third option, a middle ground document along the lines of the State of Virginia for those students unable to achieve a Regents Diploma but too advanced in skill for a Skills and Achievement Credential. Virginia calls theirs a "Modified Standard Diploma". Hopes are that this level diploma will be defined and named by New York at the same time the new credentials are made available in the 2012/2013 school year.

Services for High School Students School to Work Transition ACCES-VR -(Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation) works with students, families and school districts to coordinate appropriate services for students with disabilities who are leaving secondary education and entering adult vocational rehabilitation and related services. These efforts are crucial to enable students to achieve maximum success in post-school activities consisting of integrated employment (including supported employment), post-secondary education, independent living, and community participation. Students who are expected to exit school within two years should be referred to ACCES-VR at: 1-800-222-JOBS(5627)

School Budget Season-Legislation

By: Paulette Palmer, Oceanside SEPTA Awards Chair



School Budget season is upon us. The Oceanside Board of Education holds several budget meetings between now and the school budget vote and Board of Education Election on May 15, 2012. To be informed it is important to attend at least one of the budget meetings.

Here are the Budget Meetings and Dates:
 February 7, 7:30 P.M. Regular Meeting, School #4 Budget Workshop # 1 .Administration & Capital Building & Grounds Committee Report
 March 6, 7:30 P.M. – Special

Meeting, School #6 Cafeteria Budget Workshop # 2 – Instruction

March 13, 7:30 P.M. Regular Meeting, School #3 Budget Workshop # 3 – Instruction

March 20 7:30 P.M. – Special Meeting, School #6 Cafeteria Budget Workshop #4 – Staffing, Revenues, Tax Rates

April 3, 7:30 P.M. – Special Meeting, School #6 Cafeteria Budget Workshop #5 – If Necessary.

Contact Oceanside SEPTA®:

oceansidesepta@gmail.com

or

info@septaoceanside.com

or

call our President,
Mary Messler, 766-1833

The Special Educator

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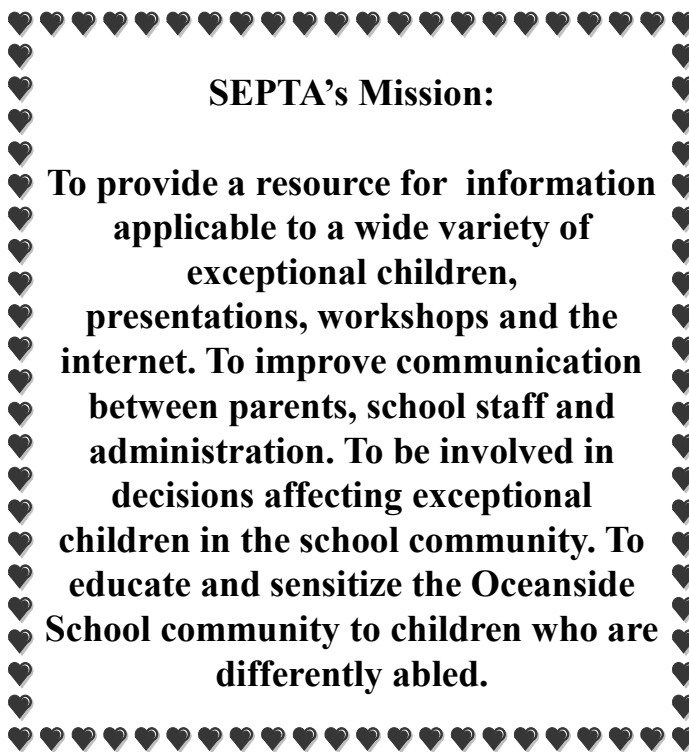
Ellen Hisiger

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Pete Amato & Meryl Cohen

Treasurer:

Vicki Caraciolo



SEPTA's Mission:

To provide a resource for information applicable to a wide variety of exceptional children, presentations, workshops and the internet. To improve communication between parents, school staff and administration. To be involved in decisions affecting exceptional children in the school community. To educate and sensitize the Oceanside School community to children who are differently abled.

Volunteers are needed for Chairs for 2012/13 School Year



Volunteers are needed to fill open positions for:

**Committee Chairs
Representatives
Delegates**

In the 2012/2013 school year.

NO experience is necessary and every position varies in its time commitment from as little as one hour a year to as much as 6 hours a month. All positions are available. For a

complete list, please refer to the Oceanside School Calendar in the back pages under SEPTA.

For information about positions, please contact Mary Messler, SEPTA President 766-1833.

To volunteer please send an email to: oceansidesepta@gmail.com and put "Volunteer" in the subject line.

