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Working Together... Making a Difference

A Publication of the NEISD Department of Special Education, Section 504 & Dyslexia and the NE Council of PTAs



Dr. Judith Moening

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A Message from the Executive Director

By Judith Moening, Ph.D.

Welcome back to our department publication, Working Together...Making a Difference. This is our sixth year of publication and we continue to make adjustments based upon your feedback. This year we will be emailing the publication to any parent of a student served through special education who is registered on the Parent Portal. Any parent not registered on the Portal will receive a copy through the mail as in past years. If you are not yet registered on the Parent Portal, your child's campus can explain how to complete that process. Please let us know how this new method of distribution works for you.

The work of special education is diverse and ever-evolving. It is always our challenge to work to address those changes in ways that benefit the students of North East ISD who are served through special education. Over the past several years, we have worked with teachers to develop curriculum for students in specialized support/ALE settings that aligns with the grade level curriculum in ways that are appropriate for that population. That has now been completed for high school and in process for the middle school with elementary to follow in the summer of 2010. Should your student be served in one of those settings, *be sure to ask your child's case manager how they are linking instruction and IEP goals and objectives to specific grade level curriculum.*

We have also worked to prepare staff and students for the testing challenges posed by No Child Left Behind which requires that all students be assessed against the enrolled grade level curriculum. Our students have

done well and for the school year, 2008-09, over 70% of special education students passed whatever state assessment they were assigned by the ARD committee to take. The goal is to raise that passing percentage each and every year and this year our emphasis is on quality instruction and intervention. When students do not perform as expected in the classroom, intervention should always be planned as a means of closing gaps for that student. *Another question to pose to your student's case manager concerns the type of intervention being planned to ensure that your child is successful on the state assessment.*

One of the calls I frequently receive from parents deals with the parent not knowing where to go for information on a range of topics related to their student. If you are in that group, please check out the article, "Who's a Parent to Call?" A primary purpose of this publication is to support parents becoming connected to sources of information related to their student's particular learning challenges. This edition contains a range of information from support groups to specific learning opportunities designed for parents.

A special event scheduled for this year is the Parent Super Saturday to be held in January. At this time, we welcome your suggestions for topics that you would like to see addressed on that day. We wish you and your student a great fall semester. Please call with questions and concerns. Our job is to serve you, and we do welcome the opportunity.

Working Together...Making a Difference celebrates the accomplishments of the NEISD Department of Special Education! Do you have a program, staff member, or student that deserves "The Spotlight?" Please send your ideas to Becky Tarwater at 804-7201 x382 or rtarwa@neisd.net.

Staff Spotlight

By Becky Tarwater

NEISD Family Liaison

NEISD Department of Special Education



Merideth Maccormack
Terri Grundy
Julie Cripps
Lorrie Garcia
(L to R)

Each new school year brings about change. While most remain, some valued team members move on to fresh challenges, bringing new opportunities for others. Our North East Department of Special Education is no exception. We bid fond farewells to former colleagues, as we eagerly welcome those new to our department or to new positions within special education.

Merideth Maccormack is one of three new Assistive Technology Specialists. She came to North East ISD after teaching for thirteen years in New York. She began her NEISD career teaching at Coker Elementary in Resource and ALE. Her undergraduate degree is in Psychology and Education. She also holds a Master of Science in Special Education. Merideth is married to Brendan. They have two sons, Ryan and Kevin. When asked to share something about herself that others might not know, Meridith stated, "I met my husband while working as a waitress in the Luxury Suites at Yankee Stadium. He was working there as a New York City Policeman. The rest is history..."

Lorrie Garcia is new to the role of Assistive Technology Specialist. She is currently enrolled in a Masters program at UTSA, majoring History, one of her true passions. Lorrie's four teaching certificates have served her well. During her four-year stint at MacArthur High School, her high school alma mater, she taught English Lab, ALE, Language Arts, English and World History Co-Teach, Applied Skills and CMC. Lorrie has been married for 10 years to Roger. They have two daughters, Audrey and Bella. Both girls attend Woodstone Elementary School. Lorrie was asked to share something that others might not know about her. She stated, "I graduated from MacArthur (High School) in 1990, and I think I am funnier than I probably am."

Prior to joining the Assistive Technology Team as an Assistive Technology Specialist, **Julie Cripps** served as a Speech Pathologist at Driscoll Middle School. She is entering her fourth year with North East ISD. Julie is a "homegrown" product of Churchill

High School, going on to earn both Bachelor and Masters of Arts in Communication Disorders from Our Lady of the Lake University. Julie and husband, Brian, recently celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary. Their three kids with boundless energy are daughter Taylor, age 9, and sons Braden, age 7, and four-year-old Elijah.

Terri Grundy brings fourteen years of experience as both an Occupational Therapist and Assistive Technology Specialist with North East to her new role as Special Education Program Coordinator for Technology and Itinerant Support. Terri has Bachelor of Science degrees in Occupational Therapy and Health Care Sciences, as well as an M.S. Degree in Occupational Therapy, all from UT Health Science Center, San Antonio. Terri has two children. Her oldest graduated from Texas State and works in retail management, while the youngest is at LeTourneau majoring in Youth Ministry. Adventure-loving empty nesters, Terri and her husband are filling their time with new challenges. She shares, "My husband and I are building a tear drop trailer from plans I found on the internet. We hope to load up the trailer and our kayaks for a maiden trip this fall."

Kristen Williams begins her 18th year with NEISD as a new Special Education Program Coordinator. Her last assignment was as a Special Education Campus Coordinator at Wood Middle School. Kristen has a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies from UTSA; a Masters in Educational Administration from Texas A&M, Kingsville; and holds certificates in Elementary Education, Generic Special Education and Principalship. Kristen and her husband, Keith, are parents to Kate and Logan. Not everyone knows that Kristen "loves to sing – loudly – in the car, the house and even sometimes in public", not because she has talent or skill, but because it makes her happy.



Janice (Jan) Greer DeHaven is our new Special Education Director of Instructional Improvement. Currently in her seventh year with NEISD, Jan first

See "Special Education Staff" page 3

Who's a Parent to Call?

by Kristen Williams & Leslie Redding

Program Coordinators

NEISD Department of Special Education

Parents have access to many resources on campus. Here are some key personnel you can contact at your child's school and the areas in which they can provide support and assistance.

Each student receiving special education supports and services has a special education teacher who serves as a primary point of contact or Case Manager. A student's Case Manager will:

- Make an initial contact with parents early in the school year
- Schedule, coordinate all paperwork for, facilitate and advocate for students at the Admission, Review, Dismissal (ARD) meeting
- Assure that general education teachers receive information and necessary training on students' accommodations and modifications and understand the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals and objectives
- Track student progress, grades, attendance and behavior, and conference with parents, student, and staff as needed
- Insure that IEP progress reports are sent home each nine weeks

Every campus has one or more Counselors.

Counselors can help with:

- Schedule issues
- Elective changes
- Class rank, GPA
- Credits/course recovery (high school)
- Standardized testing
- Peer interaction issues
- Concerns about a child's emotional well-being
- Summer school (not ESY)
- Family Specialist duties on non-Title I & Title IA campuses

Each middle school and high school campus has a Special Education Campus Coordinator. Campus Coordinators can help with:

- Scheduling ARDs
 - Concerns about a student's services
 - Clarification regarding legal issues related to the ARD
 - When there is difficulty reaching a case manager
 - Questions about TAKS, TAKS Accommodated, TAKS Modified and TAKS Alt
 - Questions regarding district programs and services
 - Information regarding community based services
 - When you're not sure who else to call
- Title I and Title IA schools have Family Specialists.

The campus' Family Specialist can:

- Facilitate campus parental involvement activities and parent education
- Conduct home visits
- Work with families of at-risk students to provide necessary support structures to assist students in overcoming barriers to achievement and school attendance
- Consult with administrators, teachers and other staff regarding student's social and family issues
- Provide school supplies to families in need
- Develop volunteer activities

The most important thing to remember is to openly communicate with staff at your child's school. Exchanging important information will allow both teacher and parent to be better prepared. If you have questions, just call. ■

Special Education Staff

Continued from Page 2

served as Differentiated Instruction Specialist and, more recently, as a Special Education Program Coordinator. She is in her 30th year as an educator.

Jan received a B.A. in Elementary and Special Education, an M.A. in Educational Administration with emphasis in Special Education, and an Educational Specialist Degree in School Administration. She and her husband, Bradley DeHaven, live at Canyon Lake with their two children Kaitlyn,

a freshman at Canyon Lake High School, and Braedon, a Startzville Elementary 3rd grader. Not everyone knows, but Ms. DeHaven has a passion for programs offered by the Girl Scouts of the USA and volunteers with the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas.



Partners in PE ~ Driscoll Middle School

By Becky Tarwater
NEISD Family Liaison
NEISD Department of Special Education



Partners in PE Group
Driscoll Middle School

Driscoll Middle School is home to eight general education students who spend one class period every day working with students in the Adapted PE program. These students are the second group of 8th graders to

participate in **Partners in PE**, an elective class brought to Driscoll by Christy Reuter, Adapted PE teacher at Garner, Wood and Driscoll Middle Schools. These Partners bring enthusiasm, extra sets of hands and inclusive opportunities into the Adapted PE setting.

This year's Partners include Jaque F., Brittney H., Brandon G., Mattie M., Anastasia G., Alley M., Cortney C. and Brittany P. Each Partner enjoys the opportunity to learn new skills while assisting friends master physical education goals. As a group, they enjoy having the opportunity to learn while having fun with their new friends. One Partner stated, "It's really fun getting to play and getting to know them (the APE students)."

The Partners in PE program requires each Partner to participate in the program every day. Partners are paired with one student for a month, giving them the opportunity to get to know several students over the course of the year. Besides writing an expectation paper at the beginning of the year, each student writes a reflections paper at the end. Other requirements are a research paper on a specific disability, and the task of preparing a lesson and teaching one class. Partners must maintain passing grades in order to participate in the APE outside activities including Special Olympics Bowling and the NEISD Special Olympics Field Day. The Partners receive valuable experience working with students with intellectual disabilities. Asked what they've learned so far, the Partners volunteered, "They're fun!", "Some kids act their age, they even have cell phones", and even, "Bribery works!"

(motivating a student).

Mrs. Reuter brought the Partners in PE program to Driscoll after attending the Texas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Conference two years ago, where Round Rock ISD presented a session about their Partners in PE program. She felt confident that she could bring the program to North East ISD. Driscoll staff and administration embraced her request to pilot the program. She hopes that the success of this program will enable Partners in PE to expand throughout the district.

The advantages of the Partners in PE program are numerous. The APE students receive one-on-one support, and the opportunity to spend time with typical peers. Relationships continue outside of the Adapted PE room as the students see each other around campus. The Partners learn how to interact with students with disabilities learning patience, perseverance and high expectations for their APE peers.

Last year's Partners gained new perspectives about students with disabilities. Perceptions changed from the beginning of the school year to the end as they were able to focus on abilities of their new friends. Several former Partners believe they have found their future careers as Special Educators. Sydney C., one of the Partners in the initial class, summed up her experience with a tee shirt quote that reads, "Everybody has a special talent, this is mine!" We congratulate Driscoll Middle School, Mrs. Reuter and all former, current and future Partners for their dedication in making the Partners in PE program a great success. ■



Parent Support

By Janice Troy

Parent

Wilderness Oak ES & Reagan HS

Autism/Asperger Education Group

Group meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the offices of Any Baby Can, 217 Howard Street, San Antonio 78212. Childcare and light dinner is provided with advance registration. An hour and a half of parent education and training is provided at each meeting. Parent networking and access to resource library available. For more information or to RSVP for childcare, call Any Baby Can at 227-0170.

Down Syndrome Association

Parent Support Group (ages birth to 5) - First Tuesdays of the month. 6:30 p.m., Coker United Methodist Church, 231 E. North Loop Road. Childcare available with reservations by calling 494-3455 x245. Each meeting hosts a speaker, followed by time for families to share experiences or concerns. The DSA also offers a variety of support and socialization activities for individuals of all ages with Down syndrome or any special needs and their families. Contact: 349-4372 or www.dsasa.org.

Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas Young Adult Support Group

Second Tuesdays of the month. 5-7 p.m. Epilepsy Foundation, 10615 Perrin Beitel, Suite 602, San Antonio, TX 78217. For more information, call 653-5353 or visit the website at www.efcst.org.

Mutual Enrichment Through Learning & Discovery (MELD)

A group for parents of children with special needs or chronic illnesses to find support and share parenting information. Childcare is provided free of charge. Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m., Northwood Presbyterian Church, 518 Pike Place, San Antonio 78209. Please call 223-9373 for more information.

National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI-San Antonio has meetings throughout the city of San Antonio on various times/days. For more information, visit their website at www.nami-sat.org or call 734-3349.

Parents of BiPolar Children Support Group

First Thursdays of the month. 6:30 p.m.

University United Methodist Church, 5084 De Zavala Rd., Room 2027. For more information, call 496-3370.

Reaching Families Facing Autism

Parent Training Program - Seven Sessions. For more information, contact Any Baby Can at 227-0170.

Roy Maas' Youth Alternatives

The RMYA Counseling Center provides individual and family counseling, crisis intervention, life skills training and parenting classes for at-risk youth and families from the community as well as for children placed in all of the RMYA programs. Services are provided through the STAR grant of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and a grant from the Administration of Children and Families.

Thanks to these grants services are provided by Masters Level Therapists, at no charge.

Counseling Service Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Call (210) 340-7971 for appointments.

Website: www.rmya.org

Parenting Classes

7 Week Series. Call for information.

Becoming a Love and Logic Parent

Tuesdays 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Registration required.

Strengthening Families

Wednesdays 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Registration required.

Sibling Support Group

Group meeting and activities for siblings of children with disabilities at the offices of Any Baby Can, 217 Howard Street, San Antonio 78212. Group for children ages 4 to 10 meets the second Friday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Group for children ages 11 to 17 meets the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free dinner provided. For more information, call Any Baby Can at 227-0170.

Tourette Syndrome Association of Texas

San Antonio Support Group

First Tuesday of each month. 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Methodist Healthcare System, 8109 Fredericksburg Rd., Conference Room C. For more information, visit

www.TouretteTexas.org or contact Wendy Marcus-Perez at 479-3740.

NEISD Special Education Social Worker

By Henry Gonzales, LMSW, IPR

Social Worker

NEISD Department of Special Education



Henry Gonzales

Henry Gonzales, LMSW, IPR is the NEISD Special Education Social Worker. Henry works with families of school aged children identified for special education services and, in particular, those students with developmental disabilities and/or long-lasting medical or health needs. In order to better serve families, Mr.

Gonzales provides several on-going services, including:

- ARD meeting support for elementary and middle school students receiving specialized supports in order to connect families with agencies and post-secondary connections

- Providing updated information on appropriate community agency and contacts
- Coordinating parent education/support via:
 - Parent meetings (Topics: Wills & Trusts, Guardianship, Medicaid, Social Security, etc.)
 - Individual appointments
- Connecting students and families with agencies and community resources
- Assisting students and families with applications for agency and community supports and resources

For more information or to make an appointment, contact:

Henry Gonzales, LMSW, IPR

8961 Tesoro Dr., Ste. 500

407.0276 ~ hgonza3@neisd.net

ABCs of Special Education

By Becky Tarwater

NEISD Family Liaison

NEISD Department of Special Education

Persons who work in the field of education sometimes speak in a form of "shorthand". For a family new to Special Education and even to families who are veterans, hearing acronyms can be quite confusing. The following list includes some of the most commonly used terms:

Terms related to identification and planning:

- ARD – Admission, Review, Dismissal
- BIP – Behavior Intervention Plan
- ESY – Extended School Year
- FAPE – Free Appropriate Public Education
- FBA – Functional Behavioral Assessment
- FIE – Full Individual Evaluation
- IEP – Individual Education Plan
- IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act
- IEE – Independent Educational Evaluation
- IEP – Individual Education Plan
- ITP – Individual Transition Plan
- LRE – Least Restrictive Environment

Abbreviations for qualifying conditions include:

- AI – Auditory Impairment
- AU – Autism

- DB – Deaf/Blindness
- ED – Emotional Disturbance
- LD – Learning Disability
- OI – Orthopedic Impairments
- OHI – Other Health Impairments
- MD – Multiple Disabilities
- MR – Mental Retardation
- SI – Speech Impairment
- TBI – Traumatic Brain Injury
- VI – Visual Impairment

Terms relating to services or positions include:

- APE – Adapted Physical Education
- AT – Assistive Technology
- CBI – Community Based Instruction
- CMC – Content Mastery Center
- ECI – Early Childhood Intervention
- O & M – Orientation and Mobility
- OT – Occupational Therapy
- PPCD – Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities
- PT – Physical Therapy
- RTI – Response to Intervention
- LSSP – Licensed Specialist in School Psychology
- SLP – Speech-Language Pathologist

A Different Path

Kathy DiSanto

Communications Specialist

Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Texas A&M University

She's quick to smile, and when she does it lights up the room. But don't let that breezy smile fool you—Sachiko Flores '11 likes to challenge herself. Take her choice of colleges, for example. Sachiko figured Texas A&M University was one of the best schools in the country and one of the hardest to get into. She decided to take the risk. She hoped if she showed people she could take a risk, they would decide they could, too. Of course, both the risk and the challenge were greater for her than they are for most students applying to A&M. Sachiko Flores is Deaf. "Both my brother and I were born Deaf," she explains. "We can't hear at all, even though both our parents can. My friends went to either the Rochester Institute for the Deaf or Gallaudet in D.C. I wanted to take a different path."

Not wanting to miss a moment of the Aggie experience, Sachiko started at square one: Fish Camp. She arrived at Lakeview in August 2007 and threw herself into the festivities with Session F's Camp DiSanto. She'll tell you her decision to attend A&M's student-run extended orientation program was a good one. "I'm glad I went to Fish Camp," she says. "It gave me an opportunity to understand more about being an Aggie, and thanks to my group leaders, I didn't get lost on campus during my freshman year! I believe other freshmen should go, too, so they can make friends before the semester begins."

Like most Aggies, Sachiko didn't waste any time getting involved. As Vice President for Deaf Aggies and Friends (DeAF), she works with other DeAF members to provide connections between hearing and Deaf people, help them feel comfortable with one another, and provide advocacy/educational opportunities for anyone within or interested in the Deaf/Hard-of-hearing community. Of course, the Deaf/Hard-of-hearing community in Bryan/College Station is a lot smaller than the massive, ever-changing community in Sachiko's hometown of San Antonio. The plus side to the local group, she points out, is it's easy to get to know everyone.

The Challenges

Having attended mainstream schools all her life, Sachiko already understood some of the hurdles she would face at A&M. Being Deaf is always the hardest part, but the way other students see her also presents a challenge. Fellow Aggies often treat

her like she's different; most don't realize she can speak. Sachiko tries to let them know she's just like their other friends—all she wants to do is hang out. "They're hesitant around me," she muses. "They think I would rather be with other Deaf people, because I can communicate better. But I can read lips. I would just like them to come speak to me." She smiles, adding, "Speak normally. They don't have to speak slowly or loudly. If I need to have them repeat something, I'll ask."

As for class, most of her professors say she's the first Deaf student they've ever taught. True to form, the plucky wildlife fisheries science major sees that as an opportunity, a chance to teach faculty how she and they can work together as a team. Sachiko's team also includes interpreters provided by Disability Services—two full-time A&M staff members, Dr. David McMullen and Diana North, as well as a number of other interpreters brought in from local community agencies.

So, when all is said and done, how does Sachiko feel about her decision to attend Texas A&M? "I'm proud to be the first Aggie in my family!" she beams. "The Aggies are a family to me, too. That's what I love about A&M." She highly recommends the University to prospective students. "We're a family. We have traditions. Everyone will feel welcome. Come to Texas A&M!"

For more information on Deaf Aggies and Friends, visit the group's website at <http://Deaf.tamu.edu> or their Facebook page at <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=20301899786>.

Information on Disability Services can be found at <http://disability.tamu.edu>. Learn about Fish Camp at <http://fishcamp.tamu.edu>.

Note: Sachiko was highlighted in the Spring 2007 newsletter.

This article was reprinted with permission from the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs <http://studentaffairs.tamu.edu/node/128>.



Sachiko Flores

Educational Opportunities ~ NEISD

By Janice Troy

Parent

Wilderness Oak ES & Reagan HS

TRANSITIONS: PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR THEIR FUTURES



Transition Meeting for High School Parents: "Transition to Post-Secondary Education and/or Employment for Parents of Children with Disabilities Served in Inclusion Classes or Inclusion/ Resource Classes"

Monday, October 19

6 - 7:30 p.m.

Churchill HS Library

Presenter: Dr. Vickie Mitchell from MP Consulting, LLC, is an educator by profession and the mother of a daughter who was served in special education from 2nd grade through graduation. For information, contact Beth Powell at 407-0273 or cpowel@neisd.net.

Transition Meeting for Middle School Parents: "Prepare for High School and Post-High School Life"

Monday, February 22, 2010

Choose a convenient time/place to attend:

9 - 10 a.m. at Garner Middle School

1 - 2 p.m. at Eisenhower Middle School

6 - 7:30 p.m. at Bradley Middle School

Presenters: Dr. Vickie Mitchell and Mrs. Beth Panter are both educators and lived the mother-daughter special education life. Learn practical ideas to help your child help him/herself.

Transition Meeting for Elementary School Parents: "Parenting Strategies that Promote Self-Help Skills at School"

May 4 & 5

More information to come!

Presenters: Dr. Vickie Mitchell and Mrs. Beth Panter are both educators and lived the mother-daughter special education life. Learn practical ideas to help your child help him/herself.

PARENT SUPER SATURDAY LEARNING TOGETHER CONFERENCE

Saturday, January 9, 2010

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

NEISD Community Learning Center
8750 Tesoro Dr.

Keynote Speaker:

Dan St. Romain, Behavior Specialist

We welcome your suggestions for topics!

Check for updates on the NEISD parent webpage at http://www.neisd.net/special/upcoming_events.html, call 704-0278 or email rtarwa@neisd.net.

ASPERGER DISCUSSION GROUP FOR PARENTS

NEISD Community Learning Center

8750 Tesoro Drive, Room 202-1

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Monday, October 19

"Asperger Syndrome: A Parent Overview"

Presenter: Lisa Rogers, Education Consultant and Autism Specialist, will provide an overview of AS and practical strategies for parents.

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#### Tuesday, November 17

"Books, Videos, Ideas: Sharing Resources"

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Tuesday, December 15

"Tips for Surviving Winter Break"

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**Spring Semester Dates:** January 19, February 16, March 23, April 27, May 25.

For questions or to reserve child care, contact Becky at 407-0278 or [rtarwa@neisd.net](mailto:rtarwa@neisd.net).

### DYSLEXIA INFORMATION NIGHT

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

NEISD Community Learning Center  
8750 Tesoro Drive, Room 217

Join NEISD staff as they provide an overview of Dyslexia and strategies for supporting students. For information contact, Janet Tracy at 804-7201 x386 or [jtracy@neisd.net](mailto:jtracy@neisd.net). \*No child care.

# Educational Opportunities ~ NEISD

By Janice Troy

Parent

Wilderness Oak ES & Reagan HS

NEISD Community Education in conjunction with the Department of Special Education present

## **GUARDIANSHIP 101**

Wednesday, October 21

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

NEISD Community Learning Center

8750 Tesoro Drive, Room 202-1

Monica Bonilla, Attorney at Law & Director of Catholic Charities Guardianship Services, provides a better understanding of the process of guardianship, alternatives to guardianship, how to determine who may be appointed, the powers and duties of the guardian and court costs and applications for guardianship.

Call Community Education at 657-8866 to register.

Child care with advance registration at 407-0278 or [rtarwa@neisd.net](mailto:rtarwa@neisd.net).

## **911 HELP FOR HOME BEHAVIORS**

Tuesday, November 3

6:30 - 8 p.m.

NEISD Community Learning Center

8750 Tesoro Drive, Room 202-1

Presenter: Kathy Palomo, Education Consultant  
Whether escalating behavior in the home results in a "Nanny 911" visit or a call to 911, handling a behavior crisis in the home is no fun. Instead of being reactive, focus on prevention and strategies that steer the situation toward resolution. Join us and learn how to be a proactive first responder!  
Child care with advance registration at 407-0278 or [rtarwa@neisd.net](mailto:rtarwa@neisd.net).



## **SPECIAL EDUCATION: ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS**

Thursday, November 12

6:30 - 8 p.m.

NEISD Community Learning Center

8750 Tesoro Drive, Room 202-1

Presenters: Jan DeHaven, Special Education Director of Instructional Improvement and Becky Tarwater, Family Liaison

Have questions about Special Education services? Learn more about the ARD process, Individual Education Plans, and how to be an active participant in your child's education. Child care with advance registration at 407-0278 or [rtarwa@neisd.net](mailto:rtarwa@neisd.net).

## **FINDING RESOURCES IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Thursday, December 3, 2009

6:30 - 8 p.m.

NEISD Community Learning Center

8750 Tesoro Drive, Room 202-1

Presenter: Pam Stephens, Director of Programs, and Heather Long, Community Outreach for ARC share services available through ARC and other community agencies.

Child care with advance registration at 407-0278 or [rtarwa@neisd.net](mailto:rtarwa@neisd.net).



## **MAKE AGENCY CONNECTIONS: MEDICAID WAIVERS, SSI, DARS**

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

6:30 - 8 p.m.

NEISD Community Learning Center

8750 Tesoro Drive, Room 202-1

Presenter: Henry Gonzales, LCSW

Child care with advance registration at 407-0278 or [rtarwa@neisd.net](mailto:rtarwa@neisd.net).



## **INCLUSIVE PRACTICES IN SCHOOLS**

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

6:30 - 8 p.m.

NEISD Community Learning Center

8750 Tesoro Drive, Room 202-1

Presenter: Kimberly Baumgardner, Education Specialist, ESC Region 20

Child care with advance registration at 407-0278 or [rtarwa@neisd.net](mailto:rtarwa@neisd.net).

## **ACCESSING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AS A STUDENT WITH DISABILITIES**

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

6:30 - 8 p.m.

NEISD Community Learning Center

8750 Tesoro Drive, Room 202-1

Presenter: Larry Rodriguez, Co-Chair, Palo Alto College Counseling Department

No child care for this event.



ALAMO  
COLLEGES

# Educational Opportunities ~ NEISD

By Janice Troy

Parent

Wilderness Oak ES & Reagan HS

## BREAKFAST FOR PARENTS

This is an opportunity for parents of children with disabilities, dyslexia or served under Section 504 to visit, share resources, work together for advocacy, and provide input to NEISD Department of Special Education Parent Liaison, Becky Tarwater. Questions? Call 407-0278 or email [rtarwa@neisd.net](mailto:rtarwa@neisd.net).



**Friday, October 16**

8:30 a.m.

The Egg & I  
16668 San Pedro  
Thousand Oaks and 281

**November 9, 2009**

**NEW!** Early morning

Breakfast for Working Parents

Work during the day? Too tired at night?

6:30 a.m.

The Egg and I  
16668 San Pedro  
Thousand Oaks and 281

**Thursday, November 19**

8:30 a.m.

Blanco Cafe  
17776 Blanco Rd.  
Just south of North Loop 1604

**Thursday, December 17**

8:30 a.m.

The Egg & I  
16668 San Pedro  
Thousand Oaks and 281



## 19TH ANNUAL TAPPESTRY CONFERENCE

**“Planning Our Futures: Plotting the Course”**

February 20, 2010

Education Service Center, Region 20  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker:

Aric Bostick,

Former teacher and Motivational Speaker

Check out Aric’s website at

<http://www.aricbostick.com/>.

Breakout sessions include:

Social skills, preparing for college, preparation for employment, preparation for adult living, practical classroom applications, behavioral strategies, visual supports, special needs students and sexuality/puberty through adulthood, functional classrooms, classroom management, and more!



## Newsletter Submissions:

This newsletter is a collaborative effort between the NEISD Department of Special Education and the NE Council of PTAs Special Education Committee. It’s intent is to provide the teachers and parents of students with special needs information about the Department of Special Education, as well as district and community programs & support services. The newsletter editors are Becky Tarwater & Janice Troy. We welcome articles from parents and staff. If you would like to submit material for consideration, please contact Becky Tarwater at 804-7201 x382 or [rtarwa@neisd.net](mailto:rtarwa@neisd.net).

# Educational Opportunities ~ Community

By Janice Troy

Parent

Wilderness Oak ES & Reagan HS

## THE ARC OF SAN ANTONIO

### SPECIAL EDUCATION SERIES 2009-2010

A series of FREE educational workshops designed for parents and professionals.

The Arc of San Antonio  
13430 West Avenue  
San Antonio, Texas 78216  
9:30 - 11 a.m.



- October 20 \* Bullying
- November 17 \* Positive Behavioral Interventions
- January 19 \* Special Education 101
- February 16 \* Documentation
- March 16 \* Autism 11 Supplements
- April 20 \* Developing Great Advocacy Skills
- May 18 \* ADHD

Please contact Heather Long, LBSW at the Arc of San Antonio to register (210) 490-4300 ext. 113 or [hlong@arc-sa.org](mailto:hlong@arc-sa.org).

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## THE ARC OF SAN ANTONIO

### TRANSITION EDUCATION SERIES 2009-2010

A series of educational workshops designed to help parents and caregivers of children/young adults with cognitive and other developmental disabilities prepare for the future. All presentations will be held at The Arc of San Antonio Pam Stephens Center, 6530 Wurzbach SAT 78240. No childcare provided. To register contact: Heather Long at 490-4300 ext. 113 or [hlong@arc-sa.org](mailto:hlong@arc-sa.org). Visit their website at [www.arc-sa.org](http://www.arc-sa.org).

**Saturday, October 17th \* 9 a.m. - 12 noon**

Funding Resources: What Agencies Provide Support?

**Saturday, November 14 \* 9 - 11 a.m.**

The Basics of Texas Medicaid Waiver Programs

**Saturday, January 9, 2010 \* 9 - 11 a.m.**

Guardianship

**Saturday, March 13, 2010 \* 9 - 11 a.m.**

Special Needs Trusts

**Saturday, April 10, 2010 \* 9 a.m. - 12 noon**

Day to Day Life After School: An Overview

## THE TEXAS STATE CONFERENCE ON AUTISM

December 3 - 5, 2009

American Bank Center  
1901 N. Shoreline Blvd.  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Temple

Grandin, bestselling author and consultant to the livestock industry in animal behavior. Dr. Grandin is also widely noted for her work in autism advocacy.

The State Conference on Autism focuses on providing information to parents and professionals based on existing research and best practice in instructional strategies from across the nation. The leading achievement of the State Conference on Autism is the networking opportunity it provides for parents, students and professionals. Participants will have the opportunity to hear nationally and internationally recognized speakers as well as speakers from around Texas who will present information regarding individuals with Autism.

For more information, visit the website at [www.autism.esc2.net](http://www.autism.esc2.net).



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## THE ARC OF SAN ANTONIO

### RECREATION AND SUPPORT RESOURCE FAIR

Saturday, January 30, 2010

The Arc of San Antonio's Pam Stephens Center  
6530 Wurzbach

10 a.m. - 12 noon

Exhibitors include summer programs, respite agencies, and parent support groups.

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## 20TH ANNUAL WINSTON SCHOOL LEARNING DISABILITIES SYMPOSIUM

January 30, 2010

The Winston School of San Antonio  
8565 Ewing Halsell Dr.

"ADHD Across the Lifespan: Early Onset Up to Age 25" - Featuring: Edward M. Hallowell, M.D., author of "Driven to Distraction" and founder of the Hallowell Center for

Cognitive and Emotional Health, as seen on the Today Show, 20/20, Oprah and more.

Please call 210-615-6544 for more information.





*North East Independent School District*

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