

BROOKLINE SEPAC  
***SPECIAL EDITION***

Sept. 2009

Volume 1, No. 1

Co-chairs Peggy Ueda and Ben Norton

Liaisons

BEEP - Kimberly Percival	Driscoll - Jillian Kalen,	Lawrence - Patrick Gabridge	Runkle - Jemelle O'Neill
Baker - Hilary Pizer	Laney Nielson	Lincoln - Polly Welch	BHS - Lisa Guisbond,
Devotion - Pam Katz	Heath - Pam Palmucci	Pierce - Please volunteer!	Karen Szeto
Out of district – Nancy Parker, Mary Ann McDonough, Liz Walpert			School Committee – Glenn Cunha

News

***New SEPAC liaisons for Heath, Lawrence, and BHS***

We are pleased to welcome new liaisons this year. Pam Palmucci is taking over from Lisa Guisbond at Heath; Patrick Gabridge is the new liaison at Lawrence; and Karen Szeto is joining Lisa Guisbond to serve as co-liaisons at the High School. We thank all our liaisons for volunteering their time and effort to help our children.

***New Brookline SPED administrators and team facilitators***

There have been many new appointments this year pursuant to SPED reorganization. Following is the new roster of Brookline SPED administrators and team facilitators.

Assistant Superintendent for Student Services: Denise Rochlin

Director of Special Education: Lisa Lamont Harris

Out-of-district Coordinator: Karen Shmukler

School Team Facilitators:

Baker	Elizabeth Edraos	Lawrence	Amy Nevis
Devotion	Suzanne Shaw	Lincoln	John Abramson
Driscoll	Tara Kelly	Pierce	Teri Hauserman
Heath	Jed Miller	Runkle	Julie Spector

Upcoming events

***SEPAC-SPED Monthly Meetings***

SEPAC leaders and other interested members meet with SPED administrators on a regular monthly basis at Town Hall, 333 Washington St., to discuss matters related to students with special needs. The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 21, at 11:00 a.m. Attendance at our monthly meetings is a good way to keep involved in what's going on in Special Ed in Brookline. All are welcome to attend. Agenda suggestions may be forwarded in advance to the co-chairs.

***SEPAC Welcome Breakfasts***

Come meet new Assistant Superintendent of Students Services Denise Rochlin, new Director of Special Education Lisa Lamont Harris, your SEPAC school liaison, your school's new team facilitator, and other parents of children on IEP's. Drop in any time from 8-9 a.m. on the following dates:

Thurs. 9/17	Runkle – Cafeteria	Fri. 9/25	Heath - Cafeteria
Fri. 9/18	Lincoln – Room 103	Tues. 9/29	Devotion - Cafeteria

Tues. 9/22 Pierce – Auditorium

Thurs. 10/1 Baker - Cafeteria

Thurs. 9/24 Lawrence – Library

Fri 10/2 Driscoll - Cafeteria

BEEP parents are invited to the breakfast at their school.

A breakfast for Lynch Center parents is being scheduled, as well as an evening dessert meeting for parents of students in out-of-district placements.

***Learning Math: Cognition, Language, and the Acquisition of Math Competency***, presented by Chris Woodin, Landmark School - Wed., October 14, 6-8 p.m., Hunneman Hall, Brookline Public Library

***Meet the Administrators***; hear directly from the new administrative leaders of special education in Brookline, ask questions and offer comment - Wed., December 9, 6-7:30 p.m., Room 103 Town Hall

***BHS SPED back-to-school night*** – date to be determined

#### In The Community

***Dr. Bonnie Singer, "EmPOWERing Students as Readers & Writers"- 9/15 7-9 pm***

Sponsored by Framingham SEPAC and geared toward parents and professionals who teach children with special needs, this event will provide a discussion of the many processes that influence the ability to write and illustrate why many students find expository writing so challenging. Dr. Singer will present a brief overview of the EmPOWER(tm) method for teaching expository writing, including how strategy-based instruction can support the executive function and language skills that are central to the writing process and how executive functions influence reading comprehension, along with principles and strategies for reading instruction. Participants will gain insight into the complexities of the writing process and strategies to support students with expository writing tasks and reading comprehension. Eligible for PDP for teachers. Framingham High School, 115 "A" Street, Framingham 01701-4195. Light refreshments. Please rsvp to [info@f-sepac.org](mailto:info@f-sepac.org) to assure adequate hand-outs.

***Dr. Michael Thompson and Christine Duvivier, "There's a College Seat For Every Student- How to Find The Best One For Your Child" - Sat. Sept. 19 9-11:30 a.m., Mt. Ida College***

This "College Bootcamp for Parents" seeks de-stress the college-exploring and application process by educating parents about it. To view the brochure go to <http://www.positiveleaders.com/college-bootcamp-for-parents.html>.

***Disability Law Center 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event - Wed, Oct 7, Charles Hotel, Cambridge***

The Disability Law Center celebrates 30 years of protecting the rights of citizens with disabilities. The fundraiser, silent auction and awards ceremony honors Former Massachusetts Governor Michael S. Dukakis, Disability Rights Advocate and Leader Fred Fay, and Partners Continuing Care VP of Human Resources Oswald Mondejar. For more information go to [www.dlc-ma.org](http://www.dlc-ma.org).

***Federation for Children with Special Needs Transition Conference***

From the FCSN website: "*Planning a Life: Making the Most out of High School* is a two day conference packed with Transition planning information and resources for and

about students in special education ages 14-22. Topics include the Vision development and self advocacy issues; Transition Planning Form and how to develop individualized Transition goals; Housing, Postsecondary & Employment options and more. Transition planning needs to be on schedule to insure a systematic and purposeful educational experience.” Open to everyone. For families in Boston, Worcester and Springfield, registration is free through *Transition Works!* a grant in partnership with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission.

Dates: Fri-Sat Nov 6-7, 8:30-4:30, Girls Inc. 125 Providence St, Worcester, MA  
Fri-Sat Feb 5-6, 2010, Federation's Boston office, 1135 Tremont St. Suite 420, Boston  
Fri-Sat Apr 9-10, 2010, Springfield, site to be determined.

For more information go to <http://fcsn.org/pti/workshops/transition.php>

### Legal Corner

#### ***Did you know***

- that Massachusetts School Systems must provide transition services for students starting at age 14 (changed from age 16)? Mass. Advocates for Children recommends that IEP's should include measurable transition goals and objectives (e.g., related training, education, employment and independent living, as appropriate) and specific transition services (e.g., instruction, community service, development of employment, acquisition of living skills, vocational education) based on the child's needs and interests. See their informational flyer at [http://www.massadvocates.org/uploads/Uy/ri/Uyri2nnseo44kHuhX\\_wRlw/Implementation-Alert-Parent--FINAL-12-22-08- 2 .pdf](http://www.massadvocates.org/uploads/Uy/ri/Uyri2nnseo44kHuhX_wRlw/Implementation-Alert-Parent--FINAL-12-22-08- 2 .pdf), or go to [www.massadvocates.org](http://www.massadvocates.org) and enter “transition rights” in the search window. IEP's for students age 14 and older must include the Transition Planning Form, and parents are to receive a copy. A sample form can be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/28MR/28m9.pdf#search=%22transition%22>.
- that eligibility for Section 504 protection has been broadened? “Some students who did not qualify for Section 504 in the past, or who were not eligible for services and supports under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), may now qualify for Section 504 plans.” Learn more at <http://www.greatschools.net/LD/school-learning/Section-504.gs?content=1526&cpn=20090716ld>
- that Schools may not refuse to enroll students with disabilities in advanced courses or require them to give up their IEP's in order to participate in any particular class, including those offering more challenging curricula? Learn more at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-20071226.html>.

#### ***Please take the FCSN Transition Survey***

The Federation for Children with Special Needs has developed an online Transition survey to gather information on the Transition experiences of students who were ages 14 - 22 during the 2008-2009 school year. This brief survey is anonymous but should help the FCSN collect a large quantity of meaningful data. The FCSN urges such students or their parents or advocates to complete the survey, which can be found at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229EYL5EHJN>.

### Studies

The Center for Human Genetic Research at MGH seeks participants for a **Family Genetic Study of Tourette Syndrome, OCD and ADHD**. For information go to [www.ts-adhd-ocd.org](http://www.ts-adhd-ocd.org), write to [familycontact@pngu.mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:familycontact@pngu.mgh.harvard.edu) or phone 1-800-471-2730, option 2.

**Can developmental dyslexia be identified in pre-readers?** Research Study for Pre-Readers (ages 4 to 6). “The Gaab lab is currently investigating early language characteristics in **pre-reading children** (ages 4 to 6). Because reading problems tend to run in families, we aim to look at how young children who have at least one family member diagnosed with dyslexia use their brains. The main goal is to identify children at risk for developmental dyslexia at a very early age, before reading skills are even present. An advanced understanding of brain processes in children with a risk for developmental dyslexia may help us to improve and implement early remediation programs. The Gaab lab is especially looking for pre-reading children who will enter Kindergarten in fall 2009. To learn more about this study and how to participate, please contact Nora Raschle at [nora.raschle@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:nora.raschle@childrens.harvard.edu) or call us at 857-218-4629.”

Additional information can be found at

[http://www.childrenshospital.org/cfapps/research/data\\_admin/Site2547/mainpageS2547P27sublevel23.html](http://www.childrenshospital.org/cfapps/research/data_admin/Site2547/mainpageS2547P27sublevel23.html)

### Networking

#### **Orton-Gillingham Tutor Available**

Elissa Yanover writes: “Is your child having trouble reading or spelling? Perhaps your child would benefit from Orton-Gillingham lessons. O-G is structured, systematic, multi-sensory, diagnostic and extremely effective in remediating reading and spelling difficulties. I am a Massachusetts General Hospital trained Reading Therapist. I am also certified in Spanish and ESL and have many years of classroom teaching experience. Lessons are \$50 in the Coolidge Corner area. Please contact me at (617) 738-8298 for more information, a free initial evaluation or references.”

#### **Webinar on college preparedness**

One of our members reports that Joan Azarva’s web-based seminar on college transition, publicized in our March 2009 SEPAC newsletter, was very helpful. The webinar aims proactively to prepare high school students with learning differences and their parents for college success. For more information go to [www.conquercollegewithld.com](http://www.conquercollegewithld.com).

### **Brookline SEPAC**

visit us at [brooklinesepac.org](http://brooklinesepac.org)

contact us at [brooklinesepac@gmail.com](mailto:brooklinesepac@gmail.com)

join our e-distribution at <http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/psb/templates/lyris.aspx>

