

SPECIAL EDUCATION/STUDENT SERVICES/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER/JANUARY 2010-2011

Warm Holiday Wishes to All —

It's been a busy fall with lots of staffing changes, new phone extensions, ongoing professional development activities, and continued refinement of procedures in our three departments.

Our division will be supporting the students and families of Twin Rivers Unified School District this holiday season through various toy and food drives. With the financial stressors continuing, it is important that we support one another

*Fondly,
Janet*

Division Meetings

PSYCHOLOGISTS

December 8
January 14

SP/LANG THERAPISTS

December 8
January 7

ELEM RSP TEACHERS

December 8 (Sycamore Rm)
January 28 (Oak Rm)

ELEM SDC TEACHERS

January 19 or 21

Pre K SDC TEACHERS

No Meetings Dec or Jan

SP ED COORDINATORS

December 7
January 4 & 18

SP ED PROG SPECIALISTS

December 3, 10 & 17
January 7, 14, 21 & 28

DIVISION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 16
January 20

MEDI-CAL

December 9
January 13

STU SVCS COORDINATORS

December 3 & 17
January 7 & 21

NURSES

December 15
January 19

HEALTH ASSISTANTS

December 1

SARB REGION 1

December 14
January 11 & 25

SARB REGION 2

December 6 & 13
January 10 & 24

Special Ed Clerical Support

SEIS information and support:

Dannie Gonzalez : Del Paso/Grant/North Sac Neighborhood and Charter Schools
Regina Furniss: Foothill Farms, Highlands, and Rio Linda/Natomas Neighborhoods

Records requests:

Oksana Koblik A-L Gertie Littlefield M-Z

Bullying

A significant concern among educators and parents is the issue of bullying. Bullying is a broad term that includes areas such as harassment. It is important that schools clarify the relationship between bullying and discriminatory harassment.

The following documents from the Office of Civil Rights help to clarify these areas and further define harassment:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-factsheet-201010.pdf>
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201010.pdf>

Additional websites related to behavior supports:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/se/bullyprev.asp>
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/se/bullyres.asp>
www.pbis.org
<http://ivdb.uoregon.edu/index/htm>

Day of the Special Educator

The Twin Rivers Unified School District Board of Trustees approved Resolution No. 216 designating Friday, December 3, 2010 as Day of the Special Educator. The signed Resolution is posted on our department website. Additionally, the TRUE CARS+ organization is planning a celebration in honor of all our Special Educators.

TRUE CARS+ is sponsoring a special reception at the Lion's Gate Restaurant to celebrate the "Day of the Special Educator". The celebration is from 4 to 6 pm on Dec 3rd. at Lion's Gate.

Everyone who works with special education students is invited. There will be refreshments and a no host bar.

Congratulations and thank you to all our Special Educators!!

More Division News

Target Donation for Kindergarten Transition

Thanks to the efforts of Frank Porter and Kate Bishop, our ECE department has received a donation for \$23,000 from Target to be used for Kindergarten Transition activities in the spring. These funds will be used with First 5 Sacramento funds to purchase backpacks filled with essential "at home" learning tools. Parents will participate in a spring workshop on "being their child's best, first teacher" and will go home with a backpack and the knowledge to use the materials it contains. Staff will be available to help parents fill out their kindergarten registration packets, too. Advertisement for this program will be released in January in conjunction with the release of the kindergarten registration packets. In the fall, a follow-up parent workshop will be offered on effective strategies when reading to your child. Children's literature will be given away at the fall workshops.

Eye Exams and Glasses Provided

On November 3, 2010, eleven of our students received eye exams from Vision Service Plan (VSP) providers at the Aerospace Museum of California in McClellan Park. Linda Payne, Education Director, contacted Carol Zumalt, School Nurse at FC Joyce, in early October regarding this vision program. The opportunity was extended to all Twin Rivers Unified School District nurses and there were ten school sites represented. The students were examined and fitted for glasses, which they will receive soon. The health services staff appreciated this opportunity of glasses for students with no vision insurance coverage.

On October 14, 2010, Lenscrafters, located in the Downtown Plaza Shopping Mall, held a OneSight event and invited our students to participate. They performed eye exams and provided glasses for fifteen Twin Rivers Unified School District students from seven school sites in the Del Paso/Grant/North Sacramento Neighborhood Network. All of the students were prescreened by the nurses and identified by need. The students were treated wonderfully by the Lenscrafters staff. The families that were able to attend with their students were very grateful. Their gift of sight for our students is greatly appreciated.

Early Childhood Education/Child Development Professional Development

November 12th Professional Development Day for our Preschool and Children Center Staff was a huge success. We enjoyed the inspirational video from Frank Porter and our Teacher of the Year. Teachers and assistants participated in the analysis of their assessment data, began their required yearly Action Plan write-up for program improvement, and received training from Donna Perkins, Special Education Program Specialist, on how to recognize typically developing speech issues compared to speech issues that should be reviewed by a SLP.

The staff decided to do a potluck luncheon instead of going out for fast food. They brought in two microwaves with several crock pots to serve warm, delicious, home cooked meals.

Additional November 12 Professional Development

Selected Secondary Resource and SDC teachers: Language!
Moderate/Severe Teachers and Paraeducators: First Aid and CPR
Counselors: Botvin Life Skills
Speech Language Pathologists: Fonemz
Nurses: Healthshack
Psychologists: Medi-Cal