

## The West Deptford Special Education Parent Advisory Group

Does your child have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 plan? Are they struggling in school? Are you interested in making a meaningful difference in the education of students with special needs? Then please join us at the next West Deptford Special Education Parent Advisory Group meeting.

### **What is the Parent Advisory Group?**

The mission of the Parent Advisory Group is to provide families with meaningful support, education and information and to provide input to the District on issues concerning students with disabilities. The group meets monthly to discuss concerns and share support.

### **When does the Group Meet?**

The Parent Advisory Group meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7pm at Riverwinds. Every other month is a formal meeting featuring discussion topics between parents and District Administration. On the alternate months, there is a support meeting where ideas and concerns can be shared in a confidential environment. There is also an online component to the group for parents only to share ideas and information concerning students with special needs.

### **Who can attend the meetings?**

Any community member with an interest in the Special Education program at West Deptford is encouraged to attend the formal meetings. The support group meetings are attended by parents, caregivers, and family members only.

### **What is the schedule for the 2009-2010 school year?**

#### ***September 15 - Support Group***

Topic: Sports and Community activities - Discussion of community activities

#### ***October 20 - Formal Meeting***

Topic: Meet the Principals of the West Deptford School System

#### ***November 17 - Support Group***

Topic: DDD and Trusts/Estate Planning for your Special Needs child - Presentation by Hillary D. Freeman, Esq. from Hinkle, Fingles, and Prior, Attorneys at Law

#### ***December 15 - Formal Meeting***

Topic: Teaching Social Skills to Special Needs Children - Presentation by Dr. Kathleen Pilarz and Bettina Bride

#### ***January 19 - Support Meeting***

Topic: Securing services and IEP/education planning for your child - Presentation by Amy Carolla, Esq. from Reisman Carolla, LLP

#### ***February 16 - Formal Meeting***

Meet the Guidance Counselors - Discussion of programs/services they provide

#### ***March 16 - Support Meeting***

Topic: Stress on the Family - Presentation by Penny Page, LCSW

#### ***April 20 - Formal Meeting***

Topic: Positive Behavior Support in Schools (PBSIS)- Presentation on this behavior intervention model by Middle School staff

#### ***May 18 - Support Meeting***

Topic: Behavior Management/Functional Behavior Assessments/Classroom Behavior Plans - Presentation by Jeff Bevin, Applied Behavior Analyst with Bancroft Neuro Health Services

#### ***June 15 - Support Meeting***

Topic: Snack and Chat - Wrap up the school year with laughter and friends. Bring your favorite snack and summer fun ideas to share with other members of your group!

For more information about the parent Advisory Group, please contact Kate Guzzetti at [kate.guzzetti@verizon.net](mailto:kate.guzzetti@verizon.net) or Tara Lange at [taraltl@comcast.net](mailto:taraltl@comcast.net).