



Anchorage School District

Connectivity

A publication of the ASD Special Education STeP Center

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Volume 3, Issue 6

New Columns Added to Connectivity

This issue of Connectivity brings to you two new columns that will become regular additions to this newsletter.

STeP On In is a column designed to keep subscribers informed of the internet and library resources available through the Anchorage School District STeP Center. It will showcase new materials and additions to our website as well as provide a snapshot of current resources of certain topics.

In and Around Our Town is a column that focuses on the Anchorage community agencies and programs that support families and educators of students with special needs. This column is intended to help families and educators connect to those agencies and programs that can provide assistance to them.

Let us know what you think of these additions -- do they serve the purposes for which they are intended and do they help you, the subscriber? Email fraczek_eudora@asdk12.org to share your opinion or ideas for additional recurring columns.



In this Issue

The following articles can be found in this issue of the newsletter. Want to subscribe? ~ email fraczek_eudora@asdk12.org or call 742-3872.

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National Epilepsy Awareness Month

According to the Epilepsy Foundation, the November campaign is the fourth annual campaign under the Foundation's program partnership with the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It continues the message of respect and fosters acceptance and understanding of children with epilepsy among their peers. Public service radio messages recorded by the film and television actress will begin airing on stations across the country during the month-long observance. The radio spots will continue to be aired throughout the year.

The STeP Center maintains a disability websection dedicated to epilepsy. On that page, located at: <http://www.asdk12.org/depts/step/disability/epilepsy.asp>, you can find links to the following publications:

Frequently Asked Questions about Epilepsy

This document is intended to provide the basic information about epilepsy and seizure disorders to the general public.

A Guide for Parents

This web publication includes information on the causes of epilepsy, diagnosis and treatment, effects of epilepsy on leisure, learning and behavior as well as a listing of resources for children and young people.

Managing Seizures at School

Epilepsy produces seizures that vary dramatically in appearance, effect on the child, and the kind of management they require.

Other web sites to review for more information include:

American Epilepsy Society

<http://www.aesnet.org>

The American Epilepsy Society promotes research and education for professionals dedicated to the prevention, treatment and cure of Epilepsy.

Epilepsy.com

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

Epilepsy.com was created to provide in-depth information about epilepsy and the many treatments that are available for it, in a form accessible to nonprofessionals.

Epilepsy Foundation

<http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org>

The Epilepsy Foundation is a national, charitable organization, founded in 1968 as the Epilepsy Foundation of America. The only such organization wholly dedicated to the welfare of people with epilepsy, our mission is simple: to work for children and adults affected by seizures through research, education, advocacy and service.

December Parent Leadership Institute

On December 8th and 9th, Parents Inc. will sponsor a Parent Leadership Institute. The Parent Leadership Institute offers parents the opportunity to be a "Leader" not only for themselves and their families and your family, but for other families in our community! Training is offered at no cost to those who are enrolled in the year long Parent Leadership Institute. This training is designed to empower parents with the disability-related skills and knowledge they need.

For more information or to register and create your personal training plan, contact Barbara Siefert @ 1-800-478-7678 or barbara@parentsinc.org.



Nominations for Inclusive Practices Award

The Inclusive Practice Award Committee of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education requests nominations for an award to be given at the Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference in late February, 2005. The nomination form is short and sweet and attached here:

<http://health.hss.state.ak.us/gcdse/pdf/200411inclusivepractice.pdf>

This Award provides an opportunity to recognize your colleagues and acknowledge their contribution to Special Education in Alaska! Nominees will be included in the next edition of the Alaska IDEA book which can be found here: <http://health.hss.state.ak.us/gcdse/Publications/idea.pdf>

Nominations can be emailed, FAXed or sent by US Mail. Thanks in advance for your nominations. For more information, contact:



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Mini Grants Available from FOCUS

The STAR projects of Anchorage and Eagle River/Chugiak (The ARC of Anchorage, Focus, Inc. and Hope Community Resources) are pleased to announce the availability of Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Mini-Grants. The three agencies are working together to recommend grant funding for the areas listed on the application form. **To receive a Mini-Grant, the applicant must have been determined to be eligible for developmental disability services by the State or currently be enrolled in an Infant Learning Program or on the ILP Waiting List. We need verification of this in writing. This may include either the most recent ILP evaluation or a DD eligibility letter from DSDS.** The maximum amount that an individual beneficiary may receive is \$2,500.00. There is a very limited amount of funding available, so be sure the application is very clear and complete.



Mental Health Trust Mini-Grants can provide assistance for basic living needs not covered by grants or other funds to help beneficiaries attain and maintain healthy and productive lifestyles. The kinds of supplies or services the MH Trust considers appropriate for Mini-Grants include but are not limited to therapeutic devices, access to medical – dental – and vision care, or special health-care needs. Assistance with basic living needs not covered by current grants, such as transportation and clothing are also allowable. Services or products addressing health and safety issues will receive priority.

A person does not need to be receiving DD Community Services to apply. Applications for services or equipment that are covered by other public benefits, a person's private insurance, Medicaid, or the Indian Health Service will not be approved.

The application must include:

A bid or estimate from the person or company you wish to perform the services for you or from who you wish to purchase an item or items, or

A completed catalog order form with accurate shipping costs, as well as a blank order form in case a request may only be partially funded.

Please note that the awarding agency will pay the vendor directly.

If you have questions about applying for a Mini-Grant, contact Lynn Caswell at FOCUS, Inc., 688-0282 ext. 17; Yvette Wilson at Hope Community Resources, 561-5335 ; Deb Vause at Hope Community Resources, 564-7446 or Bev McCartney at The ARC, 777-0113. **Applications must be received before January 7, 2005 at 4:30pm.**

STeP On In -- New Resources at the STeP Center

We've added the following new publications and web information to our website:



The ABC's of Children's Mental Health

http://www.naspcenter.org/pdf/abcs_handout.pdf

This article from the National Association of School Psychologists is a basic brief for administrators and a good overview for all educators.

What Administrators Can Do to Promote Positive Student Behavior

<http://www.air.org/cecp/preventionstrategies/Default.htm>

This electronic guide describes prevention practices that K-8 public school administrators have found to be effective in accelerating school performance, increasing readiness for learning, and reducing problem behaviors.

Preventing and Treating Challenging Behavior in Young Children

<http://www.education.umn.edu/ceed/publications/earlyreport/spring01.pdf>

The goal of this project is to provide technical assistance to families and educators of young children demonstrating challenging behaviors.

Social Behavioral Challenges in Children with FAS/E

<http://fasalaska.com/behavior.html>

This webarticle from FACTS is written to help parents and educators understand the cognitive differences associated with a history of prenatal exposure to alcohol is crucial in supporting a child with FAS/E from infancy through adulthood.

Teaching Students with FAS/FASD

<http://www.nofas.org/educator/teaching.aspx>

This article from the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders presents common areas of concern in the classroom and lists effective strategies for teachers to use.

What Educators Need to Know about FASD

<http://www.nofas.org/educator/>

This webarticle from the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorders provides a general introduction to FASD.

In and Around Our Town -- Ideas for Winter Recreation

As the weather turns cooler, many families start to consider other recreational options. Here's the latest from Alaska Special Olympics:

Congratulations to the Anchorage School District team of Adapted Physical Education teachers who were featured in nationally distributed Education Week – publication October 27. To read article: www.edweek.org, The article is titled “Moving in a Special Direction”.

Special Olympics Alaska is sponsoring High School Unified Basketball Camp on January 22, 2004. The camp will be located in Anchorage. This camp focuses on basketball skills, drills and team play for students from high schools around the state with and without intellectual disabilities. Funds available for team travel and accommodations. For more information, contact: Nicolle Egan 1-888-499-7625 ext 8.

Other local agencies offer additional recreational opportunities -- check out one of the following:

Alpine Alternatives

www.alpinealternatives.org

Alpine Alternatives provides opportunities through recreational programs for disabled persons to develop their maximum individual potential and to contribute to society.

The Arc of Anchorage

<http://www.arc-anchorage.org/index.php>

The mission of the Arc of Anchorage is to secure for all people with developmental and other disabilities the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work, and play.

Challenge Alaska

www.challenge.ak.org


Challenge Alaska is a non-profit organization that provides sports and therapeutic recreation opportunities for those with disabilities.

Therapeutic Recreation

www.muni.org/parks/tr.cfm

TR is the program of the Municipality of Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department that provides recreational and leisure opportunities for people who experience a disability.



21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30		 <p>Look for: Parent Leadership Institute December 8th and 9th</p>		

Infant and Toddler
Sign Language

Therapeutic Recreation:
Preschool Activities:
Harvest Fun

Parents Anonymous
Support Group

**Holiday
No School**

Thanksgiving
Holiday



**Holiday
No School**

Foster Parent
Orientation