

Special Services Department

Newsletter for Parents & Families
(Special Education, Health & 504 Services)



March 2018

The month of March is off to a busy start, with lots of events and information to share with you as we “spring” into daylight saving time and set our clocks one hour ahead. Start enjoying the longer hours of daylight in the evenings. Just a few quick announcements and reminders for you:

- March 9 LEAP Day: Dedicated to Special Education Promotion (K-12)
- March 9 Winter Special Olympics begin
- March 9 our Special Education K-12 Promotion Process initiated
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will be sending you a parent survey in the mail
- Spring Break is April 2-4

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Monitoring of Special Education

Annually, OSPI conducts a program review of Special Education programs in selected school districts in the state of Washington. The primary focus of OSPI’s program review process is on improving educational results and functional outcomes for all students with disabilities.

OSPI’s program review system includes a review of both quantitative data and qualitative information provided by districts to ensure that the districts are implementing the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA).

OSPI’s Special Education Program Review includes the Washington Integrated System of Monitoring (WISM), which is designed to:

- Promote Special Education program effectiveness, and
- Ensure we meet our state supervision and oversight requirements for Special Education programs under state and federal law.

Lake Washington School District has been selected to receive a Special Education on-site monitoring review on March 28 and 29.

As part of OSPI’s monitoring process, they are including a normed and nationally vetted parent survey. **OSPI’s parent survey** will be mailed directly to you from Washington State University (Social & Economic Research Services) with a cover letter provided on OSPI letterhead. We encourage you to participate in this survey as we value and greatly appreciate your feedback and input. Thank you in advance for taking time out of your busy schedules to complete the survey and send it back to OSPI.

Preschool to Kindergarten Night

A big “thank you” to all of our parents that were able to attend the Spanish and English Parent Information Nights on January 23 and 24. I also want to thank Blanca Rivas-Lefort for translating the presentation at the Spanish-speaking Parent Night, and supporting on the English-speaking night. If you still have questions about your child’s promotion or registration to kindergarten, please contact your child’s preschool teacher, as they can help to answer your questions.

Special Services Program Review - 5 Year Action Plan

School Board Study Session - March 5, 2018

Study Sessions are opportunities for the Board to learn more about a specific topic. No decisions are made at Study Sessions. When the Business Meeting begins at 7 p.m., it usually is preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Study Session. When the Business Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m., the Study Session begins at the end of the conclusion of the Business Meeting. On Monday, March 5, 2018, the Study Session included a report update on the Special Services Program Review 5-Year Action Plan.

The following links will take you to the materials shared with the School Board during their Study Session

- [Overview](#)
- [Memo](#)
- [Presentation](#)

Featured Article: The Winter Paralympics in PyeongChang, South Korea will be held March 9 to 18, 2018

The 2018 Winter Paralympics will have 670 athletes from 80 countries. Compared to the Sochi Paralympics four years ago, the total number of athletes has increased from 539, and the number of female athletes has been upped by 44 percent. The sports at the 2018 Winter Paralympics in PyeongChang will include para Alpine skiing, Para Nordic (which includes both para biathlon and para cross-country skiing), para ice hockey, para snowboard, and wheelchair curling.

Inspirational Paralympics Video Clip:

Toyota’s mobility focused Super Bowl ads aired during the 2018 Super Bowl. One particular ad featured Paralympian Lauren Woolstencroft and her inspiring story (shown in 60 seconds) of determination, pursuing passions, and overcoming odds. Woolstencroft is an eight-time Paralympic gold medalist born without legs below the knee and no left arm below the elbow. The ads run by Toyota, who also is the presenting sponsor of March’s Paralympics, center around mobility. Not only are the ads inspiring, but stir up excitement about the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games, happening March 9-18, 2018.

To read the full article, “Toyota Super Bowl ad tells the inspiring story of Paralympian Lauren Woolstencroft,” and see the 60 second ad, click [here](#).

To get the ins and outs of what you need to know about the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games, click [here](#).

Resources for Parents of Students with Disabilities

[New and updated resources from Seattle Children’s Center for Children with Special Needs](#)

2018 Summer Camp Directory for children with special health care needs, now available!

- List of over 80 summer camps and programs for children, youth, and young adults with behavioral conditions, learning and developmental disabilities, medical conditions, and physical disabilities across Washington
- Now includes camps in northern Oregon and western Idaho to help serve families in southern and eastern Washington
- Search the online directory by camp type, specific condition, region, and more!
- Single print copies available by mail*

Resource Guide

- Directory of statewide resources for advocacy, child care, dental, diagnosis, financial help, insurance, mental and behavioral health and more
 - Tips and information on care for children with special health care needs
 - Available in English and Spanish*
- County Resource Lists
- County-specific resources for families of children with special needs
 - Download and print to use with families

County Resource Lists

- County-specific resources for families of children with special needs
- Download and print to use with families

Office of the Education Ombuds - February 23, 2018

- Office of the Education Ombuds - oeoinfo@gov.wa.gov
- If you haven't had a chance yet to visit the [Office of the Education Ombuds YouTube Channel](#), there's no better time than right now. A new, two minute video, has just been published explaining the ways OEO can help, in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- Also recently published is a five minute video of Director Carrie Basas at the [Ignite Education Lab](#), as well as [High School Transition Students Interviews](#), and a webinar about [Transition Planning and Services](#).
- Our [February Ask an Ombuds](#) webinar is available, with Senior Ombuds breaking up Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) into easily understandable definitions, procedures, and actions plans to ensure student safety.
- You can find several other educational webinars on the channel as well. Hopefully you'll take a look at your convenience. You can always send your feedback to oeoinfo@gov.wa.gov.

OSPI's Washington Integrated System of Monitoring (WISM)

This year's WISM monitoring process for our special education program is different than our last OSPI monitoring process; in that this will be an onsite review, which will include meeting with members of our Central Leadership Team, district staff focus groups, observation of teachers and students, as well as teacher and Special Education Specialist interviews. In addition, a parent focus meeting will be held on March 28 for parents that would like to provide input. See details below.

System of WISM Parent Focus Meeting:

Date: March 28, 2018

Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Location: LWSD Resource Center – Hughes (1st Floor)
16250 NE 74th St

Redmond, WA 98052

The purpose of the Parent Focus Group Meeting is to gather parent input regarding the district's special education program to assist the district in examining specific performance indicators linked to positive outcomes for students receiving special education and related services. (Due to limited space, child care will not be offered for this meeting)

PTSA Council Special Needs Group Resources:

If you haven't already, please take a moment to take a look at the Special Needs Resource Flier, created by the Lake Washington PTSA (LWPTSA) Council Special Needs Group/Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Special Services Department, available [here](#). You can also pick up a hard copy at your child's school, and/or from your child's 504 or Special Education Case Manager at your annual review meeting.

PTSA SNG Meetings and Child Care Support

Our monthly PTSA SNG meeting (see schedule below) is a great time to network with other parents, learn more about resources in our community, and learn more about strategies and supports for students with disabilities. We are now offering **student care** during these meetings, to assist you in being able to access this wonderful opportunity to meet with parents. **Please RSVP each month**, by emailing smcenroe@lwsd.org. **For our March meeting, please RSVP by/before March 13.** In your email, please include the age of your child, so we can ensure we have enough staff to cover all the students. The Special Services Director and Associate Directors, participate in a meet and greet before each meeting at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Upcoming LWPTSA Council Special Needs Group Meetings:

Date: March 20, 2018

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Location: LWSD Resource Center – Board Room (1st Floor)
16250 NE 74th St
Redmond, WA 98052

Topic: **Lindsay Beard, LMHC, CMHS** will discuss **behavior** challenges and strategies, and parenting children with disabilities.

Save the Date: Mark your calendar for the 2017-2018 PTSA Special Needs Group Meetings:

- April 17, 2018 – (Resource Center, Board Room)
- May 15, 2018 – (Resource Center, Board Room) – Last Meeting of 2017-2018 School Year!
- No Meeting in June!

