

Special Services Department

Newsletter for Parents & Families

(Special Education, Health & 504 Services)



September 2017

Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year!

We hope you had a relaxing and fun summer break with family and friends. While we embark on the beginning of a new school year, we look forward to continuing our partnership with parents and staff to ensure students are future ready, and prepared to lead a rewarding, responsible life as a contributing member of our community and greater society.

NEW! – LWSD Website

It has been 10 years since our last website redesign, but we now have a new and improved [Lake Washington School District website](#)! Some of the new features on the website include a “Find it Fast” tool bar and an additional search bar for “What would you like to do next?” There is also an opportunity for you to provide “Site Feedback” at the footer of the new site. If you haven’t done so already, you should check out the new website at www.lwsd.org.

Resources for Parents of Students with Disabilities

The Lake Washington PTSA (LWPTSA) Council Special Needs Group and the Special Services Department have updated the Special Needs Resource Flyer, [available here](#).

October is National Disabilities Awareness Month

The Special Services Department will send information out to all our schools regarding National Disabilities Awareness month in October. Help increase awareness of children and adults with disabilities by volunteering to assist your school with this awareness month. You can also check with your school's Special Needs Group liaison, or the LWPTSA Communications Chair at: special.needs@lwptsa.net to learn what you can do to be more involved.

Welcome New Special Education Certificated Staff

We are thrilled to welcome over 50 special education teachers and special education specialists, to our district. New teachers and specialist participated in our district Educator Introduction Academy (EIA) in August, and will continue to receive ongoing support and mentoring throughout the school year. EIA provides an opportunity for all new Lake Washington School District teachers to learn the programs, curriculum and tools to be successful in their jobs. Our teachers who are new to the profession are also provided support from our New Teacher Support Program. The New Teacher Support Program includes ongoing mentoring, providing additional assistance and supports throughout the school year.

Ladder of Support

If you have issues with something happening at your child's school or with your child's services,

please remember to follow the Ladder of Support to help work through the issues as a team. Start with your child's IEP Case Manager or Special Education Teacher; if you aren't getting the answers or help you are looking for, check in with your building Principal. When you have exhausted all options at the building level and are still not at a place of resolution, contact our Special Services Department to connect with an Associate Director. Remember to communicate with your child's school team when you have any questions or concerns. We are here to help you!

LWPTSA Council Special Needs Group (SNG)

Everyone is welcome to attend LWPTSA Council Special Needs Group meetings. This group provides parents with an opportunity to network with other parents. They also provide speakers who are experts in their field. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to receive email reminders of meetings, please contact the LWPTSA Communications Chair at: lakewashingtonsng@yahoo.com. You will also receive periodic "Information for You" emails about local Special Needs Events.

LWPTSA Council Special Needs Group Liaisons Recruitment

We also strongly encourage you to be a LWPTSA SNG Liaison to your child's school. Our goal is to have a liaison at every school in our district. We have opportunities to meet with our PTSA SNG leadership and share ideas and resources on how best to support your school and families who have children with disabilities. We are also looking for new ideas and other opportunities to encourage parent-to-parent connections and offer training and support for your parent communities. Please consider becoming your school's SNG parent liaison.

The scope of a Liaison typically includes:

- **Communication:** Provide a bridge between LWSD PTSA special needs group, and the parents of students receiving accommodations and school staff. Ensure the parents of students know about meetings and other support services available to them.
- **Support:** Advocate for meaningful inclusion through support of special education teachers, general education teachers, school administration and PTSA.
- **Education:** Educate student body and staff about different disabilities during disability awareness month and throughout the year (when possible).

Upcoming LWPTSA Council Special Needs Group Meetings

Date: September 26, 2017

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

Topic: Join the LWPTSA SNG and the Special Services Department as we kick off the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. The Special Services Department will be presenting updates and exciting work that will continue into the school year. You won't want to miss it!

Child Care is available during our meeting time

We are pleased to offer complimentary child care for our meeting attendees. If you would like to sign up for this service, please email smcenroe@lwsd.org. Include your child's name(s) and age(s) at least three days prior to the meeting date. We ask that the email subject line be: Child Care at PTSA meeting. Last minute drop-ins accepted only when space is available as determined at the meeting time. There will be no food or drinks permitted in the child care area.

Save the Date:

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

- October 17, 2017 – Resource Center, Board Room
 - November 21, 2017 – Resource Center, Board Room
 - No Meeting in December
 - January 16, 2018 – Resource Center, Board Room
 - February 20, 2018 – Resource Center, Board Room
 - March 20, 2018 – Resource Center, Board Room
 - April 17, 2018 – Resource Center, Board Room
 - May 15, 2018 – Resource Center, Board Room – Last Meeting of 2017-2018 School Year
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