

Special Services Department

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



February 2018

A Message from Paul Vine - Community Resource Fair on Feb. 20

With the second semester off and running, it is that time of the year when we, as parents, start thinking and planning for summer break. Our LWPTSA Council Special Needs Group has planned an excellent opportunity for you to see what opportunities and vendors are available for your daughter or son to access this summer, or after school. Our LWPTSA Council Special Needs Group is hosting our annual Community Resource Fair on February 20 at the Resource Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m. We encourage you to come talk to vendors offering after-school, summer, and other recreational activities or services to children with special needs and their families.



This is also the time of year that we occasionally endure some inclement weather, which can result in school closures and/or late starts or early dismissals. The [School Closures and Late Starts](#) list is on our website so you know what to do when we have a delayed start or school closure.

Wishing you all the best! We look forward to seeing many of you on February 20 at our Community Resource Fair.

Sincerely,
Paul Vine, Director, Special Services

Resources for Parents of Students with Disabilities

If you haven't already, please take a moment to take a look at the Special Needs Resource Flyer, 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.

"Housing Now!" Conference Registration

Registration is now open for the "Housing Now! 2018 King County DDD Housing Conference" on March 10 at Highline College. [Register online](#).

This one-day conference, planned in collaboration with King County Developmental Disabilities Board members, Community Homes, and The Arc of King County is designed for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families who seek creative options in planning to meet the housing needs of the adult individual with a disability.

This conference highlights keynote speakers Claudia Balducci, King County Council member, and Ed Holen, executive director of the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council, as well as 20 workshops across five "tracks," so that everyone can find information they need.

Featured Article: "Akron Zoo becomes just second in country to be designated sensory inclusive"

The Akron Zoo, located in Ohio, has officially become the second zoo in the country to become a certified sensory inclusive zoo. In addition to the zoo providing sensory bags for guests to borrow for free, which includes items such as fidget toys and noise-canceling headphones, the zoo's 120 year-round employees and 150 seasonal workers have been trained to assist sensory sensitive guests. The first certified sensory inclusive zoo is the Birmingham Zoo, located in Alabama. [Read the full article.](#)

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 February meeting, please RSVP by/before February 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 Meeting

Date: February 20, 2018

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

Location:

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

Topic: COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR: Come talk to vendors offering after-school, summer, and other recreational activities or services to children with special needs and their families. Children welcome.

Save the Date: PTSA Special Needs Group Meetings

Mark your calendar for the 2017-18 PTSA Special Needs Group Meetings:

- March 20, 2018 – (Resource Center, Board Room)
- April 17, 2018 – (Resource Center, Board Room)
- May 15, 2018 – (Resource Center, Board Room) – Last Meeting of 2017-18 School Year!
- No Meeting in June!

