



## Family Support & Resource Center Fall 2018 Newsletter

### Providing Families with Support and Resources

## WELCOME BACK!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer.  
We are so excited to start this new school year!



For those who do not know me, my name is Stacey Behrens and I am the Parent Coordinator for Talbot County Public Schools. Please remember that I am here to assist you. I have enjoyed meeting many of you this past year and I look forward to getting to know more of you this year. Feel free to contact me at 410-822-0330 ext. 179 or [sbehrens@talbotschools.org](mailto:sbehrens@talbotschools.org) with any questions, concerns or if you are looking for resources.

## What is the Family Support Resource Center????

The **Family Support & Resource Center** is designed to support families of children and youth with disabilities currently receiving special education services in Talbot County Public Schools or through the Talbot County Infants & Toddlers Program. Here are some of the services that are offered:

- ✚ **workshops** designed to address the needs of our families
- ✚ **opportunities to network** with other parents of children with special needs
- ✚ **one on one support provided** by the **Family Support and Resource Center Parent Coordinator**, including going with you to your child's IEP meetings
- ✚ **PAL (Play and Learn) club** – playgroup for our Infants and Toddlers' families. Engaging activities planned several times per year to provide fun for the whole family in a safe environment
- ✚ **resource library filled** with books and DVDs on many disabilities and helpful topics related to child development in general
- ✚ **information** on activities in the community and surrounding area

It is my hope that families will feel **supported, informed, and connected** through the **Family Support & Resource Center**. Please contact me with any questions or needs.

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." - Henry Ford



## **Back-to-School: Tips for Parents of Children with Special Needs**

A new school year could mean a new grade, new teachers, new goals, and maybe even a new school! In order to help you and your child with special needs be as successful as you can be, we've put together a list of six helpful back-to-school tips that we hope will make the transition into a new school year a little easier for you and your child.

**Organize all that paperwork.** In the world of special education, there are lots of meetings, paperwork, and documentation to keep track of. Try to keep a family calendar of school events, special education meetings, conferences, etc. Setting up a binder or folder to keep your child's special education documentation, meeting notices, and IEPs in sequential order can also help you stay organized. Make sure to keep track of all phone calls, e-mails, notes sent home, meetings and conferences. If you do not already have a binder, they are available at your child's school already set up with divider tabs.

**Review your child's current IEP.** The IEP is the cornerstone of your child's educational program, so it's important that you have a clear understanding of it. Note the end date of the IEP and if your child is up for reevaluation this year.

**Relieve back-to-school jitters.** Just talking about the upcoming year and changes can help reduce some of that back-to-school anxiety! Talk to your child about exciting new classes, activities, and events that they can participate in during the new school year.

**Keep everyone informed.** It's important that you and the school communicate early and often! If there is anything (concerns, changes, questions about the IEP) that you feel is important to share with the staff working with your child before school starts, or during the year, don't hesitate to contact them.

**Establish before and after school routines.** Discuss and plan the changes in you and your child's daily routine that will happen once school starts. You can even begin practicing your new schedule and focusing on morning and evening routines before the summer break ends.

**Attend school events.** Take advantage of Back-to-School Night, and parent-teacher conferences to help you and your child get a feel for the school and meet the teachers, other staff, students and families.

This information is from: The educator's guide to learning disabilities and ADHD  
<http://www.ldonline.org/article/38406/>

# SECAC members needed!

## Quarterly Special Education Citizen's Advisory (SECAC) Meetings

Members, TCPS families & community partners are always encouraged to attend our quarterly SECAC meetings. This is an opportunity to become a part of a committee that shapes the activities and events available to children with special needs. We plan fun, social events, excellent seminars, webinars, training events, and help find funding for special needs activities in Talbot County. Currently there are four planned meetings to be held on Tuesdays: **September 25<sup>th</sup>**, November 13<sup>th</sup>, February 12<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 6:00 at the Talbot County Education Center. Please call with general questions and to let us know if you'll be attending.

Some upcoming events that SECAC will be providing are as follows: Multiple Parent Trainings, Family Night at Kiln Born, Family Bowling and a Fall Carnival!!

**Please join us for the upcoming SECAC meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:00! -Stacey**

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## FREE PORT DISCOVERY PASSES

We have free passes to visit Port Discovery Children's Museum in Baltimore, MD. These passes are available to any resident of Talbot County. Each laminated pass admits three people, age 2 and older. We have 5 laminated reusable passes. This is a great experience and a wonderful way to spend time with the family. Please call Stacey @ 410-822-0330 to reserve the passes and return the passes to Talbot County Education Center (TCEC) within 3 days of your visit to Port Discovery, to make them available for other families.

**Discover Port Discovery, Baltimore**



# SAVE THE DATES!!

On October 23, 2018, SECAC will be hosting an event for school age students at:



**There will be various pre-selected items to paint!**

**This event is appropriate for preschool through high school students!**

**Siblings are welcome to join in on the fun!**

**Pizza and Drinks will be provided  
for the whole family!!**

**Join us for some family fun!!**

**There will be more information sent out prior to this event!**

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## **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Staff Appreciation Celebration**

Sponsored by the Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee (SECAC) of  
Talbot County Public Schools

**Thursday March 14, 2019 6:00-7:30 pm**

**The Milestone**

9630 Technology Drive, Easton



Is there a person in the school system that has had a tremendous impact on your child with special needs this school year? This is a chance for you and your child to nominate a special education teacher, therapist, classroom teacher, instructional assistant, personal assistant, principal, assistant principal, school nurse, bus driver, cafeteria worker, custodian, other school administrator, faculty, or staff member.

Please watch for a special mailing of the nomination form and more information on this exciting event at the beginning of January!