# Special Kids @ PS5

#### January 2017, Issue 3



Disability is a matter of perception. If you can do just one thing well, you're needed by someone. -Martina Navratilova

## How do schools decide when your child needs intervention?

Dear PS5 Special Parents,

Welcome to the second semester! By now our little ones are well into their school routines and have built strong relationships with their friends and teachers. They are also deep into their curriculum and have, hopefully, been showing improvement in their skills and knowledge.

Often times we, as parents, are the first to realize when our children's skills aren't where they should be. But, being on the frontlines, teachers are constantly on the lookout to see which students are struggling.

In this month's SEPAC meeting we learned about a series of assessments and programs that teachers use behind the scenes to help determine which level of the curriculum is most appropriate for your child. For example, we learned about the DORA assessment test, which helps determine which reading program is most appropriate for your child—the Sonday program (an Orton-Gillingham based program), the My Sidewalks program and the Reading Street program. These programs are structured to build upon each other and it all starts with teacher intervention.

What does this mean for parents? It means we need to maintain communication with our child's teachers and work together to find the right intervention. When we work TOGETHER we can help our children succeed!

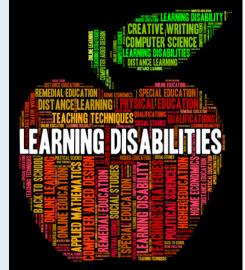
## **IMPORTANT CONTACTS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS PARENTS @ PS5**

SEPAC 2016-2017 Representatives: Emily Pecot — emily@emilypecot.com

Principal, John Rivero -- jrivero@jcboe.org School Psychologist, Dr. Julio Rosario -- jrosario@jcboe.org School Social Worker, David Velez -- <u>dvelez1@jcboe.org</u>

JCBOE Special Education Department: <u>www.jcboe.org</u> click on "Departments" then "Special Education"

JCBOE Special Education Parent Hotline 201-915-6300



## **SEPAC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 2017**

## Is Your Child Having Academic Difficulties?

Sometimes our special kids need some extra help and practice at home to keep their learning on track.

<u>www.teacherspayteachers.com</u> is an excellent and deep resource for finding practice lessons for your child to work on at home. There is a wide variety of free and low cost materials, organized by subject and grade level. Highly recommend!

<u>www.skoolbo.com</u> offers highly visual exercises that build on repetition and has a child-friendly usability. It's a bit like an educational video game on steroids! And it's available for various computers and devices.

## Looking for transitions guidance?

SEPAC and SPAN (Statewide Parents Advocacy Network) are hosting the Hudson County Transition Fair (Middle School to High School to Adult) on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. The fair will be held at MS 7— Franklin L. Williams School, 222 Laidlaw Avenue in Jersey City from 9am to 2pm.

The fair is free and includes a workshop starting at 10am entitled "Look to the Future: Transition from School to Adult Life". To register for the workshop, visit <u>https://tadhudson4817.eventbrite.com</u>

For more information about the Transition Fair, contact JCPS Special Education at 201-309-1642.

## Helpful Webinars

The Family Support Center of NJ has several upcoming webinars covering topics like "Bullying, Zero Tolerance and Students with Disabilities" and "Managing Disruptive and Challenging Behavior".

For a schedule of upcoming webinars and how to register, visit <u>http://www.fscnj.org/what-we-offer/training/</u>

## Personalized Tips for Your Child

Looking for someplace to get some practical tips for dealing with your child's specific issues? Visit <a href="https://www.understood.org/">https://www.understood.org/</a> and enter

Are you looking for something specific? Perhaps a PS5 Special Needs Parents Night Out? Or maybe a monthly support group?

We are open to ideas (and volunteers!) for ways to better serve PS5's special needs community.

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." - James Baldwin