

March
April
2011

Friends of Different Learners

2010/2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings begin
at 7:00 p.m.

**Birmingham Covington
School (BCS)**

**1525 Covington Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301**

Meetings are on the first
Thursday of the month un-
less indicated by an *.

Meetings begin with a brief
business meeting followed
by the Guest Speaker and
topic presentation.

Informal Networking
opportunities are available
after every meeting to share
ideas about how to help our
different learners and to
learn from each other.

*Friends meetings
and functions
are open to everyone!*

*April 14**

NETWORKING

*May 12**

**APPRECIATION
AWARDS**

June 2

**WRAP UP/
PLANNING MEETING/
BOARD ELECTIONS**

**PLANNING MEETING/
BOARD ELECTIONS**

*More meeting information
in the sidebars
on pages 2 and 3.*

*Read the
APPRECIATION
AWARDS
article on page 7!*

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Hello! Welcome to the home stretch of the school year. It is amazing that the year has gone by so fast!

You may not know that as the President of Friends, I meet with Dr. Larson and Kelly Lovik each month to discuss concerns and new ideas that we have. Recently, we discussed Functional Assessments of Behavior with Ms. Lovik. This is the process of determining the cause or function of behavior before determining the intervention. Ms. Lovik explained that the whole IEP team is involved with these assessments, and that the staff has had a great deal of training in this area. Is this an area that you would like to know more about? Friends of Different Learners are planning to have a meeting on the Functional Assessments of Behavior next year.

A hot topic for our different learners is the new graduation requirements. Due to changes in standards across the State, most kids will need to successfully complete two years of World Language in order to earn a diploma. Some of our kids may be able to avoid this requirement with a modified curriculum. However, many of our kids will face the challenge of learning a foreign language for the first time in high school. To this end, Friends has contacted Dr. Stephen Palmer, the district's Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, to ask him to consider adding American Sign Language to BPS' course offerings. Students who struggle with language based learning disabilities may be able to achieve success with American Sign Language, even if they are frustrated by other languages. American Sign Language meets the World Language requirements and would allow the student to earn a full diploma. General Education students who have a hard time with foreign languages, and even those just looking for a change, would also benefit from American Sign Language. Is this something that is important to you? If so, please let Dr. Palmer and the Curriculum Council know. While there is no longer a list of the Curriculum Council members at the District website, Dr. Palmer has sent me a list which I would be happy to share. The decision to add a new language to the offerings is not easy, so it is important that we let the district know that it is not just a matter of our kids wanting to take a language to meet the latest trend, but that this may be a language where they can find success, and be on a level playing field with their General Education peers. Friends of Different Learners is planning to offer a meeting about the new graduation requirements next year.

While I'm on the topic, do you have any ideas for meetings next year? We always want your input. Friends cannot be successful without the active participation of its members. If you are interested in becoming more involved with Friends next year, by serving as an officer, joining a committee, acting as your building's Friends Representative, or helping with LINKS at your child's school, please let me know.

Feel free to call or email me anytime. The best number to get me at is my work number, which is 248-644-7222. My email address is dpmoak@aol.com. I can't wait to hear from you!

Diana Moak

Kids First. Understand their differences. Focus on their needs. Educate all.

Administrator's Letter

Hello Friends,

As we approach the final stretch of the 2010-11 school year, I thought I would take this opportunity to provide a summary of some of the events that have occurred over the course of the year. We have been successful offering a number of training opportunities to staff related to the Assistive Technology purchases that have been made to date. We have provided mandatory whole staff trainings as well as some additional follow up trainings to staff and a parent training opportunity on SOLO Literacy Suite which includes CO:Writer, Read:OutLoud, Draftbuilder and Write:OutLoud, Kurzweil, Interactive projection systems, and Start to Finish. In addition we are continuing to identify individuals that may provide answers and support within their buildings upon the cessation of our Assistive Technology Integrator, Bob Kotrba. Bob will be returning to the classroom setting as his time with our department as the AT Integrator was a component of the ARRA grant and was provided for a one-year duration.

Additional trainings that were provided to staff this year include topics such as Collaborative Problem Solving offered by Dr. Minke, Speech and Language strategies offered to our Speech and Language Pathologists by Dr. Staskowski, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), and IEP updates and information. Staff members also embarked on training opportunities both individually and in groups on topics including, but not limited to, Character Education, Fountas and Pinnell, Response to Intervention, Section 504, Health and Sexuality, and Non-Violent Crisis Intervention.

We are currently involved in discussions with parents and staff on Extended School Year (ESY) and anticipate that we be conducting IEPs or IEP amendments for students who may qualify for ESY for identified goals/objectives that meet criteria* as identified under the ESY Guidelines provided by the Michigan Department of Education. As has been offered historically, Birmingham Public Schools will be provided an ESY service which will be offered July 5, 2011 through July 21, 2011 and August 2, 2011 through August 18, 2011, three days per week for 3 ½ hours per session. This will be one option considered for ESY if a student qualifies for ESY. In addition there may be other individualized options that will be considered based upon student need and IEP team determinations. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teachers, service providers or the supervisor responsible for your child's grade level or programming if you have any questions or require clarification on this topic.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kelly Friedland-Lovik
Executive Director of Special Education*

**Criteria is Regression/Recoupment, Nature or Severity of Disability and Critical areas and/or stages of learning.*

Be Involved with Friends!

Would you like to become more involved with Friends. We would love to have you. Our Executive Board consists of President(s), Vice President(s), Treasurer(s), Secretary(ies) and Past Presidents. We meet monthly for about two hours to plan Friends activities and discuss concerns that our members raise. We will agree on a time that is convenient for everyone once our board for the 2011-12 year is determined. If you are interested in running for office and would like to learn more about what the responsibilities of each position are, please contact Diana Moak at dpmoak@aol.com or 248-644-7222. Our slate of nominees will be announced at our May 14 meeting, with voting at the June meeting.

CAMP AND RESOURCE FAIR 2011

Camp and Resource Fair a Great Success

Our annual Camp and Resource Fair took place on Thursday, January 20, 2011. Although the weather was blustery and driving was messy, we still managed to draw over 100 families looking for summer and year round programming for their different learners. 48 organizations exhibited this year – 13 of them new to the fair. Each organization was treated to a light dinner and then escorted to their tables by a Friends of Different Learners host. A BIG thanks to all the fair volunteers who each devoted at least 2 hours to the fair and donated baked goods for our snack table. Special thanks to Debbie Kent, Amy Tyrrell and Maria Power who were part of the committee this year led by Aryn Rose. This committee spent time organizing to-do lists for volunteers, creating the light dinner, pre-packaging bags to hand out and making follow-up phone calls. Once again the Groves custodial staff was ready and willing to make us comfortable during the evening by setting up tables and chairs, hanging our sign outside and keeping the entry floor clean and safe.

Did you come to the camp and resource fair? Do you enjoy organizing resources for parents? We would love to have you join this committee as a member. Next year's fair is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2012 at Groves Commons. The infrastructure is already there – it just needs volunteers. You will benefit from the support and wisdom of the many former committee members. This is a very exciting committee to chair as you will meet so many wonderful people dedicated to serving the needs of different learners. If you are interested in becoming involved with this event, please contact Diane Moak at dpmoak@aol.com.

Camp Fair Vendors

Alexander Graham Bell Association. for the Deaf, MI Chapter

Mark Reeve
829 Park Lane
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
313-331-2378

One and two week camps for oral hearing impaired - grades 4-8

Autism ASK

Stephanie Harlan
4345 Meigs Ave. Ste. A
Waterford, MI 48329
248-618-1275
www.autismask.com

The mission of Autism ASK is to provide advocacy, support and knowledge to the autism spectrum community.

Beaumont Center for Children's Rehab.

Debbie Adsit
4949 Coolidge Hwy.
Royal Oak, MI 48073
248-655-5687
www.beaumonthospital.com
Year-round adapted programs for children of diverse ages and needs.

Beverly Hills Speech and Language Services

Mary Ann Derkacz
31231 W. Chelton Dr.
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
248-890-0270
In home speech and language therapy for 18 mos - 6 yrs. old.

Birmingham PS Disability Awareness Workshop

JoEllen Schwartz
550 W. Merrill St.
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-646-5172
www.birmingham.k12.mi.us
The Disability Awareness Workshop (DAW) is a hands-on, activity-based workshop to help students understand the challenges of daily living for individuals with disabilities.

Birmingham PS Transition Coordinator

Barbara Dean
bd04bps@birmingham.k12.mi.us
(248) 703-3029 cell
(248) 203-3536 Groves High School
(248) 203-3833 Seaholm High School

Blue Sky

Darlene Garrison, Barry Feldman
P.O. Box 25
Milford, MI 48381
248-545-8181
www.campbluesky.net

Together with YMCA Camp Ohiyesa, Camp Blue Sky provides an outdoor day camp for the special needs population and is staffed with experienced and qualified adult counselors.

Brain Core Therapy of West Bloomfield

Dr. Eric Mintz
5640 W. Maple Rd. #300
W. Bloomfield, MI 48322
248-862-2202
www.dreicmintz.com
Drugless, non-invasive approach for children and adults with ADD/ADHD, autism, LD, anxiety, insomnia, migraine/tension headaches, and memory loss.

Camp Grace Bentley

Nancy Perri
1877 Maryland Blvd.
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-792-7017
www.campgracebentley.org
Residential camp for children with special needs.

Camp Fair Vendors continued on next page.

The LINKS Program

LINKS is a peer-to-peer support program facilitated by BPS social workers and staff. Students are able to build new friendships as well as learn to relate to people with different needs and develop an understanding of individual differences. If you are interested in helping with LINKS, please contact Leigh Herbster at leigh-herbster@yahoo.com.

2010-2011

Friends Board

Board President

Diana Moak

248-644-7222

DPMoak@aol.com

Co-Vice Presidents

Debby Suris • 248-645-0535

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Karen Selby • 248-885-8213

selbykl@udmercy.edu

Co-Secretaries

Peggy Branch • 248-647-4010

Peggybranch@comcast.net

Kim Fitzgerald • 248-642-7681

fitzfamily@comcast.net

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248-258-2874

cltaunt@tauntlaw.com

Membership • Kristy Barrett

248-540-1981

kristybarrett1@yahoo.com

Past Presidents

Maureen Gibbons

248-593-8251

maureengibbons@comcast.net

Jill Skornicka • 248-792-2052

jmskor@comcast.net

Center for ASD, Summer

B.L.A.S.T. Program

Sheryl Rosin

640 N. Woodward #203

Birmingham, MI 48009

248-723-4273

www.centerforasd.com

Behavior, Language, Auditory, Sensory Therapies, 8 week program, ages 3-6.

Center for Speech and Language

Beverly Gough

1635 W. Big Beaver

Troy, MI 48084

248-816-7000

www.speechlanguage.com

Speech and language, auditory processing center.

Children's Hospital of Michigan Autism Center

Geralyn DeBoard

41935 12 Mile Rd., Ste. 202

Novi, MI 48377

248-305-6193

Service provider.

Crawl, Walk, Jump, Run Therapy Clinic

Maureen Kijek

43239 Schoenherr

Sterling Heights, MI 48313

586-323-2957

www.crawlwalkjumprun.com

Intensive physical, occupational and speech therapy.

Discovery Toys

Terry Landa

13139 Winchester Ave.

Huntington Woods, MI 48070

248-547-3629

www.terrysbiz.com

Developmental educational products for all children.

Dutton Farms, Inc.

Michele Smither

2270 Dutton Rd.

Rochester, MI 48306

248-818-0270

www.duttonfarm.org

Vocational and daily living skills program where we strive to develop a sense of accomplishment to our students, bring support to their parents and inspire our community,

Camp Fair Vendors

Early On

Dawn Koger

2111 Pontiac Lake Rd.

Waterford, MI 48328

248-797-6923

www.oakland.k12.mi.us/

earlychildhood

Support to schools/parents for children birth - 8.

Easter Seals - Michigan

Kathie Klingensmith

2399 E. Walton Blvd.

Auburn Hills, MI 48326

586-524-2005

www.essmichigan.org

Easter Seals - Michigan's mission is to create solutions that change lives of children and adults with disabilities or other special needs, and their families.

The EmpowerADD Project

Jeff Lane

29655 W. 14 Mile Rd.

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

248-420-1590

www.empowerADD.org

Support group for older teens and adults with AD/HD.

Eton Academy

Pete Pullen

1755 Melton

Birmingham, MI 48009

248-642-1150

www.etonacademy.org

Independent school, grades 1-12, specializes in educating students with learning challenges.

FAR, Camp FAR Out, Camp Far Away

Arlene Kass

1669 W. Maple Rd.

Birmingham, MI 48009

248-646-3347

www.farconservatory.org

Therapies in the arts and recreation for persons with special needs.

First Presbyterian Church

Cindy Merten

1669 W. Maple Rd.

Birmingham, MI 48009

248-644-2087 x145

www.fpcbirmingham.org

Inclusion programs for children, youth and adults of all abilities.

Friendship Circle

Tzvi Schectman

6892 W. Maple Rd.

W. Bloomfield, MI 48322

248-788-7878

www.friendshipcircle.org

Programs for kids with special needs.

Fowler Center for Outdoor Learning (The)

Lynn Seeloff

2315 Harmon Lake Rd.

Mayville, MI 48744

989-673-2050

www.thefowlercenter.org

Year round camp for individuals with special needs (ages 6 and up).

Girl Scouts of SE Michigan Camps

Abby Wattenberg

2705 W. Schafer Road

Howell, MI 48843

810-964-5319

www.gssem.org

Outdoor experiences that build girls of courage, confidence and character.

Integrative Pediatrics

Richard Linsk

21751 W. 11 Mile Rd

Southfield, MI 48076

734-786-3833

www.integrativepediatrics.net

DAN! Certified Dr. who specializes in the care of special needs population.

JCC

Cheryl Darroch

6600 W. Maple Rd.

W. Bloomfield, MI 48322

248-432-5460

www.jccdet.org

Day camp for youth with special needs, PreK-10th grade.

Judson Center, Autism Connections

Ann Patronik

4410 W. 13 Mile Rd.

Royal Oak, MI 48073

248-837-2021

www.judsoncenter.org/autism_

connections

Autism Connections provides programming year-round for children and teens with ASD and their families.

Camp Fair Vendors

Juice Plus

Lynn Katz
1773 Banbury
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-645-9795
www.lkatzjuiceplus.com
Nutritional - whole food in capsule form.

Kids In Motion

Mary Hydorn
2636 S. Milford Rd.
Highland, MI 48357
248-684-9610
www.kimpediatrics.com
Special needs day camp, OT/PT, SLP.

Kodiak

David Stoch
4069 Pheasant Run
Mississauga, ON L5L2C2
877-569-7595
www.campkodiak.com
Therapeutic, residential summer camp for children and teens with and without LD/ADHD/NLD/AS.

Leelanau School (The)

Kate Auger-Campbell
One Old Homestead Road
Glen Arbor, MI 49636
231-334-5800
www.leelanau.org
A boarding and day school for students in grades 9-12 who simply learn differently.

Lepak

Rebecca Lepak
3285 Martin Rd. 104
Walled Lake, MI 48390
248-669-1230
www.lepakassociates.com
Speech and language camp and services.

Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes

Joel Cheney
148 Pierce Street
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-723-5380
www.lindamoodbell.com
Intensive learning center.

Michigan Dyslexia Institute

Camp Starlight
Sheryl Schlosser
532 E. Shiawassee St.
Lansing, MI 48912
248-320-2590
www.dyslexia.net
1 week overnight camp at YMCA's Mystic Lake Camp for children ages 7-16 with dyslexia and learning differences.

Miracle League of Michigan

Steve Peck
19051 San Jose Blvd.
Lathrup Village, MI 48076-3323
248-506-4604
www.michiganmiracle.org
Adaptive baseball.

MORC, Inc.

Lindsay Calcaterra
16200 19 Mile Rd.
Clinton Twp., MI 48038
248-276-8016
www.morcinc.org
Comprehensive services and supports to individuals with disabilities in Macomb and Oakland Counties.

My Attention Coach

Laura Rolands
50 S. Old Woodward
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-251-4006
www.myattentioncoach.com
Helping individuals manage and overcome their ADHD.

My Great Kid Radio Show

Staci Bockmann
P.O. Box 510773
Livonia, MI 48151
734-612-3934
www.mygreatkid.com
My Great Kid radio show and My Great Kid educational programs and conferences.

Optiminds Cognitive Camp

Jane Stewart, Ph.D
2127 Marywood
Royal Oak, MI 48073
248-496-0150
www.optimindsct.com
Academics, brain training, socialization skills.

Sensory Systems

Sandy Glovak
30801 Jefferson Ave.
St. Clair Shores, MI 48082
586-293-7553
www.sensorysystemsclinic.com
Occupational Therapy, Sensory Integration.

Skyline Camps and Inclusion Ministries

Kay Huberty
1669 W. Maple Rd.
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-642-4252
www.campskyline.org
Skyline is American Camp Association certified, providing the highest standards in the quality of camp health, safety, programming and personnel.

SLC Therapy "Camp Keep the Conversation Going"

Brittany Coleman
29240 Buckingham, Ste. 1
Livonia, MI 48154
203-556-6367
www.slctherapy.com
Camp for children ages 5-18 lead by ABA, BCBA, SCY and speech pathologists designed to focus on social skills, social thinking and conversation fluency.

SpringHill

Amanda ThompSue Boikeson
7717 95th Ave.
Ewart, MI 49631
23-836-1063
www.springhillcamps.com
We are a summer Christian camp for children of all abilities.

St. Francis Camp on the Lake

Edward Smak
10120 Murrey Rd.
Jerome, MI 49249
517-688-9212
www.saintfranciscamp.org
Summer camp for cognitively impaired and autistic individuals.

Therapeutic Mentoring Service

Richard Donahue
6400 Farmington Rd. Ste. 110
W. Bloomfield, MI 48322
810-338-8338
Specilized therapeutic services for special learners.

2010-2011 Friends Committee Chairs

Appreciation Awards
Aryn Zwierzchowski
248-552-1335
arynz@comcast.net

Building Reps.
Suzanne O'Leary
248-988-8464
suzanneoleary@comcast.net

Camp & Resource Fair
Aryn Zwierzchowski
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amy@zeal-us.com

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joellenschwartz@gmail.com
Ann Adams • 248-288-3711
duff514@wowway.com

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leighherbster@yahoo.com

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dfbsuris@gmail.com
Kristy Barrett • 248-540-1981
kristybarrett1@yahoo.com

Social • Sara Scott
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scottclan@comcast.net

Camp Fair Vendors continued on next page.

**2010-2011
School Representatives**

Elementary

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248-731-7631

amycannareed@gmail.com

Bingham Farms

Linda Johnson • 248-342-3809
linda@lukeshomes.com

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konoya@comcast.net

Greenfield • Kathy Sinclair
248-723-9468

kathy@execrecruiters.com

Harlan • Anna Leslie

248-593-0393

jimannaleslie@yahoo.com

Pembroke

Cara Culver • 248-631-6267
caraculver@gmail.com

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leighherbster@yahoo.com

Pierce • Marybeth Boeson
248-909-1741

MBBoeson@vzw.blackberry.net

Quarton • Sarah Donovan
248-520-9663

sugrpop72@msn.com

West Maple • Terri Haddad
248-855-8335

terrihaddad@comcast.net

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Berkshire • Deborah Kent
248-646-4378

deborahkent@sbcglobal.net

Derby • Suzanne O'Leary
248-988-8464

suzanneoleary@comcast.net

High School

Groves • Gina Perry
248-792-2777

gmperry1@netzero.net

Seaholm • Sue Weed
248-646-5275

susanweed112@gmail.com

Post High School • Cheri Taunt
248-258-2874

cltaunt@tauntlaw.com

District Wide Schools

Midvale • Open

Covington (BCS) • Amy Tyrrell
248-594-2225

amy@zeal-us.com

Total Education Solutions

Lynne Porter
2221 Livernois #101
Troy, MI 48083
248-544-0360
www.tesidea.com

*Innovative, quality special
education service provider.*

Camp Fair Vendors

**UM Autism and
Communication Disorders
Center**

Danette Morrison
1111 E. Catherine St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2054
734-764-3328

www.umaccweb.com

*Our mission is to improve the
lives of individuals with autistic
spectrum disorders and their
families through the education
of current and future leaders in
the field, research that enhances
the understanding of causation,
intervention, prevention, and
course, and provision of clinical
services to individuals, families
and the community.*

Walnut Lake Preschool

Cathy Rozenberg
2075 Walnut Lake Rd.
W. Bloomfield, MI 48323
248-339-6263

www.walnutlakepreschool.org

*Addressing the needs of 3-5 year
olds whose emotional, behavioral,
or developmental challenges
interfere with success in regular
preschool or daycare settings.*

Who is a Different Learner?

Different Learner is an inclusive term. Some different learners have identified disabilities such as autism, AD/HD or dyslexia and others simply have unique learning styles that present challenges in the classroom. Topics addressed by *Friends* may be specific to students with special needs or may be relevant to all students.

Why Remember April 1st?

It is the day to make Friends of Different Learners your Kroger Community Reward partner. *To continue earning rewards May 1st 2011 to April 30st 2012 in this program, ALL MEMBERS MUST re-enroll at krogercommunityrewards.com beginning April 1st 2011.*

Earn Money for Friends every time you shop at Kroger

It's Easy... just shop, swipe your card & earn!

Follow these simple instructions to register Friends of Different Learners as your designated Community Rewards recipient with your Kroger Plus Shopper's Card on-line. Kroger will pay up to \$500,000 on a quarterly basis to participating organizations based on their percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending of all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations.

- Go to www.kroger.com.
- Click on the picture of the Kroger savings club card.
- If you have not registered your card online, click on the registration link. Kroger will send a confirmation e-mail for you to complete before proceeding to the next step.
- If you have registered your card online, sign in, and edit your savings card information.
- Under Community Rewards type "Friends of Different Learners" or use NPQ number 90711.
- Select "Friends of Different Learners" and click Save Changes.
- Your card will now be registered and you will start earning points for *Friends* every time you shop at Kroger!



The Annual Appreciation Awards: A Rich History of Rewarding Excellence!

Continued from previous page.

wonderful they are and how much extra effort they put in to make school a good experience for him, but the award ceremony announces to the community what a great person that staff member is and gives them a well-deserved pat on the back.”

The Appreciation Award is not only meaningful to the families who nominate but to the recipients. Janet Armil, BPS psychologist and 5 time Appreciation Award recipient, finds that “this particular expression of gratitude, a parent and student thinking enough of you to choose to acknowledge you from among all of the people who matter to them, is truly very special. It is the most singular vote of confidence and it’s got legs; it makes you feel warm and fuzzy for the longest time. And a better relationship builder is hard to find.

Jenni Tuomi, fourth grade teacher at Pierce commented, “For me, the Friends of Different Learners and its Appreciation Award recognizes the importance of teachers, parents and students working together. It was an honor for me to receive the nomination for many reasons, but most of all, I appreciated knowing that I had connected not only with my student, but with his family as well. The award was an acknowledgement that we had all worked together throughout the year. It was meaningful to know that all of our combined efforts had impacted the learning of a young person.”

Aryn Zwierzchowski, who has chaired the Appreciation Awards for the last three years, will be stepping down as chair after this year’s event. Aryn’s passion, creativity and hard work will be missed. She has selected another inspiring theme, The Road to Success, for this year’s event and along with the Appreciation Award committee is working diligently for what will surely be a night to remember. Everyone is invited to attend the Appreciation Awards on May 12 at 7:00 pm in the Media Center at BCS and join in celebrating those educational partners who have made a significant difference in the lives of BPS students with different abilities.

Co-sponsored by BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY EDUCATION

P.E.P.

Pragmatics Enrichment Program Grades 9-12

This program is specifically designed to encourage and teach social interactive skills within a small group environment. We will provide fun, meaningful and age appropriate language enhancing skills in a safe setting. Specific skill groups will be targeted each week through discussion and role-play. Pertinent areas will be addressed such as initiating and maintaining conversations, topic maintenance and closure, phone conversations etc. In addition, home exercises will be given out each week to encourage discussion, practice and carryover. All of the activities will be directed by a Speech-Language Pathologist/Psychologist and same age peers. We look forward to enhancing your teenagers communicative development! Don’t hesitate to register — class is limited to 6 students.

Instructor: Rochelle Milstein, M.A., CCC-SLP; M.A., LLP
Seaholm High School - Room E104

Date(s): 4/25/2011-5/23/2011

of sessions: 5

MONDAYS 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM;

Fee: \$250

**Register online at
Birmingham Community Education
www.communityed.net**

Harlan Hula Hooping for an Autism Cause

To celebrate Autism Awareness in April, we will debut our film Harlan Hula Hooping for Autism Cause on April 13th at 9 am during the Topics with Thompson segment of the PTA meeting. Please join us. What an amazing year-long project it has been create a film for Autism Awareness portraying our school participating in fun and creative hula hoop activities. The children had a blast and it warmed my heart to see us all come together. This important project includes fundraising. We will gratefully accept donations to help fund equipment and items in support of the children who have Autism at Harlan. Any questions please contact Anna Leslie at jimannaleslie@yahoo.com.

Spring links

Do you have questions about special education? Subscribe to Free Special Education E-Mail Newsletters recommended by Wrightslaw. <http://www.wrightslaw.com/>

The Achiever (NCLB) - <http://www.ed.gov/news/newsletters/achiever/subscribe.html>

Bridges4Kids NewsDigest - <http://www.bridges4kids.org/Subscribe.html>

CEC Smart Brief - <http://www.smartbrief.com/cec/>

EducationNews - <http://www.educationnews.org/>

Families for Early Autism Treatment – <http://www.org/FEATNews>

Hearing Exchange News - <http://www.hearingexchange.com/newsletters.htm>

LD & ADHD Education - <http://newsletters.fen.com/email/login/?wtlAC=ld0618,email-h>

LD Online Newsletter - <http://www.ldonline.com/subscribe.shtml>

LD News - <http://www.ld.org>

Reading Rockets News - <http://www.readingrockets.org/subscribe/>

Rocket Blasts - <http://www.readingrockets.org/subscribe/>

Schafer Autism Report - <http://lists.envirolink.org/mailman/listinfo/sareport>

Schwab Learning Online - <http://www.schwablearning.org/registration.asp>

Special Ed Advocate - <http://www.wrightslaw.com>

Teaching LD News - <http://www.teachingld.org/>

World of Dyslexia Newsletter - <http://www.dyslexia-teacher.com/t23.html>

Subscribe! Free Special Education E-Mail Newsletters

ADA Watch - <http://www.adawatch.org>

The Beacon: Journal of Special Education Law and Practice
<http://www.harborhouselaw.com/beacon/editorial.htm>

Education Gadfly - <http://www.edexcellence.net/foundation/gadfly/index.cfm>

Ed Briefs -- <http://www.edbriefs.com/sub.html>

Ed Week Update - <http://www.edweek.org/info-epe/eupdate.htm>

Extra Credit - <http://www.ed.gov/news/newsletters/extracredit/index.html>

Findlaw (free newsletters by circuit) - <http://newsletters.findlaw.com>

IDEA News - <http://www.ideapractices.org/forms/maillist.asp>

IDEA Rapid Response Network - Send your name and email to preserveIDEA@dredf.org

IDEA Watch - <http://www.ld.org/advocacy/IDEAwatch.cfm>

GAO Reports by Topic - <http://www.gao.gov/subtest/subscribe.html>

National Association of State Boards of Education - http://www.nasbe.org/E_mail.html

National Institute of Urban School Improvement - <http://www.edc.org/urban/mail.htm>

NCSC News – http://www.ncsc.info/mod.php?mod=userpage&menu=29&page_id=126

School Grants Newsletter – Send blank e-mail to subscribe@schoolgrants.org

NEW! *Transition Planning: A Guidebook for Young Adults and Family*

A NEW Transition guidebook entitled *Transition Planning: A Guidebook for Young Adults and Family* is available on the State of Michigan web site. The guide has sections devoted to Health Care Transition, Educational Transition, Adult Living, Transition Plan of Care and Community Agencies. The guidebook is easy to read. It has basic information about multiple aspects of adulthood planning. The guide is also FREE. This is the link: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/trans_final_308093_7.pdf

Meeting Minutes for March 3, 2010

Friends of Different Learners Meeting

Topic: Social Skills with speaker Becky Lepak

- 7:00 p.m. Diana Moak called the meeting to order and updated those who attended on several issues: Sign Language, Appreciation Awards, Kroger Rewards card, EC Board assignments – openings for next year
- 7:10 p.m. Jill Skornicka introduced Becky Lepak of Lepak and Associates/ Speech Pathologist who discussed Feuerstein, Theory of Mind and Winners Social Thinking – all Social skills development programs.
- 8:10 p.m. Talia from Lepak and Associates discussed the various programming options available at their clinic.
- 8:15 p.m. Question and Answer period
- 9:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

Carol Kranowitz - The Out-of-Sync Child: Understanding Sensory Processing Disorder

Date: Monday, April 11, 2011 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Location: Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Building, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Description: The Autism Society of Michigan and The Autism Collaborative Center Presents...
“*The Out-of-Sync Child: Understanding Sensory Processing Disorder* with Carol Stock Kranowitz”

Author Bio: Carol Stock Kranowitz, M.A., is the author of *The Out-of-Sync Child* and several other well-known books. Kranowitz has been a preschool teacher for over twenty-five years and pioneered an innovative program to screen children for Sensory Integration Dysfunction, along with Lynn A. Blazer-Martin, PhD. OTE, a leading authority on Sensory Integration Disorder. Kranowitz’ books are full of practical ideas and suggestions for helping children with autism and related disorders to process the many sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and touch sensations coming out in a more comfortable way, so that they can navigate the world successfully.

Contact Information: Candice, asminr@autism-mi.org, 517-882-2800

KIDS FIRST — Understand their differences. Focus on their needs. Educate them.



Friends of Different Learners

Networking

April 14, 2011

7:00—9:00 pm

Birmingham Covington School (BCS)

1525 Covington Road • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

Opportunity to meet and network with other parents of different learners. Exchange ideas about parenting strategies, therapies, recipes, helpful resources, accessible technology, adaptive programs and other effective ways to parent different learners.

**Appreciation
Awards
May 12
Members, fill
out your
nomination
forms on line!**

Kroger Rewards Program

Earn money for *Friends* every time you shop at Kroger by designating *Friends* as your Kroger Plus Card Community Rewards Recipient! Visit our web site for details.

**For more
information
contact:
Diana Moak
248-644-7222**

**Everyone
is
welcome!**

Who is a Different Learner?

Different Learner is an inclusive term. Some different learners have identified disabilities such as autism, AD/HD or dyslexia and other simply have unique learning styles that present challenges in the classroom. Topics addressed by *Friends* may be specific to students with special needs or may be relevant to all students.

Friends of Different Learners is an independent organization of parents, staff, and community members dedicated to maximizing the potential of Birmingham Public School students with different abilities.

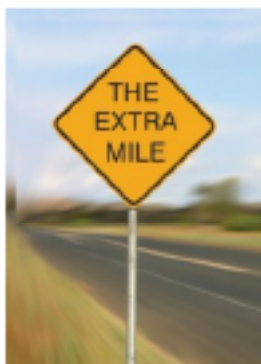
www.friendsofdifferentlearners.org

KIDS FIRST — Understand their differences. Focus on their needs. Educate them.



Friends of Different Learners

Appreciation Awards



May 12, 2011

7:00—9:00 pm

Birmingham Covington School (BCS)

1525 Covington Road

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

Join us in honoring our partners in education, BPS teachers and staff, who have made a significant difference in the life of a different learner. Friends members select up to two individuals who have gone the extra mile for a different learner and those education partners are honored at an evening reception that is filled with entertainment, heartwarming stories and an awards presentation.

June 2

**Wrap Up,
Planning
Meeting, &
Board
Elections**

**Everyone
is
welcome!**

**For more
information
contact:
Diana Moak
248-644-7222**

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www.friendsofdifferentschool.org