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November 2005

Especially for Parents


- The Virginia Department of Education sponsored an October workshop, *Effectiveness Training for Special Education Advisory Committees in Virginia*. The workshop offered information about local Advisory Committees for Students with Disabilities, including tips on effective participation. Additional information may be found through the link to *A Guide for Local Special Education Advisory Committees in Virginia* on the Parent Resource Center (PRC) website, <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/prc>.
- On October 17, Career and Transition Services staff offered a session during College Night for students and parents on *Considerations for Students with Disabilities in the College Admissions Process*. In addition, *Moving On A Resource Fair* was held October 22 at Woodson High School to provide information about services for students needing on-going support after graduation.
- Fifty-eight students participated in *Disability Mentoring Day* on October 19. Through visits to various sites, students explored career opportunities in fields such as physical therapy, technology, law enforcement, cosmetology, art restoration, and archaeology.
- The state of Virginia *Road Map to Services* includes 104 pages of resources and is a useful guide for people with disabilities, long-term illnesses, and the elderly. It can be found at http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/downloads/pdfs/Road_Map_to_Va_services.pdf.
- Todd Streff, FCPS ABA consultant, will hold a workshop for parents called *Developing Reinforcers Part 1* at the Belle Willard Administrative Center on November 15 from 7-9 p.m. Part 2 of the workshop, which will include a hands-on component, will be held at Belle Willard Administrative Center on December 6 from 7-9 p.m. For registration information contact Liane Sprunk at 703-246-7774.
- The handouts from the parent workshop on toilet training conducted by ABA consultant, Ron Leaf on October 5, 2005, are posted on the FCPS ABA website, <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/ABA/>. A DVD of the workshop is available for checkout at the Parent Resource Center.
- The sixth annual *Real Assistive Technology for Everyone (R.A.T.E.)* conference was held on Saturday, October 29, 2005, at Rachel Carson Middle School in Herndon. Over 250 participants including FCPS staff, parents, and invited guests from surrounding counties attended the conference.
- Integrated Technology Services (ITS) will be offering in-service opportunities for parents and FCPS staff beginning in November. A listing of offerings along with registration information is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/ss/its/inservices.htm> or by calling Candace Garrett at 703-204-3939.

TOP Especially for Staff

- The Office of Special Education (OSE), in collaboration with specialists from Instructional Services and George Mason University, has developed a variety of courses and institutes designed to support special education teachers in becoming highly qualified in core academic content. These classes are offered every semester.
- An FCPS Academy seminar, *Recognizing and Teaching Students with Asperger Syndrome*, which was developed by elementary and secondary teachers, was offered for school-based staff including administrators, general and special education teachers, and paraprofessionals. Two additional workshops, *Overview of Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism* and *The Prescription for Success for Working with Students with Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism* were also offered.
- On October 17, OSE elementary services staff members presented *Elementary Literacy Instruction for Students with Disabilities* for school-based administrators and teachers. The session focused on strategies to support students in the general education classroom, technology, and functional literacy. A repeat of this session will be offered in February 2006.
- The OSE secondary services staff provided a workshop for middle and high school special education reading teachers on teaching the reading strategies from *Super Six Comprehension Strategies: 35 Lessons and more for Reading Success* by Lori Oczkus. The secondary services staff also conducted a day-long workshop for secondary general and special education teachers on providing accommodations to students with special needs.
- In October, staff members from OSE elementary services conducted two workshops: *Creating a Framework for Classroom Instruction*, and a follow-up "hands-on" session, *Creating Instructional Tasks Across the Curriculum*, for teachers and paraprofessionals who work with students receiving MR, MOD/SD, or NCE services.

TOP  **Other News**

- On October 24, Deaf/Hard of Hearing staff members attended the All County Meeting at Woodson High School. Cheryl Heppner, director of the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, presented *Community Connections: Linking DHH Students with Community Services*.
- An article written by parent Mary Ann Gaughan is featured in The Parent Corner of *Tech Talk*, a quarterly electronic newsletter published by ITS. In her article, she shares her daughter's experiences at the ITS sponsored *Write On!*, a summer writing program for rising fifth graders who will be taking the fifth grade writing SOL test. The *Tech Talk* newsletters can be viewed at: <http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/DSSSE/its/techtalk/techtalk.htm>.
- Dr. George Sugai, University of Connecticut professor and co-director of the National Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports at the University of Oregon, will be presenting his research for FCPS on Wednesday, November 16, 2005, at Northern Virginia Community College. The Center was established by the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education, to give schools capacity-building information and technical assistance for identifying, adapting, and sustaining effective school-wide disciplinary practices.

TOP  **Special** *no items this month*