

2008-2009 CALENDAR



September 10: "Organizational Skills and Homework Strategies"

- Denise LaPolla, experienced resource teacher at Chenery Middle School, will offer practical strategies for successful organization at home and school.

October 15: "Including Einstein: Students with Disabilities in Honors Classes, High School and Beyond"

- Doreen Arcus, U Mass. Lowell, Director, Honors Program, will discuss inclusion and support for students in challenging high school and college classes.

November 12: "Special Ed. in Belmont" - An exchange with Ken Kramer, Student Services Director, and members of the Belmont School Committee.

December 9: "Yelling Doesn't Work: Behavioral Intervention"

- Why do kids misbehave? Insights provided for parents & teachers w/ Behavioral Assessments & Plans that work. Presented by Rebecca Goniwich, Federation for Students w/ Special Needs.

January 14: "Basic Rights in Special Education"

- An important presentation by Kathleen Bach from the Federation for Children with Special Needs. **NOTE: HELD IN**

WATERTOWN, LOWELL SCHOOL LIBRARY

February 11: "Including Samuel"

- Documentary featuring 5 families' efforts to have their kids w/ disabilities included in all aspects of life. After the film a discussion w/ Dr. Joseph Petner, retired Principal from the Haggerty School, Cambridge. **VENUE TO BE DETERMINED**

March 11: "Social Skills for Kids w/ Aspergers and ADD/ADHD"

- Dr. Don Sugai, Lahey Clinic Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, will share effective strategies parents & teachers can use to help students navigate the social scene; make & keep friends.

April 8: "Special Needs Financial Planning"

- Cynthia Haddad, Belmont resident and Certified Financial Planner with Bay Financial Associates, will discuss the important decisions facing you and your children.

May 13: "Anxiety: the Invisible Bully" - A discussion of anxiety disorders and how to use Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to dramatically reduce anxiety, with Dr. Jeffrey Brown, Instructor in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Clinical Associate at McLean Hospital.

May 20: 6th Annual Appreciation Awards Ceremony"

Join us as we honor those who have made a positive difference in the lives of our children. **7 - 9 p.m.**

June 12: "Looking Back, Looking Forward" - Join us in a celebration of the BSEAC's 2008-2009 year and help plan for the year to come. Location and time to be announced.

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held at Chenery Middle School, 95 Washington St.

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. MEETINGS ARE FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND DISABILITY ACCESSIBLE.

For more information, contact Co-chairs:

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BELMONT SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL



***'Home and School in
Partnership for Our Children'***

WHO WE ARE:

The Belmont Special Education Advisory Council (BSEAC) is a special education advisory council, as mandated by Massachusetts state law. We are family members of children with disabilities, who educate each other, collaborate with school professionals, and exchange ideas and information. We welcome participation from all interested community members.



MASSACHUSETTS STATE LAW CHAPTER 71B:

"The school committee of any city, town or school district shall establish a parent advisory council on special education...The parent advisory council duties shall include but not be limited to advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the school committee's special education programs."



WHAT WE DO:

- ✓ We **advocate** for a quality education for all students.
- ✓ We **advise** the Belmont school administration and School Committee on special education issues.
- ✓ We **assist** families to effectively participate in the special education process.
- ✓ We **acknowledge** school professionals and community members in their efforts to support our children.



HOW WE DO IT:

- ✓ We **provide** monthly workshops, presentations, and discussions for families and professionals.
- ✓ We **meet** regularly with school administrators and the School Committee.
- ✓ We **communicate** via our newsletter, website, and listserves.
- ✓ We **host** the annual Appreciation Awards evening.
- ✓ We **offer** a new resource library at the Chenery Middle School.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

- ✓ Let us know who you are and what you need.
- ✓ Join the listserv
- ✓ Contact us!

HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

- ✓ Share your ideas.
- ✓ Contribute your time and talents.



GET IN TOUCH, KEEP IN TOUCH:

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BSEAC website:

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BSEAC moderated listserv: to subscribe
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