



Belmont Special Education Advisory Council

"Home and School in Partnership for Our Children"

September 19, 2007

Dear Parents,

This is a year of firsts for Belmont special education. The Belmont Special Education Advisory Council (BSEAC) welcomes both newcomers and familiar faces in new roles:

- **Bernadette Conroy**, Belmont's new Assistant Student Services Director, who comes to us from the Franklin Public Schools.
- **Ken Kramer**, formerly Assistant, now Interim Student Services Director.
- **Leslie Walker**, new to the Belmont School Committee, who will be the BSEAC's principal contact on the School Committee. Contact her at lwalkerbeltmont@hotmail.com or (617) 489-7270.
- **Stephanie Woerner** and **Amanda Green**, new Co-Chairs of the Belmont Special Education Advisory Council (BSEAC) for 2007-2008.
- **Laurie Graham**, former BSEAC Co-Chair and now BSEAC Publicity Chair.
- **Victoria Kam**, BSEAC Treasurer.
- **Stuart Bassler**, BSEAC Newsletter Chair. Contact him at stuart_bassler@yahoo.com.

Perhaps this is a year of firsts for your children, too. First year on an IEP. First year in Kindergarten. First year in High School. First time in an out-of-district placement. If you haven't joined us in the past, we hope that this will also be your first year to connect with the BSEAC. We are the collective voice of special education families in Belmont – and we need to hear from you.

What does the BSEAC do? Primarily, we have two roles. First, we advise Belmont administrators on the education and safety of students with disabilities. The advice we give is shaped by our conversations with you, the families of children with special needs. Second, we provide information to Belmont families by means of monthly workshops, a website (www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bseac), a newsletter, and a listserve. In addition, the BSEAC also hosts an annual Appreciation Awards evening and Funfest, and sponsors a long-standing support group. New this year is the BSEAC's resource library, housed in the Chenery Faculty Dining Room.

Please take a look at the enclosed 2007-2008 calendar and brochure, and join us at a workshop. Consider volunteering as a school liaison, a refreshments coordinator, a Funfest organizer, a newsletter writer, or resource librarian. Give us a call, send us an email, reach out to us, and let us know what's on your mind. Our goal for this year is to connect with as many families as possible, particularly with those of you who are new to the special education system. What can we do for you? We're listening, and we hope to meet you soon.

Best regards,

Amanda Green & Stephanie Woerner
BSEAC Co-Chairs