



evanston citizens for
appropriate special education

Newsletter

October, 2011

Hello Evanston CASE members:

We hope that your children have settled into a routine at school and that any transition difficulties have been addressed. If that is not the case, please call us. We can help.

In this newsletter you will receive information about our new service called Parent Connections. This monthly meeting offers you an opportunity to receive information and resources, and to meet others who "get it".

You will also learn about a wonderful play called ***Handicap This!*** It is inspired by a local story of a man looking for a job at a school in Glenview, and the 12 year old boy with cerebral palsy that he meets. They develop an amazing friendship and the play is based on that.

We have also included information for ETHS District 202 parents regarding the **Choices 2011** college fair on October 25th. The schools are specifically presenting information about services and supports available to students with disabilities at their colleges. Read on for more.

I hope you find the information in this month's issue interesting and useful.

Sincerely,

Cari Levin, LCSW
Founding Director
Evanston CASE

Parent Connections

Our first *Parent Connections* meeting on was held on September 15th. We had a great discussion about back-to-school transition issues and the feedback we received from parents was very positive. Many of you expressed an interest in attending, but had conflicts with curriculum nights. I hope you are able to join us at our next meeting which will be on **Thursday, October 20th from 7-9 pm at Boocoo Café, at 1823 Church Street.**

The topic in October is ***Emotional Disabilities: What is the school's responsibility?*** Parent frequently ask me what supports they should be requesting at school for their child with a mood disorder such as anxiety, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, or bipolar disorder. Unfortunately, the schools are falling short in their ability to support these kids and change in the system is needed. It is especially crucial for parents to understand what types of supports would promote stability and academic success for their kids. I will be giving a presentation addressing these concerns and more. Even if your child doesn't have a mood disorder, the information regarding advocating for particular services is universal. I hope you can join us. Call or email (847-556-8676 or info@evanstoncase.org) to register and reserve your copy of the presentation materials. See the attached flyer and please forward this information to anyone you think would be interested.

The *Parent Connections* meeting schedule for 2011-12 is as follows (every third Thursday, 7-9 p.m. at Boocoo Café)

September 15, 2011	January 19, 2012	May 17, 2012
October 20, 2011	February 16, 2012	
November 17, 2011	March 15, 2012	
December 15, 2011	April 19, 2012	

We would appreciate your feedback about the types of topics you would be interested in discussing. Some ideas include: Sibling issues, Special Education Legal Rights, 504 Plans vs. IEP's, Social Skills, What is a behavior intervention plan?, Evaluations, Transition from preschool to kindergarten, Inclusion and Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), etc. Please let us know what you would like to learn about.

Parent Endorsed Resources

We have begun to compile a list of resources that parents have shared with us. If you have had a positive experience with a private evaluator, therapist, psychiatrist, summer program, mentor, etc. please email us (info@evanstoncase.org) so we can build this important resource for parents. Please include the name, contact information, type of service offered, if you are a D65 or D202 parent, and your email address. We hope to have the list posted on the website by November.

HANDICAP THIS!

An Evanston CASE member brought to my attention a wonderful play called "***Handicap This!***" The first show will be on **Friday, November 4th** at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. Everyone who cares about combating stigma toward those with physical

disabilities should see this show!! **For information about tickets and show times, visit:**

http://www.northshorecenter.org/calendar2.cfm?event_id=2039.

The two man play is described as, **"The true story of friendship, breaking down barriers and living with disabilities. Most of all it's about EVERYONE'S POTENTIAL! Mike and Tim will Educate, Empower, and especially ENTERTAIN!"** The story that inspired the play began with Tim Wambach's desire to teach in a local public school (in Glenview). He then encountered a 12 year old boy with cerebral palsy named Mike Berkson, and a relationship formed that changed both of their lives. I can't really capture the full story that inspired this amazing play, so I encourage you to visit the website at <http://www.handicaphis.com/>.

Prior to the development of the *"Handicap This!"* play, Tim Wambach started an organization called the **"Keep On Keeping On Foundation"** whose mission is to, "Both assist and raise awareness for those living with severe physical disabilities such as Cerebral Palsy and Muscular Dystrophy. It will forever be our duty to help others see more than just a "chair" or a disability, but to see an individual who has a lot to offer. We believe that anything is possible, and we will never give up on those who need our help most." The foundation's two goals are, **"1) Helping to alleviate the enormous monetary cost of living with a severe physical disability and, 2) Being a leading advocate for the physically disabled.** We will accomplish this by maximizing our reach both in the Chicagoland area and beyond. We will continue to team up with the most motivated volunteers and advocates to help improve the lives of those we serve." To learn more visit the foundation website at <http://www.keeponkeepingon.org/aboutus.html#mission>.

Choices College Fair 2011

"CHOICES" is a regional post-secondary planning night for students with disabilities who are college bound.

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

New Trier High School
*******Northfield Campus*******
7 Happ Road
Northfield, IL

******PLEASE NOTE THAT NEW TRIER HAS 2 CAMPUSES AND THAT CHOICES WILL BE HELD AT THEIR NORTHFIELD CAMPUS******

For more information about the colleges represented at the fair, as well as an abundance of helpful resources and guidance visit: <http://www.postsecondarychoices.org/choicesfair2011.html>