



evanston citizens for appropriate special education

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March 2012

Hello Evanston CASE members,

We hope you like our new look! Not only do we have an improved newsletter format, but we also have a beautiful new website thanks to the talents of Mindy Wallis. Her work is much appreciated. Visit www.evanstoncase.org to check it out.

As spring break is fast approaching, we will be entering spring IEP season in April and May. This is the time when you will be attending Annual Review meetings, Three Year Re-Evaluation meetings and possibly creating transition IEP's. It is important for parents to understand this process and to be prepared to participate as full members of the IEP team. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

Cari Levin, LCSW
Founding Director

REMINDER: Parent Connections Thursday, March 15th

The Parent Connections meeting will be held on Thursday, March 15th from 7-9 p.m. at Boocoo Café, 1823 Church Street. The topic this month is:

"Spring IEP Season: How to Advocate for an Effective IEP"

Cari Levin, LCSW will present information about the general contents of an IEP, how to ensure that goals are measurable, and She will also share some advocacy strategies that you can use to ensure meaningful participation in your child's IEP meeting.

Please contact us if you plan to attend – (847) 556-8676 or info@evanstoncase.org.

Autism Workshop

The Autism Program (TAP) is presenting a *TAP 1.3 Basic Elements of Structured Teaching Workshop* for Parents/Guardians of children with autism age 16 and under hosted by Have Dreams in Evanston on **April 4, 2012**.

This one-day interactive workshop gives an overview of Structured Teaching and its application in home, school and community settings

Flyer and registration can be downloaded from www.havedreams.org . If you have any questions, please e-mail Lydia Wissing.

Have Dreams
515 Busse Highway
Park Ridge, IL 60068
Phone 847-685-0250 (Ext. 115)
Fax 847-685-0257

Advocacy Alert! We need a special ed manual in D202

Case would like to get your feedback about your experience if you've attempted to access the special education system at ETHS, District 202. It is our impression that there is little to no information available either on the website, or via a printed manual to explain to parents how to access the special education system at ETHS. District 65 developed a Parent Manual several years ago. We would like to see something similar created for parents at the high school. It is important for you to know who to contact if you have a question or to initiate an evaluation for services. You should have information about the continuum of services available, and a basic explanation of procedures. In speaking with the Director of Special Education, Dr. Maria Smith, she explained that they don't have such a manual because, "We don't want to suggest to parents that there is a menu that they can choose from." This is a disappointing perspective, but one that we think we can advocate to change. Please let us know what your experience has been and how you think D202 could improve communication with parents of students with special needs.

We plan to speak to the D202 School Board and the School Improvement Team about this in the next few weeks.

Training Session: iPads and iPods for students with special needs

Sign up online at: <http://customsolutions.us/training/>

- A workshop for parents, teachers and anyone supporting students with special learning needs.
- Learn how iPods and iPads can enhance student learning, participation and performance in school and home environments.
- This session will be a full day session, offering hands-on, step-by-step and detailed training in the use of these devices for children who experience challenges with learning. (beginner/intermediate level) - bring your iPads and iPods - we do not have iDevices for hands on, but will have laptops for the computer component of this workshop.
- This workshop will NOT be just a look at lists of apps. We will specifically look at implementation, specific use within school and home environments, handheld electronic tools and their impact for performance, participation and achievement for students of all ages and cognitive levels.

Click <http://bit.ly/iPads-sped> for more information

Sign up here: <http://customsolutions.us/training/>

Bridgette Nicholson

Custom Solutions AT training

Support for LD in College

When thinking about college for your child with special needs, be sure to research the many programs available around the country that provide supports. Here is one example...

Notre Dame College program helps students with learning disabilities thrive in higher-education setting

Published: Saturday, February 25, 2012, 4:13 PM Updated: Sunday, February 26, 2012, 1:03 AM



By **Karen Farkas, The Plain Dealer**

SOUTH EUCLID, Ohio -- College can be a daunting place for a student with a learning disability.

Ralph D'Alessio, who has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, said he needs help to prioritize his life and stay focused and on track.

Reading, comprehension and spelling are the challenges confronting Erin McGrath, who was diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD.

They could have enrolled at any university because all are required by law to provide accommodations to students with learning disabilities, including note-taking assistance, extended time to complete tests, an alternative format to take tests and books available on computers.

But the two chose **Notre Dame College**, one of about 60 universities in the country that offer a comprehensive, fee-based program to help students cope with learning disabilities.

Notre Dame's **Academic Support Center** offers intensive one-on-one services. Students are tutored at least four hours a week by adults with professional degrees, meet with learning specialists and are offered career services and help with time management and study and organizational skills. Read more...
http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2012/02/students_with_learning_disabil.html

North Shore AD/HD Support Group

Reported In TribLocal Community Calendar March, 2012

Wednesday, March 7, 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. [Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette IL 60091](#) Tel: 847.256.0525

– A brand new support group in Chicago's North Shore has formed to help those with – or those who have loved ones with – Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD). The first gathering will be held at the Wilmette Public Library on March 7, 7:30 to 9:00pm. Subsequent meetings will be held on April 11 and May 2. The group, facilitated by certified ADHD Coach and Consultant and Wilmette resident, Dale Davison, M.Sp.Ed., is free and open to the public. Ms. Davison describes the group as “an informal non-judgmental forum. People with AD/HD face challenges that friends and family might not understand. This support group provides an opportunity to meet others who have or think they have AD/HD and to learn strategies to manage its challenges.” She continues that topics will be chosen by its members, that attendees can participate or just listen, and that the group is officially associated with C.H.A.D.D., the nation's leading non-profit serving those with AD/HD.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, AD/HD is one of the most common neurobehavioral or mental health disorders of childhood, affecting 10% of youth ages 3-17, with the number of diagnosis increasing annually. It is also prevalent in adults. The disorder affects the brain's executive functioning centers and can have negative ramifications on performance in academic, family, professional and social settings.

Contact: Dale Davison, 847.920.1010 dale@dale-davison.com

<http://www.dale-davison.com>