



DEDICATED TO PROVIDING AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

# Special Education Newsletter

DECEMBER 2017

## From the Director of the Special Education Department

Dear Parents and Guardians,  
The Special Education Management and Office Team and District Leadership, wish you and your family a wonderful and peaceful holiday season! We also thank you for the support you give each day to your children and family. We are looking forward to the New Year when our efforts will continue in these and other areas: collaborative teaching, life skills curriculum, pre-school planning, reading intervention pilots, positive behavioral supports, and parent networking. We will further share our efforts in future newsletters. Have a wonderful holiday!

Sincerely,  
Pam Kazee

## Parent Resource Network

The SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT is initiating a Parent Resource Network (PRN) to support parents of students with disabilities. We hope to find parent volunteers from each school site to act as *positive connectors* for parents of newly-identified children with special needs.

PRN members would:

1. Attend monthly Parent Resource Network advisory meetings with the Special Education Director to engage in district and school-based parent education planning.
2. Be available to answer phone calls from parents when parent-to-parent communication is deemed

helpful. Prior to providing parent-to-parent support, training will be provided by the special education leadership.

Volunteers are encouraged to complete an online application at [http://www.smmusd.org/special\\_education/](http://www.smmusd.org/special_education/)



## Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC)

All meetings are open to parents and the public. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each school month from 7-9 pm:

SMMUSD Board of Education  
Board Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)  
1651 16th Street  
Santa Monica, California 90404  
(310) 450-8338

SEDAC serves in an advisory capacity to SMMUSD's policy-making body, the Board of Education, and the District's leadership. Most recently, SEDAC developed charges approved by the Board.

### SEDAC Charges for 2017-2018

- Charge One  
SEDAC will support the development of an effective special needs parental community to assist parents in familiarizing themselves with District supports, parent networking opportunities, parent education sessions and Community resources.
- Charge Two  
The District and SEDAC will develop a plan to communicate to parents

about resources and programming that is available.

#### Charge Three

A SEDAC task force will update the Parent-to-Parent Transition Plan Guidelines document that includes supports and guidance for high school students including eighth grade transitioning students.

#### Charge Four

Continue to build upon the work done in the area of social emotional justice, focusing on inclusion and empathy.

## Calendar

November 30, 2017  
6:00 – 8:00 pm  
**Parent IEP Training**  
Board of Education (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

December 6, 2017  
6:30 – 8:30 pm  
**Parent IEP Training**  
Juan Cabrillo School (Room 19)

December 11, 2017  
7:00 – 9:00 pm  
**SEDAC Meeting** (public invited)  
Board of Education (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

**Community Event**  
(not SMMUSD sponsored):  
Special kids movie night, Friday,  
December 8, 2017, 6 pm, at  
The Church in Ocean Park  
235 Hill St, Santa Monica  
Contact:  
Julie Ginsberg (310) 995-5857