

Dr. Sandy Enloe
Director of Special Education

Sevier County Schools

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

April, 2008
Parent Edition

Editor:
Dr. Kaye Thomas

Where did this school year go? It just seemed to go by so quickly. I sincerely hope that you and your child had a good year. As you make plans for next year, please don't hesitate to communicate any questions or concerns to your child's teacher. Summer is our "planning time" and we welcome suggestions from you parents. Dr. Sandy Enloe

Important dates for Students:

May 26, Vacation Day
June 3, Administrative – No school for students
June 4, Half Day – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
June 23, Extended School – PFM
August 18, First day of school, 2008

CONGRATULATIONS:

Volleyball Olympics

Sevier County High School – Placed Third. The team played two tie-breaking games! AND left a volley ball in the top rafters of the gym!!!

Northview Middle School – Placed Fourth in Unified Competition.

Sevierville Middle School – Placed First, Second, and third with Unified teams. **Placed Third** with Traditional team.

Ober Gatlinburg Special Olympics Winter Games

Melody Branham and Coach Kristy Smith – great picture and article in the local paper.

Melody Branham – Fourth in Alpine 10M Race; Third in Alpine-Glide

Joshua Harmon – Second in Alpine Giant Slalom; Third in Alpine Slalom

John King – Third in Alpine 10M Race; Fourth in Alpine Glide

Kimberly Brown – First place in Speed Skating 50M Half Lap; First in Speed Skating 25M Straight

Tina Holton – Second in Speed Skating 50M Half Lap; Third in Speed Skating 25M Straight

Mary Long – First in Speed Skating 25M Asst.; Second in Speed Skating 50M Half Lap Asst

Cody Parton – Second in Speed Skating 25 M Straight; Second in Speed Skating 50M Half Lap

Joshua Harmon from Seymour High School has been chosen to compete in the 2009 World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THESE STUDENTS AND THEIR COACHES!!

Extended School Year

If the IEP team for your child decided that he/she needed to attend the extended school program, you will receive more information before the end of school. The bus driver will call you the week before ESY begins to schedule the pickup and drop off times. If you have questions, ask your child's teacher.

TV ALTERNATIVES

Watching too much television can have a negative effect on your child's learning. This summer, suggest one of the following when your child wants to turn on the TV:

- Ride a bike
- Read a magazine or book
- Build a model car
- Shoot some hoops
- Draw a picture
- Write a friend or relative a letter or e-mail
- Play a board game
- Help cook dinner

Editor's Note: I realize that this article was published previously, but several parents have asked for it to be repeated. If you have access to a computer, the past issues are also on our website.

Parental Planning for Adulthood for the Most Severely Disabled Children

Maybe you've already adjusted to the fact that your child will be getting a special education diploma and not a regular high school diploma, but are you ready for what comes after that last day of school? Where will they work? Who will be their guardian when you are gone and how will they be provided for? Where will they live? These are all tough questions to answer and each one requires a lot of planning.

Finding a job the student can do and is comfortable with takes up the last couple years at school and the first few years after high school ends. Depending on your child's ability level and the amount of supervision she or he will need, this could be an easy or difficult placement. While your son or daughter is still in school, the teacher and the Vocational Rehabilitation manager are the two best points of contact for information. They will encourage your ideas.

One of the first things you need to do around the time your child turns 18 years old is apply for **conservatorship**; that is, continued guardianship of the adult child so that you can legally represent him or her in money matters and medical emergencies. This process involves you getting a lawyer for the child and another lawyer for you, then setting some time before a judge once all of the paperwork is in order. However, the expense and trouble can be worthwhile for the problems it helps you avoid.

Once your daughter or son leaves school (and even before that), the **Tennessee Division of Mental Retardation Services** (DMRS) is a valuable point of contact. DMRS provides training from time to time in what is available and how to apply for services. In East Tennessee, their number is (865) 588-0508. Sevier County is also one of the few that can use the respite care and job training services of Douglas Cooperative, Inc. DCI's local number is (865) 428-3423. Your child should be registered with DMRS early – elementary grades is not too early.

DMRS also keeps a waiting list for those who need services. While you are able to care for your child, they stay pretty far down the list. However, if you become unable to care for your severely disabled son or daughter, they move up the list quickly.

It is your task to **name a guardian** for your son or daughter and you should do so in writing. In fact, you should create a **special needs trust** for them, with specific instructions for the trustee and guardian you choose. Another advantage of having a trust in place is that it protects any assets you will to them from impacting the government assistance they can receive.

If you have any questions about any parts of this article, please contact Dr. Jeff Romanczuk, Special Education Projects Coordinator, at (865) 453-1036.