

Stephen Knolls Newsletter

Information for Parents of Stephen Knolls Students

May 2009

Yard Sale Saturday, May 16th from 11am-3pm

The Parent Staff Association(PSA) of Stephen Knolls School is hosting its second annual Yard Sale and Community Fair on Saturday, May 16, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Members of the multicultural band, Gibraltar, will be performing music from the Mediterranean region from 1-2 p.m. The Community Fair will feature a Korean barbecue, cake walk, raffles, and shopping bargains for everyone. For further information and to reserve a table, please call or email the PSA president, Ms. Sam Campbell at 301-530-2353 or samcampbelldesign@comcast.net.

Stephen Knolls Prom

Senior high school students do not miss this great opportunity to display your fashion sense and great sense of rhythm by coming to the Stephen Knolls prom which will be held in our all purpose room on Thursday, May 28th from 4-6 p.m. The theme this year is a Mardi Gras Ball! Parents are invited to join their senior high students students after 5:30 p.m.. The cost per student is \$5.00. For further information, please call Ms. Donna Moore at 301-929-2151.

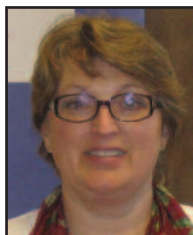
Stephen Knolls Graduation

The Stephen Knolls Commencement Program is scheduled for Thursday, June 11 at 1:00pm in the school gymnasium. This year Stephen Knolls will honor graduating class members Jennifer Chow and Nebiyu Solomon. The ceremony will last about one hour with a reception immediately following. Mrs. Liz Kruger, PSA Treasurer, will be our keynote speaker. Please join us for this significant and very special day!



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Families and Staff:



We are sending a quick newsletter to keep you updated to some upcoming events that we are really excited about. We are getting ready for our annual Yard Sale and Community Fair on Saturday, May 16th. I hope everyone is able to come out to enjoy the fun. This event will kick off our Spirit Week, May 18th thru 22nd. Included in this newsletter are the special ways your child can participate in this fun week leading up to our pep rally and field days.

We hope that everyone stays healthy this spring.

See you at the Yard Sale!

Tina Shrewsbury
Coordinator

Swine Flu Reminder (H1N1 Flu)

By now you should have received letters to parents/guardians from our superintendent, Dr. Jerry Weast, and Montgomery County's Chief of Public Health, Dr. Ulder Tillman, regarding the Swine Flu outbreak. Be assured that both the Montgomery County Public Schools and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services are monitoring the situation and working closely with our coordinator and school staff to address the issue. We are maintaining our standard precautions to ensure the health and safety of our school and we ask that you at home follow the general precautions for preventing seasonal flu and other communicable diseases outlined in the letter. Should you have any concerns, feel free to call the school at 301-929-2151. In addition, you may wish to visit the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org or the Montgomery County government website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov.

Math Week at Stephen Knolls School

When you add it all up, Math Week at Stephen Knolls School was a resounding success! Each class developed an activity which they then placed in the hallways so that all the other classes could stop by and interact with them. All activities were adapted from grade level materials. In fact, your child probably came home with a worksheet from one of these learning activity stations. Our class teams outdid themselves with their demonstrated creativity and effort. We look forward to many more opportunities to display all the wonderful work with our students that goes on at Stephen Knolls. We especially wish to thank Mr. Robert Tarloff for coordinating this effort and all the staff who contributed so generously of their time to make it a success.

Pre-Kindergarten Graduation

Both the morning and afternoon pre-kindergarten graduations will be held in the school's all-purpose room on Friday, June 12, 2009. The morning graduation will be held at 10:30 a.m. and the afternoon graduation will be held at 1:30 p.m. Every child who is eligible to attend kindergarten in August will be able to participate. Prior to graduation day, each child will be photographed, in his/her cap and gown, with his/her teacher(s).

Stephen Knolls School Turns Green with Earth Day Spirit!

From Monday April 20th through Friday April 24th, our staff and students participated in activities related to Earth Day. From Monday through Friday of that week, classes did a "Walk-About" around the school searching for 17 different Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) with facts attached which explained the impact that humans have on the environment and what we can all do to protect it. Classes also completed a daily Conservation Checklist to remind them to everyday turn off the lights and computers when they are not in use, keep

doors to the outside closed to save heating and air conditioning, and to recycle paper, cardboard, plastic and metal containers. On Earth Day (Wednesday, April 22nd), the school was vibrant as students and staff dressed in all different shades of green to show their Earth Day Spirit! Throughout the week, students and staff also brought in orders for t-shirts and other items from the Earth Foundation catalogs that were sent home the week before spring break. At this point, it appears that our school has sold enough items to save 5 acres of rainforest in Madagascar! We will display our school's certificate of appreciation from

the Earth Foundation as soon as it arrives. Classes also focused on the environment as books, videos and dvds were used in the media center, songs were played and sung in music class, and art classes worked on creative expressions of their commitment to preserve natural resources. We know that our staff and students enjoyed this week and hope that our parents had an opportunity to enjoy it with their children as well! We would like to thank Ms. Regina Robinson for spearheading this effort as well as the other members of the Earth day Committee.

McEducator Night at McDonald's

It was no April fool's joke that from 5-8p.m. on April 1st you could be served your Big Mac and fries, chicken nuggets, or milkshake from the McDonald's on University Boulevard (across from Wheaton Plaza) by one of your favorite Stephen Knolls staff members. Many thanks to our parents, students, staff, and community members who came out to support our fundraiser by which 10% of all sales during that time period were donated to our school to repair or purchase communication devices for our students. We were able to raise almost \$250.00 from this event. We have been promised monthly fundraising opportunities from the manager as the McDonald's staff was so taken with the charm of ours who served as cashiers and servers during the event.

In the Eagle's Corner

Congratulations are in order for one of our very own senior high students, Shoshana Kruger, who once again generously donated her gorgeous, long hair to the organization "Locks for Love" which makes wigs for children who have lost their hair to cancer. Her new short haircut is very becoming and just in time for prom.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENT

SPIRIT WEEK May 18th – 22nd

**Back by popular demand!
All staff and students are
welcome to participate!
Just follow the directions
for each day.**

**Be Creative! Have Fun!
Get into the School Spirit!**

Monday, May 18th UNUSUAL HAIR/HAT DAY

Be creative ... fix your hair differently, wear an unusual, funny hat or make one to wear.

Tuesday, May 19th PAJAMA DAY

Wear your favorite or funny pajamas to school (you can wear them over clothes). You can even wear a robe over your regular clothes.

Wednesday, May 20th STEPHEN KNOLLS DAY CLASS SPIRIT APPRECIATION DAY

Wear red and white (our school colors). A pep rally will take place in the gym in the afternoon.

Thursday, May 21st FAVORITE T-SHIRT DAY

Everyone has a favorite T-shirt! Wear it proudly to school today.

Friday, May 22nd FAVORITE TEAM JERSEY DAY

Wear your favorite team's jersey to school.

Community Connections — Upcoming Workshops

May 6 -7, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. 6th Annual World of Possibilities Expo: disAbilities, Healthy Aging and Independent Living, \$3. Offers the opportunity to know about the latest products, services, technology and resources for persons with disabilities and their caretakers. Informative workshops and free benefits planning and help desk. Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2000 York Rd., Timonium. Sponsored by Caring Communities, Mona Freedman, 410-549-5707, 1-866-227-4644, www.caringcommunities.org.

May 6, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. *Montgomery County Early Care and Education Spring Congress - Supporting Dual Language Learners. This year's congress will share research and strategies for providers and parents. Universities at Shady Grove, Bldg. II, 9630 Gudelsky Dr., Rockville. Sponsored by MCPS, Janine Bacquie, Division of Early Childhood Programs and Services, 301-230-0691, Janine_G_Bacquie@mcpsmd.org, MCECECongress@gmail.com.

May 6, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Employ-ABLE Career Fair. Bring your resume to the event. Find companies that are hiring persons with disabilities as well as disability professionals (OTs, PTs, educators, etc.). There will be informative workshops. Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2000 York Rd., Timonium. Sponsored by employ-ABLE, 410-549-5490, 1-877-856-5490, www.employ-ABLE.org.

May 6, 6:45 - 8:45 PM. Technology and Assistive Equipment Options. One of the Educational Seminars for Family Members Caring for Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities. Presenters will include a representative from Assistive Technology: Loans, Acquisitions, Services, and Training, Inc., Susan Abrams, M.A., CCC-SLP and Rebecca Leonard, MS, PT from Early Intervention Therapists. They will speak on assistive technology and equipment available for people with disabilities. Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Ave., 1st floor meeting room, Rockville. Sponsored by the Collaborative Outreach & Training Committee - JSSA, Mont. Co. Dept. of HHS Aging and Disability & the Arc of MC, registration required at 240-777-1216, leave name, phone number and title of seminar you wish to attend.

May 7, 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Married with Children. Germantown Children's Center, 19400 Crystal Rock Dr., Germantown. Offered by Parent University, 301-353-1202, <http://www.parentuniversity.net/>. Free childcare available.

May 8, 7:00 PM. Beauty and the Beast, FREE, Donations Accepted. This is a special presentation for children with special needs and their families. Special sensory, physical and seating accommodations are being made to make this a low stress evening. The Church of the Good Shepherd, 3250 Braddock Rd., Burke. Offered by the Good Shepherd Players, register at <http://mysite.verizon.net/gspayers/>.

May 9, 2:00 - 3:00 PM. Stories by Hand: Springtime Stories. Signing storyteller Kathy MacMilan will treat children ages 3 & up to sign language and voice springtime stories. Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Sponsored by the Fiends of the Library, Rockville Chapter, for more information about program email drcinfo@montgomerycountymd.gov.

May 12, 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Potty Training. Germantown Children's Center, 19400 Crystal Rock Dr., Germantown. Offered by Parent University, 301-353-1202, <http://www.parentuniversity.net/>. Free childcare available.

May 15, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. *Annual Conference - Young Children with Autism: Early Identification and Intervention, FREE. This conference provides information on the early identification of young children with autism and intervention strategies that are evidenced based and facilitate the full participation of children on the spectrum in their families and community. Plenary Speakers - Dr. Jerry Paulson and Dr. Roy Grinker. Choice of 9 breakout presentations. Holiday Inn Georgetown, 2101 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington D.C. Co-sponsored by the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development, Children's National Medical Center, District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council, University Legal Services, Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities, DC Chapter, Autism Society of America and DC Autism Parents, Toby Long, 202-687-8807. Register by May 1, GUCCDC@georgetown.edu.

May 16, 2:00 - 4:00 PM. Autism Community Forum. Easter Seals will present the findings from the national study conducted on families living with Autism. The Autism Society of America will present on the recently passed state and federal legislation. Mass Mutual will present on financial planning for families with children with disabilities. Easter Seals Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Inter-Generational Center, 1420 Spring St., Silver Spring. Hosted by Easter Seals, 301-920-9702, www.gwbr.easterseals.com.

May 20, 7:30 - 9:00 PM. SSI, Special Needs Trusts, Guardianships, Residential Options - Transition Times For Parents of Young Adults Leaving High School (usually 3rd. Wed., 7:30 - 9:00 PM) Transition Times is a group for parents seeking information regarding the process of transitioning from high school to young adulthood. This month's presenter will be Tom Walsh from the Washington Group Special Care Planning Team. The Arc of MC, 11600 Nebel St., Rockville. Co-sponsored by the Arc of MC, Haydee DePaula, 301-984-5777 ext. 265, and Potomac Community Resources, Abby Lubran, abby@pcr-inc.org, 301-365-0561. Register on line at <http://www.pcr-inc.org/group.asp?grp=59>

May 21, 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Married with Children. Germantown Children's Center, 19400 Crystal Rock Dr., Germantown. Offered by Parent University, 301-353-1202, <http://www.parentuniversity.net/>. Free childcare available.

May 24, 1:30 PM. Strega Nona - A Sensory Friendly Performance, \$15/adult; \$12/child (12 & under). Adventure Theater has set up this performance specifically for families of children with autism and other sensory needs. Come and enjoy lights on and sound down. Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Offered by the Adventure Theater, 301-634-2270, <http://adventuretheatre.tix.com/Event.asp?Event=1488421> - enter the Pre-Sale Code: SPFAM. Pre-sale ends May 24 at 12:00 AM. For more information contact Laure Schwarz at laurekouyou@hotmail.com.

June 16, 6:30 - 9:00 PM. Tricare/Other Benefits and Safety Issues for Military Parents of Children with Autism and Other Cognitive Disabilities. This workshop for military parents with guest speaker Scott Campbell will provide the latest details on increasing the monthly limits for ABA therapy under the ECHO Program, extending the program to retirees and the Autism ABA Demo. Army Community Service, 9800 Belvoir Rd., Bldg. 200, Fort Belvoir. Sponsored by the Fort Belvoir and Fort Myer Military Community Exceptional Family Member Programs. For required reservations and on-site child care contact Marcia O'Connor, EFMP manager, 703-696-8467, 703-696-4675 (TTY).

Guardianship Or Surrogate Decision Maker

- What is the difference?
- What is the best answer for your child?

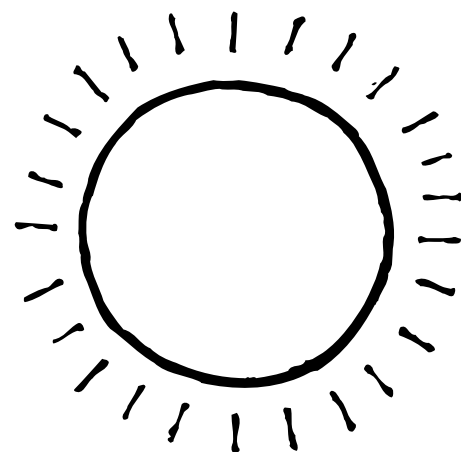
Difficult questions that parents of children with disabilities need the answer to....

Please join us for a panel presentation followed by a question and answer period as two experts in the field speak on these topics.

May 12, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. Community Support Services 9075 Comprint Ct., Gaithersburg

Paul Ballard, Asst. Attorney General, Counsel for Health Decisions Policy and the Office of Health Care Quality, DHMH for the state of Maryland will give a presentation regarding Surrogate Decision Making. Lyda Astrove, a lawyer by training and the mother of two sons, has been an autism advocate for 13 years and will give a presentation regarding Guardianship

Limited child care available by reservation. To make a reservation for your child, or for more information, please contact: Debbie Van Brunt at 301-816-1005 Or by email at: Debbie.vanbrunt@verizon.net or Susan Hartung at Thehartungs@comcast.net



Pools in Montgomery County

Indoor Pools

The Department of Recreation operates 4 indoor swimming pools to serve Montgomery County residents. These pools are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Germantown Indoor Swim Center

18000 Central Park Circle
Boys, MD 20841
240-777-6830

Martin Luther King, Jr. Swim Center

1201 Jackson Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904
240-777-8060

Montgomery Aquatic Center

5900 Executive Boulevard
Bethesda, MD 20852
240-777-8070

Olney Swim Center

16605 Georgia Avenue.
Olney, MD 20832
301-570-1210

Outdoor Pools

The Department of Recreation operates 7 outdoor swimming pools from May 23 until Labor Day. These pools are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Bethesda Pool

6300 Little Falls Pkwy & Hillandale Road
Bethesda, MD
301-652-1598

Germantown Outdoor Pool

18905 Kings View Drive
Germantown, MD
301-601-1690

Martin Luther King Jr. Outdoor Pool

1201 Jackson Road
Silver Spring, MD
301-622-1090

Long Branch Pool

8700 Piney Branch Road
Silver Spring, MD
301-431-5700

Upper County Outdoor Pool

8211 Emory Grove Road
Gaithersburg, MD
301-840-2446

Western County Outdoor Pool

20151 Fisher Avenue
Poolesville, MD
301-349-2217

Wheaton/Glenmont Pool

12621 Dalewood Drive
Wheaton, MD
301-929-5460

Good Hope Sprayground

14715 Good Hope Road
Silver Spring, MD
301-989-1210

School Absence Form

Date

My child, _____
first and last name

was absent on _____
Date

due to _____
reason why

Parent signature

**Please complete this form and send it in to your child's
teacher after an absence from school.**

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