



Concord Public and Concord-Carlisle Regional Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) January 2017 Newsletter

Happy winter! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! Now that it's officially winter, many families head outside to enjoy some of the fun activities that the cold weather brings. For some families, though, enjoying winter sports is difficult, if not impossible. This year, thanks to the great adaptive programs offered through Concord Recreation, these activities are more accessible for children with a range of needs and capabilities.

- If your child is interested in skiing or snowboarding, you can sign up for Saturday lessons with the Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country (sign up through Concord Recreation): <http://summercamp.concordma.gov/571/Adaptive-Alpine-Ski-and-Ride>.
- There are also lessons for children ages 4 and up who are interested in learning how to skate: <http://summercamp.concordma.gov/545/Adaptive-Learn-to-Skate>.
- For those who are interested in indoor activities, check out Marvelous Dragons and Social Dragons, the Pokémon Club, Tae Kwon Do classes, and more: <http://summercamp.concordma.gov/504/Adaptive-Recreation>.

For questions, please contact Anna Wood, Assistant Recreation Director, Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist at AWood@concordma.gov.



Science Alert: Understanding dyslexia. A recent series of studies in the journal *Neuron** found that individuals with dyslexia may process sensory information differently from those without dyslexia. Specifically, when healthy adults and children encounter the same sensory stimulus (such as hearing the same words) repeatedly, the brain's response to that stimulus dampens, a process known as neural adaptation. Neural adaptation may make it easier to respond to familiar sensory stimuli. Perrachione and colleagues found decreased neural adaptation in adults with dyslexia when they listened to speech from a consistent voice (relative to a novel voice), a finding consistent with previous studies that have found phonological processing impairments in individuals with dyslexia (see December 2015 newsletter). Interestingly, neural adaptation was also decreased in individuals with dyslexia when viewing other stimuli, such as words, objects, and faces repeatedly. In other words, brain activity was similar when individuals with dyslexia encountered novel and familiar stimuli. Decreased neural adaptation was observed in children as well as adults. Overall, these findings suggest that reading challenges observed in dyslexia are not specific to reading but may be the result of a generalized sensory processing impairment. *Perrachione, et al. (2016). *Dysfunction of rapid neural adaptation in dyslexia*. *Neuron*. doi: [10.1016/j.neuron.2016.11.020](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2016.11.020)

Did you know? Beginning on January 1st, students who receive testing accommodations in their IEP or 504 plans are entitled to these same accommodations while taking the SAT, preliminary SAT (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, PSAT 10, SAT Subject Tests, and Advanced Placement exams. For questions, please speak with your child's Case Manager. *For more information about these accommodations, please join us for a special workshop on January 26th (see below).*



Basic Rights in Special Education Workshop. Having a child with special needs means never settling for "good enough" when it comes to your child's care. Know your rights and empower yourself with the knowledge to be a strong part of your child's team! Join us on January 26th from 7-9PM, for a **Basic Rights**

in Special Education workshop, presented by the Federation for Children with Special Needs. This workshop will provide families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities. It is highly recommended for all parents with a child on an IEP/504 plan, and those just starting the special education process. Join us at 6:30 for light refreshments.

Upcoming Events. *For a list of all events, please visit www.concordsepac.org.*



SEPAC meetings take place every other month. All meetings are open to the public. We encourage parents and caregivers of children on IEPs, receiving accommodations (e.g., 504 plan), or with any medical or special need to attend.



If you are a parent or guardian of a child with an out-of-district placement, please join us for our quarterly informal parent meet-up group.

CONNECT WITH US

Concord and Concord-Carlisle Regional Public Schools SEPAC

concordsepac@gmail.com

www.concordsepac.org

[@concordsepac](https://twitter.com/concordsepac)

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 5th: SEPAC meeting
9:30-11:30 A.M.
Concord Free Public Library

January 26th: Basic Rights Workshop
6:30 refreshments, 7-9 P.M.
CCHS Learning Commons

January 29th: Out-of-District Parent Meet-up
9:30-11 A.M.
Saltbox Kitchen
84 Commonwealth Ave, Concord