



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

**Seeking new SEPAC leadership for the
2017-2018 year**

To the members of our community: We have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to build and lead an active and vibrant SEPAC these past three years. So much has been accomplished and we appreciate all the support we've had from all the parents who volunteered their time and creativity. During these past three years, we have developed a strong and collaborative relationship with our district's administrators. We have provided support and education to parents and caregivers and have created opportunities for them to connect and share their insights & educational journeys with each other. It has been a privilege.

Our term as co-presidents comes to an end at the close of this school year. We are in need of new leadership for all of us to continue to benefit from a strong SEPAC. It can't happen without you. Your voice, your ideas, and your energy are needed. Please consider taking on this leadership role. We are happy to tell you more about this truly rewarding opportunity. Please email us at concordsepac@gmail.com or come to our next board meeting on March 9th.

Best,
Mary Tambor and Becky Robichaud



Science Alert: How effective are rewards? Using rewards as a way to motivate or change behavior has been the subject of much investigation. Though many use reward as a way to motivate students to stay engaged and increase task performance, a recent review of 128 studies that examined the use of rewards on behavior found that rewards actually decrease intrinsic motivation in a task (Deci et al, 1999). Rather than making someone more invested and interested in a task, rewards may actually have the opposite effect. In addition, positive feedback which increases performance pressure (such as telling someone to keep up the good work) also decreases intrinsic motivation. Positive feedback that doesn't increase pressure to perform (such as telling someone that they did a good job), however, may increase intrinsic motivation. **Deci et al. (1999). A meta-analytic review of experiments examining the effects of extrinsic rewards on intrinsic motivation. Psychological Bulletin, 125, 627-668.*



Is there a special teacher, staff member, or administrator who has had a positive impact on your child's life? The SEPAC is proud to host our first annual Appreciation

Awards to help say "thank you" to the special people in our children's lives! Parents and guardians with children on an IEP or 504 plan will have the opportunity to nominate a special person in the public schools who has made a difference to your family this year. A nominations form will be available on the SEPAC website in mid-March. Look for a link to the nomination form in our mid-March Update.

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



Join us for an informative talk about **Reading and the Brain with Dr. Nadine Gaab, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital** on March 23rd, 10-11:30 A.M. This talk will give an overview of the typical and atypical reading brain, its development, and how it changes in response to intervention. Additionally, it will introduce the idea of early screening for reading disabilities in young children and discuss its implications for education settings and policy. It will conclude with discussing the implications of neuroscientific findings for general education, educational policy as well as

the development of interventions. For planning purposes, please RSVP with the Eventbrite link on the bottom of our homepage at concordsepac.org.








The next SEPAC meeting will take place on March 9th, 7-9 PM. 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 informal parent meet-up group. Come socialize and foster a greater connection to each other and our school community. Our next get-together will be on March 16th at 7PM, at Trails End Café. If possible, please RSVP to Heather Tunncliffe (heatherktunncliffe@gmail.com) so we know to look for you!

CONNECT WITH US

 Concord and Concord-Carlisle Regional Public Schools SEPAC
 concordsepac@gmail.com
 www.concordsepac.org
 @concordsepac



UPCOMING EVENTS

March

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	

March 9th: SEPAC meeting
7:00-9:00 P.M.

Concord Free Public Library

March 16th: Out-of-District Parent Meet-up

7:30-9:00 P.M.
Trails End Café, meet in bar area
97 Lowell Rd, Concord

March 23rd: Reading and the Brain

10:00-11:30 A.M.
Ripley Administration Building,
Conference Room #1