



Parent Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- 2012 Year in Review
- Staying connected through e-mail & Facebook
- APSEA Review
- Summer Camps
- Annual General Meeting
- Parent Weekend

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From the Parent Executive

We are very excited to share this newsletter, filled with exciting and important news about events for your children as well as possible opportunities for you to get involved with our Parent Association. We hope that you enjoy this issue!

2012 Year in Review

Parent Workshop—APSEA

Families gathered from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to participate in sessions offered by a dynamic cast of speakers who shared some great information. Good discussion was generated among parents while the little ones had a great time playing, swimming and enjoying a field trip to the Discovery Science Center.

The Annual General Meeting was held during the workshop. A set of bylaws was adopted and will now be used as our framework for future business.

In May, the Vice-President (BVI), Ross Lloyd attended the Annual General Meeting of the parent association in Ontario: VIEWS, a non-profit provincial support and advocacy organization, helping

families receive the information, resources and support that they require. This experience provided some valuable information that is anticipated to be considered with our own Parent Association.

The President and Treasurer, Allison Savoury and Michelle Grant organized an ATV fundraiser as well as offer various social events for the children in the Halifax area.

Staying Connected

Staying connected is quick and easy through e-mail and now APSEA parents are on Facebook too. Check out the parent section on our website for more information: www.apsea.ca.



Please remember to keep your child's itinerant teacher up to date with your current email address.



Words of Appreciation

After several years of service to the Parent Association, Allison Savoury and Michelle Grant have indicated that they will not be returning as members of the executive.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank both Allison and Michelle for their efforts throughout this time.

APSEA Review: We Need Your Voice

Some of you may or may not know that APSEA is currently undergoing a program review that has potential to impact the services provided to our children. The objectives of the review are to:

- Ascertain the extent to which APSEA programs and services meet the needs of children in each of the four Atlantic Provinces
- Assess the degree to which each Atlantic Province accesses APSEA programs and services
- Determine the capacity of the Atlantic Provinces to meet the needs of children who are blind/visually impaired and/or deaf/hard of hearing in the absence of APSEA
- Analyze the equity of the current cost-sharing formulas used by the provinces

- Examine the pros and cons of alternative staffing models, specifically having staff employed by APSEA versus the individual Province

The Parent Executive met with Dr. Marion Fushell, the contracted reviewer, on February 13. Our main objective is to ensure that all parents have a voice in this process. Dr. Fushell outlined a questionnaire that will be sent to all families using the email addresses you have provided to your child's itinerant teacher. If you do not receive this electronic survey by March 18, please contact Pam Edmonds at 902-424-7765. We encourage you to invest a few minutes of your time to respond to this survey. Your input is very important. Dr. Fushell has also accepted our invitation to this year's parent workshop to discuss the review.



Summer Support Program 2013

The Summer Support Program provides funding for established recreation, sport and leisure programs for students served by APSEA who would otherwise not be able to participate in these programs due to their sensory loss.

Funding may also be allocated for job coaching in supported employment. If you require a support worker for the 2013 summer, please ask your child's itinerant teacher for the Summer Support Program Package.

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.”

- Helen Keller

Summer Camps 2013

APSEA will be holding two summer camps this year. A camp for children who are Blind or visually impaired will be held at Brigadoon Village, Aylesford Lake, South Alton, NS from June 30 to July 5, 2013 and a camp for children who are Deaf or hard of Hearing at Lake Maguagadavic, Harvey Station, NB from August 4 to August 9, 2013.

The APSEA camps give children the opportunity to experience summer camp in a safe, active and fun environment while connecting with others who are facing similar challenges. We welcome campers from between the ages of 7-16.

We strive to ensure that all campers have their individual needs met while gaining independence, enhancing self-awareness, responsibility and self-confidence. Campers learn to live and communicate as a member of a cabin group and with a variety of teams and group choice activities during the week. Camp experiences and friendships last a lifetime and each camper creates his/her own unique memories and camp connections.

For more information on APSEA summer camps, please visit our website at www.apsea.ca. Hope to see you there!



“Logic will get you from A to Z, imagination will get you everywhere.”

- Albert Einstein

↓ Check This Out ... ↓

Useful Websites for Families of Children who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind or Visually Impaired including those with Additional Exceptionalities:

D/HH Resource Links

www.deafmomworld.com/parents-of-the-deafhh-kids/
Under the heading "parents of Deaf/HH Kids" is a list of links to blogs of parents with children who are Deaf/HH.

www.rit.edu/ntid/educatingdeafchildren/

International experts answer your questions about the choices, controversies, and decisions faced by parents and educators of deaf and hard of hearing children.

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell)

This non-profit association promotes oral communication and oral education of deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Members can order the magazine "Voices" which publishes articles related to oral deafness.

Boys Town National Research Hospital

This is a great website for parents of young children with a hearing loss. This website is user-friendly and provides current information and support to parents.

Hands and Voices

Hands and Voices is an excellent, non-profit organization dedicated to providing unbiased information and support to families who have deaf and hard of hearing children and to the professionals working with these families. You can sign up for their newsletter called "The Communicator."

John Tracy Clinic

This organization provides free correspondence courses for parents of children with a hearing loss. Three-week summer sessions for children who are deaf and hard of hearing ages 2 through 5 years old and their families are also offered each summer at the Los Angeles campus. John Tracy Clinic focuses on the development of spoken language.

Raising Deaf Kids—Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

This website has a comprehensive list of links related to hearing loss.

BVI Resource Links

<https://www.familyconnect.org/parentsitehome.asp>
FamilyConnect, an online multimedia community, is a site for parents of children with vision loss created by the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI). It is filled with resources to support families of children of all ages.

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/>

WonderBaby.org is developed by the Perkins School for the Blind and is intended to support parents of young children with visual impairments including children with multiple exceptionalities.

<http://adifferentkindofvision.blogspot.ca/>

The Independent Little Bee is filled with a wealth of information for children with vision loss and their families. The focus is on the Expanded Core Curriculum and has a strong emphasis on children with multiple exceptionalities.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the APSEA Parent Association will be held on the Saturday afternoon of the Parent Workshop weekend. Vacant positions on the parent executive committee will be filled, in accordance to the Parent Association Bylaws, during the Annual General Meeting during the Parent Workshop scheduled for April 19-20, 2013.

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

- Mark Twain

Let's Get Going

The review process has brought to light the importance of an active parent community with an effective communication network that will enable us to be informed about ongoing and new issues that affect our children. We are looking for ideas and for people interested in helping to make this happen.

The next parent executive meeting is scheduled for March 27 at 1:00 p.m. at the APSEA building in Halifax. All parents are invited to attend and encouraged to participate in discussions.

APSEA

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We're on the web!
Check out a full colour version of this newsletter at:
www.apsea.ca

Parent Association Vacancies

President

Vice-President: Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Parent Weekend

Plan to attend the **Parent Workshop**, scheduled for **April 19-20, 2013**, at the APSEA facility in Halifax. This year's theme "Parent Power" supports the importance of empowerment for parents and children. There will also be an "Ask the Expert" Café, whereby, you can speak informally with professionals who will answer any questions you may have about APSEA programming. These great ideas have come from the parent community and we appreciate your input.

Word of Thanks

Thank you for reading this, for your anticipated response to the review survey, and for your interest in the APSEA Parent Association!

To the administration, staff, teachers, support personnel and volunteers at APSEA, for all that you do for our children, we cannot thank you enough!

Our Parent Executive 2012/2013

President: Allison Savoury
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VP BVI: Ross Lloyd
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VP DHH: vacant

Treasurer: Michelle Grant
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Secretary: Patricia Garlock
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APSEA is committed to providing your children with the best educational services possible, collaboratively with our partners. We support children and youth from birth to 21 who are blind/visually impaired (BVI) and/or deaf/hard of hearing (DHH).

Supporting children with opportunities to lead them to the highest potential for independence, self-sufficiency and productive, fulfilling lives.

