

PLUK eNews For the Week of June 9-13, 2003
Issue 28

Welcome to the weekly PLUK eNews!

We are proud to present news of interest for Montana families of children with disabilities and chronic illnesses, and for the professionals and educators who serve them, however, it does not constitute an endorsement.

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##

Government/Legal:

New Web site offers free legal advice

By JOHN HARRINGTON, [Helena Independent Record](#)

HELENA – Low-income Montanans faced with legal challenges ranging from a pending divorce to a dispute with a landlord to needed social services gained a new resource this month with the launch of <http://MontanaLawHelp.org>.

In its first live month and with little publicity, MontanaLawHelp.org has generated some 7,000 visits.

"The site is focused on low- and moderate-income legal needs," said Kate Bladow, an AmeriCorps Vista volunteer working with the non-profit Montana Legal Services Association in Helena and helping publicize the site. "You won't find information here on starting your own business, or tax advice if you make more than \$100,000 a year."

Still, Bladow said, there is information that could pertain to all Montanans – on the state's divorce laws, for instance.

The site does more than refer people to lawyers. Clicking through the "Families and Kids" link for information on wills leads to everything from Montana State University Extension System publications on estate planning to state health department literature on Medicaid liens and a State Bar of Montana essay on avoiding living trust scams.

Other areas of reference include consumer protection, disability rights, employment law, housing rights and Native American issues.

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.montanaforum.com/rednews/2003/05/28/build/consumers/legalwebsite.php?nnn=5>

##

Tax cut a mixed bag for Montanans

Those with kids, upper-incomes benefit most

By MIKE DENNISON, Tribune Capitol Bureau

Thursday, June 5, 2003

HELENA -- If you're a middle-income Montana family with kids at home, or an upper-income family with plenty of investment income, you're among the winners in the Bush administration's tax cut.

But if you're without kids, single and in the lowest income-tax bracket, you'll get nothing or next to nothing.

In Montana, even if you get a good break on your federal taxes, you might end up paying higher state income taxes.

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/news/stories/20030605/localnews/422991.html>

##

Maine bid for education-law waiver denied

By TESS NACELEWICZ, Portland Press Herald Writer

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Friday, June 6, 2003

The federal government has rejected Maine's request for a waiver from the No Child Left Behind Act, Maine Education Commissioner Susan Gendron said Thursday.

But Gendron says the U.S. Department of Education appears willing to work with rural states that contend the new law is designed to address problem schools in large, urban areas and doesn't fit them.

"We hope we can resolve some of the differences," Gendron said.

A week ago, Maine lawmakers passed a resolution calling on President Bush and Congress to either exempt Maine from the sweeping new federal measure - which Bush signed into law in 2002 - or fully fund the cost of complying with it.

A Department of Education spokeswoman said Maine is the first state to formally request a waiver. But other states have been discussing ways to opt out because of the expense.

Supporters of Maine's resolution claim that the No Child Left Behind Act is a "one size fits all" federal mandate that is under funded by billions of dollars. And they say it threatens to undermine the state's own high education standards, called Learning Results. The federal law requires students to take annual tests and, if they fail to make progress, imposes increasingly harsh penalties on their schools.

Maine's resolution passed without debate in the House but along party lines in the Senate, with 18 Democrats favoring it and 17 Republicans opposed. It has been sent to Washington, but Gendron said she has been told Maine would not be exempted from the law.

Gendron said she talked to Undersecretary of Education Eugene Hickok, who was "very clear there would be no waiver." But she said federal officials agreed to meet in Washington last Friday to discuss concerns with representatives from Maine and 10 other rural states - Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, West Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Utah, **Montana** and Arkansas.

Read the entire article at: <http://www.pressherald.com/news/state/030606nochild.shtml>

##

News:

2 gifted sisters amaze college faculty



By JAMES HAGENGRUBER Of The Gazette Staff

Two uncommonly bright Billings teenagers had dark starts to life.

Jacquelyn and Stacy Weitz were born with a rare genetic disorder -- much like the "bubble-boy" syndrome -- that left their immune systems weakened. Doctors at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston once gave Jacquelyn only a one-in-four chance of survival, said her mother, Robbi Weitz.

"They told me, go enjoy her, she'll only live two more weeks," she said.

But while the girls' young bodies were struggling, their brains were developing at an unusually rapid pace. The same genetic jumbling that rewired their immune systems also left the girls -- and nine other children across the country with the same unnamed syndrome -- with high IQs, said the girls' mother.

Although Jacquelyn's health still was very fragile at age 3, she was by then reading fluently and had started piano lessons. Jacquelyn's younger sister, Stacy, had nearly identical experiences. By the time Stacy was four, her photographic memory could retain any phone number after dialing it once.

Apart from some lingering allergies, the Weitz girls have largely overcome their health problems. But they're just beginning to tap the remarkable gifts in their minds.

Jacquelyn, now 19, is nearing completion of her college degree and is well on her way to a career as a concert pianist. Stacy, 17, is finishing her junior year at Skyview High School as well as her sophomore year at MSU-Billings.

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2003/05/22/build/local/30-gifted.inc>

##

Bozeman schools to make information available to parents online

BOZEMAN (AP) The Bozeman School District plans to spend \$98,500 to buy new software to give parents online access to their children's attendance, assignments, schedules and grades during the 2003-2004 school year.

"We see it as real positive communication," said Christine Day, the district's technology services supervisor. Money to pay for the PowerSchool software will come from a technology property tax levy approved by voters last year.

Bozeman schools needed better software to comply with the new federal No Child Left Behind law, Day said. The district must track not only how each school scores on standardized tests, but also break out scores by gender, ethnic group, disability and students who use English as a second language.

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.montanaforum.com/rednews/2003/05/20/build/education/onlinegrades.php?nnn=2>

##

University of Montana Web Access Map Launched

An updated UM Campus map highlighting disability access is now available from UM Disability Services for Students.

A collaborative effort of DSS and UM Facilities Services the map is available in an 11" x 17", full-color print version, and as an on-line interactive map. The URL of the on line map is: <http://www.umt.edu/dss/accessmap/Index.htm>

Both versions of the map describe the accessibility of campus buildings, locate accessible building entrances (and indicate whether or not entrances have automatic doors), show walkways (and first-cleared snow routes), streets and disability permit-only parking spaces, and, as requested by UM students who use wheelchairs, indicate certain rough walkway surfaces that make rolling uncomfortable or dangerous.

In addition, the interactive map provides narratives describing the location and access features/issues of buildings. Placing the mouse cursor over a building on the map or moving to it using the Tab key identifies it visually on the screen and audibly on computers equipped with screen readers. Clicking on a building brings up the descriptive narrative, again both on screen and audibly. Narratives are not in place for all buildings, and will be posted as surveys are completed.

##

Montana economics by the numbers

- 1st in the nation in the rate of increase in poverty
- 2nd in the nation for the percentage of children living in poverty
- 3rd in the nation for children living without health insurance
- 3rd in the nation for the number of people holding multiple jobs
- 7th in the nation for female heads of households living in poverty
- 46th in the nation for median household income
- 50th in the nation for annual wages per job
- 65 percent of children under age six have two parents working, compared to 59 percent nationally
- 66 percent of Montana women age 16 and over work outside the home
- 68 percent of working women earned less than \$20,000 per year
- 84 percent of the state's women earn less than \$30,000 per year, compared to 63 percent of working men
- 27 percent of the companies are owned by women, which ranks high nationally

Source: The Montana Women's Report issued by the Women's Opportunity and Resource Development Inc. of Missoula based mostly on 2000 U.S. Census statistics

##

Study: Video game-playing boosts perception

From eSchool News staff and wire service reports, May 30, 2003

All those hours spent playing video games might not be wasted time after all: A new study suggests action-packed video games such as "Grand Theft Auto III" and "Counter-Strike" might actually sharpen students' minds.

Researchers at the University of Rochester in New York found that young adults who regularly played video games full of high-speed car chases and blazing gun battles showed better visual skills than those who did not. For example, they kept better track of objects appearing simultaneously and processed fast-changing visual information more efficiently.

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryalert.cfm?ArticleID=4453>

##

Disney Introduces Handheld Captioning

How do you caption a moving amusement ride? Use technology. That's what the folks at Walt Disney World Resorts did.

Effectively communicating the story and message of moving amusement rides has long been a challenge for the amusement park industry. In many moving narrative attractions, such as Peter Pan's Flight, it's a small world, Pirates of the Caribbean and Buzz Lightyear's Space Ranger Spin, fixed captioning systems are not always effective as the ride is often moving too fast to read the captions. So, the Disney engineers put wireless technology to work and developed a synchronized handheld captioning system.

Read the complete article at: <http://www.indiana.edu/~nca/making-the-grade/disney.shtml>

##

Home Schooling in Cyberspace

By BONNIE ROTHMAN MORRIS

ADELINE NELSON of Steubenville, Ohio, has been in the third grade since last fall but has met her teacher only a few times. She has plenty of schoolwork to do, including book reports and her favorite, art projects.

She gets her assignments online through the Ohio Virtual Academy, which she attends along with her sister Therese, seven, and brother Gabriel, 5, from the dining room table at home.

If Madeline, 9, were a traditional home-schooled student, her mother, Gretchen, would be instructing her (her father, Mark, works full time outside the home). But even though Mrs. Nelson believes home schooling is best for her children, she does not feel capable of teaching them.

"I don't have any training," said Mrs. Nelson, who majored in English in college but never got her degree. "I wasn't sure what they should be learning and at what age."

Read the entire article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/29/technology/circuits/coll29clas.html>

##

Class of 2003: All smiles

By JANE RIDER of the Missoulian



Michael Ringstad displays the mask he wore to keep his head stationary while receiving radiation and chemotherapy treatments for cancer when he was 9 years old. Ringstad, now 19, will graduate from Sentinel High School on Saturday, cancer free and planning for his future.

Photo by MICHAEL GALLACHER/Missoulian

Sentinel teen's path to graduation included battling cancer

Michael Ringstad was nine and a third-grader at Lowell Elementary School the spring that beadlike lumps appeared on his neck.

It was 1993 and he had recently recovered from a series of streptococcus infections. Initially, his swollen neck prompted doctors to think he was suffering from the mumps. But

when the swelling increased and spread to just above his abdomen, including the lymph nodes under his arms, doctors removed one of the nodules to have it tested.

The results showed cancer. Within 90 minutes, Michael was on a plane to Children's Hospital in Seattle and immediately began chemotherapy. The quick action was necessary, his mother Wanda Boggess recalled, because if the cancer had reached his lungs it would have been unstoppable.

Read the complete article at:

<http://www.missoulian.com/articles/2003/06/05/news/local/news02.txt>

##

St. Vincent Foundation receives Bair grant to provide care to children

The Charles M. Bair Family Trust has awarded a \$25,000 grant to the St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation to support the Leave No Child Behind Healthcare Fund.

The fund is designed to improve healthcare services for children throughout the south-central Montana region. The grant from the Charles M. Bair Family Trust will specifically provide free medical and dental care through the Care Mobile to children in need, with added support for children living in Meagher and Wheatland Counties.

Read the article at:

<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2003/05/14/build/health/z-health-digest.inc>

##



Like to help *PLUK*? Go shopping!

That's right, go head and buy something for yourself — from Amazon.com, eBay, Dell or any of the internet's most popular shopping sites. First join by visiting this link:

<http://www.iGive.com/PLUK>. Every time you shop at one of the over 410 name-brand stores in the Mall at iGive.com, we will receive a donation of up to 25% of each purchase you make, at no cost to you.

Remember, donating to **PLUK** will not cost you a thing. We will miss a lot of extra dough, if you do not join. So, visit <http://www.iGive.com/PLUK> now. Membership is free and your privacy is guaranteed.

Joining and shopping is easy! Visit <http://www.iGive.com/PLUK> now!

##

Transition/Employment/Housing/Advocacy:

FINDING GOOD JOBS - Advice for Job Seekers with Learning Disabilities

In a recent interview, Dr. Sheldon H. Horowitz, Director of Professional Services at the National Center for Learning Disabilities, gave valuable insights for people with learning disabilities who want to improve their potential in the workplace.

<http://rd.bcentral.com/?!ID=836922&s=11667406>

##

POST SECONDARY RESOURCES

"Auxiliary Aids and Services for Postsecondary Student with Disabilities: Higher Education's Obligations under Section 504 and Title II of ADA" can be found at:

http://www.ldonline.org/ld_indepth/technology/auxiliary_aids.html

"How to Help Your Youth Prepare for College" is available from the www.schoolsuccessinfo.org web site:

http://www.schoolsuccessinfo.org/downloadkit/school_college.pdf

##

With Open Arms: Embracing a Bright Financial Future for You and Your Child

Easter Seals and the National Endowment for Financial Education® (NEFE®) have collaborated to create a 72-page financial planning booklet for parents, caregivers, grandparents or others involved in the care of child with a disability. Included is information on estate planning, finding the right lawyer or knowledgeable financial planner, wills, special-needs trusts, government benefits, savings options insurance plans and other available resources.

<http://www.easterseals.com/vol/5/2/nefe.htm>

Easter Seals also has a list of questions to ask Day Service Providers:

http://www.easterseals.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ntl_jte_provider&s_oo=ZBU5SOhfe_2PLhYs3lnipg.

##

Transportation Solutions for Caregivers: A Starting Point (another resource from Easter Seals)

http://www.easterseals.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ntl_trans_care&s_oo=ZBU5SOhfe_2PLhYs3lnipg.

##

Transition Timeline for Children and Adolescents with Special Health Care Needs

This resource from Adolescent Health Transition Project provides a simple visual overview of the process along with short descriptions of age or appropriate parent/child interactions that encourage independence. The Adolescent Health Transition Project web site has two different versions of the timeline – one for children with developmental disabilities or delays and one for children with chronic illnesses and/or physical disabilities. The timelines are available for download in PowerPoint format at:

http://depts.washington.edu/healthtr/Timeline/timeline_instr.htm.

The site also offers an Adolescent Autonomy Checklist to help you keep track of your child's skills at home, in the community, leisure time, and for the future. The checklist is available in Word format at <http://depts.washington.edu/healthtr/Checklists/intro.htm>.

Paper copies of the timelines and/or checklists are available from the project office. Adolescent Health Transition Project, Box 357262, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, 206.685.1358 (voice), <http://depts.washington.edu/healthtr> (web), healthtr@u.washington.edu (e-mail).

##

Online Classes for Blind and Visually Impaired

The Iowa Department for the Blind's Project ASSIST program has obtained a grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) to develop a distance-learning program that will offer instructor led classes for blind and visually impaired users of computer software. The classes will focus on the Microsoft Office Suite. The instruction and information provided will focus on keyboard commands, operational strategies for screen access software, and information uniquely relevant to blind and visually impaired computer users.

The classes offered through the Project ASSIST program are designed to provide instruction on Microsoft Office software to blind and visually impaired individuals in preparation for the Microsoft Office Specialist certification exams. We will offer the following courses: Windows XP, Internet Fundamentals, Word – Core, Excel – Core, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, Word – Expert, & Excel – Expert.

Priority for enrollment will be given to blind or visually impaired individuals who are clients of state Vocational Rehabilitation programs. A minimum requirement for all students is proficiency with the computer keyboard.

To be considered for the fall 2003 classes, your application packet must be received no later than June 30.

For further information or to receive an application packet, contact:

Michael D. Barber, Telephone: (515) 281-1305

E-mail: barber.michael@blind.state.ia.us, and place the words "Application Packet" in the subject line.

Visit our web site at <http://www.blind.state.ia.us/assist> where you may obtain more information. An application will be available for download.

##

Technology/Web/Resources:

I.E.P. Pop-Up

<http://www.ncld.unco.edu/HVoriginals/Advocacy/Popup/popup.html>

Feeling disenfranchised? Tired of showing up at your child's IEP and leaving dazed, confused, and frustrated? Or, feeling like every time you make a suggestion, you hit a brick wall? Click on the boxes below to find responses you can use to common "hurdle talk" - words and attitudes that keep the IEP meeting from being successful - as you are advocating for your child's needs. Become empowered, learn the laws and understand your rights to advocate for a communication driven education for your child!

##

AT YOUR DESK

...a free online seminar series designed to help web stakeholders deliver successful web interactions and take control of their websites. All you need is a web browser and a phone! Check out the WatchFire website at <http://www.watchfire.com/news/seminars.asp>.

##

Biomechanics, Zero Tension Mouse™, and Cumulative Injury.

<http://www.zerotensionmouse.com/inDepth.asp>

A few years ago Dr. Michael Leahy defined the cumulative injury cycle and explained why soft tissues like nerves and muscles became injured with repetitive motion. Until this time, the standard treatments were ultrasound, electrical stimulation, massage, and nerve and muscle stretching. In general, the problem was not resolved.

Then came Active Release Techniques® and all of a sudden surgeries were no longer needed and in general the problems were fixed in short order. Dr. Leahy then worked on how to prevent repetitive motion injuries from happening. He formulated the law of repetitive motion and defined the four factors involved in these injuries. The one factor that could be minimized was tension on the tissues or "relaxation" of the muscles. If the muscles could be relaxed during the activity but still maintain function then the problem could be avoided and the employer would still be happy with production.

With the Zero Tension Mouse™ all of the muscles of the hand, arm and shoulder/neck can relax and do so more effectively than with any other device in the world. In fact, nothing else comes close.

##

Freeware and Shareware Tools on the Internet

<http://www.classroomtechnology.org/Freeshareware.html>

Topics include:

- Cursors
- Drawing, Coloring and Creating
- Educational Games and Programs
- E-Text (Electronic Text)
- Graphics
- Graphic Organizers
- Internet Sites
- Keyboarding
- Modification Checklists
- Mouse Skills
- On-Screen Keyboards
- Operating System Changes
- Sign Language
- Text-To-Speech
- Tools

##

Dr Huggie Bear web site

Dr. Frank Barnhill is a Board Certified Family Physician who has practiced in upstate South Carolina for over twenty years. His website, <http://www.drhuggiebear.com> is sort of like having a Family Doctor at the click of a mouse! Barnhill's drhuggiebear.com is your source for common sense medical answers and solutions to life's little ups and downs.

Dr. Frank offers a free newsletter that includes timely information on ADHD, depression, work and personal stress, family health, drugs, success in life, classroom skills, and tips on raising children. Plus Subscribers have easy access to Dr. Frank by email at:

drfrank@drhuggiebear.com.

##

The San Francisco Symphony (SFS) welcomes you to the SFS Kids' Site.

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

We love music and are committed to music education, within our community and beyond. This website, in conjunction with our live performances, provide a great way for people of all ages to hear, learn, and have fun with music.

Consider this site your premier web destination for learning about music -- that's why it's here! And, if you'd like to share this site with others, send them a postcard.

We hope you enjoy the SFS Kids' Site and we encourage you to visit time and time again!

##

What is Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act?

"On August 7, 1998, President Clinton signed into law the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998, which covers access to federally funded programs and services.

"The law strengthens section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and requires access to electronic and information technology provided by the Federal government. The law applies to all Federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology. Federal agencies must ensure that this technology is accessible to employees and members of the public with disabilities to the extent it does not pose an 'undue burden.' " –U.S. Access Board

For further information on Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, see:

- [Section508.gov \(Federal Accessibility Initiative\)](http://www.section508.gov/), <http://www.section508.gov/>
- [U.S. Access Board Web Site](http://www.access-board.gov/about/Rehab%20Act%20Amend-508.htm), <http://www.access-board.gov/about/Rehab Act Amend-508.htm>
- [Department of Justice 508 Web Site](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/508/508home.html), <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/508/508home.html>

Summer Activities/Support Groups

Summer reading Resources for Parents and Kids

The International Reading Association has a very good list of Resource for Teachers and Parents http://www.reading.org/links/lit_tp.html

The Reading Rainbow pages at PBSKids have some terrific examples of books written and illustrated by children. Go to the Contest.

<http://pbskids.org/readingrainbow/index.html>

<http://www.spaghetlibookclub.org> is a fun site where kids can go to read book reviews written by other children. They can submit their own book reviews, too.

<http://www.americaslibrary.org> is another great resource for parents to explore with their children.

##

NAMI, Billings, June 24 & July 1

Separate groups for both family members and consumers. Meet at 1645 Ave D Ste G from 7:00-8:30pm.

##

Heart Hugs, Billings

Support group for parents, relatives and friends of children with congenital heart defects; located in the basement conference rooms of Deaconess Billings Clinic. For more information, contact Holly Evig at 245-8025 or Laura Ungefug, 652-6944.

##

Eagle Mount needs horseback riders, Bozeman

Eagle Mount is looking for volunteers to help children and adults with disabilities enjoy horseback riding.

The nine-week program begins on June 16, and volunteers are needed for 90 minutes each week. Orientation will be Thursday, June 12. For information, call 586-1781.

##

Training/Workshops/Conferences:

New Trainings added to the list:

- *"The Management and Control of Refractory Seizures Utilizing VNS Therapy™ in People with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Particularly Those Who are in Independent Care Facilities (ICF'S)." July 16 and August 14, online*
- *"DEMYSTIFYING THE FEDERAL ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: ADAAG, UFAS, FHA, ETC.", JUNE 17, AUDIO CONFERENCE*
- *Anger Management, June 23 – July 28, Billings*
- *Echoes of Abuse: Traumatic Brain Injury, October 30-31, Billings*

##

Healthy Sexuality for the Developmentally Disabled, June 10, Billings

Ruthann Bertram is the Health Education Coordinator of the Springfield, IL Planned Parenthood. The workshop will be an opportunity for families and professionals to learn about sexuality issues and proactive strategies for individuals with developmental disabilities. Cost is \$150. Register by June 1 to guarantee a space. For more information and registration, contact IMPP at 248-3636.

##

Voting: Everyone Must Have a Voice, Tuesday, June 10, 1:30 – 3:00 PM EST

<http://www.tash.org/tc03/#Voting>

Voting is a basic right of all Americans that many people with disabilities do not exercise. It is critical for citizens with disabilities to have a voice and express self-determination through participating in the voting process. Members of The Voters Education Project (a project designed and conducted by self-advocacy leaders) will discuss the importance of voting and ways to overcome barriers to voting, including guardianship and cognitive, attitudinal, and physical accessibility.

##

TASH Teleconference Series on Education, June 11 – July 2

TASH is pleased to announce an exciting new series of Telephone Conferences on issues related to *"Quality Education in the General Education Classroom for Students with Significant Disabilities."*

This series provides innovative information for special education and general education teachers, administrators, related services providers, parents, advocates and anyone else who is working to provide quality education for students with significant disabilities in general education classrooms.

Session Titles/Lead Speakers:

1. *Issues in Effectively Supporting Students with Disabilities in General Education Classrooms (Douglas Fisher; June 11)*

2. How to Move The System: Elements and Skills Necessary for an Inclusive School Environment (June Downing; June 12)
3. Student-Led Individualized Education Plans (Jacqueline Thousand, Ann Nevin and Ida Malian; June 17)
4. The Effects of Pull Out on Community and Learning (Carol Tashie; June 19)
5. Relationships Between Academics, Diplomas and Employment (Lou Brown, Anne Smith and Michael Wehmeyer; June 24)
6. How Do We Continue the Movement Toward Inclusive Education? (Jamie Ruppman; June 25)
7. Getting Informed About Alternate Assessment (Diane Browder; June 26)
8. Achieving a Quality Education for Our Sons and Daughters with Significant Disabilities in the General Education Environment (Judy Gran and Mark Hall; July 2)

The teleconference speakers are all leaders in the development, and implementation of quality supports in general education classrooms for students with significant disabilities. Speakers include university professors, advocates, attorneys, and parents.

Complete descriptions of each session with speaker information, as well as dates and times, can be found on the TASH web site at <http://www.tash.org/tc03ed>.

Sessions are conducted over the telephone. No special equipment is needed. Each session will last for 90 minutes. The session will include the presentation and designated time for questions and answers with the presenters. Each registrant will receive call-in instructions and handouts for each session via email or fax. *Registrants who are unable to attend on the scheduled date will have the opportunity to call in and listen to the session at their convenience within a designated period following that session.*

To register for the teleconferences online go to <http://www.tash.org/tc03ed> or you can call 410-828-8274 ext "0" (east coast business hours) and we will be happy to register you over the phone.

For more information about TASH go to the website at <http://www.tash.org>.

##

"Preparing for Post-Secondary Education", June 12, Billings

Sponsored by Montana State University's Disability Support Services, June 12, Billings, MT. Call Trudy Carey at 406-657-2283.

##

"Handwriting without Tears," REGION III CSPD, June 12, Billings

Katrina Erickson, O.T.R., MSU-Billings. To register call 406-657-2312, or register online at <http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister>

Handwriting Without Tears® (HWT) is the easy way to teach pre-printing, printing and cursive! The strategy was developed by Jan Z. Olsen, OTR, an occupational therapist and handwriting specialist. She has more than 25 years of experience helping children and training teachers and therapists. HWT is an inclusive method for teaching children of ALL ability levels. Children love it. It does not take any special training to teach the Handwriting Without Tears method. Parents and new teachers enjoy the simple and clear directions that make it easy to help children. Experienced teachers appreciate the innovative techniques and limited preparation needed to have great success with the entire class. More information about the program can be found in the "HWT Method."

<http://www.hwtears.com/>

##

Power Mobility Camp in Missoula June 16-20

Each day of this weeklong camp features two-hour sessions where various powered mobility systems will be discussed and tried. There is no age limit. Cost is \$50 per individual. For more information, contact Mary O'Connell at 800-732-0323.

##

Treatment of Anxiety in Children and Adolescents, June 15-17, Billings

The Montana Association of School Psychologists, PLUK and LDA are sponsoring the MASP Summer Institute with Philip C Kendall, Ph.D., ABPP, Director of the Child and Adolescent Anxiety Disorders Clinic at Temple University, June 15-17 at the Mansfield Health Education Center in Billings. Cost is \$110-\$145. A limited number of Parent scholarships will be available through PLUK. Contact the PLUK office for the informational brochure with registration form.

##

Community Lifespan Respite provider training, Billings, June 17

Refresh yourself with the basics of First Aid and CPR from noon to 1:00pm. Call Tami Haan by June 13 to register, 869-3031.

##

"Paraeducator Academies", REGION V CSPD, June 17-18, Missoula & Kalispell

Region V has an online registration website. Sign on at <http://www.cspd.net>. Once you have signed on, you will receive information about upcoming trainings in our region.

June 17-18 • **Paraeducator Academies** • Missoula 2-day Academy: Choice of Orientation to Special Education, Behavior Management, or Instructional Technology.

June 17-18 • **Paraeducator Academies** • Kalispell 2-day Academy: Choice of Behavior Management or Instructional Strategies

Sign up on the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site at <http://www.cspd.net> or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##

"DEMYSTIFYING THE FEDERAL ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: ADAAG, UFAS, FHA, ETC.", JUNE 17, AUDIO CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the Great Lakes ADA and Accessible IT Center. For additional information and/or to register go to:

<http://www.adagreatlakes.org>

##

COGNITIVE COACHING 8 Day Foundational Seminar, June 23-26 & August 4-7, Polson

Part 1 Days 1-4, June 23-26, 2003

Fee: \$300 (includes text and learning guide), Kwa Taq Nuk Resort, Polson, MT

Part 2 Days 5-8 (requires completion of Part 1), August 4-7, 2003

Fee: \$250, Kwa Taq Nuk Resort, Polson, MT

Instructor: Elaine Meeks, Training Associate, Center for Cognitive Coaching

Two graduate credits are available from the University of Montana for each part of the training (four credits). Fee: \$115 for two credits.

All trainings are limited to 40 persons. District or agency sponsored trainings can also be arranged.

For more information, contact: Elaine Meeks at (406) 883-5850 or emeeks@polson.k12.mt.us

##

Anger Management, June 23 – July 28, Billings

The Family Tree Center in Billings is sponsoring a six-week class on Anger Management for parents and guardians only. The session will be Mondays from 5:30-7:00pm. Please call to register and reserve your spot in childcare, 252-9799.

##

North West Rocky Mountain Regional Irlen Conference, June 25-26, MSU-Billings

Educational Psychologist, Helen Irlen, first identified Irlen Syndrome while she was working with adult-learners in California in the early 1980s. She observed that some of her students read with greater ease when they covered a page of print with a Coloured overlay. The patented treatment-method uses specially formulated, coloured overlays or coloured lenses worn as glasses or contact lenses to reduce or eliminate perception-difficulties.

The conference will give Irlen Method users, their families, co-professionals, and Irlen professionals the opportunity to learn together and from each other.

Contact Sally Keele, P.O. Box 546, Billings, Montana, 59103. She can be reached at 406-245-0989, or on email at salkee@180com.net for information or registration material. Learn more about the Irlen method at <http://www.irlen.com>.

##

National Deaf Women United Conference from June 28th to July 2nd, 2003 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

<http://www.dwsf.org>

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to attend the ninth National Deaf Women United Conference from June 28 to July 2, 2003 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This conference promises to be an exciting opportunity for Deaf and Hard of Hearing women from across the nation to unite; and share their experiences and support with each other. You have heard the famous saying, "United We Stand...Divided We Fall." This philosophy represents the basis of our organization, and we encourage you to be a part of it!

##

Sensory Integration Tool Kit Workshop, Billings, June 30 – July 1

<http://www.ateachabout.com/Workshops1/Workshops.htm>

Do you need some tools to address SENSORY INTEGRATION and CHALLENGING classroom behaviors in INCLUSIVE classrooms? The *Tool Kit*™ workshop helps administrators, psychologists, regular ed. teachers/special ed. teachers/OTs/PTs/SLPs and parents to collaborate with one another. This workshop will be presented at MSU-Billings; cost will be \$150 for professionals with reduced rates for students, parents and others. Cost will include the SI Tool Kit. The presenter will be **Diana Henry, MS, OTR/L** founder and president of Henry Occupational Therapy Services, Inc. She opened her clinic specializing in sensory integration (SI) in 1984. She has since been developing occupational therapy (OT) programs for various school districts in Arizona, emphasizing a collaborative model.

STEP and CSPD Region III sponsor this training. For more information, call STEP at 248-2055 (<http://www.step-inc.org>) or Deb Miller at 657-2312 (<http://www.msubillings.edu/mtcd/>).

##

IntelliTalk II Workshop, July 10-11, 9AM - 4PM at Museum of the Rockies

This workshop will help you use IntelliTalk II as a curriculum tool. You will have access to the Museum and all its collections.

Just imagine gathering information from the museum and using it to create an IntelliTalk II activity about dinosaurs, or kites, or Native American history, or planets!

Not only will you learn about IntelliTalk II, you will learn a process to decide when, where and with whom you should use this valuable technology tool.

This workshop is intended for persons who are currently using IntelliKeys and IntelliTalk II. You will need to bring your own computer. Optional equipment to bring: IntelliKeys, Digital Camera (with proper cables, batteries etc.) Cost is \$100/person (includes museum pass). Register by May 30 and pay only \$90/person!

For more information contact: Terry Lankutis, LankutisT@aol.com, or 406-388-7831.

##

"The Management and Control of Refractory Seizures Utilizing VNS Therapy™ in People with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Particularly Those Who are in Independent Care Facilities (ICF'S)."

July 16, 2003 from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Continuing Medical Education (CME) accreditation will be offered, and a blue-ribbon panel of experts will be presenting and moderating these sessions. And, you will be able to interact with these experts on line to respond to any questions you might have. You can register through EP (<http://www.eparent.com>) to participate.

To view more details of the seminar, please click on this link:
<http://www.eparent.com/webinar/>

##

Social, Emotional and Academic Skill Development for Children, August 4-5, Grand Forks ND

Dual Tracks for Asperger Syndrome and Classical Autism

GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA, August 4-5, 2003, Ramada Inn and Conference Center

Speakers: Jeanette McAfee, M.D., Amelia Davies, M.F.A., Elisa Gagnon, M.S.Ed., Cynthia VanHorn, M.S.Ed., Michele Mullendore, M.S.Ed.

Conference goals:

- Understand the implications of social and communication skills inadequacies
- Develop and apply ABA techniques at school and at home
- Develop strategies to strengthen imagination and visual thinking
- Design appropriate classroom strategies to improve social understanding and acceptance in the classroom
- Implement interventions to support the social/emotional development of individuals with ASD and improve relationship building skills

For more information, visit <http://www.asperger.net/conferences.htm>

##

Digital Media as a Teaching and Learning Tool, August 5-8, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Looking for a fun workshop this summer? Here it is...

Sandra Nykerk, a naturalist and photographer, will share her knowledge of photography and of Yellowstone Park. *Terry Lankutis*, an education and technology consultant, will share her knowledge of how to integrate iMovie and iPhoto into the curriculum.

This workshop is collaboration between the Yellowstone Association Institute, and Ms. Terry Lankutis. We will be based out of the conference room at the Yellowstone Institute Education Center in Gardiner, Montana, at the North entrance to Yellowstone Park. Individuals are more than welcome to register. However, it is suggested you register in groups of 3-4 people as the course is designed for you to work as a team. Cost is \$275/person. Receive \$20 off registration fee for bringing your own Macintosh computer capable of working with iMovie and iPhoto).

For more information contact: Terry Lankutis, LankutisT@aol.com, or 406-388-7831.

##

"Severe Communication /Autism Conference", REGION V CSPD, August 11-13, Whitefish

"Together We're Better", REGION V CSPD, August 13-15, Missoula

"Paraeducator Academies", REGION V CSPD, August 18-19, Kalispell

Region V has an online registration website. Sign on at <http://www.cspd.net>. Once you have signed on, you will receive information about upcoming trainings in our region.

August 11–13 • **Severe Communication /Autism Conference** • Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish. This second annual conference includes workshops on TEACCH, Sensory Integration Toolkit, Assistive Technology, and Asperger Syndrome. Sponsored by NWCASE.

August 13–15 • **Together We're Better** • Region V CSPD 's sixth Annual August Institute, UM Education Building, Missoula. Get geared up for the new year with strategies to help you work with all students. Workshops on Reading & Literacy, low incidence disabilities, behavior, differentiated learning, legal issues, early childhood, social skills, paraeducator academies, transition, and more.

August 18–19 • **Paraeducator Academies** • Kalispell 2-day Academy: Choice of Behavior Management, Instructional Strategies, or Student Supervision.

More information Sign up on the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site at <http://www.cspd.net> or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##

"The Management and Control of Refractory Seizures Utilizing VNS Therapy™ in People with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Particularly Those Who are in Independent Care Facilities (ICF'S)."

August 14, 2003 from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Continuing Medical Education (CME) accreditation will be offered, and a blue-ribbon panel of experts will be presenting and moderating these sessions. And, you will be able to interact with these experts on line to respond to any questions you might have. You can register through EP (<http://www.eparent.com>) to participate.

To view more details of the seminar, please click on this link: <http://www.eparent.com/webinar/>

##

Positive Approaches to Solving Severe Behavior Challenges, Billings, Aug 19-22

The IABA and Bitterroot Valley Education Co-op, MSU-Billings and OPI are sponsoring four seminars to promote positive practices in the field of challenging behavior. Visit http://www.iaba.com/brochures/billings_flyer.pdf for more information.

##

National Down Syndrome Congress, August 22-24, Philadelphia PA

<http://www.ndscenter.org/newsAndEvents/convention03/convention.html>

As you think about your summer plans, I hope that high on your list is participating in the National Down Syndrome Congress' 31st annual convention in Philadelphia.

When I look back over the past thirty years at the life of my son, Todd, I see that my dreams and hopes for him were often conceived or shaped by individuals I met and heard at national events. In addition, those occasions were key in helping me figure out concrete next steps and strategies to make the dreams become reality.

This year's NDSC convention features outstanding speakers including self-advocates, parents with professional expertise, and committed professionals. Their presentations will cover the life span. Whether your child is an infant, toddler, school age, young adult, or mature adult, there will be many choices for you.

Participants tell us they are especially inspired by the involvement and example of the self-advocates whom you will see as leaders in all parts of the convention.

The NDSC is committed to making the convention as affordable as possible for families. By carefully managing our costs and through the generosity of our speakers who donate their time, we are able to keep the cost of registration low for a national convention of this scope and quality.

Whatever the age of your family member or student with Down syndrome, you are sure to find both information and inspiration at our convention August 22-24.

I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Judy Mart, President

##

Social, Emotional and Academic Interventions for Students with High-Functioning Autism and Asperger Syndrome With a Special Session on Bullying Preventions, October 3 & 4, Boise ID

<http://www.asperger.net/conferences.htm>

Speakers: Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D. & Rebekah Heinrichs, MSN, M.S.Ed.

CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

- As a result of attending this conference, participants will be able to:
- Understand the characteristics of Asperger Syndrome
- Understand and implement sensory interventions
- Implement academic, social and behavioral interventions that facilitate school success
- Teach hidden curriculum items to their students
- Understand how to prevent bullying from occurring in schools

##

Echoes of Abuse: Traumatic Brain Injury, October 30-31, Billings

The Brain Injury Association of Montana and Billings Area Family Violence Task Force are sponsoring the 14th annual McGuire Memorial Conference on Family Violence to be held in Billings.

##

Fun Events:

NAMI, Billings, "We Love Our Members" potluck BBQ, June 17

Call 256-2001 for more information.

##

BEACH PARTY, Billings – June 28

PLUK will be hosting a Beach Party at Lake Elmo in Billings on Saturday, June 28, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Come join us for a fun day of water activities and games. Other local organizations will also be involved. Concessions will be available. For information or if you are interested in volunteering, contact Bernice Hash, 255-0540.

##

Winter Carnival, July 26, Billings

PLUK, along with the Centennial Ice Arena are planning the second annual *Winter Carnival* for the afternoon of July 26 from 1 - 4pm. Activities include: free skate, ice painting activities and event, snowman making contest, and others. It was great fun coming in out of the heat and enjoying the coolness of ice and snow. For details on the event or if you would like to volunteer, call PLUK's office at 255-0540.

##

Blue Jack Band Benefit, September 20, Bozeman

The Bozeman area Associate Board is planning a benefit concert on September 20 featuring *The Blue Jack Band*. *The Blue Jack Band* plays a wonderful mix of jazz and blues and has broad national recognition. In recent years they opened for legendary blues performer B.B. King and others. Further details on locations, times and other announcements will come soon.

Call PLUK's office if you are interested in being involved, 255-0540.

##

Missoula Children's Theatre Tour, October 5-11, Kalispell

The Flathead Valley Associate Board is working on a fall event. They have been meeting regularly and finalizing details at this time. It will involve a weeklong project for children to perform a play in the Kalispell area. The dates are October 5 through the 11th. This event will link up with the Missoula Children's Theatre. The Theatre will send staff to Kalispell to handle the auditions, training and direction for the entire week. For more information or to be involved with the event, call Stephanie Luehr, PLUK's representative in Kalispell at 881-4421. Details and plans on the event will be provided and there are presently positions to be filled on the planning committee. Volunteers are needed.

##

Dinosaur Day with Jack Horner, October 11, Billings

Jack Horner, Paleontologist from Montana State University in Bozeman will join PLUK on October 11 in Billings for two events. Kids can "get their hands dirty" in learning about the world of Paleontology through many fun activities are being planned during the day. That

evening, a dinner (with limited seating) is planned and Mr. Horner will speak about "Dinosaurs in Montana."

For information on the event, call PLUK's office at 255-0540. Participation in both the workshop for kids and the dinner is limited and tickets must be purchased to attend.

##

Halloweek, late October, Billings

Halloweek is sponsored by the Billings Associate Board and includes a weeks worth of activities leading up to Halloween. If you would be interested in planning or volunteering, contact Bernice Hash at the PLUK office, 255-0540.

##

Magical Tymes Party, November 11, Missoula

The Missoula Associate Board third annual "Magical Tymes Party" has been scheduled for November 11. Deborah Hayes Hyde is the Chair of the event and Ramona Holt is chairing the Sponsorship Sub-Committee. For the last two years, this event has been held in conjunction with a play at the Missoula Children's Theatre. In addition to the play, participants may attend a "wine and cheese party" and a silent auction. This year the play is *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Originally produced in 1968, the musical was revised with the current version starting a record setting run on June 12, 1991 at the London Palladium. It was written by Andrew Lloyd Webber, famous for *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, *Evita* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Companies and groups are now lining up to sponsor the event and the committee assures us that it will be the best to date, by far! For more information on how to be involved, call PLUK's office at 800 222-7585 and we can put you in touch with the planning committee.

##

Be sure to mark your calendar with these future events:

- Kids at Heart Banquet, February 7, 2004, Billings
- Sports Festival, March 2004, Billings

##

Selected Sources:

- *Monday Morning in Washington, DC*, <http://www.inclusionresearch.org>
- *Rocky Mountain DBTAC*, <http://www.adainformation.org>
- *Transition Newsflash*, Montana Center On Disabilities, <http://www.msubillings.edu/transition>
- *PEN Weekly NewsBlast*, <http://www.publiceducation.org>
- *Reference Points: Transition updates from the TATRA Project*, <http://www.pacer.org/tatra/tatra.htm>
- *Lisa Simmons, The Ideal Lives Express*: <http://www.ideallives.com>
- *The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar* <http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm>

##

PLUK eNews is published by:

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Mission Statement: Parent's Let's Unite for Kids unites parents, professionals, families and friends of children with special needs to support one another, and share information for the benefit of their children.

Vision Statement: Given information and support, individuals with disabilities and their families will feel empowered to advocate for themselves and participate fully in educational and community opportunities.

Statement on accessibility: Today, we endeavor to be conscious of the need for making all electronic information accessible, because we are aware of physical accessibility issues in our communities. For design guidelines visit: <http://ncam.wgbh.org/cdrom/guideline/>.