



Julie Beckett speaking to PLUK staff

Welcome to PLUK's electronic newsletter!

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

Highlights:

- PLUK eNews September 22, 2004..... 1
- Daschle's Blessing Allows Conference on IDEA Reauthorization Measure to Proceed*..... 2
- Free Children's Tickets Available to the NILE Rodeo, October 13, Billings* 3
- "Blue Coupon Book" Now on Sale in Billings*..... 3
- Parent Support Group meeting in Kalispell September 30* 3
- New Support Group Starting in Missoula September 28*..... 3
- ROC Wheels in Bozeman*..... 3
- Special Needs Technologies: An Administrator's Guide* 4
- Looking for families to participate in research study*..... 4
- An ADA Guide for Local Governments* 4
- Cingular offers handset for blind* 4
- PUBLIC, PARENTS POLLED ON LEARNING DISABILITIES; WARNING SIGNS OFTEN IGNORED* 4
- ELEVEN TIPS TO HELP PARENTS CREATE SAFER SCHOOLS* 5
- Study: ADHD Costs Americans \$77 Billion in Lost Income*..... 5
- Easter Seals Project Action: Transportation Resources* 5
- Apple Products at the User Group Store* 5
- PLUK trainings and activities planned for 2004-05**..... 6
- Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana:** 7
- Introduction to DynaVox Series 4 Seminar, September 23, Billings* 7
- Brain Injury Association Conference, September 24-25, Butte*..... 7
- Evergreen Spina Bifida meeting in Butte, September 25*..... 7
- Strengthening the Adoptive Family, September 27, Helena* 7
- MCASE Fall Conference: Closing the Achievement Gap in Reading, September 28, Helena*..... 7
- New Support Group Starting in Missoula September 28*..... 8
- Parent Support Group meeting in Kalispell September 30* 8
- Session 1: Alternative Math Techniques-What To Do When Nothing Else Seems to Work, October 7, Missoula - October 8, Kalispell* 8
- EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK, October 8-9 & November 5-6, MSU-Billings*..... 8
- Lifespan Respite Training, October 19, Billings* 8
- SENSORY-INTEGRATION TOOL Kit for TEENS & SCHOOL-BASED SENSORY ASSESSMENT, October 21, 22, Missoula* 9
- PARAEDUCATOR ACADEMIES, October 21-22, Missoula* 9
- Quantum Learning for Teachers, October 21 & 22, Helena* 9
- Classroom Instruction That Works, October 21-22, Glendive at Dawson County High School*..... 9
- 2004 MEA-MFT Educators' Conference, October 21-22, Helena* 9
- "HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?" 2004 Statewide Early Childhood Conference, October 21-23, Hellgate Elementary School, Missoula* 9
- Parent Expo, October 23, Missoula* 9
- WHAT'S NEW FROM INTELLITOOLS, October 26, Polson* 10
- Guided Practice using IntelliTools Products (Session II), October 27-28, Polson* 10
- Asperger Syndrome Support Group, November 11, Billings*..... 10
- Focus on Decoding: REWARDS, November 29, Kalispell*..... 10
- Focus on Decoding: REWARDS, November 30, Missoula* 10

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Ideas! Ideas! Ideas! The Teacher's Toolbox for Differentiating Instruction, January 18, 2005, Missoula - January 19, 2005, Kalispell</i> | <i>10</i> |
| <i>Session 2: Managing the Mathematics Classroom, February 3, 2005, Missoula - February 4, 2005, Kalispell</i> | <i>11</i> |
| <i>Effective Reading Interventions, February 22, 2005, Missoula - February 23, 2005, Kalispell ..</i> | <i>11</i> |
| <i>Working with Angry and Resistant Youth: Strategies for Fostering Hope and Resilience, March 1, 2005, Polson.....</i> | <i>11</i> |
| <i>Montana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference, April 13-15, 2005, Billings.....</i> | <i>11</i> |
| <i>Step Up to Writing- A Key to Academic Success, April 25-26, 2005, Missoula</i> | <i>11</i> |
| <i>Step Up to Writing- A Key to Academic Success, April 27-28, 2005, Kalispell.....</i> | <i>11</i> |
| <i>Session 3: Getting Students Past the "Gatekeeper" Courses in Math-Creating Success in Pre-Algebra and Algebra, May 5, 2005, Missoula - May 6, 2005, Kalispell</i> | <i>11</i> |
| Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana:: | 12 |
| <i>Accessible Textbooks in Schools: A State and National Progress Report, September 23, Teleconference.....</i> | <i>12</i> |
| <i>Public Transportation for People with Disabilities Web cast, September 24</i> | <i>12</i> |
| <i>Understanding and Influencing Health Care Systems for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, September 30, Colorado Springs.....</i> | <i>12</i> |
| <i>Defeat Autism Now! fall conference, October 1-4, Los Angeles</i> | <i>13</i> |
| <i>ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND MENTAL RETARDATION, October 4-5, Denver CO</i> | <i>13</i> |
| <i>World Congress and Exposition on Disabilities, October 7-9, 2004—Orlando, FL.....</i> | <i>13</i> |
| <i>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ART, EDUCATION AND DISABILITY, October 10-13, New York</i> | <i>13</i> |
| <i>Series on Cortical Visual Impairment beginning October 8, Webcast.....</i> | <i>13</i> |
| <i>Seizures & Epilepsy Education (S.E.E.), October 16-17, Idaho Falls, ID.....</i> | <i>14</i> |
| <i>Closing the Gap, October 21-23, Minneapolis MN.....</i> | <i>14</i> |
| <i>Fetal Alcohol Spectrum and Related Neurobehavioral Disorders, October 28-29, Riverside CA... </i> | <i>14</i> |
| <i>ICDL Eighth International Conference, November 3-7—DC Metro Area.....</i> | <i>14</i> |
| <i>"Assistive Technology and Accessible Media in Higher Education", November 9 -12, Boulder, CO</i> | <i>14</i> |
| <i>TASH Conference 2004, November 18-20, Reno NV.....</i> | <i>15</i> |
| <i>Third National Symposium on Dispute Resolution in Special Education, December 2-4, Washington DC</i> | <i>15</i> |
| <i>Learning Disabilities Association 42nd Annual International Conference on Learning Disabilities, March 2-5, 2005—Reno, NV</i> | <i>15</i> |
| <i>Autism One Conference, May 26-29, 2005, Chicago IL</i> | <i>15</i> |
| <i>RESNA's 28th International Conference on Technology & Disability, June 25-27, Atlanta GA</i> | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Selected Sources::</i> | <i>17</i> |
| PLUK eNews is published by: | 17 |

Daschle's Blessing Allows Conference on IDEA Reauthorization Measure to Proceed

CQ TODAY – EDUCATION, Sept. 21, 2004 – 10:39 p.m., By Bill Swindell, CQ Staff

After four months of wrangling, the Senate agreed Tuesday night to enter into conference negotiations with the House on legislation that would reauthorize the main federal education program for the nation's 6.6 million disabled students.

Senate Democrats had refused to agree to a unanimous consent request to go to conference with the House on legislation (S 1248) to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act until they received assurances they would have a meaningful role in crafting the final bill. The Senate passed the measure May 13 by a 95-3 vote.

The breakthrough came after Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., signed off on an agreement for conference negotiations reached between Judd Gregg, R-N.H., and Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., the chairman and ranking member, respectively, of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. Gregg and Kennedy are the main sponsors of the Senate bill.

Every HELP Committee member has been appointed as a Senate conferee. The House is expected to name its conferees soon.

Kennedy had fought for significant input in the GOP-led conference on issues such as teacher qualifications, procedural safeguards for students, and federal enforcement actions to ensure that states uphold the law, more commonly known by its acronym, IDEA.

"I'm confident that this will be a very, very successful conference," said Senate Minority Whip Harry Reid, D-Nev.

The law (PL 105-17) — first enacted three decades ago and last rewritten seven years ago — is as much a civil rights law as an education package. It guarantees that special-needs children are able to obtain a free public education in the "least restrictive environment." The IDEA measure also is the vehicle for billions of dollars in federal assistance to states and school districts, with \$10.1 billion allocated in fiscal 2004.

The Senate bill has a few significant differences compared to a House-passed version (HR 1350). The House passed its bill in April 2003 by a 251-171 vote.

The Senate bill maintains a requirement in the law that school officials consider whether a disciplinary infraction resulted from a student's disability. The House bill requires no such determination.

The Senate bill would give parents a two-year time limit to file lawsuits against schools for not providing services required under the law, while the House bill would provide a one-year time limit. The Senate bill also would allow up to 15 states to apply for a waiver to reduce the paperwork educators are required to file under the law. The House would allow 10 states to apply for such a waiver.

Senate Democrats have blocked two other bills — a charitable giving measure (HR 7) and the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (HR 1261) — from going to conference with the House because of similar concerns that their views would be disregarded during final negotiations.

But lawmakers and aides said the IDEA bill had the best chance of the three for clearing Congress this year because Gregg and Kennedy had conducted a sober and respectful debate that contrasted with previous, more divisive IDEA reauthorizations. Aides said the two lawmakers were mindful of demands placed upon parents and teachers of special-needs children and kept partisan sparring at a minimum.

In addition, education groups such as the American Association of School Administrators and the National School Boards Association pressured Daschle and Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., to reach an agreement to send the bill into conference.

Free Children's Tickets Available to the NILE Rodeo, October 13, Billings

PLUK has a limited number of children's tickets for the NILE Rodeo on October 13. Call Bernice at the PLUK office 255-0540 if you are interested.

"Blue Coupon Book" Now on Sale in Billings

PLUK is selling the Billings Area Preferred Savings Guide commonly call the "blue coupon book." The books sell for \$20.00 each and contain 285 coupons for fast food, area restaurants, stores, hotels, car washes, oil changes, etc. Buy one for yourself and extras for gifts.

If you are interested in purchasing a coupon book please contact Bernice at 255-0540.

Parent Support Group meeting in Kalispell September 30

All parents are invited to the first meeting at the Summit in Kalispell Thursday Sept 30th at 7pm. Future meetings 2004 will be Oct 28 & Nov 18th. For information, contact Stephanie at 756-6159.

New Support Group Starting in Missoula September 28

Missoula HOPE ABC is a support group for parents which will be starting this fall. If you would be interested in helping plan the initial meetings, or if you want to be notified of the first meeting, please contact Melanie Martin-Dent, mmartindent@yahoo.com or 406/546-7006.

The name stands for "Helping Other Parents of Emotionally and Behaviorally Challenged Children". We are beginning with our first support group meeting Tuesday, Sept. 28, from 6:30-8:30 pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, at the corner of Reserve and Sunset Lane.

ROC Wheels in Bozeman

ROC builds wheelchairs for people in developing countries. They go to different countries and personally fit wheelchairs.

Some of the individuals, mostly children, have never been out of bed or been mobile. They have been to Jamaica, Kenya, are currently in Ukraine, going to Peru in Nov., Gaza in Dec. and Nepal and Kenya next year.

THEY ACCEPT USED WHEELCHAIRS FOR REFURBISHING.

To learn more, go to their website at <http://www.RocWheels.org> or phone 556-8065/fax 556-8065.

Special Needs Technologies: An Administrator's Guide

By Terry Lankutis

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires every school to provide its special needs students with whatever technologies are necessary for a "free and appropriate education." Yet many schools struggle with the task of identifying which technologies will actually work for this population of students. Outside consultants can provide technical knowledge and experience, but they may not know all the details of a particular student's needs, and parents or school personnel may feel a solution has been forced on them without their input. A better, and often less expensive, solution is for school leaders to develop a systematic process that considers the input of all stakeholders, calling upon the expertise of the entire Individual Education Plan team and outside expertise as needed. The following steps will help you implement a collaborative, long-term approach to selecting assistive technology, whether you are starting from scratch or analyzing the effectiveness of your current procedures.

To read the entire article, visit:

<http://www.techlearning.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=47204593>

Looking for families to participate in research study

I am a doctoral student at the Boston University School of Education in the department of Special Education, doing research for my dissertation. My research entails looking at the social interactions of parents and their children in homeschools. The population of children that I am studying is children who have ADHD-inattentive type and/or hyperactive type. My interest in this population of children stems from the struggles that my own son, now aged 21 has endured his entire school experience, and the hope that my research will help other children who deal with similar obstacles.

All children in the study must be homeschooled, between 7-12 years old, and diagnosed to have ADHD-inattentive type and diagnosed by a physician, a psychologist, school officials or according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-TR-IV-R). Additionally, neither the parent nor child can have another special needs diagnosis nor any psychiatric illness or disorder. Each child and parent who participates in the study will receive remuneration. Please contact me either by phone or e-mail if you know any families who would be interested in participating in my research.

Esta M. Rapoport

61 Cowdin Circle

Chappaqua, New York 10514

Phone-914-241-3147

Cell Phone-914-629-4225

Erapoport1@aol.com

An ADA Guide for Local Governments

Making Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities

One of the most important roles of local government is to protect their citizenry from harm, including helping people prepare for and respond to emergencies. Making local government emergency preparedness and response programs accessible to people with disabilities is a critical part of this responsibility. Making these programs accessible is also required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

For more information, visit <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/emergencyprep.htm>

Cingular offers handset for blind

By Peter J. Howe, Globe Staff September 17, 2004

In a first for the US cellphone industry, Cingular Wireless LLC yesterday began offering a handset specially designed for blind and vision-impaired people, with software that can convert virtually everything on the phone screen -- including text messages -- to synthesized speech.

Read the complete story at:

http://www.boston.com/business/markets/articles/2004/09/17/cingular_offers_handset_for_blind/

PUBLIC, PARENTS POLLED ON LEARNING DISABILITIES; WARNING SIGNS OFTEN IGNORED

According to a poll from the Coordinated Campaign on Learning Disabilities (CCLD), working with the nation's seven leading organizations focusing on these important issues, Americans say they are concerned about learning disability issues among young children. But, both the general public and parents of young children are often misinformed about the signs that identify learning disabilities among children and feel that kids will "grow out of" the problems. In fact, learning disabilities can be addressed, especially if identified at an early age, but they are permanent. In addition, Americans say they are concerned that standardized testing in the nation's public schools does not adequately account for the one in 10 children who have some form of learning disabilities.

<http://www.focusonlearning.org/pollingrelease.htm>

ELEVEN TIPS TO HELP PARENTS CREATE SAFER SCHOOLS

Because a safe school is key to helping students achieve, KSA-Plus Communications and the National Crime Prevention Council have teamed up to release "11 Tips to Help Parents Create Safer Schools." This is the latest in a series of KSA-Plus tip sheets that help parents become more effective advocates for their children and partners with their schools. Among the safety tips: Help your child identify the early warning signs of violence; and work with other parents to develop standards for school-related events. 11 Tips, as well as other parent-friendly publications, can be ordered for free at:

<http://www.parents.ksaplus.com/framesplpubs.html>

Study: ADHD Costs Americans \$77 Billion in Lost Income

Reuters Health, By Dena Aubin, Friday, September 10, 2004

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder costs Americans suffering from the condition about \$77 billion in lost income a year, more than the total costs of drug abuse or depression, a Harvard researcher said on Thursday.

Usually considered a childhood disorder, ADHD also affects about 8 million U.S. adults and is linked to job loss, lower income, higher divorce rates and more driving accidents, said Dr. Joseph Biederman, professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

"It has been shocking to me when we calculate the economic impact of this condition," said Biederman, speaking at an American Medical Association briefing in New York. "ADHD is one of the costliest medical conditions that we have."

By comparison, the direct and indirect costs of drug abuse are estimated at \$58.3 billion a year, depression about \$43.7 billion, and alcohol abuse about \$85.8 billion, he said.

About 3 to 5 percent of adults suffer from ADHD and most do not know they have it, he said.

"Unless someone asks the key questions to make a diagnosis, diagnosis is impossible," he said.

Researchers' figures were based on the lower incomes reported by ADHD sufferers compared with the general population and estimating the number of Americans with the disorder.

Read the complete article at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_20024.html.

Easter Seals Project Action: Transportation Resources

America is home to more than 54 million people with disabilities who work, play, shop, vote, pursue an education, raise families, and volunteer in their communities. In 1990, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the civil-rights law that ensures individuals with disabilities access to employment, education, state and local government programs and services, businesses, telecommunications, and public transportation.

Congress originally commissioned Easter Seals Project ACTION in 1988 as a research and demonstration project to improve access to public transportation for people with disabilities. With the passage of the ADA two years later, our goals expanded to help transportation operators implement the law's transportation provisions.

Check out their web site for transportation resources: <http://projectaction.easterseals.com>

Apple Products at the User Group Store

PLUK is an Apple User Group and you may visit the MUG store for special deals. This month's highlights include:

- * Brand new 15" PowerBooks with Combo for only \$1499 (US)
- * Factory Refurbished iPods starting at \$179 (US)
- * Brand new custom-configured iBooks with Combo for only \$1188 (US)

PLUK eNews September 22, 2004

* An exclusive \$100 (US) rebate on any installed RAM in selected new Macs!

Don't forget our huge blowout and specials section, including great deals on Bose speakers, Apple software and more!

Remember, always free freight, great deals on new and a huge selection of used Macs, plus 1 percent back to your PLUK when anyone buys from the store.

Password for 8/1/2004 - 11/30/2004

User ID: xserve / Password: raid

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

PLUK trainings and activities planned for 2004-05

PLUK associate boards around the state are sponsoring a number of trainings and activities this coming year. Mark your calendar if you are interested in participating.

Go to <http://www.pluk.org/training> for more detailed information and registration.

Statewide Interactive Videoconferences

- October 12, 6-8pm, "The Process of Transition," airing from Helena
- November 9, 6-8pm, "Issues in Hearing and Vision," airing from Great Falls

Other Training Activities

- September 28, "Closing the Achievement Gap In Reading- A Step by Step Process," with BJ Wise, Helena
Sponsored by MCASE in collaboration with PLUK
Contact Julie Sykes at samjs@sammt.org for registration information.
- October 14, all-day workshop on "Bullying: What We Know and What We Can Do," with Marlene Snyder, Missoula
- October 18, all-day workshop on "Special Education in Montana," with Kathleen Manley Coburn, Kalispell
- November 1, all-day workshop on "Staying Cool When Our Buttons are Pushed," with Doug Cochran Roberts, Kalispell
- November 3, all-day workshop on Assistive Technology with Roger Holt, Bozeman
- November 10, all-day workshop on Assistive Technology with Roger Holt, Great Falls

Other Community Activities

- October 3-9, Theater Experience for Kids, Kalispell, contact Stephanie Luehr at 406/756-6159
Sponsored by the Flathead Valley Associate Board.
- October 8 Old Time Variety Show and Silent Auction, contact Val Burgan at 406/771-6011
Sponsored by the Great Falls Associate Board.
- October 26, Magical Tymes party, Missoula, contact Deborah Hayes Hyde at 406/543-8405
in conjunction with Missoula Children's Theatre production of Beauty and the Beast.
Sponsored by the Missoula Associate Board.
- February 19, 2005, Sports & Recreation Festival, Rocky Mountain College Athletic Building, Billings. Contact Dennis Moore at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540.
Sponsored by the Billings Associate Board.
- May 13, 2005, Kids at Heart Gala with a performance by the *Mid Life Chryslers*, Sheraton-Billings, call Dennis Moore at the PLUK office, 406/255-0540
Sponsored by the Billings Associate Board.

Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana::

Introduction to DynaVox Series 4 Seminar, September 23, Billings

Tanya Rose Curtis of Augmentative Communication Solutions will present a half-day seminar on September 23 at Billings Clinic Room #3 from 3:00-7:00pm.

Introduction to DynaVox Series 4 training will provide an overview of the key hardware and software features of the DynaVox Series 4 products, the DV4, MT4, and the Page Editing Software. In addition, this training includes an overview of the hundreds of pre-made communication pages that the Series 4 products contain. These pages effectively address a wide range of physical, cognitive and language needs.

Contact Tanya at Aug Com Solutions, 800-853-0310 or AUGCOMSOL@cs.com.

Brain Injury Association Conference, September 24-25, Butte

BIAM cordially invites you to attend this year's state conference. We are especially excited about the caliber of speakers we have this year and being able to offer CEUs to professionals. Our 3 headline speakers will be talking about substance abuse and brain injury, the use of pharmaceuticals and the effects on people with brain injuries, and Cognitive Behavior Therapy with the brain injured. We have a variety of additional presentations for professionals, survivors/thrivers and family members as well as other activities and entertainment for all.

For information, visit: <http://www.biamt.org/conference/conferenceInfo.html>.

Evergreen Spina Bifida meeting in Butte, September 25

Evergreen Spina Bifida Association promotes well being, education, and socialization of all people affected by Spina Bifida and fosters public awareness of this birth defect. ESBA serves the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska.

Members of the Evergreen Spina Bifida Association are adults or children with spina bifida, parents, friends, relatives, and professionals with an interest in this spinal tube birth defect.

The Butte meeting is at Sliver Bow pizza, 3500 Harrison Ave on September 25 from 6pm-8pm. Everyone is invited. Come to talk or learn, teach and just not feel alone in what we our going through.

For more information, contact Paula Christensen, 406/683-4793.

Strengthening the Adoptive Family, September 27, Helena

Sponsored by Intermountain Children's Home and Services.

This conference features Sharon Kaplan Roszia, MS, and Allison Davis Maxon, MFT of the Kinship Center in Santa Ana, California <http://www.kinshipcenter.org> who will provide innovative therapeutic techniques to help address the specific needs of the adoptive family.

Conference topics include:

- Adoptive family development
- Strengthening family attachment
- Interventions to increase emotional intelligence within the adoptive family

This conference will assist practitioners and parents in understanding the effects of adoption on a child throughout their life. The seminar will also involve a look at sibling issues, disruptions and therapeutic interventions.

Discounted registration is available for families and students. For more information contact Intermountain Children's Home and Services at 406.442.7920, or 800.200.9112. The conference registration brochure is available online at <http://www.intermountain.org>.

MCASE Fall Conference: Closing the Achievement Gap in Reading, September 28, Helena

This one-day workshop reviews current reading research and best practices which lead to significant improvement in reading achievement. It covers the issues of forming a school reading leadership team, increasing communication about reading, the importance of fidelity of implementation of the core reading program, providing in-class and out of class interventions, increasing parent involvement, grouping for instruction and creating a positive school climate.

B.J. Wise, M. Ed, is currently Director of Professional Development for the Western District of Sopris West Educational Services. B.J. has been a teacher, special education coordinator, principal and Assistant Superintendent for the state of Washington. She works with schools throughout the country on raising

reading achievement and creating positive school climates. She was a National Distinguished Principal and has received the Washington State Award for Excellence in Education.

Parents may register through the PLUK office for a limited number of scholarships. Call Sheryl at 800-222-7585.

Contact Julie Sykes at samjs@sammt.org for registration information.

Download brochure at: <http://www.sammt.org/04fallmcasebrochure.pdf>

New Support Group Starting in Missoula September 28

Missoula HOPE ABC is a support group for parents which will be starting this fall. If you would be interested in helping plan the initial meetings, or if you want to be notified of the first meeting, please contact Melanie Martin-Dent, mmartindent@yahoo.com or 406/546-7006.

The name stands for "Helping Other Parents of Emotionally and Behaviorally Challenged Children". We are beginning with our first support group meeting Tuesday, Sept. 28, from 6:30-8:30 pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, at the corner of Reserve and Sunset Lane.

Parent Support Group meeting in Kalispell September 30

All parents are invited to the first meeting at the Summit in Kalispell Thursday Sept 30th at 7pm. Future meetings 2004 will be Oct 28 & Nov 18th. For information, contact Stephanie at 756-6159.

Session 1: Alternative Math Techniques-What To Do When Nothing Else Seems to Work, October 7, Missoula - October 8, Kalispell

Low-achieving students are often the least engaged in the learning taking place, especially when students, for whatever reason, don't respond to conventional methods of teaching. This workshop focuses on a collection of tips, advice, and new concepts to use with your struggling math students after everything else has failed. Topics included with the workshop will cover math concepts such as counting, distinguishing between odd and even numbers, telling time, and money skills, which help students learn to communicate mathematically.

To register or for further information please go to <http://www.cspd.net>.

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK, October 8-9 & November 5-6, MSU-Billings

MSU-Billings 2 credit course, SPED 493-593

Instructor: Ms. Terry Lankutis LankutisT@aol.com (406) 388-7831

Location: MSU-Billings Campus, Billings, MT

Dates: October 8-9, November 5-6, November 12-13

Registration Information: cpsinfo@msubillings.edu (406) 896-5890

Prerequisites: none

Course description

This course introduces IEP Team members to a student centered decision-making process used to identify individual student need for assistive technology. Many IEP teams are unsure how to address the issue of assistive technology in an IEP. By implementing this process, teams find they reach consensus, save money and struggling students find more success in the general education classes. Using case studies from their own situation, participants will

- 1) Learn the difference between assistive technology and instructional technology
- 2) Be introduced to the student centered decision-making process
- 3) Define assistive technology and IEP requirements
- 4) Identify local and national resources
- 5) Match individual student need to appropriate technology
- 6) Identify different types of non-tech, low tech and high tech as possible solutions for a target student

Groups of IEP team members and general educators are encouraged to attend. OPI renewal units are also available.

Lifespan Respite Training, October 19, Billings

Caregivers need a break for health and happiness. It is called respite. Trainings are held the third Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00 PM at the STEP office, 1501 14th St W, Ste 210. Trainings are offered for free and include a light lunch, but you must RSVP to Tami Haan at 896-3031.

October 19 - "Autism Spectrum Disorders," by Jessica Rago and Lori Gaustad

PLUK eNews September 22, 2004

**SENSORY-INTEGRATION TOOL Kit for TEENS & SCHOOL-BASED SENSORY ASSESSMENT,
October 21, 22, Missoula**

Diane Henry – Missoula Participants will explore the sensory issues related to teenagers including the teen brain, sleep, thrill-seeking, hanging out and explore alternative sensory tools' to assist teens in healthy age-appropriate activities. Participants will also learn about school-based sensory assessments and their application in the school environment. Cosponsored with Montana OT/PT Organization.

Go to <http://www.cspd.net> for information and registration.

PARAEDUCATOR ACADEMIES, October 21-22, Missoula

Region 5 COTOP Trainers

October 21-22 Instructional Strategies, Orientation to Special Ed, Personal Growth- Missoula

Go to <http://www.cspd.net> for information and registration.

Quantum Learning for Teachers, October 21 & 22, Helena

8:00 AM to 3:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church; 535 N Ewing, Helena, MT

Quantum Learning is a synergistic approach to the learning process, integrating best educational practices and the latest in brain research into a unified whole. It has been proven to increase student achievement as well as improve student's attitudes toward learning. Teaches educators "how-to" facilitate the learning process, covering both theory and implementation. Includes a variety of practical teaching strategies, content delivery, curriculum design and learning skills.

For registration, contact Dorothy Millsop or Vaughn Kauffman at Prickly Pear Co-op, 406/227-7322; dmillsop@ehps.k12.mt.us. OPI renewal units will be available.

For information on the program, go to <http://www.quantumlearning.com/quantumlearninghm.html>.

Classroom Instruction That Works, October 21-22, Glendive at Dawson County High School

Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement

Presenting research findings of 9 broad teaching strategies that positively affect on student learning.

For more information, please contact Helen Murphy at 406-485-2143 (h) or dmurphy@midrivers.com

2004 MEA-MFT Educators' Conference, October 21-22, Helena

'Let the Light In: Teach a Child'

Registration information will be coming to MEA-MFT's K-12 local presidents after Labor Day.

For more information, go to: <http://www.mea-mft.org/edconf04.htm>.

**"HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?" 2004 Statewide Early Childhood Conference, October 21-23,
Hellgate Elementary School, Missoula**

This will be a three track conference for Early Care and Education Stakeholders, Parents, and K-3 Educators. An individual could earn as many as 23 hours of Training Credits, or Renewal Units, and some courses will be offering CEU's for those who desire college credits.

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

Parent Expo, October 23, Missoula

Parent Expo is an annual conference in Missoula that offers parents and community members an opportunity to attend workshops that help them strengthen their parenting skills and create positive learning environments in the home and family. Workshops are given by trained professionals.

In fall 2004, Parent Expo will be held in cooperation with the 2004 Montana Early Childhood Conference, which is scheduled Oct. 21-23 at Hellgate Elementary School. Both conferences are sponsoring keynote speaker Robin Karr-Morse on Friday evening, Oct. 22, at the University Center Theater. Parent Expo will be held Saturday, Oct. 23, at Sentinel High School.

The event will include three "micro-keynotes" in the high school theater, along with 10-12 smaller workshops in various classrooms throughout the day.

Registrants who have paid to attend the early childhood conference can attend Parent Expo workshops on Saturday, Oct. 23, at no cost.

In addition, spouses or family members who are in Missoula can attend both Friday's keynote lecture and Saturday's Parent Expo workshops for just \$8 (or just \$6 if attending only workshops on Saturday).

Child care is provided at no cost onsite to parents who attend Parent Expo workshops on Saturday. Children must be preregistered. No child care is available at Friday's Keynote lecture. Lunch will be for sale onsite during the Parent Expo on Saturday, Oct. 23.

The Expo is sponsored by MCPS Adult & Continuing Education, Families First, The Parenting Place, and Women's Opportunity and Resource Development, Inc.

Registration materials, including a list of workshops, will be available on Monday, Sept. 27, by calling Missoula County Public Schools at 406-728-2400, ext. 1024. You can also access registration materials online (in late September) at <http://www.mcps.k12.mt.us>. Workshops are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

WHAT'S NEW FROM INTELLITOOLS, October 26, Polson

Terry Lankutis- Polson- This workshop will provide an overview of the new products from IntelliTools. Persons attending this workshop will gain an understanding of the new Classroom Suite products from IntelliTools and how they compare to the previous products. They will also see examples of how to use these technology products in the general education classroom.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Guided Practice using IntelliTools Products (Session II), October 27-28, Polson

This two-day workshop is a continuation of Session I. Participants will share activities they have created for a student in their class. On the last day we will discuss ideas for implementing these products in a wide variety of curriculum areas as well as purchase options for those interested in wider implementation. Persons taking graduate credit are required to attend the "What's New from IntelliTools" session and both Sessions I & II of "Guided Practice using IntelliTools."

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Asperger Syndrome Support Group, November 11, Billings

Anyone whose life is affected by Asperger Syndrome is invited to attend these meetings.

Meetings are scheduled for November 11, January 13, March 10 and May 12 at 7:00 PM.

Meetings take place at: 17th Street Station, 1648 Poly Drive, Billings.

Contact Valerie at 245-1770 or Paula at 248-6186 for information.

Focus on Decoding: REWARDS, November 29, Kalispell

Focus on Decoding: REWARDS, November 30, Missoula

Many students falter in reading at the middle school level because they have not learned strategies to use in decoding longer words. This lack of advanced decoding ability affects fluency, comprehension and vocabulary achievement. This session will teach participants to use REWARDS, a multi-syllabic decoding program that has been well documented as an effective remedial strategy for students in grade 4-12.

The trainer, Dr. Feldman is the Director of Reading and Early Intervention with the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), Leadership Team Consultant for the California Reading and Literature Project and Independent Consultant in the area of PreK- 12 Literacy.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Ideas! Ideas! Ideas! The Teacher's Toolbox for Differentiating Instruction, January 18, 2005, Missoula - January 19, 2005, Kalispell

This session is filled with strategies, tips, tools, and techniques that are both highly effective and extremely practical in helping your students succeed. Specific strategies will help your students get organized, be accountable for results, compensate for difficulties and improve reading, writing, and math skills. Effective tools for positive behavior and building self-confidence will also be included. The focus is on high expectations and high standards for all students while differentiating instruction to meet the needs of diverse learners. The strategies suggested are time-efficient for the teacher and highly effective for students. This session is designed to include ideas for all content areas and will benefit general educators and special educators as well as paraeducators, other school support staff and administrators. These are the "nuts and bolts" strategies that you will take back and use immediately!

Session 2: Managing the Mathematics Classroom, February 3, 2005, Missoula - February 4, 2005, Kalispell

Managing a classroom so that time on task and student engagement in math are maximized is an art. Potential problems in the classroom involve motive and opportunity. You remove motive by keeping all students engaged, remove opportunity through careful planning and management of manipulatives and groups. This workshop focuses on how to organize and manage cooperative groups along with differentiating instruction to meet the needs of all learners. Effective management maximizes learning and minimizes behavior problems.

To register or for further information please go to <http://www.cspd.net>.

Effective Reading Interventions, February 22, 2005, Missoula - February 23, 2005, Kalispell

This is the second of a series of three workshops that focuses on specific research-based strategies and materials for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Working with Angry and Resistant Youth: Strategies for Fostering Hope and Resilience, March 1, 2005, Polson

This presentation focuses on factors that contribute to the creation of a positive school climate for both students and staff. Dr Brooks discusses these factors by outlining the key dimensions of the mindset of effective educators and other professionals including an appreciation of: (a) empathy and exercises to promote empathy, (b) our own memories of school as guideposts for what we do today, (c) the lifelong impact we have on children and adolescents, (d) the mindset of resilient youth, (e) the components of motivation, (f) the importance of a strength-based approach that identifies and reinforces each student's "islands of competence," and (g) specific interventions for fostering motivation, learning, self-discipline, self-esteem, cooperation, caring, hope, and resilience in students. Strategies will be shared for professionals and parents about how to strengthen their own "stress hardiness" so as to be less stressed and more effective in working with or raising these challenging youth.

Dr. Brooks is a clinical psychologist and faculty member at the Harvard Medical School. He also serves as an advisory board member of the Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder (CHADD). His most notable publication is The Self-Esteem Teacher. He spends most of his time conducting motivation, resilience, and self-esteem workshops nationally and internationally.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Montana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference, April 13-15, 2005, Billings

<http://www.mtcec.org/conference.htm>

**Step Up to Writing- A Key to Academic Success, April 25-26, 2005, Missoula
Step Up to Writing- A Key to Academic Success, April 27-28, 2005, Kalispell**

Step Up to Writing is a writing program which makes a dramatic difference in student success. This two-day workshop is designed for teachers who want to help struggling students learn to communicate in an organized and effective manner. Participants will leave the workshop with a wealth of strategies which motivate students as they significantly increase their academic success.

The trainer, Neilia Solberg, B.A., is a Step Up to Writing consultant for Sopris West Educational Services. Included in her years of teaching are elementary school and staff development in the language arts and content reading. Recent experience in Academic Achievement plans across the curriculum and grade levels as well as expanded responsibilities in coordinating instruction development.

For more information and to register online, go to the Region V CSPD web site: <http://www.cspd.net>.

Session 3: Getting Students Past the "Gatekeeper" Courses in Math-Creating Success in Pre-Algebra and Algebra, May 5, 2005, Missoula - May 6, 2005, Kalispell

Effective instruction, especially at the middle school level, is a critical component for laying the foundation for higher level mathematics. This one-day workshop focuses on the "big picture" concepts and those topics necessary for algebra success. By tackling the important topics and modeling the "big picture" concepts for students, teachers and students can "tear down" these roadblocks to algebra success.

To register or for further information please go to <http://www.cspd.net>.

Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

Accessible Textbooks in Schools: A State and National Progress Report, September 23, Teleconference

11:00 AM-12:15 PM Mountain Time

This teleconference will focus on current state and national initiatives to improve access to instructional materials for students with print disabilities.

Guest presenters, Steve Noble with the Kentucky Assistive Technology Service Network and Linnie Lee from the Kentucky Department of Education, will discuss Kentucky's roadmap to implementation of state legislation mandating the availability of accessible instructional materials in K-12 and post-secondary education settings. They will also touch on the differences between the Kentucky accessible materials legislation and that of other states around the country.

Guest presenter Skip Stahl with the National Center for Accessing the General Curriculum at CAST will comment on the recent landmark endorsement of the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) by the U.S. Department of Education. The voluntary standard will guide the production and electronic distribution of flexible digital instructional materials such as textbooks so they can be more easily converted to a variety of accessible formats, including Braille and text-to-speech.

The teleconference is free, but space is limited. Pre-registration for the teleconference is required by September 21, 2004. Register online at <http://www.pacer.org/workshops> or call the PACER Center at 952-838-9000 (voice); 952-838-0190 (TTY). Registered participants will be contacted via email or telephone with the teleconference call-in number and other necessary information. Captioning services will be provided by Caption Colorado. Please make accommodation requests at the time of registration.

Public Transportation for People with Disabilities Web cast, September 24

Please join The Disability Law Resource Project (DLRP) at ILRU for the Web cast "Public Transportation for People with Disabilities: Legal & Implementation Updates."

On FRIDAY, September 24, 2004 at 12:00-1:30pm Eastern; 11:00am Central; 10:00am Mountain; 9:00am Pacific; 8:00am Alaska; 6:00am Hawaii, Lex Frieden will host Michael Winter for this special Web cast.

Michael Winter is the Director of the Federal Transit Administration's Office of Civil Rights. He began his current assignment on November 5, 2001. Mr. Winter's office is responsible for the full range of Federal civil rights responsibilities as they apply to the Federal transit assistance program, including those under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Environmental Justice issues.

Lex Frieden, Chairperson of the National Council on Disability and the Director of ILRU will host this discussion.

During this Web cast, expect to learn about public transportation developments around the country including the latest on paratransit issues, calling out stops on fixed-route bus service, FTA assessments, complaints and litigation.

We expect a large volume of questions for this Web cast, so please try to email your questions ahead of time to webcast@ilru.org. Mr. Winter will address as many questions as possible during the broadcast. The Web cast, like all ILRU Web casts will be archived.

To link to this Web cast and download accompanying materials visit:
<http://www.ilru.org/online/calendar.html>

Understanding and Influencing Health Care Systems for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, September 30, Colorado Springs

Colorado's Family-to-Family Health Information Network presents the first annual family and community training event focusing on topics and issues related to the needs of families and providers who are involved with children with special health care needs. "Understanding and Influencing Health Care Systems for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs" will be held on September 30 in Colorado Springs from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Sara Kennedy at 719-634-2328 or SaraK17@aol.com.

Defeat Autism Now! fall conference, October 1-4, Los Angeles

Attending the 14th Defeat Autism Now! (DAN!™) Conference in Los Angeles will assure you of three experiences. First, you will be exposed to world-renowned researchers and clinicians who are at the forefront of effective treatment interventions for children with autism. Second, you will hear success stories from parents and meet their recovered children, and finally, you will feel the positive spirit driving and uniting parents, practitioners and researchers in the DAN!™ movement. There is no better forum than a DAN!™ conference for a parent or clinician to gain the insights and acquire the skills needed to bring about significant change in each individual child affected by autism.

For more information, visit <http://www.danconference.com/fallindex.html>.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND MENTAL RETARDATION, October 4-5, Denver CO

"Enhancing the Quality of Life for People with Cognitive Disabilities through Technology," the 5th Annual Meeting of the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities will be held from October 4-5 in Denver, Colorado. To learn more, visit <http://www.cu.edu/ColemanInstitute/2004conference.htm>

World Congress and Exposition on Disabilities, October 7-9, 2004—Orlando, FL

The WCD Foundation for Education offers 3 days, 5 tracks, and more than 75 sessions for this fifth annual event, covering healthcare, AT, family, adaptive PT and education issues. Keynote speakers include Tim Shriver, President of Special Olympics; Jim and Jill Kelly, founders of The Hunter's Hope Foundation; and Army Four Star General James "Tom" Hill, founder of EFMP. The conference is open to everyone; particularly to people with disabilities, family members and caregivers, healthcare professionals, and educators. CEU and CME credits are available. Registrations for single day or three-day conference includes a free pass to all special events. Not interested in conference sessions? Register by October 1st for a three-day free pass to the special events.

When: October 7-9, 2004

Where: Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL

Conference Session Registration Fees: \$65-\$520

Questions? Call 877-923-3976. Register on the web at <http://www.wcdexpo.com>.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ART, EDUCATION AND DISABILITY, October 10-13, New York

Sponsored by VSA arts and held in New York, New York. For more information go to: <http://www.vsarts.org/programs/institute/index.cfm>

Series on Cortical Visual Impairment beginning October 8, Webcast

Cortical Visual Impairment (or Cerebral Visual Impairment, CVI) is now the leading cause of vision impairment in very young children in the United States. It is a very complex vision disorder that is just beginning to be understood. Dr. Lea Hyvarinen, a world renowned pediatric ophthalmologist from Helsinki, Finland, has been working in diagnosis, evaluation and therapeutic interventions with young children with CVI. During this six-part Internet series, Dr. Hyvarinen will use lecture, PowerPoint visuals and videoclips. She will discuss how she evaluates a child with CVI, how she comes to understand the child's use of vision, and the interventions she uses to help the child learn to use vision for communication, orientation and movement, daily living skills, and sustained near vision tasks (e.g., reading).

Dr. Hyvarinen's lectures on CVI have been filmed and prerecorded at Utah State University. Each lecture will be posted on the website and made available for viewing starting on the dates and times listed below. Each lecture will remain posted on the Internet for the duration of the series and can be viewed at any time—assuring they can be viewed at times convenient to each participant. PowerPoint slides used by Dr. Hyvarinen during each lecture will be posted on the website so that participants may view/print them as desired.

- General Features and Symptoms of CVI, Friday, Oct 8, 2004 10 am Mountain Standard Time (MST), 1 hour
- Lecture 2: Pathways, Friday, Oct 15, 10 am MST, 1 hour
- Lecture 3: Visual Acuity and Contrast Sensitivity, Oct 22, 10 am MST, 1 hour
- Lecture 4: Visual Field and Spatial Awareness, Nov 5, 10 am MST, 1 hour
- Lecture 5: Vision for Communication, Nov 12, 10 am MST, 1 hour
- Session 6: Question/Answers, Nov 19, 10 am MST, 1 1/2 hours

For information/registration, go to <http://www.ksar.usu.edu/leacvi/>.

PLUK eNews September 22, 2004

Seizures & Epilepsy Education (S.E.E.), October 16-17, Idaho Falls, ID

For persons with epilepsy, family members, and parents of children with epilepsy in Idaho, Montana, Utah, & Wyoming

Only one patient and family education program in the U.S. has been shown in a Class I study to result in long term medical, psychological, and social benefits for persons who attend. Seizures & Epilepsy Education (S.E.E.) began 21 years ago as a part of the UCLA Comprehensive Epilepsy Program. S.E.E. has since grown to be national and international in scope. Over 20,000 people have attended S.E.E. presentations in four countries.

For more information, call 800 397-3605 or visit <http://www.theseeprogram.com>.

Closing the Gap, October 21-23, Minneapolis MN

Pre-conference sessions October 19-20

Closing The Gap's Annual Conference has an international reputation as a leading source for information on innovative applications of computer technology for persons with disabilities. The 2004 Conference builds on a tradition of providing a comprehensive examination of the most current uses of technology by persons with disabilities and the professionals who work with them.



Topics will cover a broad spectrum of technology as it is being applied to all disabilities and age groups in education, rehabilitation, vocation, and independent living. People with disabilities, special educators, rehabilitation professionals, administrators, service/care providers, personnel managers, government officials, and hardware/software developers will share their experiences and insights at what has become known as the most significant networking experience of the year -- the annual Closing The Gap Conference.

<http://www.closingthegap.com/conf/>

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum and Related Neurobehavioral Disorders, October 28-29, Riverside CA

Sponsored by Arc Riverside, California Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Organization and Arc California

Titled "On the FAS Track to Understanding," the conference will educate attendees about the characteristics, needs and diagnoses of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Who: Service providers in the health, social service, mental health, addictions treatment, education, and criminal justice systems should attend, as well as people and families living with this devastating disorder.

What: Attendees will learn about the barriers to services, interventions and practices that are known to be most effective. Attendees will also learn how to prevent "secondary disabilities" and prevent FASD itself. Finally participants will understand the heart of the issues by hearing personal experiences of individuals with FASD and their families.

Where and When: Join us at the Riverside Convention Center in Riverside California on October 28th and 29th 2004. The host hotel for this conference is the Riverside Marriott.

Invited speakers include: Ed Riley, David Boulding, Susan Doctor, Diane Malbin, Susan Carlson, Kathy Mitchell, Teresa Kellerman, Deb Evenson, Kay Kelly, and Stephen Neafcy

Fee: The Early Bird registration fee for attendees is \$150, before September 30th, 2004.

http://www.arcriverside.org/fs_pressrelease.html

ICDL Eighth International Conference, November 3-7—DC Metro Area

The Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders conference "Autism and Disorders of Relating and Communications, Reversing the Core Deficits: Progress and New Directions"

When: Preconference Workshops November 3-4, Conference November 5-7

Where: Hilton Mclean, Tysons Corner, Virginia (Washington, DC Metro Area)

Registration: \$295-\$430

Mail all registration details and payments to:

ICDL, 4938 Hampden Lane, Suite 800, Bethesda, MD 20814

For more information and Preconference details, please visit <http://www.icdl.com>.

"Assistive Technology and Accessible Media in Higher Education", November 9 -12, Boulder, CO

<http://www.colorado.edu/ATconference>

PLUK eNews September 22, 2004

The conference is presently seeking proposals and intends addressing:

- The beneficial implementation of Assistive Technology in post-secondary education for individuals with
 - physical, sensory, and learning disabilities;
 - ADA and Section 508 compliance; and
- Accessible university information, web, library, and media resources and services.

"This conference is intended for disability service providers in the post secondary setting, Assistive Technologists, faculty, Web designers and programmers interested in accessibility, special educators, college administrators responsible for legal policy related to disability and accommodation, rehabilitation counselors and persons with disabilities."

<http://www.colorado.edu/ATconference/coverview2004.html>

Kathy Martinez, Deputy Director of the World Institute on Disabilities, will be the keynote speaker. She is internationally recognized for her work with employment, gender and minority disability rights issues. Martinez oversees the National Technical Assistance Center for Latinos with Disabilities, and the NIDRR funded International Disability Exchanges and Studies (IDEAS) for the New Millennium Project.

TASH Conference 2004, November 18-20, Reno NV

The TASH conference is one of the largest and most progressive international conferences to focus on model, innovative, and effective strategies for achieving full inclusion of people with disabilities. This invigorating conference brings together some of the best hearts and minds in the disability movement with several hundred presenters and features over 450 breakout sessions, exhibits, roundtable discussions, poster sessions and much more, jam-packed with info. It provides a forum for individuals with disabilities, families, researchers, administrators, educators, scholars, and others to create dialogue and action for social and systems reform. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a conference with over 2500 other people from around the world (15 nations last time) which showcases national and local achievement and brings a global perspective to the community on issues of importance in the lives of people with disabilities and their families. For renewing the spirit, lifting the heart, and challenging the mind:



For more information and call for papers: <http://www.tash.org/>

Some of the more than 40 topics at the TASH Conference will focus on the following themes:

- Building Partnerships & Relationships, Communication
- Inclusive Education Across the Lifespan
- Transition, Community Living & Employment
- Diversity, Values, Equality, Advocacy & Ethics
- Quality of Life

Third National Symposium on Dispute Resolution in Special Education, December 2-4, Washington DC

CADRE will convene the Third National Symposium on Dispute Resolution in Special Education at the Academy for Educational Development in Washington, D.C. from December 2-4, 2004. As we get nearer to the event we'll provide you with additional details about the agenda and other logistics.

For some limited additional information, click here:

http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/2004_conference.cfm.

Learning Disabilities Association 42nd Annual International Conference on Learning Disabilities, March 2-5, 2005—Reno, NV

The largest learning disabilities conference in the world is coming to Reno, Nevada, and bringing more than 300 workshops and exhibits. Topics include: adult issues; medical research; health issues; workshops on early childhood, reading, classroom strategies etc.; and NIFL "Bridges to Practice."

When: March 2-5, 2005

Where: Nugget Hotel, Reno

Registration: \$75-\$230

Contact: <http://www.lidaamerica.org>

Autism One Conference, May 26-29, 2005, Chicago IL

<http://autismone.org/homepage.cfm>

RESNA's 28th International Conference on Technology & Disability, June 25-27, Atlanta GA

Research, Design, Practice, and Policy

Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA

- Pre-Conference Instructional Courses: June 23-24, 2005
- Full Conference Workshops: June 25-27, 2005

RESNA takes the 2005 Conference to Atlanta, GA, where assistive technology's leading researchers, renowned clinicians, and policy experts will create a conference program with unmatched levels of knowledge and expertise. RESNA presenters and attendees will experience a surprisingly intimate conference environment where:

- information is contemporary and innovative
- uncommon questions find in-depth answers
- sharing knowledge, ideas, and experiences is easy, and
- new connections last a lifetime.

How you can participate: Obtain proposal kits at <http://www.resna.org> and submit a proposal for a workshop or Instructional Course or Download an author kit and submit a paper for inclusion in the Interactive Poster Sessions or one of the student competitions!

Selected Sources::

1. Monday Morning in Washington, DC, <http://www.inclusionresearch.org>
2. Rocky Mountain DBTAC, <http://www.adainformation.org>
3. Transition Newsflash, Montana Center on Disabilities, <http://www.msubillings.edu/transition>
4. PEN Weekly NewsBlast <http://www.publiceducation.org>
5. Reference Points: Transition updates from the TATRA Project, <http://www.pacer.org/tatra/tatra.htm>
6. The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar <http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm>
7. Rural Policy Matters, <http://www.ruraledu.org/rpm/rpm.htm>
8. Technology for Nonprofits: <http://www.techsoup.org>

PLUK eNews is published by:

Parent's, Let's Unite for Kids – PLUK
516 N 32nd St
Billings MT 59101-6003
800-222-7585; 406-255-0540; 406-255-0523 (fax)
plukinfo@pluk.org
<http://www.pluk.org>



Edited by: Roger Holt rholt@pluk.org
Proofed & condensed by: Elisabeth Mills scribe@pluk.org

Feel free to *reprint* and pass on to others.

To be *removed*, just send a message to plukinfo@pluk.org with "remove" as the subject.

To be *added* to the list, send a message to plukinfo@pluk.org with your name/address/telephone and email address.

If you have activities, events, trainings, news or information you would like to *share*, send it to plukinfo@pluk.org.

- Please be aware that some links provided are *time sensitive*. Contact us if you have difficulty accessing any of the information.
- View an *archive* of all Weekly eNews at <http://www.pluk.org/eNews.htm>

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, as we are aware of physical accessibility issues in our community. For design guidelines visit <http://ncam.wgbh.org/cdrom/guideline/>.

Privacy Policy: We do not sell, rent, or lend the e-mail addresses of our subscribers.