



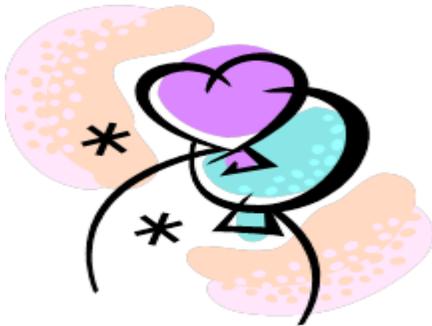
Family Resource Network

Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 23, Issue 1, Winter 2015 Edition

FRN's 17th Annual Mothers Retreat
is Saturday, February 7th.

Your Heart's Desire



The Mothers Retreat is an opportunity for mothers to come together to recognize and celebrate the challenges and joys of raising a child with special needs. We will be looking at what our hearts desire for our children, our families and ourselves. The Retreat will have fun activities, food and lots of opportunities for mothers to share their stories.

The Retreat costs \$10 for those who live in FRN's service area of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. It is \$20 for mothers who live outside of that region. Funding restrictions limit attendees to the **primary** female caregiver, be that mother, grandmother, aunt, etc.

The Retreat will take place from 9:30 to 3:00 on Saturday, February 7th at San Joaquin County Office of Education, 2707 Transworld Drive, Stockton, 95206. Mothers who have attended prior retreats have requested that this be a **child-free event**, so please, no children.

For moms who haven't attended before, please know that the Retreat is a great place to meet other moms who share similar experiences. New friendships have grown out of the Retreat.

The registration form is posted on FRN's website, www.frcn.org, and click on calendar, or call FRN staff at 209-472-3674 for more information.

We hope you can join us.

Attention All PRRS Families



Effective January 1, 2015 the eligibility criteria for California's Early Start program has been broadened. The new criteria means that your child, who is currently served through Family Resource Network's Prevention Resource and Referral Services, might now be eligible for Early Start services. In order to receive Early Start services your child will need to be assessed by staff from Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC).

You will be receiving in the mail a letter from FRN detailing how the Early Start referral process works. If you have concerns about your child's development and would like your child to be assessed by VMRC for possible Early Start eligibility please contact FRN staff and we will take your information and submit the referral to VMRC. You can contact FRN via phone (209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030), fax (209-472-3673), email (FRNfamilies@aol.com) or by coming into FRN's office (office hours: Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton, CA 95207). It will take about 10 minutes to gather the information we will need from you in order to make a referral to VMRC.

There is no requirement for you to have your child assessed by VMRC. It is totally parent choice. If at any time before your child's third birthday you have concerns about your child's development and would like your child assessed by VMRC for possible Early Start services just contact FRN staff and we can take your information and submit the referral to the Regional Center.

Your family will continue to receive information from Family Resource Network until you tell us otherwise. You will continue to receive FRN's newsletter and periodic phone calls from FRN staff.

If you have any questions about PRRS, the Early Start program or any other way that FRN can be of service to you please contact FRN staff.

Family Resource Network Newsletter
Winter 2015 edition
Printing 5,500 copies

EDITOR: Ann Cirimele

Production costs for Family Resource Network Newsletter are underwritten by grants from California's Early Start Program – Department of Developmental Services, Parents Helping Parents Prevention Resource and Referral Services funding and private donations. *FRN Newsletter* is distributed at no cost to families raising children with special needs in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties. The newsletter is posted on FRN's website. Scholarships identified in this publication are available only to families in FRN's service area. Scholarships may be limited to the specifications of the granting agency. Family Resource Network, Inc., is a parent directed 501 ©(3) non-profit corporation committed to providing information and support to families raising children with special needs in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties. Items printed in the *FRN Newsletter* are for information purposes only and may not necessarily reflect the opinion or endorsement by Family Resource Network or its underwriters. Direct questions or comments to:

Family Resource Network Phone: 209-472-3674
5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148 Fax: 209-472-3673
Stockton, CA 95207
Email: FRNfamilies@aol.com website: www.frcn.org

FRN Parent Scholarships Available

Family Resource Network has received an unrestricted grant of \$2,500 from the Stuart Foundation. FRN is using the funds to assist parents of special needs children within FRN's 5 county service area with registration fees to attend non-FRN conferences or workshops on topics related to children with special needs and their families.

This is a reimbursement scholarship which means that FRN reimburses the parent after the parent has attended the event. Parents wishing to access these scholarship funds should contact FRN **prior** to attending the event. FRN reserves the right to limit the number of scholarships for any specific event. Restrictions apply. For more information contact FRN staff.

Project



Click on "Resources" on www.frcn.org to see an updated listing of websites that address safety issues affecting people with disabilities including how to work with first responders.

Now in Manteca and Stockton... and even a Monday Sibshop!!



Sibshop is the recreational support group for **non-disabled siblings of children with special needs**, ages 7 through 13.

Manteca Sibshop:
Friday, January 23, 2015
6 to 8 p.m.

Manteca Unified School District Office
2271 W. Louise Ave.
Manteca, 95337

Stockton Sibshops:

First Time EVER!!!
Monday Sibshop
Monday, December 29, 2014
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Stockton Covenant Church,
1720 Oxford Way, Stockton, 95204

Saturday, February 28, 2015
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Stockton Covenant Church,
1720 Oxford Way, Stockton, 95204

Meet other siblings who have the same kinds of issues. There are games, crafts, discussion activities, food and lots of fun! There is no cost to attend.

Registration is required and must be submitted at least one week prior to event. Call 472-3674 or 800-847-3030 to request a registration packet.

The Sound of Music

FRN offers two musical play groups for young children with special needs and their parents. **Tikes and Tunes** is for children ages birth to 36 months who are served through Early Start or Prevention Resource and Referral Services (PRRS). **Preschool Posse** is for preschool age children who are receiving special education services through an IEP. Parents will learn how they can use music to enhance their child's development. Both groups are led by Karen Sanchez, MBA MT-BC, Music Therapist. We'd love to have you join us, but space is limited so be sure to register! Registration forms are on FRN's website or you can email or call FRN to register. Both groups meet at FRN's office, Sherwood Executive Center, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton.



Tikes and Tunes

A Musical Play Group for Infants and Toddlers in Early Start or PRRS

When: The first Tuesday of the month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Posse

A Musical Play Group for preschoolers receiving special education services



WHEN: Preschool Posse meets the third Tuesday of the month from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

No Musical Talent Required.



Don't forget to register!



All handouts and additional materials from **the 20th Annual Early Start Symposium** are now available on FRN's website, just click on Resources.

Free Workshop on Regional Center Fair Hearings

Katie Hornberger, Director of Office of Clients Rights Advocacy, Disability Rights CA, will present information on the Fair Hearing process through the Regional Center. There will also be information shared on the Self-Determination Program as well as the Regional Center's duty to provide information and services in a consumer's native language. This workshop is intended for adults with developmental disabilities or family members of a child or adult with a developmental disability. The workshop will take place **Tuesday, January 13th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at **San Joaquin County Office of Education, 2707 Transworld Drive, Stockton 95206.** Registration is required. To register contact Area Board 6 at 209-473-6930 or email Marigene.Tacan-Regan@dss.ca.gov with your name, email address and phone number.



Gov signs bill to ensure independent living services also offered to those living with their families

On September 18, 2014 Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill to reduce disparities between regional center services received by Caucasians with developmental disabilities and those by other ethnic groups. Authored by Sen. Carol Liu, the new law requires regional centers to:

- 1) offer independent living services to all adults who need them, including those who will continue to live with their families, the tradition in many cultures; and
- 2) report the steps they take to improve outreach to ethnic groups, including public meetings organized by the centers to ensure more people get the services they need.

Check FRN's website, www.frcn.org and click on "calendar" for updated information on trainings and events. Registration forms for FRN events are on the website.

Save the Date

Info on upcoming events:

Family Resource Network is working on a variety of workshops in the coming months. Registration is required for many of the events and registration forms are posted on FRN's website, www.frcn.org and click on Calendar or you can contact FRN staff at 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030.

- **January 27, 2015: The Birds, the Bees and Your Special Needs Child**, presented by Dr. David Demetral, offered in collaboration with San Joaquin County Office of Education, SELPA, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 2707 Transworld Drive, **Stockton**. Registration required.
- **February 25, 2015: Conservatorship for Your Adult Child with Special Needs** presented by Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law, offered in collaboration with Stanislaus County Office of Education's CAC, 6 to 8 p.m., 1100 H Street, **Modesto**, Registration required.
- **March 10, 2015: Financial and Estate Planning for Families of Children with Special Needs** presented by Frank Quacinella, Merrill-Lynch and Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law, offered in collaboration with San Joaquin County Office of Education, SELPA, **Stockton**, Registration required.
- **March 19, 2015: Financial and Estate Planning for Families of Children with Special Needs** presented by Frank Quacinella, Merrill-Lynch and Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law, offered in collaboration with Modesto City Schools' CAC, **Modesto**.
- **May 1, 2015: Annual CHOICES Institute**, San Joaquin County Office of Education, **Stockton**, registration required.
- **June 25, 2015: Conservatorship for Your Adult Child with Special Needs**, presented by Mark Drobny, Attorney at Law, offered in collaboration with San Joaquin County Office of Education, SELPA, **Stockton**, registration required.

Healing Hearts Society

Helping Families At Their Most Difficult Time



A wife who loses a husband is called a widow. A husband who loses a wife is called a widower.

A child who loses his parents is called an orphan. But...there is no word for a parent who loses a child, that's how awful the loss is.

Winston Churchill

Thanks to generous donors, Family Resource Network's Healing Heart Society is providing a much needed service to families in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties– that of providing financial assistance to families upon the death of their child with special needs. Since its inception in June of 2007, sixty-seven families have received financial assistance from the Healing Hearts Society.

Agencies throughout the region have let FRN staff know that the Healing Hearts Society is the **only** local source for this type of established assistance to families. We know that many families face serious financial difficulties due to the child's illness or disability. Families who have received Healing Heart Society funds have let us know that these funds are greatly appreciated.

The Healing Hearts Society is funded exclusively through private donations. Family Resource Network is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and donations are tax deductible. All donations to Family Resource Network's Healing Hearts Society are of tremendous assistance to families as they begin the healing process.

Donations may be made payable to Family Resource Network, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, Stockton, CA 95207. Please note on the check that the donation is for the Healing Hearts Society.



Sibling Resources

FRN has added numerous new sibling resources to the lending library. For more information go to www.frcn.org and click on Library or contact FRN staff at FRNfamilies@aol.com or call one of the numbers below.



FRN has received donations from:

- ♥ Dr. Michael and Kelly Carl
- ♥ Lisa Drake
- ♥ Robert Jones
- ♥ PEDS
- ♥ Veronica Romero
- ♥ And Anonymous Donors



Many thanks to those of you who have donated to FRN's Healing Hearts Society:

- ♥ Sue Allen
- ♥ Kathy Barnes



To the following for their volunteer efforts:

- ♥ Briana Arias
- ♥ Tyler Collier
- ♥ Ariel Correa
- ♥ Justin Dela Rosa
- ♥ Jenna Diller
- ♥ Kristine Foo
- ♥ Alex Gallardo
- ♥ Laurel Heinrich
- ♥ Anthony Huyah
- ♥ Kala Ketchie
- ♥ Julian Mata
- ♥ Nikki Mazzola
- ♥ Megan Montes
- ♥ Deanna Mychael
- ♥ Jester Ramos
- ♥ Cece Staggs

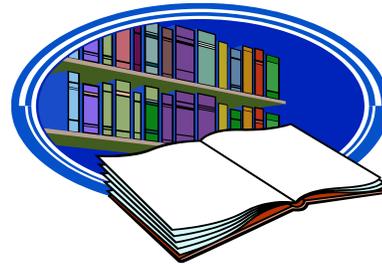
Congrats to the WINNER
of FRN's latest drawing:

♥ Emma Orozco



Want to be In The Know?

Send your email address to FRNfamilies@aol.com to receive email updates on topics of interest to parents of children with special needs. There is no fee to be on the email list and FRN does not share your email address with anyone, ever.



New Library Books

- A Principal's Guide to Special Education
- Beautiful Beginnings, A Developmental Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers
- Essentials of Transition Planning
- The New Transition Handbook (Strategies High School Teachers Use)
- Self Determination and Transition Planning

DVD

- Junior Blind's Infant & Early Childhood Program - iPad Curriculum for children with visual impairment

To borrow these or any other library resources go to www.frcn.org and click on library, or contact FRN staff at the numbers below.

IEP Workshops

Please note that these events take place at a variety of sites. Be sure to check the location of the workshop you are interested in. Flyers for these workshops are available at www.frcn.org and click on calendar. For more information call FRN at 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030.

Only Saturday IEP workshop this school year!!
Saturday, January 17, 2015 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: SCDD Area 6 Board and Family Resource Network • **Area 6 Board Office, Stockton**, 2529 March Lane, Suite 105, Stockton, 9:30 a.m. to noon, FREE, reservations are required.

Thursday, February 5, 2015– Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: SCDD Area 6 Board and Family Resource Network • **Doctors Medical Center, Modesto**, in the portables near the parking structure, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

Thursday, March 19, 2015– Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: SCDD Area 6 Board and Family Resource Network • **Lodi Public Library**, 6 – 8:30 p.m. FREE, reservations are required, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

Thursday, April 16, 2015 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: SCDD Area 6 Board and Family Resource Network • **Sonora EOC**, 18440 Striker Court, Sonora, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., FREE, reservations are required.

Wednesday, April 29, 2015 – Writing An Effective IEP for Your Child with Special Needs • Presenters: SCDD Area 6 Board and Family Resource Network • **Family Resource Network, Sherwood Executive Center**, 5250 Claremont Ave., Suite 148, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., FREE, reservations are required.

Disability Rights California's New Publication: My Child with a Disability Keeps Getting Suspended or Recommended for Expulsion

A new publication has been released for distribution entitled "My Child with a Disability Keeps Getting Suspended or Recommended for Expulsion", Pub #5563.01 - This handy 10 page publication will provide some basic information regarding your child's rights if he/she is being considered for suspension or expulsion and other related issues. This publication can be found on DRC's Special Education Publications page at the following link and will be translated into Spanish shortly: <http://www.disabilityrightscsca.org/pubs/PublicationsSpecialEducation.htm>

Update on the CA High School Exit Exam

Information compiled by CDCAN (CA Disability Community Action Network) website. For free reports go to their website: www.cdcan.us

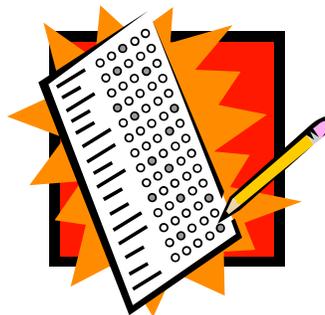
Governor Brown signed SB 267 that has the impact of extending indefinitely the existing exemption for eligible students with disabilities from the State requirement to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). This becomes law on January 1, 2015.

CDCAN SUMMARY OF BILL AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR:

Deletes the existing July 1, 2015 deadline and extends indefinitely the implementation date for the California Department of Education to provide an alternative means for an eligible student with a disability to demonstrate academic achievement rather than passing the California high school exit exam (CAHSEE). By extending that alternative means implementation deadline indefinitely, the current State law exemption allowed for eligible students with disabilities from having to pass that examination in order to receive a high school diploma is also extended indefinitely.

PDF DOCUMENT COPY (3 PAGES) OF BILL AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR:

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/sen/sb_0251-0300/sb_267_bill_20140919_chaptered.pdf



In a quiet way, you can shake the world.

M. Ghandi



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Office for Civil Rights

Parent Fact Sheet

What Are Public Schools Required to Do When Students with Disabilities Are Bullied?

What does a school have to do when a child with a disability is being bullied?

- School staff, parents, and other caring adults have a role to play in preventing and responding to all forms of bullying. If a student with a disability is being bullied, federal law requires schools to take immediate and appropriate action to investigate the issue and, as necessary, take steps to stop the bullying and prevent it from recurring.
- *Regardless of whether the student is being bullied based on his or her disability*, schools must remedy the effects of bullying on the services that the student with a disability receives (special education or other disability-related services) to ensure the student continues to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). Any remedy should not burden the student who has been bullied.

Does it matter if a child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plan?

- No. Some students with disabilities receive FAPE through an IEP developed

under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and others receive a plan developed under Section 504. If changes in a student's behavior or academic performance indicate that a student may not be receiving FAPE, the IEP or Section 504 team should meet to determine whether the student's educational needs have changed and the school must provide any needed additional services promptly to ensure the student's ongoing receipt of FAPE.

Where can I go for help?

- Go to www.stopbullying.gov, a federal website that provides helpful information and resources on bullying prevention and remedies.
- Ask to meet with the IEP or 504 team, the principal, or the district's Section 504 or Title II Coordinator if you believe your child is being bullied. Consider using your school's disability grievance procedures to have the school address your concerns.
- The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has issued a Dear Colleague Letter explaining what public schools must do under federal law to respond when students with disabilities are bullied. OCR investigates complaints of disability discrimination at schools. To learn more about federal civil rights laws or how to file a complaint, contact OCR at 800-421-3481 (TDD: 800-877-8339), or ocr@ed.gov. OCR's website is www.ed.gov/ocr. To fill out a complaint form online, go to <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/complaintintro.html>.