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.

“Attitudes are more important than facts.” ~ Karl A. Menninger

Highlights:

PLUK’s 3RD ANNUAL “SPORTS AND RECREATION FESTIVAL” TO BE HELD AT THE SHRINE BUILDING ON FEBRUARY 21 .................................................................3
Got Bears? ...........................................................................................................3
Venture Student Aid Award ..............................................................................3
Families & Learning Conference, April 14-16, Helena ........................................3
Family Handbook on Future Planning .................................................................3
Consumer-Directed Person-Centered Planning Webcast: Wednesday, February 18, 2004, 2:00 PM Central .................................................................4
How well do your members of Congress protect children?.................................4
OSEP Policy Documents....................................................................................4
Accommodating Students with Disabilities: A Tutorial for Job Corps Staff ........5
National Arts and Disability Center (NADC)......................................................5
NEW RESEARCH OFFERS SOLUTION FOR CHILDREN WITH READING DISABILITIES...5
Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana:......................................6
Classroom Management – Preschool to 2nd Grade, February 16 - Havre...........6
Classroom Management – Preschool to 2nd Grade, February 17 - Great Falls .....6
Lifespan Respite Trainings, Feb 17, Billings .......................................................6
Children & Family Grief Support, February 17 – March 23, Billings ..................6
PLUK Empowerment Series, February 17, Billings............................................6
A Framework for Understanding Poverty, February 18-19, Missoula..................6
Assistive Technology—A Special Education Guide to Assistive Technology & METNET Interactive Video Professional Development Activity, February 19 .................7
Effective Strategies for Working with Students with Asperger’s Syndrome, February 20........................................................................................................7
The ABC’s of Preschool Special Education, February 24, Missoula.......................7
School Based Interventions: The Tools You Need To Succeed, February 27, Billings 8
Preschool Forum, February 27, Kalispell.........................................................8
A Framework for Understanding Poverty, March 2-3, Kalispell.........................8
Working to Meet the Paraprofessional Requirements in NCLB, March 5, Billings...9
School Based Interventions: the Tools You Need to Succeed, March 5, Missoula ...9
No Child Left Behind - Part II, PLUK ITV training for March 9.........................9
Positive Behavior Supports, March 13, 2004, Billings ......................................10
PLUK Empowerment Series March 16, Billings...............................................10
Individuals with Disabilities Networking Banquet, March 20, Missoula.............10
Advanced Phonics, March 22, - Havre.........................................................10
Advanced Phonics, March 23, - Great Falls.....................................................10
2004 Montana CEC Conference on Diverse Abilities, March 31-April 2, Billings
Families & Learning Conference, April 14-16, Helena
Click of Reading Comprehension, April 19, 2004, Missoula
Click of Reading Comprehension, April 20, 2004, Kalispell
PLUK Empowerment Series, April 20, Billings
Montana Association of Gifted and Talented Education - 24th Annual Spring Conference “Guiding Today’s Explorers” April 22-24, Helena
Sign Language Training in Bozeman April 23-25
A Focus on Self Advocacy, April 27, Missoula
PLUK Empowerment Series, May 18, Billings

Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana:
New Options for Families: Charters and School Choice
Awakening - A Workshop for Parents & Professionals Caring for Children with Sensory Processing Disorder, March 2, Boise, ID
MARCH 10, 2004 "PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING"
MARCH 11 - 14, 2004 THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL OF PARENT ATTORNEYS AND ADVOCATES
MARCH 17 - 20, 2004 "EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES/PRACTICE BASED EVIDENCE" NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DUALLY DIAGNOSED CONGRESS
APRIL 13, 2004 "SCHOOL-BASED STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS' DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-DETERMINATION SKILLS IN THE CONTEXT OF LEADERSHIP AND STANDARDS-BASED REFORM"
2004 CEC Convention and Expo, April 14-17, New Orleans
Northwest Council for Computer Education 2004 Conference, April 14-17, Spokane
APRIL 28 - MAY 1, 2004 "USING BRAIN RESEARCH TO IMPROVE CHILD LEARNING, ADHD, MOOD, MEMORY AND HEALTH" CONFERENCE
YAI International Conference on Developmental and Learning Disabilities, May 3-7, New York
PECS Training, May 20-21, Boise ID
Autismone.org Conference, May 27-30, Chicago
JUNE 20 - 22, 2004 "BYE-BYE BULLIES: UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN IN 2004"
JULY 24 - 27, 2004 "LEARNING, LIVING, LEADING: YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES CONTINUING THE LEGACY" 2004 NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Fun Events:
Shining Mountain Taekwondo workshops, February 28 and March 13

How you can help!
Get your Albertson Community Partners card!

Selected Sources:
4. PEN Weekly NewsBlast http://www.publiceducation.org
6. The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.htm

# #
PLUK’s 3RD ANNUAL “SPORTS AND RECREATION FESTIVAL”
TO BE HELD AT THE SHRINE BUILDING ON FEBRUARY 21

The purpose of the event is to provide information and activities for kids and families on all of the sports and recreation opportunities in the area. In addition to the information booths, a Sports Memorabilia Auction, games, activities, food, sports clinics, Frisbee throwing competition, team mascots, the Billings Outlaws, and local sports celebrities are available at the festival. Last year, 37 organizations joined PLUK for the event and had games, activities, and information booths. Groups are signing up now for the festival. The Sports Guys from KULR8 TV participated with the last event and will be on hand again this coming year. The Planning Committee does have room for more members if anyone is interested in helping. Call PLUK’s office to volunteer – 255-0540.

7:30am – 9:00am Sports Celebrity Pancake Breakfast
9:00am – 4:00pm Festival Activities

##

Got Bears?

PLUK is hosting the third annual Sports and Recreation Festival on Saturday, February 21, at the Shrine Auditorium. PLUK will be running some kids carnival games and we need stuffed animals of all sizes to use as prizes.

We are also looking for volunteers to help run the games. If you have any stuffed animals around your house that you would consider donating or would be interested in helping run a game booth, please contact Bernice Hash at 255-0540.

##

Venture Student Aid Award

The Venture Club of Billings is soliciting applications for the Venture Student Aid Award of $350 and $200. Students with a physical disability between the ages of 15 and 40 are eligible. Deadline is February 23, 2004. Contact the Venture Club at 657-3895.

##

Families & Learning Conference, April 14-16, Helena

The 2004 Families and Learning Conference is geared for learning opportunities and professional development experiences for all parents and professionals involved in school/family/community partnerships and family literacy programs across Montana.

For more information, visit: http://www.montanapirc.org/linksfromhome/familiesandlearning.htm.

##

Family Handbook on Future Planning

A Family Handbook on Future Planning is a guide to help families develop a future plan for their sons or daughters with cognitive, intellectual or developmental disabilities that
provides personal, financial and legal protections for these individuals after the parents either die or can no longer provide care or support. It is not designed to be a “do-it-yourself” guide to will writing, trust development and other legal processes. Instead, will help families review and inventory the needs and strengths of their family member, determine what should be in a plan and then locate qualified professionals and resources to finalize the plan.

Visit http://www.thearc.org/ for more information or to download. This publication is also available on the PLUK publications page: http://www.pluk.org/Pubs/

Download a pdf at http://www.pluk.org/Pubs/Fed/Future_Planning_893K.pdf

##

**Consumer-Directed Person-Centered Planning Webcast:**
*Wednesday, February 18, 2004, 2:00 PM Central*

- Sherrie Anderson, Dianne Duerscheidt, and Debra McLean

Evidence shows that the use of "person-directed" approaches has resulted in changed lives for many individuals with diverse disabilities and their families, who report fewer unmet needs, more community connections, more satisfying living situations and support relationships, and enhanced employment opportunities.

##

**How well do your members of Congress protect children?**

This week, the Children’s Defense Fund released its 2003 Congressional Scorecard which provides critical information about how your Members of Congress voted to protect the interests of children, and whether they are co-sponsors of the Act to Leave No Child Behind.

Each of the eleven key votes scored in 2003 had a significant effect on the lives and well being of America’s children. Some votes determined the availability of funding for Head Start, the Child Tax Credit, or housing assistance. Others influenced children’s access to health care or quality education. Overall, we believe these votes provide a clear portrait of the level of importance that members of Congress place on our nation’s children. Please visit http://www.cdfactioncouncil.org/scorecard2003.pdf to view the 2003 Congressional Scorecard.

##

**OSEP Policy Documents**

Third Quarter 2003 OSEP Policy Documents on the Education of Infants, Toddlers, Children, and Youth with Disabilities Now Available Online

This page contains correspondence from the Department of Education received by individuals during the Third Quarter of CY 2003 that describes the interpretations of IDEA or the regulations that implement IDEA. Some documents have been redacted. Go to http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/letters/2003-3/index.html Source: What’s New at OSEP - February 5, 2004.

##
Accommodating Students with Disabilities: A Tutorial for Job Corps Staff

[This site offers wonderful resources and reference materials that are relevant to anyone who works on behalf of youth with disabilities.] http://www.jobcorpshealth.com/disability/

The Job Corps tutorial on Accommodating Students with Disabilities is designed to provide Job Corps admissions counselors and center staff with information and resources that will allow them to better support and meet the needs of applicants and students with disabilities. This site serves two purposes:

First, it provides an overview of (1) disability-related legislation and its applicability to Job Corps, (2) the different types of disabilities common in the adolescent/young adult population served by Job Corps, and (3) the basic etiquette staff should observe when interacting with individuals with varying abilities.

Second, the site serves as a resource for staff—providing up-to-the-minute information on (1) the procedures and forms necessary to process an accommodation request, (2) materials (slides and handouts) available to support on-center training, and (3) the national and local resources available to offer advice on how best to provide services and support to individuals with disabilities.

##

National Arts and Disability Center (NADC)

NADC is the national information dissemination, technical assistance and referral center specializing in the field of arts and disability. The NADC is dedicated to promoting the full inclusion of children and adults with disabilities into the visual-, performing-, media, and literary-arts communities. The NADC is a project of the University of California, at Los Angeles (UCLA), Tarjan Center for Developmental Disabilities.

http://www.nadc.ucla.edu/Default.htm

##


LOS ANGELES, Feb. 10 /PRNewswire/ -- The Cure Our Children Foundation, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to children, announced today the publication of its extensive research showing that full integration of disabled children into existing school and community sports and recreation teams is feasible and helpful for all children.

In addition to a wide-range of original research, interviews were conducted with prominent disabled sports experts and healthcare professionals. And, in determining the positive aspects of integration, the research also reveals many diverse, little known options for disabled participation in sports and recreation activities.

Read the complete article at: http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/02-10-2004/0002106457&EDATE=

##

NEW RESEARCH OFFERS SOLUTION FOR CHILDREN WITH READING DISABILITIES

Results of a research study involving sixth-graders with below average reading skills revealed that visual attention therapy significantly improved reading comprehension and
test scores by up to two grade levels. This research, reported in the November/December 2003 Journal of Learning Disabilities, confirms prior studies indicating correctable visual problems may strongly contribute to learning disabilities.

http://www.pnnonline.org/article.php?sid=4998


Training/Workshops/Meetings/Conferences in Montana:::

Classroom Management – Preschool to 2nd Grade, February 16 - Havre
Classroom Management – Preschool to 2nd Grade, February 17 - Great Falls
VICKI GIBSON, PRESENTER
To register contact Tana Parman @ 265-4356 ext 322, cspdregion2@havre.k12.mt.us, PO Box 7791, Havre, MT 59501, (fax) 265-8460, or visit us on the web at http://www.havre.k12.mt.us/cspdregion2

Lifespan Respite Trainings, Feb 17, Billings
Here is a listing of future trainings available through Community Lifespan Respite at STEP, Inc. All trainings will be from Noon – 1pm and there will be a light lunch served.
Please RSVP to Tami Haan, 869-3031, by the Friday before each training.
• February 17 – Janine Williams from Lifespan Respite on Caring for Someone with Alzheimer’s

Children & Family Grief Support, February 17 – March 23, Billings
Big Sky Hospice will be sponsoring this support group on 6 consecutive Tuesdays, beginning February 17 at Mayflower Congregational Church.
Registration is required--call 247-3300.

PLUK Empowerment Series, February 17, Billings
February 17, 2004, 6-8:00pm: Developmental Disabilities Panel. Seven individuals with developmental disabilities will share experiences on growing up with developmental disabilities, the different obstacles each have faced, and how they have overcome their challenges.
All sessions are two hours long and go from 6 to 8pm. If there is a subject that is of high interest to anyone, we can offer teleconferencing in different areas of the state upon request. Anyone is welcome to attend. However, registration for each session is required—to register please email bthurston@pluk.org, or call the PLUK office.

A Framework for Understanding Poverty, February 18-19, Missoula
This two-day workshop, based on A Framework for Understanding Poverty by Dr. Ruby Payne will provide an introduction to the hidden rules of middle class promoted in schools and the hidden rules of poverty which often prevent many of our students from succeeding in our schools. Day 1 will provide an introduction for educators and social service/ agency
personnel. Day 2 will be divided into two strands- STRAND ONE: focusing on strategies for educators and STAND TWO: focusing on strategies for social service and agency personnel who work daily with students/ parents and others who are affected by poverty.

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

##

Assistive Technology—A Special Education Guide to Assistive Technology & METNET Interactive Video Professional Development Activity, February 19

The newest technical assistance guide, the “Assistive Technology—A Special Education Guide to Assistive Technology,” from the Special Education Division, Office of Public Instruction, is now available for distribution. It can be accessed on-line, http://www opi.state.mt.us/SpecEd/, under Guides, or request a copy by calling 406-444-5661.

To introduce this guide and celebrate its printing, the Office of Public Instruction is hosting a professional development activity on February 19, 2004, via the METNET Interactive Video System. Two sessions are being offered for your convenience.

Please RSVP by February 13, 2004, to Susan Bailey-Anderson, Office of Public Instruction, PO Box 202501, Helena, Montana 59620-2501; Fax: (406) 444-3924.

##

Effective Strategies for Working with Students with Asperger’s Syndrome, February 20

This event, sponsored by: Region III CSPD & PLUK will be aired February 20, 2004, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon from the Mansfield Center, Conference Rooms 1 & 2 in Billings and may be viewed at the following locations: Hardin, Harlowton, and Lame Deer.

The presenters for this session will be Lee Oldenburg & Beth Beenken

Lee has been providing outpatient treatment for children, adolescents and adults in the Billings area for 17 years. Beth is currently a Gifted Education Teacher in the Poudre School District in Fort Collins, Colorado. She has been a general classroom teacher as well as a literacy teacher. Beth feels her most important education has been as the parent of a wonderful eleven-year-old daughter who has Asperger’s Syndrome.

There is no charge for this workshop; however, space is limited. Please register early and indicate which site you would like to attend.

Register online at http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister

For more information, contact Deb Miller at the Montana Center on Disabilities 406-657-2312, dmiller@msubillings.edu, or http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd

##

The ABC’s of Preschool Special Education, February 24, Missoula

- Assessments and placement
- Building Individual Education Plans
- Curriculum

The MCPS special education preschool staff will share information on assessments, placement, Imp’s and curriculum followed by a panel of parents of preschoolers who will discuss strategies for success.

Location: Franklin Elementary School, Preschool Room, 1901 S. 10th St West

Hosted by IDEA PTA, as a part of their Positive Parent-Professional Partnerships, all programs are free. Business meeting held from 6:45-7:15pm, program follows 7:15-
9:15pm. Contact Nancy Marks MCPS Special Ed Coordinator, 728-2400 ext 5036, nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us. Childcare vouchers are available. OPI renewals are also available. To receive information about IDEA PTA events, programs and other items of interest, contact Mary Hall at hoythomes@montana.com.

##

**School Based Interventions: The Tools You Need To Succeed, February 27, Billings**
http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/School%20Based%20Intervention%20flyer.pdf
Sponsored by: Region III CSPD http://www.msubillings.edu/mtcd/
Presented by: Margaret Beebe-Frankenberger, Ph.D., Director School Psychology
Program, University of Montana
Date: Friday, February 27, 2004
Time: 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-3:30
Place: College of Education & Human Services Building, Room 122, MSU-B
Objectives:
- Provide information about today’s intervention “climate”.
- Provide a universal guide to interventions applicable (a) for ages 3 to adult, (b) to any academic, social or behavioral concern, (c) across developmental or ability levels, (d) across exceptionalities.
- Provide real-life examples from successful school-based intervention work.
- Provide opportunity to work in a group to design an intervention based on workshop information.
- Take away strategies and knowledge to support successful intervention methods.
- Provide follow-up support.
For registration/information, contact the Montana Center on Disabilities (406) 657- 2312 or email: dmiller@msubillings.edu or register online at http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister/

##

**Preschool Forum, February 27, Kalispell**
This is an opportunity for early childhood providers, agencies and educators to meet and learn about services for children ages 3-5. The afternoon session will be an opportunity for early childhood special educators to network and share curriculum and preschool classroom ideas.
For more information or to register go to the Region V CSPD Online Registration website at http://www.cspd.net or contact Nancy Marks at admin@cspd.net or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##

**A Framework for Understanding Poverty, March 2-3, Kalispell**
This two-day workshop, based on A Framework for Understanding Poverty by Dr. Ruby Payne will provide an introduction to the hidden rules of middle class promoted in schools and the hidden rules of poverty which often prevent many of our students from succeeding in our schools. Day 1 will provide an introduction for educators and social service/ agency personnel. Day 2 will be divided into two strands- STRAND ONE: focusing on strategies for educators and STAND TWO: focusing on strategies for social service and agency personnel who work daily with students/ parents and others who are affected by poverty.
Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: http://www.cspd.net or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.
## Working to Meet the Paraprofessional Requirements in NCLB, March 5, Billings
http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/Paraflyer.pdf
Sponsored by Region III CSPD: http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/events.htm
Presented by Betty Ashbaker - 8:30 - 3:30 at MSU-B Campus, CEHS Room 122. Call 406-657-2312 or register online at http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister/.

## School Based Interventions: the Tools You Need to Succeed, March 5, Missoula
This workshop will provide a universal guide to interventions applicable for ages 3 to adult to any academic, social, or behavioral concerns, across developmental or ability levels and across exceptionalities. Take away strategies and knowledge to support successful intervention methods, Presenter: Dr. Margaret Beebe-Frankenberger, UM Dept of Psychology.

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

## No Child Left Behind - Part II, PLUK ITV training for March 9
http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm
Topic: No Child Left Behind – Part II
Speaker: BJ Granbery, State Title I Director
When: Tuesday, March 9, 2004, 6:00-8:00pm MST
Session Description:

**Current Sites:**
- **Billings:** (instructor site) Granite Tower, 222 N 32nd St Ste 300, 690-2518
- **Browning:** Blackfoot Community College US-2 & US-89, 338-5441
- **Great Falls:** VisionNet Classroom, 1211 NW Bypass, 727-5994
- **Helena:** Hustad Center, 1084 Helena Ave, 727-5994
- **Kalispell:** Byte Savvy, 309 S Main, 257-5050
- **Missoula:** Blackfoot Telephone Co-op, 1221 N Russell, 721-2121
- **Sunburst:** 414 3rd St. S, End of hallway by east entrance, 937-2811

**Streaming Sites:**
- **Miles City:** Holy Rosary Health Center Community Room #1, 951-1357

How to participate:
1. Register by calling 800-222-7585 or visit http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm
2. Attend one of the sites listed above.
3. View the session “live” over the internet from any computer (see links on the web site).

All sessions are videotaped and available through the TRIC/PLUK Library and on a web archive. For information on current active sites, registrations, and all sessions, visit the web site: http://www.pluk.org/ITV.htm or call the PLUK office at 800-222-7585.

**Future Session topics:**
- April 13, 2004: “ADHD: Services and Interventions”, panel from around Montana
- May 11, 2004: “Fragile-X”
Positive Behavior Supports, March 13, 2004, Billings
http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/PBS%20flyer.pdf

Positive Behavioral Supports: Helping Our Students Change by Changing Ourselves by Dan Hobbs. Session One: The Quality and Content of Our Relationships with our Students. 8:00-3:30 at MSU-Billings, CEHS room 122. Deadline for registration is September 20th. Sponsored by Region III CSPD http://www.msubillings.edu/cspd/events.htm. Contact Debra Miller at dmiller@msubillings.edu or 657-2312. Register online at http://www.msubillings.edu/mcdregister/cspd092003.htm.

##

PLUK Empowerment Series March 16, Billings
March 16, 2004, 6-8:00pm: Jonathan and Nancy Whitmer will speak on muscular dystrophy. Jonathan will share his experiences growing up with muscular dystrophy and Nancy will share what it was like for her to raise a child with a disability. The basic message they would like to give for their presentation is that with determination and perseverance anything is possible.

All sessions are two hours long and go from 6 to 8pm. If there is a subject that is of high interest to anyone, we can offer teleconferencing in different areas of the state upon request. Anyone is welcome to attend. However, registration for each session is required—to register please email bthurston@pluk.org, or call the PLUK office.

##

Individuals with Disabilities Networking Banquet, March 20, Missoula
Celebrate Individuals with Disabilities Awareness month and attend the networking and awards banquet. Location: Doubletree Edgewater Time: Beginning at 5:30 p.m. To receive information about IDEA PTA events, programs and other items of interest, contact Mary Hall at hoythomes@montana.com.

##

Advanced Phonics, March 22, - Havre
Advanced Phonics, March 23, - Great Falls
RANDALL KLEIN, PRESENTER
To register contact Tana Parman @ 265.4356 ext 322, cspdregion2@hayre.k12.mt.us, PO Box 7791, Havre, MT 59501, (fax) 265.8460, or visit us on the web at http://www.havre.k12.mt.us/cspdregion2.

##

2004 Montana CEC Conference on Diverse Abilities, March 31-April 2, Billings
“Supporting the Practitioner”
❖ March 31-April 2, 2004 ❖ Holiday Inn Grand ❖ Billings ❖
PLAN TO ATTEND! Special and general educators, family members, and students:
• Early childhood, elementary, middle school, and secondary educators;
• Special education related service providers and childcare providers;
Administrators and paraeducators;
Parents, students, and all others concerned with topics and issues in the field of special education.

Pre-Conference Workshops: Wednesday, March 31
Conference Sessions: Thursday-Friday, April 1-2
For registration materials e-mail debbieannhanna@hotmail.com or go to http://www.mtcec.org.

##

Families & Learning Conference, April 14-16, Helena
The 2004 Families and Learning Conference is geared for learning opportunities and professional development experiences for all parents and professionals involved in school/family/community partnerships and family literacy programs across Montana.
For more information, visit: http://www.montanapirc.org/linksfromhome/familiesandlearning.htm.

##

Click of Reading Comprehension, April 19, 2004, Missoula
Part 3 of a three-part series designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading. Sessions can be taken individually, but it is recommended they be taken as a series.

Administrators, general educators, special educators, paraeducators, parents, agency personnel, and others interested in meeting the needs of all kids are invited to participate.
Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: http://www.cspd.net or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##

Click of Reading Comprehension, April 20, 2004, Kalispell
Part 3 of a three-part series designed to provide increased knowledge and strategies for working with students in grades 4-12 who struggle with reading. Sessions can be taken individually, but it is recommended they be taken as a series.

Administrators, general educators, special educators, paraeducators, parents, agency personnel, and others interested in meeting the needs of all kids are invited to participate.
Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: http://www.cspd.net or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##

PLUK Empowerment Series, April 20, Billings
April 20, 2004, 6-8:00pm: Vance Thurston will speak regarding his experience growing up with dyslexia, the instructional strategies he learned to work around the challenges he faced as an individual with dyslexia, his mom’s perspective as a parent, and some of the resources available to assist dyslexic individuals.
All sessions are two hours long and go from 6 to 8pm. If there is a subject that is of high interest to anyone, we can offer teleconferencing in different areas of the state upon request. Anyone is welcome to attend. However, registration for each session is required—to register please email bthurston@pluk.org, or call the PLUK office.

##

**Montana Association of Gifted and Talented Education- 24th Annual Spring Conference “Guiding Today’s Explorers” April 22-24, Helena.**

Differentiated instruction supports the needs of diverse learners including those highly capable students. The Montana AGATE conference focuses on differentiated instruction strategies that can be utilized in every classroom.

Register at the Region V CSPD Online Registration Web site: [http://www.cspd.net](http://www.cspd.net) or contact Nancy Marks at nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us or 728-2400 ext 5036 for more information.

##

**Sign Language Training in Bozeman April 23-25**

Skillshops in Signing Exact English and Educational Interpreting sponsored by the S.E.E. Center for the Advancement of Deaf Children

April 23, 24 & 25 Friday, Saturday and Sunday Begins Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon.

Visit [http://www.seecenter.org](http://www.seecenter.org) for more information and to register. Click on ‘skillshops’ and scroll down to weekend skill shops for details.

Cost is $150.00.

These Skillshops are designed for individuals interested in learning S.E.E. and to help those already using S.E.E. to improve their expressive and receptive signing skills. Intensive work is done in groups from beginner to advanced levels. Each group is limited to approximately 15 participants. Sessions are geared for adult level, not appropriate for children under 16 years of age. Participants at full week summer sessions, for an additional fee, can take a skill evaluation and receive a certificate indicating proficiency level. Those evaluated also receive detailed follow-up covering sign production, fluency, fingerspelling, expressiveness, and speech readability.

The Signing Exact English Skillshops are for teachers, aides, parents and others who want to learn as well as those who use Signing Exact English and wish to improve their vocabulary, fluency, and expressiveness. Participants review S.E.E. vocabulary and do extensive work on additional signs, visual features of sign language, song and story telling techniques. Recent research findings are covered.

##

**A Focus on Self Advocacy, April 27, Missoula**

Panel of middle school and high school students, parents, educators, and agency folks will share strategies for promoting self-advocacy skills. Location: TBA

Hosted by IDEA PTA, as a part of their Positive Parent-Professional Partnerships. All programs are free. Business meeting held from 6:45-7:15pm, program follows 7:15-9:15pm. Contact Nancy Marks MCPS Special Ed Coordinator, 728-2400 ext 5036, nmarks@mcps.k12.mt.us. Childcare vouchers are available. OPI renewals are also available.

To receive information about IDEA PTA events, programs and other items of interest, contact Mary Hall at hoythomes@montana.com.
PLUK Empowerment Series, May 18, Billings
May 18, 2004, 6-8:00pm: CP panel.
All sessions are two hours long and go from 6 to 8pm. If there is a subject that is of high interest to anyone, we can offer teleconferencing in different areas of the state upon request. Anyone is welcome to attend. However, registration for each session is required—to register please email bthurston@pluk.org, or call the PLUK office.

Training/Workshops/Conferences outside Montana::

New Options for Families: Charters and School Choice
Tuesday, February 17, 2004 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm ET
Duration: 1 hr.
"A good, wise, just and compassionate country makes certain that educational opportunities are available for all of its citizens—every single one of them. No child can be left behind, particularly not the ones in our own neighborhood."
– Secretary Paige
All parents want their children to receive a quality education. The wide variety of public schools, from neighborhood schools to magnets, charters, theme-focus schools and many others, as well as the very existence of thousands of private schools, nearly 3,000 charter schools, and 2 million home-schooled students, provides evidence that parents want choice in determining the best educational opportunities for their children. Fundamental to the No Child Left Behind Act is the expansion of educational options, particularly for parents of children enrolled in low performing or unsafe schools. Under the law's accountability provisions, district are required to send parents “report cards” describing the performance of their children's schools. Parents with children enrolled in persistently low-achieving schools have the opportunity to send their children to higher performing public or charter schools in the district or to obtain supplemental educational services.

Awakening - A Workshop for Parents & Professionals Caring for Children with Sensory Processing Disorder, March 2, Boise, ID
Keynote Speakers
Carol Stock Kranowitz, MA - "The Young Out-of-Sync Child at Home and School" and "The Out-of-Sync Child Has Fun: SAFE Activities"
Lucy Jane Miller, Ph.D., OTR - "Current Research Related to Sensory Processing Disorders (SPD): Talking to Your Physician About SPD" and "Taking the Mystery Out of Occupational Therapy - The Art of Clinical Reasoning"

MARCH 10, 2004 "PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING"
Presented by RSA Region V CRP-RCEP at the Radisson Airport Hotel and Conference Center in Columbus, OH. For more information go to http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/illinoisrcep/whatsnew.htm
MARCH 11 - 14, 2004  THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL OF PARENT ATTORNEYS AND ADVOCATES
A national organization of parents of special education students and their advocates and lawyers will be held at the Hyatt Embarcadero in San Francisco, CA. For more information go to http://www.copaa.net

MARCH 17 - 20, 2004 "EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES/PRACTICE BASED EVIDENCE" NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DUALLY DIAGNOSED CONGRESS
This fifth International Congress will be held at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston, MA. For more information, go to http://www.thenadd.org

Since the first Pacific Rim (Pac Rim) Conference in 1985, the scope and size of this premier event has grown to include participants from the U.S. Mainland, Alaska, Pacific Islands Nations, Japan, Australia, the Philippines and numerous other countries. Persons with disabilities, family members, researchers, and service providers join policy-makers and nationally recognized speakers in the field of disabilities to participate in Pac Rim 2004 to learn from each other and to share resources for communities to fully accept and support persons with disabilities. This year's theme, "Promises to Keep, Futures to Seek", reflects on the promises and goals made and the opportunities created for persons with disabilities. Pac Rim 2004 strand topics include Lifelong Inclusion in Education and Community; Technology Across the Ages; Parent Partnerships and Family Supports; Employment and Adult Services; and Body, Mind and Spirit. Learn more about strand topics. http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu

APRIL 13, 2004  "SCHOOL-BASED STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS' DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-DETERMINATION SKILLS IN THE CONTEXT OF LEADERSHIP AND STANDARDS-BASED REFORM"
This Capacity Building Institute is sponsored by NCSET and will be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans, LA. For more information go to http://www.ncset.org/events/default.asp
This institute is being held in conjunction with the Council for Exceptional Children 2004 Convention and Expo. The purpose of this institute is to share practical strategies and plans for increasing student self-determination. Special education teachers, state and district transition coordinators, researchers, general educators, family members, and other interested stakeholders are invited to attend this event. Online registration is available.

2004 CEC Convention and Expo, April 14-17, New Orleans
Choose from more than 600 workshops, lectures, demonstrations, mini-workshops, panels and poster sessions:
• Find out how NCLB and the new IDEA will affect you
• Learn strategies for success with autism, discipline, and other challenges
• Hear the latest information on transition, technology, and more
• Get guidance on meeting the needs of diverse learners
• Browse innovative educational tools at the Expo
• Visit the Career Center and find a job
• Attend the Teacher of the Year and Yes I Can! Award ceremonies

http://www.cec.sped.org

##

Northwest Council for Computer Education 2004 Conference, April 14-17, Spokane

We have tried to provide a variety of activities that will give you a look at what’s new in educational technology...and have some fun in the process! You will find carefully structured sessions for different interests and different knowledge levels, and I hope that you will find new techniques and strategies that you can take back to your classroom to implement and share.

This year you will find over 130 sessions, 50 workshops, and a variety of student sessions and presentations that show the practical integration of technology in the classroom. You will also have the opportunity to view a variety of DigiTalkie presentations submitted by students from around our region and to talk to students about their classroom projects.

http://www.ncce.org

##

APRIL 28 - MAY 1, 2004 "USING BRAIN RESEARCH TO IMPROVE CHILD LEARNING, ADHD, MOOD, MEMORY AND HEALTH" CONFERENCE

This "Learning and the Brain" conference will be held at the Harvard University Faculty Club and Hyatt Regency Cambridge, MA. For more information go to http://www.edupr.com

##

YAI International Conference on Developmental and Learning Disabilities, May 3-7, New York

For information, call 212/273-6193 or email awittenberg@yai.org. Beginning in March, information will be online at http://www.yai.org/pid.cfm.

##

PECS Training, May 20-21, Boise ID


$375 professional tuition
$235 parent tuition
Includes 2nd Edition PECS Manual and handout packet for note taking

Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc., the developer of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), is sponsoring a dynamic talk that focuses on enhancing the education and communication skills for individuals with autism and other related disabilities. Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc. is proud to announce the arrival of:

• The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) 2-Day Workshop

We are confident that special educators, administrators, speech language pathologists, parents and anyone who works with individuals with autism and other disabilities will leave
our workshop with fresh ideas and practical new strategies to enhance their students’ communication and learning environments.

As a special offer, mention Sarah Moore on your registration form and receive a $30.00 discount off the two-day workshop.

For registration information, visit us online at http://www.pecs.com or call 888-732-7462. For general information, contact Sarah Moore at smoore@pecs.com or call 302-368-2515.

###

**Autismone.org Conference, May 27-30, Chicago**

Autism One 2004, the most comprehensive conference on autism ever assembled, will be held May 27 - 30, 2004, in Chicago. It is a conference for parents and professionals discussing the care, treatment, and recovery of children with autism. For more information please visit our web site at http://AutismOne.org.

###

**JUNE 20 - 22, 2004 "BYE-BYE BULLIES: UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN IN 2004"**

This anti-bullying conference will be held at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts in Anchorage AK. For more information and to get on the conference mailing list please call or e-mail John Hoover (320-308-4091) (jhoover@stcloudstate.edu). Please include surface and electronic mailing addresses.

###

**JULY 24 - 27, 2004 "LEARNING, LIVING, LEADING: YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES CONTINUING THE LEGACY" 2004 NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

This conference will be held in Washington, D.C.


###

**Fun Events:**

**Shining Mountain Taekwondo workshops, February 28 and March 13**

Your child is invited to participate in a Special Workshop provided by Parents, Let’s Unite for Kids (PLUK) and Shining Mountain Taekwondo. The purpose of this workshop is to introduce Taekwondo to children and youth who might be interested in participating in the sport/activity. Taekwondo is an excellent activity to develop self-control and self-esteem, not to mention that it’s great exercise!

Parents, Let’s Unite for Kids (PLUK) is happy to bring this opportunity to area children/youth. The location is the Shining Mountain Taekwondo School at 1615 Alderson, Ste. 2 in Billings. The workshop is being offered on two dates and parents should call PLUK to register their child or children. The age range is from 5 years of age and up. Space is limited and spots in the workshop will be on a first come first serve basis. Participants should wear loose fitting clothing, and will go bare footed into the Dojang (school area). There is no fee for the Workshop and dates and times are as follows:

- February 28th From 2pm to 3pm
• March 13th       From 2pm to 3pm
We encourage everyone to call PLUK early to register: 255-0540

##

How you can help!:

Get your Albertson Community Partners card!

PLUK has joined Albertsons’ Community Partners Card Program. This program is designed to help non-profit organizations raise funds needed for their programs. A percentage of your grocery total will be donated to PLUK. All that is needed is to show your Community Partners card each time you make a purchase at Albertsons. It does not cost you anything.

If you are interested in assisting PLUK in raising funds this way, please contact Bernice at 255-0540 to get a Community Partners card.

##

Selected Sources:

4. PEN Weekly NewsBlast http://www.publiceducation.org
6. The American Indian Disability Technical Assistance Center Training Calendar http://aidtac.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/TrainingCalendar.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.