

# Parent to Parent

A Publication of the Parent Resource Center

Patricia Macdonald, Coordinator

389-0130 ♦ pmacdonald@salem.k12.va.us

[www.salem.k12.va.us/salemdiv/parentresource/index.html](http://www.salem.k12.va.us/salemdiv/parentresource/index.html)

## Parent Involvement Survey

The Virginia Department of Education is conducting its annual Parent Involvement Survey. It is only eleven questions long and answers are given with a check mark. The City of Salem Schools requests that each parent or guardian who has a child receiving special education services complete the survey. This anonymous survey evaluates if schools facilitate parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities. Both English and Spanish versions are available on-line using the web address below, or on the Parent Resource Center website.

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special\\_ed/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/index.shtml)

Printed copies are available at the School Board Office if you would like a paper copy. Please call 389-0130 or stop by between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday, to pick one up.



Salem City Schools

Children First:

*Every Child; Every Day*

## Special Education Staff Dedicated to Increasing Skills

In addition to providing class instruction, attending numerous Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, and assisting throughout the year to make sure that the students on their caseload are being successful in school, special education staff are encouraged to participate in a variety of professional development activities. These continuing education opportunities often involve teachers attending workshops, conferences or participating in college courses. Dr. Darryl Helems, Director of Student Services, noted, "Our special education staff should be commended for their commitment to engage in ongoing professional development opportunities to acquire the skills that will allow them to support the various needs of the students they serve."

Below is a sample of professional development activities that some of our teachers have been a part of:

MANDT Behavior De-escalation Training  
Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)  
Training

Understanding Alternate Assessments

Behavior Assessment

Sensory Integration

Autism Awareness and Skills Training

Assessing Children Who Speak Spanish

*continued on page 2*

*Development of Skills, from page 1*

Strategies for Collaborative Instruction  
 Basic Concepts and Principles of  
 Behavior Analysis  
 Differentiation Strategies for Education  
 TEACCH Classroom Training Program  
 Collaboration in Schools and Community for  
 Special Populations  
 Behavior Management and Social Skills  
 Development  
 Child/Teen Mental Health Issues  
 Classroom Strategies for Working with Students  
 Diagnosed with ADHD  
 Access, Employment & Learning Technology  
 Training  
 Assessment & Treatment of Autism Spectrum  
 Disorder  
 Review of Local Procedures and IDEA  
 Compliance Requirements

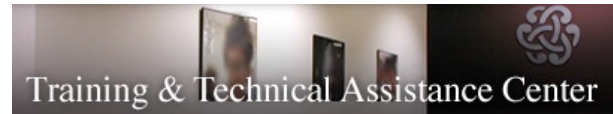
This is not an exhaustive list of the various professional development activities that our teachers are part of on a regular basis. However, it does demonstrate the commitment of our staff to continually seek to maintain and improve their skills in a variety of areas. For more information on teacher professional development for Student Services staff, please contact Dr. Helems by phone (389-0130) or email ([dhelems@salem.k12.va.us](mailto:dhelems@salem.k12.va.us)).

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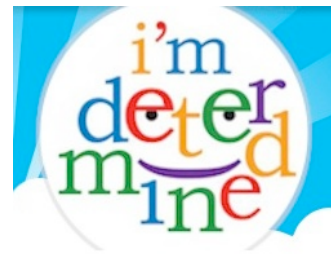
## Advisory Committee

The City of Salem Local Advisory Committee for Special Education serves an advisory function to the City of Salem School Board on matters related to the education and training of school-aged children with disabilities. Membership consists of parents of children with disabilities, agency personnel responsible for service delivery to children with disabilities, and Salem school employees. The Committee meets five times a year at the School Board Office. If you are a parent who is interested in serving on the Committee or would like more information, please contact the Parent Resource Center (389-0130, [pmacdonald@salem.k12.va.us](mailto:pmacdonald@salem.k12.va.us)).

## Fall Events



**Collaborating for Student Success: Impacting Outcomes for All** will be held at the Hotel Roanoke Conference Center on Friday, September 30 from 9 am to 4:30 pm. This conference will provide educators and family members with knowledge centered around inclusive educational practices. Registration fee is \$60. For more information, contact the Technical and Training Assistance Center at Virginia Tech (1-800-848-2714) or log onto the website (<http://www.cpe.vt.edu/reg/coss/>).



The Virginia Department of Education's I'm Determined project, in conjunction with the Partnership for People with Disabilities, invites applications to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual **I'm Determined Youth Summit** at the Omni Hotel in Charlottesville. Applications are accepted from youth with disabilities who are at least age 14 by this fall. The two-day conference is free of charge to those accepted. For more information, go to the Youth Summit page ([https://php.radford.edu/~imdetermined/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=13&Itemid=27](https://php.radford.edu/~imdetermined/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13&Itemid=27)) or contact Ms. Mac McArthur-Fox at Radford University (540-831-6086, [lmcarthu@radford.edu](mailto:lmcarthu@radford.edu)).

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## Email notices

Send an email to sign up for our notices between newsletters. Simply send your email to [pmacdonald@salem.k12.va.us](mailto:pmacdonald@salem.k12.va.us) and "subscribe"!

## Summer Community Events



The Salem Public Library, located at 28 East Main Street in downtown Salem, is kicking off its **Summer Reading Program**. Programs are being offered for children, teens, and adults, and are *free!* Don't forget to include reading as part of your summer fun for the whole family this summer. Read together if you have someone in your family who struggles with reading, or needs help with comprehending the story. Make it fun by being part of the Reading Program. Sign up for the programs at the front desk of the library.

**Free Youth Sports Classes** are being offered by Salem Parks and Recreation for Salem residents in grades two through nine. For more information or to register online, log onto [http://www.ci.salem.va.us/depts/parks\\_rec/ssportsclinic.html](http://www.ci.salem.va.us/depts/parks_rec/ssportsclinic.html), or call Ms. Kathy Murphy, Recreation Program Manager, at 375-3057.



**Movies at Longwood** is offered throughout the summer and admission is free! The next one will be on Saturday, June 25 at Longwood Park, 800 Main Street. The movie will be "Despicable Me." Movies begin at dark and the first 50 families will receive free popcorn. Bring a blanket and chairs to enjoy a movie under the stars.



Roanoke Valley Project Lifesaver and the Greater Roanoke Valley Autism Action Group are joining to sponsor a *free* **Project Lifesaver and Autism Awareness Extravaganza** on Saturday, June 25 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Roanoke City Police Academy, 5401B Barns Avenue, NW, Roanoke. Many fun family activities are planned. No registration is needed. For more information, log onto [www.roanokeforautism.com](http://www.roanokeforautism.com) for an event flyer.



The **Shining Stars 2011 Early Childhood Conference** will be held Monday, July 18 through Wednesday, July 20 at the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach. Conference registration fee is \$75. For more information contact Dionne Wiggins by phone (703-993-4496) or email ([dpaulwig@gmu.edu](mailto:dpaulwig@gmu.edu)), or go online to <http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=950992>

Parent Resource Center  
City of Salem Schools  
510 South College Avenue  
Salem, VA 24153

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Return Service Requested



The Annual Parent Involvement Survey from the Virginia Department of Education is online through the end of the summer. Sign on now to take this very brief eleven question survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ParentInvolvementSurvey2010-E>

Paper copies can be obtained at the School Board Office for you to mail or are available to download and print from the Parent Resource Center website. You can also find the link to take the survey online: <http://www.salem.k12.va.us/salemdiv/parentresource/index.html>

More details about the survey can be found on page 1.



The Salem Public Library has a fun summer of reading activities planned so that your child can continue to learn over the summer. Look for more details on page 3.