



# Children's School News

**H**appy New Year to all our families. This year is a new beginning for Westchester Arc with the new headquarters being built on Route 9A in Hawthorne. Westchester Arc plans to move into its new Gateway to the Community in late March/early April. The "Gateway to the Community" will replace the agency's central location at 121 Westmoreland Avenue in White Plains. It will be a place where people with disabilities and their families can network, consult social service professionals and have access to other resources enabling them to make well informed decisions concerning their future. For more information visit [www.westchesterarc.org](http://www.westchesterarc.org).

## Ask The Attorney?

*What Steps Should I Take If I Am Unhappy With My Child's Progress Towards His IEP Goals?*

1. Call A Meeting:

It is always important to attempt to resolve issues with your school district as collaboratively as possible. As a parent you have a right to request a CPSE or CSE meeting at any time. The district has 30 days to schedule the meeting. Be prepared to present data and reports at the meeting documenting your concerns. If the committee agrees, the IEP will be edited to reflect the changes.

2. Due Process:

While it is always a good idea to attempt to work disagreements out with the district in a collaborative manor, there are times that this cannot be done. If you disagree with the Committee you do have certain "Due Process" rights. You can request an impartial hearing in writing. If you do so, a hearing officer must make a decision within 45 calendar days of the date of the request. Generally, the child remains in the then-current education setting during the course of the due process proceedings, but there are exceptions to this. There is typically a resolution session scheduled prior to the start of the hearing. While an impartial hearing is an administrative proceeding, it is still a legal proceeding, and it is recommended that an attorney be consulted before initiating one. If you or the district is unhappy with the outcome of the hearing, it can be appealed to a State Review Officer. An appeal from a State Review Officer is made either to State or Federal Court. Instead of filing for an impartial hearing, you also have a right, and the district has an obligation to inform you of your right, to mediation. You also have a right to send a complaint to the New York State Education Department.

*Sheryl Frishman, Esq. is an attorney with the law offices of Frishman & Faber in Mount Kisco, NY.*

***This is not legal advice. Please do not rely on this without first consulting an attorney.***

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### The Children's School for Early Development

40 Saw Mill River Road  
Hawthorne, NY 10532  
Phone 914-347-3227  
[westchesterarc.org](http://westchesterarc.org)

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### Dates to Remember

#### February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Family Resource Day  
White Plains H.S.  
9:00am – 2:30pm

#### February 27<sup>th</sup>

Parent Workshop Series  
"Community Based  
Services & Recreational  
Programs"

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## Westchester Arc's Family Resource Day

For people with developmental disabilities and their families

Saturday, February 2, 2008

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

White Plains High School – 550 North Street, White Plains, NY

This is a free event and childcare is provided

Registration & Coffee 9:00 a.m.

Resource Fair 9:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Workshops 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

[Click here for details](#)

To register and for more information contact Fran Higgins, 914-428-8330, ext. 3028

## Parent Workshop Series

Come join us from 6:30p.m. - 8:00p.m.

Children School for Early Development

Pizza & a Movie

Limited Childcare Available - Please Pre-register

February 27<sup>th</sup> Community Bases Services &  
Recreational Programs

March 13<sup>th</sup> Sensory Development

April 15<sup>th</sup> Play Dates & Social Skills

## Family Sessions to Outline Pre-School Planning Process

On January 31<sup>st</sup> & February 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 am & 7:00 pm.

The Children's School will host information sessions for the parents who are considering a special class or a special class in an integrated setting for September 2008. Learn about the school district referral process, services provided at the Children's School and answers to parent questions. For more information contact Marci Roth at (914) 347-3227 ext. 157.

## Check out this Website [wrightslaw.com](http://wrightslaw.com)

Parents, educators, advocates, and attorneys can go to [wrightslaw.com](http://wrightslaw.com) for accurate, reliable information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities. The current issue has a great

topic on Tax Benefits for Parents of Children with Disabilities.

## Upcoming Events

Navigating the Spectrum is a not for profit organization that offers a forum for families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Below are two of their upcoming workshops. For more information go to [www.navigatingthespectrum.org](http://www.navigatingthespectrum.org)

### February - The Family's Role in Intervention

Friday February 15th from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Registration begins 8:00

Greenville Community Church

270 Ardsley Road, Scarsdale, NY

This Is a Free Event – Lunch Included

Limited to 50 Participants – Please Reserve Early

### March – Workshop: Special Education Law and Advocacy

Presented by Sheryl Frishman, Esq. and Jill Faber, Esq.

Friday March 14th at the Greenville Community Church  
270 Ardsley Road, Scarsdale, NY

9:00 am to 5:00 pm – Registration begins 8:30

Members - \$25 / Non-Members - \$75 - Lunch Included

Limited to 50 Participants – Please Reserve Early

## Calendar

February 2<sup>nd</sup> **Family Resource Day**  
White Plains, HS

February 13<sup>th</sup> **Parent Child Group**  
Informative group for parents with babies, toddlers and preschoolers with Down syndrome. 9:30-11:00 a.m.

February 27<sup>th</sup> **Parent Workshop Series**  
"Fun Spots: How & Where to Find Great Local Programs for Young Children After School, Vacations, Summer, etc."

March 13<sup>th</sup> **Parent Workshop Series** “  
"A Hop, Skip, Jump, & a Squeeze: Understanding Your Child's Motor & Sensory Development"

April 2<sup>nd</sup> **World Autism Awareness Day**

April 15<sup>th</sup> **Parent Workshop Series**  
"It's A Date! Facilitating Social & Play Dates for Your Pre-Schooler"

June 3<sup>rd</sup> **Golfing for Kids**  
Westchester Hills Golf Club



It is the time of year to think about your upcoming CPSE/CSE meeting with your school district. For tips on what to do and what not to do check out last year's winter 2007 *Children's School News*.

You can find past issues of this newsletter by [clicking here](#)