

Statewide Family Support Center NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2 • Issue 1

SEPTEMBER 2005



*Serving Kentucky's Families
with Children Who are Deaf
and Hard of Hearing*

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The Statewide Family Support Center NEWSLETTER is published monthly, September through June at the Kentucky School for the Deaf

An electronic version of this newsletter is available at www.ksd.k12.ky.us

Click on "Family Education Newsletters"

Clip art is downloaded from Microsoft at <http://office.microsoft.com/clipart>

The SFSC is part of the Kentucky School for the Deaf's Outreach Services and the Statewide Educational Resource Center on Deafness, components of the Kentucky Department of Education.

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Statewide Family Support Center
PO Box 27
Danville, KY 40423



Back to School!

THE SUPPORT NETWORK FOR FAMILIES with DEAF and HARD of HEARING CHILDREN

The Support Network sponsored a FAMILY LEARNING FAIR on Saturday, August 20th. It was very successful even though the temperature was in the high 90's. About 150 family members and friends visited the Fair throughout the afternoon. This was the Support Network's first Family Learning Fair and was held under the trees on the front lawn of KSD's Lee Hall, in Danville. They hope to help parents around the state plan and organize similar events in their home towns.

Activities for the afternoon included a variety of performers (student magicians, signing choirs, and storytellers), vendors, provider booths, small informative workshops, a FUN mini-kids fair, cake walk, door prizes, and bake sale. The day ended with a cookout and the announcement of the winners of the drawing prizes.

First (\$146): M.L. Ashworth (Owensboro)

Second (\$59): Lori Seay (Danville)

Third (\$59): TJ Rouse (Junction City)

Fourth(\$30): Noah Hancock (Owensboro)

Table Lamps: Shelby Rutledge (Lex.)

Everyone went home tired and hot, but with a lot of information about helpful resources around the state as well as new friends. The Support Network THANKS all of the generous donors and volunteers who helped make the Fair so successful!!!

The Support Network for Families is a statewide parent group that welcomes new members, both families and professionals. The goals of this group are "to share their experiences and learn from each other." They are "accepting and encouraging of each family's choices for communication and educational placement." If you would like more information on how to join (there are no membership dues), contact any of these people:

Sarah New (Louisville) – 502-599-5513

or: wenharas@insightbb.com

Dana Rouse (Danville) – 859-854-3030

or: mamarouse@yahoo.com

Anita Dowd (E'town) – email only at

TheSilentMuse@msn.com

Heidi Givens (Owensboro) –

270-925-2560 or heidigasl@yahoo.com



PARENTINFO PROVIDES INFORMATION, RESOURCES

Parents of school-age children can receive helpful information related to education and child development from the Kentucky Department of Education.

Twice a month, the department sends out a free electronic newsletter called *ParentInfo* that includes brief features on school testing, child health, help with homework and other topics.

Recent issues included information on post-high school planning, reminders about school bus safety, student testing details and training for school-based decision making council members.

To receive *ParentInfo*, parents may register by visiting the department's Web site at <http://www.education.ky.gov>. Enter "parentinfo" in the keyword/search box, then click Search. This will take you to the subscription page for *ParentInfo*, where you also may view archived issues.

OTHER WEBSITES for FAMILIES

www.ksd.k12.ky.us This is the KSD website. You will find the SFSC newsletter (current and old) at this site. There is also other information that is helpful to families regardless of where your child attends school.

www.deafchildren.org This is the website for the American Society for Deaf Children. ASDC is a national organization of families and professionals committed to education, empowering, and supporting parents and families to create



opportunities for their children who are deaf and hard of hearing in gaining meaningful and full communication access, particularly through the competent use of sign language, in their homes, schools, and communities.

ASDC's primary mission is to advocate for the highest quality programs and services for parents in making sound and informed choices to meet their children's educational, communication, personal and social needs so that they may fully participate in the global community of the 21st century.

www.agbell.org This is the website for the Alexander Graham Bell Association. When you open the site, click on the "Parents" tab. The Parent Section (PS) is committed to extending emotional support and information to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Any AG Bell member who is a parent, grandparent, great-grandparent or legal guardian of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing can become a member of this section. AG Bell offers many programs for parents including the Parent Advocacy Training Program (PAT) and Children's Legal Advocacy Program (CLA).

www.handsandvoices.org "Who are we? We are parents of ASL signers, cued speech users.... parents of kids with cochlear implants or total communicators... we are people who have common interests connected through the community of deafness. Hands & Voices is a safe place to explore options, get unemotional support (although we can be emotional about it!), learn from one another and share what we have in common. We value diversity and honor the role of parents and family as the single greatest factor in

raising a WASK* (our favorite acronym: Well-Adjusted Successful Kid)



PARENT-TO-PARENT

This article was written by Cheri Tichenor whose son, Ethan attends KSD. Ethan is 12 years old. They now live in Stanford. Cheri was asked to write about WHY she is so involved with Ethan's school. If you would like to write a Parent-to-Parent letter, please send it to the Editor of the SFSC Newsletter. We'd love to hear from you!

Benefits Ethan and I have received by being a part of his life at home and school...

Ethan and I are a very close family. I used to live many miles away from KSD and I only saw Ethan on the weekends. We would go over his schoolwork and I would be very proud of him. This was wonderful. We would share our weeks together, and then I would spoil him the rest of the weekend before sending him back to KSD on Sunday.

Now, I have moved closer to KSD. Ethan no longer lives in the dorm, and I see him at home. I am a very involved parent at school. The benefits have been tremendous! I am now a part of what is going on each and every day! I am in close contact with Ethan's teachers. I am on the site-based council and help in making academic decisions for my child. I can voice my opinion about what happens daily in school instead of sending notes on the weekend. However, the biggest benefits are that I can help him with his work, talk to his teachers, and watch his extra-curricular activities.

Ethan has gained a lot from my involvement and closer relationship with KSD, also. He can take advantage of all the wonderful programs offered by KSD. He gets my support and love each and every night. Friends can come and visit, spend the night, and I can give all of them individual help. I know his friends and can enjoy them in my home.

Being an involved parent at school and home is what counts. Ethan has improved in his schoolwork, and his behavior at home. We have a relationship that is unbelievable. I am involved in every aspect of my son's life...and he is involved in every aspect of mine. Together, we have become a closer family.

THE LISTENING CORNER

Here are several "Good Listening Tips" to use with your child:

- ✓ Your child should wear his/her hearing aids or cochlear implant during all waking hours. This is critical for your child to learn to listen.
- ✓ Minimize background noise. In the home setting make sure the TV, or radio is not blaring in the background when you are talking to your child. Run the dishwasher at night when your child is sleeping. In the classroom, watch out for noisy fans, air conditioners, fish tanks, pencil sharpeners, etc. that may interfere with the child's listening.
- ✓ When talking or reading to your child, speak close to the child's hearing aids or on the side of the cochlear implant's microphone. Speak at a normal volume.
- ✓ Use speech that is repetitive and rich in melody, expression and rhythm.
- ✓ Get your child ready to listen by pointing toward your ear and saying "Listen" or "I hear that". This signals the child to have their "listening ears" ready.

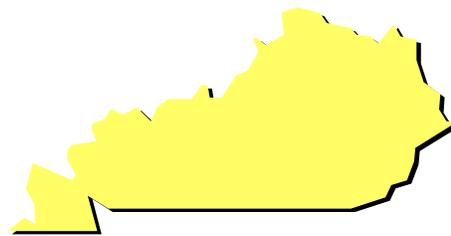


Another good listening tip is to use "auditory sandwiching." Here is the "Recipe" for an Auditory Sandwich (Mary E. Koch, Bringing Sound to Life: Principles & Practices of Cochlear Implant Rehabilitation; 1999), that can be used with children wearing hearing aids and/or a cochlear implant:

- Present the AUDITORY INFORMATION first – repeat as many times as necessary to make an "auditory impression" (the first "slice of bread" in the sandwich).
- Provide a visual clarifier if needed (the contents of the sandwich), such as the object or picture, a sign, or Cue.
- Restate the AUDITORY INFORMATION to finish the sandwich.

That's all for this newsletter, Thanks for "listening" and I'll be "hear" next time!!

This article was written by Shelby Rutledge, a Speech/Language Therapist with the Lexington Hearing & Speech Center. If you have specific "listening" questions, you can contact Shelby at Shelby.Rutledge@lhsky.org.



AROUND THE STATE

September 9 – Bell County; all deaf and hard of hearing students in the Upper Cumberland and Wilderness Trail cooperatives are invited to this STUDENT EVENT. The Event will be held during the day and transportation to/from is the responsibility of the family or school district. This is a great opportunity for students to come together, learn from each other, develop communication skills, and have FUN! Contact Jerri LaFavers for more information: 859-239-7017, ext 2409 or jlafavers@ksd.k12.ky.us.

September 19 – Community Sign Classes at KSD in Danville; each Monday for 9 weeks; 6:30-8:30 (ET); in Lee Hall; Families – FREE (others: \$40.)

Kentucky Autism Regional Workshops – Topics will focus on family, educational and adult vocational issues related to autism spectrum disorders. Register at the KATC website: www.kyautism.com or call 1-800-334-8635 ext. 852-4631.

Perry County; Buckhorn Lake State Park; Sept. 21-22
Marshall/Calloway; Kenlake State Park; Oct. 27-28
Jefferson Co.; Ky Autism Training Center; Nov. 7-8

September 27 – Mayfield; "Silent Dinner" Sign Language Group; 6:00 pm; at Captain D's on Paris Road. Great food and great company! Families...bring your children...let them meet others in the Deaf community and learn more about Sign Language and Deaf Culture! Come, bring a friend and meet some new ones...all ages of signers are welcome!!!



September 30 – "Bringing Sound to Life - Principles and Practices of Cochlear Implant Rehabilitation". This workshop will be held at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville. The registration fee for parents is \$50. (others: \$75-99.) Contact Shreen White at 661-362-4675 or registration@advancedbionics.com.





Statewide Family Support Center
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STATEWIDE FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER NEWSLETTER **September 2005**



*Serving Kentucky's Families with
Children who are Deaf and Hard of
Hearing*

PO Box 27
Danville, KY 40423

The Statewide Family Support Center is located in Lee Hall on the campus of the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville. Families from across the state are welcome to call, visit, or email us with questions.

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Pat Bruce
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800-540-3323
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KSD Happenings

September 2005

Kentucky School for the Deaf

WALKER HALL NEWS



Walker Hall will have the "Earn the Right to Go Trip" on Sept. 16th. Students who have earned the right will attend Constitution Square Festival that day.

The Student Life program is putting together our soccer team. They should know their schedule by the end of August. Ask any staff person for more information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Middle School students are going to the Folk Life Festival on the 15th of September. Contact Paula Meckes for more information.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Once or twice a month throughout the year the high school students will be practicing for the CATS test by participating in W.A.R. (Writing, Arithmetic and Reading) activities taken from the KCCT released items. This is set up in small review groups and the students earn points that go towards a trip to Kentucky Kingdom in the Spring. We will have two WAR sessions in September. The Highly Skilled Educator, Betty Fox, is helping update the review activities for each subject.

The high school students will observe Red Ribbon Week, a week devoted to teaching about the dangers of drug use. We plan to have a speaker, show videos and have discussion groups, as well, as theme days like, "PUT A CAP ON DRUGS" day where the students are allowed to wear caps to school etc.

HEALTH CENTER NEWS



The KSD Health Center will give the flu shot to students whose parents have signed a permission form. The flu serum is scheduled to arrive in early October.

Remember early Fall is a good time for lice infestation. Please check your child frequently for itching and lice symptoms. Lice is easy to treat with over the counter products.

Contact Dee Pendency RN if you have questions about your child's health care at KSD.

PTCA NEWS

This year's PTCA officers are:
 Cheri Tichenor - President
 Tina Voris - Vice President
 Shirley Morgan - Secretary
 Tom Campbell - Treasurer



The PTCA is working with the KSD Alumni Assoc. again this year to plan the PANCAKE & SAUSAGE DAY... The date is set for Friday, November 18th. Stay tuned for more information.



MOMMY and ME PLAYGROUP

Sharon Williamson, Danville, started a playgroup for the 2-5 year olds this past summer. She is going to continue that but on a once-a-month schedule. The next date is TUESDAY, SEPT. 13th, 6:30-8:30 pm (ET) at the West End Church of Christ on Perryville Road, here in Danville.

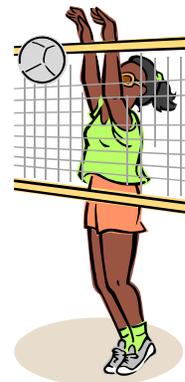
The kids join in fun, learning activities and the parents have time to talk with each other, learn more signs, and have fun, too! If you want more information, call her at 859-236-9481 (voice or TTY) or email her at santas_christmouse@yahoo.com.



SPORTS SCHEDULES

Volleyball

Thurs. Sept. 8	Harrodsburg Freshmen	6:00	Away
Friday, Sept. 9	Harris Invitational Volleyball Classic	6:00	Home
Sat. Sept. 10	HOMEcomings and PARENT DAY	6:00	Home
Tues., Sept. 13	Casey Co. Junior Varsity	5:30	Away
Thurs., Sept. 15	Brown High School	5:30	Home
Monday, Sept. 19	Garrard Co. Freshmen	6:00	Away
Tues., Sept. 20	Lincoln Co. Junior Varsity	6:00	Home
Wed., Sept. 21	Boyle Co. Freshmen	4:30	Home
Monday, Sept. 26	Harrodsburg Junior Varsity	6:00	Home
Tues., Sept. 27	Walden High School	5:30	Home



GO KSD

Soccer

C O L O N E L S !	Tues., Sept. 6	St. Francis High School	6:00	Away
	Thurs, Sept. 8	Marion Co. J.V./Freshmen	5:30	Home
	Friday, Sept. 9	Harris Invitational Soccer Classic	5:00	Home
	Sat., Sept. 10	HOMEcomings and PARENT DAY	Noon	Home
	Tues, Sept. 13	Burgin High School	6:00	Home
	Thurs, Sept. 15	Brown High School	5:30	Home
	Monday, Sept. 19	Estill Co. Junior Varsity	5:30	Home
	Thurs, Sept. 22	MMI	5:30	Away
	Monday, Sept. 26	Russell Co. High School	6:00	Home
Thurs, Sept. 29	Estill Co. Junior Varsity	5:00	Away	