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**Parent Resource Center Report to SEAC
September 23, 2016**

The Anne R. Lipnick Special Education Family Resource Center, also known as the Parent Resource Center or the PRC, is located in Room 134 of the Minnie Howard Campus of T.C. Williams High School, 3801 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302. The Parent Resource Center is open every school day from 8:30-3:30. The PRC offers the following services at no cost to anyone who lives, works or goes to school in the City of Alexandria:

- A lending library with over 500 books and DVDs on a variety of disabilities and parenting issues;
- A list of service providers in the community, such as speech therapists, math tutors and respite care providers;
- Support groups for parents;
- A workshops series for parents on various disabilities and general parenting topics;
- Individual confidential consultations to help parents understand their child's special education services and to support them with the challenges of raising a child with a disability or learning difference.

The following is a summary of Parent Resource Center activity for the months of May, June and September, 2016.

I. PRC Contacts:

- A.** For PRC data recording purposes, a "contact" is communication **initiated** by a parent, staff member or community member with the PRC, either by phone, email or in-person meeting.
- B.** To date, 59 people have contacted the PRC in September.

C. Comparison of PRC use for 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 School Years

MONTH	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
August	6 (PRC opened 8/19)	15 (PRC opened 8/15) Includes data from summer	49 (PRC opened 8/21) Includes data from summer	54 (PRC opened 8/22) Includes data from summer
September	16	78	139	
October	18	108	136	
November	12	124	139	
December	28	63	70	
January	79	189	98	
February	60	102	130	
March	61	112	124	
April	79	91	125	
May	79	100	62	
June	46 (PRC closed for summer 6/23 with the end of the school year)	114 (PRC closed for summer 6/22 with the end of the school year)	69 (data is through 6/24 and the end of the school year)	
TOTALS	484	1096	1141	
Percentage Change		+126.4%	+4.1%	

- D.** Contact breakdown for May: parents (43), community members (10), ACPS staff (9).
- E.** Top disability areas for May: Autism (4), ADHD (1), ID (1), LD (1).
- F.** Top reasons for contacting PRC in May: requesting information/registering for SWOTS (14), community resources (12), questions about IEPs, 504s (7), PRC resources and strategies (7), workshops (5), support groups (4).
- G.** Contact breakdown for June: parents (48), community members (15), ACPS staff (6).
- H.** Top disability areas for June: Autism (10), ED (3), ADHD (2), ID (1).
- I.** Top reasons for contacting PRC in June: Use of PRC resources (19), questions about IEPs, 504s (17), community resources (10), strategies (7), support groups (4).
- J.** Contact breakdown for entire year (2105-2016): parents (759), staff (193), community members (189).
- K.** Top disability areas for entire year (2015-2016): autism (191), LD (77), ADD (44), ID (38), ED (16).
- L.** Top reasons for contacting PRC for the year (2015-2016): workshops-registration and questions about (328), community resources (163), IEPs (120), support groups (78).
- M.** Contact data for August (includes summer data): parents (34), community members (12), ACPS staff (8).

- N. Top disability areas for August (includes summer data): ASD (11), LD(4), ID (4), ADD (2).
- O. Top reasons for contacting PRC in August (includes summer data): Community events and resources (12), IEP Process (11), Strategies (7), PRC Resources (6), workshops (4)

II. Family Engagement Workshop Series and Other Workshops:

A. Family Engagement Workshops

- a. The first workshop of the 2016-2017 year, *Homework Made Simple: Tips, Tools and Solutions for Stress-Free Homework*, presented by Ann Dolin, M. Ed., is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium at Minnie Howard.
- b. At the suggestion of the FACE Center, start times for the evening workshops are earlier this year, and the workshops will be held at a variety of schools, to see if this increases attendance by parents.
- c. ACPS staff members are welcome and encouraged to attend workshops and can receive re-certification points for doing so. The workshops will be built into PLMS.
- d. The following workshops from the 2015-2016 Family Engagement Series are available for viewing on line:
 - 1. *Public Safety Considerations for Children with Autism and Intellectual Disabilities*
 - 2. *Managing Teen Anxiety*
 - 3. *No Fighting! No Biting! Managing Sibling Conflict*
 - 4. *Transition 101: Agency Linkages*
 - 5. *Dyslexia and Other Reading Disorders*
 - 6. *Building Flexibility and Resilience in Children and Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorders*
 - 7. *Holiday Meet and Greet: Role of Parent Resource Centers*
- e. As of Sept. 23, there have been a total of 1330 online viewings of the workshops. This breaks down further to 832 English language viewings, 162 Spanish, 162 Amharic and 174 Arabic.
- f. The two most frequently viewed workshops are *Building Flexibility and Resilience in Children and Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, with 507 total viewings, and *Dyslexia and Other Reading Disorders*, with a total of 298 viewings.

III. Raising Awareness of PRC/Community Outreach/Transition

- a. 6/13/16-meeting with Christian Dorn, Snack and Paint, about art therapy classes in community. (JGR, CPD);
- b. 6/16/16-meeting with Lori Carozza, SLP Coordinator, on family engagement and raising awareness of roles of SLPS and PRC. (JGR, CPD);
- c. 6/27/19-meeting with Laura Ruth, Aida Raygada and Janet Pauling of The Center for Alexandria's Children to discuss collaboration and outreach at City playgroups. (JGR, CPD);
- d. 8/30/16-phone conference with Janelle Moore, Autism Speaks, re parent support services available through Autism Speaks. (JGR, CPD);
- e. 8/30/16-meeting with Snezana Buzesan, GW 9th grade lead special ed teacher re services of PRC. (CPD);
- f. 8/31/16-presentation at professional development session of elementary PE teachers on services of PRC and supports for students with ASD. (JGR);
- g. 9/7/16-meeting with FACE Center staff re collaborative efforts to increase parent awareness/participation in PRC activities. (JGR, CPD);
- h. 9/13/16-presentation at FACE ARHA event (Navigating the Schools) about services of PRC (JGR);
- i. 9/21/16-manning PRC table at Back-To-School-Night, Minnie Howard (JGR)
- j. 9/22/16-meeting with Helen Lloyd re filming of workshops (CPD, JGR).

III. Support Groups

- a. Support group for parents of children with emotional/behavioral challenges, May 25: no one attended.
- b. Support Group for parents of young children receiving special education services, June 7: four parents attended.
- c. Support group for parents of students in the Citywide autism, ID and MD classes, June 15: two parents and one community member attended.
- d. Support group for parents of young children receiving special ed services Sept. 13-five people attended.
- e. Support group for parents of students with moderate to severe disabilities Sept. 14-five people attended.

IV. Library Use

- a. 76 books were borrowed from the PRC library in the 2015-2016 school year.
- b. To date, four books have been borrowed from the PRC library this school year.

V. Facebook and Twitter

Parents are encouraged to "like" the PRC Facebook page found at *The Anne R. Lipnick Special Education Parent Resource Center*. In addition, the PRC is on Twitter at LearnwithThePRC.

VI. Connect for Success Annual Conference

On September 19 and 20, PRC staff attended the two day State PRC conference, *Connect for Success*, in Virginia Beach. The conference provided updates in special education, professional training and opportunities to network with PRC colleagues from around Virginia.