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**Parent Resource Center Report to SEAC**  
**March 9, 2018**

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 month of February, 2018.

**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.** As of October 2016, the Department of Education has changed some of the parameters regarding what constitutes a single contact with a PRC. This could potentially lessen the total number of contacts as compared with previous years.
  - a. For example, prior to October of this year, each contact on a separate day surrounding one particular issue was counted as a separate contact.
  - b. Now, the DOE wants PRCs to count all contacts surrounding one specific issue as a single contact, regardless of whether the contact is limited to one interaction between the parent and the PRC or twenty.

**C. Comparison of PRC use for 2013-2014 through 2017-2018 School Years**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>
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	70 (PRC opened 8/4) includes data from summer
September	16	78	139	91	90
October	18	108	136	119	168
November	12	124	139	149	152
December	28	63	70	87	93
January	79	189	98	172	202
February	60	102	130	152	188
March	61	112	124	181	
April	79	91	125	127	
May	79	100	62	149	
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)	66 (data is through 6/22 and the end of the school year)	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>1096</b>	<b>1141</b>	<b>1347</b>	
<b>Percentage Change</b>		<b>+126.4%</b>	<b>+4.1%</b>	<b>+18.1%</b>	

- D. Contact breakdown for February: parents (82), ACPS staff (60), community members (46).
- E. Top disability areas for February: ASD (25), LD ((3), ADHD (2) ID (1), MD (1), visually impaired (1).
- F. Top reasons for contacting PRC in February: workshops (55), support groups (34), community resources (34), strategies (30), IEP (30), PRC resources (19).

**II. Family Engagement Workshop Series and Other Workshops:**

**A. Family Engagement Workshops**

- a. ACPS staff members are welcomed and encouraged to attend workshops. Each workshop in the Family Engagement series has been built into PLMS, and staff can receive re-certification points for attending.
- b. Cathy Canfield, MSW, LCSW, LICSW, presented *The Gift of Limits: Setting Behavioral Expectations for Your Young Child*, on February 21. Thirty-nine people registered for the event, and twenty-nine attended. Spanish interpretation was provided for two parents, and the workshop was filmed. Twenty-four attendees returned evaluation forms, and each of the forms indicated that the attendees found the workshop informative,

that it provided helpful strategies, and that, overall, the attendees were satisfied with the workshop. Specific comments included: *“wonderful;” “the presentation is very informative, though I come to learn of this workshop one hour before the meeting. But, it is very interesting;” “rich discussion with specific scenarios and strategies;” “she was satisfactory. She was good with the parents. I think there are other presenters who would be great to cover this topic, as well. She did a nice job overall;” “thank you for the good presentation. I took away good strategies and topics to consider;” “it may be helpful to define the different parenting options;” “more real life examples of techniques to use rather than just concepts (e.g. stay calm, empathize);” “I thought it was a wonderful presentation + I took away many great ideas;” “hubiera quando escuchar mas estrategias/tecnicas en situaciones de las escuelas. (I would have heard more strategies and techniques for situations at school.)”*

- c. Dr. Rebecca Resnik presented *Raising Responsible Children* on March 7. Thirteen people attended the event. The workshop was not filmed. Twelve people completed workshop evaluations. Each of the evaluations indicated that the attendee found the workshop informative, that it provided helpful strategies, and that overall, they were satisfied with the presentation. Specific comments included: *“great info and Q&A;” “great presenter-very helpful;” “I really liked it;” “gave great examples and covered all ages;”* and *“I really enjoyed the workshop. Very informative with ideas, suggestions I can use with my son.”*
- d. Two additional workshops are scheduled for March: *An Overview of Section 504 Plans* on March 12, and *Understanding Discipline Policies for Individuals with Disabilities* on March 14.

B. Other workshops

- a. 2/13-PRC staff presented strategies to facilitate transitions and other challenging issues for kids with ASD and ADHD to Buddie Ford Nature Center after school program staff. (JGR)

### III. Raising Awareness of PRC/Community Outreach/Transition

1. 3/7 meeting with Kattie Moua of the Georgetown University School of Nursing, about PRC resources, strategies for working with parents of students with disabilities and their families. (CPD, JGR).

#### **IV. Support Groups**

1. Support group for parents of young children receiving special education services Mar. 6-one parent attended.
2. Support group for parents of students with moderate to severe disabilities, Feb. 14-no one attended.
3. Spanish-only support group at George Mason, Feb. 26-no one attended.
4. The Maury parent group scheduled for March 2 was cancelled due to school closure.
5. The school-based support group at Ramsay started up on Feb. 15. Two people attended.
6. New school-based support group at John Adams, Feb. 28-one parent attended.

#### **V. Library**

Eighteen books and DVDs have been borrowed from the PRC library so far this school year.

#### **VI. Facebook and Twitter**

Parents are encouraged to “like” the PRC Facebook page found at *The Anne R. Lipnick Special Education Parent Resource Center*. The PRC now has 166 people following and 150 “likes” on Facebook and 66 Twitter followers (LearnwithThePRC).

#### **VII. Mail Chimp**

The PRC uses Mail Chimp as a means of distributing information about PRC and community events. There are now 1308 subscribers to the list. People receiving PRC mailings through Mail Chimp have the option of unsubscribing, which accounts for fluctuations in the number of subscribers.

#### **VIII. PRC Webpage**

The website has been updated with several books and resources for parents of students with disabilities and providers. In addition, the calendar reflects all PRC activities, including workshops and support group meetings.