



CST CHATTER BOX

SUMMER 2015 ACTIVITIES!

Here are great activities to keep your child (with or without special needs) busy over the summer of 2015...

***LOCAL information was added



Backyard Water Park. You can quickly create your own water park in the backyard for an afternoon of fun. If your child's tolerance is low for water play, sit them on your lawn (if they are sensitive to grass, put them on a shower curtain or towel for more comfort) and use your finger and a hose to create a variety of sprays for your child to experience. For more active children, with your supervision, you can have a variety of "water rides" including: small splash pool, garden sprinkler to run through, water table, beach ball sprinkler and Geyser Blast Sprinkler.

Sloppy Sensory. With the nice weather, partake in some "goopy" activities outside that will help your child to integrate their senses. Spray an outside table with shaving cream and let your child smear it around or fill a bin with rice and dig your fingers in. Lastly, create a mud pit to roll around in. All you need afterwards is a hose! This type of sensory play has many benefits.

Train Time. Most children love trains. Make a day of it and ride the train with your child. Choose departure times during non commuting hours so you can get a seat next to a window and deal with fewer crowds. Bring along snacks to keep your child engaged. If you don't have commuter trains in your city, check out other public transportation options. A bus ride could be just as exciting as the train when presented as an adventure and not an everyday experience.

***On Weekends, NJTransit rail tickets are FREE for children UNDER 12!!!

Tent Building. Make "the best tent ever"

by pulling out all your blankets and chairs and have the tent overtake your living room or backyard. Tent play can occupy your children for hours. It may also be a great resource to soothe a child, providing a hide-out or quiet place. Place a bean bag inside along with books or a flashlight. If tent building is not your forte, check out some of the tent building kits like **EZ-Fort.**

Fossil Find. Take a trip to a sandy beach or to your backyard sandbox and bury some "fossils" (a.k.a. painted rocks). Provide your child with a small shovel and bucket to dig up these archeological finds. Afterwards, you can dust them off, just like Indiana Jones, with a paintbrush. You and your child can take turns hiding and discovering these wonderful fossils. You can also work on counting and grouping the rocks once you have collected them all.

Pump It Up. Pump it Up is a private indoor arena, filled with gigantic inflatable slides, bounce houses, obstacle courses and more. Franchises can be found around the country. Many of the franchises offer times for children with special needs to work on their social skills and/or sensory development. It is definitely worth finding a Pump It Up near you and inquiring about jump times for children with special needs.

Mall Meandering. Need to escape the heat? Take advantage of someone else's air conditioning by walking the mall on hot days. Malls are cool and not too crowded on the weekdays. It is a good way to keep your child moving and active as you pace back and forth in a controlled environment; less worries about children darting in front of traffic. Stores like Brookstone and Apple

offer interactive displays, and a chance for you to take a brief break. A quick game on an iPad or a rest in a massage chair can add a breather to your mall meandering.

***Livingston Mall has a great child play area that is free.

Movie Madness. A home cinema experience is a great way to get your children out of the sun for a couple of hours and allow some down time. Instead of just plopping down in front of the TV, make it a production – homemade movie tickets and a bowl of popcorn with pillows and blankets in front of the flatscreen. It will seem like a special event in your child's day with these little extras. Just be cautious of 3-D movies since some may cause over stimulation.

***Loews tickets for shows weekdays before 12Noon are \$7.27!! Bowtie Cinemas Summer Kids Series is back! Free movies on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10 AM, June 23-Aug 19.

Firehouse Visit. Call your local fire department and ask if you can stop by with your children for a quick visit to see the fire trucks and meet the firemen. This is a great way to break up your day, learn about fire safety and introduce your child to rescue workers (especially if your child wanders). Firemen are often good with children and will spend time talking to your child about what to do in an emergency. Take pictures of your visit and make it into a social story.

Soothing Swing. If nothing else, find a swing with your child this summer. Swings are beneficial for physical, social and cognitive development, and they offer certain therapeutic benefits. They promote movement and perceptual skills, spatial awareness, general fitness, social interaction, mental representation, and sensory integration, including vestibular development. If your child has trouble with crowds, visit the park in the morning during summer camp hours.

These great ideas were found on: www.abilitypath.org

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ Local library summer events
- ☺ County-wide agency events
- ☺ Learn about who supports your child

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Library Events 2015

WHARTON LIBRARY

www.whartonlibrary.org

EVERY STORY HAS A HERO!!! Summer 2015 Reading Club Theme

On June 24th, the library will kick off the Summer Reading program. Children will go to the library and register and get a reading log. Student will read and bring log into the library on a weekly basis for 6 weeks and will receive weekly prizes. At the end, children will receive a prize for reading completed and will be given a raffle for a grand prize.

FREE weekly activities will be posted on the website soon. The summer program will include 1-DAYTIME AND 1-NIGHTIME Activity for children that are free. Preschool storytime will take place on Thursdays at 10:30am. Check back in before June 24th for more details. Additional programs will also become available, as it gets warmer!

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH LIBRARY

www.rblibrary.org

Rockaway Borough Library will be following the same theme: EVERY STORY HAS A HERO!!! Summer 2015 Reading Club Theme. Each child must be registered and prizes will be given at the end!

In addition to the Summer Reading Program, which

is run similar to the Wharton program, many other free programs are offered.

July 8th and July 29th (times TBD): ART KIDS RULE
Free program for kids, hands on and working with art. All students must register first. FREE

July 15 and July 22nd (times TBD) MAD SCIENCE
Free program for kids, hands on and working with art. All students must register first. FREE

Every Tuesday, June 23-August is Summer Storytime with Ms. Gloria. Ages 3 and up! Must register.

Pajama Party, June 17th at 7pm. Come in PJ's and listen to a story. Must register.

Saturday Stories (monthly). Next one is June 13th 11-11:30am. Story, songs and craft. Ages 3 & up. Must register.

Yoga storytime and JR. Yoga- check website for update coming soon!

MORRIS COUNTY LIBRARY: 30 East Hanover Ave, Whippany.
(973) 285-6930

The county library is often forgotten, but this library is huge, has a ton of resources and lots for children all summer long. All programs are free and running ALL SUMMER LONG!!! Call for details or wait until June for information posted on their website!

Included are:

SUMMER READING CLUB
WRITERS WORKSHOP
STORYTIMES
MUSIC
CRAFTS
PAWS FOR READING
CRAZY 8 MATH

July 11th at 2pm: Family Craft Program with Michael Albert (hands on)

July 16th at 3pm: Touch the Music with Claudia
This is a "hands on" demonstration working with a variety of instruments. Families are welcome.

July 30th at 3pm: Science Tellers- "hands on" science program sponsored by the Morris County Library Foundation. Families are welcome.

August 8th at 3pm: Bill Kerwood's "Magic and Puppet Show" about recycling. Families are welcome.

More Summer Community Resources!

Here are a few opportunities in the county which can be beneficial to your children or the whole family!

Pathways for Exceptional Children offers an array of various recreational programs for children of various ages. They offer sports and recreational programs such as baseball, bowling, martial arts, dance, intro to acting, etc. They also offer literacy programs for grades kindergarten to second for students struggling with reading and comprehension skills. In addition, they offer a program Learning Through Life (ages 8-21) that infuses academic, technology, and social skills to varying degrees into class topics that are motivating. Finally,



for those ages 11-21, they offer employment and rockband programs! Check http://www.pathwayskids.org/programs/montville_township.html for more information!

Family Intervention Services presents a new **Mending Arts Series: Good Times and Good Rhymes**. This is a 10 week group geared towards youth who are 8-12 years of age who are in need of learning positive coping skills, feelings identification, and ways to socialize with peers.

Music and instruments will be used on a weekly basis. Dates: June 23-August 25, 6-7 PM. Contact Ingrid Vaca-Bullaro, 973-586-5243.

The County of Morris Celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the American Disabilities Act. On Sunday, June 28, 2015, 12-4 PM at the Central Park of Morris County (91 Central Ave, Morris Plains, NJ) join in a fun-filled day for the entire family. Experience Morris County's fully accessible ballfield and playground, learn about resources available in your community, entertainment, and food trucks on site.

Learn About Your Child's Support Team!

Occupational Therapist

Occupational therapy is a health profession in which therapists and therapy assistants help individuals to do and engage in the specific activities that make up daily life. For children in schools, occupational therapy works to ensure that a student can participate in the full breadth of school activities - from paying attention in class; concentrating on the task at hand; holding a pencil, musical instrument, or book in the easiest way; or just behaving appropriately in class. Occupational therapists help students perform particular tasks necessary for participation or learning. Occupational therapy practitioners don't just focus on the specific problem that a child's disability may present; rather, they look at the whole child and tackle individual tasks, helping students find ways to do the things they need and want to do.

Physical Therapist

Physical therapy focuses on a child's ability to move as independently as possible in the school environment. The school physical therapist evaluates the child's ability to move throughout the school and to participate in classroom activities. Physical therapy interventions are designed to enable the student to travel throughout the school environment; participate in classroom activities; maintain and change positions in the classroom; as well as manage stairs, restrooms, and the cafeteria.

Speech and Language Therapist

Speech and language therapy aims to improve, and make possible, a child's ability to effectively communicate their thoughts and ideas to the world. Communication skills are a vitally important aspect of interacting with others, developing



relationships, learning, and working. Speech therapy increases a child's potential for independence and positively impacts their day to day life. Speech and language therapy is a process by which a licensed therapist treats communication, speech and language disorders. Speech therapists increase a child's oral motor skills and communication by using exercises that train the brain to pronounce as well as understand and interpret individual words, sounds, and gestures. Additionally, speech and language therapists improve functioning of the mouth, jaw and throat muscles.

School Psychologist

School psychologists support students' ability to learn and teachers' knowledge of how to best work with each of their students. They apply expertise in mental health, learning, and behavior, to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. School psychologists partner with families, teachers, school administrators, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school, and the community. It is the school psychologist's role to assess a student's ability level and ensure that they



are working to the best of their ability.

Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant (LDTC)

An LDTC acts as an expert in regards to the appropriate techniques and strategies applicable in working with students with special needs. An LDTC makes recommendations on how to improve systems of education to meet the needs of students with disabilities. The LDTC accomplishes this through the assessment of the child's capabilities against his overall achievement. They gather information from the students, teachers, parents and other specialists. The result is used to make recommendations for the appropriate educational plans of the child. This may differ from one child's need to the next.

Social Worker

School social workers address the psychological and social well-being of students. They provide information and counseling and help students, parents and school staff work together to solve problems by communicating and providing referrals to other resources. Social workers help students cope with personal and psychological issues that affect their school performance, behavior and socialization. Communicating with parents, teachers and administrators is essential to provide a full view of the issues facing an individual student, group or entire district. School social workers also maintain case files and reports to track student problems and progress and to recognize patterns in behavior.

Feel Free to ask any of the people who serve these roles in your district for more information if needed!

Shared Services Child Study Team

Wharton Borough Schools
973-361-3010

Mine Hill Township School (CAS)
973-366-0590

Rockaway Borough Schools
973-625-8605



The Shared Services Child Study Team has made it a goal to increase communication and Special Education knowledge with parents as well as teachers and administration within the three school districts. As part of this goal, you will now be receiving newsletters from the team three times a year filled with information on special education practices/law, community resources, special needs tips, etc. We hope you find this helpful!

Leslie Mozulay, LDTC

Stephanie Dzikowski, LDTC

Stacy McCoy, School Psychologist

Alexa Mignone, School Psychologist

Armi Clancy, School Social Worker

Get to Know Your CST

During the 2014-2015 school year, the Shared Services Child Study Team welcomed Jill Moran as an RtI (Response to Intervention) Liaison to aid in the collaboration and communication between the RtI Team and the Child Study Team.

Jill Moran began her career in education as a Special Education teacher in the Wharton Borough Public Schools, after graduating from the College of New Jersey in 2000 dually certified in Elementary Education and as a Teacher of Students with Disabilities. She has spent her entire teaching career in Wharton! During her time in Wharton, Jill also obtained her Master's Degree in Reading and Literacy while teaching special education students in a variety of settings, ranging in age from grade three through grade seven. In more recent years, Jill has become a core member of the 5th Grade Team as the 5th Grade Inclusion teacher. She also volun-

teers her time on weekends and during summers to work with adults with special needs.

In addition to her regular teaching duties, for the past five years Jill has served as a member of the RtI Team in the Marie V.



Jill Moran, RtI Liaison to the CST

Duffy Elementary School in Wharton. RtI is a multi-tiered process that was instituted in the Duffy School five years ago in an effort to support struggling students. The core membership of the Duffy School RtI Team is comprised of the building principal, the building guidance counselor, a CST member, the building speech language specialist, and a special education teacher. Jill's work on the team has enabled her to assist the CST by informing them of RtI interventions, supports, and services utilized in the school. Jill looks forward to continuing to fulfill her life-long goal of supporting struggling students and children with special needs as a special education teacher, and now also as the RtI Liaison to the CST.

Feel free to contact Jill Moran. She can be reached at jmoran@wbps.org or 973-361-2506.