

# Lapeer County Intermediate School District Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) for Special Education



## Newsletter for the Families of Children with Special Needs

Winter Edition  
February 2015  
Issue: 2 of 3



Winter



"Power Is The Ability To  
Do Good Things For  
Others." - Brooke Astor

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lapeer County Intermediate School District  
Parent Advisory Committee is to promote partnerships among parents and educators that benefit students with disabilities.

### PAC Representatives

#### ALMONT

Gynnae Bourdeau-(810)796-2353  
Jennifer Zott-(586)752-2334  
Jennifer Thompson-(586)255-3508

#### DRYDEN

Melanie Starr-(810)895-6449

#### IMLAY CITY

Melivia Mutch, Chairperson  
(810)724-3918  
Lorri Ruffrage-(734) 755-9587  
Denise Kipp (Rossen)-(810)-721-1342

#### LAPEER

Kim Hall-(810)-664-4743  
Kim Mileski-(810) 660-7751

VACANCY

#### LAPEER COUNTY ISD

Cindy Curell-(810)614-5266  
Ron Barnard-(810)678-2856

#### NORTH BRANCH

Becky Baksa-(989)245-7308  
Shelli Greschaw-(810)688-7491

#### CHATFIELD

Contact Lapeer County ISD

Feel Free to contact your local representative for assistance or questions.

### Special Olympics Polar Plunge

*Read All About It On Page 2!*



### The Lapeer County ISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

The Lapeer County Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is a group of educators and parents representing our local school districts whose primary focus is to stay informed regarding Special Education plans and changes, current trends in Special Education at the County, State, and Federal level, and if needed, to assist and promote partnerships among parents and educators that benefit students with disabilities.

The PAC takes an active role in the development of the Lapeer County Special Education Mandatory Plan, a document which describes the delivery of special education services in Lapeer County. The PAC provides workshops and speakers from the county and state-wide programs which can richly serve not only the parents of children with special needs, but in many instances the individual with the disability.

The PAC meets at:

Lapeer County ISD Education and Technology Center  
690 N. Lake Pleasant Road, Attica, MI.  
7 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Please visit the ISD website at: [www.lcisd.k12.mi.us](http://www.lcisd.k12.mi.us)

### PAC Meeting Dates 2015

March 2  
Business Mtg.

May 4  
Topic:  
Occupational  
Therapy  
(Ideas for helping  
kids focus, think,  
and move)

June 1  
Business Mtg.

Please join us at our meetings, we welcome and encourage your participation and suggestions.  
*Childcare is not available*



## The Next Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

**PRESENTS:**

# Occupational Therapy Ideas for helping kids focus, think, and move

**Emily Wolanin, OTRL**  
**Sara Androyna, COTAL**  
From  
**The Lapeer County ISD**



### Will Present:

- Why movement breaks help
- Sensory supports in the classroom
- Environmental Modifications
- At-home strategies
- Improving engagement and participation

**Monday, May 4, 2015**

**7:00– 9:00 PM**

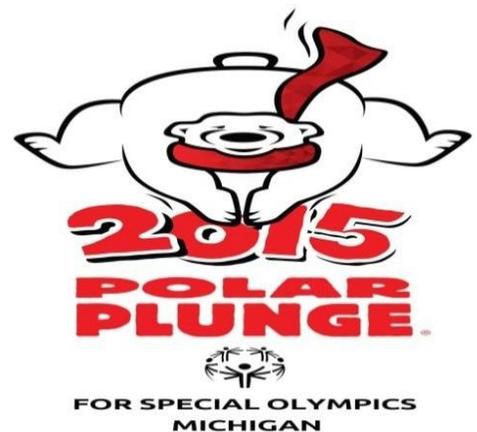
**LCISD Education & Technology Center  
690 N. Lake Pleasant Rd.  
Attica, MI 48412**

## Polar Plunge

Some of the staff at the Lapeer County Education and Technology Center **PLUNGED** into the **icy** waters on Saturday, February 8, 2015 at the Fenton Moose Lodge to raise money for Special Olympics.

The Polar Plunge is one of Michigan Special Olympics TOP fundraiser. This is just a reminder that there is no cost to athletes to participate in Special Olympic (local, area or state) events.

The staff thought it would be fun to make this a healthy competition by raising money through a “penny drive.” Over \$200.00 was raised; Way to go Ed. Tech. “All STARS!”



Pictured:

*Top Row– Left to Right*

Tina Athanassopoulos, MoCI Teacher

Samantha Woodbeck, SCI Teacher

*Bottom Row– Left to Right*

Joseph Lovik, Para Professional

Carolyn O'Hearn, Speech & Language Pathologist

Andrea Henderson, Para Professional

# Parent Resources

## Life TREX Transitional Recreation Experience

A Transitional Program for Teens and Young Adult with Autism Spectrum Disorders



### Who Should Apply?

Life TREX is an intensive program that includes lesson plans tailored to reinforce a variety of independence-building skills. As such, the following eligibility requirements apply for campers to be considered:

#### EXTENDED DEADLINE!

For more information visit:

<http://thefowlercenter.org/life-trex.htm>



- Age 14-27
- Diagnosed with an ASD
- Ambulatory
- Ability to alert program staff to individual needs
- Ability to refrain from behaviors that pose a risk to oneself and/or others
- Ability to complete hygiene, toileting, and cleaning
- Ability to make choices

## Family Center for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Department of Community Health

### Purpose

The Family Center's primary purpose is to help shape CSHCS policies and procedures and to help families navigate the CSHCS system. Through its *Family Support Network of Michigan*, the Center provides emotional support and information statewide to families of children with special health care needs.

### Services

Services of the Family Center of Children and Youth with Special Health Needs include:

- 1) Answering the CSHCS Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722
- 2) Directing the *Family Support Network of Michigan*
- 3) Administering scholarships to enable Michigan parents to attend conferences
- 4) Leading training and presentations related to children with special needs and to parent and professional collaboration
- 5) Assisting youth with special needs and their families in the transition to adulthood

For more information visit:

<http://www.michigan.gov/mdch>

Or Call: 1-800-359-3722 Family Phone Line

## Getting My Own Address Support Group

Upcoming GMOA Support Group topics

The Getting My Own Address support group meets the third Tuesday of each month, 6-8 p.m. at

Community Housing Network,  
570 Kirts Blvd.,  
Suite 231, Troy, MI 48084.

### MARCH

Tuesday, March 17, 2015 - to be determined.

### APRIL

**Getting My Own Address Overview: Achieving housing for people with disabilities**

If you haven't attended a Getting My Own Address overview presentation, or if you attended one a year or more ago, plan to take advantage of the opportunity to view the updated presentation offered on **Tuesday, April 21, 2015** during the regularly scheduled GMOA Support Group meeting. Linda Ronan Brown, Community Housing Network Housing consultant, will introduce the long-term housing planning process including new information on Michigan housing models, creating new housing models, and ABLE accounts. Give yourself a head start on creating and implementing a successful long-term housing plan!

Please plan to attend this **free** presentation that is open to individuals, parents, and professionals.

RSVP to [Lbrown@chninc.net](mailto:Lbrown@chninc.net) by April 20, 2015.

If you have any questions please contact Linda Ronan Brown at [248-269-1346](tel:248-269-1346) or [Lbrown@chninc.net](mailto:Lbrown@chninc.net)





### What sorts of needs do your campers have?

Our campers have a range of different special needs. No particular label or diagnosis is categorically ruled in or out. Skyline is physically spread out and hilly, so some physical limitations can be too much for the camper here. We expect that campers are able to attend to toileting and showering mostly independently. We aim to meet with first-time campers before camp to make sure we have the right staffing and programming to meet the camper's needs.

## Special Needs Camps

Ages 13-19 **Camp Far Away** Jun 14-19

Ages 20-34 **Camp For Me** Jun 21-26

Ages 35+ **Camp Joy** Jun 7-11

Ages 12-26 **Step Up Camp** Jul 19-24

See also: [Camp For Us](#)

[What to bring & helpful tips](#)

[General Summer Camp FAQs](#)

*(see right for some extra Special Needs Camp FAQs)*

### Learn more by visiting:

<http://www.campskyline.org/special-needs-camps/4587628689>



Website: <http://www.clarkstonscamp.com/>

Direct all calls to Community Ed. 248.623.4314

All it takes is one visit to Clarkston SCAMP and you will be hooked! Laughing, singing, swimming, running, hugs and dancing fill the air. SCAMP is a five-week program developed and designed for children and young adults with special needs. The camp is more than just an exciting place for the SCAMPers; this program provides a growing and learning opportunity for both the young adults hired to be aides for the SCAMPers, as well as the volunteers. It provides the parents of the SCAMPers the calming effect of knowing that their child is in a safe haven and having a good time that they might not be able to experience any other way.

While a tuition amount is in place, financial aid is available in limited amounts for eligible families.



Register on-line at:

<http://parenting-partnership.com/>

Parenting the Love and Logic Way® course topics cover all aspects of parenting from toddler to teens. Learn simple loving techniques that establish effective limits without threats and anger. New classes start every 6 weeks. Presenters are trained Independent Facilitators. The Becoming a Love and Logic Parent® program was developed by Jim Fay, Charles Fay, Ph.D., and Foster W. Cline, M.D., of the Love and Logic Institute Inc. in Golden, Colorado.

April 1, 2014

Lapeer County ISD

1996 West Oregon Street,  
Lapeer, MI 48446



## 2015 Baker Summer Camp Grant Application Open!

"My favorite thing about camp is making new friends and hanging with old friends and having a lot of fun together!!!!"

- Recipient of camp scholarship through the Baker Summer Camp Program

Summer camp can have a significant impact on individuals with autism, like the camper quoted above. That's why Autism Speaks wants to make attending camp an option for those who might not otherwise be able to go.



The Autism Speaks Baker Summer Camp Program selects **eligible camps** in the United States to identify qualified campers and offer scholarship funds for financially disadvantaged children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to attend a summer camp.

**The application cycle is now open!**

**For More Information Go To:**

**<https://www.autismspeaks.org/families-and-adults/grants/baker-summer-camp-program>**

### Baker Summer Camp Grant Timeline

- **February 9:** Request for Application (RFA) **available online.**
- **March 13:** Deadline for RFA, must be submitted by 11:59 PM EST.
- **March 16-April 17:** Volunteer Review Committee reviews and ranks all applications.
- **May 15:** High scoring camps are invited to participate in Camp Scholarship Fund and sent scholarship camper information forms and grant contracts.
- **June 15:** Waivers, agreements and scholarship statements are signed and returned.
- **June 22-July 13:** Funding processed to camps.
- **August 28:** Final Evaluation Reports returned.



**Parenting**

*Gloria Sherman*

Great Learning Opportunities

Family Coaching – Individual Coaching  
Parenting Courses – Parenting Workshops – Teacher Workshops

*Parenting with G.L.O.*  
**(810) 441-4656**

**[www.ParentingwithGLO.com](http://www.ParentingwithGLO.com)**

## **“Transforming Aggression”**

**Schickler Elementary**

**Monday, March 23, 2015**

**6:00-8:00 PM**

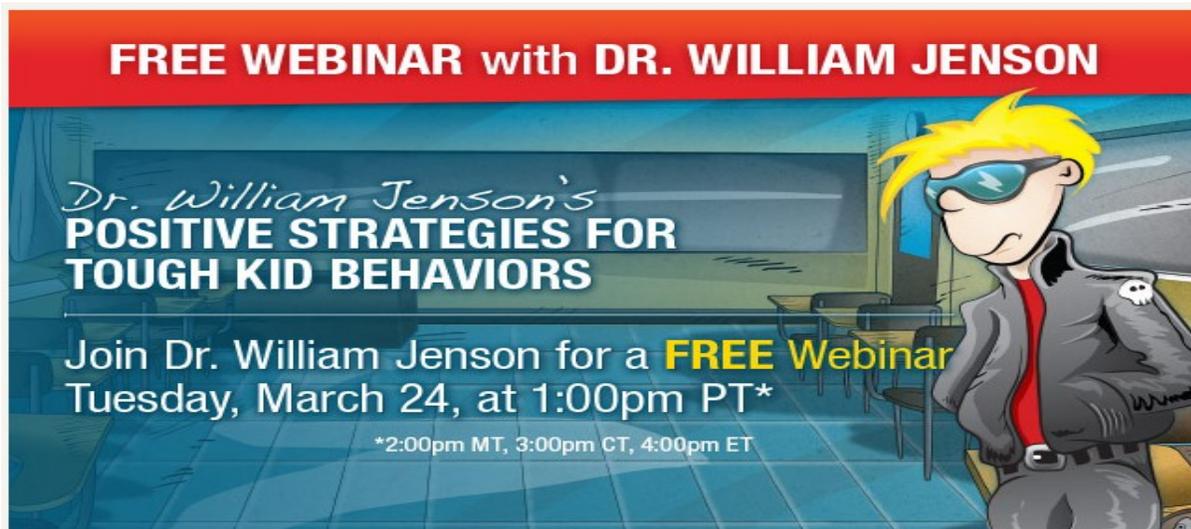
Adults get emotionally charged when children display aggressive behavior. Participants will be able to identify the 3 types of aggressive behavior (accidental, instrumental and hostile). We will discuss and learn the 5 ways we promote aggressive behavior in children without even realizing it. Several strategies will be suggested to change the behavior and most importantly rebuild connections.

# Tough Kids!

*William R. Jenson, Ph.D.*

*William R. Jenson, lead author of the [Tough Kid series](#), is a professor and past chair of the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Utah.*

All children are different, but some can be especially difficult to deal with. Some children have such severe behavior problems that they may be labeled as oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), conduct disorder, emotionally disturbed, or behaviorally disordered. These are the children who, for lack of a better term, we refer to as Tough Kids. Tough Kids exhibit a combination of behavioral excesses and behavioral deficits that make success at school, in the home, and in the community a challenge.



**FREE WEBINAR with DR. WILLIAM JENSON**

*Dr. William Jenson's*  
**POSITIVE STRATEGIES FOR TOUGH KID BEHAVIORS**

Join Dr. William Jenson for a **FREE Webinar**  
Tuesday, March 24, at 1:00pm PT\*

\*2:00pm MT, 3:00pm CT, 4:00pm ET

The image features a cartoon character with spiky yellow hair, blue sunglasses, a grey jacket with a skull on the pocket, and a red tie, sitting in a classroom. The background shows a classroom with desks and a whiteboard.

Register On-line at: <https://pacificnwpublish.com/pages/The-Tough-Kid-Webinar.html>

## Temperament and Behavior

More than 40 years ago, researchers assessed infants two to four months of age and identified three basic types: *easy temperament*, *difficult temperament*, and *slow to warm up* infants.

**Easy temperament** infants had regular patterns in their hunger, elimination, and sleep/wake cycles. They had positive moods, adapted well, and were highly responsive and tolerant of change.

**Difficult temperament** infants were the opposite of the easy temperament babies. These infants had patterns of sleeping, eating, and eliminating that were hard to predict. They cried often and had negative moods, and their tolerance for new situations and changes was low.

The slow to warm up infants fell somewhere in between the two other types described above.

We believe that many of the children we describe as Tough Kids were difficult temperament infants. But what possible advantage could a difficult temperament provide?

## Management and Expectations

Under severe and primitive conditions, *difficult temperaments* may have definite survival value and might mean the difference between life and death. On the other hand, in a modern society and specifically in our schools, having a difficult temperament is not an advantage. Instead, that temperament can disrupt learning for the individual and his peers.

The good news--much of the behavior that a child exhibits is *learned*. This means that the strength of a difficult temperament can be managed effectively so the child can succeed in school and at home. Tough Kids can learn to decrease arguing, aggression, and temper tantrums. At the same time, they can learn productive habit builder behaviors that will make life easier and provide a pathway to success at home, in school, and in modern society at large.



## About Dr. William R. Jenson

William R. Jenson, author of [The Tough Kid series](#), is a professor and past chair of the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Utah. His interests include behavior management for severe behavior problems, behavioral assessment, school-based interventions, parent training, applied technology, and meta-analytic research.

# What Is A Personal Curriculum?

## Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) and Personal Curriculum (PC)

The Personal Curriculum (PC) is a process to modify specific graduation credit requirements and/or content expectations based on the individual learning needs of a student. It is designed to serve students who want to accelerate or go beyond the MMC requirements and students who need to individualize learning requirements to meet the MMC requirements for high school graduation.

For some students, a PC may offer the best opportunity to succeed in high school and achieve postsecondary goals. A parent may want to consider this option if his or her child struggled with middle school curriculum and will require extensive support to meet all high school requirements or requirements in a specific content area, or is currently having difficulty meeting high school course requirements.

A modification to the MMC through use of a PC starts with a request by a parent or legal guardian, emancipated student, or school personnel. The request is followed by a thorough review of the relevant student information by a PC team. A PC for a student with an IEP allows a district to consider modifications to any area of the MMC. MMC content may only be modified if the PC team determines that the student's disability is the reason the student is not able to access or demonstrate proficiency in the content. The PC plan must be agreed to by both the parent and legal guardian (or emancipated student) and the superintendent or his or her designee before being implemented. Upon completing the MMC, as modified by the PC, the student receives a high school diploma.

According to Section 380.1278b amended of the Revised School Code regarding the Michigan Merit Curriculum and personal curriculum, If the request for a personal curriculum is made by the pupil's parent or legal guardian or, if the pupil is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor, by the pupil, the school district or public school academy shall develop a personal curriculum for the pupil.

For additional information regarding the Michigan Merit Curriculum or Personal Curriculum options, visit Michigan Department of Education, Office of Education Improvement and Innovation website at:

[http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530\\_30334\\_49879--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_30334_49879--,00.html)



**OUCARES Spring Program Registration Now Open** Register today for basketball, outdoor soccer, SNAG golf, Photoshop Basics, Advanced Animation, judo, swimming, bowling, volleyball, social skills, comic book club, industrial arts club, or our new parent support group. For more information, go to [oakland.edu/oucares/programs](http://oakland.edu/oucares/programs) \*Limited scholarships available for judo, outdoor soccer, and social skills\*

**OUCARES Summer Camp Applications Now Available** Apply today for pee wee camp (ages 3-6), summer day camp (ages 7-12), life skills camp at Meadows (ages 11-14), life skills camp in South Lyon (ages 11-14 & ages 15-18), and film camp (ages 11-18). For more information and the application, go to [oakland.edu/oucares/programs](http://oakland.edu/oucares/programs) (click on the "camps" tab) \*Limited scholarships available\*

### **Upcoming OUCARES Events:**

**March 18<sup>th</sup>: Film Workshop Open House** 6-7:30pm at Meadows Learning Center (1435 W. Auburn Rd. in Rochester). Come see film magic at its best where instructors work with adults with autism & other developmental disabilities to develop employment & life skills through film making. Check out our equipment, talk to current students, meet the instructors, and watch clips from movies we made. RSVP to [oucares@oakland.edu](mailto:oucares@oakland.edu)

**March 19<sup>th</sup>: Supporting Aging Adults with Autism Evening Enrichment** 6-8pm at Oakland University's Oakland Center Banquet Room. Dr. Tamar Heller, Professor & Head of the Dept of Disabilities & Human Development, Univ of IL- Chicago, will discuss issues related to aging and adults with autism & other developmental disabilities in a practical and understandable way. Presented in collaboration with On My Own of Michigan. No cost to attend. RSVP to [oucares@oakland.edu](mailto:oucares@oakland.edu)

**March 28<sup>th</sup>: Family Fun Day** Saturday 12-4pm. No cost to attend. Join us for a day of fun for the entire family! All ages welcome! Activities include an information fair, art projects, caricatures, bouncy inflatables, sensory room provided by the Kaufman Children's Center, & swimming from 12-2pm (bring your own towel). No need to RSVP to this event—just show up and have fun!

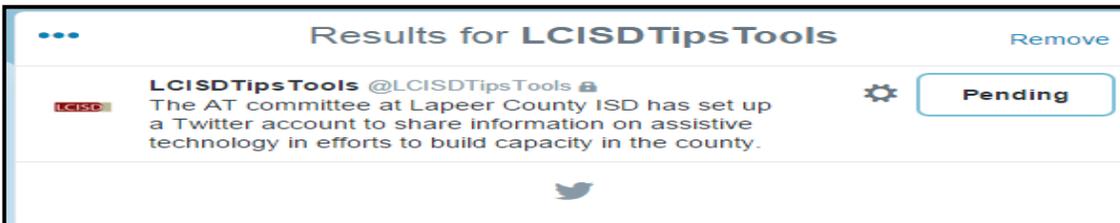
# LCISD Special Education SOCIAL MEDIA



## Twitter

The AT committee at Lapeer County ISD has set up a Twitter account to share information on assistive technology in efforts to build capacity among special education staff and increase knowledge of a variety of assistive technology supports that can help to students we provide special education services to in our county.

To follow us on Twitter, please go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and search for the following:  
Search LCISDTipsTools or click here [@LCISDTipsTools](https://twitter.com/LCISDTipsTools)  
Request to follow us



## Instagram

Instagram

Instagram: [@lcisdtipstools!](https://www.instagram.com/lcisdtipstools)

Instagram will be named LCISDTipsTools It offers a variety of professional development resources for teachers and support staff such as technology tips, apps, crafts, activities etc. It will also be a resource tool for parents as well. Users will search for LCISDTIPSTOOLS click on are username when it pops up and click on the follow requires button. They will have to wait for the request to be approved to have access.



## You Tube

YouTube Channel: [LCISD ATSE](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1234567890) is the YouTube channel for Lapeer County Intermediate School District Assistive Technology in Special Education. This channel will include playlists for specific categories of videos. Please go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search [LCISD ATSE \(or click this hyperlink\)](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1234567890) for our channel. LCISD Staff, if you would like to submit videos to be posted to our channel, please email [ATSE@lcisd.k12.mi.us](mailto:ATSE@lcisd.k12.mi.us). Attach your video, include a brief description, and include the name of the playlist you would like it to be included under. For example: PT, OT, PSP, Communication, etc.



## FACEBOOK

Anyone can view the page. It can be accessed by typing in (or clicking here) [Lapeer County ISD-Assistive Technology](https://www.facebook.com/LapeerCountyISD-AssistiveTechnology) in the search bar of Facebook. Comments will be monitored by the Assistive Technology Committee. This page will be a place to add upcoming events, post technology tips and resources and to highlight other Facebook pages that are useful for special educators and parents.

**For questions regarding any of the LCISD Social media sites, please contact:**

LCISD AT Coordinator Lesley Bruder [lbruder@lcisd.k12.mi.us](mailto:lbruder@lcisd.k12.mi.us)

