

Family Support

INFORMATION AND REFERRALS



FAMILY SUPPORT NEWS

SUMMER 2011



SPECIAL BACK TO SCHOOL ISSUE!



ACL'S "SPED SPEAK" GROUP SUPPORTS PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Do you sometimes feel as if you need a compass to navigate the special education maze? Would you like to connect with other parents facing similar challenges? Are you interested in taking action and creating change?

If so, then the ACL's new "Sped Speak" group may be just what you are looking for. The purpose of the group is to share and discuss practical problem-solving skills and to seek creative solutions to issues facing parents who have children in the special education system. The group also hopes to provide opportunities to build a sense of shared purpose and help families regain a sense of control over their children's education.

Where: *The Association for Community Living*

5744 N. 71st Street

Longmont, CO 80503

When: *Monthly Starting August 2nd*

First Tuesday: 6-7:30 PM

Second Saturday: 9:30-11:00 AM

Third Tuesday: 9-10:30 AM

No RSVP is necessary.

For more information, contact the ACL at 303-527-0888 x 400 or visit their website at

<http://aclboulder.org/>.



ST. VRAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT “ASD FRIENDSHIP DAY” IS AUG. 27

The 2nd Annual ASD Friendship Day will be held Saturday, August 27, 2011 at Lincoln High School in Longmont. The ASD Friendship Day began in 2010 and was initiated to bring students together across the St. Vrain Valley School District who are on the Autism Spectrum and in **their middle or high school years**. This event is for families and students of St. Vrain Valley School District only.



When: Saturday, August 27, 2011

11:00—1:00 PM Resource Fair (for parents of any child on the spectrum) and student activities (only for middle and high school students on the spectrum)

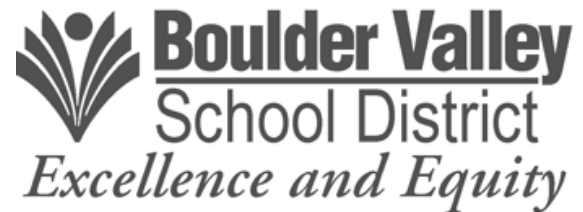
1:00—1:30 PM Pot Luck

Where: Lincoln School, 619 Bowen Street, Longmont, 80501

Contact: Mariel Almenara 720-220-2555

BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESENTS TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD EDUCATION SERIES

Back by popular demand, this year-long series of workshops hosted by the Association for Community Living and the Boulder Valley School District will help parents understand and navigate a path towards adulthood with their sons and daughters. Topics covered include person centered planning, school transition services, employment options, recreation and leisure, independent living, Social Security and adult Medicaid waiver programs.



For more information, contact BVSD Parent Liaison Anna Stewart at 720-561-5918 or anna.stewart@bvsd.org or the Association for Community Living at 303-527-0888 x 400.

VISIT THE FAMILY SERVICES WEBSITE:

www.imaginefamilyservices.org

KEY CONTACTS FOR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Sometimes, just knowing whom to talk to when navigating the special education maze can make all the difference. Below is a list of key contacts from local school districts to help in that process.

Boulder Valley School District (BVSD)

<http://www.bvsd.org/specialeducation/Pages/default.aspx>

Parent Support Center—Anna Stewart: 720-561-5918

Special Education Department: 720-561-5152

St. Vrain Valley School District (SVVSD)

<http://www.stvrain.k12.co.us/departments/studentServices/specialEducation/>

Director of Student Services—Jacalyn Whittington: 303-772-7700

Area Coordinator—Allison Hocking: 303-772-7700

Adams 12 School District

<http://adams12.org/en/sss>

Student Support Services: 720-972-4774

If you find the need to seek advocacy relating to your child's education needs:

For BVSD and for SVVSD

Please contact the Association for Community Living (<http://aclboulder.org/>)

The intake line for advocacy is 303-527-0888, x400

For Adams 12

Please contact the Arc of Adams County (<http://www.arcadams.org/>)

Educational Advocate—Jeannine Durst: 303-428-0310

NEW WEBSITE DESIGNED FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The We Connect Now website (<http://weconnectnow.wordpress.com/>) was developed to serve college students with disabilities in an effort to connect and integrate them more as a virtual community with a voice on important issues. The website is used as a resource by colleges and universities and groups serving people with disabilities in 49 states and at least three foreign countries.



EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES CONNECTOR

*SUPPORTING FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS*

WHAT IS EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES?

Exceptional Families is a support and information network for parents and caregivers of children with special needs. We offer several ways to meet other parents, learn about community resources, and, of course, have fun!

MOM'S NIGHT OUT

August 25, Johnny Carino's in Longmont—7:00 PM
September 22, Tutti in Lafayette—7:00 PM
October 27, Tres Margaritas in Longmont —7:00 PM



Please RSVP to exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com if you are planning to attend.

FAMILIAS EXCEPCIONALES, GRUPO EN ESPAÑOL

Cordialmente invitamos a todas nuestras familias de habla hispana para que asistan a nuestras reuniones mensuales. Estamos desarrollando temas de gran interes comunitario, donde damos informacion relacionada a las necesidades de nuestros niños. Le esperamos los primeros viernes de cada mes, en la Primera Iglesia Evangelica Luterana (esquina de Terry y 3a Avenida) en Longmont. Compartimos deliciosos alimentos provistos por nuestras excelentes asistentes, y damos cuidado de niños. No se lo pierda!

Las próximas fechas para las reuniones del grupo español en Longmont son los viernes 5 de agosto, 2 de septiembre, y 7 de octubre.

Contact Us!

exceptionalfamilies@yahoo.com

IMAGINE!'S BILINGUAL FAMILY SUPPORT NAVIGATOR IS HERE FOR YOU

We know that families caring for individuals with special needs work incredibly hard to ensure that their loved ones get the services and supports that best fit their priorities, needs, goals, and desires. That is why Imagine!'s Bilingual Family Support Navigator is there to assist as you explore the options available to your family members. Claire Findlay serves as Imagine!'s Family Support Navigator and works with families in our Family Support Program. She provides assistance to families to help them find community resources and coordinate contacts to support children and adults who have a developmental delay or disability. You may contact Claire at 303-457-5641 or email cfindlay@imaginecolorado.org.



Claire Findlay

BOULDER POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFERS FREE SAFETY FIRST COURSE FOR TEENS

The Boulder Police Department will be offering "Safety First for Teens" from 4:00 - 6:00 PM on the following Thursdays: October 6, 13, 20, 27, and November 3 at the Public Safety Building, 1805 33rd Street, in Boulder. The free course is designed to provide safety tips to teens with developmental disabilities. The curriculum of the program covers decision-making skills, street-smart safety, home security, fire prevention, and safety on public transportation.



Safety First for Teens is taught by Boulder Police Officers using a combination of lecture, small group, and hands-on activities. The registration deadline is September 29, but early registrations are greatly appreciated. For more information or to register, please call Kris Gibson at 303-441-3332 or send an email to gibsonkr@bouldercolorado.gov.

Family Support News
is the newsletter of Imagine!'s
Family Support Department
1400 Dixon Street
Lafayette, CO 80026-2790
Phone: (303) 665-7789
Fax: (303) 665-2648
www.imaginefamilyservices.org

**THE MISSION OF IMAGINE! IS TO
CREATE AND OFFER INNOVATIVE
SUPPORTS TO PEOPLE OF ALL
AGES WITH COGNITIVE,
DEVELOPMENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND
HEALTH RELATED NEEDS SO THEY
MAY LIVE FULFILLING LIVES OF
INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY IN
THEIR HOMES AND
COMMUNITIES.**

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Lafayette, CO 80026-2790

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Special "Back To
School" Issue

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achieve.



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BELIEVING IN THE POTENTIAL OF ALL
Imagine!
Innovative Resources For Cognitive and Physical Challenges

www.imaginecolorado.org