November is a time to reflect on the previous year and think about goals for the coming year, making it the perfect time of year to host our annual Welcome Back Coffee, accompanied by an informative talk by Jessica Murphy, Director of Special Education for the Concord and Concord-Carlisle school districts, Preschool Administrator, and District 504 (Compliance) Coordinator. We thank Jessica for her wonderful presentation!

For those of you who were not able to attend, some highlights included: the mission and core values of special education services in our districts, which allows for services to address the unique challenges that each child possesses in an individualistic approach appropriate for each child’s situation; the addition of a part-time BCBA at the preschool; and a focus on increasing vocational opportunities and executive function instruction for CCHS students. For a copy of the full presentation, please use the QR code above.

Congratulations to Sharon Young and Alcott staff and students for their DESE Commendation for high achievement and high progress on the 2016 PARCC. Alcott is one of only 49 schools in Massachusetts to achieve this high honor this year. We are proud of their great efforts and excellent work!

Did you know? One of the most popular myths in education is that students learn best when they are taught in their preferred learning style (for more interesting neurmyths in education, see Howard-Jones, 2014, Nature Reviews: Neuroscience). Interestingly, past research (e.g., Kratzig & Arbuthnott, 2006) has actually found that when people are given visual, auditory, or kinesthetic memory tests, performance on these tests is unrelated to learning style preference. In other words, people do not learn better on a kinesthetic memory test, even if they think that their preferred learning style was kinesthetic (a hands-on learning style). Overall, presenting information in multiple formats, sensory modalities, and contexts for all students rather than focusing on specific learning styles is likely the most beneficial strategy.

Let your voice be heard! On November 15th from 6:30-7:30 P.M., a SEPAC Focus Group will be interviewed by the search firm HYA for families of students on IEPs. Parents will have an opportunity to give their input on our next Superintendent. Our families have a unique point of view when it comes to education. Let’s make sure the next Superintendent has the qualities and qualifications that are important to us! For planning purposes, please RSVP at https://goo.gl/forms/Xq3kBQx8ckKvAso2

Upcoming Events. SEPAC meetings take place every other month. All meetings are open to the public. We encourage parents and caregivers of children on IEPs, receiving accommodations (e.g., 504 plan), or with any medical or special need to attend.

Join us on November 9th for a free workshop designed for parents of students in grades 5-12, but open to all. In this workshop parents will learn: strategies to help their child better manage nightly homework, planning and time management, organizational strategies to help your child keep track of their assignments, belongings, and much more! Workshop includes Q&A and small group break-out sessions. Refreshments at 6:30, workshop from 7-9 P.M.

Parents/guardians of CCHS students, please join Elaine Bojanic and Carol Yelle, CCHS SEPAC liaisons, for Coffee and Chat at Trails End Café on November 18th, come any time from 9-11 A.M.

For a list of all events, please visit www.concordsepac.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November 9th: Understanding Executive Function workshop</th>
<th>November 9th: Understanding Executive Function workshop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30-7 P.M., light refreshments</td>
<td>6:30-7 P.M., light refreshments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9 P.M., workshop</td>
<td>7-9 P.M., workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCHS Learning Commons</td>
<td>CCHS Learning Commons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

November 15th: Superintendent Search Focus Group (SEPAC) 6:30-7:30 P.M. Ripley Administration Building, Conference Room 4

November 17th: SEPAC meeting 7-9 P.M. Concord Free Public Library, lower level meeting room

November 18th: CCHS parents/guardians Coffee & Chat 9-11 A.M. Trail’s End Café 97 Lowell Rd, Concord