

## Parents-R-Us Meeting 2/4/16

- Robert said the FB page should be ready to go live in March. He will roll it out to the Parent Group first to let them test it and provide feedback before rolling it out to all parents. This will be linked to Twitter. Would like the FB page to be a Private Group by invitation only
- RESOURCES:
  - Our Lady Church of Festus – Mary Roth (636) 937-0637:
    - 20 kids per night
    - Looking for Volunteers
  - Helping Hands & Horses (HHH)
  - Team of Advocates for Special Kids (TASK)
  - Disabled Athlete Sports Association (DASA)
  - Rock the Spectrum – New Gym opening in Fenton – 2075 Bentley Plaza (636) 529-8282
  - Hillsboro Library – Check out toys
  - Thrive ASD
  - Arnold Library – Show your library card and get **5 free packs of seeds a day.**
  - Arnold Rec Center- under 4 free, indoor pool open Friday daytime hours for preschoolers
  - Spirits Gymnastics in Fenton has open gym on Fridays from 9-11 am
  - AMC Theaters: <https://www.amctheatres.com/programs/sensory-friendly-films>
  - Article for improving speech at home (separate attachment)
  - See Resource List pages 3-5 after minutes
- Robert is working on the Messenger program and hopes to have a Monday morning email that he can share with all the families up and running soon.
- Jen talked about updating parents closer to the end the school year about kindergarten play dates. She will notify parents in the weekly notes (i.e. Students going to \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary meet at the playground @ 10am on Saturday)
- Sometime in April – Plan an Autism Support Group and invite the entire district for family networking.
- Parent Calendar has been posted by the parent pick-up area. Some parents that pick-up have noticed it. Parents will give feedback next month on location.
- Mr McKee talked about the Garden Project – We will have 4 X 4 raised beds and build a 4 X 16 raised bed for lettuce, spinach, chard, kale and possibly green beans. He found discount decking material and St. Louis Compose to provide soil. For the 2 beds near the buses, he discussed a possible butterfly garden. The other 2 beds for tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and string beans. Would like to build and set up between March 7-11 and plant April 13<sup>th</sup>. Maintained by custodian and staff members over the summer. We had parents volunteer to be part of the Garden Committee.

- Parents Night Out – This would be available for students only. Talked about a schedule day each month (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month), 3 hours – 5pm-8pm - \$20 per student (discount for 2<sup>nd</sup> student). PM Group suggested \$25 (\$10 for second student) and provide pizza. A schedule for the evening would be sent home.
- Parent brought up a program called lunch bunch where the AM students would stay over and the PM students would come in early for lunch.
- Jen updated on the Souper Bowl. The kids had fun keeping score! Broncos – 150 vs. Panthers- 97.
- Random Acts of Kindness Week – February 15-19:
  - Have students make surprise for teachers (hearts to decorate their doors), each room will adopt a Board Member/Central Office Staff, and make special valentines for Dr. Wipke and Officer Ron.
  - Volunteers to call Woodlands Nursing home to set up a time on Friday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Parents signed up who are interested in attending, Jen will email those families after the time is scheduled.
- Suggestions for fun activities for the Month of the Young Child
  - Children’s Theaters
  - The Bubble Bus
  - Juggling Jeff
  - Kaylene will talk to a friend who has a balancing, etc act.
  - Mr. Saxophone – Mrs. Stewart will provide us information.
- Volunteers filled out paperwork and signed up where needed. Jen suggested Volunteers for Library, Laminate, Scholastic book order, copy. Jen will contact each volunteer with the information and dates needed.

**Next Meeting:** after March’s monthly assembly, March 3rd at 9:15am. and 1:15 p.m.

# Resources

**Sensory Solutions** - a pediatric therapy clinic specializing in working with children with developmental delays. They offer Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Feeding Therapy. Great staff and great atmosphere. Very helpful.

St. Louis County:

10560 Old Olive Street Road  
Suite 100  
Creve Coeur, MO 63141  
Telephone: [314-567-4707](tel:314-567-4707)  
Fax: [314-567-4505](tel:314-567-4505)  
Email: [info@sensorysolutions.org](mailto:info@sensorysolutions.org)

St. Charles County:

4200 N Cloverleaf Drive  
Suites J, K, L  
St. Peters, MO 63376  
Telephone: [636-922-4700](tel:636-922-4700)  
Fax: [636-922-4505](tel:636-922-4505)

**Tree House of Greater St. Louis** – therapeutic horsemanship providing therapy, recreation, education, and exploration. The benefits are far beyond what I could have imagined. It has been an amazing experience.

St. Charles County:

332 Stable Lane  
Wentzville, MO 63385  
Telephone: 636-332-4940  
Fax: [636-332-4941](tel:636-332-4941)

**Leaps and Bounds** – pediatric therapy center providing a variety of therapies. . The two girls that own it really know their stuff and they LOVE what they do. It is an awesome place to go

St. Charles County:

324 Jungermann Road  
St Peters, MO 63376  
Telephone: 636-928-5327  
Email: [info@LeapsAndBoundsKids.com](mailto:info@LeapsAndBoundsKids.com)

**Challenger Baseball** – an awesome program that allows your child to play baseball and feel great about how he plays. No score is kept and everyone gets to bat every inning. They have buddies that can help your child run the bases if he is not quite sure what to do. There is a game that the SLUH baseball team helps with, an All Star game which is attended by Mayor Slay, who hands out a medal to every player that shows up and a tournament with teams from Columbia, MO. The teams are by skill level. All games are on Saturday mornings at Tilles Park. Older siblings can be buddies for other players. Buck, the guy who runs it, is an amazing person.

St. Louis County:  
402 N. Geyer Road  
St. Louis, MO 63122  
[314-822-2518](tel:314-822-2518)  
[buck@challengerbaseball.org](mailto:buck@challengerbaseball.org)

**Judevine Center for Autism** – the best place to start if your child has autism. We took an intense three week parent training course when our child was diagnosed and we learnt so much. It has made a huge difference in how we work with our child. I cannot imagine where we would be now if we had not taken the course. They can also help you find additional services if you need them or navigate the system if you are having difficulty obtaining services.

St. Louis County:  
1810 Craig Rd., Suite 109  
St. Louis, MO 63146  
Telephone: [800-780-6545](tel:800-780-6545)  
Fax: [888-507-4453](tel:888-507-4453)  
Website: [www.judevine.org/](http://www.judevine.org/)

**St. Louis ARC** – a nonprofit, United Way agency that provides support and services to and children with [intellectual and developmental disabilities](#), and their families. They offer several workshops and seminars through the Special School District. They are very informational.

St. Louis County:  
1177 N Warson Road  
St. Louis, MO 63132  
Telephone: (314) 569-2211

**Eastern Missouri Autism Project Services** – There is a waiting list, but once your name comes up you continue to receive it every year until you no longer need it. We use these funds for our child’s therapeutic horsemanship. Be sure to call and get on the wait list. It took us 2 ½ years to receive funding. The amount for this year is \$2,500.

Enrollment packet and information:

[dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/east/docs/emapscolesresponsibilities.pdf](http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/east/docs/emapscolesresponsibilities.pdf)

**DDRB (Developmental Disabilities resource Board)** – be sure to sign up with the DDRB in your county. You can use \$500 a year to attend seminars relating to your child’s disability. All you need to do is complete the registration for the seminar, send it to DDRB and they take care of the payment. A definite benefit you do not want to pass up. Be sure to visit their website as there is a ton of information there.

Website: [www.ddrb.org](http://www.ddrb.org)

An important note: if your child has autism be sure to contact DMH (Department of Mental Health) to get a case number. You will need to have this number to receive some of the funding that is out there and available for you. You will be assigned a case manager and you will meet with them once a year to update your child’s care plan. The biggest benefit of this is respite care, if you need. There is usually a wait list, but once your name comes up, if your child qualifies, you can use up to \$3,000 a year for respite care.