

# Ability Awareness Week Events List

## Haddon Heights School District and Community

### March 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

#### All Week Events – March 25-28

#### Haddon Heights Elementary and High Schools

Throughout Abilities Awareness Week, teachers from all three elementary schools and the junior/senior high school are invited to participate in reading aloud a book with the students to inform, teach, and enhance their knowledge of disabilities and differences. The messages that will be conveyed relate to acceptance and acknowledgment and changing challenges into opportunities. The read aloud for all grades are as follows:

*Kindergarten through Grade 2: "Everyone Matters" by Pat Thomas*

*Grades 3 through 6: "If You're so Smart, How Come You Can't Spell Mississippi" by Barbara Esham*

*Grades 7 through 12: "Different Like Me: My Book of Autism Heroes" by Jennifer Elder*

This year to recognize students' strengths and different learning styles, students from all schools will also be invited to participate in Ability Awareness contest by grade clusters. Instructions and further information will be distributed to students prior to Abilities Awareness Week.

Each morning during Ability Awareness Week, announcements will be made at both the elementary and high schools to promote acceptance and increase awareness.

Students in the elementary schools will be invited to write an "I Can" statement on a post-it, which will be placed on display at the entrances of each school.

School library displays will be available to students and teachers with both fiction and non-fiction literature related to abilities awareness.

#### Haddon Heights Public Library

608 Station Avenue

A display of ability awareness related books will be available throughout the week for reading.

#### Monday March 25

#### STEPS Abilities Awareness Family Film Night – The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia

7:30 p.m. HHHS Auditorium

Join us as we gather together to watch the HBO Documentary *The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia*. Directed by James Redford, *The Big Picture* is a personal, touching and sometimes humorous look at this developmental reading disorder, offering a broader and clearer view of the minds of people with dyslexia. Spotting a cross-section of individuals, including Redford's own son, Dylan, and featuring interviews with notable dyslexics, including investment pioneer Charles Schwab, business magnate Richard Branson, high-profile lawyer David Boies and California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, the film reveals how an individual's unique strategies for coping can help lead to success in life. More information about the documentary, including a preview, can be found at <http://www.hbo.com/documentaries/the-big-picture-rethinking-dyslexia/index.html>

## **Wednesday March 27**

### **Elementary School Assembly – “Being Weird is Cool”**

*9:00 a.m. Atlantic Avenue Elementary School*

*9:55 a.m. Glenview Elementary School*

*10:45 a.m. Seventh Avenue Elementary School*

Haddon Heights elementary students will “rock out” with community performer Sara O’Brien as she performs “Being Weird is Cool”. Through music and self-expression, Sara teaches children to respect differences, celebrate uniqueness, and embrace weirdness.

### **Haddon Heights Child Study Team presents: Ability Awareness Night**

*6:30 p.m. Seventh Avenue Elementary School -- Multi-Purpose Room*

Join the Child Study Team members for an evening of fun as we discover the many different ways people change challenges into opportunities. The night’s activities include introduction of student contest winners, and guest speaker Dr. Paul Wichansky. Paul’s message is simple: when we allow our imagination and our realistic possibilities to soar, we can confidently leap over some of the most overwhelming hurdles that life throws at us.

We will also be hosting various stations including “Dyslexia For A Day “ simulation activity, cochlear implant, sign-language and Braille stations, assistive technologies information from Advancing Opportunities and Bancroft, and Physical Therapy Team Leader Carolyn Tassini with Seamus the Service Dog from Moss Rehab. All are welcome!