

Happy Thanksgiving

We have a lot to be grateful for.



Hello everyone, LINKS has lots to be thankful for and we decided to share our list with all of you because you are why we keep our doors open.

- We are thankful for our partners that help support the community.
- We are thankful for our grandparents and parents that care about their children.
- We are thankful for our volunteers that give us their time and resources.
- We are thankful for our school district and its hard working teachers that help our children.
- We are thankful that our social group shares their time and friendship with us.
- Most of all we are thankful that our list is so long we cannot list everything on here! Remember all that there is to be thankful for this holiday and celebrate them every day of the year.

In October I was lucky enough to be able to attend the Partners in Policy Making Training and finished my week with the Alaska Branch of the International Dyslexia Association's Annual Conference. I encourage everyone that wants to be an advocate to participate in the PIP training. During the first three days I was inspired by the other students and found the training to be very relevant and easy to understand. Everything about this class is inspiring for advocates of those with special needs. At the Alaska Dyslexia Conference I met wonderful teachers and advocates for children with dyslexia. The key note speaker was very inspiring and informational. Presentations turned on that light bulb in my head and I learned new skills and accommodations to offer children with dyslexia. I was also able to network with professionals that can provide diagnoses and tutoring. I am thankful for the opportunity to share this information with all of you.

This Month We Have Lots of Great Classes!

please reserve your seat now

Previously advertised class by Disability Law Center on Nov. 2nd has been cancelled



November 3rd 12-2pm Tammy Perria from UAA Department of Human Services will be starting her series of classes from Diagnoses to Adult Planning. This class will be for parents and caregivers on the intricacies of diagnoses, now what?

November 7th 1:30-2:30pm LINKS will be presenting at CCS Meadow Lakes for Staff and CCS Palmer for Parents and Staff.

November 9th 10am-12pm Anne Applegate will be presenting Related Services e.g.: Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech, defining appropriate public education and parent training. Great class for parents and professionals trying to define what supports are needed and how to ask for them.

November 17th 12-2pm Tammy Perria is offering her second class Simplified Waiver Training. Great for parents that are overwhelmed by the waiver process or are learning how to use the waiver program. This will help professionals that are trying to help parents use the waiver appropriately.

November 17th 6-7:30 Seattle Children's Hospital and UW present Combating Isolation and Finding Support teleconference.



We Are Grateful That We Can Help Make A Difference

"HB 79 is a market-based bill that will allow families to afford medically necessary treatment for autistic children, creating millions of dollars in long term savings for special education and other support costs. This bill will also create job opportunities for autism service providers by ensuring that insured Alaskans will be able to afford coverage for their autistic children.

While there is no cure for autism, research has shown that early diagnosis and treatment can significantly lessen the symptoms of ASD. Currently there are very limited resources in Alaska for the diagnosis and treatment of ASD, and insurance coverage for autism treatment would help attract autism treatment professionals to Alaska."

<http://www.akdemocrats.org/?bill=HB79>

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How a Bill is Passed

A step-by-step account on how a bill is passed in the state legislature:

I. Initial Steps

Initiation of legislation - can come from government, elected officials, businesses, lobbyists, citizens, etc.

II. Draft of the Bill

A request for a bill draft is made by legislators, the Governor, state agencies, and local governments. A staff attorney for the state legislature prepares a formal draft of a bill.

III. Introduction

A bill is introduced into the legislature by a Senate, House or Assembly member. After being introduced, or read for the first time, a bill is assigned to a committee in the house where it was introduced.

IV. The Committee Process

A committee holds a hearing to take testimony (this is where you will most likely give your comments) and gather information about the bill. Following testimony and discussion, the committee will evaluate, often amend, and make recommendations on the bill.

A committee may then vote a bill out favorably, unfavorably or without any recommendation, or table the bill, which basically kills the bill. A bill may go through this process in one or more committees

before being sent to the floor for the second time in the house in which it originated.

After going through the committee process the bill is sent to the floor again. If it passes a "Second Reading," a floor debate may occur and the bill is read the third time, usually on the day following the debate. If the vote is favorable, the



bill will be read again and sent to the other chamber.

If the bill passes in the house where it was introduced, it goes to the other chamber to begin the same process over again.

When a bill has passed both the House and Senate, but in different versions because of amendments, the two chambers try to agree on a single version by appointing a committee, with members being appointed from each house.

All bills must pass through both houses before being sent to the governor for action.

The governor can sign the bill into law or veto it. A two-thirds majority in both houses is usually required to override a veto. When the governor signs a bill, it



becomes law. A bill can also become law if the governor does not return the bill to the General Assembly within a certain amount of time. The length of time varies in different states.

To view article:

<http://www.asds.net/HowABillIsPassed.aspx>



Grateful For Our Community

Adoption Awareness Month at Wasilla

DQ Nov. 6th from 11:00-2:00 Alaska Center for Resource Families is doing an Agency Take Over at Wasilla DQ.

Saturday, Nov 5 10:00a

Wasilla Area Senior Campus,

Wasilla Craft Fair at Wasilla Area Seniors 50 plus Alaskan Artists and Crafters gather together every fall. Come find gifts, baked goods, jewelry, holiday decor and much more.

Try Hockey for Free Day

Saturday, Nov 5 5:00p to 6:00p at Brett Memorial Ice Arena, Wasilla, AK

Phone: Pollyanna Stewart, (907) 244-9518

The Wasilla Outdoor Youth Hockey Association invites boys and girls ages 4 to 9 to a Try Hockey for Free clinic to experience hockey for the first time and learn the basics of the sport in a fun, safe environment. This program, designed to provide youth hockey associations a national platform to introduce new kids to the sport, is a joint effort among USA Hockey, the National Hockey League, NHL member clubs and One Goal. Visit www.tryhockeyforfree.com to register.



Mat-Su Holiday Marketplace

November 5 & 6, 2011

Menard Sports Center, Wasilla, Alaska

A Christmas Carol

November 18 - December 18, 2011

Family / Christmas

Directed by Jack Foster

Synopsis:

This version of the classic story goes beyond other adaptations with a unique dramatic concept: At the opening curtain, Charles Dickens himself is introduced to the audience, ready to present one of the famed platform readings of his stories that packed auditoriums in Europe and America. Of course, the story chosen is one which he often performed, A Christmas Carol. The story unfolds behind him, and soon Dickens is weaving in and out of the action, observing, performing small roles, interpolating short passages of rich narrative never heard in other versions. He handles props and helps Scrooge and others with costume changes. The show includes "God Bless Us Every One," a lovely new carol by Jakes and Tony-nominated composer Mel Marvin. This is a refreshing take on a timeless classic that will thrill the entire family.*

Performances: Fridays and Saturdays at 8PM; Sundays at 2PM

Tickets: Adults \$19 Students/Seniors \$17

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is offering food baskets on the 19th of

November from 10-4pm, please bring proof of address and ID. Looking for food donations and cash donations to buy turkeys.
501 East Bogard Road
Wasilla, AK 99654-7109
(907) 376-3522

Salvation Army in Palmer is offering Food Baskets to be reserved and then presented on November 21st Volunteers needed on the 19th to help fill baskets. Please contact for more info:

Salvation Army
209 W Evergreen Ave
Palmer, AK 99645-6952
(907) 745-7079 for more info.

Social Security Days at Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Wasilla Branch Office
913 W. Commercial Drive
Wasilla, Alaska 99654-6937
V/TDD: 352-2545
FAX: 352-2547
Toll Free: (800) 770-4124

November 10th and December 8th 9-2pm

No appointment necessary, a representative from the Anchorage Social Security office will be present to help answer questions about social security issues.

