

fall 2018

SSD

parent CONNECTION

A publication of SSD's Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program

Special Guest Speaker: Missouri State Treasurer Eric Schmitt

Thursday, Oct. 11 – 6 p.m., SSD Central Office

Join us for the Transition to Adult Life Resource Fair featuring Missouri State Treasurer Eric Schmitt as he discusses the benefits of the MO ABLE savings and investment program for people with disabilities.



The MO ABLE presentation is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Oct. 11 at SSD Central Office, 12110 Clayton Road, Town & Country, MO 63131.

State Treasurer Schmitt launched the MO ABLE program in 2017. It empowers individuals with disabilities and their families to open tax-free disability investment accounts to save for long-term needs.

MO ABLE offers investment and savings accounts with a number of distinct advantages. Learn about MO ABLE and sign up for an account at www.moable.com.

For questions, contact the MO ABLE team at team@stableaccount.com or at 1.800.439.1653.

Parent Connection is a publication of the Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program of Special School District of St. Louis County.

WE PROVIDE:

- Advice and consultation about your child's IEP
- Free parent workshops
- Free lending library
- Help in finding community resources and supports
- Ability awareness resources



Do You Want to Receive Emails from SSD's Parent Education & Diversity Awareness Program?



You can sign up to receive email notices about our workshops and other events. Send your email address to ssdpeda@ssdmo.org or call 314.989.8460 and we will add you to our email distribution list.

MICHELLE LEVI PEREZ

314.989.8438 | mleviperez@ssdmo.org

West Region: Parkway, Pattonville, Ritenour, Rockwood, Litzsinger and Neuwoehner schools, JDC, Lakeside

DEBRA FIASCO

314.989.8108 | dmfiasco@ssdmo.org

South and Central Regions: Affton, Bayless, Brentwood, Hancock Place, Kirkwood, Ladue, Lindbergh, Maplewood-Richmond Heights, Mehlville, Valley Park, Webster Groves, Southview School, South Technical High School, Vocational Skills Program

PAM RUSSELL

314.989.8194 | pjrussell@ssdmo.org

North and Central Regions: Clayton, Ferguson-Florissant, Hazelwood, Jennings, Normandy, Riverview Gardens, University City, Northview and Ackerman schools, North Technical High School

RACHEL MYERS – 314.989.8431 | rdmyers@ssdmo.org Family & Community Resource Center

SARAH GEER – Program Assistant



Back row (left to right): Debra Fiasco, Michelle Levi Perez, Pam Russell. Front row (left to right): Sarah Geer, Rachel Myers

SSD Offers Transition Workshop Series

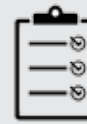
The SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program, along with the SSD Transition Department, will present a series of workshops focusing on the topic of transition planning.



Transition to Adult Life Resource Fair & MO ABLÉ Presentation

Thursday, Oct. 11, 5-7:30 p.m., SSD Central Office

Additional sessions will share information about important steps of the transition process, including college preparation, benefits and estate planning, and supports from community agencies.



Look for this symbol throughout the newsletter for workshops about transition-related topics.

Inclusive Schools Week is Dec. 3-7

In celebration of Inclusive Schools Week, SSD and MO TASH are proud to present award-winning filmmaker Dan Habib's "Intelligent Lives." This film stars three pioneering young American adults with intellectual disabilities who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college, and the workforce. It challenges what it means to be intelligent, and points to a future in which people of all abilities can fully participate in higher education, meaningful employment, and intimate relationships.

Please join us for this free event. Registration is not required. The film screening will be followed by a conversation with one of the stars.



"Intelligent Lives" Film Screening & Discussion

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7-9 p.m.

Ethical Society of Saint Louis, 9001 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117

For additional resources about inclusive education, visit www.inclusiveschools.org/inclusive-schools-week or call SSD's Family & Community Resource Center at 314.989.8460.

Workshop Information

All workshops are provided free of charge and open to all parents, families and community members.

Registration Options:

- 1 Call 314.989.7807 or 711 (Deaf/HOH).
- 2 Email registrant's name, workshop name and date, phone number and school district to ssdregistration@ssdmo.org.
- 3 Register online at www.solutionwhere.com/ssd (call the registration number for assistance with setting up an account).

Please be sure to register for workshops as they are sometimes canceled due to unexpected circumstances or weather conditions. We need to be able to contact you!

If you need more information, or if you have special needs and require an alternative format as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, contact Debra Fiasco, Administrator, Parent Education, dmfiasco@ssdmo.org 314.989.8108 or 711 (Deaf/HOH).



Unless otherwise noted with this symbol, all workshops are held on the lower level at SSD's Central Administrative Office, 12110 Clayton Road, Town & Country (just east of Ballas Road, next to Neuwoehner High School).

Childcare is not provided.

Note: Workshops presented by MPACT refers to Missouri's statewide Parent Training and Information Center that serves all disabilities and all ages.



Open House Will Feature SSD's Resource Centers

Looking for support materials, tools or information? Attend the upcoming open house at SSD's Family and Community Resource Center and Instructional Resource Center and learn about all they have to offer.



Wednesday, Sept. 12, 4-7 p.m.

SSD Central Office, Lower Level, 12110 Clayton Road, Town & Country, MO 63131

► **SSD's Family and Community Resource Center** – or the FCRC, as it's better known – provides just what its name promises: A vast array of special education and disability-related tools and resources for SSD families and the community at large. The FCRC's collection includes thousands of books, DVDs, resource packets and more.

To view the online library of materials, visit www.ssdmo.org/cool_tools/fcrc_books.html

Call 314.989.8460 or email rdmyers@ssdmo.org to have books, videos and DVDs sent home through school mail (via your child's backpack). We need your name, address, phone number, email address, child's name, teacher and school.

► **SSD's Instructional Resource Center** offers curricular support materials and some assistive technology available for checkout to the parents and teachers of SSD. For more information, visit https://www.ssdmo.org/cool_tools/irc.html, call 314.989.8308 or email tebyrd@ssdmo.org.

Sign Language Workshops Now Offered in Two Locations

New this semester, SSD will offer two sign language workshops – one at SSD Central Office and another at the Hazelwood School District Central Office. These workshops are free and open to anyone who would like to learn the basics of sign language.

Look for details on dates, times and locations under Parent Workshops in this newsletter.

FALL 2018 SSD PARENT WORKSHOPS

SEPTEMBER



Signs for Families and Friends – 8 sessions

Mondays, Sept. 10, 17, 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 6-7:30 p.m.

Presenters: Toni Fuller & Katie Englebrecht
Hazelwood School District Central Office Multipurpose Room, 15955 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO 63031

Participants will demonstrate sign language vocabulary, sign sentence structure, conceptual accuracy, facial expressions, and body language. Focus is on families. Children 10 and older are welcome if accompanied/supervised by an adult.

Open House – Family and Community Resource Center (FCRC) and Instructional Resource Center (IRC)

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 4-7p.m.
SSD Central Office, Lower Level

Come see all of the resources that are available to staff and families in SSD's two resource centers. The FCRC provides a vast variety of special education and disability-related tools and resources for families, staff and the community at large. The IRC offers curricular support materials and some assistive technology for checkout to SSD teachers and families who receive service from SSD.



SSD Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7-9 p.m.

SSD Central Office, Board Room

This meeting is open to all parents.

Picky Eating & Beyond: Exploring Food Selectivity, Food Allergies and Other Eating Problems.

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness
SSD Central Office, Room 61

Aversion to certain foods, overeating, undereating and eating too fast are just a few of the issues many parents experience with their child. This session looks at a variety of topics, such as food

allergies and meeting nutritional needs both in the school and in the home setting. Families will leave with tools and strategies they can use to support their child's healthy eating habits.

SSD Technical High Schools: Is This a Good Fit for Your Student?

Two sessions/locations available

Presenters: Emily Degenhardt & Amy Noble



Tuesday, Sept. 18, 6-7:30 p.m.
South Technical High School,
12721 W. Watson Road, Sunset
Hills, MO 63127



Tuesday, Sept. 25, 6-7:30 p.m.
North Technical High
School, 1700 Derhake Road,
Florissant, MO 63033

You don't have to wait until high school to begin thinking about this option! If your child benefits from hands-on learning and has inclinations in fields as varied as construction trades, medical sciences, culinary arts, automotive, cosmetology, electronics, information technology, public safety and more, then you will want to hear from staff members at North Technical and South Technical high schools. Prerequisite skills for various programs, situational assessments to help determine a student's real interest and aptitude and admission requirements will be discussed. Most programs offer certification with stringent requirements and can lead to further post-secondary education and successful careers. **Students are encouraged to attend.**

Signs for Families and Friends – 6 sessions

Wednesdays, Sept. 19, 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 6-7:30 p.m.

Presenters: Greg Petersen & Mickey Schuchardt
SSD Central Office, Room 60

Participants will demonstrate sign language vocabulary, sign sentence

structure, conceptual accuracy, facial expressions, and body language. Focus is on families. Children 10 and older are welcome if accompanied/supervised by an adult.

Making Writing Easier for Kids Who Hate to Write

Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenters: SSD Literacy Coaches
SSD Central Office, Room 60

This session will offer parents various resources and ideas for assisting their children who are reluctant writers. This engaging workshop will address supporting children with organizational difficulties, skill deficits and/or a lack of motivation when it comes to writing. Parents will leave with tools they can use at home to support their child with writing. ***Note: This workshop will not be addressing handwriting.***



Planning for the Future of Your Loved One with Special Needs

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenters: Michael E. Chiodini LPL,
Financial Advisor
SSD Central Office, Room 61

Families with children and other dependents with special needs, no matter what the age or disability, face many serious questions about how to best prepare for their future well-being. This workshop addresses such critical issues as protecting government benefit eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), creating Special Needs Trusts and the importance of a will.

Understanding Behavior: How to Support Your Child's Positive Behavior

Thursday, Sept. 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Ryan Guffy PBIS Facilitator
SSD Central Office, Room 60

Would you like an opportunity to explore what your child is trying to communicate with their behaviors?

Would you like to learn strategies and create a plan to support your child's positive behavior? If so, please consider joining us for this session.

OCTOBER

Orientation for Parents to Special Education and the IEP Process

Tuesday, Oct. 2, 9-11:30 a.m.

Presenter: Parent Education and Diversity Awareness
SSD Central Office, Room 61

Is special education sounding like alphabet soup? OTs, PTs, IEPs? This orientation is designed to provide parents with an overview of special education services and how they are provided through Special School District. Learn more about how to develop an effective individualized education program (IEP) and understand educational rights and community resources.



Transition to Adult Life Overview

Tuesday, Oct. 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenters: SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness & SSD Transition Department Staff
SSD Central Office, Room 61

This workshop will cover topics families will want to explore as they prepare for their student's transition to adult life.



Supported Decision Making: An Alternative to Guardianship



Thursday, Oct. 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenters: Sharon Spurlock,
Director of Family Support,
St. Louis Arc, and Debra Fiasco, SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness
St. Louis ARC, 1177 North Warson Road, St. Louis, MO 63132

When an individual with a disability becomes 18, they are legally an adult. This workshop is designed to help

families understand the options they have to assist their loved one in making good decisions without removing their rights through guardianship. Participants will learn how to assess the decision making skills that their family members have and the supports they already use to assist them making decisions. Legally binding tools that can be created with the person and their family without seeking guardianship will be shared and discussed.

Behavioral Strategies in the Home and Community

Thursday, Oct. 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Applied Behavior Analysis Department Coordinators
SSD Central Office, Room 60

Come learn strategies that help students in school and can also be helpful in the home and community settings. This workshop will cover several behavioral-based strategies to use across settings and give parents a starting point to making home and community times interactive and fun for the family.

Helping Children Develop Friendships & Social Skills

Tuesday, Oct. 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenters: Michelle Levi Perez & Alicia Wilson
SSD Central Office, Room 61

This workshop will offer strategies for parents to help children develop friendships, school strategies for building friendships and strategies that help children with language and learning differences, including autism, develop social skills.



SSD Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 7-9 p.m.

SSD Central Office, Board Room

This meeting is open to all parents.



Transition to Adult Life Resource Fair

Thursday, Oct. 11, 5-7:30 p.m.

SSD Central Office, Rooms 60-61

This fair will help families with information and support as their children transition to adult life. Representatives from SSD's Transition Department as well as community providers, post-secondary options and grant-funded resources will be in attendance. Come find out what you need to know to plan for the future and network with other families.



MO ABLE Program

Thursday, Oct. 11, 6 p.m.

Presenter: Missouri State

Treasurer Eric Schmitt
SSD Central Office, Board Room

Saving for the future is an important component of planning for independence in adult life. Come learn how the MO ABLE program empowers individuals with disabilities and their families to open tax-free disability investment accounts to save for long-term needs.

How to Get Organized Digitally with Evernote

Tuesday, Oct. 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Rebe Goebel, Certified Evernote Community Leader & SSD PAC President
SSD Central Office, Room 60

This workshop will provide parents with an overview of the free digital app and website Evernote, along with a customizable framework that utilizes this powerful tool for organizing IEP documents, medical records, and so much more! Parents will learn how to use basic as well as advanced features of this tool and how to instantly access any piece of stored information from any internet-connected device.

Early Childhood Parent Training: Basic Behavior Management

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 6:30-9 p.m.

Presenters: Early Childhood Special Education Student Support Facilitators
SSD Central Office, Room 60

This workshop will provide parents of young children with basic understanding of how language, developmental delays and temperament impact behaviors. Strategies to develop helpful rules, routines and clear expectations will be covered. Parents will learn how to develop visual supports that can improve communication in the home.

Understanding ADHD

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: MPACT staff
SSD Central Office, Room 61

What is Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder? How do you qualify? Who can diagnose it, prescribe medications, and offer counseling? Does a child with ADHD automatically qualify for an IEP? This training will answer these questions and many more. It will also provide strategies for parents to teach their children how to manage their symptoms. Also included are "Tips for Teachers" for specific instructional strategies that can be used in the classroom.



Planning for Your Child's Future LifeCourse Family Workshop

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness and SSD Transition Staff
SSD Central Office, Room 61

Charting the Life Course is a tool that was developed to help individuals with disabilities and families at any age or stage of life think about what they need to know, identify how to find or develop supports and discover what it takes to have a more self-determined life. Learn how to apply this tool to your family situation.

Understanding the IEP Process

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: MPACT staff

SSD Central Office, Room 61

Your child's IEP is the cornerstone of their education. This workshop offers an in-depth look at the evaluation process, qualifying for an IEP, the many components that must be addressed in the IEP document, and how progress will be monitored. As a result of this training, parents will gain a better understanding of their role as an equal participant in the IEP process.

NOVEMBER

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders (Autism, Asperger Syndrome, PDD) – 2-Part Class

Thursdays, Nov. 1 & 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenters: Autism Effective Practice Specialists

SSD Central Office, Room 60

Identify and understand the characteristics of autism spectrum disorders and learn effective, practical

IEP Family Survey

Families that receive services from SSD and have provided SSD with their email address will receive an electronic request to complete an Individualized Education Program (IEP) survey. The surveys will be sent out after your student's annual or initial IEP. Responses will be used to improve the IEP meeting process countywide and will not be shared with your child's IEP team. The survey should take no longer than 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Survey results will be shared in next semester's Parent Connection newsletter.

For questions regarding the survey, contact SSD's Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program at 314.989.8460 or ssdpeda@ssdmo.org.

strategies that will support your child in being more successful at home and school. The second session will focus more on strategies, with time for discussion and questions.



Solving the Employment Puzzle

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: MPACT staff and Vocational Rehabilitation

SSD Central Office, Room 61

This workshop will include presenters from Vocational Rehabilitation and MPACT. Content centers on employment for youth with disabilities by presenting two distinct strands: self-determination and "do-it-yourself" strategies for parents and concrete information about employment and accessing adult services for teens/young adults.



SSD Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7-9 p.m.

SSD Central Office, Board Room

This meeting is open to all parents.

The Special Education Foundation (SEF) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to assist students with disabilities in St. Louis County achieve success in areas not supported by tax dollars. The Foundation is completely independent from SSD and relies solely on private donations for financial support.

Upcoming events include the Fred Saigh Leadership Program car wash on Sept. 22 at SSD Central Office and the Dan McLaughlin Golf Tournament to Benefit Special Education Foundation on Oct. 8 at Norwood Hills Country Club. For more information, visit <http://sef-stl.org/events>.

The SEF provides support and assistance to students who receive services from SSD. Support areas include scholarships, summer camps, arts in the classroom, hearing aids, eyeglasses, assistive equipment, a high school leadership program, teacher mini-grants for innovative classroom programs, parent support, Special Olympics and student recognition.

For details about SEF programs and to access online applications, visit <http://sef-stl.org/programs>. For more information or help with the online applications, email jeanine@sef-stl.org.

DECEMBER



"Intelligent Lives" Film Screening

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7-9 p.m.

Ethical Society of Saint Louis, 9001 Clayton Road, St Louis, MO 63117

Join us to view award winning filmmaker Dan Habib's "Intelligent Lives." The film challenges what it means to be intelligent, and points to a future in which people of all abilities can fully participate in higher education, meaningful employment, and intimate relationships. **This is a free event open to the public. No registration is required.**

"Hidden in Plain Sight" Exhibit

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7-9 p.m.

Presented by SSD Health Services
SSD Central Office

Open to staff and families. No registration is required. The Addiction is Real program will present this exhibit to educate parents and caregivers on the dangers of drugs and alcohol, and provide them with the tools needed to guide and engage their children through challenges and pressures. Details at www.addictionisreal.org/videos



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For details about SEF programs and to access online applications, visit <http://sef-stl.org/programs>. For more information or help with the online applications, email jeanine@sef-stl.org.

RESOURCE PACKETS FROM SSD'S FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Resource packets contain great articles on the topics below plus a list of books and videos available to check out from the Family & Community Resource Center. You may order up to **THREE** packets. We prefer to send them through school mail to come home with your child whenever possible. We cannot mail packets outside of St. Louis County/City.

Go to www.ssdmo.org/cool_tools/fcrc_resource_packet.html to order packets online or complete the form below.

1. Ability Awareness
2. Anxiety Disorders
3. Assistive Technology
4. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
5. Autism Spectrum Disorder
6. Awareness for Grandparents & Extended Family
7. Behavior Strategies
8. Benefits and Estate Planning
9. Bipolar Disorder
10. Blind/Visually Impaired
11. Bullying
12. Deaf/Hard of Hearing
13. Depression
14. Divorce & Children with Special Needs
15. Down Syndrome
16. Dyslexia
17. Early Childhood Special Education
18. Encouraging Independence
19. Executive Functioning
20. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)
21. Friendship & Social Skills Strategies
22. Gifted & Disability
23. Homework Strategies
24. Inclusion Matters
25. Intellectual Disabilities
26. Learning Disabilities
27. Math/Numeracy
28. Multiple Disabilities
29. Oppositional Defiant Disorder
30. Orthopedic Impairment
31. Parenting a Child with a Disability
32. SSD Parent Handbook: Overview of SSD, Laws & Parental Rights
33. SSD Parent Handbook: Evaluation Process
34. SSD Parent Handbook: The IEP Process
35. SSD Parent Handbook: The Transition Process
36. SSD Parent Handbook: Resources
37. SSD Parent Handbook: Glossary & Acronyms
38. Positive Behavioral Support
39. Post-Secondary Education
40. Reading Strategies & Resources
41. Self Esteem
42. Sensory Integration
43. Sexuality
44. Siblings
45. Speech & Language
46. Stress
47. Summer Education & Recreation Resources
48. Supported Decision Making/Guardianship
49. Supported Employment
50. Supported Living
51. Talking to Your Child about Their Disability
52. Toilet Training Strategies
53. Transition Planning
54. Traumatic Brain Injury
55. Writing Strategies

To send information through your child's school, we need the following information:

Your Name: _____ Child's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Child's Age: _____ Child's Grade Level: _____

Email Address: _____ Child's Special Education Teacher or Therapist: _____

Child's School: _____ School District: _____

Please complete and return this form by mail, phone, email, fax or through your child's SSD teacher to:

SSD Parent Education & Diversity Awareness
12110 Clayton Road
St. Louis, MO 63131

Phone: 314.989.8460 **Deaf/HOH:** 711 **Fax:** 314.989.8449
Email: rdmyers@ssdmo.org

Parent Connection is a publication of the Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program of Special School District of St. Louis County.

SSD MISSION: In collaboration with partner districts, we provide technical education and a wide variety of individualized educational and support services designed for each student's successful contribution to our community.

SSD VISION: Partners for each student's success

SSD CORE VALUES:

- Student Success • Collaboration
- Integrity • Stewardship
 - Continuous Improvement
 - Equity • Accountability



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www.ssdmo.org

Special School District Notice of Non-Discrimination and Accommodation: Special School District does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation against an individual based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, ancestry, disability, veteran status, age, or activity protected by federal or state law in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Direct inquiries and complaints under this policy to Special School District's Director – Compliance Liaison, 12110 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63131, telephone (314) 989-8100 or to the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 320, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, telephone (816) 268-0550, fax (816) 268-0599, TDD (800) 877-8339, email OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov. Information about the existence and location of services, activities, and facilities accessible to impaired persons can be obtained from the Special School District's Director – Compliance Liaison at the phone number and address listed above.



Special School District
of St. Louis County
12110 Clayton Road
Town & Country, MO 63131

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SSD's Parent Advisory Council

SSD's **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)** is looking for family members to join the SSD PAC to:

- Provide feedback to influence District policy
- Help improve communication between your school building and SSD
- Network and build a community with other families
- Become informed



To learn more about the PAC, become a representative for your child's school and/or district, or to reach your district's elected representative, contact your SSD area coordinator or school principal, or contact Debra Fiasco at dmfiasco@ssdmo.org or 314.989.8108.

The PAC typically meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at SSD Central Office, 12110 Clayton Road in Town & Country.

Meetings for the 2018-2019 school year are scheduled for Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, April 10 and May 8.



parent
CONNECTION

Look inside
for details about
upcoming workshops!