

# Newsletter July/August 2013

Edition 10 /2013



Bexley Voice for Special Needs Children

## Newsletter Update

I tempted fate in our last newsletter by saying we had some sunshine at last! Lets hope that we get some summer weather soon so that you can take your children to the park (whilst completing our Bexley Park Survey of course!). The run up to the summer holidays is always a busy time for the BV team with school visits, meetings and summer events such as Lark in the Park and the Danson Festival and we really look forward to meeting new and existing members there. With so much information to pass onto our members please keep an eye on our website and facebook page as they are full of up to date information and daily chat about many issues... so come and join in today. We currently have 323 members on our database and always welcome new parents and carers in Bexley who want to add their voice to ours. Don't forget, membership is free! Do you have any suggestions, ideas or relevant information you would like to include in the next Bexley Voice newsletter? If so, please contact [rachel.bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachel.bexleyvoice@hotmail.co.uk) with your information.

## SAVE THE DATE !

### 2013 PARENT CONFERENCE

THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

After the overwhelming success of our parent conference in March 2012, Bexley Voice are delighted to announce that another conference is being held to offer information to parents and carers of children with special needs and disabilities. Visit our website and Facebook page for more details.

## PARENT/CARER 'DROP IN'

Bexley Voice's next 'drop in' session (as part of the Bexley SNAP assessment morning) for any parent/carer of a child with special needs, additional needs or any disability is;

**Thursday 26th September 9.30am–12noon Goals Football Centre, Bexleyheath**

Join us and meet our members for an informal chat over a coffee about any issues you may have. A Bexley Voice BME member will be there for support and advice. You can also complete a membership form and our Dyslexia Campaign questionnaire if you need to. We look forward to seeing new and existing members there.

## YOUTH PHILANTHROPY PROJECT

A group of girls from Townley Grammar Girls School in Bexleyheath entered an 'in house' competition to help support local charities. They worked hard with members of BV to produce a very moving and informative presentation about how we support parents and act as a 'voice' in local and national issues to ensure the rights and needs of our children are being met. The competition prize of £3000 was won by Bexley Moorings, a very worthwhile local charity and our congratulations go to them.

## DYSLEXIA/LITERACY CAMPAIGN

We really need your help in spreading the final word about our campaign. The more responses we receive, the more feedback we can give to service providers and Bexley LA about the support that your child receives or what your school offers, thus helping to improve support and resources in children's education. Questionnaires are available to complete online on our website.

**Deadline: 19th July 2013.**

## WELLING COMMUNITY FUN DAY

The heavens opened (yet again!) on the BV team on Saturday 15th of June at a community day held on Shoulder of Mutton Green in Welling. But with some new members signed up and money raised by hair braiding, a lucky dip and a tombola, it still made it a worthwhile event. And of course the team got to pose for a photograph with the Mayor of Bexley, Councillor Sharon Massey. Well done ladies!



Charity Number; 1142306



**DIARY DATES** Look out for the Bexley Voice team!

**Lark in the Park ~ 27th July-11th August**

**Danson Festival (Youth Section) ~ 6th-7th July**

**FIND US ON**

**facebook**

## **CHAMPIONS FOR AUTISM** Do you know who the 'Autism Champion' is at your school?

There is a new Government initiative to have a 'lead teacher for Autism' in every school. The 'Autism Champion' could be any staff member, including the school SENCo, with a particular interest in autism.

Their role would be:

- To liaise between the school SENCo, senior staff and Autism Team members when they visit the school and feedback to Autism Team who can advise on next steps.
- Outline issues the school have identified for a specific pupil and direct the Autism Team member to the appropriate class/student and be available for feedback following Autism Team member's observations.
- Disseminate advice, help establish and monitor effective strategies or interventions and feedback to class staff and parents if appropriate.

*The Autism Advisory Team in Bexley are supporting schools to identify their Champion. Thus enabling the specialist advice they give to be implemented and monitored more effectively, while at the same time, increasing staff confidence and expertise in understanding and supporting the students on the Autistic Spectrum in Bexley Schools.*



## **BEXLEY VOICE CHILDREN'S PARK ACCESS SURVEY**

**Please complete our online questionnaire about your local park facilities!**



- Do you find playground equipment/facilities at your local park easily accessible and suitable for your child's use?
- Have the facilities prevented you from taking your child to the park or hindered your child's experience/enjoyment of play in the park? Do you feel there is scope for improvement?
- Do you want your voice heard and help improve facilities for your child? **Visit our website for information.**



## **SCHOOL VISIT PROGRAMME FOR THE AUTUMN TERM**

Would you like to meet the team for a friendly chat and get to know more about what Bexley Voice can offer you? Then ask your Senco/Head teacher to contact us and arrange a convenient date. Most visits are straight after the morning drop off, so stay for awhile and let us update you on local and national issues and about other support groups. We would love to hear your thoughts about services that you access for your child. All members of the Bexley Voice team who visit schools have a child of their own with special needs. Our last few visits to schools in Bexley for the summer term are;

**Royal Park, Sidcup ~ Friday 5th July**

**Shenstone Parents Evening ~ Wednesday 10th July**

**Burnt Oak, Sidcup ~ Friday 15th July**

**Dates are already being arranged for the new Autumn term in primary and secondary schools, so why not add yours to the list!**

## **Bexley Snap Disco Night!**

Come and join the Snap team for a fun 70/80's disco night out at Belvedere Sports Club on Saturday 7th of September. £10 per adult/£5 per child over 7 years. Dressing up is optional!

For tickets please call 0208 320 1488.



We have moved! Our new address is Bexley Snap, Thames Innovation Centre, 2 Veridon Way, Erith, Kent. Our new website is going live very soon! Join our Facebook group page for an announcement.

## **FREE & EASY FUNDRAISING**

Bexley Voice are registered as a good cause with **easyfundraising.org.uk**. When you do your shopping online please go through **easyfundraising.org.uk** as this will raise funds for Bexley Voice - Thank you!

**CONTACT US**

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