

PC READS

PARK CITY RECOGNIZING, EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR DYSLEXIC STUDENTS

Plan Ahead...

Building a Collaborative Relationship with your School

Guest Speakers from the Utah State Office of Education
September 2015

Disleksia: The Movie

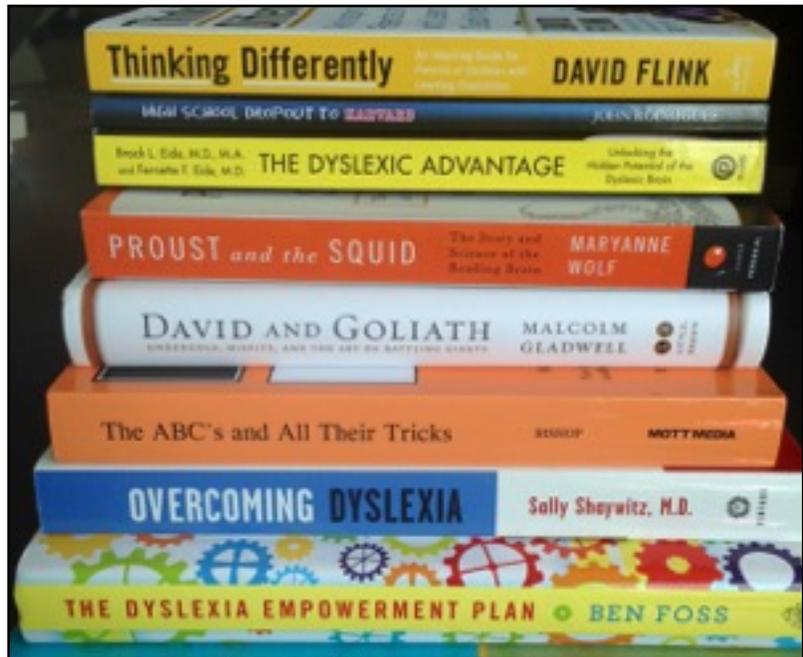
October 22, 2015
Co-sponsored by PC READS & Park City Film Series

Reading in the Rockies 2015

October 9 & 10
Beaver Creek, Colorado
IDA Rocky Mountain Branch

IDA National Conference

October 28 - 31, 2015
Gaylord, Texas



A few books to add to your summer reading list!

UPCOMING EVENT

Thursday, May 21, 2015 - 1:00 PM

All about Section 504 Plans

Learn more about Section 504 plans, including your rights and grievance procedures. Who qualifies for a Section 504 Plan? What is the process to obtain a 504 Plan? How does one prepare for a 504 Plan meeting? What accommodations & modifications may be included in a 504 Plan? What are the next steps if a 504 Plan is denied?

Home of Jackie Blake
3982 Saddleback Road
Jeremy Ranch

"Tests that specifically penalize dyslexics not only lead to inaccurate downgrading of the seeming intelligence of a person with this condition, but also can cause others to overlook the particularly advanced and distinctive nature of the creative faculty in dyslexics."
Sally Shaywitz, The Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity

Our Mission

We are a local group advocating for recognition and education of dyslexic students. We promote elevating literacy through early identification of struggling readers, effective reading interventions and appropriate classroom accommodations. We provide resources and support to families with struggling readers, particularly those identified as dyslexic.

**Interested in becoming
more involved with
PC READS?
Email us today!**

Legislative Update

SB117

Unanimously Passed!

Interventions For Reading Difficulties
Pilot Program
Definition of Dyslexia is now included
in our Utah State Law

SUMMER PLANS

Participate in Read-A-Thons at
PCTV & our local libraries.

Set a goal to increase ear reading
rates.

Listen to audio books while
traveling in the car.

Continue working with tutors.

Encourage your child to explore
their strengths through camps.

***“Dyslexics are 80 percent of students
with learning disabilities, 17.5 percent
of the population, and up to half of
students reading below grade level.”***

***Senator Bill Cassidy’s address to the
U.S. Senate.***

*In a very close vote (12-10), the Senate
defeated Senator Bill Cassidy’s submission
of an Amendment to the ESEA / No Child
Left Behind Act that would have allowed
(not even mandated) federal funds to be
used for better education of students with
dyslexia in public schools.*

On January 21, 2015, PC READS Hosted...

“Your School’s Reading Instruction & Intervention”

Topics covered included the 5 areas of reading (phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency & comprehension), current reading programs used in the PCSD and an explanation of RTI.

- The PCSD core reading program is Journeys. Current intervention programs include: Early Steps/Next Steps, Barton, Corrective Reading, Read Naturally & Americorps Volunteers. The majority of these programs are very weak with respect to phonics and phonemic awareness and lack multisensory instruction.
- Dyslexic students, whom account for most struggling readers (whether or not officially diagnosed) benefit most from a multisensory, structured literacy program. Examples include: Orton Gillingham, Wilson, Barton, SPIRE, Language!, Lindamood-Bell, and Slingerland.
- RTI (Response to Intervention) is a 3 tier model of reading instruction in K-3. Understand which tier your child is in, how frequently students are evaluated, the interventions provided and how progress will be monitored. RTI cannot be used to delay and/or deny a timely evaluation of a child suspected of having a disability.
- Understand your child’s complete DIBELS scores. Often, a struggling reader can “hit benchmark” cumulatively, but may still show struggles on a particular skill. Cumulative benchmark scores do not tell the whole story!

Congratulations to MICHAEL TRAN of East High School and LUPITA GARCIA of Park City High School!

**Michael and Lupita are the first annual recipients of the
JOSEPH JAMES MORELLI SCHOLARSHIP
and were respectively awarded \$1,000 and \$500.**

**This scholarship supports high school and college
students with learning challenges who wish to pursue a
career in science, engineering and math. It may be used
towards tuition costs, needed resources and/or testing.**

Joseph James Morelli overcame his many struggles due to dyslexia. Despite showing obvious signs of his learning disorder early on, Joseph was not identified as dyslexic until he was a high school freshman. A high school guidance counselor said that Joseph was “not high school material” and should be pulled out and “placed into a technical vocational school.” Given that the school refused to believe “they” had missed a learning disability, the family hired an educational lawyer and had Joseph tested privately. Once diagnosed with dyslexia and provided an IEP with accommodations, Joseph excelled in high school; as well as went on to achieve a scholarship in Mechanical Engineering at Montana State University.

Since his tragic death, the Morelli’s established the Joseph James Morelli Scholarship which is now endowed. They are thankful for the tremendous generosity of family and friends locally, as well as in New York. The application review process, done by the PC Community Foundation, Joseph’s teachers and the Morelli family was difficult and heart breaking. Applicants’ stories include statements such as, “I was told I should leave high school since I could not read,” “I was told I would never make anything of myself” and “I should not go on to college given I could not read.”

The Morelli family wants to thank all those who have supported the scholarship.
Continued support will enable them to help even more students next year.

