

One year on after the launch of SENAP (Special Educational Needs and Parents) from West Cork Parents Action Group, are back in full swing again this School year. After hosting a very well attended information evening on Dyslexia, presented by Mary Ball Educational Physiologist and Deirdre Mc Guinness both from the Dyslexia association of Ireland.

Following this, on **Thursday the 16th October**, with a talk from Jillian van Turnout, CEO, and Children's Rights Alliance, who has been campaigning for the full implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of the child. Children's Rights Alliance aims to improve the lives of all children under 18, through securing the necessary changes in Ireland's laws, policies and services.

Ann Hunt **Community Welfare Officer** in the west cork area will also give a presentation on benefits, entitlements and how to access them. Hopefully this information will still be relevant after the budget, perhaps Ann may come back again!!

Then in a further two weeks on **Thursday the 6th of November**, *Alternative Ways* will be the title of the night, this evening will feature *Karl Llewllen* Director of **MIND PLAY**, (IT for Academic Success) a software programme that has swept the United States by storm and is steadily making progress here in Ireland. Karl will explain this new software, the benefits many have received to date for Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADD, ADHD etc. "*If you can see you can read*". This programme is designed for each individual need and potential.

Karl will be followed by *Rosemarie Mason on Handle* (Holistic Approach to Neuro Development and Learning Efficiency). Rosemarie is the mother of 5 individuals with neuro developmental differences who have many labels including autism, severe learning difficulties, dyspraxia and dyslexia. As young adults they are all now studying or training in either a college or university setting. In looking at ways to help her family she attended many conferences, studied many types of sound therapy, educational interventions and sensory integration among others.

She became a campaigner for disability rights, an advocate, a consultant, government advisor, ran a local autism support group for 10 years and along with family members has been featured in media campaigns for the national Autistic Society. She came to **HANDLE® (Holistic Approach to Neuro Development and Learning Efficiency)** in 2003 and after seeing and experiencing personally the benefits to all members of the Mason family, Rosemarie trained first as a **HANDLE®** Screener then as a **HANDLE®** Practitioner and is soon to be a **HANDLE®** instructor.

She has worked with many individuals with varying labels and diagnoses e.g. ASD, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Strokes, Depression, Brain Injury, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome among others as well as individuals who, while being effective, want to be more efficient and less stressed.

If this isn't enough for you SENAP will be delighted to see you again on the **20th of November**, just two weeks later for another very interesting evening *Equality Authority*. Are you aware that your child with a disability has a right to an education? To find out what these rights are listen to Pat O' Leary.

Pats' presentation will focus on Equality in Education for People with Disabilities. Pat O'Leary has been in the Civil Service since 1980. He has served in various government departments and spent ten years working in the Supreme and High Courts. Patrick has been working in the equality arena since 1994, where he was information officer in the Employment Equality Agency. He was part of the transition team that assisted with the establishment of the Equality Authority in 1999. He is the Equality Authority's Press Officer and as assistant head of Communications is responsible for the Call Centre, publications and training. He holds a degree in public administration (IPA) and was awarded a masters degree in equality studies (UCD) in 2001.

Have you ever got stressed out fighting for these rights? Yes, Well Ted Tierney *Mental Health Awareness* Registered Mental Health Nurse, Registered General Nurse, Degree in Mental Health Practice and over 25 years experience in Therapy, both individual and group, specialising in Stress, Anxiety and Depression Management, will also be on hand on the night. Ted will deliver an interactive workshop on Managing your Mental Health which covers the essential elements for positive mental health. Ted will also take a question and answer session on any mental health related topic.

And that's just this side of Christmas, SENAP have a further three meetings organized for **early 2009**. All the above meetings are in the Parkway Hotel Dunmanway and again those dates 16th Oct, 6th Nov and 20th Nov. Admission as always is free thanks to the generous sponsors and voluntary donations given at the various fund raising events. SENAP is always welcoming new members and hands on helpers whose participation is vital for the group. SENAP are embarking on their second survey to establish the current situation on the GAM -General Allocation Model in schools in West Cork. Listen out for them on C103 next Sunday 12th Oct at 6:30.

If you would like to know more, or affiliate check out the web site www.senap.org or call 0868911032.