

October 1, 2018

Hi Rockwell Family!

My name is Jamie Kivela and am Norman Rockwell's Disability Awareness Chair. My overall role is being the local PTA liaison between Lake Washington School District (LWSD) and Rockwell students who are receiving special education services. Within this role, I will be providing communication to Rockwell families of available resources and pertinent meetings surrounding special education offered by LWSD and/or other disability organizations in the area.

I offer the foundation mindset of the following:

- Inclusive education
- Strength based IEPs and 504 plans
- Embracing all differences
- Equitable access to all children
- Disability pride

The main source of ongoing communication this year will be within the Beagle Bugle newsletter. I also will occasionally be issuing an informational flyer on a variety of topics surrounding disability awareness.

I'm reaching out to YOU this year to request the following:

- 1) Volunteer to help me with the Disability Pride booth during Heritage Night. Depending on interest, I envision volunteers to join me at the booth in half our increments (or more if you want). This will be a fun and engaging way to show proudness of our differences and disabilities. Kids who want to show their disability pride are highly encouraged to help at the booth!
- 2) Your contact info if you would like to receive emails from me on parent meet ups, kiddo playdates, and other family casual get togethers. I am trying to coordinate ways to build additional relationships within our community among families with kids with disabilities. I'm envisioning us coming together to embrace and foster new and existing friendships and holding productive community based dialogue surrounding disability inclusion.

If you are interested in either of the above, please contact me!

Lastly, if you haven't done so already, I invite you to join the LWPTSA Special Needs Group (SNG) - <http://www.lwptsa.net/special-needs/>. Informative meetings are held monthly and are free of charge to attend. LWSD has recently added complimentary child care at these meetings. In addition, LWSD has a free lending library and resource information is available via an email distribution list.

I am looking forward to advocating for your kid(s) this year and look forward to your feedback with ideas and suggestions of how I can best meet the needs of ALL of the kids in our learning community. I am excited about the opportunities this year holds for our students.

Sincerely,



Jamie Kivela
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