

IPVI INSIGHTS

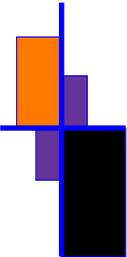


Connecting & Supporting Families Whose Children are Visually Impaired, Including Those with Additional Disabilities

October 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Filiberto Almendarez III



IPVI families, as time goes by I am introduced to new events for the blind/visually impaired or at minimum of events that will provide accommodations. For example, theaters are offering their access. Many are starting to provide pre-show tours that may include walking on the stage, feeling the set, meeting the actors and touching the costumes to know how the performers are dressed. This provides a mental visualization and sets up the story for the live performance. Also, audio described. The audio describers provide a live descriptive scenario of the visual components of the performing actors. Audio descriptions give detailed explanations of scenes and performances during live shows. The dialogue or narration conveys most of what's going on. Wow! The Performing Arts on stage are becoming accessible to all audiences, so everyone can enjoy the show! Thank You!

Lastly, I want to mention the Radio. It's the art of shaping sound to tell compelling stories. The presenter can provide insight into somebody else's world, painting vivid pictures in the minds of their listeners. One example are Sports. They are great on the Radio. The presenter is detailed, sometimes comical and purely entertaining. More so, if your team wins. So turn on the Radio!

And before I forget, Happy Halloween. Go out, have fun and be someone outside the box while gathering candy. Now, a little Halloween humor.

What do you call a scared tree—Petrified!!!

Happy Trick or Treat. Also, save the date, October 12, 2019. Please see the Newsletter on our October Outing to the Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier.

September 2019 E-Newsletter

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This E-newsletter is devoted to sharing information about special education, disability rights, mental health and human services law, policy and research that is of importance to people with disabilities, their families, and the professionals that work with them.

Information includes political issues, important research, legal developments, and information based on our experiences that we hope will help you personally in your individual and professional efforts. It also provides updates and news about our firm and its activities. We hope you find it helpful and welcome your comments and suggestions.

Matt Cohen

CPS special education budget continues to deny compensatory services

CHICAGO
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

CPS

According to a detailed analysis of the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) budget, the district continues to shortchange students who should be receiving compensatory services as a result of a state probe and subsequent quasi-takeover of the CPS special ed program.

The analysis, conducted by Access Living,

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PLAY FOR ALL

CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE *and* IPVI FAMILIES

A morning of fun for everyone

**The Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier
700 E. Grand Avenue, Suite 127
Chicago, IL 60611**

Saturday, October 12, 2019

Pre-registered families 9:00 - 1:00

General public 10:00 - 1:00+

**To register or for more information, please contact:
Gail Patterson at the Chicago Lighthouse -
(312) 997-3695**

Pre-registration includes:

**Free admission for Chicago Lighthouse & IPVI Families
Free shuttle from the Chicago Lighthouse to Navy Pier**

First 50 people only!!!

If leaving from Chicago Lighthouse, please arrive at 8:30am.



10 Accessible and Sensory-Friendly Halloween Ideas

For kids who are blind or visually impaired

By Amber Bobnar

Find ideas for Halloween crafts and activities that are accessible for blind or visually impaired kids. We've also got a lot of multi-sensory ideas too! READ MORE at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/10-accessible-and-sensory-friendly-halloween-ideas>



Make Your Own Teethy Pumpkin

By Amber Bobnar

Here's a fun and easy halloween pumpkin idea: use vampire teeth and sticky eye balls to make your jack-o-lantern's face! Kids will have fun helping and it's very tactile, too! READ MORE at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/teethy-pumpkin>



Make Your Own Simple Jack-O-Lantern

By Amber Bobnar

My favorite jack-o-lantern idea is to stick velcro stickers to the pumpkin and then mix and match felt shapes as the eyes and mouth. It's simple, there's no carving involved and the best part is you can change your design throughout the season! READ MORE at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/make-your-own-simple-jack-o-lantern>



Turkey Squash Thanksgiving Project

By Amber Bobnar

If you're tired of carving pumpkins every year, why not spice things up with a decorated squash instead? Find out how to make this silly Turkey Squash with feathers and a crook neck squash. READ MORE at:

<http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/turkey-squash-craft-project>

(Continued from page 2)

says CPS has failed to allocate any funds to the compensatory services ordered by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Two new special ed laws signed by Illinois Governor



Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently signed two important special education bills into law. **HB3302** extends the statute of limitations

on filing complaints for loss of services that were related to the state's investigation of the CPS special education program. **HB3586** will improve transparency for special education policies and services and ensure parents have five days to review documents before an IEP meeting. CPS also must post any special ed policy changes publicly 45 days before adoption.

More good news: Illinois first state to mandate coverage for EpiPens for children

Gov. J. B. Pritzker has signed **HB 3435**, a law requiring companies selling insurance in Illinois to pay for medically necessary epinephrine injections--or Epi Pens--for children. Illinois is now the first state to mandate coverage of the potentially life-saving shot.



The law, which takes effect Jan. 1, covers EpiPens used in cases of severe allergic reactions for those 18 years or younger.

Stop blaming children when the adults don't have all the answers

This article by Barb Cohen, a trusted ally in our firm's work, is powerful, succinct, and empathetic to both the kids and the teachers. It does a great job of summarizing some of the key systemic shortcomings of the IDEA and special education. It is important for both teachers and educators to be aware of the phenomenon Barb describes and to find ways to mitigate it. I hope this gets discussed by parent and teacher organizations around the country.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/mom-am-i-disabled/201908/when-the-teacher-insists-he-s-just-not-motivated>

Recognizing the "superhero" para-professionals in our schools

This essay written by a teacher--"Why Teacher's Aides Deserve Our Appreciation Every Single Day"--hits home in Chicago, where our teacher aides and other school staff have been working without a contract for over a year and are gearing up to strike.



Paraprofessionals make our schools run but are some of the lowest paid and underappreciated workers in the district. In fact, according to the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), 60 percent of CPS PSRPs make so little that their own children qualify for free lunch. That's shameful.

<https://www.readunwritten.com/2018/04/04/why-teacher-aides-deserve-appreciation/>



Labor Department says IEP meetings can qualify for time off under FMLA

In a surprising ruling, Trump's Department of Labor has ruled that, in some circumstances, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides time off for parents to attend their child's IEP meeting as long as their presence is needed to provide care for the child.

FMLA guarantees certain workers unpaid time off to care for family members with qualified medical issues. Employees who take advantage of the time off cannot be fired. Since IEP meetings can cover "medically prescribed" services such as speech, physical or occupational therapy, they can be covered by FMLA, the department wrote.

Combating isolation in parents of children with disabilities

If you are a parent of a child with a disability, chances are you've felt isolated. It's a very real phenomenon that needs to be acknowledged.



This article suggests 10 tips parents can use to combat that feeling. They may not work for every parent but it's worth a read.

<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/10-ways-combat-isolation-parents-215829497.html>

Immigrants with disabilities face new challenges under Trump's "public charge" rule

Immigrants with disabilities could face more difficulty becoming U.S. citizens or permanent



residents under new rules from the Trump administration. Known as the "public charge" rule, it allows immigration officials to deny residency applications based on the applicant's use of government assistance, such as Medicaid.

In the past, government officials did consider an immigrant's potential need for housing, healthcare or food assistance. But Trump has now expanded the reasons an application can be denied to include Medicaid eligibility and lack of funds for future medical needs. While the rule applies only to immigrants seeking residency, one advocate notes it "sends a message to all Americans with disabilities that this administration does not value or welcome you."

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2019/08/20/disability-advocates-decry-public-charge-rule/27041/>

To All Our Wonderful IPVI Families



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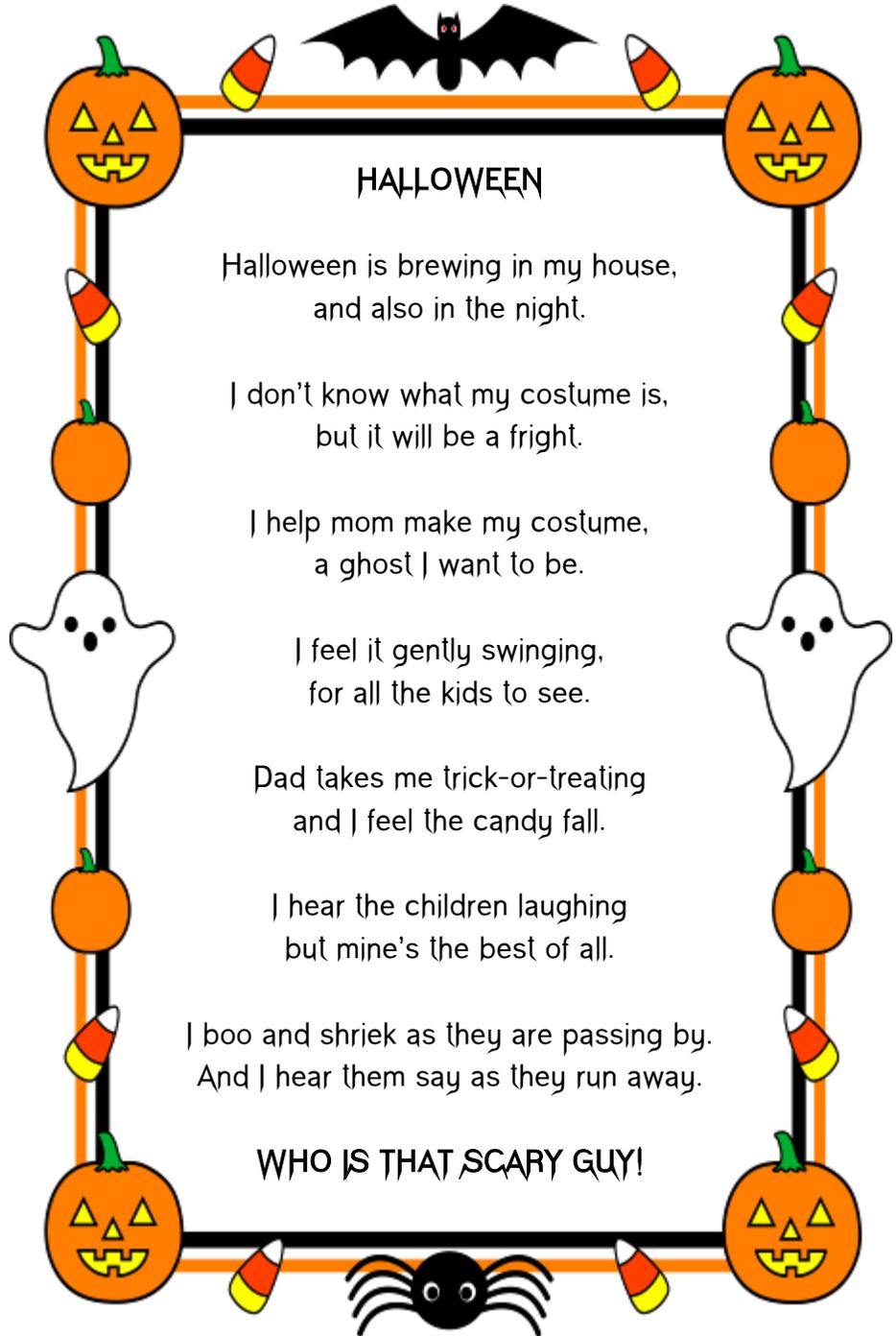
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HALLOWEEN

Halloween is brewing in my house,
and also in the night.

I don't know what my costume is,
but it will be a fright.

I help mom make my costume,
a ghost I want to be.

I feel it gently swinging,
for all the kids to see.

Dad takes me trick-or-treating
and I feel the candy fall.

I hear the children laughing
but mine's the best of all.

I boo and shriek as they are passing by.
And I hear them say as they run away.

WHO IS THAT SCARY GUY!



Join **IPVI** or renew your membership today!

The *Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments* is a state-wide, non-profit organization that enables parents to find information and resources for their children who are blind or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities.

Your IPVI membership dues or generous contributions help to support all of our ongoing efforts:

- Regular communications which include: workshops, conferences, training seminars, legislative issues, organizational announcements, products, and advice about raising a child who is visually impaired.
- Holds fun outings adapted for children with visual impairments at educational and entertainment settings.
- Represents parents of children with visual impairments at conferences, public hearings, and on committees.

What does IPVI do?

- Promotes and provides information through meetings, correspondence, publications, etc., which will help parents meet the special needs of their children with visual impairments.
- Facilitates the sharing of experiences and concerns in order to provide emotional support and relief from feelings of isolation for parents and their families.
- Creates a climate of opportunity for children who are blind in the home, school, and society.
- Fosters communication and coordination of services among federal, state, and local agencies and organizations involved with providing services to people who are visually impaired.
- Advocates on a statewide level for services to children who are visually impaired and their families.
- Keeps members informed about current proposals and actions which impact on children with visual impairments and their families.

Check one:

Parent/Guardian Membership: \$20 per year.
Child(ren)'s Names: _____

My child(ren)'s eye condition: _____

I give my permission to release my name to other parents.

Group/Agency Membership \$50 per year.

Extended Family/Friend Assoc. Membership \$20/year.

Medical Specialist \$50 per year.

Donation: \$_____ (tax deductible)

New Membership

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) - _____

Email: _____

Please enclose this form along with your payment by check to:

IPVI • P.O.Box 316634 • Chicago, IL 60631

Have questions or need more information?

**Call us at
1-773-882-1331**

**Illinois Association for Parents of
Children with Visual Impairments
P. O. Box 316634
Chicago, IL 60631**

IPVI CALENDAR

October 12

The Chicago Lighthouse & IPVI

Chicago

“PLAY FOR ALL”

Please call
1-773-882-1331
for any questions, concerns,
or comments that IPVI can
help you with.

**Newsletter Deadline for
November 2019 is October 15, 2019**



**Check Out
www.ipvi.org**

Calendar of Events!
News and Updates!
Useful Links to Web Sites!
And more...