



Utah
PTA[®]

every child. one voice.



**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

Autism Study 1

Upcoming
Events 1

Tax Help 2

Zoo Classes 2



**Mark Your
Calendar!**

Parent to Parent



News for Special Education Parents in Granite School District!

ISSUE # 4

FEBRUARY / MARCH

Huge New Autism Study Using DNA

Join SPARK, a *free* online research study with a mission to speed up research and advance the understanding of autism. The entire autism community is encouraged to participate, including adults and children diagnosed with autism, as well as their biological parents and siblings. DNA gathered will be analyzed to expand our understanding of the role of specific genes in the development of autism.

Additionally, you may qualify to receive:

- Updates on the latest research.
- Access to experts who will arm you with information to help address daily situations.
- Results from the analysis of your or your family's DNA, in the event that you opt to receive this information and a genetic cause for autism is identified
- A \$50 gift card for the individual with autism once your family has completed registration in SPARK and mailed back the saliva samples.



To learn more about SPARK and register online via a secure portal, visit www.SPARKforAutism.org/OHSU. All data provided to SPARK will be stored without any identifying information and kept confidential.

Upcoming Events!

There's an App for That!

Guest Speaker: URLEND Project
Technology offers many opportunities to help our children learn and grow. This workshop will focus specifically of Apps. You will learn how to find and navigate Apps, as well as App ideas and demos to help your children with things like school, homework, social skills and more. This workshop will be presented in English and Spanish. Other languages may be requested with 2 weeks advance notice.

Tuesday Feb 21, 2017 7:00-8:30PM
Granite Education Center, D-202
2500 S. State Street, South Salt Lake
Online Registration: <http://conta.cc/2d4YlJn>

Accessing Services Across an Individuals Lifespan

Parents will learn how to effectively support their son/daughter with disabilities in the post-secondary years. This all day training will cover 1) Person centered planning, 2) Developing soft-skills and 3) Post-secondary educational options for all individuals with disabilities.

Thursday March 2, 2017 9:00AM-2:30PM
Granite Education Center, D-102, 103 and 104
2500 S. State Street, South Salt Lake

Spanish and English sessions will be available
Online Registration: <http://conta.cc/2d4Zctl>



ZOO JUST FOR YOU

CLASSES AT UTAH'S HOGLE ZOO FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Utah's Hogle Zoo is kicking off the "Zoo Just for You" programming in February with our first class, "Magnificent Mammals" on Wednesday February 15th. This class is designed for students with autism and other developmental delays, ages 6-18. In this class, we will learn about the basic characteristics of a mammal (some of them will surprise you!) and meet some mammals up close. Class costs \$10 per student and includes an accompanying adult, as well as a short guided visit in the Zoo. Registration closes one week before class. Register online at www.hoglezoo.org/zoojustforyou



FREE TAX PREP

If you make \$60,000 or less you qualify to have your taxes prepared for FREE!

You can file your taxes in two different ways:

1: Visit a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site

You can file your taxes utilizing the skills and expertise of

one of our IRS certified volunteers by visiting a designated Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. There you will be matched with a volunteer trained to assist you. If your household income is \$53,000 or less you qualify to have your taxes prepared for free at a VITA site. Call 2-1-1 or 1-888-826-9790 to schedule an appointment.

2: File Online Now for FREE

You can also file your taxes for free from the comfort of your own home. All you need is a computer, internet access, an email account, and all of your tax documentation. The process takes about 60 minutes. If your household income is \$60,000 or less, you qualify to file online for free. If you are going to file online for free make sure to download and print these instructions to help you through the process.

http://utahtaxhelp.org/images/publications/Online_Filing_Instructions.pdf

If you have questions or are experiencing difficulties (including if you are accidentally charged by the online software), please contact the national helpline:

1-855-My-Tx-Help or 1-855-698-9435

Hours of Operation: Monday - Saturday, 7:00AM - 8:00PM MST

Email support: info@myfreetaxes.com info@myfreetaxes.com

Website: <http://utahtaxhelp.org>



Find Us on Facebook!

Stay up to date on upcoming events, and meet other parents in Granite with special needs kids! Look for "Granite Parents of Special Needs Students"