



A quick note: We have so much to share in this newsletter, that it may get cut off near the end. Be sure to click the 3 dots to see more. We don't want you to miss out on any of our exciting news including a sneak peek at another one of our speakers for #SENIA2021.

Is This School Year Really Almost Over?



Well, SENIA peeps, you are almost there – at the end of a school year you thought might never end. All of us at SENIA want to congratulate you for doing it. It may not have been pretty at times, but you did it!

You pushed through the good, the bad, and the ugly. And why did you do this? Easy. Your students. Thank you for all of your care, concern, and planning you put into each and every lesson to ensure your students got all they possibly could have during such an unpredictable time in their

lives.

As cliché as this may sound, your students may not remember the content you taught them this year, but they will remember how you helped them, how you supported them, and how you made them feel valued. I am a teacher. I am also a parent of a child with needs. And I value teachers so very much. We would not have survived this year without our son's supportive team of educators. They provided the structure and routine that helped him feel safe, secure, and able to navigate through this tumultuous period of life. I will forever be grateful for this support.

And I am grateful for all of you. This year, SENIA has grown so much. We have members from Australia & New Zealand, Asia, South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Our virtual conference, as well as our local and regional conferences, brought us all together to continue to work toward our mission: to

advocate and provide resources for differently-abled individuals. How lucky we are to be surrounded by such committed advocates.

All of us at SENIA would like to wish you a calm, relaxing summer. We hope you can take time to relax and do all the fun things that help "fill your tank."

Congratulations friends and have a fabulous summer (unless you are in S. America. In that case, have a nice mid-year break).

All my best.

Lori

PS. Did you receive our last mailer about our exciting double conference news for 2021-2022? If not, be sure to read more about it [here](#).

Community Voices



Our community is the heart of SENIA. We are so proud of our students, their families, and all who interact with them to ensure they are getting what they need. Join us in honoring and celebrating members of our SENIA community.

This month we celebrate three students: Timor, Ionelle, & Aizat.

Timor is a student with autism at International School of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; he and Aisha, who we featured in our April newsletter, are cousins. In this video, Timor's parents, Khairy Jamaluddin and Nori Abdullah open up about their child and how they've learnt to support Timor.

Where are they now?

Did you know that SENIA has four scholarships and awards programs? This month we begin our "Where are they Now?" commemoration series by spotlighting one of our past honorary Student Award recipients, Ionelle Josiah Rosales Ferrer. Ionelle is such an inspiration. Watch the video below to see all of the amazing things he has accomplished.

We would love to award many more winners. Nominate someone and help to change their life today!

A portrait of a young man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background of the portrait is orange.

Ionelle Josiah R. Ferrer



Where are they now?

A video series following SENIA's past award winners.

[Watch on YouTube](#)[Watch on Vimeo](#)

World Changer Award: May



**MUHAMMAD AIZAT
IZZUDDIN BIN AZME**

Malaysia



Aizat Izzuddin is an art enthusiast as well as a poetry performer, a storyteller, a voice actor, an illustrator, and an orator. He, along with his classmate, narrated three short stories and recited three poems at the art festival “2020 Tiny Lit Fest”, hosted virtually by an association in Brunei. The two students became the first Malaysians to take part in the art festival as performers. In early 2021, Aizat represented Malaysia to compete at the Asian English Olympics organized by an Indonesian University. At the Asian English Olympics, Aizat participated in the storytelling category with two of his classmates. He was one of the first individuals with disabilities to take part in the event! His accomplishments in literary, performing, and visual arts have catalyzed the active participation of learners with special needs in various arts events in his community. Because of Aizat, many more students have been inspired to participate in the art festivals being held locally, nationally, and internationally.

[Aizat's Short Story Presentation](#)

[Nominate a World Changer](#)

SENIA Student Award: Scholarship



**DO YOU KNOW AN EXCEPTIONAL CHILD OR YOUTH WITH
DISABILITIES WHO IS RAISING AWARENESS OR
ADVOCATING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**



**NOMINATE TODAY!
DUE OCTOBER 15, 2021**

Applications & regulations are found on our website
www.seniainternational.org/awards/

SENIA is pleased to announce the launch of the 2021 SENIA Student Award. Do you know of a student who advocates and promotes inclusion in their community?

The recipient of the award receives a scholarship, plaque, certificate, and the opportunity to present their inspirational story at the SENIA International conference, as well as, be featured in future SENIA publications. The deadline for all nominations is October 15, 2021.

[Nominate a Student Advocate Today!](#)

Check This Out!

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

Leah Kuypers

Creator of

THE
ZONES OF
REGULATION®



SENIA CONFERENCE 2021

LEARNING
ECOSYSTEMS
SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE
SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

We have the creator of The Zones of Regulation presenting at SENIA 2021!

The Zones of Regulation is a framework and curriculum designed to develop skills in self-regulation, including emotional control, sensory regulation, and executive functions. It is a systematic, cognitive behavior approach that uses four colors to help students visually and verbally self-identify how they are feeling in the moment given their emotions and state of alertness. Through use of the Zones curriculum, individuals become more self-aware and learn tools and strategies to manage their zone so their behaviors match the social and environmental demands. The model incorporates [Social Thinking®](#) concepts to help students learn perspective taking and understand how their behavior impacts those around them. The Zones of Regulation curriculum is published by Think Social Publishing. It can be used effectively in home, school, and clinical settings, as well as in conjunction with other strategies and curriculums being taught.

Local Chapter Highlight: SENIA Beijing's Conference Reflection

By Juliane Karlsson, Media Chair, SENIA



Beijing

Before the school year ends, SENIA-Beijing is setting the tone. We are here for everyone and, together, we can do what has never been done before. With new board members on board, facing unique challenges – from social distancing to connecting, communicating, and collaborating – SENIA-Beijing and our community had our first free hybrid SENIA-Beijing Spring “Pre-Conference and Conference” last April. These events keep up with our mission of giving back to our community and offering qualified and diverse professional development. Beating the odds, but influenced by them, SENIA-Beijing bridged new partnerships, explored new spaces, and linked our community to places beyond China; reaching different continents and time zones. We know there is much more to address and we are moving ahead, planting seeds of hope and change to give everyone a fairer chance to thrive in life. Our chapter is already planning new events and we cannot to see you there too.

We’d also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to you, who have supported us along the way! Thank you, SENIA and you all, who are our true north for a better world!

Local Chapter Highlight: SENIA Vietnam's Virtual Event

**Online Virtual Spring Event:
Understanding Learning Needs**

**sự kiện mùa xuân (online):
Thấu hiểu nhu cầu học tập của học sinh**

Date: May 15, 2021
Time: 11am-2pm
20-minute presentations
and 10-minute Q&As

ZANDRI BYLEVELDT
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
Topic of Presentation:
Special Needs and Sensory Processing
Những nhu cầu đặc biệt và xử lý giác
quan của trẻ
Language:
English (slides in English & Vietnamese)

TRANG NGUYEN
EARLY INTERVENTIONIST
Topic of Presentation:
The Iceberg of Behaviors
Tảng băng của các hành vi
Language:
Vietnamese

DR. AZRAEL JEFFREY
PSYCHOLOGIST / EDUCATION
AND ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST
Topic of Presentation:
Autism in the Classroom
Language:
English

DR. ANITA WONG
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
Topic of Presentation:
Developmental Language Disorder
Language:
English

RSVP senia.vietnam@gmail.com

By Ian Young & Miggie Shum, SENIA
Vietnam Board Members

On May 15th, the SENIA Vietnam board held their second spring event. The theme of the event was “Understanding Learning Needs” and covered topics ranging from Sensory Processing, to Developmental Language Disorders, to Autism, to supporting behavior. Our speakers came from a range of different backgrounds and specialisms including: Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Educational Psychology. We were particularly encouraged by the fact that half of our presenters also presented in Vietnamese, something

that is very important to our local board: to advocate and raise awareness to all in Vietnam.

We were also incredibly impressed with the turnout, with over 90 people registered in only two weeks (!) Most presentations were delivered via YouTube with each video garnering between 75-100 views within the 24 hour period they were available. Following each video session, each presenter gave their time to participate in a 15 minute Q&A. In those opportunities there were excellent questions asked by our participants, which really enriched our understanding of the topics being presented. In the end, the involvement and engagement of those who attended made our event successful

December 3-5, 2021

Don't Forget Our Fabulous Keynotes



The 2021 SENIA International virtual conference aims to inspire international school teachers, related service providers, and parents around our theme: Learning Ecosystems – Supporting Inclusive School Communities. Attendees can learn from these amazing keynote speakers and from each other!

[More info about the conference here](#)

SENIA Roundtable Podcast



[Find Our Podcasts Here](#)

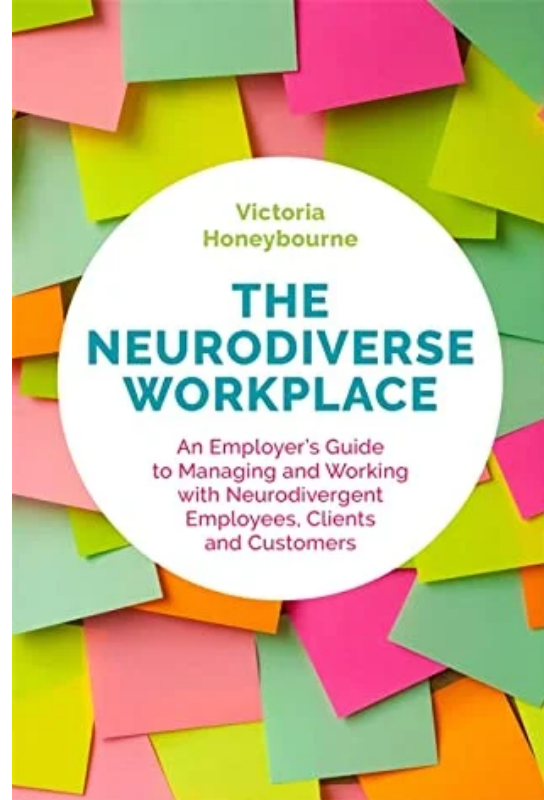
What We're Reading

Review by Max Simpson, SENIA Thailand

**The Neurodiverse Workplace :
An Employer's Guide to
Managing and Working with
Neurodivergent Employees,
Clients and Customers**

[Amazon](#) / [Goodreads](#)
[The Book Depository.](#)

I was so happy to read a book that connects with my own values. It does not focus on diagnostic labels, even though it has some great overviews of common neurodiversities, but helps employers to be aware of the components **they need** to bring to the table, before, during, and after recruiting the neurodiverse. Easy to read and broken down into digestible topics. Great for anyone working in transition to employment or for existing or future inclusive employers.



PD Opportunities

10th & 17th JUNE 2021 (THURSDAY'S)
7.00 pm – 10.30 pm (MYT, UTC +8)

Understand Your Disorganised Child & Student's Executive Functioning

REGISTER NOW >

tiny.cc/OPSarahWardEF

USD 200 INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS
USD 180 SENIA MEMBER (INTERNATIONAL)
RM 650 MALAYSIAN PARTICIPANTS

Icons and graphics include: **oasisplace** logo, **360THINKING** logo, a red octagonal **STOP** sign, a portrait of a woman, a 'WALK THE TIME' timer, a 'Tracknets' board, a large analog clock, and a small digital clock.

Supporting Learners in International Schools



Ryan Sagare

- SchoolRubric Co-Founder
- Texas, USA

Nora Fleming

- Middle School Learning Support
- Budapest, Hungary

Stefanie Donnelly

- Learning Support Coordinator and Teacher
- Tokyo Japan

Vince Dimatera

- Middle School Principal, Jakarta Intercultural School
- Jakarta, Indonesia



May 27, 2021

6:00 AM - EST



11:00 AM - GMT



Live @SchoolRubric

Become A SENIA Teacher Rep



The SENIA TR keeps your school abreast of SENIA events/conferences. In addition, the SENIA reps encourage their faculty to attend local and international SENIA conferences, help motivate teachers to submit proposals to present at SENIA, and keep schools informed about inclusion PD in the region.

Consider appointing/nominating an individual whose role involves meeting the needs of diverse learners and is committed to advancing best practices in education for all students. Ideally, the appointed individual has attended at least one SENIA conference.

Contact us at TeacherRep@seniainternational.org to learn more.

Contact us to nominate a TR

SENIA CONFERENCES 

Thanks!

TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



**MARIO
FRAMEWORK**



International**Diagnostic**Solutions



STEP
STRATEGIC TRACKING OF
EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

Would you like to sponsor SENIA in 2021-2022?

Do you know of an organization who would like to sponsor our us?
Sponsoring SENIA is a great way for organizations who share our mission to interact with SENIA members worldwide. Check out all our great [sponsorship opportunities](#). Interested? Contact [Lori Boll](#) today.

Register now and save \$50 USD

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION



*Register before August 1st and save some cash!

Register

SENIA International

A Non-profit organization 501(c)(3)

Based in Oregon, USA

Operates Worldwide

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