



Responding to Inclusive Special Education Needs

A Newsletter of the F.A.I.T.H. Initiative

Please visit www.SacredHeartGroton.org/RISEN

Vol. I No.13 Fall 2009

R.I.S.E.N. MISSION STATEMENT

We are an inclusive educational ministry; focused on the overall development of the child with special needs, thereby maximizing their potential to the best of their ability. We believe that it is through each child's differences that we come to learn more about the purposes and philosophical meanings of life. The entire community, especially parents and school staff, support and participate in this development.

FROM THE DESK OF JANE O'FRIEL



By the grace of God we have reached the *ninth* academic year of providing support to children with special learning needs. We continue to be truly blessed on a consistent basis with the help of so many people, organizations, agencies, friends, family members, parents, guardians, teachers and the dedicated staff of *R.I.S.E.N.* of Sacred Heart School. As we were completing the academic year 2008 ó 2009, we had some changes in the personnel of *R.I.S.E.N.* So take a moment to review the staff biographies. We extend many thanks to Penny Sutter, who was the Special Education Consultant for seven out of eight years of the *R.I.S.E.N.* Program. She touched the lives of many students while she was here at Sacred Heart School. We welcome Stacy Mares as the Special Education Coordinator, a full time position added this year. You will also notice a new paraprofessional on staff.

With the addition of a full time Coordinator, we hope to reach and support in an even better way the needs of our students at Sacred Heart School. The services provided will continue to include students with learning disabilities, developmental disabilities, and other types of learning and social challenges. Through the purchase of an updated version of the **COMPASS** Program, we hope provide more up to date remedial assistance, as well as, enhance enrichment for accelerated students. Paraprofessionals in the *R.I.S.E.N. LRC* will carry out plans to meet the student's needs under the guidance of the Special Education Coordinator, the Groton Public School System Special Education Staff, when applicable, and the referring classroom teacher.

We hope that you will be enlightened by the efforts and growth of the *R.I.S.E.N.* Program. Always, feel free to contact us should you have any concerns, ideas or suggestions. The mission and vision of *R.I.S.E.N.* has been maintained by people like you.

In the Spirit of the Feast Day of the Guardian Angels and St. Francis,
Blessings and Peace,

Jane A. O'Friel
President, R.I.S.E.N. Advisory Board

Thought for Reflection

"Lord, we thank you for the harvest earth has produced...These gifts witness to your infinite love; may the seeds of charity and justice also bear fruit in our hearts"



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The JOURNEY OF RISEN in FAITH

OUR NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Stacy Mares

We are pleased to feature the new Special Education Coordinator, Stacy Mares. She comes to us with a wealth of experience. Her initial degree was a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Eastern Connecticut State University. After working in the Human Services field, Stacy attended Southern Connecticut State University and achieved a Master's Degree and Certification in Special Education.

Currently, Stacy is attending Eastern Connecticut State University aiming towards

a dual certification in Early Childhood, Pre-K through Grade 3.

Stacy enjoys reading and spending time with family and friends. She is a reptile hobbyist. She breeds a variety of New Caledonian Geckos and prides herself in the large collection that she has acquired over the last five years.

She lives in Lisbon and has two dogs, Leela, a miniature Pinscher and Hurley, a miniature Daushund. Please join us in welcoming Stacy to the R.I.S.E.N. Staff.

“While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.”



STAFF BIOGRAPHY

Trissy Poitras

Hello... My name is Trissy Poitras and I just wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. I live in Groton with my husband, Fran, my three girls, a black lab named Libby, and a goldfish named Chocolate Chip. My husband Fran owns Poitras Trucking; he delivers animal feed to farms in New England. My oldest daughter, Pattie, just graduated from Sacred Heart School last year and has started her freshman year at The Science Technology School in New London. My middle daughter, Shelby, is in fifth grade and my

youngest daughter, Jamie, has just started kindergarten. As a family, we enjoy Motocross; we often go camping and ride our dirt bikes together. We are also members of Sacred Heart Church.

I have been with Sacred Heart School for 10 years. I started out volunteering in the lunchroom when Pattie was in preschool. I have been a member of the Parent School Guild and the School Board. I chaired the School Marathon for 5 years and I have also worked as an Assistant for preschool. I enjoy working with children and I am very excited to be working back at Sacred Heart School this year.

R.I.S.E.N. STAFF

Stacy Mares

Special Education Coordinator

Nan Gibeault

Paraprofessional, R.I.S.E.N. Learning Resource Center

Jane O’Friel

President, R.I.S.E.N. Advisory Board

Trissy Poitras

Paraprofessional

Tracey Davies

Paraprofessional, R.I.S.E.N. Learning Resource Center

Kim Shepardson

Consultant

**The Fifth Annual
R.I.S.E.N. Golf Tournament
June 12, 2009**



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS WHO MADE
THIS
EVENT A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!!!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Theme for Catholic Schools Week 2010 is: *Catholic Schools Dividends For Life*, January 31 ó February 6, 2010. The full catholic schools week 2010 Press Kit will be available in December 2009. Check out the WEB site: www.catholicschoolsweek.org

25th Annual Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress Convention - Saturday, November 7, 2009; **"Imagine the Possibilities"** Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT – Special Guest will be **Karen Gaffney**. In addition, there will be twenty educational sessions Birth to Three; IDEA; LRE and educational inclusion; issues facing adults with Down Syndrome; and other special topics.

National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Fourth Annual Special Needs Conference January 17 ó 19, 2010; check ncea.org for more information.

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) 2010 Convention & Expo April 21 ó 24, 2010, Nashville, Tennessee; www.cec.sped.org; 1-800-232-7733; sessions on teaching strategies, special education legislation, exhibits and products.

FUNDRAISING

HOLY BEARS

A limited number of Holy Bears are available at this time for purchase in the Sacred Heart Parish Gift Shop. Each bear has a spiritual theme. You can visit the WEB site www.holybears.org and see what they look like before you purchase them. We a good supply of Holy Bears which will be sold in the Santa Shop.



5th ANNUAL CHARACTER BREAKFAST

Back by popular demand... We will be sponsoring the Character Breakfast at the advent of Catholic Schools Week on **January 31st, 2010**.

VEHICLE DONATIONS

We continue to accept vehicle donations! If you have a vehicle that you would like to donate please contact us. One simple phone call and we will take care of the rest.



ABOVE ALL CHARITY

RESOURCES

www.ctpirc.org

The Connecticut Parent and Information Resource Center (CT PIRC)
1-800-842-8678



www.nichcy.org

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities
1-800-695-0285
E-mail: nichcy@aed.org

www.aagc.org

American Association for Gifted Children At Duke University

Focuses its energy on providing parents of gifted children with info. that will help them in raising their exceptional children.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Listed below are some of the foundations and organizations that have supported our mission and vision since 2001!

Campaign for Human Development
Charter Oaks Federal Credit Union
Church of the Holy Family, Hebron
The Society of St. Edmund
The Catholic Foundation, Diocese of Norwich
The Doug Flutie Foundation for Autism, Inc.
The Groton Education Fund
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The Blessing Fund, Dominican Sisters of Ohio
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