



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.12 Spring 2008

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



Please share with us the blessings and the hope that have carried R.I.S.E.N. into its *seventh* academic year of providing an opportunity to children with special learning needs in the Catholic School System within the Diocese of Norwich. It has been a wonderful year so far, and we are so pleased with the progress of the students being assisted through the efforts of the R.I.S.E.N. Initiative. You will read about some pointers for students regarding their study skills. This offering

has been made available through the Inclusive Education Resource Specialist and has been popular amongst the middle school students. A feature on People First Language is a reminder to us all that we must consider the person first, their strengths, their hopes, their dreams and their abilities. Only after we have looked at the person first can we relate to the accommodations that may be needed to achieve success for the individual with the disability.

The R.I.S.E.N. Initiative was visited by Senator Andrew Maynard in January 2008. During this meeting we were able to discuss some of the challenges legislatively that interfere with the ability to service children with special learning needs within the Catholic School System. We discussed some of the other accomplishments of states throughout the country with regard to tax vouchers and other initiatives. One of the major considerations is to reflect upon the concept of "the money follows the child". We hope to be instrumental in the pursuit of this idea and prepare for a better future for children with special needs within the private sector. We look forward to continued relationships with all of our supporters so that we may progress in our ability to provide assistance to children with special learning needs. The R.I.S.E.N. Initiative continues to be a resource and a support to other dioceses throughout the country. We receive calls from parents and diocesan representatives who are very committed to providing opportunities to children with special learning needs. We are continually evaluating our mission and vision into the future and hope with faith and love to bring you an enhanced view of R.I.S.E.N. as it grows and develops within the Diocese of Norwich. As always, please feel free to contact us should you have any concerns or suggestions. We are truly committed to create a world of success for persons with disabilities.

In the Spirit of the Lenten Season,
Blessings and Peace,

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

Thought for Reflection

"Faith has to do with things that are not seen, and hope with things that are not in hand"

St Thomas Aquinas

Advisory Board

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Consultants

Rev. Thomas Hoar, SSE

Lawrence Sarni



The JOURNEY OF RISEN in FAITH

Study Skills – Some Tips

Organization: To get started you need:

3 ring binder (1 1/2 inch or more)
Subject dividers
File cards Class textbooks
Class handouts 3 ring hole punch
Helpful things to have:
Highlighters Post-it notes
Pencil(s) File folders
Ruler

Helpful things to keep at home:

Dictionary Thesaurus
Paper clips Pen(s)
Painless Grammar - Barron's Publishing
Pocket Bible Dictionary – Holman
Illustrated Pocket Dictionary
Calculator

Computer (with spell check and grammar check)

Taking Notes: 1) **class notes** – take daily from lectures – every page needs to be dated and titled

2) **reading notes** – these correspond to your reading assignments – these need a title and date and contain important facts from your reading(s).

Class Notes – If the teacher writes information on the board, it is **IMPORTANT** so put the information in your notes. You should be writing down important facts from the teacher's lecture.

REMEMBER: You have homework every night – rewrite your notes and read them. This will help you to memorize the facts.

- Elizabeth Harrison

Inclusive Education Resource Specialist

People First Language

This focus is a gentle reminder to us all that people with disabilities are people first. Old descriptors such as "handicapped" and "disabled" can in fact be the greatest obstacle facing individuals with disabilities. One in five Americans has a disability, comprising the nation's largest minority group. It is the most inclusive and diverse group of individuals which any person can join at any time.

There is no universally-accepted definition of a disability. A disability is a social construct created to identify those who may be entitled to services or legal protections because of certain characteristics related to a medical diagnosis.

A change in attitude can change the way in which persons with disabilities are viewed. A disability is natural and can be defined as a body part that works differently. A disability is also often a consequence of the environment. We can assist the person with disabilities by providing assistive technology devices, supports, modifications and accommodations to ensure the person's success.

By using people first language you can put the person before the disability and describe what the person has, not who the person is.....

-Adapted from a commentary by Kathie Snow



"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us"

-Saint Augustine

R.I.S.E.N. STAFF

Beth Harrison

Inclusive Education Resource Specialist

Penny Sutter

Special Education Consultant

Jane O'Friel

Director

Marion Jackson

Paraprofessional

Tracey Davies

Resource Room Assistant

Kim Shepardson

Consultant

THE FOURTH ANNUAL R.I.S.E.N. GOLF TOURNAMENT

SCRAMBLE FORMAT

*"TO BENEFIT CHILDREN WITH
SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS"*

Friday, June 13, 2008

11:30am.....Sign-In/Lunch
12:30pm.....Shot-Gun Start
5:30pm.....Buffet Dinner

Shennecossett Golf Course

93 Plant Street Groton, CT 06340
860-445-0262

Golfer's Package

\$125 per person

REGISTER BY APRIL 18TH FOR A FREE MULLIGAN

Your golf package will include:

A cart, lunch, 18 holes of golf, a t-shirt, and a dinner buffet.

A Great Deal!!

Sponsorship Information

Tournament Sponsor \$1000

Includes: a foursome, recognition banner, your business promoted on t-shirt, and priority program listing

A Partner \$500

Includes: your business promoted on t-shirt plus program listing

A Friend \$300

Includes: name on cart plus program listing

A Tee Sponsor \$150

Includes: sign recognition on the green plus program listing

A Youth Patron \$100

To support Sacred Heart Youth participants

Lunch Sponsor \$1000

Includes: your business promoted on t-shirt, and program listing

Dinner Sponsor \$2000

Includes: your business promoted on t-shirt, banner, and priority program listing

Golfer's Registration

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please return this form with your check made payable to R.I.S.E.N. at Sacred Heart School by May 16, 2008 to: R.I.S.E.N. at Sacred Heart School 50 Sacred Heart Drive Groton, CT 06340

Contact information:

860-449-8302 or email Brian O'Friel at
RISENGolf@att.net

Donations for door prizes are welcomed.





UPCOMING EVENTS

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) will be sponsoring a conference The 105th Annual NCEA Convention Exposition, March 25 – 28, 2008. It will be held at the Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, Indiana. The theme this year is **“Where Challenge Meets Opportunity, CROSSROADS”**. View: www.ncea.org

The 36th National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) National Convention July 11 – 13, 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts at the beautiful Seaport and Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotels. This conference will include a number of general and individual sessions for self advocates, parents, educators and siblings. View: www.ndscenter.org or call 800-232-6322

NICE Conference - Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators: Stay tuned for more information on the upcoming conference in October 2008 in Miami, Florida or call 888-532-3389.

FUNDRAISING

HOLY BEARS

A limited number of Holy Bears are still available at this time for purchase. Each bear has a spiritual theme. You can visit the WEB site www.SacredHeartGroton.org/RISEN and click the Holy Bears link to see what they look like before you purchase them or visit the Sacred Heart Parish Gift Shop.



CHARACTER BREAKFAST

Held on January 27th, 2008...it was a great success! We served approximately 350 meals and enjoyed the presence of Disney Characters, Blaze from the

Connecticut Sun and Cutter from the Connecticut Defenders.

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 guide you through the process.



RESOURCES

www.caald.org

www.teensuccesscoaching.com

Teens with ADD and ADHD

Helping Connecticut teens with ADD & ADHD success at school and home!



www.LearningCamp.com

The Learning Camp

12 years of confidence & academic success in kids with LD, ADD, ADHD

www.disabilityisnatural.com

Source of thought provoking articles and products to promote new ways of thinking about persons with disabilities
e-mail: Kathie@disabilityisnatural.com

OUR SUPPORTERS

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

Campaign for Human Development
Church of the Holy Family, Hebron
The Society of St. Edmund
The Catholic Foundation, Diocese of Norwich
The Groton Education Fund
The Ruth Sanger Conant Trust
The Dime Bank Foundation Fund
The Sullivan Foundation
The Blessing Fund, Dominican Sisters of Ohio
The Intensive Education Academy
Middletown ARC
The Knights of Columbus Council #1943
The Knights of Columbus, Conn. State Council
The Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of the Lakes Council and Our Lady's Shrine Council
Wal-Mart
Pfizer Volunteer Grant
Sacred Heart School Parent Guild

NEWSLETTER/CONTRIBUTIONS

(Please Circle)

Name: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
E-Mail: _____
Amount: _____

Is there someone you know who may be interested in receiving our newsletter? Please fill in the name and address in the space provided and we will add the name to our mailing list. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail, send us your e-mail address to: RISEN@SacredHeartGroton.org. If you would like to make a contribution, please complete the information above, payable to RISEN, 50 Sacred Heart Drive, Groton, CT 06340. You may contact us at 860-449-8302.