



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.14 Spring 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



Approaching the completion of the *eighth* academic year of providing support to children with special learning needs, we feel fortunate to be able to maintain the mission and vision of a very innovative program. We *continue* to be truly blessed on a consistent basis with the help of so many people, organizations, agencies, friends, family members, parents, guardians, faculty and the dedicated staff of *R.I.S.E.N.* of Sacred Heart School. As we look to the future, the *R.I.S.E.N.* Advisory Board has been busy working on a five year plan for the *R.I.S.E.N.* program. It is our hope that through creative thinking and open hearts and minds that *R.I.S.E.N.* will grow and flourish.

As you peruse through the newsletter, please be sure to read the feature written by our Special Education Consultant, Penny Sutter on the Responsive Classroom. You will also find the WEB page on the Responsive Classroom filled with many helpful suggestions and strategies for the learning differences that children may exhibit.

Our *R.I.S.E.N. Learning Resource Center (LRC)* has been very busy this year assisting many of the children with specific learning needs. We have received three new hard drives for use in the *R.I.S.E.N. LRC* through the contacts of the Technology Coordinator in the Diocesan School Office.

We hope that you will continue to be encouraged by the growth of the *R.I.S.E.N.* program of Sacred Heart. As 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 kept a reality filled with faith, hope and love by people like you.

In the Spirit of this Lenten Season and the Year of St. Paul,
Blessings and Peace,

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

Thought for Reflection

"Do ordinary things with extraordinary love."
-Mother Teresa



Advisory Board

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The JOURNEY OF RISEN in FAITH

The Responsive Classroom

The Responsive Classroom is a comprehensive approach to elementary teaching. It emphasizes social, emotional, and academic growth in a strong and safe school community. The approach was developed by classroom teachers and consists of seven beliefs or principles. These classroom and school-wide practices are: 1. The social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum; 2. How children learn is as important as what they learn: Process and content go hand in hand; 3. The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction; 4. There is a specific set of social skills that children need to learn and practice in order to be successful academically and socially: cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy and self-control; 5. Knowing the children we

Teach ó individually, culturally, and developmentally ó is as important as knowing the content we teach; 6. Knowing the families of the children we teach and encouraging their participation is as important as knowing the children we teach; and 7. How we, the adults at school, work together to accomplish our shared mission is as important as our individual competence: Lasting change begins with the adult community. For more information on the responsive classroom please visit the WEB page at www.responsiveclassroom.org or you may also contact the Responsive Classroom at 39 Montague City Road, Greenfield, MA 01301. The phone number is 1-800-360-6332.

Excerpts for this feature were taken from the book: *Rules in School*, (2003), Brady, K, Forton, MB, Porter, D, and Wood, C, Northeast Foundation for Children, Greenfield, MA.

-Penny Sutter, Special Education Consultant

Inclusive Schools Network

www.inclusiveschools.org

The Inclusive Schools Network News is a source for updates and information about the Inclusive Schools Network, Inclusive Schools Week and other resources and events. In the February 2009 issue the tip of the month focuses on Executive Functions. You may wonder just what are they talking about. Executive Functions are a set of mental processes that assist us with planning, organization and task management. These functions enable us to focus our attention and activity in useful ways. Many students with disabilities have difficulty with executive functions such as: attention, organization, time management, impulse control,

memory, and self-monitoring. Some of the suggestions for assisting students who exhibit these issues include: 1) Provide students with organizational tools; 2) Provide step-by-step instructions; 3) Provide strategies for dealing with problem situations and opportunities to practice those strategies; 4) Build in time for organization; 5) Encourage self-monitoring; and 6) Demystify the Executive Functions. For more information visit the WEB page on the inclusive schools network.



“Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance.”

-St. Francis of Assisi

R.I.S.E.N. STAFF

Penny Sutter
Special Education Consultant

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

Jane O’Friel
President

Kobe Powers
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

SCRAMBLE FORMAT

*"TO BENEFIT CHILDREN WITH
SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS"*

Friday, June 12, 2009

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 17TH 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 **\$700**

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

Dinner Sponsor **\$1500**

Includes: your business promoted on t-shirt, 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. - Sacred Heart School by May 22, 2008 to:
R.I.S.E.N. - 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.



"Christians are united with Christ through faith"

-Romans 5:1-2



UPCOMING EVENTS

The 9th Annual Inclusive Schools Week
December 7 - 11, 2009. Save the Dates!

Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress – 25th Annual Conference, Saturday, March 21, 2009, at the DCU Center, 50 Foster Street, Worcester, MA 01608. To register contact the MDSC at 1-800-664-MDSC or visit the WEB page.

National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Convention, Expo and NPCD Convocation, April 14 ó 16, 209 in Anaheim, California; check ncea.org for more information.

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) 2009 Convention & Expo April 1 ó 4, 2009, Seattle, Washington; keynote speaker, Marlee Matlin; sessions on teaching strategies, special education legislation, exhibits and products.

FUNDRAISING

HOLY BEARS

A limited number of Holy Bears will be available for purchase in the Sacred Heart Parish Gift Shop, when it re-opens. Each bear has a spiritual theme. You can visit the Holy Bears WEB site www.HolyBears.org if you would like to see what they look like before you purchase them. We will be ordering additional Holy Bears for our inventory shortly. Please contact us if there are any you would like to purchase.



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



4th ANNUAL CHARACTER BREAKFAST

What a success! We were able to serve approximatly 300 meals and were able to raise \$1,500 plus for the R.I.S.E.N. Program.

Join us for the 5th Annual Character Breakfast in January 2010! This is an event you cannot miss!

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 help you take care of the rest.



RESOURCES

www.specialneedsparenting.suite101.com

Check it out:

Many conferences and workshops are held that offer valuable information and networking for parents of kids with special needs.

www.autisminspiration.com

Autism teaching materials: Social stories, lesson plans, sensory activities, and more. Autism Inspiration, 2059 Mountain View Drive, Eagle Mountain, UT 84005

www.lदानatf

Learning Disabilities Association of America

This organization provides cutting edge information, practical solutions and a comprehensive network of resources.
1-412-341-1515

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 Doug Flutie Foundation for Autism, Inc.
The Groton Education Fund
The Ruth Sanger Conant Trust
The Dime Bank Foundation Fund
The Sullivan Foundation
The Blessing Fund, Dominican Sisters of Ohio

NEWSLETTER/CONTRIBUTIONS

(Please Circle)

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

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



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-Sacred Heart School, 50 Sacred Heart Drive, Groton, CT 06340. You may contact us at 860-449-8302.