

SPICE

special people in catholic education



St. Catharine Parish

Spring 2015 Issue XIV

Peterson Program Enables St. Catharine to Extend Services

A couple of years ago, some parents from St. Catharine School who had children with learning needs testified at hearings with the State Board of Education regarding possible funding to support programs that would address the needs of students who require educational support within a school. Out of the hearings, the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program was created for students in the State of Ohio. This program (funded by the State of Ohio) gives parents of children with disabilities the choice to send their child to special education programs other than the one that is operated by the local school district of residence. The funds are used to provide services outlined in a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program provides scholarships to students who are eligible to attend kindergarten through 12th grade and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) from their district of residence. The amount of each scholarship is based on the disability identified on the student's IEP.

For the 2013 – 14 school year, St. Catharine School was a site for services. Beginning in the fall of 2014, St. Catharine School became a provider for services. This means that St. Catharine employs tutors/service providers who are paid through Jon Peterson funds, who provide specific services to identified students either before, during, or after school. Having the provider status has allowed us to coordinate and monitor services so that services that are provided by outside personnel best support student learning and the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). In addition, having personnel providing services in the building allows for better communication between service providers and classroom teachers.

Services that are currently being supported by Jon Peterson Scholarship Funds are: Speech and Language Services (provided by Barb Northrup and Associates); tutors (Jon Lindsey and Ranya Weiner); Occupational Therapy services (provided by Laura Clubok). All of these services support the Individual Education Plan that is developed through a joint meeting with the local public school district, sometimes the service provider, parents of the student, and representatives of St. Catharine School (principal, Intervention Specialist, classroom teacher).

The Jon Peterson Scholarship Funds have allowed St. Catharine School to extend services to students on an IEP. The money that is allocated to the parents for these services are used at St. Catharine School for these specific services. In addition to these funds, St. Catharine School continues to use SPICE funds to support additional services that are not listed on the student's IEP.

(Peterson, continued on page 3)

Thanks for all of your support, prayers and for sharing our vision. SPICE has been bringing an awareness to St. Catharine and beyond for over ten years, and we thank you for putting SPICE in your life!

Bob & Mary Ginn Ryan, Co-Founders

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*Donations listed in this issue
 reflect contributions made from
 May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015.*

(Peterson, continued from page 1)

By utilizing Peterson Scholarship Funds, additional SPICE money is also available for ongoing services to students not on an IEP. SPICE funds continue to support early speech/language assessments, after school and summer tutoring, purchase of materials for sensory programs, classroom materials that not only help students with learning needs, but are also used for students who struggle with a particular concept, and for on-going professional development for teachers that focuses on specific learning disabilities.

The Jon Peterson Scholarship Fund has been an asset to our school and to parents whose children have an IEP and need the support of specific providers. Having them provide these services in our school allows for a more comprehensive program of support.

Please note that programs sometimes tend to be misinterpreted by individuals who may not be familiar or are not involved in every aspect of daily educational challenges we encounter as a school and a community. Feel free to contact us if you find yourself unfamiliar with a program that is offered in our school or would just like more information. We find it easier to educate our school community so that all have accurate knowledge about our programs. We are always eager to share the impact that these programs have on our students and their families.



SPICE boosters around the country!

Mr. Jim Farley is a longtime supporter of our SPICE Program. Jim lived his whole life in Columbus until 10 years ago when he moved to Florida. At age 86, Jim works every day crafting wooden bases for vintage sewing machines in a business with his daughter. When he is not doing wood working, Jim is beating the bushes to get donations for SPICE. Jim has made it his mission to spread the news of SPICE from the Gulf Coast to the Atlantic. Throughout his daily activities, he makes it a point to hand out a brochure and let people know what SPICE offers here in Ohio. He asks businesses of all sizes to join him in supporting this very worthy cause. Every week we receive contributions Jim has solicited from various sources in Florida. Some bigger than others, but all with a raised

awareness of SPICE and what we are doing. Jim has the wisdom of years, the experience of a proven salesman, and the heart of a person we want as a friend of SPICE. Jim, thanks for all of your efforts!



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FULL HOUSE AT ST. PATRICK DINNER BENEFITTING SPICE!

Another amazing St. Paddy's dinner took place as we filled the St. Catharine Gym with great people, great food, and great entertainment! It was a wonderful evening for SPICE, St. Catharine Parish, and everyone who attended! A "Hundred Thousand Thank You's" go out to Jim and Peggy Mackessy for Chairing the event and Justin and Marin Santorsola for jumping in without a beat to take on a huge part, to Chef Gary O'Allwein and his team of Leprechauns for all the delicious food and to the Committee Chairs and people who helped make this event another great night. "Cead Mile Failte".

