

SPICE

special people in catholic education



St. Catharine Parish

May 2008 Issue VII

SPICE funds opportunity . . .

SPICE has continued to be an active part of our school community during the 2007-08 school year. Beginning in the summer of 2007, and ending in the summer of 2008, SPICE purchased Math enrichment books that assisted all students in grade three through eight with their Math skills during the summer months. In between these summer months, SPICE assisted with outside school tutoring for students who continued to need help outside the regular school tutoring programs. They also provided funds for a variety of classroom materials that not only support learning for children with special learning needs, but enriches learning for all children. One of the newest endeavors for SPICE funds was the financial assistance to Bishop Hartley High School for start-up costs for their new intervention program. The SPICE program continues to build momentum as a financial philosophy that can assist schools with the cost of educating their students who come with varied learning needs and the desire to continue with a Catholic education. Here's an overview of what SPICE does in our community:

1 for parents to afford private tutoring so that their children can be more academically successful.

2 for a Catholic education for our parish children who need more specialized instruction and materials.



3 for teachers to hone their teaching skills through training workshops that address a variety of learning issues.

4 for all our students to have improved instruction and additional classroom materials.

5 for financial support to build Bishop Hartley High School's inclusion program.



6 for the hearing impaired to more fully participate in the Mass.



7 for physically handicapped parishoners to attend school performances and parish activities in the school gym.

8 for the realization of the vision of an inclusive Catholic education in a parish environment.

BISHOP HARTLEY FORMALIZING ITS NOTRE DAME PROGRAM

With a sizable grant from St. Catharine SPICE, Bishop Hartley High School is on its way to formalizing and expanding its Notre Dame Program beginning in the 2008-2009 school year. The Notre Dame Program, named in honor of Hartley's founding religious order, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, will be the administrative office for overseeing the success of our students who have been identified with special needs. The goal of this program—to create inclusive classrooms that respond to the needs of our students—is not new to Bishop Hartley High School, but the program itself is an expansion and extension of existing services.

As Bishop Hartley's enrollment increases and as the Catholic elementary schools provide information about the learning needs of their graduates, the job of monitoring students, assisting teachers in making accommodations, and communicating with parents has become a full-time job and requires the special training of a full-time specialist.

Thanks to St. Catharine SPICE funding, Hartley was able to engage an intern with experience and great enthusiasm to help the administration gather data on the present and future needs of the school that focuses on addressing issues of special education. Colleen Hauser (Bishop Hartley '04) was knowledgeable, certified and passionate about this topic. In the past five months, she has met with feeder school specialists, met with Hartley teachers and surveyed the faculty to identify staff development needs and concerns about inclusion.

In looking ahead, Colleen and the administration used the survey data and guidelines from a Diocesan task force to plan for next year. Hartley has scheduled summer staff development workshops on differentiated instruction and assessment and is in the process of scheduling quarterly opportunities for in-services at the building for the '08-'09 school year. In addition to the Intervention Assistance Team (IAT), Bishop Hartley will also establish a faculty Special Needs Committee which will provide peer support and serve as advisors to the Academic Council and administration.

The administration is also creating an appropriate physical space for the Notre Dame Center, and purchasing the necessary materials, including technology, to make the space user-friendly. Most importantly, the administration is in the process of interviewing potential candidates to become Bishop Hartley's first licensed Intervention Specialist, underwritten by St. Catharine SPICE program.

Bishop Hartley's Intervention Specialist will have a strong support team: the Guidance Office, a full-time psychologist, a part-time tutor, a reading specialist, and the IAT. Support from the faculty will be seen in the classroom as well as in the Notre Dame Program. One or two teachers per period will be assigned to assist in the Notre Dame Center and the Special Needs Committee will serve as its advisory group, monitoring faculty implementation and staff development. We will also appoint a Notre Dame subcommittee of the School Advisory Board which will provide the administration with input and expertise. The

Bishop Hartley community is excited that this collaborative effort will be in place in August to provide more effective and extensive services to our Hawks with special learning needs. And this opportunity would not have been possible without the vision and generous hearts and hands of St. Catharine SPICE.

*-- Barbara Recchie
Assistant Principal
Bishop Hartley High School*



Pictured above: Barbara Recchie, Assistant Principal and MaryAnn Rees, Director of Counseling Services for Bishop Hartley High School.

Be gosh and Begorah!



The SPICE St. Patrick Dinner was another huge success in every way. Another sell out crowd, plenty of delicious food and cold beverages, great entertainment and for sure a joke or two were told!

The successful night wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and leadership of Jim and Peggy Mackessy, Chef Gary O'Allwein, and all of the Committee members and volunteers. THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED AND THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO WORKED ON THE NIGHT.

Thanks to the Daughters of Erin

The Daughters of Erin presented a check to St. Catharine SPICE at this year's St. Patrick Party. Every year the Daughters of Erin make a contribution to a charity of their choice, and for the past several years they have given to our SPICE program.

Thank you so much and "God Bless the Irish".



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