

# S P I C E

*special people in catholic education*



## St. Catharine Parish

Spring 2009 Issue VIII

### *SPICE . . . through the eyes of a parent*

As a new parent of a kindergartner, I was not knowledgeable about SPICE or how it benefited the children of St. Catharine School. As my child grew, it became obvious that he needed help overcoming some challenges. He is not labeled "special needs", but he definitely needed help conquering the obstacles that were more difficult for him than some other kids along the way. Communicating with his teacher as well as Mrs. Knox, St. Catharine's Education Specialist, we were able to determine that tutoring would help get our son over this hump. This is when I started to learn more about SPICE. It all started with a brochure handed to me by his 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher to help offset the cost of tutoring. Today, my son and I not only have benefited from SPICE, but I am member of the SPICE Board, hoping to spread the word, and help others learn about SPICE and its many benefits.

*SPICE thanks all the families who helped contribute to this article by sharing their experience.*

We have a child who has been diagnosed with Dyslexia. The Dyslexia affects his learning abilities in the Language Arts area, primarily around reading, writing, and spelling. In order to help my child compensate for the Dyslexia it was recommended that we enroll him with a tutor. For over a year, our child has been meeting with a wonderful tutor one to two times a week and showing significant improvement in the areas that he struggles. The tutoring sessions are outside of the normal school day and the financial responsibility of our family. While we would do whatever it takes to ensure our child gets the support he needs, we were happily surprised to find out that SPICE funds were available to help us pay for a portion of these extra costs. Thanks to SPICE, we are able to give our child the tools he needs to be a more successful student without the cost being a financial burden to our family. We feel blessed to be part of such a caring school community where the children's needs are clearly identified and attended to and where organizations like SPICE stand behind the schools commitment to excellence in education.

As I visited several schools in the area before moving to Columbus, St. Catharine stood out due to the SPICE program. We have a child with special needs. Since our time here, we are most impressed by the teachers, their compassion and ability to deal with children "not in the norm". We believe this is due to the efforts of the SPICE program to educate the teachers on the different ways children learn. We know personally, the SPICE program has provided some classroom aids to assist our child in focusing in the classroom. These were items that we have at home also, but can keep at home for studying. SPICE has also assisted us this year with tutoring costs. This has been extremely helpful as we have had many different expenses outside of school. We are grateful for all the help that SPICE has provided and would like to thank all its contributors.

*Don't assume everyone is aware of SPICE and its many benefits. Help us spread the word!*

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

*Bob & Mary Ginn Ryan, Co-Founders*

## ANNUAL ST. PATRICK D

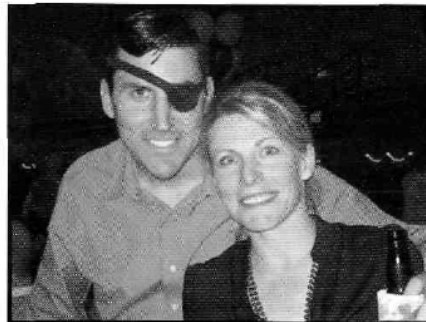
The SPICE St. Patrick Dinner was another huge success in every way. Another sell out crowd, plenty of delicious food, cold without the hard work and leadership of Jim and Peggy Mackessy, Chef Gary O'Allwein, and all of the Committee members



Thank you, again, to all of you who made this night possible...

## WINNER A HUGE SUCCESS!

verages, great entertainment, and even a joke or two by our own Bob Ryan! The successful night wouldn't have been possible without volunteers. Thanks to everyone who attended and thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to work this great event!





SPICE

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### *St. Catharine hosts SPICE meetings for all area parishes*

St. Catharine SPICE hosted two meetings for all of the area parishes that have a SPICE Program. Meetings were held at St. Catharine last fall and winter, and consisted of interactive discussions among the different SPICE Programs. Each parish was able to share successes and problems with each other, and everyone benefited.

As a result of these meetings, the Central Ohio Area SPICE Programs have also joined in a collaborative effort to apply for grant funding from the Catholic Foundation, combined with each SPICE Programs funds, to provide the opportunity

for the respective SPICE schools teachers to participate in an 18 hour course in Orton-Gillingham Training. This is a renowned program that uses a multi-sensory approach to teach reading, spelling and writing to children at risk for learning to read. It is estimated that between the SPICE Schools participating, approximately 1,500 students will benefit from this collaborative effort.

Central Ohio Parishes that have started a SPICE Program and participated in these collaborative meetings are: St. Catharine, Brigid, St. Cecilia, St. Matthew, Our Lady of Peace, and St. James the Less. Parishes outside of Central Ohio that have a SPICE Program and attended the meetings were St. Peter, Huber Heights, Ohio and St. Leo, Lexington, Kentucky.

Thank you to all who attended and were a part of making these meetings a success.

