



May 1, 2003 Issue II

SPICE: Special People In Catholic Education



Lisa and Andrew Evans

The following is the text of the speech given by Lisa Evans at the Parish Masses on December 7, 2002 for the kickoff of the annual SPICE campaign. Lisa's speech embraces the true philosophy and purpose of SPICE. Andrew's personal achievements and their contribution to our community are evidence of what can be accomplished if we recognize that each of our parish children are unique individuals, each with much to offer to our community. (Andrew is a senior at Bishop Hartley High School.)

“We are here to kick off the campaign for the SPICE program this year. SPICE stands for Special People In Catholic Education. Before we do that, we'd like to say thank you to the many people of this parish who have made it possible for our son Andrew (who is deaf) to attend Bishop Hartley High School.

St. Augustine once said, "God loves each one of us as if there's only one to love". This has truly been Andrew's experience, and much of that love has been manifested through this parish. I could be here for hours naming all of the people who have given time, support, money, and encouragement to us. But, for times sake, besides thanking Msgr. Sorohan for all his support, I can only briefly share the story and

example of one man. That man is Don Kegelmeyer!

Don saw Andrew serving Mass when he was in the 7th grade. He approached us after Mass and said, "Andrew needs an interpreter". He didn't stop until we had one on a regular basis at Sunday Mass. Then he kept digging "what else does he need?" Don didn't stop until he obtained a computer to help with reading, sign language classes for parishioners, and finally, funds for Andrew to have a sign language interpreter so he would be able to attend Bishop Hartley High School. Along the way he involved probably a hundred parishioners in many ways. Even in death he honored Andrew by requesting that he be an altar server for his funeral. Our lives will never be the same.

The miracle in all of this is that I didn't have to ask for any of this. I couldn't. All those people were the hands of Christ answering my prayers. Who is worthy of this? Certainly not Andrew, or our family. But each person is important and has something wonderful to offer. And that is why I'm here to talk about SPICE.

It is a program which was started in this parish, to help kids with special needs in our parish, be more fully educated and included in our Catholic Faith Community. SPICE gave a

grant to help pay the interpreters for Andrew so that he could finish his senior year at Hartley.

These special people enrich our parish and add spice to it by being included. Their presence breaks down barriers and stereotypes and helps our children be more compassionate. The money from the SPICE program also helps students with learning disabilities who are already attending St. Catharine.

At a recent meeting with parents of children with special needs in this diocese, Bishop Griffin praised St. Catharine and the SPICE Program for leading the way in being more inclusive of all children. This program is a step in the right direction.

Thank you again for your support and please continue to remember all God's children in your future support and prayers."

Lisa Evans

"I want to thank all of you for helping me be able to go to Bishop Hartley. At first it was hard for me to understand that God loves me. Now I know He does. He has shown me His Love through Mr. Kegelmeyer my guidance counselor Miss Reese, my teachers and the people of St. Catharine. I have some really good friends at Hartley. Thank you and God Bless You!"

Andrew Evans



THANKS FOR ALL THE AIDE !!!!

Pictured above are the St. Catharine classroom aides.
Left to right: Barb Bringardner, Colleen Crilley, Roberta Berman, Kathy Zimmerman.

“CEAD MILE FAILTE”



Msgr. David Sorohan and Superintendent Lucia McQuaide at the SPICE St. Patrick's Day Party. SPICE supporters enjoyed a wonderful evening of live music, Irish dancers, and fabulous Irish food and spirits at a sell out night in St. Catharine School. Special thanks to Catherine Kossler and her committee for all their hard work. Also thanks to Deanna Maynard, Susie Bateman and Liz Crossman for their culinary talents.

SPICE Mission Statement

St. Catharine SPICE Program recognizes that each of our parish children are unique individuals with different learning needs. The SPICE Program supports serving the educational needs of these children. We believe that children have different learning styles that provide diversity in the classroom environment.

Working together with the support of the SPICE program, the parish community, pastor, administration, teachers, and parents can help to provide understanding, information, creativity and willingness to address special educational needs.

What is SPICE doing?

“Thanks to SPICE, teachers can attend professional development workshops. Recently, I attended a lecture on differentiated curriculum given by Dr. Roger Taylor.

Based on most recent brain research and multiple intelligences, Dr. Taylor gave very practical ways to effectively plan units of instruction designed to motivate, challenge, and teach all the students, including special needs and highly gifted students. I was able to return to school and share many of the fabulous ideas and resources with the other teachers.”

“It is wonderful that parents can receive grants from SPICE to help pay for some of the special services that are not available at St. Catharine. This opportunity is unique to St. Catharine Parish and we are very fortunate.”

Marian Knox, Education Specialist

“Middle School Students will be offered a new summer learning experience. ‘Ready, Set, Write!’ is a program designed to help students entering grade 7 to “bridge the gap” between elementary and middle school. Funding for the program is provided by SPICE.”

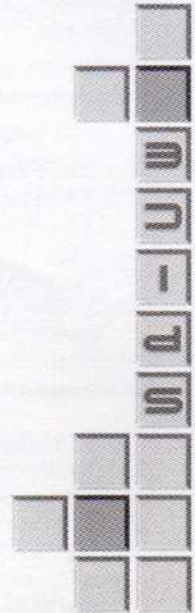
Mary Anne Brown, 6th Grade Teacher

“This year I was able to add a new component to my kindergarten handwriting instruction. Through a Grant received from SPICE, an occupational therapist instructed the classes in the fundamentals of handwriting. The therapist prepared the students with warm-up exercises, proper posture, and pencil/scissor grasps. The students were very receptive and their progress was evident in the quality of their handwriting. As a teacher, my background in handwriting instruction and skills was enhanced and I’m anxious to apply the program next year and to track this year’s student’s handwriting through the primary grades.”

Mrs. Carol Rearick, Kindergarten Teacher

“The monies from SPICE to bring in the writing specialist was a very good investment. She worked with the children to help them with their posture, grasp and writing technique. She also conducted a Writer’s Workshop for the parents which I attended. This workshop enabled me to support her efforts at home. I would strongly support the continuation of the program at St. Catharine.”

Mrs. Beth Burkhart, Parent



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“Diocese Works on Special Needs in Education.”



Bishop Griffin presents a grant to Bob & Mary Ginn Ryan, Spice Co Chairs, at the 2002 Bishop's Golf Outing.

(Excerpts from Catholic Times article April 13, 2003.)

Parents enroll their children in Catholic schools for a variety of reasons. Often, such a choice also comes with a financial burden. Yet, it is a sacrifice many parents are willing to make because they not only value the

education Catholic schools provide, but they also desire to instill within their children those precepts which the Catholic schools teach, including a willingness not just to tolerate those who are different, but to embrace and include them.

But, it's no secret that Catholic schools do not have access to the same public funds which enable specialists and specialized equipment to become permanent fixtures in classrooms. Yet Catholic schools do have something. They have access to dedicated staff who care and who are

constantly working to push the realm of allotted resources to ensure that no child is overlooked, especially those with learning disabilities. “The hallmark of Catholic schools is the collaborative effort among the school, parents and student to continually be in touch and work together in solving problems,” said Lucia McQuaide, superintendent. The diocese and its schools have managed to creatively cut some financial red tape to find other avenues to assist the learning disabled.

At St. Catharine Parish, SPICE is a program used for the education of children with special needs. It provides additional funding for classroom aides, occupational therapists, teacher and staff continuing education and classroom support materials and software. Initiated by parents, SPICE was designed to assist teachers and staff with inclusion by raising funds to support the education process in whatever area deemed necessary by the pastor or principal. “SPICE addresses the special learning needs of children with disabilities or developmental learning disabilities, or those who struggle with certain aspects of the regular curriculum,” said Janet Weisner, principal of St. Catharine. “These are children who have organizational issues of Attention Deficit Disorder, reading difficulties, auditory-processing problems, writing difficulties and other roadblocks to successful learning.”