



Our Lady of Peace Parish & School

SPICE NEWS

Special People in Catholic Education

Generosity of Donors Gives SPICE Program Great Start at OLP

The SPICE Program had a very successful fundraising effort in the summer and fall of 2008, raising over \$18,000 through a direct mail campaign and special events. These funds will help provide services to assist individuals with special needs at our Lady of Peace School and Parish. We would like to thank the following donors for their generosity:

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Continued prayers and financial support are needed for the success of the SPICE Program. Send donations to Our Lady of Peace, 40 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus, OH 43214 Attn: SPICE Program.

Name _____ Address _____ Amount _____

If you would like to volunteer with the SPICE program please include your e-mail _____

The Benefits of Sound Enhancement Systems in the Classroom

Children spend a significant portion of their school day engaged in auditory learning (listening skills), which relies on their brain effectively receiving and processing incoming auditory signals from teachers and peers. This can be challenging for both students and teachers, in that children do not have the ability to process auditory information the same as adults do. In fact, their auditory neurological network is not fully developed until the teenage years. Poor acoustical conditions in classrooms also interfere with students' development of spoken language, reading, and writing skills, and academic performance. To add to the problem, a significant portion of the United States' student population has a permanent or temporary hearing problem that impairs their ability to learn and an increasing percentage of students have additional auditory needs (auditory processing disorder, attention deficit disorder) that can put them at greater risk for learning problems. These issues can be exacerbated by poor acoustical conditions in classrooms.

Our Lady Of Peace School has worked to overcome auditory issues for students through the use of sound enhancement systems in the elementary age classrooms. These systems utilize microphones worn by each teacher that amplify what the teacher is saying and provide greater acoustic accessibility to each student in the classroom.

"The sound enhancement system ensures that I am heard above all other noises in the classroom, states Peggy Pinckney, first grade teacher at OLP. "This helps my students focus on each activity that is presented to them, because they can plainly hear what I am saying."

She also explains that sound enhancement creates less talking in the classroom, since the students learn to listen to my instructions and do not need to ask their peers for clarification; therefore, creating a better and more productive environment for learning.

Adam Lang Update

During the summer SPICE program volunteers made presentations during the masses at Our Lady of Peace. One of these volunteers, Diane Lang, gave a heartfelt presentation about her son Adam who has faced many medical and developmental challenges since birth.

Diane is happy to report that Adam started kindergarten at OLP this past Fall is doing great. He still works with an Occupational Therapist who has helped him improve his handwriting and master scissors. In addition, he is successfully reading and has read over 128 books since the beginning of the year. While he still misses school for health reasons, the staff at OLP have helped him keep up with his studies.

He is still suffering hearing loss, but recent ear tube surgery has helped –making that his ninth surgery in just six years. He works with a speech therapist and continues to see an ENT on a regular basis.

The most exciting news was Adam's cardiologist cleared him to play soccer and he had a great time bonding with his fellow kindergartners. Diane and her family would like to thank you for your continued prayers for Adam.

SPICE Happenings

OLP has developed a grant to provide Orton-Gillingham Core Training (a reading intervention program designed to work with children who show signs of dyslexia) to staff at our school and others in the diocese. This grant is being reviewed by The Catholic Foundation and SPICE funding would pick up costs not covered by this grant.

At the end of 2008, Barbara Betts was hired to be an Aide in the 4th and 5th grade classrooms. She will be working with individuals and small groups of students on various tutoring and enrichment activities.

SPICE funding will help replace auditory enhancement systems at OLP that are currently not functioning.

OLP will be using SPICE funding to purchase several Occupational Therapy tools that will help enhance body awareness and coordination among students who may need extra assistance in this area.

*Each of us is the result of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved,
each of us is necessary—Pope Benedict XVI*