



# SPiCE

SPECIAL PEOPLE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

ANNUAL  
NEWSLETTER  
2014-2015 RECAP

Dear Friends of Saint Brigid of Kildare SPiCE,

Saint Brigid of Kildare School and Parish are deeply committed to providing support, educational innovation, enrichment and intervention opportunities for all learners. Through your generous donations and prayerful support, we have been able to provide professional development for teachers, teacher aides, support services (speech, OT, behavior specialists), materials, and technology for many children.

In our efforts to continue to build a culture of acceptance, our school recently participated in a family read aloud of the book *Wonder*. In this novel, Auggie, the main character, is a ten-year-old boy who deals with a physical deformity. The book describes Auggie's perspective on his life as a child with a deformity, and *Wonder* also portrays thoughts and feelings from the perspectives of the family, friends, and classmates in Auggie's life. Being kind and being respectful are two themes at the forefront of this novel.

As a follow-up to the reading of *Wonder*, students in 5th-8th grades attended an assembly on May 6th to listen to Andy Wilmore, a 23 year old college student, who is autistic. Andy is dedicating his life to speaking with groups about what it was like growing up and going to school with autism. Just like Auggie in the book *Wonder*, Andy shared how he was treated, how he dealt with things, and how he figured out what worked best for him. Andy Wilmore sent me a thank you note following his visit to our school (see note to the right). I think his words speak volumes about the important work we are doing by working together in the name of SPiCE and our Catholic faith in teaching our children the importance of kindness and respect.

*"I am grateful to the school's students and staff for having shown so much interest in what I had to share. That willingness to listen out of kindness and a desire to understand was evident, and left an impact on my heart. I have happiness in abundance for my visit to your school."*  
-Andy Wilmore

On behalf of our children, I thank you for your support of the SPiCE program and the important work we do everyday to prepare our students to be kind, respectful, compassionate life-long learners and leaders.

*Kathleen O'Reilly*

Kathleen O'Reilly  
Principal, Saint Brigid of Kildare School

## FROM MONSIGNOR HENDRICKS

The SPiCE Program at St. Brigid School and Religious Education took root in the parish from the heartfelt need of parents for the welfare and care of their children who had developed some need in their educational experience here. Ideas and funds were marshaled to assist those in greatest need. As the SPiCE program grew and we learned more about SPiCE from St. Catharine Parish, the founding parish for SPiCE, and the Ryan family, St. Brigid placed time, talent and resources into building a very strong and effective program here.

Today, many children at St. Brigid benefit from SPiCE mentoring and funds which continue to support and sustain the program.

Monsignor Joseph Hendricks



## GET INVOLVED WITH SPiCE

Want to give your time, talent or treasures to the SPiCE organization at Saint Brigid of Kildare? See the enclosed envelope to sign up to volunteer or to make a donation.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In order to better serve all students, faculty and staff members completed a variety of professional development trainings this year, thanks to the SPiCE funds the school and parish have raised over the years.

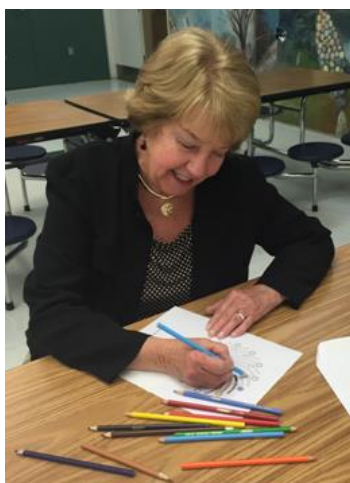
In October, several staff members participated in a Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training program, which focused on de-escalation techniques and the essential skills needed to intervene in a crisis situation. This training has allowed us to more fully develop and implement behavior strategies and plans within the building.

Two of our intervention specialists also attended a Zones of Regulation training this January, which focused on teaching students how to use self-regulation strategies depending on students' feelings and states of alertness, which they currently use with many of our children.

In March, three staff members attended a conference centered around dyslexia. Basic facts about dyslexia and assessment techniques were shared and addressed.

In April, Kendra Rutledge (occupational therapist) and our intervention staff led a staff development session on sensory processing and self-regulation. This tied in nicely with our Zones of Regulation program. Teachers were given ideas to implement whole class sensory strategies within the classroom. Ideas included different types of seating and lighting, consistent physical movement breaks throughout the day, and the use of sensory tools to promote focus and alertness within the classroom.

We have also purchased many resources this year for our students, including a targeted reading program called *Rite Flight: A Classroom Reading Rate Program* and a magazine called *ADDitude*, which provides information and ideas for students with ADHD and executive functioning needs.



## SPICE SUMMER FITNESS

This summer Saint Brigid of Kildare parish will offer a series of active events for children ages 5 to 10. The goal of each session is to provide one hour of physical exercise in a non-competitive setting. The program leaders will be sensitive to kids with special needs, so no one is excluded from fitness!

Activities will include yoga, line dancing, obstacle course running, introductory jiu-jitsu, and more. There will be no charge for families to participate in the program, and parents must remain at the events, which will be held on the St. Brigid grounds.

To sign up, visit [stbrigidofkildare.com](http://stbrigidofkildare.com) and click "Calendar & News." Clicking on each Summer Fitness Program event will give you the link to sign up.

### June Schedule

June 15, 6-7:15 p.m.  
June 18, 6-7:15 p.m.  
June 22, 9-10 a.m.  
June 25, 9-10 a.m.  
June 29, 6-7:15 p.m.

### August Schedule

August 3  
August 6  
August 10  
August 13

\*August times TBD



## 2015-2016 SPICE CALENDAR

**SPiCE Board Meeting**  
Monday, Sept 14 (7 pm)

**Family Fun Day &  
Pancake Breakfast**  
Saturday, Oct 3 (10 am)

**SPiCE Board Meeting**  
Monday, November 9 (7 pm)

**SPiCE Board Meeting**  
Monday, January 11 (7 pm)

**Corks for a Cause**  
Saturday, March 5 (7 pm)

**SPiCE Board Meeting**  
Monday, May 9 (7 pm)



## 4TH ANNUAL FAMILY FUN DAY

Saint Brigid of Kildare hosted a Family Fun Day on Saturday, September 20 at Brigid's Green. This year's event was attended by nearly 300 people and featured a pancake breakfast provided by Chris Cakes and a variety of games and activities for the whole family. The event raised a total of \$6,500 for Saint Brigid of Kildare SPiCE. Thank you to our co-chairs Dawn Campagni and Jackie Walling, as well as our event sponsors, which included Focus Logistics, CDC Medical, Crawford Products, Orthopedic ONE, Emerald Pediatrics, Learning RX, Tim & Tori Foley, Beginning Kids Adventures, and Keystone Meats.

This year's SPiCE Family Fun Day will take place Saturday, October 3 at 10 a.m. If you'd like to get involved, contact Sarah Moore at [sarahmoore00@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahmoore00@hotmail.com).



## CORKS FOR A CAUSE: A SILENT AUCTION & WINE TASTING

This year marked the ninth annual SPiCE Wine Tasting and Silent Auction, held Saturday, March 7 in Hendricks Hall. The event raised over \$83,000 for St. Brigid SPiCE!

The night was full of excitement and fun as over 260 guests bid on 130 silent auction packages. St. Brigid school parent Todd Keiner was the evening's featured speaker as he genuinely described how SPiCE has been a positive impact in the lives of their family and the entire St. Brigid community. 8th grade student Olivia Assaf also recorded a heartfelt video talking about how much the SPiCE program has made a positive difference in her life.

Thank you to our co-chairs Katie Allen and Lesa Herold, as well as our event sponsors Jeg's, Monfort Zwick Orthodontics, The Spa at River Ridge, Brad and Candie Williams, Orthopedic One, Learning RX, Tucci's, Plante Moran, Rutherford Funeral Homes, Buckeye Diamond Logistics, Krysty Designs, Royal Document Destruction, Don and Janice Zielke, Marsala Manufacturing and Innosource. Next year's SPiCE Corks for a Cause will take place Saturday, March 5, 2016. If you'd like to get involved, contact Sarah Moore at [sarahmoore00@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahmoore00@hotmail.com).



## SPiCE SPEAKER LAURA LEWIS

In the fall, Laura Lewis, a licensed professional clinical counselor, spoke to over 100 St. Brigid community members about parents as partners, not rescuers, parents as ambassadors of the good, and the idea of parents having a positive voice in the school process. Laura also shared tips of how to promote the idea of living well. Some ideas that were shared included: what role to play when a student is in a difficult situation, when to rescue and when not to rescue, promoting acceptance for all, being a role model for adolescents in social settings, and how to manage the use of technology with adolescents.



SAINT BRIGID OF KILDARE  
7179 AVERY ROAD  
DUBLIN, OH 43017

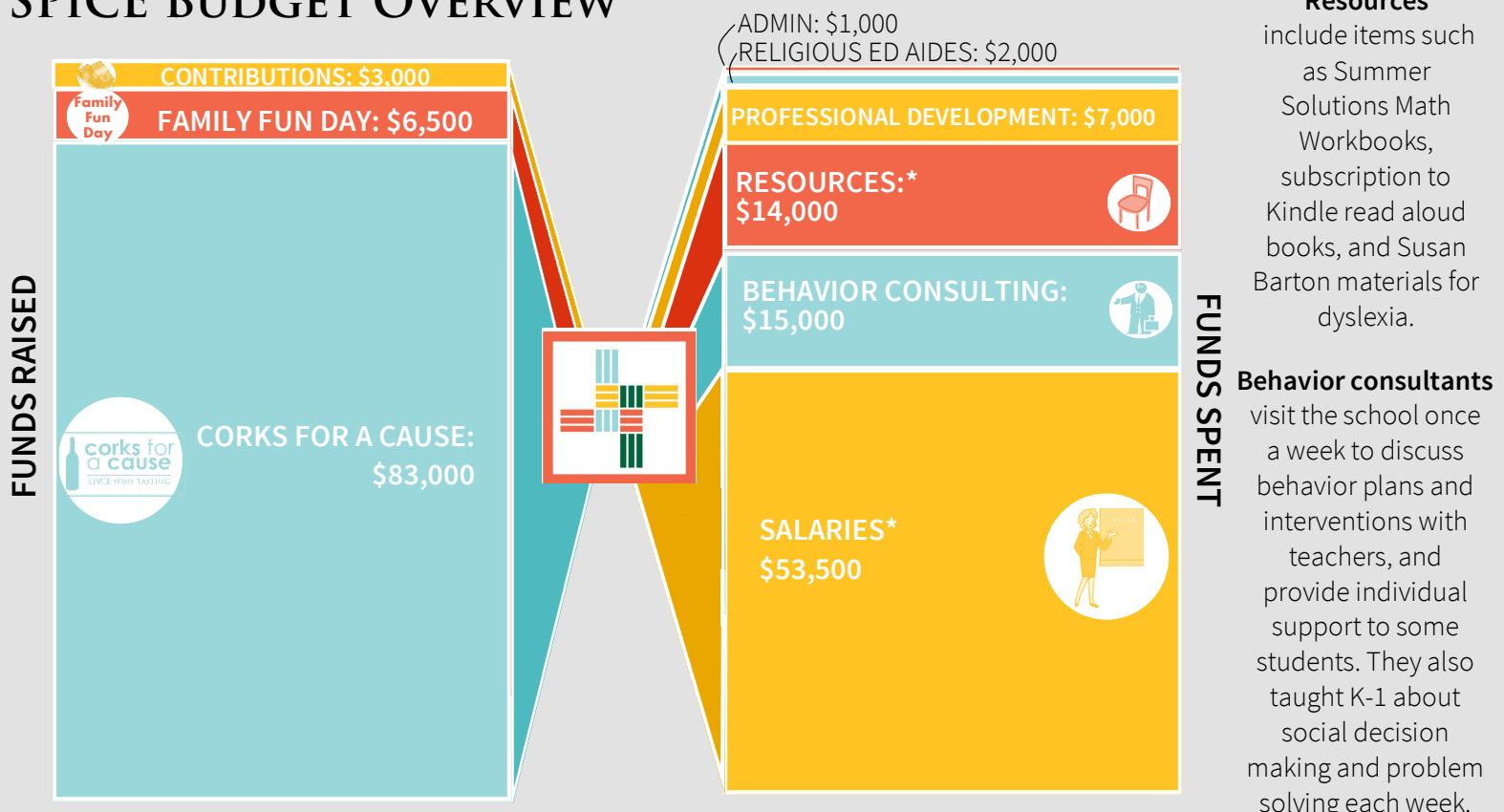
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## WHAT IS SPICE?

Special People in Catholic Education (SPiCE) is a program to support the education of children with special learning needs in our parish and school.

We value each student's unique spiritual, intellectual, physical, social, cultural, and emotional needs. When adults consistently demonstrate that diversity is a positive and desirable attribute, students follow their lead, and acceptance of individual differences becomes routine.

## SPICE BUDGET OVERVIEW



\*A combination of SPiCE, Peterson, and tuition funds cover the remaining resources and salary expenses.

Any additional SPiCE funds raised go toward adding more specialized staff and resources to increase learning for our children.