



A New Year, With New Challenges for Butler PEC

2005 Will be a Breakout Year for Butler PEC

As 2005 begins, Butler PEC sets its goals for the New Year ahead of us. With a strong foundation laid in 2004, we plan to make great improvements to the social and educational opportunities for our exceptional children. Our first event will be a Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on March 13th this event will serve to reach out to the community to put forth our message and raise awareness about our children. This summer we will be offering swimming lessons at the Stony Brook pool, the Butler Recreation Dept. has been extremely helpful in hosting this as well as a kinder gym and a mentoring training program. All this will be for the special needs children in Butler and the surrounding communities. •

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Self-Assessment and Monitoring

Butler begins the process to assess its special services to locate areas in need of improvement.

This year the Butler school district is going through self-assessment and state monitoring. This is a great opportunity to identify areas of special education that are noncompliant with state laws and to improve the services provided to children with special needs. The assessment team has three parents on it and one of them is a member of our organization. A top priority for the parents is to increase the involvement of parents in the special education process and to increase teacher training for both special education and general education teachers.

The parents on the team are also advocating for better transition planning for students going from Aaron Decker to Richard Butler as well as from Richard Butler to the High School. Let us not forget that sensitivity awareness for child study team members is at the top of the list as well. We are hopeful that this process and the hard work of the dedicated parents on the team make some great improvements to the Special Services in the Butler schools. •

A meeting was held quite far from earth
 "It's time again for another birth"
 Said the Angels to the lord above
 This special child will need much love

His progress may seem very slow
 Accomplishments he may not show
 And he'll require extra care
 From folks he meets, way down there

He may not run, laugh, or play
 His thoughts may seem quite far away
 In many ways he won't adapt
 And he'll be known as handicapped

So let's be careful where he's sent
 We want his life to be content;
 Please Lord find parents who
 Will do a special job for you

They will not realize right away
 The leading role they're asked to play
 So with this child sent from above
 Comes stronger faith and richer love
 And soon they'll know the privilege
 given

In caring for this gift from Heaven
 This special child so meek and mild
 Is "Heaven's Very Special Child"

Poem submitted by a fellow Exceptional Parent



United Leadership Council for Exceptional Children

A Regional Collaboration to Help Our Kids

The ULC for Exceptional Children has continued to grow since its inception last year. Now more than twenty towns and municipalities are members and Butler PEC is proud to be a part of this collaborative effort. The ULC is currently working on legislative reforms to aide school districts funding of special education under the restraints of

March 1st 2005 the United Leadership Council will hold its second Collaboration meeting focusing on S-1701 and special education reform

bill S-1701.

There will be a collaborative meeting with school administrators and parent group leaders on March 1st to discuss this and to encourage cooperation to better serve exceptional children in their districts. Additionally the chairperson of the council, Melinda Jennis, has scheduled a meeting with Barbara Gantwerk of the Department of Education in Trenton to present this proposed legislation and to discuss the United Leadership Council's special education reform philosophy. •



Arts and Crafts with The North Jersey Women's Club

Our kids make Christmas ornaments to spread some Joy

As 2004 came to a close we got together with the North Jersey Women's Club to have our kids make Christmas ornaments for a Christmas tree in Chilton Memorial Hospital. The kids enjoyed a reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas and had a blast making festive decorations. The main point, as with all the arts and crafts events, is to help develop relationships with typical peers. The ornaments decorated a tree at the hospital for all to enjoy throughout the holiday season. •

ARE YOU AN EXCEPTIONAL PARENT AND WANT TO MAKE EXCITING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN BUTLER? JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING!

Butler PEC meets twice a month on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 9 pm at The Butler Public Library located at 1 Ace Road Butler NJ

PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR

Bunny Pancake Breakfast



Sponsored by The Butler Parents of Exceptional Children

**SUNDAY MARCH 13TH
8AM TO NOON
AT THE BUTLER FIREHOUSE
ON CAREY AVE
FOR TICKETS CALL
(973) 283-9788**

Contact Us by E-Mail at butlerpec@optonline.net

Or

Visit us online at www.butlerpec.org