



## **Butler PEC is Born**



*A New Approach To Parent Support Groups*

### **Positive Approach for Positive Results**

Starting as a desire to fill an obvious need in our community, Frank and Grace Rivera set out to form a support group for parents of special needs children in Butler. They began to reach out to other parents to accomplish this and quickly found our core group of parents. Wanting this to be something different, something positive, we pondered over how to go forward and in what direction our group should go. That's when we were introduced to the Parents of Exceptional Children or PEC concept when Melinda Jennis of the Montville PEC came to speak at one of our meetings. Melinda shared with us the PEC concepts and successful programs. We were floored to hear that in Montville, thru the efforts of The Montville PEC, Special needs children participate in sporting and social events with non-disabled children utilizing a "mentoring program".

**Imagine your child interacting with non disabled children socially in spite of their disabilities. Being accepted as a part of the community not out of sympathy but because of what they can offer.**

Imagine your child interacting with non disabled children socially in spite of their disabilities. Being accepted as a part of the community not out of sympathy but because of what they can offer. This is what we all want for our children, to be appreciated for who they are, to be seen as kids not as disabled. Melinda also shared the concept of working with the school to provide the services special needs children require. To utilize fundraising and grants to help finance not only the programs we develop but to help the school. So the Butler PEC was born with a clear mission and direction.

## **A New Beginning**



### **and Warm Reception**

What an exciting and busy two months it's been. We have formed our core group of parents, established our mission statement and objectives, produced a flyer, found a meeting place in the Butler Library, and developed a monthly newsletter. We are putting the final touches on our web site and plan to open it any day now. Also we are currently developing our first set of programs and are working on setting ourselves up as a not for profit organization.

**We will be a real positive force in the community. So get onboard, fasten you seatbelts and enjoy the ride**

We have established a parent support group to help parents deal with the everyday challenges of raising an "exceptional child" and one of our top priorities is development of a mentoring program. We are also working on establishing an open line of communication with our school administrators; so far we have been received quite warmly. We have been in contact with local organizations to develop programs with, and we have generated excitement over our approach as well as our ideas. The momentum is building rapidly and doors are opening. We are receiving nothing less than a great response to all we approach.

We hope to have several great programs in Butler for the children with special needs running soon; we will be a real positive force in the community. So get onboard, fasten you seatbelts and enjoy the ride, there is going to be some very exciting changes happening in Butler.

# PEC Dedicated Leadership Group

*A Regional Collaboration to Help Our Kids*

One of the most innovative and powerful aspects of the PEC is the Dedicated Leadership Group. The Dedicated Leadership Group is combining resources, programs, and most importantly our kids to offer more programs and fund-raising opportunities to all townships involved. What does this mean for smaller towns like Butler? It gives us the ability to offer programs to our exceptional children that would be impossible to support on our own.

**By Joining with Neighboring Towns, We Increase Resources to Support our Programs**

Currently the towns of Boonton, Butler, Denville, Lincoln Park, Montville, Parsippany, and Randolph are fully onboard! Several additional towns are showing a strong interest and I'm sure this list will grow. Probably by the time you read this there will many more towns onboard.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> the Dedicated Leadership Group held a Collaboration Breakfast Meeting at the Lincoln Park Elementary School. The main purpose of this meeting was to let school administrators know the goals and objectives of The Parents of Exceptional Children as well as the Dedicated Leadership Group.

The Butler School District sent Joan Bancroft the *LDTC* from our High school and the Butler PEC sent three representatives to attend. The PEC philosophies on the IDEA, communication, collaboration, and creating positive momentum were well received by the school administrations. The future looks bright, with cooperation between the PEC groups and local schools across many towns amazing things are possible.

**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**

## **MEETING CALENDAR**

**July 29<sup>th</sup>**

**August 12<sup>th</sup>**

**August 26<sup>th</sup>**

**September 9<sup>th</sup>**

**September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Contact Us By E-Mail At  
[butlerpec@optonline.net](mailto:butlerpec@optonline.net)