



Momentum Grows as Organization Builds

PEC Leaders Had a Busy 3 Months

Oh what a busy time it has been! Butler PEC leaders have rolled up their sleeves and gotten down to some productive work. In the past 90 days, Butler PEC has managed to elect its Trustee members and Officers, form its first four committees, organize its first fundraiser, start its first program, and launch its web site. We have received our certificate of incorporation from the State of New Jersey and are now pursuing 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS. First let's congratulate our newly elected Trustees, Tricia Giordano, Steven Sabeh, and Noel Saunders, and our Officers Frank Rivera – President, Chris Saunders – Vice President, Dawn Sabeh – Secretary, and Grace Rivera – Treasurer. They will be working hard to make Butler a better place for children with special needs and their families. The Board and Officers have set up four committees to help meet the needs of our children. A full list of our committees is listed on our web site, www.butlerpec.org.

LET'S CONGRATULATE OUR NEWLY ELECTED TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS; THEY WILL BE WORKING HARD TO MAKE BUTLER A BETTER PLACE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Butler PEC Launches It's Web Site.

Web Site Offers an Easy Way to Find out What PEC is Up To

The Butler PEC launched its web site with the purpose of creating a user friendly place to find out what we are about, and what programs and services the PEC is offering to the Butler Community. It's the best way to reach the public in this day and age. The site has sections dedicated to announcing upcoming events and is updated regularly. If you want to surf on over, the address is www.butlerpec.org. You will find our mission statement, contact information and some pictures of what we have been doing in and around the community. So check it out today!

Arts & Crafts Program

Kids Create, Have Fun, and Socialize

Butler PEC started its first program, an art workshop with the help of the Butler Public Library and Aaron Decker School teacher Melanie Gashler. It was held in October with a Halloween theme. In attendance were children with various special needs and their siblings. Ms. Gashler donated her time and talents; she truly is a credit to her profession. The Butler School District and our kids are lucky to have teachers of this caliber. The children enjoyed a short story (*The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything*) and then made scarecrows with pumpkin heads. It was wonderful to see all the kids and their parents having a great time working together.



The room was full of children having fun, and disabilities appeared to vanish. Parents commented on how nice it was to see their child in this atmosphere, and that they almost never get to see this with their special needs child. The time flew by and before you knew it was time to go. The artwork the children made is on display in the Library for all the community to view.

We are planning to make this a monthly event. In November, we are hoping to work with the North Jersey Woman's Club to make ornaments to be displayed on a Holiday Tree in Chilton Memorial Hospital. We will announce details as they become finalized.



It's Back to School Time

PEC Members Educate Themselves

As one of our main goals, Butler PEC strives to educate parents about the rights of their children and to build meaningful collaboration with child study teams. And to better prepare us to be advocates for our exceptional children, we held two seminars to teach ourselves how to accomplish this. The first was "How to Prepare for an IEP Meeting". Renay Zamloot, a well known advocate, taught us techniques to have an effective role as parents on the IEP team. We learned how to have all our information organized, and how to affirm our important input in this process.

BUTLER PEC STRIVES TO EDUCATE PARENTS ABOUT THE RIGHTS OF THEIR CHILDREN AND TO BUILD MEANINGFUL COLLABORATION WITH CHILD STUDY TEAMS.

Most importantly we learned to do this in a non-confrontational way and to keep the focus on the most important person, the child. Our second seminar, "Basic Rights in Special Education", was offered by Penny Dragonetti from the Statewide Protection and Advocacy Network (SPAN). Penny covered the rights of our children as provided by state and federal law. Also covered was, again, how to be a full partner in the decision making process as a child study team member. As with all our activities the emphasis is cooperation over conflict but never at the expense of what our children need and are entitled to according to law. We will continue to provide parents in our community excellent learning opportunities through informative and relevant seminars and guest speakers. Check our web site, www.butlerpec.org, for future offerings and events.



One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure!

PEC Garage Sale Raises Needed Monies

The Butler PEC held its first fundraiser on September 25th in conjunction with the Butler town-wide garage sale. PEC members gathered unneeded items to sell and our children ran a donation/refreshment stand.

It was a fun and productive day; we raised \$300.00 to run our programs, like the Arts and Crafts at the Butler Library. We also will be starting our mentoring program by the end of the year, and will use these funds to finance it. We wish to thank all who helped make this possible; through your purchases and donations we can provide quality activities in our community, not only the exceptional children, but for all our children, young and old.

MEETING CALENDAR

**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 on the Second and Fourth
Thursday of the month from 7pm to 9 pm at
The Butler Public Library located at
1 Ace Road Butler NJ**

Contact Us By E-Mail At
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or Visit us online at
www.butlerpec.org