



*Linking communities through learning*

Fall 2009

## Message from the Executive Director

*Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr.*

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### Welcome Back!

Welcome back one and all to a wonderful new school year. The entire Northern Rhode Island Collaborative staff is to be commended for again rising to the challenge of consolidation and movement of our classes and programs. We can all sense a new level of pride and accomplishment as we go from school to school. Our new Social Street School location is the highlight of this cooperative achievement. I wish to thank Dr. Robert Gerardi, Superintendent of Woonsocket Schools, for his efforts to work with us in finding a suitable location for our secondary RAP classes. All of the teachers and staff have joined together and transformed the building making it ready for students on opening day. A huge "thank you" is to be extended to each of you.

Our new Main Office complex at 640 George Washington Highway is a buzz with activity. The Professional Development Training Center is humming with local and regional trainings of all descriptors. Please continue to check our website ([www.nric-ri.org](http://www.nric-ri.org)) for new professional development opportunities.

As many of us are aware, our Department of Education has a new Commissioner, Deborah A. Gist, who began her tenure as our State leader this summer. Commissioner Gist has visited all of the school districts in the State within her first 100 days. Just recently, she held one of her Regional Commissioner's Forums to discuss her plan for "Transforming Education in Rhode Island" and the Race to the Top grant application. Commissioner Gist reviewed the "Five Priorities" that make up the State's plan for reform that evening. She has a worthwhile and exciting agenda to move our State forward to become one of the highest performing states in the country. Let's all work together to make this happen!

Thank you and I wish you all a successful school year!

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*"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."*

*..... Muriel Strode*

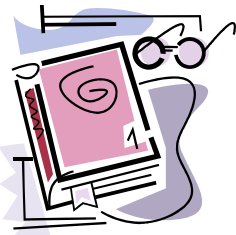
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### Save the Date!

NRIC's Annual Meeting  
March 17, 2010  
At Twelve Acres  
Smithfield, RI

## NRIC is on the Move!

*By Robert E. Wall, Director of Educational Services*



As we move through the new school year, new challenges provide new opportunities for the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative.

The R. I. Department of Education has awarded the NRIC a new grant to support districts in implementing the requirements of Response to Intervention (RTI) and Reducing Disproportionate representation in Special Education. As part of this grant, Michele Walden-Doppke has been hired under the grant to Technical Support to school districts. Ms. Walden-Doppke, a former School Psychologist and Behavior Intervention Specialist in Massachusetts, brings a wealth of knowledge to our state in implementing RTI, especially in the area of social-emotional interventions. Welcome aboard Ms. Walden-Doppke!

With our new professional development space within our offices here in Lincoln, new and exciting professional development opportunities are taking place and planned for the future. Familiar courses such as Wilson Training, Non-Violent Physical Intervention Training, as well as Teacher Assistant Professional Development have been joined by a host of new offerings too numerous to mention here – but available on our website: [www.nric-ri.org](http://www.nric-ri.org).

In the meantime, we here at the Northern Rhode Island Collaborative continue to offer many of the same high quality services you have come to expect. Come check out our website and visit our programs so we can show you!

## Technology News

*By Thomas H. Rambacher, Technology Director*

### **NRIC Starts Down the Green Path with Technology**

The start of the new 2009-10 school year has brought a new computer configuration into NRIC classrooms. These newly outfitted classroom computer configurations not only replace many old and outdated computers but will hopefully assist you in your technology goals and classroom integration for your students.

Along with the purchase of the new computers is an investment utilizing “thin client” type technology from a California company “nComputing” [www.ncomputing.com](http://www.ncomputing.com), which allows one computer to run multiple workstations by installing a PC card and using small plug-in devices to run the individual workstations. The secondary benefit of these new computer set-ups will help the environment through a dramatic reduction of electrical consumption and cost.

If you take the power consumption of an individual computer times the cost of running that computer for one entire day then multiply that by the number of school days in the year (this also assumes that computers are shut off on the weekends and vacation weeks), the energy and cost savings looks something like this:

## Technology News (Cont'd)

### Energy Consumption Parameters \*

Used 61.66 Watts  
 Idle 40.9 Watts  
 Standby 2.82 Watts

School Days	180
Used Hours/Day	4
Idle Hours/Day	4
Standby Hours/Day	16

Energy Consumption Per Day: 0.46 KW  
 Energy Consumption 180 Days: 82.8 KW  
**Average Cost per Kilowatt \$ 0.13 \*\***

**82.8 KW x \$0.13 KW = \$10.76 per machine cost for the school year.**

We currently have 30 new computers that have been purchased for classrooms, therefore, for the estimated power consumption for the school year is  $30 \times \$10.76 = \$322.80$  for the school year. With the nComputing solutions, we have the ability to run up to 90 workstations which if they were "conventional" computer set-ups would be  $90 \times \$10.76 = \$968.76$  or \$645.96 MORE in electrical cost in just one school year. Start multiplying that by more than one school year and you can see the dramatic difference.

To continue on the "green path" NRIC partnered with CDI Computers of Toronto, Canada as well as members of the R.I. Society of Technology Educators (RISTE) around the State to provide a free technology recycling day here at the Main Office. (<http://www.cdicomputers.com/NewsCDIandRiste.apx>). Of course, all salvageable computer parts and systems were saved while the outdated computers, monitors, and printers were picked up and will be properly recycled to almost a zero landfill impact.

\* [www.dell.com/downloads/global/products/optix/en/755\\_mt\\_edc.pdf](http://www.dell.com/downloads/global/products/optix/en/755_mt_edc.pdf)

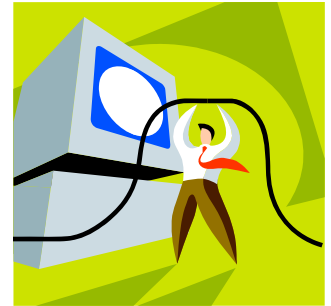
\*\* [http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epm/table5\\_6\\_a.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epm/table5_6_a.html)

## NRIC Program News

By Cindy Kendall, Assistant Special Education Director

The opening of school has come and gone, and we are well on our way to another successful school year. The new year brings some changes that enhance the programs we offer at NRIC. The biggest change is the move of our High School Program to Social Street in Woonsocket. Bob Marchand and his staff did a fantastic job in preparing the classrooms for the first day of school. I have the privilege of working with this team as they take this opportunity to create a renewed focus on providing a positive learning environment. The team at Social Street has planned an Open House for December 10<sup>th</sup>. Look for an invitation in the near future.

A new classroom has been established at St. James. "The Bridge Room" is designed for those students whose instruction and assessment are aligned with the Grade Level Expectations but require an intense program that supports their academic and social



## NRIC Program News

By Cindy Kendall, Assistant Special Education Director

emotional needs. We continue to have a strong emphasis on developing the literacy skills of all the students enrolled at St. James. We recently published our first school newspaper under the direction of Elyse Forte. She coordinated all the articles submitted and sold ads to sponsor the paper. [Click here to view](#). St. James will host an Open House on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 am to Noon.

Many of the students at St. James view me as their Principal. Therefore, I have instituted the "Principal's Prize". Each day the students have the opportunity to enter their names in a box. The student needs to follow directions and be safe. At the end of the month, one name is drawn to receive the grand prize. I want to congratulate Celeste from Room 11 as the winner for September, and James from Room 12 as the winner for October.

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Manville Fire Department gave a presentation on fire prevention and safety. The students were thrilled to receive their fire hats, climb on the fire truck, and have a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog. During the week of November 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be observing National Bully Awareness Week. Sue Merritt will be presenting to all the students as part of her professional development project. As part of her project, she is creating a "bully box" that will remain in my office. The students can report any instances of bullying that will be followed up with a community meeting to resolve the conflicts.

The students of St. Joan's recently had a school trip to Adams Farm where they received apples and pumpkins and fed the animals. Many of the students continue to participate in the Best Buddies Program at Mt. St. Charles Academy. It is one of the largest chapters in Rhode Island with 140 students participating. The students of the academy recently had a fund raiser where they raised approximately \$1,300 to sponsor the activities for our students. On alternate weeks our students engage in vocational activities at the Recycling Center in Cranston.

The School Nurse/Teacher at St. Joans, Kathy DeSisto, conducts weekly lessons in nutritious cooking and eating. She also leads the "Circles Program" that focuses on the development of social, emotional, and communication skills.

The Auditory Oral Program at Orchard Farm in Cranston is a rapidly growing program. We are presently engaged in outreach services with four districts throughout Rhode Island. In that setting, Sarah Rosendale and Donna Rizzo offer direct service and consultation services to the teachers in the classroom.

At Orchard Farm, we have three different programs – the early intervention toddler group, the preschool class with peer models, and our elementary school inclusion classes. Our mission is to provide intense support in the early years of a student's auditory development with a transition back to the student's home school as soon as possible.

As you can see, we have been quite busy and it doesn't stop there. We have future plans to enhance our instruction in the areas of mathematics and expressive writing skills. I am very proud of the professionalism and level of commitment of our staff. It is evident in the increase of student achievements. Whether it is the student at St. James who improves his reading level by two grades in one year or the student at St. Joan's who initiates communication with me as I walk through his classroom, great things are happening.



## NRIC Program News (cont'd)

### NEWS FROM SOCIAL STREET SCHOOL

By Bob Marchand, Program Coordinator

After being located at the former St. Lawrence School in Centerdale for the past 18 years, the Secondary Regional Alternative Program has moved to the former Social Street School in Woonsocket. Staff and students have been busy "sprucing up" their new "old" home. Built in the early 1990's, the solidly constructed school has many fine features such as large classrooms with mahogany woodwork, crown molding along the ceiling, and built-in bookcases, wide corridors, and a lunch room that has been modernized with food serving equipment.

Denise Marshall and Maura Silvia from our Career Center have been "pounding the pavement" introducing us to our new business neighbors and asking for their support of our work-based learning program. Lisa Pontbriand from the Admissions Department at the Rob Roy Academy, which is located across the street from us, has agreed to partner in potential training programs and has offered our students incentives which include weekly barbering and facials by their student interns.

Denise Martin from the Woonsocket YMCA has agreed to share the facilities of the Y for our students' physical education. As she sees it, our students are the same adolescents whom her agency strives to serve. Many of our students will benefit not only from the use of the facility but may also eventually intern there in a variety of work-based learning capacities.

Carol Harnois and the folks at Sodexo have also been extremely helpful in ensuring that our students receive the same lunches and breakfasts that students in other public schools in Woonsocket receive. As a Department of Health licensed food business/non-profit, we are able to serve students while training some of our students' essential skills of the food industry. Frank Casey and Kevin Maney have stepped forward as staff instructors of the food handler trainees. Upon successful completion of this component of the training, the Career Center staff will assist those graduates in job placement.

Though we all had some concerns when we were informed of the upcoming move, most of us feel that it was a change for the better.

Social Street will be hosting an Open House on **December 10<sup>th</sup>** to showcase our new site. Please join us!

### NEWS FROM TEC/APARTMENT C

By Cindy VanAvery

Because our past cookbooks were such a large success, we have been asked to create a new cookbook. This year we will be broadening our Recipe Collection to include contributions from staff, students, and community partners.

Our goal is to have it ready for the New Year and continue the tradition of bringing together Family Recipes.

Please contribute your Recipe by **December 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Please email Cindy VanAvery at [cvanavery@nric-ri.org](mailto:cvanavery@nric-ri.org) or send a hard copy to TEC.

Look for the order form in January 2010. We will be publishing the cookbook after the holidays.

**WELCOME  
HOLIDAYS!**

## NRIC Program News (cont'd)

### NEWS FROM ST. JAMES

By Myles Glatter

St. James students and staff were busy with both educational and fun activities in October as they learned about fire prevention and safety and enjoyed an afternoon of fun Halloween activities, food, and trick or treating in their costumes.



### NEWS FROM GREYSTONE ELEMENTARY

Greystone students and staff enjoy a day at the Farm and a visit from Officer Brian!



## NRIC Main Office News

### FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE

By Craig Enos, Director of Administration

Thank you! Thank you! So far over 20 people have registered their cards on the Stop and Shop A+ Bonus Bucks Program. As of December 8, there is \$95.99 in our account. This money will be used to buy supplies for our programs. Haven't registered your card? Just go to:

[http://www.stopandshop.com/our\\_stores/bonusbucks/index.htm](http://www.stopandshop.com/our_stores/bonusbucks/index.htm) to register. Or just email your card number to Craig at [cenos@nric-ri.org](mailto:cenos@nric-ri.org) and he will register your card on your behalf.



### Mail Order Prescriptions

Looking to save money on your prescriptions? Try using the prescription mail order through Blue Cross. You get 3 months supply of prescriptions for 2 ½ months of copay. Contact Marj Farias at 495-2031 or [mfarias@nric-ri.org](mailto:mfarias@nric-ri.org) for any assistance in taking advantage of this program.

### Direct Deposit

It's never too late to sign up for direct deposit. Contact Paula Andrews at 495-2024 or [pandrews@nric-ri.org](mailto:pandrews@nric-ri.org) and she'll send you the form or get the form from the employee website.

### Sick and Personal Time Balances

A reminder that we are not using AESOP to track sick and personal balances. Paula has a separate database for tracking those hours. Paula will be sending our memoranda in the coming weeks with sick time balances. Contact Paula if you have any questions.

### Shredding!

We are lucky to have Nick, one of our TEC students, coming in to the Main Office once a week to take care of all of our shredding.

If you have any paper that needs to be shredded, send it over to the Main Office.

Thank you!

## Coming Soon!

# shapeupRI

Northern RI Collaborative is participating in SHAPE UP RI, a team-based exercise, walking and weight loss competition for all employees! Marj Farias will be emailing you with the details shortly.

Learn more at: [ShapeUpRI.org](http://ShapeUpRI.org)

Registration Begins  
Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009



## Upcoming Events

NRIC Board of Superintendents Meeting	Dec. 1	Main Office	12:30 pm
Wilson Training	Dec. 7	Main Office	8 – 3:00 pm
Job Coach Training	Dec. 7	Main Office	3 – 5:00 pm
Wilson Training	Dec. 8	Main Office	8 - 3:00 pm
Wilson Training	Dec. 9	Main Office	8 - 3:00 pm
Safety Committee Meeting	Dec. 9	Main Office	2:15-3:15 pm
Accident Investigation Training	Dec. 9	Main Office	3 – 4:30 pm
Transition Advisory Council (TAC)	Dec. 10	Main Office	9-12:00 pm
Operating Committee Meeting	Dec. 11	Main Office	1:00 pm
Holiday Recess	Dec. 24 – Jan. 1	Sites Closed	
NRIC Board of Superintendents Meeting	Jan. 5	Main Office	12:30 pm
RIDE Teacher Assistant Network Session	Jan. 6	Main Office	4 – 6:00 pm
Operating Committee Meeting	Jan. 8	Main Office	1:00 pm
Safety Committee Meeting	Jan. 13	Main Office	2:15-3:15 pm
Martin Luther King Holiday	Jan. 18	CLOSED	
“Aspire” Training	Jan. 19	Main Office	4- 6:00 pm
NRIC Teacher Assistant Training	Jan. 19	Main Office	4-6:30 pm
“Effective Strategies to Develop & Strengthen			
Elementary Students’ Writing”	Jan. 20	Main Office	4– 7:00 pm
NRIC Teacher Assistant Training	Jan. 21	Main Office	4-6:30 pm
Non-Violent Crisis Prevention	Jan. 25, 27 & 29	Main Office	3– 7:00 pm
Intervention Training			
NRIC Teacher Assistant Training	Jan. 26	Main Office	4-7:00 pm
NRIC Teacher Assistant Training	Jan. 28	Main Office	4-7:00 pm



NOVEMBER 2009						
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DECEMBER 2009						
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31						

*Should you have events you would like included in future issues of our newsletter, please email to Debbie Jannetta at [djannetta@nric-ri.org](mailto:djannetta@nric-ri.org).*