

# STONINGTON SCHOOL NEWS

JANUARY 2010

STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS/860-572-0506

ISSUE 5

## **SCIENTIFIC BASED RESEARCH INTERVENTION WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN?**

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Director of Special Services*

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*"A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone' attend to those things, which you think are important. You may adopt all the policies you please. But how they are carried out depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states, and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, school's universities, and corporation...the fate of humanity is in his hands"*

*-Abraham Lincoln*

Since early in our nation's history we have recognized the important role our education system plays in providing all children with the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to fully participate in our democratic society. As the 21<sup>st</sup> Century comes fully into play, schools throughout the nation have begun to examine more closely the individual needs of all students and how to best meet them. As a result, the relationship between special education and regular education is evolving and the lines between formerly two systems, blurred. In the past, understanding the differences has often been overwhelming for parents as they grapple to understand their child as a learner. In Stonington Public Schools we know how to meet the needs of our students by having special education and regular education team together to deliver individualized instruction. This newsletter will explain one new term (SRBI) that schools now use to describe this relationship and to provide you with insight into how the process of SRBI (Scientific Research Based Interventions) Model works.

As children enter school the most important environment is the classroom. Connecticut State Regulations #10-76d-7 says, "Before a child is referred to a planning and placement team, alternative procedures and programs in regular education shall be explored and where appropriate, implemented..." This means that classroom instruction includes whole group and small group differentiated instruction. The instruction is scientifically based practice and the children's academic progress is closely monitored to determine the effectiveness of the instruction. All of this seems full of jargon and it is. So let's take a look at a hypothetical child.

Ashley enters Kindergarten and her entire class is administered several universal assessments:

- Letter Naming Fluency
- Sound-Symbol Assessment
- Phonological Awareness
- Phonemic Awareness

Based on these assessments, the teacher discovers that Ashley is lagging behind her classmates in some essential skills. This weakness is immediately addressed within the classroom. A system is designed by the classroom teacher to monitor her progress, which is assessed every four to six weeks. Now let's suppose that Ashley continues to struggle. She is referred to her school's Student Assistance Team. The teacher identifies Ashley's specific deficit areas and asks for help finding a solution to Ashley's struggle with the skill development. The building administrator assigns a case partner for the teacher, for example the school's Academic Support Reading Teacher, and the teacher and partner begin working together to gather additional performance data, or information on Ashley's class performance. A meeting is set with the entire Student Assistance Team, which includes Ashley's parents, and the team meets to review Ashley's current, or benchmark, data, learn about the problem, set a performance goal or two for Ashley, establish an instructional plan and timeline for implementation. Although it sounds like a lot, our school teams are very practiced at understanding how to remediate a child's individual needs. Monitoring Ashley's progress will continue to be systematic with the purpose being to determine if the instruction she is receiving is making a difference. The goal of the team is to keep Ashley in the general education curriculum, in the classroom with her peers, while providing her with the individualized instruction she needs to make progress towards grade level standards. Ashley has not yet been identified as a student who might come under the umbrella of special education, however, as her progress is monitored the expertise and service of our special educators and related service staff may also be tapped to continue to develop an understanding of Ashley as a learner. Our Teams

are best able to find solutions to the barriers that prevent progress for some students by consistently working together.

What is Scientific Research Based Intervention? It is what is happening in our classrooms each day. It is the accountability that every educator has to ensure that instruction is designed to meet the needs of the individual learner and designed to close the gap that may exist for students who struggle with some aspect of their learning. It is the accountability that has caused us to closely examine our instructional practices to make sure that children receive instruction through practices that are proven to be effective.

It is the accountability that is driven by student performance data and student success.

For us to fully realize the impact of President Lincoln's quote our education system must be committed to the profound responsibility of preparing an "educated citizenry." All of our children can only "carry out what we have started" if we prepare them well. We accomplish this by working together through the system called SRBI.



## SAVE THE DATES

### Elementary Family Language Arts & Math Night

Stonington High School Commons

Wednesday, January 20, 2010  
(Snow Date-February 3, 2010)  
6:00-7:30 p.m.



### Middle School Family Language Arts & Math Night

Stonington High School Commons

Wednesday, January 27, 2010  
(Snow Date-February 24, 2010)  
6:00-7:30 p.m.



For cancellations or delays watch the following television stations:

WTNH – Channel 8/MYTV 9  
WFSB – Channel 3  
WVIT - NBC 30 - Channel 10  
WTIC – Fox 61 News

Tune into one of the following radio stations:

Q105	105.5 FM	WXML	102.3 AM
WBLQ	.881 FM	WNLC	1510 AM
WSUB	980 AM	WWRX	107.7 FM
WICH	1310 AM	WBMW	106.5 FM
WCTY	97.7 FM	WADK	99.3 FM
WTIC	96.5 FM		

Check the website: [www.stoningtonschools.org](http://www.stoningtonschools.org)








## Winter Fun!



# JANUARY 2010

## SPS DISTRICT CALENDAR

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
					<p>1</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Happy New Year!</i></p> 	2
<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>Back to School 6:00 PMS SBIT mtg.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:15 WBSS PTO mtg. 7:00 DMS PTO mtg.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:00 SHS Football Banquet 6:30 PMS Family Movie Night</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 SHS BOE mtg.</p>	8	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 SHS Wizards Basketball Game</p>
10	<p>11</p> <p>4:30 PMS SBIT mtg. 6:00 SHS SEF mtg.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:30 SHS Public Speaking Banquet 5:30 MMS SBIT mtg. 7:00 MMS PTO mtg.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30 MMS Winter Chorus Concert, Grades 5 &amp; 7 7:30 MMS Winter Chorus Concerts, Grades 6 &amp; 8 7:00 PMS PTO mtg.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 SHS BOE mtg. 7:00 SHS College Night for Junior Parents</p>	15	<p>16</p> <p>5-9 SHS Girls Basketball Pot Roast Supper</p>
17	<p>18</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Rev. Martin L. King</small> Birthday (observed)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:00 SHS SBIT 5:30 WBSS SBIT mtg.</p> <p>SHS Exams</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00-7:30 SHS Elementary Family Language Arts &amp; Math Night 6:30 PMS Family Dodge Ball</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 Central Office BOE mtg.</p>	22	<p>23</p> 
24	<p>25</p> 	26	<p>27</p> <p>6:00-7:30 SHS Middle School Family Language Arts &amp; Math Night</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 Central Office BOE mtg.</p>	29	<p>30</p> <p>7-10:30 SHS Winter Ball</p>
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