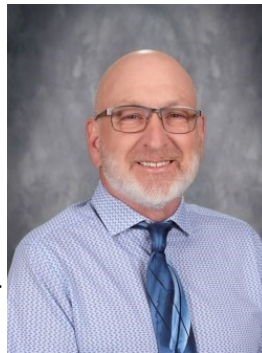


The Rocket Report

RISE Learning Center is Losing a Legend

As our first semester and the year 2023 come to a close, Dr. Scott Carson will say goodbye to RLC. Dr. Carson will officially retire December 31, 2023. He graduated with BA from Franklin College, MS from Purdue University, and PhD. from Indiana University.

Dr. Carson has worked with students with learning, behavioral, or other disabilities since he was 19. He has been with RISE/SSSMC since 2008. Dr. Carson's career consists of the following:



- tutored for behavior disordered students for a private psychologist
- spent one year as a substitute teacher and wrestling coach at Triton Central
- worked at a state hospital as a behavior clinician for four years
- worked at Damar, where he was the Residential Director for nine years, and then the Clinical Director for another nine years
- started at RISE as a school psychologist in 2008
- went to Franklin Township Schools for RISE in 2009 for three years.
- became the Director of RISE in 2013

Dr. Carson has been married to his wife, Angie, for 41 years. They have two sons... Erik, and wife Callie, and two grandsons (Weston and Lincoln); and Tyler and wife Maria.

Dr. Carson is an avid bicyclist, runner, and fitness buff. He also loves woodworking. He is planning to continue to consult on students with emotional or behavioral difficulties when he retires, as well as, dedicate more time to his family and family farm.

"I feel like I am leaving RISE in good hands and in a good position for the future," says Dr. Carson. "I will miss the people here as I have come to admire them." He also quotes RISE as, "Creative and compassionate people who address great challenges with courage every day."

We will miss you, Dr. Carson!!! Enjoy retirement!!

**See a few memories from RISE family about Dr. Carson on last page.*

One of Dr. Carson's favorite quotes:

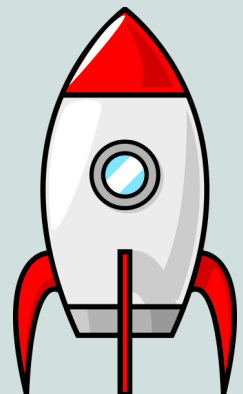
"Honesty without charity is brutality" – Aristotle



RISE LEARNING CENTER
5391 SHELBY ST
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46227
317.789.1621
317.780.4268 FAX
riselearningcenter.org
Facebook: RISE Learning Center

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RISE Staff wishes everyone a bright and healthy holiday season!!!



Thanks to everyone who purchased Pacers tickets to support our Special Athletics programs! Our school's game night will be Saturday, December 30th.



Basketball News!

We will have our Special Olympics basketball games on Jan 22nd, Feb 8th, and Feb 12th. The games will be at RISE Learning Center and the Snack Shack will be open! Tip offs will be at 6:30! Go Rockets!

***“Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers”
~Kahlil Gibran***

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- ⇒ Family Fun Night—Dec 19, 6:30-7:30pm
- ⇒ Pacer Game—Dec 30
- ⇒ End of 2nd Grading Period — Dec 21
- ⇒ Winter Break — Dec 22—Jan 7
- ⇒ MLK Day/Snow Makeup day, if needed—Jan 15
- ⇒ Special Olympics Basketball Game, RLC Gym, - Jan 22, 6:30p
- ⇒ Special Olympics Basketball Game, RLC Gym, - Feb 8, 6:30p



Christmas Spirit Week

Monday December, 18 – Thursday, December, 21

Merry Monday

Wear Red and Green

Santa's Workshop Imposters

Dress like you work in Santa's shop! You can be Santa, an elf, reindeer, toy, tree, etc!

What Not to Wear Wednesday

Wear your ugliest sweater

The Polar Express

Wear Pajamas



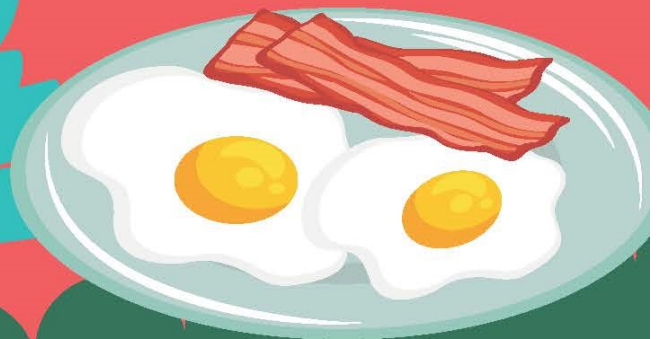
RISE LEARNING CENTER

BREAKFAST FOR DINNER WITH SANTA



Enjoy breakfast, holiday games, and visits with Santa, family, and RISE staff.

**TUESDAY
DECEMBER 19**
AT RISE LEARNING CENTER
6:30- 7:30 PM



This event is free.

IF YOUR FAMILY RECEIVES CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE,
IT CAN BE PICKED UP AFTER BREAKFAST FOR
DINNER STARTING AT 7:30 PM IN THE LGI ROOM



KEEPING
YOU
INFORMED

New! Corner from the Community Outreach

Coordinator

ACC Breakfast with Santa (Greenwood)

December 16th, 9:00-11:00 am

New Hope Church

5307 W. Fairview Rd., Greenwood, IN 46142

Annual Breakfast with Santa includes breakfast, reindeer games, holiday crafts, carriage rides, and meet with Santa Claus!

This is for families with children with Autism. All ages welcome.

Registration is required and will cost 10.00/family.

<https://autismcc-in.org/breakfast-with-santa/>

Did you KNOW???

Don't forget to apply for the Access Pass! The Access Pass program allows families that meet the specific requirements listed below to visit the Children's Museum of Indianapolis and all participating locations for \$2.00 per family member/per visit.

This is for up to two adults and all dependent youths living in the household. You qualify if you receive:

-Hoosier Healthwise Insurance -SNAP -TANF

Apply here:

<https://www.mhsindiana.com/newsroom/museum-access-pass.html>

Access Pass also includes: Connor Prairie, IN Historical Society, NCAA Hall of Champions, Terre Haute Children's Museum, WonderLab Bloomington, Indiana State Museum Indy, New-

Kids Count Therapy suggests: **Sensory Friendly Holidays**

What Can I Do?

There is not a one size fits all strategy for sensory regulation, but these are some helpful tips to make the busy holiday season a little less overwhelming for kids with sensory processing differences.

- Keep daily routines as normal as possible. This includes wake up times, meal times, nap times, and bed times.
- Allow children to take breaks throughout busy days, away from people or louder environments if necessary.
- Prepare your child for the day so they know what to expect. Using tools such as visual schedules or social stories can help.
- Consider food options for your child and bring preferred foods along if necessary.
- Identify a quiet/calming place in new environments.
- Bring tools with you, Using preferred visits fidgets, noise reducing headphones, or familiar stuffed animals can help children feel calm in overwhelming situations.
- Watch for signs of sensory overload. These may include covering ears or eyes, irritability, or hyperactivity.
- Provide calming input right before a new experience and throughout the day.
- Check for "sensory friendly" options to experience popular holiday activities.

As the season for inclement weather approaches, Teachers will provide virtual learning platforms or, in some cases, Teachers will be available to students during a school closure.

If we have enough advance warning of a closing, we will send student devices or packets home the day before. Let's hope the weather stays moderate, but plan for possible inclement weather.

School closings/delays will be sent via automated calls/texts and will be posted on Facebook and our website. *Please make sure the office has your current phone number for the automated phone calls for delays and closures.

**INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION**



approaches, we have a plan for possible school closing days. Teachers will provide virtual learning platforms or, in some cases, Teachers will be available to students during a school closure.



Happy Holidays from Nurse Angela

It's hard to believe it's December, which also means colder weather! Unfortunately, with colder weather comes coughs, colds, runny noses, and fevers. Please keep children at home if they are sick and not feeling well...your child may be carrying something very contagious.

~ Remember the 24 Hour Rule of Thumb ~

Students may return to school after the following:

-24 hours without a temperature/fever (>100 degrees Fahrenheit) **and without** taking fever reducing medications such as Tylenol or Advil/Motrin.

-24 hours without nausea, vomiting, diarrhea (**and tolerating a normal diet**).

-24 hours of receiving medication for treatment of illness/infection (such as antibiotics, eye ointments).

If your child still seems tired, pale, with little appetite, not tolerating solid foods, and generally "not him/herself", **PLEASE do not** send him/her to school. Some viral illnesses may take longer before your child is well enough to return to school. If you send your child to school to "see how they feel in a little while", you are potentially exposing other students, and our staff, to a communicable illness. This ripple effect exposes classmates and then their siblings and family members to the illness.

Also, please remember our medication policy found in your **Parent Information Guide**. **All** medications, prescription and non-prescription, must be **brought to the nurse** by a **parent or guardian**, this also includes cough drops.

HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY BREAK!

RISE Learning Center is Losing a Legend (Dr. Carson) continues.....

Dr. Carson would always ask me, "Hey Mr. Anderson, do you know of any good help we can use around here ..."

~Brian Anderson

Thank you Dr Carson for encouraging me to get into education! I am so happy with my decision to come to RISE and begin my career as a teacher. ☺

~Leslie Nation

We (RISE!) wouldn't be here today without Dr. Carson.

~Teresa

"I'll miss you, 'grandpa'!"

~Lucas

Your phone calls after tough case conferences, after a student was held in my room to be removed from his home, or just to check in after I became a stay-at-home mom; our trips together to shop for classroom furniture, your random cards or gifts to show your appreciation are all the things that might not seem like much, but those are the reasons why you are such a great boss—my favorite boss (even if it didn't always seem like it); they are the reason why RLC staff feels more like family than colleagues. Thank you for shaping me as a teacher—even if that meant giving me a new student every week. ☺

~Madeline Bennett

Scott has always been a great resource. He is willing to go above and beyond in order to help teachers be successful. Scott has been involved with RISE Learning Center for many years and in different capacities. He helped me many times when I was a classroom teacher, and he was at Damar, with students with more than challenging behaviors. Your insightfulness and wisdom is much appreciated and we will miss you!

~Todd



Dr. Carson has taught me so much in such a short amount of time. His experience and perspective always lead me to look at "what is" through a different lens. Thankful to have the opportunity to be his student these last months!

~Kristyn Dingley

Love that Dr. Carson incorporates work strategies at home! He makes adaptive equipment for his farm animals if they were born with physical disabilities. He uses MOVE everywhere!

~Monica

MY FAVORITE AND MOST APPRECIATIVE MEMORY OF DR. CARSON WAS WHEN THE SCHOOL PUT TOGETHER A FUNDRAISER TO HELP ME ADOPT. HE VOLUNTEERED TO BE DUCT TAPED TO THE WALL! 1 FOOT OF DUCT TAPE FOR EVERY DOLLAR. THIS ALONE RAISED \$421! HAPPY RETIREMENT, DR. CARSON. YOU WILL BE MISSED.



~ASHLEY DILK

Thank you, Scott, for being a wonderful mentor and colleague. I have learned so much from you and appreciate all you do for students!

~Colleen Zillich

I will always remember Dr. Carson's stories of working at Muscatatuck. I met Dr. Carson when he was working at Damar and I was volunteering. Dr. Carson has always been the go-to and guru on all things behavioral/psych related and has always been insightful and helpful. I am glad you got to freshen up on your Algebra and Trig before retirement! See you on the bike trails!

~Posey