



EBEA NEWSLETTER

East Brunswick Education Association

Volume 35, Issue 5

United in Excellence

February • March 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Desk of the President	1
Wall of Honor	2
Vote	2
Events	3
Classifieds	4
Cheers and Tears	5
My EBEA	6

From the Desk of the President

Winter 2014 – *Massive winter storms pummeling the East Coast... Record snowfall amounts... Artic air masses, subzero temperatures, the polar vortex... snow days, delayed openings, early dismissals... a state of emergency...* all part of one of the most disruptive winters in decades. Before we put this wintry season behind us, let's applaud our "essential personnel" – our custodial, maintenance and grounds members for their hard work in the district throughout this wintry season. Additionally, so many members have also expressed their gratitude to Superintendent Dr. Patirick Piegari for making the right decisions about school closures for the safety of students and for all staff of our schools.

Though weary from this parade of winter storms, our members must remain focused on the changes that continue to affect public education – teacher evaluation reform, implementation of the Common Core, the transition to online PARCC Assessments, and the threat of privatization.

First, let's focus on TEACHNJ. With the enactment of this legislation, all districts were required to implement a new teacher evaluation model that includes both measures of teacher practice and student achievement. In order to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the district's Danielson Evaluation Model, the Association requested that members send their evaluations to the EBEA office. After review of so many members' evaluations, the Association is closely monitoring the timelines of post-observation conferences (as per the NJDOE regulations) as well as the submission of the written evaluation reports to the teaching staff (as per Article XVI of the contract). The Association is also pleased to see the quality of our members' written responses to both long and short evaluations. Not only are our members responding to elements rated as *partially effective*, but they are also suggesting that ratings of *effective* be changed to *highly effective* inclusive of their comprehensive evidence shared with administrators during the post observation conferences. Truly, our certificated members continue to be actively engaged in evaluation reform as a means of measuring effectiveness and enhancing professional growth.

Next, educators have shifted their attention to the state's implementation of the Common Core Curriculum Standards (CCCS) and the transition to the Partnership for Assessments of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing. Many state organizations expressed concerns before the state's Assembly Education Committee about the rush and haphazard way the NJ Department of Education is imposing these changes on school districts. At the conclusion of the hearing, Committee Chair

SAVE THE DATES



April 2nd
EBEA Spring Fling

April 3rd
EBEA Elections

April 8th
EBEF Partners In
Excellence Dinner

April 9th
EBEA Rep. Council
Meeting

April 28th
MCEA XYZ's of
Retirement
Workshop

From the Desk of the President (continued from page 1)

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan acknowledged a strong consensus around the need to slow down these initiatives in order to get them right. New York's State Education Department is already slowing down its implementation of the Common Core and the assessments linked to evaluations. Perhaps with the departure of NJ's Commissioner Chris Cerf who leaves to become the CEO of a company who sells assessments to school districts, the next commissioner will be more open to changes in evaluations, standards and testing!

Finally, our Board of Education hired a company to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the district's food service functions and operations. Our child nutritionists became fearful of the threat of privatization and loss of jobs. After receiving the assessment of the food services program report, the Association met with the members of the child nutrition department to provide information about possible changes to be made in order to retain these ladies and gentlemen as Board employees. The Association will continue to engage in discussions with the Board to not privatize this department – not next year, not the year after, and hopefully, not ever!

As the memories of Winter 2014 are left behind, we now prepare for Spring. Remember that springtime is typically a season of renewal. Why not take the time this spring to renew your advocacy for a better and brighter future – for our students, for ourselves and for our great public schools.

Ruth Davitt

Congratulations to our 2014 Wall of Honor Honorees

Shelli Fishman – Teacher, Bowne Munro Elementary School

Helen McGuinness – Secretary, East Brunswick High School

William Pellagrino – Social Studies Teacher, East Brunswick High School



You are invited to help honor these outstanding individuals at a ceremony on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. in the Jon R. Kopko Administration Building, 760 Route 18.

Don't Forget to VOTE!
EBEA Elections • April 3, 2014

E V E N T S

Electronic Communications & Social Networking Safety

How it Affects Your Employment

A dinner & workshop presented by:
The East Brunswick Education Association

Wednesday, April 23, 2014
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
A dinner buffet will be provided

RSVP to EBEA by 3/21/14

Registration forms were distributed to all members week of 3/3/14



Middlesex County Education Association



presents

The 2014 Annual PRIDE in Public Education Fair

Saturday, April 5, 2014
Brunswick Square Mall
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Book Giveaways!
Music & Face Painting!
Health & Safety Information!
Fun for the entire family!

Don't miss the FUN!

E B E A A N N U A L

SPRING FLING

2014

* DJ * Dancing * Buffet Dinner* Cash Bar *
* Raffles * Prizes *

Lago Restaurant

(formerly Sir John's)

230 Washington Place
North Brunswick

Wednesday
April 2nd, 2014
4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

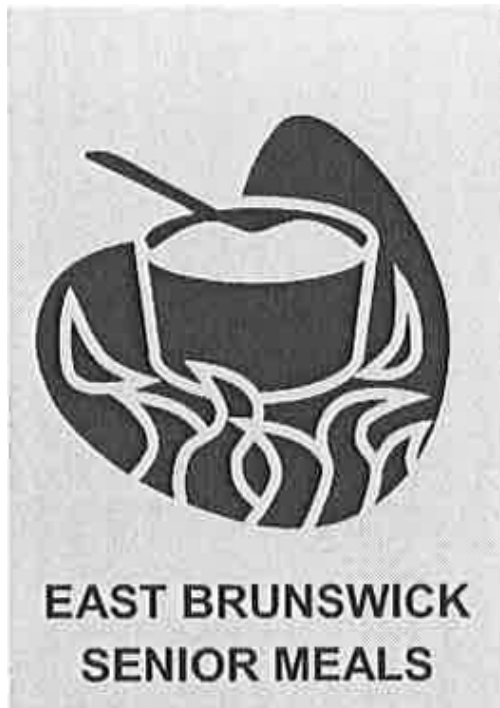
\$15 per person
Checks only, payable to EBEA

RSVP to your building rep by March 26th



Come Join the Fun!

CLASSIFIEDS



Volunteers Needed

The East Brunswick Senior Meals Program is in urgent need of volunteers to assist with delivering meals to homebound East Brunswick residents.

Requirements: valid driver's license, available weekdays 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., able to commit to as little as two hours per month.

Contact the East Brunswick Dept. of Aging Senior Meals Coordinator
Donna Faulkenberry at (732) 390-6809
or donna.faulkenberry@eastbrunswick.org

HELP WANTED

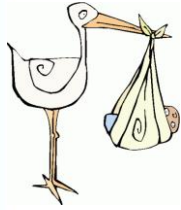
A part-time position is available at the
East Brunswick Museum
For more information contact
Estelle Goldsmith at (732) 249-3522



CHEERS AND TEARS

Congratulations to:

Mala Simon, retiree, on the birth of her granddaughter Faith Lily (in January)



Chris Yannazzo, EBHS Phys. Ed. teacher, on the birth of his daughter Noelle Marie (in January)

Paula Yannazzo, retiree, on the birth of her granddaughter Noelle Marie (in January)

Jo-Ann Bijas, EBHS social studies teacher, on the birth of her granddaughter Tess (in February)

Lauren Siecinski, HMS math teacher, on the birth of her son Zachary Walter (in February)

Beth Shobe, CJHS science teacher, on the birth of her daughter Cora Grace (in February)

Paula Cavallaro, EBHS Family and Consumer Science teacher, on the birth of her son Luke James (in February)

Carolyn Sowell, HMS aide, on the birth of her grandson Chase Vincent (in March)

Kenneth Doolittle, Central teacher, on the birth of his daughter Penelope Lee (in March)

Cheryl Jones, HMS Curriculum Dept Chair, on the birth of her son Brody Jay (March)

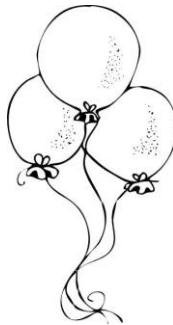
Cheers to:

Egdanis Torres-Dominicci, EBHS Spanish teacher, on being sworn in as a Public Affairs Officer in the United States Naval Reserve

Keith Lane, girls' basketball coach, for being named GMC Coach of the Year and Red Division Coach of the Year

Robert "Bo" Henning, EBHS Phys. Ed. teacher, recipient of the 2014 Magic 98.3 Teachers Who Makes Magic Award (in March)

Linda Ronchi, EBHS Athletics Secretary, for being honored as the Directors of Athletics Assoc. of New Jersey as Administrative Assistant of Excellence Award for Central New Jersey



Condolences to:

Martha Perez, EBHS Spanish teacher, on the death of her mother (in January)

Carmela Crosby, HMS English teacher, on the death of her father (in January)

May Jerzak, EBHS Child Nutritionist, on the death of her grandmother (in January)

May Jerzak, EBHS Child Nutritionist, on the death of her sister (in February)

Donna Donovan, Memorial Child Nutritionist, on the death of her sister (in February)

Barbara Mandy, CJHS special ed. teacher, on the death of her father (in February)

Catherine Noll, Warnsdorfer aide, on the death of her father (in February)

Lori Bergin, EBHS Phys. Ed. teacher, on the death of her grandmother (in February)

Victoria Geurtsen, HMS Spanish teacher, on the death of her father (in February)

Charles Riccio, Admin/Transportation driver, on the death of his father (in February)

Linda Riccio, EBHS aide, on the death of her father-in-law (in February)

Linda Baez-Cardona, EBHS Spanish teacher, on the death of her grandmother (in February)

J.David Bravo, Admin maintenance, on the death of his mother (in February)

Karla Murray, EBHS Child Nutritionist, on the death of her brother (in February)

Kim Giambrone, EBHS social studies teacher, on the death of her grandfather (in February)

Thomas Chapkowski, Warnsdorfer Custodian, on the death of his mother (in March)

Annemarie DiRenzo, Frost Teacher, on the death of her father (in March)

Get Well Wishes to:

Katherine Becker-Pandit, HMS social worker

Elizabeth Caracciolo, Lawrence Brook aide

Mary Beth Graydon, EBHS art teacher

Karen Raguette, EBHS secretary

Joseph Sawicki, EBHS security aide

Laurie Smith, Admin/Transportation driver

Kerstin Stewart, EBHS School Counseling D.C.

Jill Ventrice, elementary teacher

Maria Wood, EBHS security aide

Mike Zielinski, EBHS special ed. teacher

With Sympathy

East Brunswick Education Association



Check out our new website

Along with our new look we also feature a “Members” section that is password protected.

Just use your NJEA membership login and password.

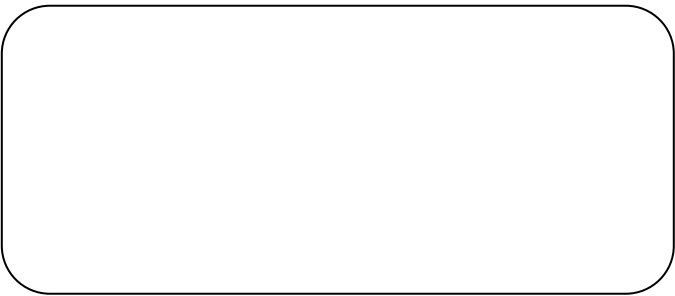
<http://my-ebea.org/>

THE EBEA NEWSLETTER

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EAST BRUNSWICK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Place
Stamp
Here



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