



# SEPTA Brick Township Special Education PTA

SEPTA Newsletter  
Fall 2005

## President's Message

### SEPTA

#### Officers for 2005/2006

President - Diana Gerlach

1st VP—Dee Beringer

2nd VP—Nichol Manatakis

Recording Secretary—Denise

Ragozzino

Correspondence Secretary —

Kim Vaccaro

Treasurer—Corey Dalton

PTA Advisor—Candy Fredericks

#### Meeting Schedule 2005/2006

Held at the EEC at 7pm

September 26 February 27

October 24 March 27

November 28 April 24

January 23 May 29

June 12

#### Membership Information:

Contact: Janet Bixenman at 732-477-4845 (Membership Fee is \$6.00)

Hello everyone and welcome to the new school year! I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Diana Gerlach and I am serving my second year as President of the Brick Township Special Education PTA. SEPTA, a district-wide PTA, was formed in 2004 to help address the issues parents may encounter when their child has special needs. SEPTA helps parents by bringing together people who have an interest in special education. Our PTA provides a forum enabling parents, teachers and experts in the field of Special Education to share their knowledge and experience. We welcome and encourage your membership and participation. SEPTA will frequently have guest speakers from different organizations associated with specific disabilities. We share information on special education law, services and local workshops. Most importantly we provide a supportive environment to parents.

SEPTA's first year was very successful. We held a pie fundraiser in the fall and we are currently selling 2006 calendars which includes inspiring artwork from the winners from our Art Contest last spring. This October, we will again hold our Delicious Orchards pie fundraiser and have our first "Halloween Carnival". We're doing "Letters from Santa" planned around the holidays and in March we will host our first gift auction. We are hoping to have more activities throughout the year and welcome suggestions. Please try to attend our meetings and discover what SEPTA is all about.

I look forward to an exciting, educational and memorable year! Warm regards, Diana Gerlach

#### Board of Ed Meeting schedule:

2005: Sept 22, Oct 25, Nov 17, Dec 8 (Pre-agenda), Dec 15

2006: Jan 12 (Pre-agenda), Jan 19, Feb 2 (Pre-agenda), Feb 9, March 2, March 9, April 6 (Pre-agenda), April 18, April 20 and May 4.

Bd of Ed meetings are open to the public. Please attend, if you are available. We encourage parent representation. For more

information check the Brick Schools Website:

<http://bricktsd.schoolwires.com>

## Special Thanks

Thanks to all our Calendar sponsors:

La Fontana, Riviera Realty/Coldwell Banker, J.T.Lanzieri, M.L.S Attorney Services, Inc., Minding Miracles, Custom Living, Different Roads To Learning, POAC, and Video Time.

Also special thanks to Melanie McGackin for chairing our calendar fundraiser.

## Quote of the Month:

"Laughter is the key to survival during the special stresses of the child-rearing years. If you can see the delightful side of your assignment, you can also deal with the difficult."

From.....

Parenting Isn't For Cowards

## Editor's Note by: Brenda Calderone

We encourage anyone who wants to contribute a feature story, upcoming event or any information which may be of interest to the special education community, to contact us. We are always interested and welcome your input.

Also, if anyone is interested in joining one of the following committees, please see the chairperson of that particular committee for more details:

**Cultural Arts**—Melanie McGackin  
**Historical Yearbook**—Karen Buchanan  
**Ways & Means**—Annette Arthur  
**Hospitality**—Patti Morrison  
**Scholarship** - Annette Arthur  
**Board of Ed** - Jeanette Smith  
**Recreation**—Karen Buchanan

## New Jersey PTA

The New Jersey PTA hosted two seminars entitled the "**Wheel of PTA**" which included workshops on various topics relating to PTA's. Denise Raggiozino attended the June seminar and Diana Gerlach, Jeanette Smith, Annette Arthur, Dee Beringer and Kim Vacarro attended the one in August.

SEPTA was recently informed they won the **Award for Outstanding Achievement in Advocacy** and will receive the award at the New Jersey PTA Annual Convention in November. The award was based on their advocacy of the 2005 School Budget Election, voter registration and encouragement of voter turnout. Congratulations to our Special Education PTA advocates!

## Ways & Means - Annette Arthur/Chairperson

Thank you for supporting SEPTA by participating in our fundraisers. The funds raised make it possible to provide quality programs. We have some new and unique fundraisers this year. Currently, we are offering **SEPTA calendars** featuring our children's artwork submitted in our Artwork Contest last spring. We want to express our gratitude to all of the children and parents for participating in this event. Without all of you, this would not have been a success. Calendars are available for \$10.00 each and would make great gifts for those "hard to shop for" on your holiday gift list.

Flyers will be arriving in your children's backpacks announcing our **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Delicious Orchards Pie Fundraiser**. Orders will be taken in October for November pick-up.

Also arriving in your children's backpacks will be a flyer announcing our **First Annual Gift Auction** which will be held in the Spring of 2006. We are currently looking for SEPTA members to assist us on the gift auction committee as well as any donations you might wish to contribute to this upcoming event. If you would like to purchase a SEPTA calendar or help with our gift auction, please contact: Annette Arthur at (732) 701-1343 or email ([psalmon@comcast.net](mailto:psalmon@comcast.net)).

## Programs/Events - Melanie McGackin/Chairperson

**SEPTA Halloween Carnival - Saturday, October 15th from 1 - 4pm at Lake Riviera School**

**Costume Parade will start at 2:30pm**

**Spooktacular Fun For All: Flyers with more details on this event will be coming soon!**

## Cultural Arts - Melanie McGackin/Chairperson

Thank you to all the students, teachers and parents who participated in the 2006 SEPTA Art Calendar. What creativity we have throughout our district! Mrs. Harzer had a difficult task in judging the contest and we thank her. A special note of congratulations to the 13 students whose artwork was chosen to be in our first calendar.

## Services for Children with Special Needs

**Brick Special Services**-732-785-3080

**Challenger/Brick Recreation** - 732-262-1165

**POAC** - Parents of Autistic Children - 732-888-1000

**DDD** - Division of Developmental Disabilities - 609-943-5960

**COSAC** - 1-800-4Autism

**Family Support Center of NJ** - 1-800-FSC-NJ10

### New Program

Hands 4 Talking:

Sign Lang. Interpreters/instructors have started a sign-story time at local libraries will offer a parent workshop to learn sign language if there are enough parents interested. If you are interested Please call: Lisa A. Glassford at (732) 458-5813 or Judy Halleata at (732) 905-5406

## Governor Codey signs new Bill in Brick Township

On August 26, 2005, Candy Fredericks, Ocean Cty. PTA President and SEPTA Advisory Chairperson joined acting Governor Richard J. Codey in Brick Township as he signed the new Bicycle Helmet Bill #A3346/S2529. This Bill amends the pre-existing law which went into effect in 1992. The new bill raises the age of the pre-existing law from 14 to 17 years of age. Anyone who is 17 years old or younger is re-

quired to wear a helmet while bicycling, skateboarding, roller skating or bladding. New Jersey now joins California and Massachusetts as the only states requiring helmets until the age of 17. Governor Codey was joined by the bill sponsors Assemblyman, John F. Mckee, Mayor Scarpelli and Tom Grady, Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs for the Brain Injury Asso-

ciation of New Jersey. Candy was given the pen used to sign the Bill as a gift from Governor Codey. She also was invited to take pictures with the Governor after the signing.

**Acting Governor  
Richard J. Codey  
signs Bill to amend  
law of 1992  
Changing Bicycle  
Helmet age  
requirement**

## Special Ed and Washington/What's new on Capital Hill?

By: Jeanette Smith

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004) was signed into law on December 3, 2004. Most provisions of the law took effect on July 1, 2005. This law set the minimum

Federal standards for educating children with disabilities. However, there are many areas where the New Jersey Administrative Code provides additional rights and protection for our students. It is imperative that parents of classified children become knowledgeable regarding their children's educational rights.

More information on IDEA 2004 can be found on these sites:

[www.wrightslaw.com/idea/index.htm](http://www.wrightslaw.com/idea/index.htm)

[www.spannj.org/idea\\_action\\_alert2.htm](http://www.spannj.org/idea_action_alert2.htm)

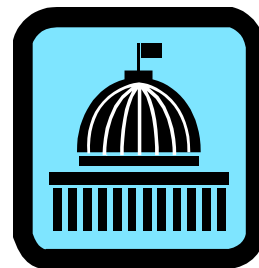
[nichcy.org/reauth/index.html](http://nichcy.org/reauth/index.html)

[www.pacer.org/legislation/index.htm](http://www.pacer.org/legislation/index.htm)

[www.ourchildrenleftbehind.com/](http://www.ourchildrenleftbehind.com/)

<http://fape.org/idea/2004/summary.htm>

<http://www.state.nj.us/njded/code/>





2005-2006

### Challenger Activities Schedule

April 14 - June 16 (Fridays 6pm)  
Baseball

July 7 - August 4 (Fridays 6pm)  
Horseback Riding

Sept. 10 - Oct. 8 (Saturdays 9am)  
Soccer

Nov. 12 - Dec. 17 (Saturdays 9am)  
Basketball

Jan. 7 - Mar. 4 (Saturdays 11am)  
Bowling

## Brick Challenger by Dan Santaniello

The Challenger Program is open to children ages five and older to engage in several different activities and events throughout the year, where they might not have done so otherwise. This program gives children a chance to participate in activities and sports with others their own age and on the same playing level. Challenger has a year round schedule for the children of Brick Township: fall soccer, winter basketball and bowling, spring baseball and summer horseback riding. The cost is \$5.00 per program and all participants will receive a trophy at the end of each season. For more information on the Challenger Program, please call Dan Santaniello or Don Warn @732-262-1165 or stop by the Recreation Office located in the Civic Plaza on Chambers Bridge Road.

## Dates to Remember:

### SEPTA Meeting Schedule 2005/2006

Held at the EEC at 7pm

September 26

October 24

November 28

January 23

February 27

March 27

April 24

May 29

June 12



### September - June

Calendar Fundraiser

### October

11th - Dr. Perry Zirkel

Expert in Special Education Law

Will discuss revisions of IDEA

as well as a Q & A period

Pie Fundraiser

Halloween Carnival

### November

Pie pick-up

### December

Letters to Santa

### March

Gift Auction

### SEPTA Events Schedule