



SEPTA

SEPTA Newsletter
Spring 2007

Brick Township Special Education PTA

SEPTA Executive Board Officers 2006/2007

President

Brenda Calderone

1st Vice President

Patricia Marsden

2nd Vice President

Jeanette Smith

Recording Secretary

Dee Beringer

Corresponding Secretary

Kim Vaccaro

Treasurer

Candy Fredericks

President's Message

This June marks three successfully completed years as the Brick Township Special Education PTA. We owe our success to our devoted executive board and our members past and present who have stuck by us each year. Their patronage has given us incentive and encouragement to move forward and continue our mission. That mission is to provide children with special programs and events throughout the year, provide parents with opportunities to hear speakers in areas of special needs and education and be an information source for teachers and parents on issues in legislation, education and a variety of resources. I have learned many things in the past year, but one thing I am absolutely certain of is that with each new member we become stronger and with each new day we accomplish more and more. Our work is essentially volunteering and that can sometimes be a thankless job, but our rewards lie in some extraordinary moments. Putting smiles on countless children's faces and hearing the appreciation of parents, because of their joy or one of our parents having an "a ha!" moment at one of our meetings, makes it all worth while. With your help, think of what we can accomplish. The possibilities are endless.

The remainder of this school year will be both exciting and rewarding as we welcome families to our "Family Character Breakfast" on March 10th and our "Day at the Blue Claws" on June 3rd. We will also hold a flea market fundraiser on April 28th. Details on all events will be sent home in backpacks. Please join us for our events and whenever you get the opportunity to help out, let us know and we will welcome you with open arms. Again, thank you for making the Brick Township Special Education PTA a success and we look forward to keeping our momentum strong in the years to come.

Brenda Calderone, President

"A Special Thank You For A Special Gift"

On Tuesday, January 23rd. at SEPTA's general membership meeting, SEPTA President, Brenda Calderone presented Vice President of "Matty's Cause", Sonja Nunan with a special thank you for their generous donation to SEPTA of \$1000.00 (photo right).

SEPTA will use this contribution to help fund special events for Brick Township special needs children and their families to enjoy. President, Brenda Calderone, said "It's organizations like "Matty's

Cause" that make it possible for us to continue our mission, which is to bring a little bit of happiness into these special children's lives."

"Matty's Cause" was formed in February of 2006 and is a New Jersey Non Profit Organization dedicated to providing awareness and education on Autism along with helping to better the quality of life for Autistic children and their families.

Anyone interested in learning more about "Matty's Cause" can



Sonja Nunan, Brenda Calderone

visit their website at www.MattysCause.org.

Visit our website at www.bricksepta.org for SEPTA news & events.



Committee News

Ways and Means **Annette Arthur, Chairperson**

A special thank you to all who made our 50/50 raffle ticket fundraiser so successful by purchasing and/or selling tickets. The drawing took place at our general membership meeting on January 23, 2007 where Joseph Monahan of Neptune (Ticket #0109) was the lucky recipient of \$2,500.00.

Our next fundraiser will be an indoor flea market being held on Saturday, April 28, 2007 at Veterans Memorial Middle School. We are offering a limited number of 8-foot rental spaces for tables at \$10.00 each if you wish to bring crafts/goods to sell for profit. We are also accepting both used and new item donations to offer for sale at the flea market. Flyers will be arriving in your children's backpacks with additional information on this fundraiser.

If you have any questions regarding donations, rental spaces or would like to arrange for pick up of a donation please contact me at (732)701-1343.

As always, thank you for considering our children such a worthwhile cause!

Legislation **Jeanette Smith, Chairperson**

Advocacy Week

For decades, PTA has led parents and other child advocates in taking action for children. The

week of February 19-23, PTA continues its legacy of being a prominent voice for children by launching the first PTA Advocacy Week. Take an hour, or just a few minutes, to make a difference in the lives of children. Contact a lawmaker or school decision maker at the local, state, or national level. Take this opportunity to contact them about an issue important to you. Background briefs and talking points on education and other child-related issues are available in the Issues and Action section of the PTA website, at www.PTA.org. Anyone can take part in PTA Advocacy Week. The PTA website offers tips on how to be an effective advocate.

Autism Grants

Brick Schools were passed over when the state handed out \$15 million in grant money to help autism programs. However, in the Governor's budget address, Corzine called for \$5 million in statewide spending targeted at the disorder.

April 17th Annual School Budget Election

You may apply for an absentee ballot if you are a qualified and registered voter by written application to the Ocean County Clerk's office. Requirements are that you sign your name as it appears in the registry book. The deadline for such requests is 7 days before any and all elections. Any absentee voter who fails to apply by the deadline may apply in person to the office on any day up to 3:00 P.M. of the day before the Election. For an absentee ballot, go to <http://www.oceancountyclerk.com/election/frame.htm>.

General Membership Meeting Schedule

March 26th, April 23rd, May 15th & June 11th

Educational Enrichment Center, 107 Hendrickson Rd. @ 7:30 PM

191
Members

On March 26th, Melissa Cassera, a Health Service Coordinator for Life Line Screening Radiology, a nationally recognized stroke detection organization, will conduct a presentation on the risk factors and warning signs of vascular diseases including stroke, abdominal aortic aneurysms, peripheral arterial disease and osteoporosis. We hope you will join us for this special presentation.

Special DAD Appointed to New Committee

This Fall SEPTA voted yes to developing the **Father's Initiative Committee**, which will be chaired by Vincent Muti. As chairperson for this new committee, Vincent will provide dads and other male caregivers with special opportunities to get involved in SEPTA. He will be working on different events and activities that he feels will be of interest to them. He will also be there to support their efforts and supply them with information they may need.

SEPTA's Executive Board feels confident that if anyone can get dads actively involved in

SEPTA, Vincent can. Vincent is a working, single dad who has taken an active role in his son, Vincent's life and education. He has shown a strong commitment to SEPTA since becoming a member and his determination to make a difference has inspired all on SEPTA's Executive Board.

Vincent said, "It was Candy Fredericks, Treasurer for SEPTA, that convinced me to become a member and since then I have learned how important and necessary it is for parents to get involved." Vincent has had many rewarding experiences since becoming a member. He said, "The one I



Vincent and Dad, Vincent Muti

cherish most is seeing the joy on our children's faces at one of our special events." Vincent Muti is living proof that PTA's are not just for moms!!! Anyone interested in this new committee can contact Vincent at 732-477-7012.

Character Breakfast Gets a Thumbs Up



Helena Gross & Buster Give a Thumbs Up

On Saturday, March 10th., Septa held its 1st Character Breakfast Event. Everyone got to enjoy a grand breakfast buffet with their favorite characters, as the Grease Lightning DJs spun their music and put on a show to kid favorite Disney tunes. The kids danced and sang with Buster, the Blue Claw's Mascot; Sparky, the Fire Dog;

The Brick TWP. H.S. Mascot, Dragon; Loon E the Clown; Scooby Doo; Elmo, and Sponge Bob. Then, before it was all over, the kids got to follow their favorite characters in a musical game of Limbo.

SEPTA would like to give special thanks to Kiddy Parties, for the donation of the character costumes; Shop Rite, Path Mark and Costco for donations towards the refreshments; The Brick TWP. H.S. National Honor Society, Grease Lightning DJs, and all parents, teachers and para professionals for volunteering their time.



Logan McGackin & Sponge Bob

Brick Challenger Programs

The **Brick Challenger Athletics program** is offered to physically or developmentally challenged children ages 5 and older in our community. It offers these children a chance to participate in sports with others their own age and on their own playing levels.

Spring Baseball

Fridays, April 13th—June 8th.

Registration begins March 5th

Fee is \$5.00 per child.



Summer Horseback Riding

Wednesdays, July 5th - August 2nd.

Registration begins June 12th

Fee is \$5.00 per child.



The **2007 Challenger Summer Camp** is a 5 week summer day camp experience offered to children ages 5-12 with mild to moderate physical and/or cognitive disabilities, that are not eligible for the extended school year program through the district or the Beadleston program. Enrollment is limited to 60 children and there is no fee.

DATES: June 25th - July 27th, Monday—Friday
9AM - 2PM (rain or shine)

PLACE: Lanes Mill School

Call Dan Santaniello at 732-262-1165 for details.

SPECIAL SPRING EVENTS by Barbara DeJessa



Now that Spring has arrived there will be many opportunities for children and caregivers to take part in lots of fun filled activities. To start off we have **Parents & Agencies Supporting Siblings (PASS) 1st sibling event, "An Afternoon of Fun at The Bowling Alley"** on Friday, April 13th. The event will take place at The Lanes at Sea Girt located at 2106 State Hwy. 35, Sea Girt from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM. This event is being held to provide siblings of children with different abilities an opportunity to meet each other and obtain mutual support while having fun. Sibling must be 6 years and older. The registration fee is only \$5.00 and deadline is April 6th. Dinner will be served at the event. You can register for this event by contacting Ramona Carmeci at the Family Support Center of New Jersey (FSCNJ) at 732-528-8080. For more info on this event and other services provided by FSCNJ visit their website at www.fscnj.org.

Another upcoming event is the **"3rd. Annual Caregivers Retreat"**, celebrating National Women's Health Week, on May 17th from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM at Robert Wood Johnson Hamilton Center for Health and Wellness. Activities will include a yoga class, healthy & delicious breakfast and lunch, health screenings, informative exhibits, pampering and networking. There is no cost to caregivers. Registration is required and will begin on April 1st. Call 800-372-6510 with any questions.

Now, for a day of family fun, join **Parents Of Autistic Children (POAC)** at their **"First Annual Walk-a-thon"**. The event will be held on Saturday, April 14th at First Energy Stadium home of the Lake-wood Blue Claws. There will be refreshments, games and inflatable rides for the children along with many great prizes for the walkers. To get more info on this event you can go to info@poac.net or call 732-888-1000. Enjoy a fun filled day while supporting a worthy cause.

We're not done yet, more family fun to come at **SEPTA's "Take Me Out To The Ball Game"** event also held at First Energy Stadium on June 3rd. This event is sure to please all that attend. Last year's **"Take Me Out To The Ball Game"** celebration was a real hit with our families. Everyone enjoyed watching the Blue Claws in action, as well as, other stadium festivities. For more info on this event and other upcoming events visit our website at www.bricksepta.org. Have a happy, healthy and fun filled spring.

"Name Our Newsletter Contest"

The Executive Board of SEPTA would like your help with naming our newsletter. All members are invited to participate, so put on your thinking caps and get creative. Just come up with a name that best represents our newsletter and its service to our members and send it to Brick Township Special Education PTA, Attention Barbara DeJessa at 107 Hendrickson Ave., Brick, NJ 08724 or email me at bdejessa1@aol.com. When emailing please specify SEPTA NEWSLETTER CONTEST. Please remember to include your name, address and telephone number. Deadline for submissions is May 11th. At our May 15th meeting the Executive Board will vote on the winning name. If the name you submitted was chosen you will be contacted by May 18th and you will be the winner of a \$30.00 gift certificate donated by the Pilot House Restaurant in Brick (ad on right). The chosen name will then

be used for our June newsletter.

If you are new to SEPTA and would like to know more about us before participating in our contest please visit us online at www.bricksepta.org. Remember, have fun and get the whole family to help. Good Luck to all!!!

Fine Dining on the Metedeconk River

PILOT HOUSE

forge landing marina



799 Route 70
Brick, NJ 08723

Phone 732.920.8900
Fax 732.920.0867

PilotHouseNJ.com