

The SEPTA Express

Get on board with
the 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

With the school year coming to a close, we reflect upon the wonderful events and experiences we have had with the Brick Township Special Education PTA. We began the year with our "Meet and Greet" which was a perfect way to kick things off with our members, school staff and our executive board members. We have had some very interesting and informative guest speakers throughout the year who may not have joined us, had it not been for the scheduling work of Kim Vaccaro, our Adult Programs Chair. Our Children's Programs were, without a doubt spectacular, thanks to Melanie McGackin who has chaired these events for the past three years and never fails to amaze us. Of course none of these events would have been possible without our fantastic fundraisers and we owe their success to Annette Arthur, our Ways and Means Chair, who always gives us 150%. This year we reached a record membership of 211 members and our membership chair, Joyce Neafsey, was our biggest advocate, working hard at every event, encouraging membership and getting those membership cards out ASAP! We have a wonderful group of hard workers on our SEPTA team and each one of them has contributed to our success this year. I would like to thank our Officers: Pat Marsden, Jeanette Smith, Dee Beringer, Kim Vaccaro and Candy Fredericks. I would also like to thank our Committee Chairs: Valerie Gray, Website; Vincent Muti, Hospitality & Fatherhood Initiative; Karen Buchanan, Historical Yearbook & Juvenile Protection & Safety; Barbara DeJessa, Newsletter & Public Relations; Jeanette Smith, Legislation & Board of Ed; Candy Fredericks, Bylaws & Budget & Finance; Annette Arthur, Ways & Means, Scholarship & Nominating; Melanie McGackin, Children's Programs & Cultural Arts; and Kim Vaccaro, Adult Programs. Their devotion to each of these important tasks has made us the special organization we are. We can only hope they will stick around for years to come. Our 2007/2008 officers have been elected and we welcome them and wish them good luck and great success for the coming year. To all our volunteers, we could not have done this without you and will never forget your support this year and past years as well. Thank you. Last, but certainly not least, to our members for putting their faith and confidence into this organization, which is so dear to our hearts. We thank you and welcome you and new members in the new year ahead. To all, have a wonderful remainder to the school year and have a happy and healthy summer break. We'll see you next year!

Sincerely,
President, Brenda Calderone

What's Inside

Editor's Note	2
Committee News.....	2
Appreciation Tea ..	3
Feature Poem.....	3
Brick Challenger....	4
Board of Education.....	4



Editor's Note

Hello, I want to thank everyone that participated in our "Name Our Newsletter Contest". We received many wonderful responses and as you can see "The SEPTA Express" sent in by Lisa Sinclair was the winner. Lisa won a \$30.00 gift certificate for The Pilot House Restaurant in Brick. Congratulations Lisa!!! Along with the name "The SEPTA Express" Lisa sent an explanation as to why she thought it would be a good name. She said "SEPTA really does a lot for the families of Brick if they just *get on board* and come to SEPTA events and meetings and join SEPTA." We agree!!!

We are here to provide support to parents and teachers of children with special needs. We can help inform you on particular special education issues and provide you with the tools that are needed to be an effective advocate for your child. Our special events help bring families together to support one another. Let SEPTA become a part of your life and you too will be able to enjoy the benefits.

As editor of "The SEPTA Express" my goal is to provide you with an information source, as well as, a place to come and share stories and ideas with other members. If you have a story about your special child that you would like to share with our readers you can send it to me at bdejessa1@aol.com. The next issue of "The SEPTA Express" will be the Fall 2007 issue. The deadline for submissions will be September 14th. I wish all a wonderful summer break and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Barbara DeJessa

Committee News

Membership

Joyce Neafsey, Chairperson

We currently have a total of 211 members, a significant increase from last year, and have applied for the 10% Increase in Membership Award, the Red Oak Award and the Early Bird Award.

Scholarships

Annette Arthur, Chairperson

Brick Township SEPTA will award Brick Township High School students, Cathryn Ritt and Vanessa Rudd with a \$500.00 scholarship each for their continued education.

Programs

Melanie McGackin, Chairperson

Our "Take Me Out To The Ballgame Celebration" date has changed to June 22nd at 7:05 PM at First Energy Park. Fireworks will follow the game. Children will have choice of pizza or chicken fingers this year. Tickets are limited to the first 200 seat requests, children are free and adult

tickets are \$5. Contact me ASAP with any ticket requests at 732-477-8886.

Legislation

Jeanette Smith, Chairperson

Brick Township received \$500,000. grant from NJ Dept of Education. Governor Corzine signed initiative for the purpose of enhancing and expanding in-district program options for students with disabilities. This grant money will afford opportunities for students with disabilities to be educated and participate in academic, non-academic and extracurricular programs with non-disabled peers. Brick Township Special Services will utilize these funds primarily for staff development training in the areas of Child Study and IEP Teams understanding of least restrictive environment, inclusion techniques in general education, 504 service, transition services, assistive technology classroom utilization, Intervention and Referral services in cooperation with the Ocean County Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council (CIACC) and research based instructional techniques including response to intervention.

Annual Special Education Appreciation Tea

On May 14th SEPTA held its 3rd annual Special Education Appreciation Tea at Lake Riviera Middle School. This event is held to honor all Brick Township's special education teachers, paraprofessionals, therapists, child study team members and special services department for their hard work and their dedication to our children.

The event began with a special greeting at the door by SEPTA's past President, Diana Gerlach. All guests were given a special chocolate pop that read "To MY Teacher", donated by Brick resident Maureen Harmer, and a raffle ticket for door prizes donated by SEPTA members and the Pilot House restaurant in Brick.

Next, there was a lovely buffet of finger

foods and desserts for all to enjoy donated by SEPTA members, Ma Ma D's Deli and Catering and Mulberry Street Italian Food Center. As all enjoyed the buffet SEPTA President, Brenda Calderone read two very touching poems (one is featured



SEPTA President, Brenda Calderone and Treasurer, Candy Fredericks with Brick Special Education Teachers, Paraprofessionals and Staff Members.

below) and honored all with a very special thank you for their devotion to our special children. Then, special education student, Helena Gross asked for the microphone and in her own loving way thanked everyone for all they do.

The Brick Township Special Education PTA would like to give special

thanks to Candy Fredericks, who has chaired this event for the past 3 years, to all the volunteers that helped make this event possible and to all the people who made donations for this event.



Whose Child Is This?

Author Unknown



"Whose child is this?" I asked one day
Seeing a little one out at play
"Mine", said the parent with a tender smile
"Mine to keep a little while
To bathe his hands and comb his hair
To tell him what he is to wear
To prepare him that he may always be good
And each day do the things he should"

"Whose child is this?" I asked again
As the door opened and someone came in
"Mine", said the teacher with the same tender
smile

"Mine, to keep just for a little while
To teach him how to be gentle and kind
To train and direct his dear little mind
To help him live by every rule
And get the best he can from school"

"Whose child is this?" I ask once more
Just as the little one entered the door
"Ours" said the parent and the teacher as they
smiled

And each took the hand of the little child
"Ours to love and train together
Ours this blessed task forever."

Brick Challenger Programs

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.



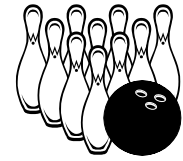
Summer Camp
Monday—Friday,
June 25th - July 27th,
9AM - 2PM (rain or shine)
Lanes Mill School

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.

Summer Horseback Riding
Wednesdays 6PM
July 11th - August 1st
Registration begins June 4th
Cultural Arts Center,
Herbertsville Road
Fee is \$5.00 per child.



Summer Bowling
Saturdays 11AM
August 4th- August 25th
Registration begins July 9th
Sea Girt Lanes
Fee is \$5.00 per child



Fall Soccer
Saturdays 9AM
September 8th- October 6th
Registration begins August 6th
Drum Point Sport Complex
Fee is \$5.00 per child

Winter Basketball
Saturdays 9AM
November 10th - December 15th
Registration begins October 1st
Township Activity Center, Civic Plaza
Fee is \$5.00 per child



If you are interested in signing your child up for any of these wonderful programs you can call Dan Santaniello at 732-262-1165 for details.

Board of Education Information & Meeting Dates

2007-2008 MEETING DATES

7:30 P.M., BTHS, LIBRARY (Unless Otherwise Advertised)

September 20, 2007
Combined Pre-Agenda & Regular Public
October 11, 2007 Pre-Agenda
October 18, 2007 Regular Public
November 15, 2007
Combined Pre-Agenda & Regular Public
December 13, 2007
Combined Pre-Agenda & Regular Public
January 17, 2008 Pre-Agenda

January 24, 2008 Regular Public
February 14, 2008 Pre-Agenda
February 21, 2008 Regular Public
March 13, 2008 Pre-Agenda
March 20, 2008 Regular Public
April 10, 2008
Combined Pre-Agenda & Regular Public
April 15, 2008 Annual School Election
April 24, 2008 Reorganization

*Schedules are tentative, based on regulation. Meetings are subject to change.
Please check www.brickschools.org for current information.