BMUST *BUZZ*

The Newsletter of
The Bellmore-Merrick
United Secondary Teachers

Calendar – January/February 2010

Jan. 6 Trustees Meeting 6 p.m.
Jan. 13 RA Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 3 Trustees Meeting 6 p.m.
Feb. 24 RA Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Message From The President:

I have been sitting at my computer, here on the second day of 2010, for the better part of two hours (ok, maybe it really wasn't the better part) trying to figure out what to say in my "President's Message." I've been kind of stuck. Most things that I think of fall into one of three categories: a)I've already said them , b)I don't think anyone really wants to hear them, or c)they have been said previously, and better, by others.

I was about to give up, when I began to reflect upon this vacation. It has been a week that allowed for quality time with family members and friends, and the opportunity to relax, read, and enjoy some movies. But there was also bad news – news of illness, of sadness, and of loss - both among people that I know and people that I do not know. Perhaps I have said this before, but I think it bears repeating – maybe what we most need to bring with us into the New Year is a sense of perspective. All of us, me included, tend to occasionally lose perspective on what matters most. We easily become upset, or angry, or even outraged by real or imagined injustices, errors, or just plain stupidity. It is easy to focus our energies on things that we cannot really control, or on what others think of us or our ideas, or on relatively minor problems and issues. Albert Einstein said "When you look at yourself from a universal standpoint, something inside always reminds or informs you that there are bigger and better things to worry about." (I told you others had said them better).

By saying this, I certainly do not in any way mean to diminish anyone's concerns or problems. But I think we all need to maintain our sense of balance, our priorities, regarding what is really most important in our lives.

Focusing on the "big stuff" may make it easier to cope with the smaller problems that we often allow to consume us. I have often promised myself that I would do this. Sometimes I succeed. Often I do not. But as we begin 2010, it is something I want to try. I ask my friends to remind me when I fail.

We will be dealing with some big issues in the coming year, and I hope that if we maintain our sense of perspective, it will help us to sort them out. I want to thank everyone who attended the Negotiations Team meetings in all six schools. As I said in each building, we need your ideas, your suggestions, and your support. Please complete the survey that will be placed online in the coming weeks, and please feel free to speak to any member of the Negotiating Team about any concerns you have. The process we are beginning will certainly not be an easy one, but we must see it as an opportunity and a challenge that we can meet together.

As we begin this new decade, I wish all of you and your families good health, happiness, peace, and whatever is most important in your own life.

In solidarity,

Mike

Congratulations to:

… Mike Dlugozima (Merrick) and his wife Kate on the birth of their baby Dylan Michael.

…Michael Hagens (Merrick) and his wife Christine on the birth of their baby Emma Nicole.

… Jenny & Ruben Moreno (Calhoun) on the birth of their baby Matthew. Matthew weighed in at 6 lbs. 13 ozs, and measured 20 inches.

… Greg Zogby (Mepham) and his wife Cristina on the birth of their daughter Brianna Cristina. Their adorable baby girl was born on Thursday, November 12th and weighed in at 7 lbs.11 ozs.

Best Wishes for Sharing Life Together:

… Julia Cohen (Calhoun) on her marriage to Michael LaLuna.

… Keryn O'Leary (Calhoun) on her marriage to Kitt Thienachariya.

Best Wishes for Planning Life Together:

… Pauline Efstathiou (Calhoun) on her engagement to Derek Gillespie.

Condolences to:

…. Barbara Buffalino (Brookside Personnel) - on the loss of her mother, Mildred Cottone.
…. Nancy & Jerry Clare (President, SEPTA) on the loss of their son James.
…. Fred Harrison (Calhoun) on the loss of his mother.
… Beth Johnson (Calhoun) on the passing of her husband George Germinaro.
…. Nancy Law (Nurse/Merrick) - on the loss of her mother.
…. Neal Madnick (Calhoun) – on the loss of his nephew.
…. Ed Tumminelli (Calhoun) on the loss of his mother, Dolores Tumminelli.

Membership Services:

Holiday Party/Toys for Children: Our Annual Holiday Party was held on Friday, December 4th at The TREEHOUSE in Merrick where you all donated an abundance of wonderful toys.

Santa sent his helper, Vinny (Custodian at Brookside) to deliver the toys on Thursday, December 17th to sick children at the Nassau University Medical Center. Joining Vinny in helping to put a smile on each child's face were volunteers: Bruce Reed (JFK), Susan Stamile (Retiree), Isabelle Antequera (Grand), Stelios Pefanis (Grand), Kim Black (BMUST Secretary). Thank you to all who helped make the holidays brighter for many children.

BMUST Death Benefit: Any change of beneficiary, please contact Kim Black at ext. 1068. If you have not already filled out this form, please do so & return it to the Union Office at Brookside.
This is a **free** $500 policy for active teachers and paras.

Any member, who has ***changed their name***, ***address***, ***phone # or e-mail address,*** please notify Kim at the union office at ext. 1068, by e-mail bmustsecretary@gmail.com , or by interoffice mail – no stamp needed. Those returning from leave must fill out a new membership application.

If you have not done so, PLEASE sign up for the BMUST e-mail list serve at www.bmust.org.

Retiring or Returning From Leave:

You must notify Personnel in the Central Office (copy to BMUST) ***by February 22, 2010*** if you are retiring this year or returning from leave.

Sample letter:
I, _____, resign my position of _____ Teacher at _____ School for the purpose of retirement effective the close of business, the last day of school, June 25, 2010.

Important Dates:

BMUST Meeting Dates for 2010:
Board of Trustees 1/6, 2/3, 3/10, 4/14, 5/5, 6/2, 6/25.

Representative Assembly: **1/13**, 2/24, 3/24, 4/21, 5/19, 6/16.

BMUST Awards/Dinner Dance: June 17, 2010

Special Education Committee Meeting Dates 2009-2010
1/21, 3/3, 4/14, 5/19, June TBA
All meetings are held in the Union Office at Brookside, Room 96 at 3:15 p.m.

Emergency School Closings

For information tune into:

WINS (1010 AM)	WHLI (1100 AM)
WBAB (102.3 FM)	WBLI (106.1 FM)
K-JOY (98.3 FM)	WOR (710 AM)
WALK (97.5 FM)	WCBS (880 AM)
WNBC/WNYW/Fox 5	WABC-TV
WMJC (94.3 FM)	WRNC (103.9)
LOVE (96.1 FM)	

Cable News - Channel 12 or check the Website **www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us**
When possible, Emergency School Closing Decisions will be made by 6 a.m.

The *Buzz:*

If you would like anything announced in the next ***BUZZ***, please E-mail Kim Black at bmustsecretary@gmail.com by February 25th.