

JANUARY 2015

LOCAL DO'S

ASSAULT ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

**BY MARK STEINBERG,
BMUST PRESIDENT**

WELCOME BACK, BMUST! I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful vacation and you feel rested and rejuvenated. Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year and may 2015 be a year where we are all "highly effective" both

personally and professionally.

Unfortunately, we all have much to be concerned about professionally. These are difficult times and allies seem to be few and far between. The lack of endorsement and subsequent reelection of Governor Cuomo has resulted in a relationship between the Governor and NYSUT that can best be described as strained. His education agenda, which has been endorsed by Regent Tisch, attacks us on many levels.

As he strives to break the "monopoly" of public education, it is conceivable that APPR, testing, tenure, and charter



continued on



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schools could all be impacted. Evidently, not enough teachers have been deemed “ineffective” so the Governor believes APPR needs to be revamped. Our ability to collectively bargain the implementation of these changes could be infringed upon.

Many locals, including BMUST, have been responding to the Governor’s assault on public education. Letters have been sent to legislators in

Collectively, teachers, administrators, and parents must reclaim the promise of public education.



Mark Steinberg,
President, BMUST

To assist you in becoming “highly effective” in your personal lives in 2015, I am including in my article an email my brother

“As always, your participation in these efforts is appreciated and vital. Collectively, teachers, administrators, and parents must reclaim the promise of public education.”

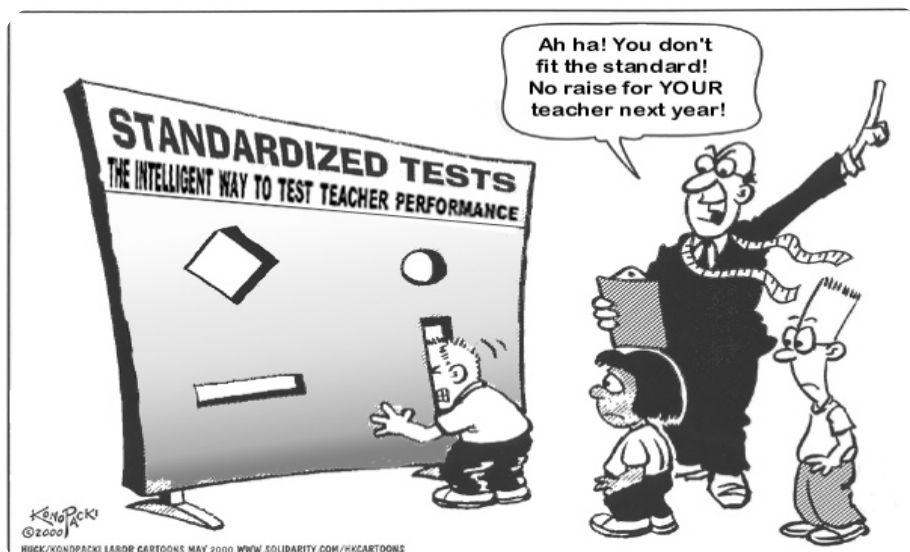
Albany and email campaigns through TALI and NYSAP are being utilized. Rallies will be organized and forums will be arranged in Albany and locally. As always, your participation in these efforts is appreciated and vital.

forwarded to me recently. Many of you may have seen it. If you have not, I sincerely hope you find the “TIME” to read and share it with your loved ones. As challenging as our lives have become professionally, it is crucial to focus

everyday on what is truly important. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

In solidarity,

Mark



THE MAGIC BANK ACCOUNT

IMAGINE that you had won the following *PRIZE* in a contest:

Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 in your private account for your use. However, this prize has rules. The set of rules are:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.
4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time it can say, "Game Over!". It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do? You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right? You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

ACTUALLY, This GAME is REAL!

Shocked?

YES!

Each of us is already a winner of this *PRIZE*. We just can't seem to see it. The PRIZE is "TIME."

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds [as a gift of life](#).
2. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever gone.
5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time WITHOUT WARNING...

SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds?

Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars. Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think.

So take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life!



U.S. MARINE CORPS BAND PERFORMS AT MEPHAM H.S.

BY BILL MORRIS, (MEPHAM H.S.), LOCAL DO'S WRITER

Veterans' Day was celebrated with great excitement at Mepham High School. Proud Marine Corps Veteran, Brian Neiderman, welcomed the U.S. Marine Band of Quantico Virginia to the school on November 12, 2014. Hundreds filled the auditorium as Mepham's band director beamed with pride.

After many years of putting in requests, the nation's premier military ensemble agreed to perform during this most-honored season. During his own service, Mr. Neiderman had the tremendous distinction of being chosen to perform as a trumpeter and conductor for the Marine Jazz Ensemble and Marine Corps 2nd Air Wing Band out of North Carolina from 1975-1979. These fond memories and experiences helped to inspire Mr. Neiderman's 29 year career at

Mepham High School, and it has been a personal goal of his to have the Marine Corps musicians visit his stage. Not only did Brian Neiderman achieve his goal, but he also got to show his talent as he trumpeted along with the band to *Bugler's Holiday* and conducted the Marines as they performed *Semper Fidelis*. The performance was exhilarating, inspiring and patriotic.

"To share the experiences I had in the Marine Corps with my colleagues and students was the absolute high-point of my career!" - exclaimed Mr. Neiderman.



BY WENDY SIMSON (CALHOUN H.S.),

LOCAL DO'S STAFF WRITER

The Relay for Life Kick-Off began in early December. Calhoun H.S. hallways were decorated in purple to bring attention to what will be an incredible event at Calhoun on April 24-25, 2015. The Bellmore-Merrick District high schools and middle schools are encouraged to participate in this memorable event. There will be many opportunities for students,

teachers and parents to get involved in the coming months. One of the events of the evening is to have a Cancer Survivor's Reception. We

are inviting all cancer survivors and their caregivers to attend on April 24 at 4:30. Please RSVP to Sarah Sobel at (631) 300-3154 if you are interested in participating. To join a team, create a team, participate, or to donate money please go to www.relayforlife.org/calhounhsny. Thank you in advance for your support.

The Calhoun H.S. Art Department had a very special opportunity to display student work at the Tilles Performing Arts Center. Calhoun H.S. was chosen to display students' work and a professor from LIU was present at the event and was genuinely impressed when he viewed the work of our student-artists. A special 'thank you' goes out to Mr. Goldberg, Ms. Seckler, and Ms. Scott who made this opportunity possible and created the display. It is amazing what our students' are capable of with the help and support of our teacher-artists.



M.A.P. TEACHERS DEVELOP KEY CLUB WITH STUDENT OFFICERS

BY LAURA SHERIDAN, (M.A.P.), LOCAL DO'S WRITER

One of our proudest announcements at MAP is the establishment of Key Club at Brookside this past November. Our very active faculty adviser, Tiffany Rzempoluch, has been working diligently with the club's officers, include Halle Steel, Alexa Di Paolo, and Liz Carroll. They have held several successful bake sales and used the funds to purchase diapers and wipes for a homeless shelter in Freeport.

THE M.A.P. SCHOOL HAS HAD A VERY BUSY YEAR TO DATE!

We have:

- Assembled "Blessing Bags" filled with toiletry items, hats, gloves, scarves, and snacks for the homeless, to be delivered in December January.
- Baked dinners and deserts at Ronald McDonald House for families staying there.
- Wrapped gifts at the gift-wrapping center at Roosevelt Field this holiday season.



M.A.P. will also be hosting "Part 2 Conference" at Brookside this March. The "Part 2 Conference" offers an opportunity for local alternative educators to get together and share ideas, strategies, and methodologies for teaching in our rather unique environments. Email Laura Sheridan for more information: lsheridan@bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us

GAMS TEACHER EARNS STATE AWARD



GAMS Science Teacher Kenneth Abbott was awarded the highly prestigious Science Teachers Association of New York State 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award for the Intermediate Level. He was presented with the award at the 119th Annual STANYS Conference in Rochester on Nov. 3, 2014.

Congratulations, Kenneth!

KENNEDY TEACHER RECEIVES TECH MENTORS' TECHIE AWARD



Kennedy H.S. Science Teacher **Daniel Jantzen** was awarded the Tech Mentors' Techie Award for his exemplary integration of educational technology in the classroom. He was presented with the award at the January Faculty Meeting at Kennedy High School. Congratulations, Dan!

BMUST HOLIDAY PARTY! GRILLFIRE, MERRICK, N.Y.







As a result of the generosity of our BMUST staff at our Toys 4 Tots Party, BMUST was able to collect hundreds of toys that were personally delivered to sick children at the Nassau University Medical Center. Henry Dircks, disguised as Santa, led the way, accompanied by Santa's helpers who presented children of all ages with the collected gifts. The BMUST volunteers visited the Pediatric and Psychiatric Wards, the Burn Unit, and the Outpatient Clinic. BMUST was also able to donate \$380.00 to the I.N.N., a non-profit agency in Hempstead that runs homeless shelters and operates food pantries. - Bruce Reed, Local Do's Editor

TOYS 4 TOTS ~ NASSAU UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER



“GRAND HAPPENINGS”

BY PIA SANTODONATO, (GRAND M.S.), LOCAL DO'S WRITER

The Grand Ave SADD Club held their annual Red Ribbon Week Extra Mile Assembly which honored two Grand Ave faculty members with the Extra Mile Award. The Extra Mile Award, presented by Steve Rose – Retired Grand Social Worker, is designed to recognize Grand Ave M.S. staff members who have gone the Extra Mile for students. The 2014-2015 winners were: Don Fleming- Social Studies teacher, Dean, & Athletic Coordinator and Catherine Azzara, Speech teacher & Technology Mentor.



The Red Ribbon Week Assembly also awarded 10 students with Target Gift Cards for being the Poster Contest Winners of the 2014-2015 theme: Be Strong, Be True, Be You- Drug Free.

The finale of the Red Ribbon Week Assembly included Grand Ave. M.S.'s Principal, Carlo Conte, getting a pie in his face from 8th grader Angelica Gomez, who was the winner of the Book Fair Raffle. Any student who bought a book at the Book Fair was given a 'Pie in the Face' Raffle Ticket. Congratulations Angelica!

Additionally, the Grand Builder's Club, led by Sean Doherty, collected an abundance of coats for the 'Coats for Kids' campaign. This campaign was hosted by Assemblyman David McDonough. The Club also held an 'Operation Gratitude' collection of candy, benefiting our Armed Forces.



Make your dental & vision care a priority!

Well, another year has passed us by and the New Year is upon us! As you take stock of the various resolutions you've made for this year, now is the time to make your dental & vision care a top priority.

Dental Care



The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Dental Plan features the MetLife PDP Plus Network.

The Plan offers easy to understand dental coverage that allows you to:

- Protect you and your family by providing competitively-priced dental coverage for most preventive and routine services that help promote long-term oral health.
- Choose the dentist of your choice at the time of treatment. You do not have to select a primary dentist and there is no ID card to show or referrals needed for specialty care.
- Save on out-of-pocket expenses by receiving services from thousands of participating dentist locations nationwide that agree to charge fees typically 15% to 45% lower than the average charges in your area.

With the MetLife Dental Plan featuring the PDP Plus Network, you'll receive a wide range of benefits that provide choice, savings and convenience to help make your dental health a priority.

Vision Care

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Vision Plan provided by Davis Vision ensures that you are able to obtain proper eye care.



The plan offers a variety of benefits, including:

- One complete eye exam (including glaucoma testing, and when professionally indicated, dilation).
- One pair of eyeglasses (lenses & frames) or contact lenses per benefit period – paid in full according to plan specifications from participating providers.

Once you've enrolled in the plan and you're confirmed, simply call an in-network provider, identify yourself with your name or NYSUT ID number (available on your NYSUT membership card), make an appointment, and use all of the plan benefits at that visit (exam & glasses cannot be split into two appointments).

The provider's office will contact Davis Vision and verify your eligibility for benefits. There are no claim forms or ID cards needed to use the plan.

February is Member Appreciation Month!

Don't forget that NYSUT Member Benefits is teaming up with its endorsed program providers for a special month-long event in **February 2015**.

Member Appreciation Month will feature a special prize drawing each day of the month in February, including a Bose Wave Radio, iPad Mini, several



Amazon Kindles, and a variety of gift cards. The winners of the daily prize drawings will be announced exclusively on the Member Benefits website throughout the month of February.

You **MUST** be a member of the voluntary Member Benefits MAP Alert email service to be eligible for these drawings!

For more details about these endorsed programs or Member Appreciation Month, visit the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101**.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.