

BRENTWOOD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION **IMPACT**

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BRENTWOOD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
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Kerry Kennedy visits West Middle School

On Monday, February 1, the Brentwood Teachers Association welcomed Kerry Kennedy to West Middle School. Ms. Kennedy, daughter of Robert F. Kennedy, is a leading advocate for human rights around the world. It was an honor to have her here for the day.

The students at West began thinking about social justice when Kevin Coyne, BTA Vice President, shared social justice lesson plans from NYSUT with the elective teachers at West. In response to these lessons, Pam O'Brien and her 8th grade elective class joined NYSUT's Reverse Trick-or-Treating campaign, where the students learned about child labor and the promotion of fairly-traded products. Her students then wrote poems from the perspective of a child slave. The poems opened with, "Where are you, Bobby?," addressing the late Robert F. Kennedy and the role he played in social justice. Nick Scott, a social studies teacher at West, who teamed up with Ms. O'Brien, focused his elective class lessons on human rights issues as well.

Upon hearing about this exciting educational venture, Lee Cutler, NYSUT's Secretary-Treasurer, visited West Middle School in October to listen, firsthand, to students recite their poems. He was so touched that he shared the poems with Ms. Kennedy, who, being deeply moved, expressed interest in meeting the students. With the collaboration of NYSUT and Mr. Coyne, Kerry Kennedy's visit to West Middle School quickly became a reality.

Ms. Kennedy arrived and was welcomed by West Middle administrators, members of the Board of Education, Central administrators, BTA officers, and NYSUT leaders. Ms. Kennedy engaged the ESL, bilingual and 8th grade students with stories and a presentation on social justice, all of which were designed to further encourage the students to take a stand and get involved.

Further demonstrating the multi-talented facets of our students, the Art Club, under the direction of Linda Hartman and Mary Sullivan, presented Ms. Kennedy with an original social justice sculpture they created. A wonderful musical production by MaryAnn Buonaspina's chorus students rounded out the presentations.

Three classes had the added honor of meeting individually with Ms. Kennedy in the West Middle School library. Ms. Kennedy listened as several students from Ms. O'Brien's 8th grade English classes read their "I am America" poems and discussed the Dream Act. Next, Ms. Kennedy met with Mr. Scott's 8th grade elective class and watched an animated debate over whether or not there is universal recognition of human rights. Ultimately, Ms. Kennedy met with Ms. O'Brien's 8th grade elective class and listened as some of the students recited the very poetry that started it all, their original "Where are you Bobby?" poems, discussed migrant workers, child labor, and concluded this memorable day with an improvisation performance on the topic of bonded labor.

Congratulations to all involved, and special thanks to those individuals who made it all happen. Kerry Kennedy's visit to West Middle School was an honor to our schools, our staff and students, and the incredible work they do every day. It was, without a doubt, an exciting and unforgettable day for West Middle School, the BTA, NYSUT and Brentwood!

Be sure to watch for an article in the *New York Teacher* and check out the NYSUT website at NYSUT.org for lesson plans on social justice and upcoming photos of the event. In addition, you can read some of the students' poems and letters on the *Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights* website at www.rfkcenter.org and search for Brentwood.

Know Your BTA Contract

All Brentwood Teachers Association members should familiarize themselves with **Article 18** entitled **Protection**.

Article 18 states:



- A. Teachers shall immediately report all cases of assault suffered by them in connection with their employment to their principal or immediate supervisor in writing.
- B. This report shall be forwarded to the Board. The teacher and the Board designee shall refer to Article 2, Paragraph 15.
- C. The Board agrees to save teachers harmless from any financial loss and agrees to provide legal services for such cases arising out of any claim, demand suit, criminal prosecution or judgment by reason of any act or omission to act by such teacher within or without the school building, provided such teacher, at the time of the act or omission complained of, was acting within proper discharge of his/her duties within the scope of his/her employment or under the direction of the Board.

LI Benevolent Fund Scholarships Available

Eligibility: Children of BTA members who are high school seniors, graduating this year and attending a post-secondary institution on a full-time basis.

Criteria: Academic achievement as evidenced by school transcripts, including SAT scores and GPA.

Applications are available through your Chief Delegate or can be requested through the BTA Office (call 273-4402 or e-mail:

btaoffice@brentwoodta.org).

Completed applications must be returned to the BTA Office by March 12. Maximum award is \$500.

"Site" Seeing

Take the Challenge

Kids' Science Challenge is a National Science Foundation-funded competition for students in grades 3-6. Kids develop ideas, and winners collaborate directly with scientists and engineers. It's free to register and free science kits go to the first 1,000 entrants.

Details available at kidschallenge.com.



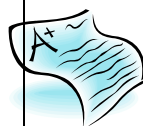
Hearing Hopeful Voices

My Class Cares, a nonprofit that coordinates service-learning and global education programs, has developed a free publication called Hopeful Voices.

Designed as a curriculum supplement for social studies and language arts classes, it features essays written by youth whose challenges have given them much to share about life and hope.

Each essay concludes with prompts for student writing and research assignments.

Go to www.hopefulvoices.org.



Homework Help

Club Z! Tutoring at www.clubztutoring.com offers several free homework tips it says can help children be successful.

Goods and Services

~3 Five Towns College

Graduate Credits for Sale~

Call Melissa @ 516-639-6555.

~3 Hofstra Credits for Sale~

Contact Brian @ 631-922-4344.

~3 C.W. Post Credits for Sale~

Call Jennifer @ 631-767-2042.

~1 Molloy Credit for Sale~

Contact Priscilla @ 631-223-3554.

~Co-op for Rent or Sale~

Mint 1 bdrm. co-op for sale in Hauppauge/Smithtown.

1st floor, private entrance, plenty of parking, extra quiet, sliding glass doors to patio.

Extra large bedroom and LR, EIK, updated bathroom and kitchen.

Plenty of closet space, laundry on premises.

All ceramic tile & hardwood floors.

For rent for \$1,250 or

buy for \$159,000 neg.

Call Danielle @ 631-387-1100.

~Mount Sinai Apt. for Rent~

Big one bedroom apartment.

All new -- must see!

\$1200/includes all utilities/ internet.

Please call or text 631-220-6277.

~Brentwood Home for Sale~

Located on a dead end court.

Three bedroom home with a one large bedroom basement apartment.

Fully furnished. Fireplace, wood floors, updated bathroom, updated roof, gutters, leaders, house trim.

For info call Mike @ 631-273-5144.

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