

BRENTWOOD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION **IMPACT**

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BRENTWOOD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
VOLUME 37, NUMBER 5



2009 BTA Bulletin Board Contest: A Resounding Success

The BTA does it again! The judges were quite impressed with the creativeness and enthusiasm reflected in the bulletin boards for the **2009 BTA Bulletin Board Contest**. After studying the bulletin boards in every building, it was truly difficult to pick the winners. We saw many exciting features:

Many have creative themes:

- North Elementary has the theme *Lights, Camera, Action*.
- *Get Carried Away with the BTA* is the theme at the Annex at North Elementary.
- Northeast is *United as One* with pictures of the whole faculty in the shape of the American flag.
- West Middle's board asks, "*What can green do for you?*"
- Hemlock's board is a big computer with all the information posted on the screen.

Some are interactive/entertaining:

- Ross has a question/comment box.
- Southeast has a form to "Contact your Delegate."
- North Elementary has flashing lights.
- West Middle has silhouettes of each delegate and members are encouraged to guess their delegates.
- East Middle posted an invitation to the Tenure Tea and a sign congratulating their honorees.

Many have the BTA owl and Brentwood colors proudly displayed:

- Ross has a giant owl stating, "The BTA gives a hoot about you."
- Laurel Park's board states that the "BTA Owls are #1."

Several had pictures of their delegates posted:

- The Annex at North Elementary has a picture of the Executive Council – that definitely gave them brownie points with the judges.

All are informative:

- Many have the current issue of *Impact* displayed, while several buildings have all previous issues of *Impact* posted.
- Some have *New York Teacher* posted. The Freshman Center even has articles from the *New York Teacher* highlighted and displayed.
- Oak Park has a copy of the contract hanging in a protected case for use in the faculty room.
- Pine Park has a display case for handouts from the Union.
- Southeast has important information presented in folders on their bulletin board.
- Most have important information regarding retirement.

Most importantly, the BTA bulletin board in your building is a great place to find the most up-to-date information regarding your Union. You can view all of the bulletin boards on the BTA web site at www.brentwoodta.org and then clicking on the *Features* section.

Congratulations to the winners:

Ross Center — Best Overall
West Middle School — Secondary Most Eye-Catching
FJC Southeast — Elementary Best Bulletin Board
North Elementary — Elementary Most Eye-Catching
Northeast and Hemlock Park — Honorable Mention

NYSTRS

In November, the **New York State Teachers Retirement System** (NYSTRS) held its annual meeting in Saratoga. Not including the creation of Tier V, there have been no changes made to the retirement system in the past year.

The emphasis of the meeting was on strengthening the knowledge of the benefits that we already have. The creation of Tier V has no effect on the other tiers, except for the fact that it is highly unlikely the legislature will do anything to fix the "problems" we would like changed in the earlier tiers. For example, there is proposed legislation to give extra credits to any member who paid into the system for more than 10 years. This, most likely, will not be approved. You should know that the benefits we currently have are guaranteed by the NY State Constitution, and cannot be amended without a constitutional convention being held to make changes.

So what can you do to help you understand your benefits and plan for your future? First thing you should do is check out the site www.nystrs.org. Here you can set up an account that will let you access all of the information regarding your benefits. You can also see all of the materials that explain your benefits. You should also go over your Benefit Profile, which was mailed to all members in the last few weeks. This will give you a general idea of what you can expect from your pension at retirement. Please check the information carefully. Make sure that the years of service are correct, as well as your salary. Included on this statement are the amounts of Disability benefits you have earned,

and your In-Service death benefit, which can be up to 3 times your yearly salary. Please make sure your beneficiaries are correct. Finally, the profile will list how much of a loan you are eligible to take from your required contributions.

When it comes to your pension, you do not want do your planning based on what you hear in the faculty room. The staff at NYSTRS is there to help you with any concerns you may have, whether your retirement is 2 years away or 20 years away. Their number is 800-348-7928. Make sure the information you receive comes from a knowledgeable source, or it could really end up costing you!

Submitted by:
Ed Callaghan, NYSTRS Delegate

BTA Scholarship Fund Raffle Winners



iPod Nano

Laurinda Goncalves
Marianne Scifo

Samsung Blu-Ray DVD Player

Nancy Petschauer

iPod Touch

Amanda Rofrano
Vinnie Palumbo



Sony DVD/Camcorder

Katie Macrae

Bose iPod Sounddock

Tracy Schalk

Samsung Blu-Ray Home Theater

Donna McStay



Samsung 42" Flat Panel TV

Shannon Astrin
Cathy Sillick



The BTA raised \$7,500 for the BTA Scholarship Fund!!!

Goods and Services

~3 Adelphi Credits for Sale~

Call Lisa @ 631-848-2644.

~1.5 Dowling Credits for Sale~

Credits expire June 10.

Call 631- 807-8433.

Clearwater Construction Co. Inc.

Additions, Renovations,

Fine Carpentry.

Licensed & Insured.

Call 516-946-4915 or

631-422-4007.

~Massage Therapy~

\$50.00 for one hour massage.

\$20.00 off first visit.

Gift Certificates available.

By 5 get 1 free.

Call Vicki at 631-379-5926.

Important Tax Information

For tax purposes, the amount paid in union (AFT, NYSUT, and BTA) dues for the 2009 year was \$758.73.

Making an Impact

Congratulations to:

Julie Burgos

Pat Goedtel

Ed Callaghan



Their articles appeared in *Impact*.

They each have won a \$25 gift certificate.

IMPACT

is published by the Brentwood Teachers Association Local 2514

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT, NEA, & AFL-CIO

Joe Hogan, President

Theresa Golinski, Co-editor

Donna McStay, Co-editor