



Bedford Teachers' Association

Representing the Caring & Dedicated Teachers of Bedford

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President's Message
by
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In the name of community service for this issue, I would like to briefly mention our mentorship program. Successful mentoring begins by setting a contract for learning in which the mentor, the protégé, and a formal program are aligned. This program is a tool that the Bedford Teachers' Association (BTA) uses to nurture and grow its educators. In fact, one of our members is a coordinator of the program which is formally run in collaboration with our school district and staff development center. The program trains our mentors to promote intentional learning, which includes capacity building through methods such as instructing, coaching, providing experiences, modeling and advising. This program taps into continuous learning that is a synthesis of ongoing events, experiences, observations, studies, and thoughtful analyses. The BTA is an organization of committed professionals working in the best interests of children. Our mentorship program grooms the dedicated educators of Bedford Central Schools. It is one of the many ways we contribute to our community. If you would like to learn about our other contributions, please visit the BTA Newsletter Archive at www.bedfordta.org.

Peter Faustino Teaches Lessons in Tolerance



Peter Faustino (*second from right, above*) was recently cited in *New York Teacher* for his work with middle school students through Autism Speaks. For students with autistic siblings blending into the crowd is challenging. "One of my seventh-graders approached me because he didn't know how to tell his friends about his younger brother's disorder," said Peter Faustino, a school psychologist at Fox Lane Middle School. Faustino helped start an after-school club two years ago for students with autistic siblings. "Before I knew it, we had two dozen kids," said Faustino, the club's adviser. "Some of the students had autistic siblings, others knew

someone with autism and others simply wanted to get involved." Named Student Clubs for Autism Speaks, the group raises money for research and helps raise awareness and acceptance for the condition. Students have raised more than \$2,000 for research through activities like bake sales. Autism Speaks is a national advocacy group co-founded by philanthropist and GE Chairman Bob Wright and his wife, Suzanne. "The officers of this charity really wanted to make autism awareness into a national student initiative," Faustino said. Recently, Suzanne Wright (*fourth from left, above*) met with club members at Fox Lane.

Marina Moran on the Move!

Last October, **Marina Moran**, ESL ECT for Bedford Schools joined a delegation of second language experts traveling to China. The trip was organized by People to People International. The delegation visited public and private elementary and secondary schools as well as teaching universities in Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai, and was afforded the opportunity to interact with students, teachers and administrators at all levels of the education



Marina Moran (*far right*) meeting with other language teachers at Nanjing Normal University.

process. *Putonghua* is the official oral language of instruction in all Chinese schools, but minority students are not always fluent in this dialect, therefore having similar needs for sheltered instruction as second language learners in the US. Bedford's efforts in this area were shared with our Chinese colleagues, who received our innovative practices with great enthusiasm.

"Team Bedford" Walkers for Autism Speaks Raise Spirits and Money!



Claire McDonnell, Marra O'Toole and Tara Somsag show off Team Bedford's plaque.

Last spring, the BTA newsletter featured a story on the "Team Bedford" walkers for Autism Speaks. **Marra O'Toole** reports: "I wanted to update the community on our outcome for this year's walk. We raised **\$3,777.50** and had 45 walkers join us for the day. Autism Speaks awarded us an honorary plaque for our contributions.



Team Bedford Shows Spirit!



Marina Moran with a kindergarten student in Shanghai, China.

37 and 38 Years & Counting!

Skip Earle and **Greg McDonald** were honored in September at the opening day ceremonies not just for their longevity in the district, but also for their dedication and enthusiasm for their respective jobs. For the last 37 years, William "Skip" Earle has been a physical education teacher at schools throughout the district. Not to be out done, Greg McDonald has logged in 38 years as a Spanish teacher.

Says Skip: Thirty-seven years seem to have blown by, at record pace. When I interviewed to teach in Bedford in April 1971, the interview process was different. There were no "demo lessons." Your resume sold you, and the interview won them over. During my interview, a student was sent to the office for being "disruptive." The assistant principal told me, "You handle it." I told him that I would expect to have a better rapport with my students, and my style is not to send my problems to someone else. His words were, "You just hit a homerun!" I was offered a teaching job at Fox Lane High School before I left the interview. The next sixteen years were very good at Fox Lane High School. I taught physical education, health, and driver education

and was a guidance counselor. I coached three sports and also served as an advisor to the African-American Club. During the last thirty-seven years, I have also taught at FLMS, BHES, BVES and MKES. I have been New York State Teacher of the Year twice, once in physical education and once in dance. I received the Bedford Community Education Foundation award and have conducted staff development workshops in numerous school districts, state and local conferences in the tri-state region, and I am preparing to present my third presentation at a National Physical Education Conference.



Coach Skip Earle with a BHES student...and possible future coach?

Bedford has been a wonderful place to work. Colleagues, staff members and administrators have supported every achievement I have attained. It is most gratifying to see former students also attain their own lofty careers – Beth Staropoli, Adam Yuro, Stacey Haynsworth, David Albano, Denise McQuade, John Bell, David Champlin, Mike Patierno, Tom Hunt, John Nemsick, Toni Racanelli, Rich Wiltse, and Jason Wein. If I have missed anyone, it is because I am getting older, but staying childish. I'll do the math for you; I will be **60** on January 28th. [Happy B'day Skip!]

Greg MacDonalD started teaching for the Bedford Central Public Schools in 1970 as a Spanish teacher. In 1990, he was offered the dean's position after an intensive interview process. Since then he has been teaching three Spanish classes and fulfilling his dean's obligations in the remaining two periods (which really means being on call the remainder of the day) and at home by calling the Anglo and Latino parents to share information about school happenings.



Thirty-eight years...and STILL SMILING!!

Throughout my life I have always believed in two expressions that guided me over the years: "Things happen in one's

life for a reason" and "Nothing is by chance." As a young boy, I lived with my parents and 3 brothers in Santiago, Chile and Montevideo, Uruguay, South America. These formative years would be pivotal in my life...they gave me the foundation for a most fulfilling career as a foreign language educator. At Muhlenberg College, I had the good luck to have Doctor Ana María Díaz as a Spanish professor. She always said to me, "Gregorio, debes ser profesor." ("Greg, you should be a teacher.") I took her advice, majoring in Spanish and minor-ing in education, and I have never regretted that decision for a single moment. The one major thing that has been constant with me is the knowledge that I have been not only a teacher of Spanish, not only a Dean, but an educator of students. I also know that it was not by chance that I met Doctora Díaz. She knew I was meant to be a teacher. And she was right. I LOVE MY JOB!

Bedford Teachers Present Workshop Showcasing SIOP



Five educators from Bedford represented the school district at the New York State Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) in November, 2007. **Marina Moran**, ESL Elementary Consulting Teacher, opened the workshop with an overview of the principles of SIOP (Sheltered

Instruction Observation Protocol). At left, **Liz Calendar**, ESL teacher at WPES, presents a 5th Grade Social Studies lesson developed with her 5th grade co-teacher **Amy Galloway**, using SIOP teaching objectives. At right, MKES teachers **Madelyn Ortiz** and **Jennifer Tully** review the objectives for the workshop. The eight steps of lesson development were presented to ESL teachers from across the state. The workshop was well received!



"Making Strides" Walkers in October, 2007. Can you name the sixteen dedicated walkers? Thanks for your contribution of time, enthusiasm and money toward fighting breast cancer!

Ending the Achievement Gap

Eight Bedford educators joined more than 400 community leaders and key stakeholders in education, state government and business who gathered Thursday, Oct. 25, 2007, to kick off a unique three-day summit devoted to the most pressing issue facing New York's schools - an achievement gap that leaves behind far too many children. The Bedford teachers attended workshops led by leaders in education, government, and policy to learn not only about what is missing to help students, but also what schools and educators can do to begin to close the gap in learning for African American and Latino students.



Eight BTA members attended NY-SUT's conference dealing with closing achievement gaps in learning. Seated (left to right): **Pat Galvin-Bloom**, and **Beth McCabe**. Standing (left to right): **Chris Coughlin**, **Jenn Bussiere**, **Judith Aragon**, **Mike Mulder**, **Cait Hall** and **Denise Connolly**.