



# Bedford Teachers' Association

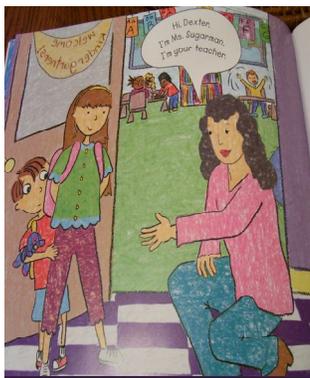
Representing the Caring & Dedicated Teachers of Bedford

April 2009

Volume 1 | Issue 6

## Author, Author! (We Write, We Inspire)

Kindergarten rocks! Well, we all remember Kindergarten fondly, but **Ellie Sugarman**, Kindergarten teacher at **BHES**, not only lives the experience every day, she inspired and consulted on the book! Author Katie Davis, a parent at BHES, created a book that features a character named, yes, that's right, Ms. Sugarman! This is a delightful

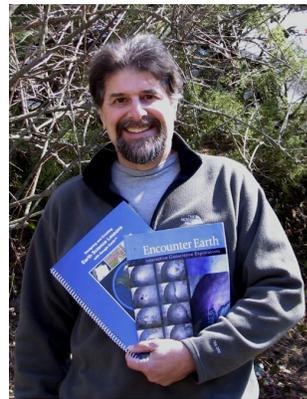


"Hi Dexter, I'm Ms. Sugarman. I'm your teacher," greets Ellie's character in Kindergarten Rocks!

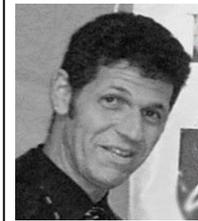
book about a kindergartner's adjustment to school with the help of his teacher. He discovers that Kindergarten Rocks! Ellie reports that, "This book has been a top seller and is now in paperback. What's really great is that the state of Georgia bought 80,000 copies of Kindergarten Rocks! to give one to each and every kindergartner in the state in 2007-2008!" Congratulations, Ellie!

Several teachers have authored professional books in their fields, like **Jen Laden, FLMS/HS, Social Studies**. She co-authored the book, Kaplan AP World History, a review book to help students prepare for the College Board's Advanced Placement exam in World History. She is included in the book, From Silk to Oil: Cross-Cultural Connections Along the Silk Road, a teacher resource book published by the

China Institutes. Jen developed a lesson called "Oases Towns and Caravans" which is a game of survival along the Silk Road based on her travels along China's Silk Roads in 2001.



Encounter Earth by retired **FLHS earth science teacher Steve Kluge**, was commissioned by Pearson Higher Education and published last summer. It accompanies and augments a variety of introductory undergraduate courses in geography and geology. *Cont'd on page 2...*



### President's Message

This issue of the newsletter focuses on how we as educators enrich our communities beyond our classroom walls. Whether we are writing, consulting or inspiring books, or donating our time and talents, our impact touches many lives. Hopefully, our example influences our students to be involved, caring, generous, thoughtful and giving of their time and talents. This issue also points out that "once an educator, always an educator" as we feature the work of some of our retired teachers. They may not be in the classroom any longer, but they are still reaching out and teaching through various methods. Our community solidarity continues!

-Adam Yuro,  
BTA President

## We Walk, Run, Speak, Bead ... for a Good Cause

Each issue of the BTA newsletter highlights various charitable efforts teachers and staff members have participated in to help raise awareness and funds for many causes. In that tradition of service beyond the classroom or school building, **Kelly Casey, WPES**, and her mother spend most Tuesday evenings beading bracelets to help combat cancer. Kelly gladly donates her time to this cause

in memory of her beloved aunt and father. Their efforts have raised over \$25,000 for various organizations related to cancer. Also, Kelly and her family have a team, Maryann's Friends and Family, and they will again be walking at the Relay for Life in Mahopac this April.

**Nicolette Marino**, Music teacher at **BVES**, supports the American Heart Association by donating blood and she participates in yearly Relays and Walks

for (Breast) Cancer Awareness in October and June. She also shares her love of music by volunteering as the Music Director and piano accompanist for the BVES Daisy Troop for their winter performance for the Seniors at the Bedford Community Center in December.

**Joan Corcoran**, retired **WPES** first grade teacher, is an active volunteer. Currently, she is the Youth Coordinator

for ShelterBox USA. Her role is to speak with youth groups around the country on disasters and their impact on families. She fundraises with schools and youth groups to help families who are impacted by natural and man-made disasters. She also educates about how ShelterBox USA helps families who have lost everything to cope, survive and move on.

## LIP SYNC ROCKS AGAIN

On March 28th, The Fox Lane High School Foreign Language and ESL Departments were thrilled to host this year's "Lip Sync Contest". This event allows the students to assume the roles of their favorite singers. An act is created and presented while the participants "lip sync" to the music of the performers. Spanish teacher, **Doug McLellan, FLHS**, has been the event's organizer and producer for the past ten years and has been instrumental in creating this evening as an opportunity for the Fox Lane community to come together as a family. Due to the tremendous support from the students, faculty, and community, the event was a major success and a great time for those who were able to attend and take part. The profits of the evening are used to fund several scholarships to college-bound seniors who have completed the Foreign Language or ESL program in an exemplary manner.



FLHS Foreign Language and ESL staff are ready to rock out for Lip Sync to raise scholarship money while hosting one of the most fun activities for the Fox Lane community.

## WEST PATENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### BEAUTIFIES POST OFFICE



Artwork by students from the West Patent Elementary School, created under the direction of teacher Nicole Metzner, are on display in the rotunda of the Mt. Kisco Post Office. A sampling of paintings, drawings and collages are included in the display. The colorful children's art really enlivens the space. "We hope this is the beginning of a new tradition of displaying student work from the Bedford Central School District in the post office," says West Patent's visual arts teacher **Nicole Metzner**. "It was a real pleasure working with the post office staff to make this happen."

## Reading, Writing, Character Education

West Patent Elementary Teachers have been instilling a sense of civic responsibility through various outreach activities. The third grade at WPES participates in an annual read-a-thon that raises money for local hospitals. "We always donate to a children's hospital after my experience when my daughter had a heart condition at 2 1/2 years old," says **Andrea Cicchelli, WPES**. Led by Andrea, **Jeannette Moreno and Cara Provost**, who read along with the children, this event also teaches the importance of kindness, sharing and generosity, just some of the character education principles that are taught throughout the school year. Fourth and fifth graders helped prepare sandwiches and bagged lunches for Midnight Runs. This year, the fifth graders also serenaded senior citizens from My Second Home during a holiday concert, under the direction of **Anne Marie Kmetz**. The senior citizens were also treated to holiday greetings made by the second grade students in **Ms. Wanderling, Mrs. Venditto and Mrs. Werney's** classes.

## Author, Author! (We Write, We Inspire) Continued from p 1

Encounter is a collection of twenty laboratory explorations that take advantage of the powerful visualization capabilities of Google Earth, integrating the printed page with on-line Google Earth content developed by Steve. Encounter Earth follows the 2007 publication of Designing and Creating Earth Science Lessons in Google Earth, a collaborative work by Steve Kluge, **Drew Patrick (BCSD's Asst. Supt, Curriculum & Instruction)**, and Fox Lane graduate Eric Ferman.

Being an inspiration and consultant comes naturally to many teachers. **Lesley Levine**, Librarian, **BVES**, was contacted by a very prominent and

well published librarian who was working on two professional books: Collaborating to Meet Literacy Standards: Teacher/Librarian Partnerships For Grades K-2 and Collaborating to Meet Standards: Teacher/Librarian Partnerships For K-6 both by Toni Buzzeo, Linworth Publishing, 2007. Ms. Buzzeo ended up quoting and referencing Lesley in both books. Lesley shared "collaboration", "balanced literacy" and "the love of reading" as being some of the highly important work elementary school librarians do with students each and every day.

**Tony Monchinski, FLHS**, has published five

books, all very different from one another. He is the author of a novel, Eden, which was re-issued by Permuted Press and is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble.com and Borders bookstores. He also co-wrote and edited a professional book titled Unrepentant Radical Educator: The Writings of and Interviews with John "Tito" Gerassi. On another note, Tony is also a freelance writer (and photographer) for a variety of magazines and has a column in MuscleMag International, a bodybuilding magazine.

Have YOU written, edited, inspired a book? Let me know for the next newsletter!!  
agalloway0408@bcsdny.org



The Land of Curiosities™  
LOST IN YELLOWSTONE, 1872-1873  
by Deanna Neil is just one of the books created by the EcoSeekers' Educational Director, **Christy Kingham**.

**Christy Kingham, FLMS**, is a consultant for a company called The EcoSeekers. She is their educational editor. In her role, she read and edited the first two books in this series and created a curriculum guide.