



THEY LOVE BCSD! Many Graduates Find Themselves Back in the Classroom ...as Teachers.

Adam Yuro, Joe Amuso, Jessica Bailey, Kwanice Hunter, Toni Racanelli, Kim Colavito, Christopher Coughlin and John Nemsick... What do they have in common? For one thing, they are just a few people who all graduated from Bedford Central schools and today, teach there as well. But they are not alone. Joe Bergamini went to West Patent Elementary, where he currently is the band teacher. Heather Ann Miller came back to teach Physical Education. Jen Kuwata is a FLHS grad, a WPES teacher, and her children are future BSCD students!

What inspired them? Each teacher cited an educator who influenced them. Said Jessica Bailey, "I have fond memories of Bedford as a student and when I decided to pursue teaching, this was the most appropriate place for me to return. I attended Bedford Hills Elementary School [where] Dr. Tudor and Miss Cerbone were inspirational teachers. In middle school, Candice Oen, and Terry Shanley in high school. Bedford has allowed me to grow both as a student and professionally."

Joe Amuso has been teaching for

37 years. "I graduated from Fox High School by way of Mt. Kisco Elementary School in 1966. After college, the first place I applied for a job was Fox Lane. Many of the teachers that gave me direction and guided me through school were still teaching in the district and I wanted to be a part of that caring and dedicated group of people. "

Chris Coughlin is a more recent graduate (1992). He fondly remembers Steve Kluge's Earth Science II class and the overnight field trip to Kaaterskill Creek. He came back to collaborate with Mike Terlizzi (another Fox Lane grad and speaker at Chris' graduation) in the Social Studies department.

Kwanice Hunter carries on a family tradition of not only attending BCSD schools, but teaching in them as well. Her mother, Laura Hunter, is a music teacher at the high school. Said Kwanice: "I went to Fox Lane Middle School and it is wonderful and different to be colleagues with former teachers. I was inspired by Fintan Powers, a Foreign Language teacher. He inspired me to be disciplined, work hard, and to stay focused..."

and become a Spanish teacher!"

John Nemsick, 8th Grade English teacher reports, "I have been teaching at FLMS for about ten years. I came to Fox Lane primarily for professional reasons: diverse student body, and a supportive community that valued education and teachers. I knew going into college that I wanted to be a teacher...There were so many role models that I had had as a student. I took a little from each one but I knew this was a great career because so many of the teachers I had were passionate about their professions and they enjoyed being at work. One could sense the camaraderie even as a student. The diversity of the population really prepared me for the real world and gave me an educational experience that is more valuable than anything else -- how to relate and get along with others. "

In addition, many teachers now also coach the sport in which they played. Jessica Bailey, Toni Racanelli and Kim Colavito all played volleyball at Fox Lane, *con't page 2*



President's Message

As President of the Bedford Teachers'

Association, I advocate and applaud community service through our union. Our members live and breathe unity so it's only natural for them to be such integral members of the community they serve. There is an undying collective commitment to community service from the BTA. We understand the value of harnessing the spirit of our members to effect positive change and strive to put ourselves in the hands of our community through a variety of causes. As a greater union, through our buildings, or even in smaller groups, we hand select meaningful projects to provide a grassroots experience that will undoubtedly make a positive impact in our schools and community. Service has been the foundation for one of our new initiatives this year: the BTA newsletter. We hope you have had a chance to read about the many contributions that our membership, both as individuals and group, has made to the local community. If not, they are posted and then put into an archive on our website. Please visit us anytime at www.bedfordta.org.

~Adam Yuro

FLHS SCIENCE TEACHER PAUL FRISCH BUILDS HOMES IN NICARAGUA OVER SPRING BREAK

Ten FLHS students accompanied Paul Frisch to build homes for the poor in Nicaragua over spring break in April. Mr. Frisch explained that they "stayed in the poorest conditions I could imagine, ate rice and beans for a week straight, and made great new friends." The group is hosting a fundraising event for next year's

trip on Wednesday, June 6th from 6-9pm. They will be serving a Nicaraguan style dinner, have a band, and be showing a DVD of their trip to Nicaragua. Join them and show your support!



Paul Frisch with some of the children who benefited from Fox Lane students who helped build houses during spring break in April.

Science...A River of Connections National Science Teachers Association Conference Attended by Seven Bedford Central Schools Faculty

"Inquiry" was just one of the many hot topics at the NSTA conference in St. Louis, MO, as Jim Doller, Jelena Rasetina, Dan Mulvey (FLHS), Donna Reilly, Stacey Haynsworth, and Kathy Ullrich (FLMS) and Amy Galloway (WPES) discovered when they attended many workshops, presentations, and exhibitor demonstrations. The conference highlighted the latest research in all topics. The teachers came back with a wealth of ideas, strategies and "goodies" to share with colleagues. Said Donna Reilly, "One of the best perks from the science



Kathy Ullrich, Stacey Haynsworth, Amy Galloway and Donna Reilly at NSTA.

conference was the chance to meet collegially with other teachers from different schools. The experience at the NSTA conference helped me identify the themes for the year's science program."

AUTISM SPEAKS & BCSD

Tara Somsag, Marra O'Toole and Claire McDonnell are TEAM BEDFORD! For the 6th year in a row, these educators from Mount Kisco Elementary School will be participating in the Autism Walk. Over the last five years, they have helped raise over \$12,000 dollars for Autism Speaks. This walk is an event that helps raise money for autism research, education and awareness. The walk takes place on Sunday, June 10th at Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY. For more information or to make a contribution, log onto www.autismwalk.org/goto/Bedford and look for TEAM BEDFORD! They would love your support!



Tara Somsag, Claire McDonnell and Marra O'Toole are ready for their 6th Annual Autism Walk, representing TEAM BEDFORD!

ELLENA WEINSTEIN IS ONE OF THE BEST TEACHERS IN WESTCHESTER!

Ellena Weinstein, 3rd grade teacher at Mount Kisco Elementary School, has devoted students. They nominated her last month for a contest for best teacher in Westchester sponsored by the Journal News. Ellena won 2nd prize: a class trip on the Circle Line around Manhattan, a trip she will enjoy on June 5th. Ellena's award is part of the town's celebrations as Best Town for Families in Westchester. Students and teachers celebrated the honor with artwork, essays, music and activities on Sunday, May 20th.

LOOK FOR MORE STORIES ABOUT TEACHERS WHO "CAME BACK" IN FUTURE ISSUES.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Over the course of the 2006-07 school year, 47 teachers throughout the district have received tenure. Teachers go through a rigorous process of evaluation over a minimum of three years to demonstrate their professional capabilities. The following teachers were recommended for tenure to the Board of Education on May 2, 2007:

BHES; Allison McCann, Music, Wendy Sergio, Speech & Hearing, David B Church, Music, Elizabeth Condon-Kim, Elementary; BVES; Maura Ferrara, Elementary, Nicole Viscomi, Elementary; MKES; Tracy Cruz, Elementary, Carolyn Scimone-Rowan, Music, Tara Somsag, Special Education; PRES; Allyson Bram, Speech and Hearing, Julie Pawlak, Elementary, Jacqueline Guglielmo, Elementary, Jill Bresnick, Elementary, Sarah McClernon, Elementary; WPES; Jill Kurlanzik, Elementary, Elissa Lesser, School Psychology, Ryan Tranchida, Physical Education, Suzanne Ratto, Teaching Assistant; FLHS; Deana Anstett, Speech and Hearing, Christine Crossan, Social Studies, Kristie A. Evers, Special Education, Jennifer Fields, School Psychology, Matthew J Hillis, Science (Hillside), Karen Hoferichter, Special Education, Lauren LaMance, Art, Michele Lehrner, Special Education, Krista Jablonsky, Math, Jody Mager, Business, Pete Martinez, Social Studies, Joanna Modica, Foreign Language, Mark Nemecek, Social Studies, Fred Neumann, Science, Tricia Occhicone, Special Education, Raffaella Pirone, Foreign Language, Jelena Rasetina, Science, Jonathan Swart, Math, William Tozzo, Math, Vivi Sherry Vargas, E.S.L., David Whalen, English; FLMS; Fredericka Butler, School Counselor, Selena Cabral, Foreign Language, Krystyn Carbonaro, Health, Michelle Grier, Math, Christina Kingham, English, Shari Matusow, English, Heather Ann Miller, Physical Education, Norma Robles, School Counselor.

BHES Befriends Nursing Home Buddies

Kindergarten students from BHES, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., performed a work of kindness and service to members of the Westchester Meadows Nursing Home.

On Dr. King's birthday, students created cards and gifts in preparation for a Valentine's Day visit to the residents of the nursing home.

The children, their parents, teachers and even a grandparent helped distribute their gifts to the nursing home patients on February 15th

One of the residents, pictured above is the grandfather of one of our teachers, Mrs. Jennifer Nordstrom.

Another resident, named Iris, pictured below, just turned 104. Meeting and



talking with her was quite a lesson for the students who just celebrated the 100th day of school. This was a memorable day



They Came Back,

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and now coach volleyball at Fox Lane. Toni Racanelli coaches the Varsity team, Kim Colavito coaches the JV team and Jessica Bailey coaches the Modified team.



Kim Colavito, second row left, Jessica Bailey and Toni Racanelli, second row right, all former Lady Foxes volleyball players, now coach FLHS winning volleyball teams.

THANK YOU, BTA!

Adam Yuro and Julie Harris received the following letter from Beverly Card, President of the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry:

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all the volunteers with the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry, I would like to thank you for your donation of 3,400 pounds of food and \$2,379.46 for the needy in our community.

Especially now when more people that ever are joining the food lines at our distribution site, your

gift is critical to our work. In January alone, the Food Pantry helped to feed more than 532 local residents: seniors who cannot make ends meet on retirement incomes; the disabled; the working poor; and of course, children. The children we serve attend the Bedford Central Schools and as you are well aware, good nutrition is a vital requirement of the learning process. For all our neighbors who will benefit from your generosity, you have our deepest gratitude. Yours truly, Beverly Card, President