



Bedford Teachers' Association
Representing the Caring & Dedicated
Teachers of Bedford

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THEY HAVE SERVED US WELL

The Ken Kurzweil Award for Extraordinary Service was given to **Janet Davis** for her years of leadership, and strength in the face of adversity in 2006 – 2007 at Bedford Hill Elementary School. This is not an annual award, but many nominations were made for Janet. Other BTA members spoke on Janet's behalf, as well, acknowledging the public and private ways Janet kept the



Janet Davis receives the Ken Kurzweil Award for Extraordinary Service. Pictured with Janet is **Ken Kurzweil**, President Emeritus, who was honored as well.

community together.

In addition the following people were also thanked by members for their hard work, support and commitment to the BTA this past year: **Adam Yuro, Pat Galvin Bloom, Ken Kurzweil, Mimi Brown, Linda Magni and Cathy Maceira Libby Pearl**, was thanked for her years of service as the building VP at Pound Ridge Elementary School, and for the work she does on the **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer** campaign.

Cait Hall was recognized for her eight years as building VP in Mount Kisco Elementary School and the help and support she provided to the teachers during all the administrative changes there. Her work as part of the Negotiating Team was also acknowledged.

Adam Yuro, also honored retiree **Ken Kurzweil**, President Emeritus. He thanked Ken for all his advice and the way he was involved and advised all parties throughout the BHES situation.



President's Message

Welcome back to another year of newsletters from the Bedford Teachers' Association and allow me to open this one with an observation, a promise and an acknowledgment.

Observation: As the Bedford Teachers' Association launches its second year of newsletters, kudos must be offered to Amy Galloway (WPES) for the time and dedication that she has spent delivering us highly professional and well written publications. Congratulations must also be presented to Linda Magni (BVES) for turning the idea of this newsletter into an established reality. Please thank them for their commitment to the BTA. We accomplished so much last year; please read about some of these accomplishments in our archives which are conveniently linked to the Bedford Central School District website.

Promise: The BTA looks forward to this school year doing what we do best: educating the children of Bedford Central Schools. We are also eager to continue our work as community service providers outside of the classroom, further enabling the community to understand who we are as a caring and dedicated organization.

Acknowledgment: Finally, we want to recognize a positive beginning of open and honest communications with the school board and hope that this candid and frank dialogue shall continue. We have established a blog on the BTA website and welcome any community member to participate. I wish you all a successful school year!

~Adam Yuro

GOING TO SCHOOL....IN TANZANIA!



Kathleen Crohn in front of a herder's hut in Tanzania.

"What can you do with an Educational Development Leave? If you are **Kathleen Crohn**, you can travel to Tanzania to learn first hand what it is like to teach in an African primary school. This summer, Kathleen traveled to this peaceful country where she had an amazing experience! She taught 54 kindergarteners and 72 sixth grade children. She stayed with The Maasai, a group of people trying hard to maintain their traditional herding lifestyle. She lived with a middle class family on their farm. She went on safari to witness the amazing beauty of the African animals. Kathleen will be sharing what she learned with the students and teachers in the district and will present an evening program for the parents in the community. Hopefully you will be able to attend one of her presentations!



Kathleen Crohn, a second grade teacher at BHES, with some of her Tanzanian students. **Kathleen** initiated a project called "Outside My Window" where students shared artwork that depicted their home environment.

DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY!

Remember your prom?

The Senior Citizens of Mount Kisco, don't have to remember that far back since they recently danced the night away at a "Senior Prom" coordinated just for them by **Janine Nicol**, a Math teacher at FLHS. Liz Dieter, Recreation Supervisor for the Senior Citizens thanked Janine and her committee of teachers, parents and students for "another incredible Prom Night, ...complete with gorgeous table settings...food...and wonderful hospitality [of all those] who all worked so hard to create an evening we will always remember." This, the 12th annual Prom that Janine and the Senior class have coordinated, has grown tremendously since its inception. Now, instead of a tape recorder in the school cafeteria, student performances rocked the house at the American Legion in Mount Kisco!



"Seniors" enjoying their Prom as the band (all Fox Lane students) kept the beat lively.

Adjudicated Art Earns "A's"

Art students in the Middle and High School had an opportunity to present their work for evaluation and critique through The Portfolio Project. The Project began about 10 years ago as a collaborative effort between the New York State Art Teachers' Association (NYSATA) and the NY State Education Dept. It is intended to provide students from grades 4 through 12 the opportunity to prepare and present directed portfolios of their work to certified adjudicators each spring, and receive feedback and an overall score for their presentation ranging from Emerging, to Competent, to Proficient, to the highest distinction on the scale..."Distinguished."



There were 17 students from Fox Lane Middle School, represented by **Natalie Todd** and **Deborah Heyman**, and 15 students from Fox Lane High School, represented by **Dale Saltzman, Heather Kranz, Lauren D. Lamance and Stephanie Poggi**. Every student from the Bedford district scored in the "distinguished" range of the adjudication process.

FLMS art teacher, Natalie Todd, adjudicating a student during The Portfolio Project.



Left to right: **Lee Cutler** (NYSUT board of directors), **Linda Magni** (BVES), **Stacey Haynsworth** (FLMS), **Ann Marie Kmetz** (WPES), **Mike Mulder**, NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi, BTA President **Adam Yuro** (FLHS), **Jennifer Bussiere** (FLMS), **Michael Groarke** (FLHS), **Kevin Crowley** (BVES) and **Mike Hardiman** (FLMS).

Representatives from various schools in the district attended the NYSUT Summer Leadership Conference this summer in Somerset, NJ from August 15-17th. These BTA members were afforded the opportunity to meet with well over 300 local union leaders from the Westchester-Putnam Region. Among a variety of topics covered in depth were such issues as gender communication, child abuse reporting, health and safety in the work place, ethics, leadership and mentoring.