

### Drew Patrick Discovers the Wonders of Greece... Through Science!

This summer, Drew Patrick, FLHS (on leave from the BTA as Interim Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction), traveled with his family to Greece on an Educational Development Leave grant. The purpose of the EDL investigation was to explore how geology has impacted the development of civilization in Greece from pre-history to the present. Greece in general, and the Peloponnese in particular, serves as a remarkable "natural laboratory" for geologists, geographers, and archaeologists alike. With an extensive collection of archaeological sites dating from the Bronze Age (~3,000 BC), a wealth of natural resources (agricultural, mineral, etc.), and a dynamic tectonic setting, this region can help scientists to understand the rela-



Sunrise at the Temple of Apollo, just outside of the Patrick's cottage in Greece.



Ancient Corinthian pottery shards at a former kiln site.



Drew and Phoebe with Dr. Guy Sanders at the Acropolis in Ancient Sparta.

relationship between people and their surroundings over a very long period of time. As a result of this EDL, Drew has developed a series of lessons using Google Earth as the primary instructional tool that integrates geological, geographical and archaeological information to help students answer the following essential questions:

- \* How has geography impacted the establishment, development, and collapse of great civilizations?
- \* How has the relationship between people and their environment changed over time?

### President's Message



Dear Colleagues and Community Members:

Welcome back to a third year of newsletters from the Bedford Teachers' Association (BTA). Our primary goal with these publications is to promote the community service that our members perform outside of the classroom. I agree with what Richard Stengel wrote on September 22<sup>nd</sup> in *Time*, "The service movement is uniting the two largest generations in American history, the baby boomers and the millennials. They are the demographic bookends of America, and together they comprise more than half the U.S. population. Both have a strong commitment to civic engagement. Millennials are volunteering in record numbers, while their parents will double the ranks of older volunteers by 2036. Social scientists have talked about a 9/11 generation, and a new study by AARP found that boomers ranked "making a difference by helping others" as one of their most important goals." The BTA and its members (of all generations!) will continue its commitment to civic engagement and pass on our passion for it to our students.

Sincerely,  
 Adam H Yuro  
 President,  
 Bedford Teachers' Association

### A Little Dedication—A Big Result... *One student can make a difference*

Pat Townsend, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at BVES, didn't hesitate to help one of her students achieve his dream of starting a recycling effort at their school. She helped him form a committee, set up recycling bins throughout the school, and haul bottles and cans to the recycling center. Graham Agee, Jr. expressed his concerns to Pat that "people haven't been recy-

cling and it is doing terrible things to our earth. We need to do something!" Pat helped Graham start a campaign to recycle water bottles that were regularly thrown out in classrooms. Graham organized students who researched the benefits of recycling plastic. The group made posters, signs and explained the program to individual classes.



Graham Agee with his teacher, Pat Townsend, and his award.

*Continued, page 2...*

### Seven Years...and Still Walking!

For the past two years, this newsletter has featured the ongoing outreach of **Claire McDonnell**, **Marra O'Toole**, and **Tara Somsag**, educators at MKES for Autism Speaks. These teachers, and many other staff members and families of the SAIL I, II, and III classes raised over \$5000 for Autism Speaks. For the 7th consecutive year, they also participated in the 2008 Autism Speaks "Walk now for Autism".



Tara, Claire and Marra, ready to walk!

### Staff Development Center: A Vital Resource for Educators

Bedford Central School District is fortunate to have a Staff Development Center dedicated to professional development for all the employees of the district. During a typical year, educators can be offered a variety of courses ranging from technology to ceramics to a book study to math refresher courses to day-long



George Crute with BVES policy board members **Danielle DeCapua** (left) and **Christina Valentine**.

seminars with nationally recognized educators like Stephanie Harvey, Marilyn Burns and Judy Freedman. Headed by **George Crute** for the past 7 years, and ably assisted by Susan Weeks and a policy board of teachers throughout the district, the Staff Development Center strives to offer relevant, timely courses that educators can take for in-service credit during both the school year and the summer. George notes, "Quality professional development is the key for improving student achievement. The Bedford Staff Development Center provides targeted, flexible professional development opportunities where teachers take charge of their professional growth. It's essential that teachers are afforded the opportunity to share with one another the great wealth of expertise that is comprised within Bedford's learning communities."



The Magni family ready to lift a hammer and help an Appalachian family make a new home.

### If I Had a Hammer... I'd Volunteer!

**Linda Magni**, 5th grade teacher at BVES, spent part of the summer helping her daughters Moira and Shannon with a service project. The Appalachia Service Project (ASP) is a national organization where high school students donate a week of their time to help repair homes in Appalachia (Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee). Linda's daughter Moira has been participating every year of her high school experience and this year was joined by her sister. Linda and her

husband Bob decided to be a part of the fun as chaperones and crew leaders. They worked with 125 high school students for a week in Trade, Tennessee.



Ruby and Sam (left) and their house, (above) which the Magni family helped to repair during their week with the Appalachia Service Project.

### A Couple of Summer Stories...

Yes, summer is a time to relax and catch up on reading, but for many Bedford Central School District educators, it is also a time to volunteer. **Sean Pope**, Technology teacher at FLHS, designed three picnic tables, paid for the materials and then built the tables which he then donated to the Drew Nursery School in Carmel. His daughter will be among the youngsters who will enjoy the tables. **Dorothy Katz**, FLMS, spent part of her summer delivering Meals on Wheels to elderly White Plains residents, which she has done for the past year and a half. She also has been a Girl Scout leader in Scarsdale for the past 9 years.

### One person can make a difference... con't from page 1

In 6 weeks, the whole school was recycling! Through his passion, Graham was the cheerleader and organizer of this program from its inception. He demonstrated the theme of "One person can make a difference" and did not waver from his goal. He remained focused and dedicated to this program and is committed to continuing to communicate his message. With Pat's help, Graham raised the level of the "green" awareness at their school. Karen Eldon, principal of BVES, recommended Graham for the "Westchester County 2008 Chairman's Recognition Award" and he won! He attended a presentation and made an acceptance speech for the award that honored his ecological enthusiasm and dedication to this important initiative. We're sure Graham will never forget Pat Townsend, his 3rd Grade teacher!