

# B.R.E.A.D



Bridgewater-Raynham Educational Association Digest

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[Http://bridgewater-raynham.massteacher.org](http://bridgewater-raynham.massteacher.org)

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## MTA Giveaway

MTA Benefits is holding a drawing for three American Express \$100 gift cards. Registering is simple. Go to [www.mtabenefits.com](http://www.mtabenefits.com) from January 10-21, 2011, and click on the "Free Giveaways Members Only" image on the home page. Log in, read the rules, click the "Enter the Giveaway" button and you're automatically entered! The drawing will be held on January 31st. Good luck to all who enter!

## Personal Days

A reminder that members may take consecutive personal days without notifying the superintendent. Members asked for a reason should notify their building rep or Natalie. Only if a personal day will extend a holiday weekend or school vacation does a member need to submit a note.

## Bereavement Days

From page 24 of the contract: "Upon the death of a Professional Employee's spouse, child, step-child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, parent, parent-in-law, sibling, grandparent, grandchild or member of the immediate household of the employee, said employee will be granted five (5) days' leave with pay." BREA members submit this through AESOP and include the **relationship** in the notes section.

The superintendent does have the discretion to grant 1 day's leave for bereavement in the event of the death of any person. BREA members submit this through AESOP and include **the name and relationship** in the notes section.

## Upcoming school committee meetings

Wednesday, January 26, 2011 Raynham Middle School

Wednesday, February 16, 2011 B-R Regional High School

These days may be adjusted during the year or the location could change. Please check the B-R ([www.bridgerayn.org](http://www.bridgerayn.org)) website to verify the monthly meetings. Regular meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. (with Executive Sessions beginning at 6:00.)

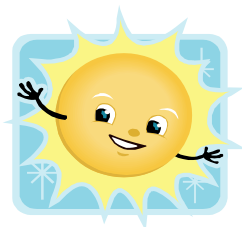
## **ESP conference registration now open**

**When:** Friday, April 1, 2011, 3 p.m. - Saturday, April 2, 2011, 3 p.m.

**Where:** Cape Codder Resort & Spa in Hyannis

Go to [www.massteacher.org](http://www.massteacher.org) to register

## Sunshine news



- ◆ Beth (Riendeau) Jones (MES) gave birth to a girl-Maicy Walker Jones.
- ◆ Donna Riendeau became a grandmother-Maicy Walker Jones..
- ◆ Michelle Carroll (WIS) gave birth to a boy-Matthew Andrew Carroll
- ◆ Jan Zawada (RMS) became a grandmother for the first time-Michael Clark Wurster
- ◆ Grandmother of Kate Biagini (WIS) passed away.

## Contacts

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### From MTA:

Massachusetts schools continue to rank at or near the top on virtually all measures of success, according to the journal *Education Week*. “Our teachers, administrators and students should be very, very proud,” said MTA President Paul Toner. “We are first in the nation on many measures and also do very well in international comparisons.” EdWeek’s annual Quality Counts publication was released on Jan. 11. Here are some highlights from that report and others.

- Massachusetts students are first or tied for first in mathematics and English language arts in all three grades tested, grades 4, 8, and 12 – on the NAEP, often called The Nation’s Report Card.
- Massachusetts was first in the nation on EdWeek’s K-12 Achievement Index, a measure that includes current levels of performance, improvements over time and achievement gaps between poor and non-poor students. Under this metric, Massachusetts was given 85 points; the U.S. average was 68.7; and the lowest-scoring state, Mississippi, received 55.3 points.
- Massachusetts was the only state to receive an “A” on EdWeek’s Chance-for-Success Index, which looks at early foundations, school years and adult outcomes. The Bay State received a score of 94 out of a possible 100 points; the U.S. average was 78.3; and the lowest-scoring state, Nevada, received 65.6 points.
- Massachusetts scored better than all other Western countries participating in the 2007 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), though below some of the Asian countries and city-states that took part. For example, in grade eight science, Massachusetts had a score of 556 and was ranked third, below Singapore (567) and Chinese Taipei (561) but ahead of Japan (554), Korea (553) and all of the Western nations that participated, including England (542) and the U.S. as a whole (520). This was the first TIMSS test in which individual states were allowed to participate as if they were countries. Massachusetts and Minnesota were the only two to do so. Several high-performing European nations, including Finland, did not participate in this study.

International comparisons have been in the news recently because the U.S. as a whole performed in the middle of the pack on another exam released in December, the Program for International Student Assessment. A sample of 15-year-olds from 65 countries participated in PISA, including students from Shanghai, but not the rest of China. The Shanghai students were first in all categories. An article in *The New York Times* about the PISA results noted that Shanghai is a magnet for the best students and thus is not representative of all of China. Nonetheless, officials still described the results as a “Sputnik moment.”

The same *Times* article went on to say, “If Shanghai is a showcase of Chinese educational progress, America’s showcase would be Massachusetts.”