

B.R.E.A.D

Bridgewater-Raynham Educational Association Digest

November 2011

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

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- ◆ Notification letters for a lateral move must be in to the superintendent by November 30. Those moves will take effect at the beginning of the next school year. The BREA recommends that if there is any possibility of a lateral move that you submit a letter.



- ◆ It is now time for Unit B of the BREA, our paraprofessionals, to get a new contract. Lil Holbrook, Natalie Winsor, and Anita Newman, will help with the team along with Bev Saccocia and Grace Burstein.



- ◆ Building reps are needed for Mitchell Elementary Central and South House. Anyone interested please contact Anita. The main requirements would be to attend a monthly Tuesday meeting at 4:00 and to place information in teachers' mailboxes. Local BREA dues (about \$140) are reimbursed to building reps each school year.

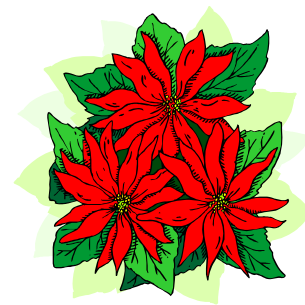


- ◆ The district is looking for teachers interested in obtaining national board teacher certification. The district would look to reimburse the fees as well as offering \$1000 extra/year for those obtaining the certification. More info to follow from the superintendent's office. Additional information regarding National Board Certification can be found at www.nbpts.org



The BREA recommends not having social relationships or communicating socially with students via Facebook or other social media.

Poinsettia Sale
Check your school main offices for poinsettia examples and order forms. Orders are due by Thursday, December 1. Poinsettias will be delivered to schools during the 2nd week of December.



Discounts! Save Money!
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Flexible spending account forms need to be in to Julie Prescott by the end of the month. There has been a change. Forms passed in by the end of the month will be for flexible spending accounts that are in effect from January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012. (1/2 year) There will be a new sign up in the spring for a full flexible spending year July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013. It will no longer follow the calendar year January-December.



Sunshine news

- ♦ Judy Guasconi has a new granddaughter, Liana Joy
Sunshine news can be sent to bridgeraynea@comcast.net



The BREA Executive Board wishes you and your family and friends a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.



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Just for New Teachers

New teachers and teachers up to their fourth year are invited to register for the *Just for New Teachers Conference* to be held on December 2 in Marlborough. The Massachusetts Teachers Association sponsors this conference. The cost is \$60 and includes lunch. Registration can be done online at www.massteacher.org. The BREA will reimburse the cost of this conference. Send a copy of your registration to Robin Murray at the Bridgewater Middle School. You will still need to fill out a professional day request, and the BREA does not guarantee you will be granted the day off.

From the MTA:

The Legislature approved a major pension overhaul on Nov. 15 that will reduce retirement benefits for public employees hired after April 2, 2012, by requiring them to work longer for their benefits, increasing the minimum retirement age and reducing annual pension benefits by about 3 percent. The final bill did contain several amendments supported by the MTA, including allowing higher education members who participate in the Optional Retirement Program to transfer to the state retirement system, allowing creditable service for part-time release union representatives, reducing pension cuts for future long-serving public employees and increasing the base on which the annual cost-of-living-adjustment is calculated from \$12,000 to \$13,000.

Massachusetts fourth- and eighth-graders once again led the nation in reading and mathematics performance on the recent National Assessment of Educational Progress exams, Governor Deval Patrick announced on November 1.

This is the fourth NAEP test in a row in which Massachusetts students have scored first or tied for first place. Since 2005, Bay State fourth- and eighth-graders have led the nation in performance on NAEP exams in both reading and math.

Known as "The Nation's Report Card," the NAEP is the federal government's official measure of what American students know and can do in core academic subjects.