

B.R.E.A.D

Bridgewater-Raynham Educational Association Digest

September 2011

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

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Longevity

The deadline to apply for alternative longevity (a.k.a. Lexington plan) is November 1.

Members, if applicable, should have seen their longevity payment in their paychecks on September 22. Remember, if you worked over 92 work days then it counts as a year of service towards longevity. Especially important to consider for members who started after the beginning of a school year.

A huge thank you to the BREA negotiations team members for their hard work these past many months (over a year!) working on a new contract with the school committee. Those team members are Anita Newman, Natalie Winsor, Robin Murray, and Donna Holt.

Thank you to members as well who showed up to ratify the contract. The school committee was scheduled to vote on September 21. It can take a couple of months to get printed contract copies to the membership.

New members meet and greet

Thursday, October 13 from 3-5pm at the Fireside Grille in Middleboro. New teachers and paraprofessionals hired this year and building reps are invited to attend.



Classifieds

Visit the BREA website at <http://bridgewater-raynhma.massteacher.org> and click on the classifieds section. If you have something you want to add to our classifieds, contact John at bridgeraynea@comcast.net

Member Benefits

Costco signups

October 3 --Williams Intermediate—2:30-4
October 4--Raynham Middle School—2:30-4
October 5--BR High School —2-3:30

BR employees are entitled to a 15% state employee discount on the data package and the primary line only on the phone plus reduced rates on some phones through Verizon Wireless—if you have any questions, please email Janine Chuckran, Benefits Rep at jaugustine@bridge-rayn.org

Look for news on BJs wholesale sign ups coming in October—dates to be announced soon.

Sunshine news



- ◆ Anne Neviackas (BMS) has a new granddaughter, Ella
 - ◆ Bethany McAvoy (Williams) is a new mom to daughter Finley.
 - ◆ Anita Newman (MES) continues to recover from a leg injury.
 - ◆ Jenn Govain's (BMS) grandmother passed away.
- Sunshine news can be sent to bridgeraynea@comcast.net

Contacts

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From MTA:

We are writing to make you aware of petitions being circulated throughout Massachusetts by an advocacy group called Stand for Children and to urge you to **decline to sign if you are approached**. The petitions call for a 2012 ballot initiative that would mandate limits on local collective bargaining about educator evaluations and place restrictions on the granting of Professional Teacher Status.

This initiative is an outside effort to impose impractical rules on our schools instead of working on reform *with* educators. While Stand for Children bills itself as a grassroots organization, a recent article by the State House News Service notes that its board “includes officials from Bain Capital, Fidelity Investments, Fisher Lynch Capital, and other major businesses.” We believe that the ballot initiative is a distraction from the real problems in public education and will divert time, energy and resources from far more pressing issues – including funding and state revenues – that directly affect the quality of education for our students.

We are also concerned about the integrity of the ballot process, and we are asking MTA members to be alert for the potential of paid signature gatherers – many of whom are expected to come from outside of Massachusetts – to use deceptive measures. As a result, we are asking members to call our Fraud Watch Hotline at 888-824-9243 when they see circulators of the Stand for Children petitions.

It is important to recognize that the ballot initiative does not serve the interests of students and public education. Please do not sign a Stand for Children petition if you are asked – and urge your family members, friends and neighbors to decline to sign as well.

Further information will be provided as the campaign develops. Please watch www.massteacher.org for updates

Want classroom management help? Check out www.nea.org/help

Lesson plan ideas? Check out www.nea.org/toolsandideas

Look for information regarding the general membership meeting coming the 3rd or 4th Monday of October.