

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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Congratulations!



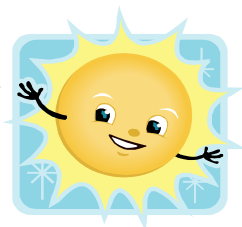
- ◆ Grace Burstein of Mitchell Elementary School won the MTA ESP (educational support paraprofessional) raffle. She won a free trip to the national ESP conference which takes place in March in Memphis.
- ◆ Bev Saccocia will present a class at the national ESP conference titled "Don't show me the money."

Congratulations ladies! Say hello to Elvis for us!

The organization, *Stand for Children*, has received the required signatures to send their ballot initiative to the Massachusetts legislature. This piece of legislation looks to strip collective bargaining rights especially as it relates to seniority and hiring and firing practices. Do a search on the MTA website (www.massteacher.org) for more info. This makes political action increasingly important: public schools mean public dollars mean public laws and budgets. See the reverse for more information to join a legislative political action team.

Sunshine news

- ◆ Renee Lucia (MES) and Jared Lucia (BRRHS) have a new baby boy, Jack.
- ◆ Wendy Lucia (MES) and Jim Lucia (retired) are proud grandparents to new grandson, Jack.



Contacts

B.R.E.A.D

President: Anita Newman

Anitanewman@comcast.net;

Cell: 508-317-1294

1st Vice President (Grievances) Natalie Winsor;

Cell: 508-230-6771 nwinsorbrea@hotmail.com

B.R.E.A.D. newsletter: John Souto

Bridgeraynea@comcast.net

Retirement/Insurance: Robin Murray

774-573-3193 robinmurraysgarden@yahoo.com

From MTA:

MTA ESP (Education Support Professional) 2012 Conference will be March 30-31 in Hyannis. Online registration begins January 20 at the MTA website at (www.massteacher.org.)

The NEA ESP Conference is March 9-11 in Memphis, TN. Information can be found at www.nea.org

From PCEA

Plymouth County Education Association (PCEA) Awards nominations can be found on their website at www.pcea.massteacher.org. Nomination forms must be submitted by February 7. The awards banquet will be held at the beginning of April.

Come to the PCEA Legislative Night to voice your concerns regarding public education to your current state representatives and senators. It will be March 1 at the Monponsett Inn in Halifax. It includes dinner. Let your building rep know if you are interested in attending. The BREA often picks up some or all of the fees for this night.

LEGISLATIVE POLITICAL ACTION TEAM (LPAT)

Greetings Fellow Activists!

I want to **thank you** for your work in contacting our State Representatives and Senators regarding the pension reform legislation which was passed in November. As a result of the efforts of MTA activists like you, well over 350 personal contacts with legislators occurred and thousands of emails were sent. We did make a difference in the final outcome. Some of these differences were: Higher Ed members will be able to opt out of the Optional Retirement Program and transfer to the state system and the COLA base for retirees was increased to \$13,000.00.

The upcoming year is going to challenge us in a number of ways, the Presidential election along with the election for Massachusetts United States Senate and the re-districting of the congressional seats. We will also be lobbying our state reps and senators regarding two MTA sponsored bills, one to do a study to provide adequate funding for public education and the other to consider a change in the state income tax structure that would benefit our middle class and lower income residents as well as provide realistic funding for state provided services.

Other news to report out is that I have purchased a copy of **American Teacher** and IT HAS ARRIVED! I am hoping that we can invite members to local viewings of this important film and engage them in a dialogue that will lead to their becoming a part of our activist teams.

Our next LPAT meeting will be on January 24 (4:30-6:00 PM) at the Southeast Office in Raynham (Wynn and Wynn building) and refreshments will be served. We will be joined by the LPAT group from Senator Rodrigues' district. There will be an "after" meeting at a nearby establishment at which you'll be most welcome. Please RSVP Krogers@massteacher.org

Please invite a local member to join you and us to help us to grow.

Kathi Rogers, Senate District Coordinator, First Plymouth Bristol