



# Pequannock Township Education Association



## CHALKBOARD

February 2010

### ~President's Message~

On our January 26th PD day, I was fortunate to attend two of the four workshops offered at PTHS. I say fortunate, because usually, I'm the one giving the workshop! What a joy it was to participate!

One of the activities of the day discussed the idea and the process of journaling. I have decided that I am going to write at least three things a day that make me happy, or that make me smile. So far, I am up to eight happy thoughts! I've promised myself I will look back on these thoughts whenever I feel myself getting too world-weary. I feel I may need them in light of the cold weather predictions for February!

I'd like to share with all of you some happy thoughts to get you through this frigid month:

- Seeing a reluctant reader dive into a book
- Catching a student in the moment when the "light bulb" goes on
- Sharing a belly laugh with colleagues in the lunch room
- Grading the last paper of a HUGE stack
- Realizing that your colleagues have also become your treasured friends

Have a warm February.

Lee Ann

### ~PTEA Elections~

PTEA elections for President and Vice President will be held in March. In January, the Executive Board nominated Lee Ann Brensinger for President and Ann Marie Finnen for Vice President. Nominations for these offices will also be taken from the floor at the General Membership Meeting on March 11, 2010.

### ~PTEA Member News~

Congratulations to Stella Papafagos (SJG) and Gus Shizas on their wedding engagement! A March 2011 wedding is planned.

**~MCCEA Workshops~** ([www.mccea.com](http://www.mccea.com))

<b><u>Feb. 25, 2010</u></b>	<b><u>Mar. 5-6, 2010</u></b>	<b><u>Mar. 16, 2010</u></b>	<b><u>Mar. 18, 2010</u></b>
Pension Workshop -\$10 fee required-	NJEA Winter Leadership Conference North	MLR and International Desserts	Electronic Communication & Social Networking Safety
Zeris Inn in Mountain Lakes 4:30	Please contact the MCCEA office for more information	Hilton Garden Inn Rockaway 4:30	Zeris Inn in Mountain Lakes 4:30
RSVP by Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> (973) 366-0202 Ext: 10		RSVP (973) 366-0202 Ext: 10	RSVP (973) 366-0202 Ext: 10

\*Please contact Ann Marie Finnen (SJG) or Janelle Heise (PV) with any questions.

**~Grievance Committee Report~**

- ❖ The Board of Education held a hearing on December 21 in order to discuss a Level 3 Grievance related to vacation days for a 12 month employee. The Association presented its case to the full Board. We believe the relevant contract language is clear and unambiguous. Unfortunately, the Board chose to deny the Association's appeal. PTEA has filed for arbitration on behalf of the individual member as well as the rest of the Association.
- ❖ An Arbitration date has been scheduled for the Grievance related to Advancement on the Salary Guide due to Graduate Credits. It will be held on April 19, 2010
- ❖ Our contract and state statute specify that all employees should be given credit on the salary guides for years served in the military. There have been several cases where employees were never informed of this right until after they were hired. Lee Ann and Ann Marie have contacted the Superintendent and begun a dialogue to attempt to rectify this situation and insure that it does not happen again in the future.

**~Date to Remember~**

March 11, 2010 – General Membership Meeting

Guest Speakers: **Marie Blistan, NJEA Secretary/Treasurer**  
Alina Fayerman, NJEA Auto and Home Insurance  
Elizabeth McConough, Tri-Co