

AEA FOCUS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The PSSA testing period is upon us. If testing were the only issue that we had to deal with, perhaps our jobs would be as some of us remember them, or had originally envisioned them as being. Such is not the case. We endeavor to understand that, and we put our best foot forward. We have done everything that the administration has asked of us and more. We have performed our duties even at the expense of stealing time from our families, and even, perhaps, to the detriment of our own physical and mental health. With all that we are required to juggle on a daily basis, we may still be found asking ourselves, "What more could I have done to assist our students to reach AYP status?" I personally feel that the answer to that question is: absolutely nothing. The fact that we have all worked so hard will not change. We have the highest hopes and expectations of success. But whatever the outcome of this year's PSSA test will be, know that you have given your all to educate every child in the Allentown School District.

Before a single pencil has bubbled a test sheet, or a response has been written to an open-ended question, each teacher should put the stress aside and reflect on the growth made by each child you have instructed. Take this moment to look into the mirror, smile, and say aloud for all to hear: job well done! What inspires us to perform this arduous job? The answer seems clear to me, the love of our profession and the students we serve. The contributions that we make to the molding of a civil society are too seldom recognized by those outside of our profession. This is not always apparent to us because, as a group of caregivers, we are motivated by our internal fulfillment. Though we might hope that the world would understand what we do and appreciate our strivings, such is not always the case. As intelligent individuals we comprehend that mentality and strenuously push on. If someone has not told you lately that you are respected and appreciated, let it be known that you are.

You are all appreciated...

Melvin Riddick

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UNION DUES & TAXES

AEA does not have access to your total dues payments for 2008. You must have your last paystub in December to have the correct figure.

SPRING BREAK

Spring Break is getting closer.....day by day.

We have not as of today (3/13/09) lost any holidays.
We have barely skimmed over student make up days.

There are five days built into the student calendar and we have had 5 inclement weather closings.

Soooooo all make up days thus far will be at the end of the year and will be teacher make up only.

AEA Calendar

March 30-April 3....AEA Election

**March 30....Special Ed Meeting @
AEA Office**

**April 1....Executive
Committee Meeting**

**April 15.....Faculty Rep Meeting
@ Dieruff**

May 6....OTA Reception

June 5...AEA Picnic

AEA ELECTION BALLOT COUNT

We will be counting ballots on April 7. If you are available to help with the counting process please call the AEA office at 610-432-7329.

We will be supplying dinner.

You cannot be on the ballot if you are going to help count.

DEADLINES:

May 1.....Deadline for Professional Development Sabbatical Requests for the 1st Semester of 2009-10