

AEA FOCUS

Volume VIII, Issue 6

May 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! This year is quickly coming to a close. I have visited all the buildings in the District at least twice and have also visited a few classrooms; a practice that I believe was and will continue to be helpful for me in understanding and dealing with the work environment and the day to day concerns. All room visits this year were on the Elementary level but my plan is to expand the practice next year to all three levels as well as the alternative sights. As I quietly travel through the buildings from time to time I would hear things that would tweak my curiosity and cause me to stand outside the classroom door to listen or peer in. In all cases, the passion I heard in your voices and the excitement of the students was overwhelming and that grabbed my attention. I can not say this enough, "I applaud your never-ending effort for our children." Yes, they are our children and not just students we service. This dedication to our children is a belief we hold dear and show each and every day. This is one of the reasons why we are able to accomplish such amazing things against all odds. The work we put into our children is like a fine piece of art. Many of us are putting the finishing touches on this year's addition to the ASD masterpiece (our children, educated to the best of our ability.) This educational artwork will be observed and on display for our colleagues, colleges, universities and the community as early as this summer or next school year. I would like for you to take a moment and look back over this school year and jot down the many amazing things you and your children have done. Another Wow! What a list! Makes you feel good huh! I can see the smiles on your faces and that feeling (you know the one I'm talking about) where that energy radiates from within you. That feeling is what this is all about; that is why we do what we do. The interaction with our children and the feelings are what makes this special profession so internally rewarding and unlike any other. We may feel the external pressures of ESEA and the imbalanced school funding system in Pennsylvania. But the bottom line is that we are stepping up every day and making a difference in the lives of our children. Unless they have walked this path, most people in society cannot comprehend the job we do:

A job well done.

ASD Board Highlights

Teacher's Recognized

Aleya Van Doren – National Science Teacher Academy Amgen Association Fellow

Jim Perkins – Aspires Mentor of the Year

Beverly Wildonger - Cambridge Who's Who Professional of the Year in Education

Regina Griffith – Advisor of the Year by the National Student Council Association

Robin Hohe - "Grand Master Award" from the DaVinci Teacher Leader Institute for Excellence in Inquiry-Based Instruction **AND Inductee** – DaVinci Center Hall of Fame

Louise Davis – Celebrate Literacy Award from CARE (Colonial Association of Reading Educators) Reading

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This publication is an official publication of Allentown Education Association and is affiliated with Pennsylvania State Education Association and the National Education Association.

AEA Calendar

JUNE 4 (Wed) ---- General Membership Meeting @ South Mountain

JUNE 6 (Fri) ---- AEA Picnic @ South Mountain Reservoir (Members and their families or guests)

JUNE 18 (Wed) ----LAST DAY FOR TEACHERS

HEADS UP...

Local, State, Federal issues and things that you need to know

- **The Pennsylvania School Funding issue is currently being debated in the state of Pennsylvania. As we learned recently at the Urban Conference in Penn State, the costing out program is a way for poorer districts to begin to close the equity gap in funding. Senate Bill 1338 and House Bill 2449 ensures that state funds are distributed to districts with the least local resources. It brings the per student cost up to an adequate funding level. Allentown would get a significant increase in funding in 2008-2009. This would infuse much needed revenue into our district. It is important that everyone contact their senate and house representative and urge them to vote for this funding bill. Go to www.paschoolfunding.org and enter your 9-digit zip code to inform your representatives about how you feel about this issue.**
- **Reminder – Pharmacies should be giving you 90 day prescriptions IF that is what the prescription notes. You should ask your doctor to write a 90 prescription if possible. If you have any problems with pharmacies filling 90 day prescriptions, call the AEA office at 610-432-7329**
- **A grievance was recently filed concerning limited visits to the physical therapist. The outcome of the grievance is we are back to unlimited visits.**
- **South Mountain Pharmacy is willing to process prescriptions for Workman's Compensation. You will need to bring your claim number or a copy of the completed Workman's compensation form.**
- **If you lose your PSEA ID card, you can get a replacement card online at the PSEA website.**
- **If you are interested in information on topics such as student health records and child abuse reporting, take a look at the school nurse manual online at www.psea.org/topic.cfm?SID=100**

If you have any Issues or concerns that you feel should be addressed in this column email Carolyn and please put "Heads Up" in the subject line.

AEA Summer Hours

Summer hours start on June 18. Due to vacations and conferences please call the office before stopping by.

Mon8-3 (closed 1 hour for lunch)
Tues-Thurs..... 8-12