

AEA FOCUS

Volume VII, Issue 5

APRIL 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's a new day!

We are about half-way through the 2nd semester.

Some schedules have changed; some staff have been moved; an almost equal number of students have been dropped from attendance rosters as will be added to attendance rosters.

But the most important event of this time of year is not what happens in our teaching environment but what happens to our spirit. There are so many distractions that pull kids' attention away from learning. There is so much pressure to get kids ready for the next level. There is so much more to teach to get kids through the tests. There is bone-deep weariness as we face gray days and even grayer apathy

How to survive and press on?

Every day remind yourself of this statistic from a recent NEA Today magazine: 95% of all high school students surveyed report that a teacher made a positive difference in their lives! 95%! A teacher! Like you!

Despite the pressures to meet higher, almost impossible standards, despite horrendous class sizes and inadequate supplies and equipment, despite facing students who are often strangers to self-discipline and immune to hope, teachers like you make a positive difference in the lives of students everyday in every classroom in Allentown.

Be proud of yourself and your profession. You have the ability to change children's lives for the better forever.

Keep on keeping on!

Melvin

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FOCUS IS A PUBLICATION OF.....
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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.

STUDENT ASSAULT

Please be aware that if you are assaulted by a student you should do the following:

1. Notify building administrator
2. Press charges with APD
3. Notify AEA & fill out a Liability Form

EDUCATION 2010

Lehigh Valley business leaders headed by Alvin Butz joined together to find a solution to the ASD crisis. A report was prepared by Augenblick, Palaich and Associates, Inc.

The reason for the report was to identify the economic challenges facing the Allentown School District.

The Allentown School District is in a revenue crisis. Resources as presently deployed cannot and will not resolve this critical funding issue. The state and local funds are insufficient and inequitable.

Options to address the crisis are many.

For a full report visit the following website.
www.apaconsulting.net

AEA Calendar

**April 24 - Faculty Rep Mtg @
Dieruff**

May 3 - Exec. Comm Mtg

**May 10 - Outstanding Teacher
Awards Reception**

**May 15 - Faculty Rep Mtg @
South Mountain**

June 2 - AEA Picnic

June 9 - AEA Showcase '06

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

AEA on behalf of our entire bargaining unit filed a grievance on 2/23/06 based on the outrageous number of violent acts and weapons violations and the way in which the discipline for these acts is handled.

As a result of the filing we are in active talks with the ASD trying to rectify this out of hand situation. Please continue to document repeat offenders and forward the information to the AEA office.

**HOPE YOU HAD AN ENJOYABLE
SPRING HOLIDAY**