

## From the President: Yes, It Worked!

As we congregated Monday night at the Ross School, preparing for our first action, someone asked me if I thought this event would work. My response was, "It already has."

After six months of bargaining, including these last four working without a contract, the BEA Crisis and Negotiation Committees agreed that it was time to make a public statement.

It worked because close to two-thirds of our association organized and came together with a common goal. We planned and implemented a professional and dignified action at the School Committee Meeting at Ross on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

It worked because we all recognized the dedication that makes the educators of the Braintree Public Schools very special. No union goes "above and beyond" without receiving compensation the way the Braintree Education Association does.

It worked since we have been able to maintain our confidence that an equitable agreement can be reached. We will enter the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting with the School Committee with the same energy and optimism.

**Yes, it worked!**

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at the **Colbert Administration Building**, relocated from its original site.

Our next Crisis Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at East Middle School in room 301 at 3:35 P.M. Any BEA member is invited to attend. Do not be concerned if you were not originally on the committee. *We welcome the input of all BEA members.*

I wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season and a fantastic New Year.

Yours truly in solidarity,



Larry S. Kramer

## December 14th

If you are planning to attend the December 14th School Committee meeting at Colbert, please consider bringing a canned or non-perishable good. Donations will be collected for the Braintree Food Pantry that evening.

Thank you for your generosity.

## What Our Time is Worth

An Editorial

Many people believe that, since they were students once, they are experts about everything involved in a school environment. As the daughter of two retired public school teachers, and as a teacher in Braintree for over thirteen years, I have often heard others comment about what a perk our family's vacation and summer time off must have been, or how nice getting out of work in the "middle of the day" would be.

I used to explain that my parents worked every summer of their careers and took on additional jobs during the school year to support us and allow us to go to college. I would describe the school vacations, and the months before them, when my parents organized and chaperoned trips abroad with forty or more high school students.

Now, I will not waste my time or energy responding to comments made from those who are ill-informed or otherwise misperceive how our time is spent. It is unlikely that these people who have made judgments about our careers have been teachers. They will probably never realize all that teaching entails, but I will reserve my energy to educate my students.

Jessica O'Malley

## A Safe and Healthy Environment

There is a new procedure for work orders. All work orders are now handled by the senior custodian of each building. If you have any concerns about your work space, please do not hesitate to contact the principal and senior custodian of your building.

It is best to communicate this concern via school email and ensure that you are cc'ed in any communication with the business department. Please include me in this process in order to add the concern to our physical plant files.

These buildings are old and have been described by our own business manager, Peter Keen, as "the worst school buildings on the South Shore." We need to be vigilant about issues that could impact the safety of where we work.

Larry Kramer



## Condo for Rent

Beautiful, two bedroom unit in Quincy with an additional office/potential third bedroom. Three years old with central A/C. Hardwood floors throughout, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and a dishwasher. There is a front porch and the tenant is entitled to two parking spaces. About 1 mile to the Quincy Center T Station and around the corner from several bus stops. Four miles from the highway. Also included is a washer/dryer in the unit. \$6,300 plus utilities.

If interested, please call 781-706-7996.

## BRAINTREE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION MESSAGE

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According to the 2009 Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools, Americans think more money should be spent on early childhood education; they're weary of the No Child Left Behind Act; and they feel inadequate funding is the biggest problem facing our schools.

They are also in favor of higher starting salaries for public school teachers, to the tune of \$43,000, about \$7,000 more than the average starting salary of education majors graduating in 2009.

NEA TODAY