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NewsBEAT

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Fall Focus

On October 21, 2009, Essex County EA held its annual Fall Focus at the Valley Regency. NJEA Secretary-Treasurer Marie Blisten addressed members. Highlighting local community efforts, Blisten commended members on their community service and dedication to educational excellence.

President Tony Salese kicked off the evening with dignitary introductions followed by a speech urging members that the only choice for the governor's race is Jon Corzine. Salese reminded members that Corzine is the only governor who returned money to the TPAF and that Corzine is committed

to public education.

Members viewed a short video on Corzine's accomplishments and his continued interest and



NJEA Secretary-Treasurer Marie Blisten, President Tony Salese and Bob Blisten.

pledge to make education in the state a priority. Governor Corzine has made great strides in closing the achievement gap, provid-

ing funding for educational programs and recognizing teachers as a vital asset in the paradigm of public education.

For educators the state over, Corzine is the ONLY choice.

Later in the evening, Assemblyman Al Continho addressed the membership.



Loretta Tyson, ECREA and Thomas Hardy, NJEA.

Legislative Action Team Meeting

The Legislative Action Committee met to discuss educational concerns with local legislators.

Assembly members Ralph Caputo, Cleopatra Tucker, Al Continho, and Fred Scalera attended the meeting. All four spoke briefly on behalf

of Jon Corzine stressing the importance of supporting Corzine's reelection bid.

All four Assembly members are NJEA PAC endorsed. Please support their reelection bids.



Assembly members Continho, Cleopatra Tucker, Ralph Caputo and Fred Scalera

ECEA Hospitality & Convention News



Actor and Humanitarian John Amos. East Orange HS graduate.

The ECEA will hold its annual hospitality meeting at the NJEA convention. The hospitality suite will be held on Thursday and Friday, November 5 & 6, during the NJEA convention. The hospitality suite is located in the Sheraton Hotel directly across from the convention hall. All ECEA members are invited.

Lucille Davey, Commissioner of Education, will address NJEA members on Friday, November 6 at

9:30 AM, Room 404.

Robert Kennedy, Jr. will address the convention on Friday, November 6, at 11:30 a.m., in Hall A. Mr. Kennedy will discuss environmental issues.

Educators will have a chance to ask questions and discuss issues with the State Board of Education Panel on Friday, November 6, from 3 –4:30 p.m.

Visit the Technol-

ogy Integration Showcase on the convention floor for one on one demonstrations of technology activities tested and presented by NJEA members.

Actor and humanitarian, John Amos will receive NJEA's 2009 Award for Excellence. Mr. Amos is a graduate of East Orange High School.

"New Jersey's emphasis on preparing students for success in the 21st century continues to pay off."

*Barbara Keshishian,
NJEA President*

Post your students' projects on Teacher Tube.

National math results add up to good news for New Jersey

New results from the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) give New Jersey reason to cheer. Math scores for both fourth and eighth grade students in the Garden State again rank among the best in the nation. New Jersey eighth graders were among a handful across the nation to post significant gains on this year's test, and trailed only students in Massachusetts and Minnesota. Fourth graders trailed only

students from four other states. Both groups posted scores significantly above the national average.

NJEA president Barbara Keshishian hailed the results. "New Jersey's emphasis on preparing students for success in the 21st century continues to pay off. We know that strong math skills, and the critical thinking ability that math helps foster, will put our students at an advantage as they

finish school and enter the job market. I am especially encouraged by the success of our older students, which comes as the first wave of students who had broad access to high quality preschool reach eighth grade. Test scores don't tell the whole story of the good things happening in our schools, but these results show that our approach is working."

(taken from NJEA.org)

Tech for Teachers

Wikipedia and You Tube have new sites for teachers. Wikipedia for Schools is a new web site for teachers and their students. Although the information is still provided by people and is still self-editing, most information on the site is checked and

verified for use in schools.

Like Wikipedia, You Tube has launched a new website for teachers and their students. Teacher Tube provides a venue for teachers and students to post videos of school projects, professional development, informational videos

and anything else that may be helpful to teachers.

Teacher Tube allows students to post their material in a safe, healthy environment. Check out the new sites.

<http://schools-wikipedia.org/>
<http://www.teachertube.com/>

FAST to sponsor achievement gaps workshop

An Oct. 1 report released from the Center on Education Policy shows that the achievement gap continues to shrink in New Jersey's schools. *State Test Score Trends Through 2007-08* shows encouraging progress toward eliminating the achievement gaps between African American, Latino and low-income students, and their classmates.

The report noted that in New Jersey, "With just one exception, achievement gaps for African-American, Latino and low-income students narrowed in reading and math at the elementary levels."

In July, the *Christian Science Monitor* called New Jersey a bright spot in narrowing the achievement gap between African-American and white students.

To build on New Jersey's success, NJEA Families and Schools Together Work for Children (NJEA FAST) will present "Strategies for Closing Achievement Gaps" on Nov. 21 at NJEA Headquarters in Trenton.

This workshop is focused on helping members to be effective advocates in closing the achieve-

ment gaps for culturally linguistic and economically diverse students. Participants will learn ways to apply NEA's research-based C.A.R.E. themes (culture, abilities, resilience and effort) when working as practitioners and while engaging families and community.

Members who attend the entire workshop are eligible to receive professional development credit.

Pre-registration is required by Nov. 9.

(taken from njea.org)

"The NJEA/News 12 Scholar Athlete Recognition Program honors New Jersey high school seniors who are successful not only in the classroom, but on the court or on the field.."

Nominate scholar athletes for NJEA/News 12 recognition program

NJEA and News 12 New Jersey are seeking high school students who excel both academically and athletically. The NJEA/News 12 Scholar Athlete Recognition Program honors New Jersey high school seniors who are successful not only in the classroom, but on the court or on the field.

Thirty students will be selected based on nominations received from high schools around the state. Each week, the Scholar Athlete will be

featured in a news segment on News 12 New Jersey. In June, the winners, their families, coaches, and teachers will be honored at a luncheon. One student will be selected as 2009-10 Scholar Athlete of the Year and receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

The 2008-09 Scholar Athlete was Kevin O'Connor, a stand-out baseball player from Ramapo High School who entered Harvard University this fall.

To nominate a student, fill out the form at njea.org. The form must be signed by the principal or guidance counselor, as well as the coach or athletic director. A News 12 sports panel will make the selection and notify the winners and their schools.

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 19, 2010.

(taken from njea.org)

Jon Corzine—the only choice!

The following is an excerpt from Jon Corzine's essay on education. Jon Corzine is the only choice for educators.

"Next to fixing the economy, nothing has been more important to me during my four years in office than educating our children. As we faced a global recession in a year of declining revenues, our funding for education increased because I believe we have an obligation to provide adequate funding for public

education. The reason is simple. Children only get one shot at being a child — one chance at a quality education.

An investment in education is an investment in the economic well-being of New Jersey. Companies come to New Jersey or remain in the state if there is a well-educated workforce that can meet the company's needs. For years, this state has had a reputation for having such a workforce. By spending wisely on

education, that tradition will continue. That is why I have refused to cut state aid to education. Across the board, communities in this state saw their state education aid go up or remain level this year — a remarkable accomplishment given the economic downturn the state faced."

- Jon Corzine

(taken from njea.org)



Essex County News from ECEA Rep Council

- The Higher Ed Committee is hosting Basic Bargaining Training on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at the Atrium Country Club. The workshop will begin at 4:30 PM Cost for ECEA members is \$8.00 and \$35.00 for non-members. Workshop is limited to 25 participants.
- Congratulations to Montclair EA for their nomination for the Jim George award.
- Minority Leadership and Recruitment will have a booth at the NJEA Convention.
- A regulation passes that allows teachers to administer the Gluca Gun to students. The governor has not signed the bill thus far. This initiative begins as a volunteer basis. There are many concerns with unlicensed members administering medication.
- The Association has formed an out-of-state conference committee. Clarence Osborn was named Chair of the committee. If anyone wishes to attend an out-of-state conference, a written request must be sent to the executive board to review. First priority is given to executive members and then requests are opened to the full membership.
- The tentative date for Project Pride is March 4 through March 12, 2010.
- PR&R committee will sponsor a workshop on web safety, tentatively scheduled for January, 2010.
- Jacqui Greadington has been named Chair of the NEA Black Caucus. Good luck to Jacqui.



Interesting Info—Cat in the Hat, HOF, Radio Disney

NJ Hall of Fame

You and your students can help decide the next class of inductees into the New Jersey Hall of Fame. It's easy! Just visit njhalloffame.org by **November 20** to cast your vote. Teachers can also visit njea.org for a curriculum created by NJEA members Ann Hill and Marie Blistan that incorporates the New Jersey Hall of Fame into your classroom projects.

Want a great way to kick off your Read Across America program? Would you like the Cat in the Hat to help your school celebrate? Then consider a visit from the Cat himself!

Invite the Cat in the Hat to your school

NJEA members can now request a visit right online at njea.org. It's simple; if you would like to invite the Cat to visit your school, fill out the online request form by Nov. 15, 2009. Visits will begin in February and continue through

mid-March. Depending on when the Cat is available, his visit may be the beginning or the end of your ongoing Read Across America celebration.

NJEA cannot accommodate requests for specific dates, but will advise you in January of the Cat's availability to visit your school. Visit njea.org often to get tips and tools to make your celebration the best it can be.

The deadline for inviting the Cat is November 15.

Win a Radio Disney concert

Read Across New Jersey will run from Dec. 1, 2009 to March 1, 2010. This school wide project is a great opportunity to get your students excited about reading.

To enter fill out the entry form found on njea.org. Print out and photocopy an entry form for each student in your school. Each student lists all the books they read during their free time from

Dec. 1, 2009 through March 1, 2009. Books that are read specifically for a classroom assignment should not be included. The classroom teacher or school librarian should initial the form to verify the student has read the books. As students fill up their forms, give them a new blank one. Collect completed forms and hold them until the end of the contest.

Mail completed entry forms along with a letter from the school principal or staff member in charge of coordinating the contest. The letter should include the number of students enrolled in the school and total number of books read.

Send completed materials, postmarked by March 12, 2010 to:

*Dawn Hiltner
NJEA
PO Box 1211
Trenton, NJ 08607-1211*

(taken from njea.org)