

BERGEN PASSAIC ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN



Winter Newsletter

December 2008



Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Election Results	2
Fall Workshops	2
Director's Academy	3
Upcoming Events	3
Accreditation	4

We are on the web!



Stay in touch with the BPAEYC Affiliate. Read the newsletter, learn about affiliate, state and national events and contact members.

Visit us at
www.bpaeyc.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December is here, and amid the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we find ourselves facing a changing world. In just a few short weeks, our nation will welcome its next President, Barack Obama. Our economy is in turmoil and can be felt by everyone "from Wall Street to Main Street". Though gasoline prices have come down (thankfully), a trip to the grocery store makes us wonder how much higher our food prices may climb. Jobs are being cut weekly, and all people are feeling insecure about the future. A look at any newspaper or television news program reporting goings-on around the world describe unthinkable events still happening despite efforts to bring peace to our world. Many families of American servicemen and women will spend the upcoming holidays without their loved ones at home, hoping and praying for their safe return, or sadly, remembering them proudly as they made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives for their country.

It is important that we, as early childhood educators, be mindful of not only how this chaotic world affects us as adults, but especially how it is being interpreted by our young charges and their families. Unfortunately, none of us is exempt from these events on some level. However, we must focus on the difference each of us can make even in a small way on a daily basis—a welcoming smile, a gentle touch or an understanding glance can mean so much to a frazzled parent or a child whose behavior is expressing what his words cannot—his inability to understand what is really going on around him.

We learned at our May meeting how critical it is for us as caregivers and educators to take some time for ourselves to escape the stressors of everyday life. By taking even a few minutes to walk around the block, breathe deeply and stretch our bodies to release tension can help us to be better equipped to cope and, in turn, be better equipped to help others cope as well. Make the effort to help yourself by listening to some soothing music, looking at a beautiful picture, revisiting a particularly fond memory or, better yet, enjoying whatever it is that makes you happy. Those few "luxurious" minutes may very well prove to be time well spent.

I extend my heart-felt wishes to each of you for a Happy Hanukkah, a Blessed Christmas, a Happy Kwanzaa, and a Bright New Year, but most of all, for a world of Hope, Love and Peace.

Fondly,

Donna D. Hortian, President



ELECTION RESULTS

Our 2008 election resulted in a disappointing return of only 40 ballots from nearly 800 members. It is important for members to exercise their right to vote in our elections. Thank you to those who participated in this process.

The position of President-Elect did not have a candidate listed. Thirty-five (35) ballots were unmarked for this position, and received one write-in vote for each of the following five (5) members: Alice Albanese, Donna Hortian, Phyllis Jones, Yolanda Ramos and Cindy Sobel. Current President Donna Hortian will continue to serve in that capacity until further notice.

Kathleen Ellison Molina will continue to serve in her position as Vice-President for Membership, having received 38 votes and 2 unmarked ballots, and Theresa Sabolewski will continue to serve in her position as Secretary, having received 37 votes and 3 unmarked ballots.

There were three positions for Members-at-Large in a field of five candidates. The winners are Alice Albanese (28), Barbara Forste (24) and Cindy Sobel (21). Both Doris Feirer and Kathleen Miller received 18 votes each.

Three amendments to our By-Laws were also included on this year's ballot. All amendments were voted upon and passed by a majority of 39 (approved) to 1 (non-approved).

Next year, the position of Vice-President for Professional Development and Treasurer will be up for election. Any interested parties are requested to contact President Donna Hortian or another member of the BPAEYC Board.



FALL WORKSHOP MEETING

BPAEYC's Fall workshop meeting was held on Tuesday, the 23rd October at David Rukin E.C.C. of the Bergen County YJC, Washington. The meeting was attended by over two hundred members who enjoyed participating in workshops on different topics. Heather Garguilo, a BPAEYC member shares her workshop experience below.

At the Fall Workshop Meeting, Kathleen Ellison Molina, BPAEYC Vice President of Membership, presented "The Use of Signing in Your Classroom." The workshop was well-attended, with almost twenty-five members in the audience. Kathy, as she preferred to be called, began with a warm welcome, describing how she first became interested in sign language.

Kathy provided her listeners with some background of sign language and how it relates to her daily life as a pre-K teacher. She kept teachers engaged throughout the evening, demonstrating the ASL alphabet, signing colors, and leading the participants in familiar rhymes and songs. Kathy explained the difference between American Signed Language, ASL, and Signed Exact English, SEE, and illustrated these differences with age-appropriate storybook examples. Participants learned the benefits of using sign language with hearing children, particularly special needs children and second-language learners. Kathy then discussed and demonstrated how she also incorporates signs in her classroom as support for early literacy, enhancing students' vocabulary, strengthening their ability to focus, and improving their motivation.



Kathy passionately gave her peers a glimpse into the daily life of her students. Whether they are signing the alphabet while waiting in line, or incorporating signs into their circle time discussions, Kathy's students are truly gaining an appreciation for other languages and cultures.

ATTENTION ! DIRECTORS OR ANYONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DIRECTOR!

Did you know that Professional Impact NJ is interested in your success and continued professional development so much so that they have instituted The Director's Academy? The purpose of the Director's Academy is to provide 60 hours of training in child care and education program administration for directors who are interested in improving competencies. Topics range from planning and evaluation to staff management as well as educational programming including child development.

Who needs to take advantage of The Directors Academy? If you are working as a director in an Abbott-contracted center or the director of a licensed center who has not earned a bachelor's degree and serve more than 30 children.

Thinking about enrolling in The Director's Academy in 2009? The Division of Continuing Education at Bergen Community College is a course provider and will be offering The Director's Academy class beginning in January. For more information call the Office of Continuing Education at 201-447-7488 Monday-Thursday 9:00am -7:00pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS! SAVE THESE DATES



WINTER MEETING

You will want to attend our winter meeting featuring Harriet Isecke, a Bergen County children's author and educational consultant. She will bring us a very interesting and informative presentation on *Early Literacy Instruction in New Zealand, and Its Implications for Enhancing Early Childhood Instruction*

Harriet has shared the following information about the content of the presentation. New Zealand has one of the highest literacy rates in the world because of the emphasis placed on early literacy skills and because of the expectations educators have for student learning and achievement. Harriet will examine some of NZ's best literacy practices and the implications of those practices for transforming early childhood instruction in America. Techniques include small and whole group reading and writing instruction, differentiation strategies, and simple but effective literacy center activities. The presentation will include slides and video of New Zealand's classrooms taken by the speaker, Harriet Isecke, information about child development, and activities and resources that can be used in Pre-K - K classroom.

The winter meeting will be **Wednesday, January 14, 2009** at the David Rukin E.C.C. of the Bergen County YJCC 605 Pascack Road, Township of Washington, NJ 07676 from 6:15 pm - 9:00 pm. See enclosed brochure.

SPRING CONFERENCE

Plans are in progress for a spring workshop conference at Bergen Community College on **Saturday, 18th April, 2009**. The event will be in cooperation with the Bergen Community College, Department of Social Sciences -Early Childhood Education Program and the Bergen County Office for Children.

Look for you brochure with details that will be arriving in early March



Training for the NJ INFANT TODDLER CREDENTIAL

Available now at

PASSAIC COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

One College Boulevard, Paterson, NJ 07505

Enroll now for a 15 credit certificate program that provides training in all eight key indicators required for the NJ Infant Toddler Credential issued by Professional Impact NJ.

Call now: Sr. Jane Feltz -973684-6095, Linda Carter -973684-5913, Anita Kumar -973684-6607

BPAEYC ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

The Accreditation Committee's goal is to help all of our members get as excited about accreditation as we are. We will talk with you, your staff and parents. We will advise you, share our experiences, come to your school and mentor you during the process. We can offer resources that include workshops, brochures and videos.

As always, one of the very best resources for accreditation information is the NAEYC website, www.naeyc.com. The site provides up to the minute details and information about the accreditation process. The Academy has adopted new Accreditation Performance Criteria built on the history of the Association, and on the vision proposed by the Reinvention Commission in 2002. In the last several years, it has undertaken an intensive effort to revise procedures, fee structures and materials. Our committee members have reviewed the revisions in order to become familiar with the new format and updates and provide assistance to those schools that wish to be involved in the process of Accreditation.

Please feel to contact the members:

Suanne DeNunzio 908-563-8701 suanne.denunzio@brighthorizons.com

Barbara Forste 201-387-0000 bkforste@aol.com

Cindy Sobel sobelcmt@optonline.net

We are actively seeking new members and looking forward to our old members taking a more active role in the affiliate activities. You can participate by joining us for our workshops, contributing to the affiliate newsletter, and raising questions and comments that impact our service to children and their families. We also invite you to attend an Executive Board meeting to check out what we do and how we work. There are several committees that you can be a part of: Accreditation, Nominating, Month of the Young Child, Public Policy, literature/Publications, Newsletter, Publicity and Membership. Serving on one of our committees does not require a large amount of time, but will afford you the opportunity to grow with the Association. We really do have lots of fun, and there's nothing like being with friends to make any job easier! Interested persons should contact Donna Hortian (President).

BPAEYC wishes all its members



**Season's Greetings
and a
Happy New Year**



*The Bergen Passaic Association for
the Education of Young Children*



President: Donna Hortian's

E-mail:

dhortian@paramus.k12.nj.us