



ICE CREAM FLOAT...St. Bartholomew School held an ice cream sundae party for the summer reading program. Pictured in the photo are, from the left to right, fifth graders Nicole Conti, Jane Lestarchick and Bridget Pepe.

SPFMBA Congratulates Jeff and Norell Baines

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Scotch Plains Fanwood Music Boosters Association (SPFMBA) congratulated Jeff and Norell Baines of Scotch Plains on being named the Volunteer Couple of the Year for the 2006 Scotch Plains Mayor's Gala, to be held on Friday, December 1, at Shackamaxon Country Club.

The Baines family is being recognized not only for their contributions to the Scotch Plains community, but for their dedication over the last eight years with the SPFMBA.

The music department at the high school said it would not have the parental support that it currently enjoys were it not for Mr. and Mrs. Baines.

"They have given countless hours

of their time and energy to ensure that the students thoroughly enjoy their music experiences at the high school," Kate Reilly, co-president of the SPFMBA, said.



Jeff and Norell Baines

"They are respected by both parents, faculty, students and alumni. Their knowledge of the music program has enabled them to embrace 'new parents' and to sustain the interest of all the students enrolled in music, no matter what their specialty. Every student's high school music experience has been enhanced as a direct result of the Baines' good-natured involvement," she added.

Tickets to the 2006 Mayor's Gala are \$55 each, and can be purchased at the Scotch Plains Recreation Office at the Scotch Plains Town Hall.

Yankee Star Rivera Pitches For Autism Support in WF

WESTFIELD – Last Monday, New York Yankees great Mariano Rivera managed to sign a heap of T-shirts and baseballs during a visit to Rock'n Joe Coffeehouse and Bistro in Westfield.

Mr. Rivera, who is close friends with the coffeehouse owners, Lance and Lisa Marvin of Westfield, visited Rock'n Joe to raise money for the McCarton Foundation for Developmental Disabilities in New York. The organization supports early intervention and educational services for children diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

During the visit, Mr. Rivera signed memorabilia and took photographs with nearly 100 guests who paid an entrance fee to meet the future Hall of Famer. As part of the fundraising effort, participants also donated for a signed baseball or a signed limited-time-only Rock'n Joe T-shirt featuring Mr. Rivera's name and uniform number on the back. A small number of unsigned T-shirts are still available for general sale at the Westfield location.

"It is wonderful to be at this great coffeehouse to raise money for the McCarton Foundation," Mr. Rivera told the crowd. "I am glad that Lance and Lisa invited me to see their new business and that I had the opportunity to help support the foundation."

To help raise money, Mr. Rivera donated a signed jersey he wore during the All-Star Game and a signed baseball mitt with his name and uniform number embroidered into it. Brett Marvin of Purchase, N.Y., Lance's brother, bought the mitt for \$1,000. Brian Steller of Westfield, whose 17-year-old daughter, Caroline, works at Rock'n Joe, bought the jersey for \$500. A total of \$5,500 was raised in 90 minutes.

"Rock'n Joe is really a unique place and is a lot of fun," Mr. Rivera said, as he ate lunch with Lisa Marvin. "I hope to come back here one day soon and take some of my friends."

For more information, visit rocknjoe.net or call the Westfield franchise directly at (908) 232-1660.



OCTOBERFEST...Sharon Bohrer reads to some of the children who attended Holy Trinity Interparochial School's First Annual Octoberfest. The event included hayrides, face painting, pumpkin decorating and games.

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Education Matters

Leiz Highlights Why School Bond is Necessary

By GINNY LEIZ
Chairman, Finance Committee and Vice President,
Westfield Board of Education

Years ago, the Westfield Board of Education was able to keep surplus funds in reserve each year, like a household savings account, to cover scheduled building maintenance and repairs, as well as unanticipated personnel or capital expenses.

The reserve fund averaged between 4 and 5 percent each year. This fund was used for major building construction and also to paint dingy hallways, upgrade lighting, repair roofs and replace boilers. In 1996, the cost of constructing additions onto Jefferson and Wilson schools was fully paid using reserve funds.

So, why can't we use reserve funds to convert Lincoln School into an early childhood learning center, to renovate and expand Roosevelt Intermediate School, to replace windows at Edison Intermediate School?

Recent New Jersey state legislation (Bill S-1701) limits our budget surplus to 2 percent of our operating budget. This means we can no longer 'save' for anticipated future renovations or capital project expenses. We no longer have sufficient reserve funds to pay for anything other than an unanticipated emergency.

For example, we must reserve funds for unexpected mid-year enrollments or placements of special education students requiring specific out-of-district instruction. In 2004-2005, we needed to transfer \$350,000 from our reserve fund for this purpose.

At the end of each budget year, any surplus funds in excess of 2 percent of our operating budget are returned to the taxpayer to reduce the property tax levy.

Constrained by state-imposed budget growth caps, as well as years of enrollment growth, the board has demonstrated fiscal responsibility by

Author to Give Lecture
On Jewish Genealogy

AREA – Genealogist Gary Mokotoff will speak on "Tracing Your Jewish Family Roots" on Sunday, December 3, at 9:45 a.m. at Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah, located at 111 Valley Road in Clark. The lecture will be geared toward anyone interested in Jewish genealogy, especially beginners.

Mr. Mokotoff is the publisher of AVOTAYNU, *The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*; co-author of "Where Once We Walked" and the author of "How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust."

He has lectured at virtually all of the annual international Jewish genealogical conferences, as well as the annual conferences of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society.

A \$5 admission charge includes a light breakfast. Interested individuals are asked to respond to the temple at (732) 381-8403 by Thursday, November 30. Attendees are encouraged to bring a family "artifact" along with an index card describing it for a display table during Mr. Mokotoff's lecture.

NSCS Welcomes MS's Anthony DeRose

MOUNTAINSIDE – Anthony DeRose of MountainSide has accepted membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS). Anthony will be honored during an induction convocation this fall on the campus of Saint Joseph's University.

NSCS is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and is the nation's only interdisciplinary honors organization for first- and second-year college students. Membership is by invitation only, based on grade point average and class standing.

UC Inducts Students Into Honor Society

SCOTCH PLAINS – Union Catholic High School has announced the induction of 64 students into the National Honor Society. The event took place on October 12 in the auditorium.

Locally, Kristin Cassidy and Cynthia Ritter of Scotch Plains, along with Elizabeth Peach and James Trollo of Fanwood, represented the Class of 2008.

Fanwood's Elizabeth Casserly and Megan Dyckman, in addition to Kevin Cassidy of Scotch Plains and Emily De Rosa of Westfield, represented the Class of 2007.

These students have met all the requirements set forth by the National Honor Society.

Girl Scouts to Host Brightwood Cleanup

WESTFIELD – Girl Scout Troop 465 will host an awareness and cleanup day at Brightwood Park in Westfield on Saturday, December 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with help from the Westfield recreation, public works and fire departments. Brightwood Park is a 44-acre area on Prospect Street.

Volunteers of all ages are sought to clean up the park trails. Hot chocolate and water will be available. Work gloves, garbage bags and other cleanup materials will be provided. In the event of inclement weather, the cleanup will be postponed until the spring.

A brief history of Brightwood Park will be provided along with environmental information on respecting nature. For more information, please e-mail tayloranderson@att.net.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Bottom Row Left to Right: Matthew P. Chernidin; Peter J. Chernidin, President; Fred J. Chernidin, CEO; Joseph P. Chernidin, VP; William Ahtel

Top Row Left to Right: Edna Trujillo; Derragh Valk; Diana Ciluffo; Neil Schentre; Emmy Salerno; Steve Goldberg

As you enjoy the holiday, may your lives abound with gratitude, love & prosperity!

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Linda Condrillo for The Westfield Leader and The Times

NEWS YOU CAN USE...Pat Sharwarko, representative of The Star Ledger's Newspapers in Education Program, spoke to parents at the Deerfield School Media Center in MountainSide on how to motivate, educate and engage their children with a newspaper. Also shown are PTA Co-Presidents Carolyn Williams and Donna Klein (far right) and Parent Education Chairperson Marianne Jennings, second to right.

Newspapers in Education Impress MtSide Parents

By LINDA B. CONDRILLO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MOUNTAINSIDE — Can reading the newspaper make kids smarter? Pat Sharwarko, representative of The Star Ledger's Newspapers in Education (NIE) department, certainly thinks so. At a recent parent education night hosted by the MountainSide PTA at the Deerfield Middle School, Ms. Sharwarko identified numerous ways in which parents and teachers can use the newspaper as a learning tool, going well beyond the usual clipping out of current events.

Although her job is primarily to instruct teachers on how to use the newspaper in the classroom, Ms. Sharwarko spoke largely to an audience of parents at the PTA program. She gave tips on how a newspaper can be used in estimating, predicting and even doing math.

Using a Halloween scavenger hunt worksheet, Ms. Sharwarko demonstrated a simple and fun activity, suggesting children search the newspaper for items such as "the scariest news item" or "a picture of something a witch could ride if her broom were broken." She recommended making similar scavenger hunts tailored to any seasonal holiday for a rainy-day pastime.

According to literature available at the meeting, The Star Ledger's NIE program offers teachers the help they need to advance their students' progress and performance at every grade level, and it isn't limited to language arts and reading. Through free supplementary teaching materials, teachers can maximize classroom results in the subjects of mathematics, social studies, geography, science and more, the literature states.

Ms. Sharwarko noted, "Newspapers are essentially letters, numbers, words and pictures. By searching for phrases, proper nouns, odd or even numbers, etc., children can become better students. By participating in these word or number searches, they are reading, skimming and scanning. And if done regularly, they'll be absorbing the news without even knowing it. And kids love the newspaper. If they get a newspaper in the classroom, they are motivated from the get-go."

Since the beginning of the school year, eighth-grade students in Linda Shanahan's Language Arts class at the Deerfield school have been receiving the newspaper each Wednesday. Wednesday is the day, according to Ms. Sharwarko, when there are probably more numbers printed in the newspaper than on any other day of the week, largely due to the abundance of department stores' advertisements and the inclusion of the Savor section, where numerous measurements for ingredients are found.

Mrs. Shanahan told The Westfield Leader, "The program I signed up for is called 'Football Fanfare,' and the idea is to use the newspaper and the game of football to motivate students and reinforce skills in language arts, social studies and mathematics. I was also provided with worksheets that help my students locate information in the newspaper, describe sensory images and paraphrase.

"They also provide opportunities in differentiating fact from opinion, locating supporting details, identifying parts of speech, writing a critique and identifying news tags for a feature story," she added. "It is a wonderful program and the people at The Star Ledger couldn't have been more generous or helpful. After a simple phone call, I was provided with additional material to help with Character Education and training for the GEPA."

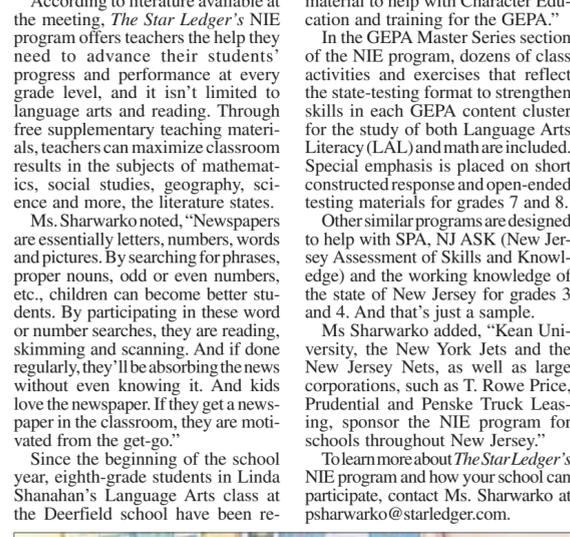
In the GEPA Master Series section of the NIE program, dozens of class activities and exercises that reflect the state-testing format to strengthen skills in each GEPA content cluster for the study of both Language Arts Literacy (LAL) and math are included. Special emphasis is placed on short constructed response and open-ended testing materials for grades 7 and 8.

Other similar programs are designed to help with SPA, NJ ASK (New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge) and the working knowledge of the state of New Jersey for grades 3 and 4. And that's just a sample.

Ms. Sharwarko added, "Kean University, the New York Jets and the New Jersey Nets, as well as large corporations, such as T. Rowe Price, Prudential and Penske Truck Leasing, sponsor the NIE program for schools throughout New Jersey."

To learn more about The Star Ledger's NIE program and how your school can participate, contact Ms. Sharwarko at psharwarko@starledger.com.

MIRACLES OF SCIENCE... From left to right, seventh-grade students Joe Zbikowski, Gabriella Aquino, teacher Kristin Gasser, Alexis Orlofsky, and Shannon Streisel from St. Agnes School in Clark, display their science projects that focused on chemistry elements.



Far Brook

Far Brook is a small, coeducational day school in Short Hills for children from Nursery through the Eighth grade. Since its founding in 1948, Far Brook has offered its students an innovative and challenging academic curriculum in which great music, literature and art are a natural part of each child's daily life.

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