

FOCUS



**ON JERICO
TEACHERS
AND THEIR ISSUES**
October 2007

President's Message for October

Well, we made it through October! Eight to go... I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your generosity to all of the charities that each of

the buildings sponsor on a monthly basis. When I hear the numbers collected, I am just so proud to work with, not only a faculty of distinction, but also human

beings with huge hearts (and a preference for denim?) At press time, we are still awaiting the Board's decision on our extension proposal... We'll keep you informed.

Staff Recognition Honorees

Congratulations to the faculty for all their years of service.

10 Years:

Jacqueline O'Neill
Science Teacher - Seaman

Mandy Brotman
Kindergarten - Cantiague

Susan Burke
Speech Language Pathologist - Jackson

Lois Burn
Speech Language Pathologist - Cantiague

Sean Clarkin
Science Teacher - High School

Brian Cummings
Math Teacher - High School

Kenneth Darr
English Teacher - High School

Marianne Holden-Pappas
Speech Language Pathologist - Seaman

Heidi Kamvakis
Health Teacher - Middle School

Tali Kupferman
Third Grade Teacher - Cantiague

Donna Lynn
Second Grade Teacher - Seaman

Michael Malkush
Technology Teacher - High School

Deborah Marrus
Learning Center Instructor - Jackson

Nancy Martin
First Grade Teacher - Cantiague

Anne McDonough
Social Studies Teacher - Middle School

Joseph Prinzevalli
Math Teacher - Cantiague

Rande Siper
Second Grade - Cantiague

20 Years:

Jeffrey Baum
Special Ed. Facilitator - High School

Frances Eldi
Computer Specialist Teacher - Seaman

Gina Gallagher
Learning Center Instructor - MS
Learning Center

Michael Zarett
Fifth Grade Teacher - Jackson

35 Years:

Catherine Deans
Physical Education Teacher - High
School

Jericho Teachers Association

Maryann Risi
President

Ted Lucher
Middle School VP

Kevin Brodsky
High School VP

Lois Burn
Elementary VP

Fran Rivera
Secretary/Treasurer

Denise Ryder
Focus Editor/WebMistress

www.jerichoteachers.org

FOCUS

is the monthly newsletter of the Jericho Teachers Association. We welcome input, articles, viewpoints, and questions from all members. If there is an issue you would like to see addressed or if you would like to contribute please e-mail Denise Ryder, at ryder@jerichoteachers.org





Benefits Trust Update

Welcome!!! As a result of our last meeting, the Trust feels the need to make the following reminders.

The maximum reimbursement amount is \$500 per calendar year.

DENTAL BENEFITS: Since costs have skyrocketed, you may recall the Benefits Trust had to make serious cut-backs. One of them was the fact that we can no longer cover dependents as part of our dental plan. Only employees receive benefits from the Trust. That equates to 80% of \$1,250 of reasonable and customary charges, and \$500 of orthodonture charges. This does not affect the District coverage. Your dependents are still covered (for 80% of \$1,250 of reasonable and customary charges) under that plan.

VISION CARE: You and your dependents are entitled to one pair of glasses in a 12 month period. If you go to a participating provider, there is no paperwork to file. For a list of participating providers, call Linda in the JTA office at Ext. 3442.

LEGAL PLAN: You and your spouse are entitled to a free simple will every year. There are several other services you are permitted. NYSUT has sent each member a brochure

explaining these services. If you would like another copy, speak with Linda.

FLEX PLAN: Many of you have asked about the FLEX Plan. Please note this has nothing to do with the Trust Fund. All questions should be directed to the District Office. Some suggestions can be made. "The Health Care Reimbursement Plan enables you to elect to direct a portion of your salary to pay for health care expenses not reimbursed by the insurance company. The Dependent Care Reimbursement Plan allows you to redirect a portion of your salary to pay for the care of a child under the age of 13 for whom you claim on your income tax return or for the care of a spouse of other tax dependent that is incapable of caring for him or herself." These plans utilized pre-tax dollars, thereby reducing your taxable salary. As a result of this tax savings, the IRS closely monitors these programs. There are limitations as to the amounts that can be set aside for these purposes. You need to carefully plan for the amount of funds redirected. Look at your previous years' out-of-pocket health care expenses, or child care expenses to help estimate the amount of money you would like to redirect. If you do not use the money set aside you lose it. In other words, this money is forfeited to the district to be used to offset traditional benefit costs and administrative charges!!!!!! The deadline for enrollment is **November 9, 2007** for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2008.

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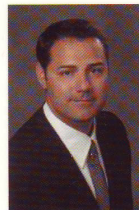
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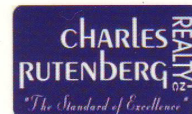
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