



ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

NEW YORK

*Affiliate of the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators
Local 1 - AFSA, AFL-CIO*

AAP NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2008

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Sandy DiTrapani

On Saturday, November 3, 2007, the Association of Assistant Principals celebrated its 65th Educational Conference at the Ramada Hotel at JFK Airport. I chose the word celebrated carefully because it was absolutely the biggest and best conference Assistant Principals have had to date. This year's theme, "Committed to Success," was accentuated by the number of APs in attendance at the conference who participated in the workshops. We offered professional development in the form of practical information, which so many of us are responsible for, due to unilateral mandates set by the DOE, although they provide less and less professional training. We need professional development, especially those new APs who are placed into so many positions with a, "You'll learn as you go," attitude. Let me remind you that many APs are in schools with principals who are also learning as they go themselves.

If the mayor and the chancellor have a vision for leadership they must include all Assistant Principals as part of that vision. We are the ones who implement the programs, administer the exams, train the new teachers, and model lessons. Assistant Principals have their hand on the pulse of the school. Principals would not be able to do their jobs effectively without the support of their Assistant Principals nor would we, without their support. Running a successful school is truly a collaborative effort, and those who know how a school really functions understand this.

What made this conference such a huge success was not only the tireless effort of its planning committee, but also the number of APs who saw this as an opportunity to represent themselves and show unity among its members. As I stated earlier, many came out for the workshops, but almost all came to hear our keynote speaker, Dominic Carter, the Host of NY 1's "Inside City Hall." He spoke about his struggles as a child and young man, and how it was school teachers and Assistant Principals who refused to give up on him. More importantly, they would not allow him to give up on himself. Perhaps the

(continued on page 3)

GENERAL MEETING DATE

May 12, 2008

All members are invited to attend our general meetings, but if you plan to attend you must email Juanita Johnson at Jjohnso@schools.nyc.gov.

Save the Date - Saturday, October 18, 2008

AAP Conference at the Ramada JFK Hotel

Assistant Principals Paving the Way

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Workshops – Publishers' Exhibit - Luncheon

An opportunity to network with other assistant principals and administrators.

MINI GRANT WINNERS

Virginia Guido, AP

P.S. 8 R

Project: The American Girl Library Club

Creation of an American Girl Library Club will promote an awareness of Social Studies through readings about characters of historical eras. The characters chosen will be those whom girls could identify with today. After studying the problems, challenges and other obstacles that the characters faced, historical concepts can be internalized. The intent of this project would be to close the gender achievement gap in the New York Social Studies Test results.

Ida Rowe, AP

P.S. 201 Q

Project: Discovering Verbal Pragmatics as a Force to Develop Life Long Social Communication Skills

Based on observations of how children relate to one another in social venues, this project focuses on verbal pragmatics (acts as a vehicle to enable children to use language in their interactions with others.) Pragmatics refers to interaction – how language is used in the classroom, from asking questions to giving opinions. It is recognized that there is a need for children to learn how to think and talk about the information they are learning. The resource chosen for this project is entitled, *Fairy Tales on Trial* by Janis Silverman. Its format is designed to build character education.

Joanne Majewski, AP

P.S. 159 Q

(Michele Gold, Teacher)

Project: Simply Super Machines

The students will design and create working compound machines based on the work of Rube Goldberg. The students will research six basic simple machines (pulley, wheel, and axle, incline plane, lever, wedge and screw) and incorporate at least three in their design. The topic of simple machines is in the new third grade Science Curriculum and is a fun way to teach this physical science topic. Funds will be used to purchase materials to construct the machines as well as literature and computer software, which address various learning styles.

Debra Azzato, AP

P.S. 99 Q

Project: In Pursuit of Educational Fun

The target population of this project is housed in the annex building. Due to the configuration of the school annex building, the K-2 students have no access to a play area at lunchtime. They must remain at their lunch tables throughout the entire lunchtime. The goal of this project is to provide activities for learning through games for K-2. Games chosen will reinforce word recognition, math facts, critical thinking skills, language and social skills. After the students are trained in the proper use of these educational games, it is hoped that there will be an observed improvement in the students' academic performance and social skills.

MARTIN SAFRAN CITIZENSHIP AWARD

At the AAP's annual dinner on June 11, 2007 at the Marco Polo Restaurant in Brooklyn, fifteen students from our five boroughs received the *Martin Safran Awards for Citizenship and Leadership*. These students who give of themselves to their school and/or community were awarded \$100 savings bonds and plaques. The guests included the student's parents, the nominating assistant principal, and members of the AAP and CSA Executive Boards, as well as Marty Markowitz, the Brooklyn Borough President.

**Students and their Nominated Assistant Principal
Bronx**

Jazmin MooreJoyce Wolf, AP, P.S. 72 X
Jahna RomanoRaquel Quesada, AP, P.S. 71 X

Brooklyn

Charlene EvansLorenzo Soleyn, AP,
P.S./I.S. 178 K
Becky GanleyJulie O'Connell, AP, I.S. 278
Angela Fronda.....Janis Grieco, AP, Seth Low J.H.S
Omika JikariJoyce Chung, AP, Mark Twain
I.S. 239
Vivian LuStephanie Fanizzi, AP, P.S. 153 K
Asia RiccLeonard Santamaria, AP,
Secondary School for Law
Kyra Zimmerman.....Gail Rosenberg, AP, M.S. 51

Manhattan

Jimmy Black.....Juanita Johnson, AP, P.S. 197 M

Queens

Mushfi Chowdhury.....Teresa Perez, AP, P.S. 35 Q
Sadé GibbonsDeborah Roney, AP, P.S. 52 Q
Casey Rein Lipton.....Elayne Federman, AP, P.S. 144 Q
Jillian Sutera.....D. Azzato, AP & N. Sforza, AP,
PS 99Q

Staten Island

Alexandra AvarinoJohn Grassadonio, AP,
M. S. Barnes I.S. 24

AAP Members

Check our website for applications:

www.aapny.org

Mini Grant Awards – June 15th

Martin Safran Awards – April 15th

The Stewart Weiner College Scholarship – May 1st

most important part of his message was to challenge the wits of our students. They will grow up some day and many will get the message later rather than sooner, and their full potential will be realized as adults. We all know people who became successful later on in life even though we would never have expected it growing up. Those people either had someone who believed in them, or a break, or just good fortune, but they made it. We can and should remain the force guiding and moving children forward. They can be successful if we keep working with them, and believing in them. Confidence is contagious.

I must begin by thanking John Oricchio, our treasurer and vendor chairman. Not only has he developed a great relationship with all our vendors, but through his efforts we can rely on many to support us when we need their help. I would like to thank Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, Apple Computer and Epson America, Inc. for sponsoring our conference, and I also would like to thank all our vendors for helping to make our conference a great success. Just a reminder: Support those that support you!

To Debra Azzato, Lucie Elio, Eugenia Ellsworth, Ariana Eng, Lorraine Wan Eng, Janice Greico, Joe Henry, Juanita Johnson, Bob Kingsley, Patricia Mack, Toni Peterson, Eva Proctor, Nick Sforza, Emerson Spry and to all those who helped us during the conference, we thank you!

I need to also thank Willie Mae Lewis for her heart warming and uplifting rendition of "God Bless America" and "The Star Spangled Banner." Your performance was truly uplifting and added a special tone to our day. Thank you!

To our workshop presenters, Doug Hathaway, CSA Welfare Fund administrator, for sharing so much valuable information with our new Assistant Principals, and to Herman Merit from SSP for your workshop on Data that was so well received. You are both are a wealth of information for our members. Thank you!

To our honored guests, Judith Chin CEO of the ISC-LSO, Ernie Logan CSA president, Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President and our own Edith Koenig Soto, past Coordinator of CSA/SSP. In spite of your busy schedule, you still found the time to honor us and to show all Assistant Principals that you value what we do day in and day out. If we stay united and show support for each other we can, and will, weather the storm which has been beset upon us in the form of constant uncertainty and confusion. Change is good but change must have input from all parties

concerned, not e-mails that contradict themselves, and directives rooted in unprepared and unclear directives. We are undaunted in our professionalism and love of the children whose lives we touch each and every day. Our spirits are strong because we know the value of the work we perform day in and day out. It is due to these reasons that we announce each year that we are "Reporting for Duty," which was our 2006 conference theme.

On a final note, we hope to see all of you next year at our annual conference (October 18th). Remember our strength is in our numbers and knowing that we work to help each child reach his or her potential. Have a terrific year.

MINI GRANT WINNERS

Three graduating students, children of our members, received at our annual dinner the *Stewart Weiner Scholarships* for \$1000.00 each. The occasion helped us honor some richly deserving students:

Catherine Nora Dominguez

Daughter of Patricia Sabater-Dominguez, AP, P.S.219 K

Robert Salorio

Son of Esther Salorio, AP, PS 143 Louis Armstrong

Celeste Elizabeth Wilson

Daughter of Ernest Wilson, AP, Eagle School

The Association of Assistant Principals expresses its appreciation to Glencoe-McGraw Hill for sponsoring the conference breakfast, and its thanks to Apple Computer and Epson America, Inc. for sponsoring the luncheon.

ELI - Executive Leadership Institute

The Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) offers intensive professional development for current school leaders to strengthen their ability to fulfill their responsibilities as instructional leaders. Programs that take place in Educational Leadership Centers include:

- SBISI - School-Based Intermediate Supervisors Institute (newly assigned Assistant Principals, Supervisors and Administrators)
- Advanced Leadership Program for Assistant Principals
- Leaders On-Line
- Leadership Essentials for Day Care Directors
- Education Administrators Workshop Series
- Urban School Leadership

Also offered are comprehensive single topic workshops.

SSP Supervisory Support Program

The SSP's goal is to help supervisors meet their performance standards. The work of the program focuses on assisting supervisors to:

- Enhance and upgrade their supervisory skills to improve instruction
- Reach and maintain high levels of effective leadership
- Improve and develop professional development techniques
- Develop planning and performance strategies
- Provide a stable and safe environment, conducive to academic and professional growth.

For updated listings of workshops and further information about ELI and SSP check the CSA website: www.csa-nyc.org

The Association of Assistant Principals would like to thank all the vendors for their support and encouragement.

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