Let's start with the lie. Lie: All concerns raised by both teachers and parents have been fixed.

Not all issues have been remedied especially concerns about stress and anxiety that these tests put on many children. This last administration was stressful for many. The computer based testing caused undue stress since the system was not working on the initial testing day and students had to be put through an additional day for testing.

Here’s a truth. Truth: Statistics from state data show while many students have not scored proficient on the 3-8 state tests, a majority of the same cohort end up passing the regents exams. This seems to demonstrate that there is a disparity between these two types of exams. The question being; Why would students be successful on state regents exams but be so unsuccessful on the 3-8 state tests?

Truth: In order for these tests to have a level of success, educators must be more involved in test creation. This should include writing test questions and setting benchmarks. All tests should be reviewed by teachers before they are both distributed and administered.

Yet another truth. Truth: NYSUT has launched a campaign at CorrectTheTests.com. NYSUT has started this campaign to address issues with the state testing. Check it out today. Stay on top of this important matter and voice your concerns, TODAY!

Remember to check out www.nysut.org for news and updates!

NYSUT is 600,000 members strong, giving members a voice and the ability to fight for fair salaries, stronger pensions and better health care.

We're working to roll back misguided state testing requirements and to advocate for the fair treatment of all our members. By working together, we can keep our union strong.
Recently one of our very own, Aimee Volk was honored at an Islander game. The Islanders have a program where teachers are nominated by peers, students or parents as outstanding teachers.

Aimee enjoyed the game with her family and then was brought down to the ice to be honored. Aimee along with 10 other teachers from the island were honored.

After the event, Aimee is still wondering who nominated her for the award since you can submit names anonymously. No matter what, it is exciting to be a part of this event. Congratulations Aimee! It is wonderful that you were recognized and the BTA is proud of you!

School libraries are no longer a place to just hear a story and select a book, and they haven’t been for some time now. South Country School librarians have been teaching crucial technology skills that will help prepare students for the 21st Century workplace. In addition to lessons in research, students are learning basic coding skills and are inventing and creating in Makerspace labs.

At Verne W Critz elementary school, students are afforded the opportunity for hands-on activities that require critical thinking skills, problem solving and collaborative team work. Verne W. Critz Librarian, Ms. Lynn Cullen along with the support of Principal, Mrs. Mandy Mazziotti, have furnished the library with engaging products such as Clix, Brix, K’nex, Keva, Squigz, IO blocks and will soon introduce modular robotics, Cublets.

Submitted by, Lynn Cullen

“Creativity is contagious, pass it on”

— Albert Einstein

Pictured here are second grade students collaborating to design an incline plane that will allow a ball to travel without falling off course using Keva wood planks.
Mrs. McCarthy’s class recently took their mathematics lesson to the new STEAM lab at Kreamer! While working in groups, students had to work together to solve real-world mathematics problems. This involved them having multiple conversations about the problem and teamwork to come up with a plan on how to best execute it. The best part was that the students got to write directly on the dry-erase tables!

Submitted by Jolene McCarthy

Play is the highest form of research.

-Albert Einstein

Five children from Mrs. Pettit, Mrs. Satterley & Mrs. Smith’s class traveled to Mr. Pettit’s 3rd grade class on Thursday March 21st. They all went wearing matching shirts with their group name “Journal Squad”. They went there to spread the love for a new book journaling technique that they have been using all year.

After they explained when and why they journal and the benefits of this strategy on our everyday learning, they distributed handmade journals to the third graders so they can try too! It was an awesome experience for all!

Submitted by, Mary Pettit

What a comfort is this journal. I tell myself to myself and throw the burden on my book and feel relieved.

-anne lister
Letter from the Editor

Dear Loyal BTA Members,

Happy Spring! Wishing you a warm spring filled with good times!

Please remember to share good news such as new marriages, births and any other piece of good news. Don’t forget that we love to showcase the great things going on in our district. Our teachers do so much and we’d love to celebrate all these things. Share your good news and the happenings around the district to stephpirozzi@gmail.com so it can be shared through our newsletter. Don’t forget Letters to the Editor are always welcome.

Yours in Unity, Stephanie Pirozzi

Save the Date

BTA Retirement Party

May 30th at the Mediterranean Manor
Cost $40. Checks can be sent to Teri Palermo at Frank Long made out to ‘Bellport Teachers Association’.

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

As a faithful educator, I am upset about the constant bad press that our schools receive. Personally, I am among many fine educators who are doing everything to make the year great for their students. We need to find more ways to get the good news out. Thank you!!

Who’s Who in the BTA

Officers:

President: Wayne White
1st Vice-President: Pat Brady
2nd Vice-President: Trish Gallina
Treasurer: Don O’Hanlon
Recording Secretary: Christine Napolitano
Corresponding Secretary: Judi Lindo
NYSUT/Legislative Delegate: Joe Tortora
NYSUT/ED Delegate: Erika Watson

Building Representatives:

High School
Matt Feddern (Senior Rep)
Jayne Johnsen-Seeberger
Alan Kupferman
Adrienne Fernandes
John Romashko
Dennis Pluth

Middle School
Matt Kinigson (Senior Rep)
Ann Metz
Heidi Devito
Jason Burmeister
Jeannine Madrigales
Frank P. Long
Cari Negri (Senior Rep)
Toni Giresi
Jill Carrabus
Jennifer Andreopoulos
Corinne Figueroa
Sue Hartmann

High School
Bill Freda
Shannon Kulick
Brookhaven
Jean Gray (Senior Rep)
Annemarie O’Sullivan
Kreamer Street
Alissa Walters (Senior Rep)

High School
Bill Pettit (Senior Rep)
Bill Champlin
Jennifer Andreopoulos
Chief Negotiator: Matt Feddern
Grievance: Sue Hartmann
Ed Problems: Christine Schlosser, Jill Carrabus
Public Relations: Camille Masem
Beacon Newsletter: Stephanie Pirozzi
APPR: Daria Hagemeyer, Nicole Casserly, Aimee Volk
Budget: Don O’Hanlon
Community Relations: Jeannine Madrigales
Elections: Jessica Prush