

# THE SEPTA EXPRESS

Get on board with the  
Brick Township  
Special Education PTA



## IT HAS BEEN ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR BRICK SEPTA!

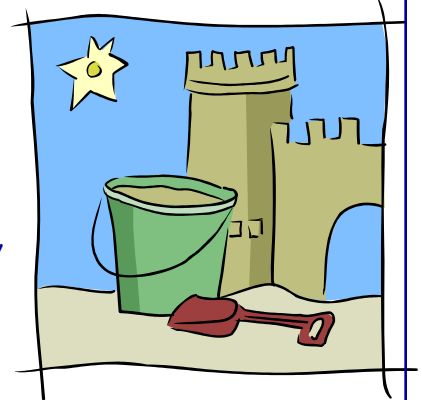
Inside this issue, we highlight our *guest speakers, recent special events and award winning students*. As the Summer approaches, we'd like to thank our members, families and friends for their generosity, dedication and hard work throughout the year. We are proud serve the *Special Education Community of Brick Township* and we look forward to seeing you next Fall.

~ Nicole Barresi/Editor

## ARE YOU READY FOR THE SUMMER?

Contributed by MARY TARA WURMSER

**TRAVEL TIPS:** Whether you are hitting the roads or the skies, Be safe! Allow for downtime and breaks! Bring a *child ID* with you. Consider using an ID bracelet for non-verbal children. Tip: take a picture of your child each day using your cell phone or digital camera so you have a record of what they are wearing - it can be hard to remember these things under stressful situations.



**OUTDOOR SAFETY:** To avoid heat stress and damage from the sun's harmful rays, cover up with a hat & sunglasses. Stay hydrated - drink lots of water. Always use sunscreen before you go out and re-apply frequently. Also, check for ticks daily.

**WATER SAFETY:** Did you know that drowning is a leading cause of death for children with Autism and other developmental disabilities?

### BRICK CHALLENGER SWIM LESSONS:

Ages 5 -12. Price \$85.00/per Session.

1st Session - July 5-7-9-12-14-16 from 3-4pm

2nd Session - July 19-21-23-26-28 from 3-4pm

\*Space is limited. For more information please call Brick Recreation at (732) 262-1075.

### OCEAN COUNTY YMCA:

Offers pool time for the special needs community every Monday and Friday from 11:30-12:30. To make an appointment to have your child evaluated for the program please call (732)341-9622 ext: 2216.

\*For more information visit: [www.ocymca.org](http://www.ocymca.org)

### HELPFUL WEBSITES:

American Academy of Pediatrics Summer safety tips: <http://www.aap.org/advocacyreleasessummertips.cfm>

Autism & Airport Travel Safety Tips: <http://www.sath.org/index.php?sec=768&id=2371>

Children's safety items: <http://www.mypreciouskid.com/>

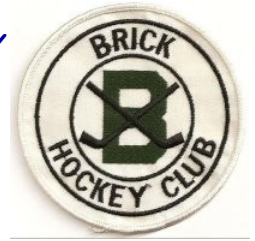
Visit our website at [www.bricksepta.org](http://www.bricksepta.org) for SEPTA news & events.

# SEPTA THANKS OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

BRICK SEPTA began our year with our annual *Meet and Greet* in October. In attendance were **Gary Weitzen** of POAC and **Coach Alex DePalma** of the Brick Hockey Club.



A special thank you to officers **Ken Austin** and **Jim Kohout** from the *Ocean County Sherriff's Department, K9 Unit* who spoke at our January meeting about PROJECT LIFESAVER INTERNATIONAL. This service helps provide rapid response to save lives and reduce potential for serious injury for adults and children who wander due to *Alzheimer's, Autism, Down Syndrome, and other related disorders*. Under the program, children are fitted with a wristband tracking device. If a child is missing, police are able to use a locating device to assist in recovery.



To enroll your child, please call the *Ocean County Sherriff's Department* at (732) 929-2044. For more info visit: [www.projectlifesaver.org](http://www.projectlifesaver.org).



In February, SEPTA was honored to present **Louise Kuo Habakus MA HPP** of Life Health Choices for her informative presentation of *"Parenting for Wellness."* Topics included issues concerning the present health of our children and community such as: Nutrition, Vaccine Safety and Choice, Flu Season options and Advocacy. For more information about this organization, visit [www.lifehealthchoices.com](http://www.lifehealthchoices.com).



Thanks again to Ms. Habakus and all who attended.

## SPOTLIGHT: Brick Stars Challenger Hockey

Contributed by: **Dina Crepaldi**



In September 2009 the **Brick Hockey Club** created "THE BRICK STARS," a challenger hockey program for special needs children ranging from ages 5 through 17 who have Down syndrome, Autism or other developmental delays that would prevent them from being able to play in any other existing organization. The head coach of the program is **Alex J. De Palma, District Director of USA Hockey**.

Every Sunday morning, coaches, proud parents and volunteers came out the **OCEAN ICE PALACE** to teach and cheer on these exceptional athletes. *The program is*

*one of only three of its kind in the entire State of New Jersey.*

The program started with only 8 players in September but finished their first season this past March with more than 25 players. The **BRICK STARS** Second Season will be a 21 week program starting in September 2010 thru February 2011. Exact dates to be announced.

For more information, please contact **Coach Alex De Palma** at: [alexdepalma@comcast.net](mailto:alexdepalma@comcast.net)

## AND THE WINNER IS...

**BRICK SEPTA** is proud to announce the recipients of our annual scholarship awards. At the end of each school year, **BRICK SEPTA** presents one special education graduating senior from each of Brick Township's High Schools with a scholarship to further his or her education. *This years winners are:*



**MELISSA CATERINO - BTHS**  
**AMANDA JAKUB - BMHS**

Scholarships in the amount of **\$750** were presented to each of our scholars at their school's Senior Awards assemblies earlier this month. Both students plan to attend **Ocean County College** this fall.

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Congratulations to **ALEX WURMSER**, a talented young artist who created SEPTA's official entry to the *Ocean County Council PTA's Child Protection and Safety Committee's Anti-bullying Poster Contest!*

Alex's poster won **First Place** out of dozens of submissions from children (most without special needs) across Ocean County. **BRICK SEPTA** is proud that one of our own *special* kids was chosen for this award. Alex is a student at **VMES** and is the son of **SEPTA's Mary Tara Wurmser**. Way to go Alex!



## CONGRATULATIONS

*to our New SEPTA Executive Board Officers 2010/2011*

President: **MARY TARA WURMSER**  
1st Vice President: **BRENDA CALDERONE**  
2nd Vice President: **DINA CREPALDI**  
Treasurer: **JANET BIXENMAN**  
Recording Secretary: **NICOLE BARRESI**

*Thank you to everyone who came out to vote at our  
General Election Meeting on May 24th!*



# SEPTA SPECIAL EVENTS



BRICK SEPTA would like to thank everyone who attended our Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at the *Brick Primary Learning Center* in January. Dinner included pasta, sauce, meatballs, salad, beverages and dessert. This event would not have been possible without the help of SEPTA's Tim Doyle (top right). Tim would like to thank *Chef Dan Palsi and the Culinary Staff of the Manasquan River Golf Club* for their help with food preparation. A special Thank You to all our members, friends and families who did their part to make this event such a success!



Thank you to all who attended BRICK SEPTA's Easter Egg Hunt in March at *Windward Beach*. Although the weather was less than Spring-like, a great time was had by all! Thanks to our Special Guests: **Petals the Clown** and **The Easter Bunny**!



Thanks to all for making this a such a memorable year for  
**BRICK SEPTA.**

**Have a safe and happy Summer!!!!**

