

Wendi Klein

Wendi has spent her entire life in Long Beach. After graduating from the Long Beach Schools, Wendi attended New Mexico University and Queens College. She also has a Masters in Education from Adelphi University, as well as 100 hours of professional development from other institutions and a Professional Diploma in Administration from C.W. Post.

Wendi began working as a substitute teacher at the MS in 1975. That same year her daughter Jennifer was born, followed a year and a half later, by her son Philip. During the next few years, Wendi taught at the Yeshiva in Far Rockaway. In 1980 Wendi became a full-time teacher at the MS. As a teacher, she started the health program in the elementary and MS, was a Team Leader and V.P. of the CTA, and a member of the negotiating team. She was also the 7th grade advisor, developing activities such as the annual Boston Trip, Color Wars, the end of the year picnic and the movie trip. In 1990 Wendi became Chair of the Science Dept. at the MS and later the Health Department as well. For five years Wendi served as the Science Dept. Chair for both the HS and the MS and then returned as Chair of the MS Science Dept. in 1996. For the past 16 years, Wendi has served as the President and Chief negotiator of ASPPG. Under Wendi's mentoring, many staff members launched their successful teaching careers and many former students have returned to become valued members of the LB teaching staff. Throughout her years she has introduced numerous programs to help the Science dept. including weekly "Science Times" articles to build a better understanding of the world of science, weekly science vocabulary aimed at increasing student understanding of the science terms (many of which are often used on SAT exams), and the use of authentic assessments such as end of the year portfolios for students. In addition, Wendi has worked as an adjunct professor at Nassau for more than 25 years.

Ask any student what they remember most about their years in the MS, and they will say it was the many activities and trips that Mrs. Klein developed and arranged for them. Spending countless hours preparing the Boston trip, movie trip, Color War, the end of the year picnic, etc., Wendi found the perfect way to foster character building, enhance the curriculum and encourage students to become life-long learners.

The most important people in Wendi's life are her family. She has spent the past few years traveling between two homes in LB and Fla. and making frequent trips to Michigan. Wendi has been married for 35 years to her husband Richard, a retiree of the Long Beach School District. Wendi and Richie have been blessed with wonderful children - Jennifer and her husband Scott, and Philip and his wife Shayna, and 5 beautiful grandchildren - Jude, Brooke, Kyle, Abby, and Elle. She also had the pleasure of teaching along side Richard, her sister Joyce, who is the chair of the MS Social Studies Dept. and her best friend, Mike Wernow.

Wendi has always been a child advocate and a strong supporter of PTA. Although her career as a teacher/administrator in Long Beach is ending she will continue to give back to the community to ensure that the children of Long Beach get the best possible education. She is excited at the idea of seeing education from another perspective in the future.

Welcome to Our Annual Retirement Celebration



We, the Long Beach Classroom Teachers, gather today to honor this year's retirees. Their years of experience working with our children has made our district and union strong. We will never be able to replace them. We can only hope to bring in new teachers eager to learn and to grow, with hopes and aspirations that will bring them to the levels reached by this year's retirees.

This year I too am one of the retirees. As President, I would like to wish my fellow retirees the best that life has to offer as they leave the district to fulfill their dreams. With sadness, let me say they will be sorely missed, but let us rejoice for their new beginnings.

On behalf of the LBCTA, I wish my fellow retirees a happy and healthy retirement. We all know they deserve nothing less.

"Thank you" for allowing me the privilege of being your President.

*Sincerely,
Frank Volpe*

ASPPG

Administrative, Supervisory and Pupil Personnel
Group

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly we come around to this point every year - the celebration of a colleague's career with us in Long Beach and the well wishes for their retirement. For the last 16 years, I have had the pleasure of standing before you, to share those thoughts and wishes. Tonight, however, is very different, a little bittersweet perhaps, because it is my valedictory... the last time I will have the pleasure and distinct privilege to share my year end thoughts and extend best wishes to you as an administrator and union president. Both Frank Volpe and I will be retiring this year and saying farewell to all, as some of you here are also doing. We recall fond memories and reflect on the professional experiences of a lifetime.

That experience is one to cherish and provide enormous satisfaction and pride. We pride ourselves in a job well-done. We have chosen, as teachers/administrators, to accept a sacred trust. We were entrusted with the intellectual and often emotional lives of this community's children. How impressionable they were at the start. How vulnerable. How impressionable and vulnerable, though slightly less, they continue to be as we pass them on because the road they travel to mature, full, decent, informed citizens is still one they travel. We can take great joy in knowing that we have started them along this path - a path of leaning, scholarship, inquiry and discovery that has no end because these endeavors are life-long, if we have done our job well. I know many of you here and can safely say that our children have been well prepared for their journey of discovery and life-long learning.

So, I say with both sadness and joy, very best wishes to all of you and heartfelt thanks for a job well done.

*Fondly,
Wendi Klein*

Frank Volpe

A Man of Valor

After a lifetime of battling math apathy and promoting math excellence, the mighty masked avenger retires. "Mathman" will no longer be roaming the halls of LBHS convincing kids that "Math is Fun".

In his ordinary life as a mild mannered math teacher, Frank was not satisfied with just imparting wisdom, he also crusaded against injustice wherever it was to be found. Fighting injustice led him to the teacher's union. Here was his chance to go beyond the classroom and fight for the rights of teachers. Frank wasn't always President of the CTA; it just seems that way especially to his wife and son. He rose through the ranks starting as Senior Bldg. Rep of the HS, advancing to Executive Vice President/Chief Negotiator under Joe Caruso and finally becoming President in 1984. Frank performed miracles in office. As Chief Negotiator, he brought our contract up to number one. Not many of us remember that we were almost at the bottom of the pile. We ranked 54 out of 56 school districts in Nassau County. We were proud to teach in LB, a place that valued its teachers. Frank literally dedicated his life to "his teachers". He never turned anyone away who needed his help, be it a student, teacher, a President from another district, or a neighbor. He would take frantic phone calls at seven in the morning, calls all day at school and calls at night and on weekends. Frank would never let you down. He is a man of integrity, honest to a fault, compassionate to everyone who crosses his path and a man of great humility. Frank is revered by his colleagues, loved by his students and respected by the community. He puts everyone before himself. He was always the last one left at school at the end of the day and always brought "his teachers" and students home with him. "The Head" always knew his son would reach great heights and he was always right.

After 38 years, it is with a heavy heart that "Mathman" has decided to hang up his cape. He has passed on his "two point questions" to his esteemed colleagues, taken his pencils off of both his ears, retired his pocket protector and turned in his scientific calculator. He may be gone, but he will not be forgotten. The legend will live on.

Farewell "Mathman". May your retirement be stress free, long and happy. You deserve it. You will be missed. Up, up and away!

Ellen Sedlik

Ellen had an auspicious start in the LBCSD as a highly competent kindergarten student at East School. Nurtured by many fine educators, the teaching seed was planted at an early age. Once the roots were firmly set in college, she never looked back. Ellen has taught full-time at the MS for 31 exceptional and rewarding years.

Ellen received her BA in elem. ed. at SUNY Stony Brook where she graduated with honors and returned to LB as a substitute teacher. She was quickly caught up by the allure of the MS and proceeded to obtain her MA in secondary ed. with an English certification from Adelphi. In 1999, Ellen earned her administration certification from the College of New Rochelle. She has been the Chair of the English Dept. since 2004.

While subbing in the MS, Ellen's relationship with Richard blossomed and the following year, her first year teaching full-time, they married. Over the years, they raised two bright and beautiful daughters, Samantha and Alexandra. Although for a time, the Sedliks moved out of town, they have returned to the magnetism of the sun and surf that defines LB.

From the onset of her career, Ellen has been a most accomplished and professional educator guiding not only her students but, as years passed, mentoring her young colleagues as well. Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage." Utilizing her background and love of theatre arts and Broadway, the classroom has been the stage of all of her daily productions where she has brought to life great works of literature and characters with dramatic readings of prose and poetry presented in her most inimitable way. To this day, students in all 8th grade teams have come to appreciate Mrs. Sedlik's renditions of the short stories and novels she recorded. Long before multiple intelligences became an educational trend, Ellen tapped into the creative aspects of her students; music, movement, and art were a great part of her "come-alive classroom". In 1992, Ellen was recognized as a Teacher of Excellence by the NYS English Council.

In her retirement, Ellen will simply be moving to a new theatre for Act II. Productions will continue at Nassau Community where she has already begun teaching and motivating students in basic English and inspiring a love for reading and writing. In addition, Ellen intends to spend quality time with her family and friends and the many hobbies which have been waiting in the wings. She enjoys the great outdoors for biking, walking, golfing, boating, and fishing while the beach provides the best location for reading. Ellen is looking forward to traveling with her husband and friends to some exotic locales when she is not busy enjoying the Florida sunshine where she and Richie plan to spend their winters.

Ellen has been the personification of professionalism and dedication to her craft, to her students, to her department, and to the MS, and she will be greatly missed. As she takes her final bow, the MS family wishes her well in all the acts which are to follow.

Bruce Schneider

Bruce has been an “icon” in the school district for 37 years. He is one of the most beloved teachers with students as well as his peers. His wonderful sense of humor and kind heart have impacted every child he has ever taught. Throughout the years, it was not unusual to see Bruce roam the halls disguised as Mr. Rogers. As the years passed he changed his look and now believes he is an Einstein look-a-like. He even named his dog after the famous scientist.

Bruce grew up in Queens attending the NYC public schools where he developed his unique style. After graduating from HS in 1967 he received his teaching degree from Adelphi in elementary ed and special ed. He married his lovely wife Sandy and together they raised two beautiful daughters, Nadyne and Marcy. Bruce is lucky to have added to his clan two fabulous son-in-laws, Billy and Adonis and a granddaughter Savannah who is the love of his life.

Bruce began his teaching career in LB in 1972 as a substitute special ed teacher. He became a permanent fixture at Lindell where he taught 5th and 6th grade multi-age. It was here he became a science specialist. The students will always remember his exploding volcanoes. When the 6th grade moved to the MS he broadened his horizons. Suddenly he found himself an integral part of the Frost Valley experience. Everyone wanted to be in his cabin or activity group. No one could tell scary stories like Bruce! The students also showed their love for him at the annual science fair. They clamored for Bruce to be their judge. He always made jokes with the students which helped relieve their stress.

Bruce is the MS social director. He always arranged outings for the teachers to see the Mets play. He will be remembered for organizing our “pool” parties. An avid bowler, he tried to recruit fellow staff members to bowl in his league. Aside from these fun activities he directed and performed with the infamous “Singing Raisins”.

Bruce’s door is always open as is his heart. We will be forever grateful for his love, devotion and friendship. The MS family will miss his warm smile and cheerful personality. We wish him continued happiness, health and contentment in his retirement and his future.

Marie Bove

Marie has been teaching children for thirty-four years, twenty-three of those years were spent right here in the Long Beach School District. In 1986, Marie joined our school district as a Long Beach High School Math Teacher. She started her elementary career split between East School and Lido School in 1992. In 1993, she became part of the Lido Elementary School family as the full-time Title 1 Math Teacher. Marie has specialized in math remediation working with students to help them achieve success. She also taught staff members many innovative strategies to help make math fun in the classroom.

Marie’s family is part of the Long Beach community and School District. Marie and her husband Al Doerbecker, raised four children David (27), Alicia (25), Kurt (20) and Albert (15). They will continue to reside in the Long Beach community enjoying the beach, kayaking and the baseball fields. They will also have more free time to spend on the mountain skiing.

Who will be there to give the morning greeting to the children as they exit the buses? We know she will miss wearing her rain gear and galoshes. We all enjoyed her informative and exciting in-service classes. She helped us to learn to love math. The Lido School halls will not be the same without Marie’s beautiful, long, red hair.

Even though Marie is retiring, she would like to continue her involvement in education through staff development. Be careful, she may surprise us and return to the district to check up on our Math skills! We wish Marie the best of luck in all her endeavors and know she will enjoy her retirement. We will miss her!

Kenneth Gutwein

Ken has taught for over 37 years, and has enjoyed every year at LBHS since 1976. He has enthralled his students with stories of his exploits on archaeological "digs" in the Middle East and often made them chuckle with his wry humor they call "Gutweinisms!" After a short stint in the Middle School, he joined the HS faculty and developed new courses in Advanced Placement European History and Archaeology, which he fondly named "Stones and Bones."

Ken grew up in Long Beach and attended the Hebrew Institute of Long Island where he developed an interest in history and Judaism. He continued his education at Adelphi receiving his BA in 1968. After receiving a full scholarship to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, he was off to Israel to complete his M.A. in Archaeology, while working on an excavation at Tell Dan. Returning to the States, he entered the doctoral program at NYU where he earned his Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures in 1980. In the interim he found time to marry and raise two great sons. Adam is a dental student at the University of Florida and is to be married this June to his lovely fiancée, Victoria. Evan lives in Miami and is a practicing maritime attorney with a Florida law firm. Ken is justifiably proud of both of them.

Ken has been a frequently published author. His noted book "Third Palestine" is now in its second edition, describing the ancient towns and cities of the Negev Desert of Israel. A recent issue of the Australian magazine "Diggings" published his article on the ancient city of Subeita (Shivta) which he helped excavate. In fact, his students often joke that he can "dig it." He has even taken them on field excavations to the Nike School which was a missile base from the 1950's to the 1970's.

When not involved in archaeological excavation or publication Ken can be seen riding his motorcycle or racing his sports car. He loves to travel with his beloved wife, Renee, who is the CEO of her own business "RPromotions". In the future, Ken and his wife plan to spend more time together, enjoying their families and grandson, Jake. Ken looks forward to continue his teaching at SUNY colleges on Long Island. It is a new beginning, an ACT II, which Ken looks forward to in retirement.

Cynthia Palmer

Cynthia has been an integral part of the Long Beach community since her days in kindergarten. A graduate of Central School and Long Beach High School, she can be heard singing the Central School Song as she passes it's old location.

Cynthia has been a teacher in Long Beach for 31 years. She has taught every grade from 7-12, Freshman Social Studies to AP History and served as full time dean for the past 5 year. She is a master teacher dedicated to helping her students find their own level of success, self worth and self esteem. She genuinely cares about all of her students and will go the "extra mile" to ensure that each student receives the best education possible to become confident productive adults.

Cynthia's dedication to the Long Beach school community goes beyond the classroom. She has been involved in, moderated or participated in National Honor Society, Junior and Senior Class, Morning Madness/Senior Prom, and Senior Barbecue. She has been a member of the district Curriculum Committee and Site Based Committees and served as a Building Rep for LBCTA. With Cynthia as part of a committee, you can be sure there will be laughs.

How do you measure the value of a person's life? You measure it by the impact they have had on others. Cynthia Palmer has had a positive impact on the lives of thousands of Long Beach students and colleagues. They are better because of her contributions. Enjoy Schertz, Texas!

Honoring Our Retirees

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*Year End
Celebration*

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