

*Kathy Bowers'*  
*Welcome Back Speech - September 1, 2010*

Good morning and welcome to the start of a new school year.

On behalf of the association, I want to welcome ALL of you – veterans and newcomers alike. Whatever your status, you're now officially members of the family here in Wyckoff.

And just like any other family, we may not always see eye-to-eye, but we are connected and support each other in good times and bad.

We're here today because we ALL have ONE fundamental thing in common. We're ALL educators, and we're ALL proud to serve the children of Wyckoff.

The work we do during the school day, after the school day ends, on nights, weekends, and even during the summer is VITAL to the future of our students, and to the future of society. That's an ENORMOUS responsibility and one we proudly accept, despite the challenges we are facing.

Our world has changed considerably since this time last year. I would like

to take this time to congratulate some of the people who are an integral part of the Wyckoff change. Mr. Kuder, on behalf of the WEA, congratulations on being appointed the interim Superintendent. I look forward to working with you as we together, with the Board of Education move forward in returning Wyckoff to a state of excellence. Mr. Raimo, congratulations on being named the new Principal of Eisenhower along with Mr. Iasiello, as the new Vice Principal. I know the Eisenhower staff looks forward to a great year. We also welcome Dr. Anspach to the Wyckoff Family as the new Director of Curriculum and Instruction. I would also like to acknowledge all the new Board members who have been working tirelessly to return Wyckoff to some sense of normalcy. At this time I can't even begin to scratch the surface as to the changes that have been bestowed upon us by Governor Christie. I will keep you posted, as I am sure there are more changes to come.

I look forward to this year with great anticipation. We are kicking off the WEA scholarships, one to a graduate of the Wyckoff School District and the second to a child of a WEA Staff member. Our first jeans day in June brought in over \$1,000 to the scholarship fund. What a great start. Thank you very much for your support.

Congratulations are due to Laura Giumarra, who on behalf of WEA submitted a PRIDE proposal for \$27,000. You will be hearing more about the individual proposals in the weeks to come. Thank you Laura for a job well done. We were granted the largest amount of money for a district our size.

Two last things I would like to mention are the Welcome Back Dinner that will be held at the Brick House in Wyckoff on Wednesday October 13<sup>th</sup>. Peter Valla from NJEA, a very colorful speaker, will be with us to enlighten us on what it means to bargain a contract in the Christie Era. We are hoping for 100% attendance that evening. Then on Wednesday, November 10th we will get together at the A.B.& G for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

I look forward to a great year and am proud to serve as your President.

Thank you.