

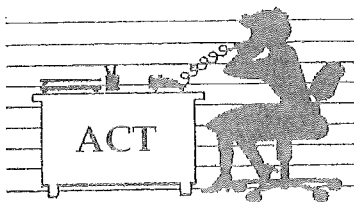
THE

The Newspaper of Local 1776
The Association of Catholic Teachers

SPIRIT OF '76

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From The President's Desk

THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Rosters are out and only a few weeks of summer break remain. I'm sure that although you have been enjoying the time away from school, you are anxious to be going back.

For quite a number of our teachers, this has been a summer of waiting - waiting to hear that a position has opened for them. Of the 81 teachers who left the Constriction meeting without a permanent position, only 15 have been reinstated thus far, 4 in Theology, 4 in Science, 3 in English, 2 in World Language and 2 in Math.

For teachers who remain laid-off at the start of the school year, Medical benefits can be continued at the teacher's expense. If they are not re-employed by October 1st, they will receive four(4) weeks salary. Laid-off teachers remain on the recall list for three semesters. Let's hope that the recall happens as quickly as possible.

The Philadelphia high school teachers are entering the final year of a three-year contract, which means that the Association will be negotiating with the Secondary School System beginning in the spring of 2011. At Holy Cross, they will be in the third year of a four year contract.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

There are some contract improvements that go into effect this school year: Philadelphia Archdiocese teachers will receive a salary increase of \$2,000. The Medical premium costs will increase, but some of that will be offset by a contribution from the Association's Health & Welfare Fund. Stipends will increase for Department Heads (\$2,350), AV/TV Directors (\$1,450) and Computer Resource Persons (\$1,600). Extra-Curricular Moderators for the seven activities listed in Article X, Section 4 will receive \$1,800 for schools with fewer than 900 students and \$2,000 for schools with over 900 students. Uncompensated activities over 40 hours will be compensated at the minimum rate of \$700.

Teachers at Holy Cross High School will receive a salary increase of \$1,600 for 2010-2011.

For Philadelphia Archdiocese high school teachers, Class size decreases this year to 31 with a corridor of 3. The total teaching load will be 170 with no corridor.

The current use of Grade Connect will remain in effect during the 2010-2011 school year. Posting of actual quarter and semester grades with comments will be mandatory. The posting of student assignments with due dates as well as the posting of assessment grades, which is already being done by the greater majority of teachers, is encouraged.

We send our best wishes and prayers for success to the faculty and student body of Pope John Paul II High School as the doors open for the first time in September.

A Word of Warning: As technology becomes more and more a part of our personal and professional lives, I want to urge all ACT Members to utilize both caution and common sense when using a computer or a cell phone. Keep all correspondence with students and parents strictly education-related. Keep your opinions off any blogs, nings or tweets, especially if they deal with fellow employees, administrators, students or subjects of a sensitive nature. If you have a Facebook page, please be very careful what you post and who has access to it. What you put on a computer or cell phone could, indeed, be job-threatening. Trust me on this one.

I wish all of you a great school year.

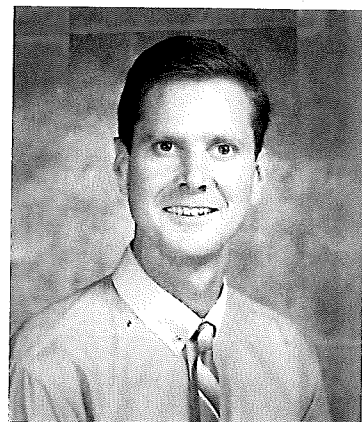
See you at the ACT General Membership Meetings.



Rest in Peace, Joe

Joseph Deissroth, 46, artist, teacher

By JOHN F. MORRISON
Philadelphia Daily News
morrisj@phillynews.com 215-854-5573
(appeared June 21, 2010)



JOSEPH CHARLES Deissroth and his wife were shopping at Lowe's in South Philadelphia one day when he heard plaintive mewing coming from a nearby lot.

There, stranded in a stack of skids, were several frightened kittens. Joseph couldn't stand to see animals hurt or lonely, and that night he climbed the skids and pulled out the kittens.

A security guard demanded to know what he was doing. "Saving lives," Joseph said.

It wasn't the only time Joseph Deissroth saved stranded animals, but as an artist and teacher he saved human lives as well.

He died June 11 of esophageal cancer. He was 46 and most recently lived in Pittsburgh but had lived most of his life in South Philadelphia.

At his funeral Friday, a man went up to Joseph's brother, Vincent Deissroth Jr., and said, "I was ready to drop out of school, and then I met your brother. He was my teacher, and he inspired me to stay in school. I've now graduated from college."

How many other stories are there about the influence Joseph had on the people he came in contact with in his short life? How many will never be told?

Vincent is one of those who learned about such qualities as courage, endurance, fair play and love from his brother.

"I was his older brother and I was supposed to teach him, but he wound up teaching me," Vincent said. "He was an incredible guy."

Joseph struggled with cancers from the age of 19, overcoming them until the end.

He was a sculptor whose abstract work has been shown at Philadelphia galleries. He worked in stone, marble and metal to create work with strong spiritual content, Vincent said.

Joseph taught art at Conwell-Egan Catholic High School in Fairless Hills for five years and then at Roman Catholic High School for eight years. He headed the fine arts departments at both schools.

He also taught sculpture in the summer programs at the former Governor's School for the Arts at Mercyhurst College in Erie from 1996 to 2008.

It was there that he met his wife, the former Michelle VanDoren, a dance teacher. They were married in 2004.

Joseph had planned to resume his teaching career in Pittsburgh when the cancer that had plagued him for 27 years finally took his life.

He was a fourth-generation Mummer and was associated with clubs in the Comic Division, most recently with the Pirates, a wench brigade. He also helped design comics' costumes and made props for the South Philadelphia String Band.

Joseph was born in Philadelphia to Vincent Deissroth and the former Marianne Kahler. He attended the University of the Arts from which he received a master's degree in sculpture and art education.

He was a member of the Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in South Philadelphia.

Besides his wife, parents and brother, he is survived by a sister, Suzanne Gross.

God Bless, Dolores

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

Dolores A. Purcell, 79; taught physical education

By Sally A. Downey
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dolores Antoni Purcell, 79, of Drexel Hill, a retired physical education teacher and winning coach at West Philadelphia Catholic High School for Girls, died of leukemia Wednesday, July 28, at Delaware County Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Purcell was a 1948 graduate of West Catholic, where she was an All-Catholic basketball player and team captain. In 1965 she returned to her alma mater to coach basketball. She also taught physical education and later was athletic director.

In 1970, she coached West Catholic's basketball team to the Catholic League championship. The school won the title again in 1977, and teams coached by Mrs. Purcell made the playoffs eight times. She stopped coaching in 1986, but continued to teach physical education until she retired in 1993. She also was a volleyball and basketball referee.

"Dolores enjoyed teaching her students about sports, but was far more interested in teaching them life skills," said Linda Donnelly, who was on the faculty at West Catho-

lic in the 1970s.

In an essay published in the Catholic Standard and Times in 1985, Mrs. Purcell wrote, "It's a lot easier to learn about working together for a common goal on a court than in a classroom. Involvement in a sport certainly strengthens courage and perseverance. A healthy self-image also emerges from giving time and energy to a worthy cause, playing for one's school."

During her yearlong illness, Mrs. Purcell received hundreds of cards from former students. At Christmas, 30 former students and fellow teachers gathered on her lawn to serenade her with carols, her family said.

In March, she was inducted into the Philadelphia Archdiocese Catholic Youth Organization Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Purcell was the youngest of five children. Her father died before she was born and she spent eight years in

an orphanage before her mother was able to reunite the family.

In 1951, she married John F.X. Purcell. While raising a family in Drexel Hill, she was a volunteer basketball coach at St. Dorothy's School.

Accomplished at needlepoint, she had worked at Needle Me in Havertown since retiring from West Catholic.

Mrs. Purcell's first husband died in 1987. In 1995, she married longtime friend Frank Murphy. He died in 2002.

She is survived by sons John and Joseph; two granddaughters; a sister; and two brothers.

Friends may call from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 1, and from 9 to 9:45 a.m. Monday, Aug. 2, at Ruffenach Funeral Home, 4900 Township Line Rd., Drexel Hill. A Funeral Mass will be said at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Dorothy's Church, Township Line and Burmont Roads, Drexel Hill. Burial will be in SS. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Marple Township.

Contact staff writer Sally A. Downey at 215-854-2913 or sdowney@phillynews.com.



(Appeared July 30, 2010)

HEALTH CARE REFORM ACT

One of the provisions of the health care reform legislation signed into law by President Obama makes coverage available to adult children up to age 26. This portion of the legislation goes into effect on the groups renewal date on or after September 23, 2010. This law will go into effect for our group on November 1, 2010. Dependents over the age of 19 and up to age 26 will be eligible to remain on their parent's policy. They do not need to be full time students. Therefore, beginning on November 1, 2010, dependents that do not have insurance or those whose insurance was terminated prior to the introduction of this law will be able to enroll under their parent's plan, even if they have had a gap in coverage. They can remain covered up to the age of 26 as long as they do not have access to their own coverage or have dependents of their own.

Unemployment Compensation

Any teacher who was laid off as a result of this year's Constriction Process and who has not accepted a job in the Secondary School System or with another employer is eligible for unemployment benefits. If you applied for unemployment compensation and still have not received any money, please contact the ACT Office. We will provide you with information that should help you to receive the benefits to which you are entitled.

BLUECARD WORLDWIDE

HOW TO OBTAIN MEDICAL CARE WHEN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

1. If an emergency, go to the nearest hospital.
2. If not an emergency, call the BlueCard Access line at 1-800-810-2583 or call collect at 1-804-673-1177 to arrange for urgent care services with a BlueCard Worldwide hospital or physician. The Voice Response Unit (VRU) prompt will ask if you are seeking care outside the United States. Calls are then routed to World Access.
3. Obtain Personal Choice Pre-certification by calling 1-800-332-2566. For Keystone Pre-certification, call 1-800-227-3116.
4. For urgent inpatient care arranged through World Access, you will not have to pay up front for the services or file a claim. You only pay the usual out-of-pocket expenses such as deductible, co-payment or co-insurance.
5. For urgent outpatient and physician services, pay the provider up front. Get an itemized bill translated into English. Later, complete an international claim form and send it to the BlueCard worldwide Service enter. This claim is available at <http://www.bcbs.com>

ACT MEMBER SERVICE PROGRAM

The following tickets are available to purchase from the ACT Office.

Franklin Institute Tickets	----	\$13.00
AMC Movie Tickets	----	\$ 6.00
Regal/United Artists	----	\$ 6.50
National Constitution Center	----	\$ 7.50
Philadelphia Zoo	----	\$13.00
Morey's Piers, Wildwood		
Combo Waterpark/Amusement Park Tickets	----	\$41.00

To request tickets, send a check made payable to the Association of Catholic Teachers with a note indicating what tickets are being ordered and in what quantity.

REMINDERS

ACT OFFICE HOURS -- During the month of August, the Office will be open between the hours of 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM.

ADDRESS CHANGES -- If you are in the process of moving or have already moved to a new address, don't forget to call the ACT Office with your new address and phone number. It is extremely important that we have your current address so we can update your records and keep you informed of openings as they occur.

DENTAL AND VISION CARDS -- If you are in need of additional dental and/or vision cards, please call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 or e-mail your request to nacst.nacst@verizon.net.

MEDICAL CARDS -- If you are in need of additional medical cards, please call the Office of Catholic Education at 215-587-3689 or contact the ACT Office.

RETIREMENT INFORMATION -- The ACT Office has put together some medical information (rates, comparison sheets and contract provisions) for teachers who are considering retirement in the near future. If you are considering an early retirement or if you will be reaching the age for normal retirement, call the ACT Office at 215-568-4175 for your retirement packet. You may also email your request to nacst.nacst@verizon.net.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPENING

**The following opening is to be posted on Friday,
August 13, 2010 to Monday, August 30, 2010.**

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AT LANSDALE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

All interested and qualified faculty members are invited to apply.
Candidates should possess the following:

1. A minimum of five (5) years of teaching and/or administrative experience in the Secondary School System.
2. A Master's Degree or enrollment in a Master's Degree program with a minimum of six (6) credits earned in the Master's Degree program at the time of application. If a candidate, at the time of selection, does not possess a Masters Degree the program must be completed within five years.

Applications for this position shall be reviewed by the Office of Catholic Education. Interviews will be granted to those who pass the initial screening of applicants.

Applications should include a full resume, a letter of recommendation from your principal, and an updated letter of recommendation from your pastor.

All applications are to be forwarded to Mrs. Theresa Ryan-Szott, Director of Secondary Personnel, Office of Catholic Education, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 on or before Monday, August 30, 2010.

COACHING OPENINGS

**The following openings are to be posted on
Friday, August 13, 2010 to Wednesday, September 1, 2010.**

POPE JOHN PAUL II: Girls' Tennis Coach

All interested teachers and other persons may apply. **All applications must be received on or before Wednesday, September 1, 2010.** Applicants should contact Mrs. Judith Owens, Principal, Pope John Paul II High School, 181 Rittenhouse Road, Royersford, PA 19468.

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: Varsity Track Coach, Varsity Rugby Coach

All interested teachers and other persons may apply. **All applications must be received on or before Wednesday, September 1, 2010.** Applicants should contact Mr. Robert O'Neill, Principal, Roman Catholic High School, 301 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

STS. JOHN NEUMANN & MARIA GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL: Head Volleyball Coach

All interested teachers and other persons may apply. **All applications must be received on or before Wednesday, September 1, 2010.** Applicants should contact Mrs. Patricia Sticco, Principal, Sts. John Neumann & Maria Goretti High School, 1735 South Tenth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148.

**The following opening is to be posted on
Friday, August 13, 2010 to Monday, August 30, 2010.**

Vocal/Choral Director, Fall Show Archbishop Carroll High School

All interested teachers and other persons may apply. **All applications must be received on or before August 30, 2010.** Applicants should contact Dr. Patricia Rigby, Acting Principal, Archbishop Carroll High School, 211 Matson Ford Road, Radnor, PA 19087.

DEPARTMENT HEAD OPENINGS

**The following openings are to be posted on
Friday, August 13, 2010 to Monday, August 30, 2010.**

**Health & Physical Education - Bonner-Prendergast
English - Cardinal O'Hara
English - Lansdale Catholic
Mathematics - Lansdale Catholic
Social Studies - Little Flower
Social Studies - Pope John Paul II**

All interested and qualified teachers may apply.

1. The teacher must have at least five (5) years teaching; three (3) years must be on the secondary level in the subject area.
2. The teacher must have a Master's Degree in the subject area or a Master's Degree in Education with a major concentration in the subject area or the teacher must be enrolled in one of the foregoing Master's Programs with at least six (6) graduate credits at the time of application with the requirement that at least six (6) additional graduate credits toward the Master's Degree will be obtained each year.

All applications must be received on or before Monday, August 30, 2010.

Applicants should write to Mrs. Theresa Ryan-Szott, Director of Secondary Personnel, Office of Catholic Education, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 giving a brief resume of their educational background. The department head shall be selected within twenty (20) days after the closing date of the submission of applications.

*****DEPARTMENT HEAD GUIDELINES ARTICLE VI, SECTION b –
any teacher interested in the position of “Acting Department Head”, even though he or she is not qualified under the above-mentioned qualifications and requirements for Department Heads, should indicate his or her interest in the position at the time of the original posting of the opening.**