

The Roundtable

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Webb Weaves Project-Based Learning Children are more than a test score

My personal learning style is like those ‘lost boys.’ I learn by doing.” Telling how she best learns, Dr. Betsy Webb, Superintendent of the Bangor School System, has been an educator for 35 years. Introduced by **Lisa Larson**, she told, at Thursday’s meeting about the discovery of the huge number of young men ages 20-35 – the “lost boys” - who are not in the Maine work force nor are they seeking work. At what age does a school student begin to realize that he – or she – will “drop out”?

That student is usually in the 4th grade, said Dr. Webb, “and by the 7th grade will begin dropping out. They miss fifty to sixty school days a year, and we’re in school for only 180 days.”

A major initiative to reduce the drop-out syndrome and guide students toward staying in school is the Southern Penobscot Regional Program for Children with Exceptionalities. SPRPCE is committed to the concept of providing a free appropriate public education to all children in the least restrictive environment.

Twenty-five students in the program show up every day and engage in hands-on learning in wide-ranging courses including electricity, sound and light wave experiments, music lab featuring piano or guitar and one-act plays. Hosted by Eastern Maine Community College, SPRPCE gives students a good academic background that they carry to United Technologies Center and to EMCC. They may go on to earn a bachelor’s degree.

“Public education is losing funding at a time when we need to expand,” Dr. Webb said. She said also that there is a national shortage for teachers who are trained in the



Betsy Webb, Lisa Larson

special education field. Dr. Webb started her career in alterative education as a teacher. “We have to show trust. We can bend, but we don’t break.”

Students who apply for the SPRPCE program do not need to take entrance exams. To identify those who would most benefit from the program, their experiences in school are examined, and they job-shadow. Twenty-three Maine school districts now have special education programs.

Dr. Webb gave information also about the Maine College and Career Ready Framework that gives the pathways for the Distinguished Scholar Designation.

“Children are more than a test score,” Dr. Webb said.

When the Breakfast scholars were ready...

... **President Doug Townsend** led us through committee reports and birthday salutes. There were happy dollars for the success of *All That Jazz*, **Ken Kimball's** *tour de force*. A guest, Robert Woods, submitted his application to join the Club.

Kristy Kimball reported that 40 non-profit organizations have signed up for the Bangor Area Charities Marathon. A meeting of the committee is scheduled for April 18, 7:05 am at the Broadway Dysarts. The deadline for non-profit sign-ups is April 30.

Paul Miragliuolo was on a money-raising goal for Polio Plus: he fined any member who was not wearing a nametag or a Rotary pin. If you want to change cell phone carriers, talk first to Paul. He said he spent two hours on Saturday, two more hours on Monday and three hours on Tuesday to complete the change. You could call him, I suppose. He did give a mixed happy/sad dollar. Paul’s brother underwent triple-bypass surgery and is doing well. A combination of alert medical people got him to the hospital quickly.

The *Two-Fer* Duet- **Lisa Wahlstrom** and **Les Myers** sang the birthday ode to three members who were fined for their birthdays: **June Kontio**, **Ken Nagle** and the aforementioned Lisa Larson.

David Zelz is pleased to see fellow Rotarians out and about (Paul at Sea Dog, for example), and was extremely happy that Ringo Starr was knighted last week.

June Kontio's third daughter is getting married in Mississippi. **Pudge Jamison** traveled farther – to Nepal, in fact – for a business trip.

You can pursue all that’s trivial by forming a team for the Interact Club’s trivial pursuit fundraising event. **John Quinn** said the memory-searching happens at the Bangor

Y’s Isaac Farrar Mansion on April 7 at 7 pm. John said they need a minimum of three on each team. Lisa Larson is very happy for her daughter’s appearances with the Penobscot Theatre Company.

The other Lisa, Lisa Wahlstrom, had a fine vacation that took them to Virginia, and she promoted the bowling fundraiser for the Good Samaritan Agency.



How I spent my vacation...

Doug Townsend's coaching career ends this year at Hampden Academy. In his closing send-off morning message to the Club, he said one of the greatest honors "is to be called 'coach'."

Les Myers- March 29, 2018



Wayne Woodford

