JoAnn Peterson

JoAnn Peterson’s passion for teaching and learning began when she actively served as a PTA volunteer at Bowne-Munro School, inspiring her to attend college to pursue a degree in education. Following her graduation from Kean University, Mrs. Peterson enthusiastically began her professional career at Lawrence Brook (LB) School, her home away from home for the last 17 years. Dually certified in both special education and general education and always ready for a new challenge, JoAnn has successfully taught at multiple grade levels. She masterfully differentiates her instruction to meet the needs of every student she comes in contact with. JoAnn absolutely loves what she does and her enthusiasm for her chosen profession has never waned.

In addition to her work inside the classroom, JoAnn has served her school community in a variety of roles from PTA liaison and advisor to the SAVE and Drama clubs, to serving on LB’s School Safety and Climate Committee and as a mentor to a young student. In 2010 the Lawrence Brook Community recognized JoAnn’s efforts by awarding her the Governor’s Teacher of the Year Award.

Over the years in collaboration with her LB colleagues, Mrs. Peterson has received approximately $12,000 in grants from the East Brunswick Education Foundation. Funding was provided for: Smartboards for all fifth grade classrooms, Earth Day school-wide celebrations, owl pellets for science enrichment, fraction manipulatives, editing tools, dry erase tables, virtual reality viewers, and recess activities. JoAnn is grateful to the EBEF for providing the funding that allows teachers the opportunity to enrich the curriculum and increase student learning.
Mrs. Peterson’s contributions to the education profession extend beyond the LB school community to EB’s educational community at large. She is a role model for her peers, and has mentored student teachers. Additionally, JoAnn is part of a group of East Brunswick Education Association (EBEA) members who, with help from a NJEA PRIDE Grant, founded the Bear Necessities Clothing Den. The Den is a place where EB Public School students, with an adult family member, can shop for gently used clothing. The EBEF recently partnered with this EBEA project by providing the funds for the Association to purchase a washer and dryer so that the donated clothing can be laundered. It is no wonder that, as manager of the Den, JoAnn believes that the Foundation takes a teacher’s dream and makes it a reality. She fully supports every EBEF fundraiser and encourages her colleagues to do the same.