SNACK & PAINT

On March 16th, 60 students, parents, guardians, and grandparents joined Monica Schor, Art Educator at J.S. Evans Elementary, for our first ever Snack & Paint! March was Youth Art Month and we planned on painting Monet in March. The students were very excited to come back to school at nighttime to use acrylic paint and huge canvases! John Hobart and Karen LaDuca helped with the technology set-up of a projector and a camera, while Jon Wurster let us borrow his portable speaker system. The amazing Evans PTA helped organize, check in, provide snacks, and clean. Everyone left with a painting of his or her very own version of the Japanese Bridge! We hope to have another event in the fall.
ART EDUCATOR NEWS!

Congratulations to Monica Schor of James S. Evans Elementary for winning the New York State Art Educator of the Year for Region 7 which includes the 7 surrounding counties. Monica has been an elementary art educator at J. S. Evans for 21 years. She has been involved in the New York State Art Teachers Association for 21 years, Ulster County Representative for over 6 years and on the Region 7 leadership team for over 9 years. She consistently teaches workshops at State Conferences, Region 7 Symposia, and summer institutes at the Great Camp Sagamore.

Congratulations to Robert Wood of Roy C. Ketchum for winning Art Educator of the Year for all of New York State! Bob serves as Teacher in Charge of Art and Music at RCK. During his 32 years as an art educator, he has taught all levels and is the creator of the Broadcast Arts class. He is very heavily involved in the New York State Art Teachers Association and has just completed 2 years as President. Bob serves on the board, has helped run and develop the Portfolio Project across the Region and State, and recently been very involved in the creation and rewriting of the NYS Art Standards.

We would like to congratulate these two involved Art Educators for their outstanding awards and service to the Arts both in WCSD and NYSATA!
A TEACHER AT FISHKILL ELEMENTARY & HER FAMILY FOUND A SPECIAL WAY TO REMEMBER THEIR DAUGHTER

Honoring Our Daughter by Bringing Birthday Happiness to Families in Need

Our twin girls, Delaney & Quinn, were born in 2013. We learned on delivery day that not all twins walk side by side - some have wings to fly. After losing our daughter we created Delaney’s Deliveries— a campaign to deliver Birthday in a Box supplies to local food pantries. Excitingly, this year we were notified that Delaney’s Deliveries will have a permanent home at the Plattekill Food Pantry. We are excited to be able to bring birthday happiness to families in need.

This campaign is driven to create memorable birthdays for children.

Our birthday boxes contain: cake mix, frosting, tin pan (muffin, cake or rectangular) plates, napkins, candles, balloons, party hats, tablecloth, cups, and anything else special our donors come across!

Thanks to the tremendous support of family, friends, co-workers and the community a delivery of 45 birthday bags will be delivered in May to the food pantry! Donations are ongoing. Please contact Tiffany Devincenzi if you want to make a donation.

The Devincenzi Family
(Brian, Tiffany, Kendra, Quinn & Harper)

Tiffany’s email:
tiffany.devincenzi@wcsdny.org
FIT4FUN

A new club was created this year at Fishkill Elementary called Fit4Fun. Two teachers, Lea Chiappetta and Donna McCann, thought a club that focused on nutrition, fitness, and making good choices would be a good addition to their school. Students meet once a month before school to talk about healthy lifestyles. During this time, students learn new exercises, read books and articles, search nutrition websites, make goals, and develop good habits.

ABRAHAM: ‘SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK IS UNION WORK!’

Source: NYSUT Communications  April 28, 2018


NYSUT leaders and their locals engage in social justice work on a daily basis, said First Vice President/Secretary-Treasurer J. Philippe Abraham, in the belief “that we must strive to make our world a more just and fair place for all.”

Abraham, who oversees NYSUT’s social justice endeavors, highlighted the union’s all-out effort to help Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands following the devastation of Hurricane Maria.

Be sure to visit the link above to view the video.
RCK PHOTO REVIEW

Photos by Suzanne Cachon
RCK PHOTO REVIEW CONTINUED

Photos by Suzanne Cachon
RCK PHOTO REVIEW CONTINUED

Photos by Suzanne Cachon
APPR BILL LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN:
‘LET US TEACH, LET THEM LEARN’

Source: NYSUT Communications

President Andy Pallotta interrupted the flow of questions and answers in the open dialogue portion of Wednesday’s luncheon to welcome local presidents to the Pre NYSUT RA Local & Retiree Council Presidents Conference.

Stepping to the podium, Pallotta pulled out a piece of paper and said, “We have an Assembly bill A.10475 that relates to state assessments and teacher evaluations...” at which point, everyone in the room rose to their feet.

To prolonged applause, he went on to describe the bill — sponsored by Speaker Carl Heastie, Education Chair Cathy Nolan, Majority Leader Joe Morelle, and Assembly members Christine Pellegrino (a NYSUT member) and Ellen Jaffee — that would fix New York’s broken teacher evaluation system.

Pallotta announced NYSUT’s urgent campaign to push members of the state Senate to vote for the bill in the final weeks of the legislative session. The governor has expressed support for the legislative solution.

“We have to fight and make sure everyone’s with us,” he said. “We need to start calling and sending faxes and asking members of the Senate, ‘Where are you on this bill?’”

Pallotta assured the local leaders that the new bill preserves the key element of local control: collective bargaining.

“If you have something you like, you can keep it. If you don’t like it, you can create something new,” he said.
EVANS’ STEAM DAY

On Friday, April 6th, the students at James S. Evans Elementary School participated in non-stop, engaging, and elaborate STEAM activities provided by community organizations and dedicated WCSD teachers and staff.

STEAM Day consisted of a variety of fun-filled activities. Our 6th-grade students were able to learn about STEAM career opportunities from Global Foundries engineers. As a team, they then worked together to engineer a ski jump. Our 5th-grade students and IBM engineers worked together with hands-on activities to create and explore how circuits function. WABC News set up a green screen with real cameras to give our students the ability to understand weather forecasting. Students were then put on camera to give their live weather forecast to their class! WCSD Staff Developers Amy Duro, Cassandra Horton, and Daniel Roberto joined us. They brought unique and exciting STEAM activities such as programming robots, coding, and Makey Makey Music to all grade levels. Mad Science conducted an interactive presentation on sound and how it travels through different mediums. Special Area teachers gave a riveting experience using Drums Alive, and classroom teachers filled the day with collaborative and tactile STEAM activities.

A huge thank you goes out to all of our community organizations and WCSD teachers and staff who made this a day that our students will never forget!

MEMORIAL FOR JULES EURILLO AT RCK VARSITY BASEBALL GAME
JJHS STUDENT ED CAMP

On Friday, April 27th, JJHS held the first ever Student Ed Camp sponsored by the school’s CRC. Last year a survey was administered to all students, and one of the results called for an improvement in the school environment. Therefore, the theme of the morning was "A Walk in Someone Else’s Shoes." The target audience was the 9th-grade students. JJ's LINK Crew got the morning started with ice-breaker activities. The Ed Camp was facilitated by 11th and 12th-grade students who moderated sessions on Body Language, Social Media, Mental Health, Transitions, the "N" Word, the Line Game, Feeling Safe in School, Personal Empowerment, Mob Mentality, Bullying, Cultural Traditions and Stereotyping. These juniors and seniors were the developers of the topics. A smackdown was held at the end of the day, and the freshman completed an online survey.
WCT: ADDICTION, PREVENTION AND EDUCATION
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development - dirty words for many teachers, but on Friday, April 27th, the staff was part of a ½ day PD that was developed by teachers for teachers and was most importantly inspired by teachers.

The WCT through LAP (LOCAL ACTION PROJECT) in collaboration with CAPE (COUNCIL ON ADDICTION, PREVENTION, AND EDUCATION) and the WCSD began the day with two panels (JJHS and VWHS) that were brought together by Elaine Trumpetto from CAPE.

The JJHS panel consisted of Megan Girard, Prevention; Meghan Hatfield, Recovery; Linda Monkman, Bill Eckert, Signs and Symptoms; Eric Dentrone, Arms Acres; Katrina Huller Williams, Lexington Center for Recovery; Suzanne DeCosta, a Family Disease, Personal Perspective; Kevin Keefe, Taylor Holbrook, Mindfulness and Spirituality; and an EAP representative, the Work Place. Mary Richard, a nurse, gave Narcan training as well.

The VWJHS panel was represented by Jessica Sirianni, Jeanne-Marie Niebuhr, James Hughes, Laura Dodge, NYNG, Mayor Matt Alexander, Kelly Hanna, Cynthia Mejorado-Flint, Dana Pollack and the recovery coach was Raymond Rodriguez.

Overall, staff believed that this PD was something very needed. Many comments echoed the following, "THANK YOU for a meaningful learning experience!! That presentation and workshops were the best PD I can remember! We need to focus on the PEOPLE our kids/adult are, and not just instruction. Without happy and healthy students, our job becomes so much harder!" Another, "This was such a productive professional development day. Thank you!" and, "I think this was an exceptional PD day. It is such a complex issue. Hopefully, it opened many people's minds to addiction as a true brain disorder. Thank you so much!!" Positive feedback – "great training." Personal accounts from our colleagues were very much appreciated, "I thought it was compelling to have our colleagues on the panel, sharing openly. Very powerful."

Several suggestions were made about the lack of sign-up for room presentations, making some rooms overcrowded. The committee agrees and will work to prevent that in the future. Also, suggested, "We need updated prevention curriculum – DARE and Here's Looking at You are old and ineffective." Another suggestion was to do "this presentation for parents and students..." A colleague also suggested, "youth mental health first aid and mental health first aid training."

The committee is in the process of reviewing the surveys. Future presentations and workshops will be developed from your responses by the committee.
INSIDE THE NYSUT RA CONVENTION

By Suzanna Santos

On April 27th and 28th, your WCT NYSUT representatives attended the 46th Annual Representative Assembly. Pasquale, Flip, Jim, Kim, Theresa, and I traveled to Buffalo to debate and vote on proposed amendments to the NYSUT Constitution & Bylaws and proposed resolutions. This was my first RA convention, and I was eager to participate in the process.

At the convention, union presidents from across the state met with Commissioner Elia and voiced their concerns. Various speakers addressed the general assembly with messages of unity and strength. Mario Cilento, NYS AFL-CIO President, congratulated NYSUT for galvanizing forces against the Constitutional Convention. The campaign against the convention was successful because of an organized movement with a unified message. It proved that together, we are powerful! Cilento went on to say that unions are a primary way to promote social justice. When labor is strong, we raise the standard of living for all Americans.

Your WCT reps participated in three committees. Pasquale is the Vice Chair for the Pension & Retirement Committee. Flip, Kim, and Theresa voted on the Constitutional and Bylaws Amendments resolution. Jim and I voted on the Legislative/Political Action resolutions. Our resolutions were in support of adequate

Continued on page 13

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funding for special education, student advocacy, and political action.

On our final day, Tom DiNapoli addressed the assembly in full support of public education. He applauded our efforts as public educators fighting to make a difference. He called for a 'year of the empowered' as we face the Janus ruling. He stands with NYSUT and demands that state officials ‘let us teach and let them learn.’ Various awards were presented to educators across the state. NYSUT awarded Christopher Albrecht of Brockport the Teacher of the Year Award. NY-SUT's message was clear: we are union proud and strong!

AT LEAST 29 NYSUT MEMBERS ELECTED TO SCHOOL BOARDS STATEWIDE  Source: NYSUT Media Relations

ALBANY, N.Y. May 16, 2018 — Voters put their trust in educators to help run their local public schools, newly electing at least 29 members of New York State United Teachers to school boards across the state. Countless other NYSUT members are already serving on school boards.

“No one knows better what works in the classroom – and what students need in order to thrive – than their teachers,” said NYSUT President Andrew Pallotta. “We are thrilled that, across the state, so many teachers will be serving students and their communities by making policy on school boards.”

Tuesday’s elections are the latest to bear fruit for NYSUT's “Pipeline Project,” which has encouraged, trained and helped elect more than 100 educators to public office over the last four years, including the state Assembly, county legislatures and local school boards. NYSUT and its local unions were involved in more than 200 races on Tuesday, sending out tens of thousands of postcards and mailers and making more than 50,000 phone calls on behalf of endorsed school board candidates.

At a time when the New York State School Boards Association appears out of step with many of its members — raising bogus concerns about legislation to reduce the test-
AT LEAST 29 NYSUT MEMBERS ELECTED TO SCHOOL BOARDS STATEWIDE  continued from page 13

ing burden on students and fix the state’s teacher evaluation system — Pallotta said that electing front-line educators to school boards is vital.

“Teachers have the best interests of students at heart,” Pallotta said. “They are demanding an end to a flawed evaluation system that overemphasizes standardized testing and misuses fill-in-the-bubble tests to rank and sort teachers. They want more local control and a return to the days when schools could focus on teaching and learning, not endless test preparation. As new members of school boards, these educators will be able to use their voices to help develop fair and meaningful performance review systems that reduce testing.”

Under state Education Law, teachers are prohibited from serving on school boards in the districts in which they are employed but may serve in communities where they live but do not teach. There is no restriction for retirees.

New York State United Teachers is a statewide union with more than 600,000 members in education, human services and health care. NYSUT is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and the AFL-CIO.

TEACHERS VALUE THEIR UNIONS: AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS ON EDUCATORS FOR EXCELLENCE (E4E) INITIAL SURVEY RESULTS

AFT Press Release - Wednesday, May 23, 2018

WASHINGTON—E4E released today the initial findings of its survey, “Voices from the Classroom: A Survey of America’s Educators,” and the results indicate a vast majority of teachers—union members and nonunion members alike—believe teachers unions are essential, even if they disagree or have concerns with positions the union’s membership has taken on some issues. AFT President Randi Weingarten issued the following statement in response:

“As we await the Supreme Court’s decision in Janus v. AFSCME Council 31, this poll, conducted by an educator group supported by philanthropists not known to be pro-union, confirms what we have seen nationwide: Educators—union members and nonmembers alike—believe that teachers unions play a vital role in their lives, and they value that voice and that representation. These initial results show the importance of strong representation and continued collective action like we’ve seen in the teacher walkouts around the country.

“Although we don’t always agree with E4E, we are encouraged that its poll shows 85 percent of all teachers regard unions as important, including 74 percent of nonunion teachers. What’s even more important about these findings is the value respondents place on the union even if they disagree with positions the union takes.

“So while the Koch brothers, Betsy DeVos and their right-wing allies spend millions to defund unions and divide teachers, it’s clear that educators still see value in union advocacy and want their voices heard. Unions help them fight for the funding and community respect their schools and students need.”
1 April 1980—Eleven-day strike by 34,000 New York City transit workers begins, halts bus and subway service in all five boroughs before strikers return to work with a 17 percent raise over two years plus a cost-of-living adjustment.

2 April 1909—The Union Label Trades Department is chartered by the American Federation of Labor. Its mission: promote the products and services produced in America by union members, especially those products identified by a union label, shop card, store card, and service button.


7 April 2000—Fifteen thousand union janitors strike, Los Angeles.

8 April 1935—The Works Progress Administration (WPA) is approved by Congress. President Franklin Roosevelt proposed the WPA during the Great Depression of the 1930s when almost 25 percent of Americans were unemployed. It created low-paying federal jobs providing immediate relief, putting 8.5 million jobless to work on projects ranging from construction of bridges, highways and public buildings to arts programs like the Federal Writers' Project.

14 May 1917—The Library Employees' Union is founded in New York City, the first union of public library workers in the United States. A major focus of the union was the inferior status of women library workers and their low salaries.

17 May 1954—Supreme Court outlaws segregation in public schools.

22 May 1920—Civil Service Retirement Act of 1920 gives federal workers a pension.

29 May 1946—A contract between the United Mine Workers and the U.S. government establishes one of the nation’s first union medical and pension plans, the multi-employer UMWA Welfare and Retirement Fund.

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