Annual WCT Food Drive

The Wappingers Congress of Teachers is again running a food drive in all Wappingers Central School District buildings from May 14th until May 24th. This is the fourth year of our food drive. Last year we collected almost 100 boxes of food and I challenge all of you to beat our total from last year!

The food we collect from May 14th-24th will go to the Zion Food Pantry, which is located in a converted garage at the Zion Episcopal Church. They are 100% non-denominational in regard to the people that they serve. Jack Devine, member of the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers, is an active volunteer at the Zion Food Pantry. He told me that the pantry serves 65-70 families on average per week and that they would be in serious trouble if they did not receive help from the community and organizations such as the WCT. During a typical week they are able to give each of their 70 clients:

- 1 box of cereal
- 2 cans of tuna fish
- 2 cans of fruit
- 2 cans of vegetables
- 2 cans of soup
- 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese
- 1 jar of peanut butter
- 1 jar of jelly
- 1 jar/can of spaghetti sauce
- 1 box of pasta
- 1 can of stew

The WCT is calling upon every member to bring in a non-perishable food item and place it in the box in your building during this important food drive. Parents, students, and other community members are also welcome to bring in food and donate it.
STAY INFORMED... IT’S UP TO YOU !!!!
{A Monthly Feature in The Commentator} 

Respectfully submitted by: Flip Gertler – VP Political Action

Below are some important articles to keep you up to date with current educational issues. These issues will directly affect your job on a daily basis.

NYSUT UNITED – April 2012
Why we defend pensions: (p.11)

Brief Summary: This article provides a brief history to the defined benefit pension system that we as educators hold near and dear. Educate yourself as to why we fight to maintain our level of retirement benefits and ensure that those who come after us enjoy the same.

NYSUT UNITED – April 2012
Next steps for teacher evaluation: (p.18)

Brief Summary: As we prepare for our new APPR evaluation system to be put into place, it is imperative that we stay up to date with how the system unfolds. We all know that there are many unanswered questions from NYSED all the way to the building level. NYSUT and your local leadership are working tirelessly to ensure that administrators are held to the letter of the law. Stay informed!

NYSUT UNITED – April 2012
NYSUT vows to oppose release of teacher ratings: (p.19)

Brief Summary: Mayor Bloomberg made public the teacher data reports for NYC teachers. This release of teacher ranking scores has resulted in support and outrage. NYSUT is outraged by this and is already involved legally and politically to stop the release of these scores. Our voices need to be heard also. We all agree that lawmakers do things that we don’t agree with, however, something of this nature could permanently ruin an educators career and reputation.

Useful FACEBOOK links for teachers

NYSUT United (formerly known as NY Teacher) --- http://www.facebook.com/NYSUTUnited

AFT – (American Federation of Teachers) http://www.facebook.com/AFTunion

NEA – (National Education Association) http://www.facebook.com/NEA.ORG

Other useful links for teachers

AFT (American Federation of Teachers) - http://www.aft.org/

NYSUT United (New York State United Teachers) – http://www.nysut.org

Speak Up for Education and Kids (National Education Association) - http://www.educationvotes.nea.org/

We Are One (AFL-CIO) - http://www.aflcio.org/issues/states/
The MORNING LINE – APRIL 2012

In the early 80’s THE MORNING LINE was born. The goal of the publication was to give odds on candidates for Principal and Superintendent positions. Back then principals often worked for 10 or more years in the same position and superintendents actually lasted more than three years. When a position became available, the likely candidates were introduced and odds were given as to their chances to win. Well, once again, with the departure of Superintendent Parla, there is now an opening for the Head Job. Here are THE MORNING LINE’S “best bets!”

BILL STEINHOUS – The Wappingers graduate is now unemployed and has a tremendous background in Community Service. His leadership experience will be a major factor and he will save the District a great deal of money by having students WALK to school via the Dutchess County Rail Trail instead riding on buses.
CON: Will have difficulty working with Democratic members of the school board. [9-1]

The SEIPP BROTHERS (Rob, Rick & Dave) - With the job becoming more and more time-consuming and difficult, three heads are better than one. The Seipps all have administrative, coaching and officiating experience which could prove to be invaluable when dealing with the public.
CON: Staff, office furniture and supplies will have to be TRIPLED! [3-1]

BILL CLINTON- another unemployed gentleman with a vast background in public service. He could easily fill-in for this important position. His partner Hilary has a great deal of experience dealing with depressed areas and could provide much assistance with “problem” schools
CON: Will require the hiring of one dozen “interns ”to assist with day to day activities [69-1]

PASQUALE DELI CARPINI- the logical choice. Backroom, Board Room, Conference Room, Rest Room experience! Knows the “ins” and “outs” of negotiating. Will continue to make “offers you can’t refuse!” Will keep the “BOARD” from being “BORED!”
CON: Will require “ITALIAN AS A SECOND LANGUAGE” for all Grades K-12 and include “pasta meals” daily in all school cafeterias. [2-1]

New Babies...

Laura Leveque, her husband Steve, and big brother Luke welcomed a little girl into the world. Leah Elizabeth Leveque was born on February 16, 2012, weighing 9 lbs., and measured 21 inches. Congratulations to the Leveque Family!
Wappingers Congress of Teachers Recognition Dinner

Honoring 2012 Retirees,
Members with 25 Years of Service,
Members Granted Tenure,
& National Board Certified Teachers.

Friday, May 18th, 2012
6:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.

Cocktail Hour with Carving Station
Top Shelf Open Bar
Dinner Choice: Chicken Marsala, Prime Rib, Salmon
Cake & Coffee

Price: $40.00 per person - Free for 2012 retirees
RSVP to the WCT Office by Friday, April 27, 2012

Please return this lower portion of the invitation with your payment. Checks are to be made out to “WCT”. Reservation accepted until Friday, April 27, 2012.

Name: ____________________________________________________
Number attending: __________________ Building: ___________
Dinner Entrée Choice:
Chicken Marsala: _______ Prime Rib: _______ Salmon: _______
Wappingers Congress of Teachers
Baseball Night

Right Field Picnic
Firework Night
Monday, June 18, 2012
Game starts @ 6:35 p.m.

Enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet beginning at 5:00 p.m. until the 7th inning.

Picnic Menu Includes:

- Hotdogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chicken sandwiches, pasta salad,
  baked beans, watermelon, chips and Pepsi products.

Price: $32.00 per person

RSVP to the WCT Office by Thursday, May 24, 2012
The Wappingers Congress of Teachers
Presents
NYSUT’s Defensive Driving Program
(Recognized by the National Safety Council)

This course is offered to WCT Members and Immediate Family Only
Tuesday, May 29, 2012
Tuesday, June 5, 2012
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sessions will be held at Roy C. Ketcham High School, Room Large Group Instruction.

Family members are welcome to participate. A fee of **$30.00** per person is necessary to cover cost of materials. (Participants **MUST** attend both sessions).

- **If you subscribe to auto insurance through NYSUT Member Benefits (METPAY), there is a $25.00 refund.**

Benefit to Participants:
Upon completion of the course, members and their family members, who are principal operators of a vehicle, are entitled to a ten percent reduction in the base rate of their liability (bodily injury and property damage), no-fault (personal injury) and collision insurance premiums each year for three years.

WCT members and their family members who complete the course may receive a subtraction of up to four points on their driving records. This applies only to points for violations occurring within the 18 months immediately before course completion. It does not affect points for earlier violations and can never be used as a “credit” for future points. Points may be reduced only once in any 18-month period.

To register, send the clip-off below and your check to the WCT office ASAP. Reservations will be accepted on a “first come, first serve” basis. No cancellations after **Thursday, May 24, 2012.**

Defensive Driving – May 29 & June 5, 2012

Member’s Name ______________________________________ Are you attending? Yes_____ No_____

Family Members (Attending) 1)____________________________

2)____________________________

3)____________________________

School (School Mail Location) __________________________

Home Phone _______________________________________

A check for **$30.00 per person** must accompany this form. Please make check payable to “WCT.” **You must be a WCT member or WCT family member to enroll in this course.**
Fishkill Plains Students Continue Helping Sick Children
By Steve Schwartz

Once more this year, the third, fourth, and fifth grade students at Fishkill Plains Elementary School voluntarily participated in the Saint Jude Children’s Research Hospital Math-A-Thon program. The Math-A-Thon program allows students to build and practice essential math skills while they raise funds for kids battling Cancer at St. Jude. Each child who participated was required to get a sponsor to pledge a certain amount of money for each math problem they could answer correctly.

This year the students raised $7,890. In the last 9 years our school has participated, we have raised $70,855 for the hospital. We are so proud of the students. Mrs. Dean’s class raised the most money this year which was $1,242. Fifth grader Victoria Pacacha in Miss Bitting’s class raised the most money, which was $600.

Congratulations to all!

For Rent: LBI New Jersey house with two separate levels. Each level sleeps eight, has air conditioning, sit-in kitchen, two bedrooms, deck, and living room with cable TV and DVD player. Both levels share an outdoor washer/dryer, grill, and refreshing outdoor shower. The house is located at 102 East NY, which is six houses from the beach on the ocean side. Please call 914-403-2692 if you would like to learn more about this ideal vacation spot. You can also go to lbirealestate.com and search these listing numbers to see information about the rental – 2789 and 2790.

For Rent: Summer Rental Eastham, Cape Cod 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath. CLOSE TO LOTS! $1500 per week. Call (845) 297-1837

Looking for summer art classes for your child? Two hour, biweekly art lessons are offered by a certified art teacher (Miss McCusker) at Fishkill Recreation Center. Classes will incorporate the Elements of Art and Principles of Design as well as art history. Topics include: cartooning, puppet making, three-dimensional drawing, manga drawing, mandalas, bookmaking, and jewelry making. Reduced rates for early registration! For more information, please visit: http://www.fishkillrecreation.com/Misc/ArtCamps.htm
Your wedding or party should be like no other in the world, and Enriquez Entertainment is like no other company for your event! We are honored to have been chosen as a part of so many special occasions and for the opportunity to provide outstanding entertainment to make every function exciting and elegant.

TEL: 845.590.2660
email: info@enriquezentertainment.com
www.enriquezentertainment.com
blog: http://enriquezentertainment.blogspot.com/
The WCT Commentator

**Important Information about the WCT Welfare Trust Fund**

**Trustees:**
- Christine Romano, Chairperson
- Kim Mahusky, Treasurer
- Erin Mulligan, Secretary
- Flip Gertler, Trustee
- Pasquale Delli Carpin, Trustee
- Ronnie Dwyer, Administrator

- You must let the WTF know of any changes in your personal information ASAP
- Student verification forms must be sent to Daniel H. Cook every semester
- Dental & prescription reimbursement forms are on-line at the WTF website
- Please direct all questions & concerns to the WCT office or directly to Daniel H. Cook

**From the WCT Welfare Trust Fund**

A financial consultant from Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. will be in the WCT office on the following dates:

- May 16, 2012
- June 13, 2012

Appointments are one-hour blocks available between 2:00-6:00 PM on a first-come first-served basis. When you call the office to schedule an appointment, we will forward a questionnaire to you. Please complete it and bring it with you to the meeting.

Since these slots fill up very quickly, call as soon as possible! If the above dates are not convenient for you, call Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. directly and other arrangements may be possible.

Stacey Braun has no affiliations with any 403(b) Providers.

**Directions to the WCT Office**

- The WCT Office is in the Heritage Square complex at 2537 Route 52 in Hopewell Junction.
- Heritage Square is a short distance east of the intersection of Routes 376 and 52 and west of the Taconic State Parkway.
- Enter the parking lot and make the second right turn into the parking area
  - Enter the main entrance of the building.
- The sign over the main entrance reads “Prudential”
  - Take stairs or elevator to the 2nd floor
  - Go right, all the way to the end
- Look for the “Wappingers Congress of Teachers” sign posted on the Suite 15 door

**Important Phone Numbers:**

- WCT Office: (845) 227-5065
- Daniel H. Cook: (1-800) 342-6651
- Mirkin & Gordon (attorneys): (914) 997-1576
- Davis Vision: (1-800) 999-5431
- Stacey Braun Associates (fin.consultant): (1-888) 949-1925
- Health Advocate: (1-866) 695-8622

**WCT Office Address**

2537 Route 52, Suite 15
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
WCT COMMENTATOR Policy

The content of the WCT COMMENTATOR shall reflect the official positions and policies of the WCT, with the following three exceptions:

1. The President of the WCT should present his/her views in a message to the members from time to time, but not less than bimonthly.

2. Signed Letters to the Editor (of responsible length) containing personal views from members and subscribers shall be published subject to laws of libel.

3. Members of the WCT may place articles adhering to the Canons of Journalism concerned with WCT positions, policies, and issues of interest to teachers in the Commentary Section. (For both Letters to the Editor and the Commentary Section, the writer’s name and WCT affiliation shall be attached, and an editor’s note shall accompany these sections indicating that “The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official views and policies of the WCT.”)

Reprints of articles from the WCT COMMENTATOR are allowable only with the permission of the WCT President.

WCT COMMENTATOR Advertising Policy

The WCT COMMENTATOR advertising policy as adopted by the Executive Board is as follows:

Noncommercial (Personal) ads for WCT MEMBERS only will be run for two issues at no charge.

Commercial (Business) ads for WCT MEMBERS only: guaranteed placement for half of the school year, $35.00 per half year payable Sept. 15th and Feb. 1st or $5.00 per issue.

For prompt placement of advertisements and articles in upcoming issues of the WCT COMMENTATOR, e-mail the information to commentator@wcteachers.org. Information can also be sent to the editor at the WCT Office. Do not send articles or ads through the GroupWise e-mail system.