COLLABORATION IS KEY in public education. It works not only at the neighborhood level but inside the building as well—through the efforts of the professionals whose exceptional work with students outside the classroom makes good things happen inside the classroom.

*American Teacher* recently caught up with a number of individuals filling these key roles in schools. They are in positions that will only grow more important, given the rise of the community schools movement, response-to-intervention strategies, early literacy projects and other key trends in education.

These professionals describe rewards in human terms: The more opportunities they have to work directly with students, parents and staff, the more they enjoy their careers—and, not incidentally, the better the outcome for students.

**CARLOS GUERRERO**
School Psychologist

Part fireman, part puzzle master and part escape artist is how Carlos Guerrero describes his work as a school psychologist for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

Raymond Avenue School is home base for Guerrero, who services six high schools as part of a districtwide intervention and prevention team. The school psychologists who he works with are on call to provide counseling and other indirect services to students on an as-needed basis with the schools in their zones.

It’s often the type of intensive one-on-one work with students that draws professionals into the field in the first place, he says. “It expands the role of school psychologists beyond placement and assessment,” says Guerrero, a member of the United Teachers Los Angeles. School psychology today is a profession dedicated “to breaking out of the box and showing more value and worth to schools.”

*Cont’d on page 4*
also from the Welfare Trust Fund …….

The attorney will be in the WCT offices to meet with members on the following dates:

January 20
February 17
March 17
April 21
May 19
and June 16.

Important Information about the WCT Welfare Trust Fund…….

Trustees:
Christine Romano, Chairperson
Betty Seifert, Treasurer
Erin Mulligan, Secretary
Philip Gertler, Trustee
Pasquale Delli Carpini, Trustee
Ronnie Dwyer, Administrator

WCT Telephone Number: 845-227-5065
Daniel H. Cook Telephone Number: 1-800-342-6651

- 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:

January 27
February 10 & 24
March 10 & 24
April 14 & 28
May 12 & 26
June 9 & 23

Appointments are (1) hour blocks available between 2pm & 6pm 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. The WCT office number is 227-5065.

If the above dates are not convenient for you, call Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. directly at 1-888-949-1925 and other arrangements may be possible.
Dear WCT Member,

Did you know...

that presently over 60% of the chocolate grown worldwide is being harvested through the use of child labor?

that similar statistics exist for the coffee industry?

When fair trade practices are introduced and worker cooperatives are formed these children have the opportunity to move from farm fields and into classrooms to receive an education.

The NYSUT Fair Trade Project "builds support for the fair trade movement among union members, their families and communities. International worker-to-worker solidarity trumps the ravages of corporate monopolies as union members 'walk the walk' with workers around the world."

In February NYSUT will be sending a small delegation of its members to Nicaragua to visit fair trade coffee cooperatives and their community schools. I am pleased to share with you that Martha Bilsback, a third grade teacher at Myers Corners, has been invited to be part of this delegation.

The WCT is asking you to consider making a donation to a Fair Trade Fund which we have established. 100% of the monies donated to this fund will be sent with the delegation to Nicaragua and given directly to the schools that they will be visiting. At rural schools where these cooperatives are located, students and teachers learn and work in very primitive schools with few books and limited school supplies. Our financial contributions will make a lasting impact on their lives.

On behalf of the Executive Board and myself, thank you for your generosity.

In Solidarity,

Pasquale

Pasquale Delli Carpini,
President Wappingers Congress of Teachers

Name & School: ________________________________________________________________

Please make your check payable to "WCT" with "Fair Trade" in the memo line and send it to the WCT office by Wednesday, February, 3rd. Your donation is completely tax deductible.
Unsung Heroes (cont’d from page 1)

JODIE KLEYMEER  
Media Specialist

When Jodie Kleymeer joined the staff at Lake Shore High School outside Detroit as its new media specialist, the school’s library had a first-rate reference collection and a variety of other good materials. Yet the library was “not being used to its full capabilities,” she says.

“When today’s students do research they don’t think about books—they think about computers,” observes Kleymeer, who says a large part of the problem was the limited access to technology.

So, with help from the school’s technology director, Kleymeer embarked on a plan to transform the library into a place that students and teachers would find to be both inviting and user-friendly. She weeded out outdated materials, introduced a new book circulation process and significantly increased the number of computers.

Kleymeer sought and received suggestions from the faculty in redesigning the library, but it was the kids’ “buy-in” that she prioritized. The Lake Shore Federation of Teachers member involved the school’s students in everything from selecting books and software to helping paint the room’s walls.

“I figured the more work they [students] did to help the media center reach its full potential, the more pride they would have in it and the more they would use it.”

To raise money to buy furniture, Kleymeer and her students worked with Borders Books to organize a book fair. And the media center opened a “Starbooks,” which sells coffee, tea, hot chocolate, pastries and other items as another fundraiser.

The result is a media center with three multimedia labs, a wealth of technology and a welcoming climate. Now, instead of being underutilized, the new and improved library/media center is populated by students before and after school and during lunch. And teachers compete to schedule time to bring their classes to the center to take advantage of the computers and projection equipment. “Once teachers became aware of what was available to them, they jumped at the chance to use it for presentations and to work with the kids on their assignments,” reports Kleymeer.

Though now responsible for a busy media center, Kleymeer says she continues to rely on and consult the people she considers to be her primary clients—students. She has trained several to take on tasks associated with running the center, and some of the more technologically savvy students have helped maintain and update the computers. “Students have been the backbone in making this library work,” Kleymeer says.

For more “Unsung Heroes” stories visit: http://www.aft.org/newspubs/periodicals/at/feature.cfm
A Day at Gayhead, is Like a Day at the Beach (for a day!)

by Nicole Scalzo

On January 11th, the PTA at Gayhead sponsored a Spirit Day, Beach Day. Never ones to just let the kids enjoy this encouragement of “Sunny” thinking, Gayhead staff also braved the below freezing weather, to bring a little beach to Entry Road!

The dates for the final two defensive driving courses for 2009-2010 school year are as follows:

1. Mondays, Mar 15 and 22
2. Tuesdays, Jun 1 and 8.

More information and dates to register will follow soon.
Get Your WCT Gear

Short sleeve tees, long sleeve tees, and lanyards are available for purchase at the WCT Office. Shirts range in size from small through 3X. Please stop by the office to make your purchases. Payment for these items must be a check made out to WCT - cash will not be accepted.

WCT Gear is available at the WCT Office:
• $9 for short sleeve tee
• $12 for long sleeve tee
• $2 for lanyards

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2010 Newsletter Schedule

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FOR SALE: Trend Micro AntiVirus and AntiSpyware software. Brand new, still in the wrapped box. It is for 1 year protection for 1 PC. Asking only $20. Call Steve (845) 462-8557

FOR SALE: Solid Oak entertainment center from Martin's Country Craftsman in Pawling. VERY HIGH QUALITY, in very good condition, entire unit measures 53"W, 45"H, 24"D. The area for the television measures 22"D, 28.5"W, 26"H. Has a glass front door to the left of the tv area, TONS of storage. Great for gaming systems, etc. Make an offer! Leave a message (845) 661-2567.

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 contact Chris at (845) 542-0412 if you would like to learn more about this ideal vacation spot.

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