BIG SAVINGS: USE HOME DELIVERY PHARMACY!

There are big savings by getting your maintenance medications delivered to your door using the Express Scripts home delivery pharmacy for your regular, non-specialty drugs. Instead of getting 30-days’ worth of medication, you will receive 90-day supply for the price of 60 days. The chart below will serve as an example of potential savings for one maintenance drug:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIER</th>
<th>Amount you pay for a 30 day supply by going to your Local retail Pharmacy</th>
<th>Amount you pay for a 90 day supply by using Express Scripts home delivery</th>
<th>Deductible per person per calendar year</th>
<th>Total yearly savings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$0 (generic drugs)</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>* $50</td>
<td>$130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>* $50</td>
<td>$210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The $50 deductible does not apply to Tier 1 generic medications when dispensed through a retail pharmacy (e.g., CVS, Walgreens, etc.)

I urge you to take advantage of these built in savings that come with your prescription component of your health insurance. The savings could be significantly higher depending upon how many maintenance medications you and your dependents are presently using. Your 90-day supply will arrive safe and secure to your home days before your medication runs out.

Please take the time and follow these simple steps:

- Go to the Wappingers Congress of Teachers website @ www.wcteachers.org
- Go to benefits
- Click on Health Care
- Click on getting started with home delivery

There you will find a step by step procedure on how to get started, including the Express Scripts home delivery pharmacy order form.

Important Note for “Specialty” Medications: These prescriptions often require special handling, and are sent to you through Accredo (1-800-803-2523). These drugs are obtained through the provider referral process, and are managed for you by your healthcare provider. You may use the phone number to follow up on your medication, if necessary.

In solidarity, Pasquale Delli Carpini
On Thursday, October 23 WCT Executive Board Members and RA Delegates Pasquale Delli Carpini, Donna Kart, Ray Koretsky and I attended the ED 13/14 meeting at the Powelton Club in Balmville. NYSUT is divided into Election Districts and the WCT is part of NYSUT’s Election District 13, which includes locals such as Arlington, Coxsackie and Saugerties.

The keynote speaker was Sean Patrick Maloney who represents the 18th district in the House of Representatives. His message was to get members out to vote for candidates who support labor and to do so by hitting the ground and making face-to-face contact with our members.

According to Fairvote.com, about 60% of the eligible voting population votes during a presidential election and about 40% votes during midterm elections. Maloney reminded us that he passed 13 bills while in congress. Furthermore, he supports college affordability and voted to cut student loan interest rates in half; he wants to allow adults to refinance their high student loan rates at a lower rate.

Maloney also spoke about the nine Superfund sites in the Hudson Valley specifically mentioning the one in Hopewell Junction that has been waiting approximately 10 years on the Superfund National Priorities list. (Superfund is the federal government’s program to clean up the nation’s uncontrolled hazardous waste sites; see EPA.gov for more information.)

The EPA added this site on April 27, 2005 due to hazardous chemicals that were found in the soil and ground water that extends for about one and a half miles into mostly residential neighborhoods. He opposed the restructuring of the Superfund as it would hurt communities like the one in Hopewell Junction.

Also, on the evening’s agenda was the Smart Schools Bond Act. NYSUT endorses the act and if approved by voters it will provide access to classroom technology and high-speed internet connectivity to equalize opportunities for children to learn, to add classroom space to expand high-quality pre-kindergarten programs, to replace classroom trailers with permanent instructional space, and to install high-tech smart security features in schools. The projects are to be full funded by the state and require no local financial contribution from the school districts.
BEINER IS THE WCT WEBMASTER

By Shahna Allen, Editor

Did you hear the news? There's a new web site in town...and it is your one-stop as a Union member. Webmaster Nancy Beiner has a thing for languages, whether they're Latin or binary based. Nearly a decade before anyone had ever heard of an iPhone, Nancy Beiner was developing her own website by writing HTML code. The John Jay Spanish teacher earned a Masters in Technology Integration and will casually shrug off any impressed reaction thrown at her on the subject.

While most of us put our feet in the sand this past summer, Beiner put her skills and knowledge into the WCT website and produced impressive results that netted 3,400 hits by the last week of September. The big picture entails the ability for Union members to interact with the Union and each other in a safe and private environment.

Your ticket of admission? Create an account and log in, as all members will be expected to do. By late September 342 members had logged in and browsed the tabs, which include Commentator Archive, Retirees - WCRT and Stay Informed. The necessity and safety of a login removes key aspects of the website from the public and creates a digital members-only location.

As a legal organization, representation and elections are key. Future plans include safe and efficient online voting and email access to a rep by merely touching a name.

While mass emails will remain a means of communication, text messages will be a future possibility.

In addition, communication with the WCT office can be accomplished with a phone call or by simply clicking on the “Contact us” link in the Public section. The interactivity and security of the website make it essential for both members and retirees. Retired members no longer need to rely on email and the Postscript newsletter. Everyone who logs in will gain access to the same information. There is a blog feature for users and a forum where members can ask members questions.

Could anyone recommend a child-friendly dentist in the Fishkill area who takes our insurance?

The digital WCT wagon is rolling out; login and join the ride. Conveniently located at: wcteachers.org. Don’t wait until the last minute to register. It takes approximately 24-48 hours to verify a member’s status.

Have a suggestion for the website? Something you would like to see? Any questions about how to use it?
Contact Nancy at webmaster@wcteachers.org
SAT, ACT, What the......?  

By James Casey

Love it or hate it the SAT has been the benchmark for colleges and universities for the last 88 years to measure the academic readiness of a potential student. It is simply the “gold” standard of testing within the pedagogical community. However, there are those who claim it does not truly measure that readiness, and the ugly cousin, the ACT does a better job of holistically evaluating a potential college candidate.

The current SAT evaluates Critical reading, Writing and Math with a 25 minute required Essay component, while the ACT evaluates English (Writing), Reading (Critical Reading), Math and Science with an optional 30 minute Essay. Both tests use a multiple choice format, but the SAT gives students five choices per question, while the ACT limits the choices to four.

The SAT Math section contains 12 questions where the student must “grid in” their own answer choice, while the ACT does not. The SAT tests in 25 minute intervals and skips back and forth between subjects, while the ACT stays focused one subject at a time for longer periods ranging from 35-60 minute intervals. Perhaps the most daunting dissimilarity is the fact that students are penalized $1/4$ point for every wrong answer on the SAT while they are not on the ACT.

For years, parents, teachers and guidance counselors alike have thought if a student was better in math and science they should take the ACT, while those whose talents were more adept in reading and writing should take the ACT. While these observations are questionable, the simple fact is that students feel more comfortable with a test that seems more consistent and fair simply because of the limited answer choices and consistent test sections.

Most if not every college or university now takes either and many are accepting both. These trends have caused a transformation at the supposed “non-profit” College Board and more specifically the SAT. (Note: the PSAT is also changing to reflect the new guidelines as instituted by the SAT.)

According to the College Board, “The redesigned SAT will test the few things that research shows matter most for college readiness and success. The SAT redesign is centered on eight key changes” (College Boardhttps://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/redesign). They are: relevant words in context, command of evidence, essay analyzing a source, focus on math that matters the most, problems grounded in real world context, science and social studies reading passages, document based readings and questions, and no penalty for wrong answers. In short, the good folks at the College Board in their infinite wisdom have decided to make a test that is surprisingly similar to the ACT.

Still, the primary question persists, “Which test should I take” There unfortunately is no easy answer. Some students may find the redesigned SAT more user friendly. There will NOT be a penalty for wrong answers, so students won’t have to worry about losing points for guessing incorrectly. Once again, this is something that has been present on the ACT since its inception. There will be only 4 answer choices instead of 5.

Students may find this easier, while some may not be able to eliminate as easily. While there will be more common place vocabulary on the new SAT and students may be more familiar with some of the vocabulary tested, they will need to know multiple definitions of these so-called “common place” words.

SAT continued on page 7
On October 15th 2014 John Jay Ceramics II, III and IV students and their teacher Bonnie Bogumil and RCK Ceramics II students and their teacher Amanda Reardon attended an Open Studio Tour for high school students sponsored by The SUNY New Paltz Ceramics Department.

The day started with bagels and cream cheese and a warm welcome by the Ceramics Professors Anat Shiftan and Bryan Czigiesz. They talked about admission into the BFA program in ceramics and briefly described their curriculum. This was followed by small group tours of the 10,000 sq. ft state of the art ceramics facility lead by BFA students. The Wappingers potters were inspired as they were given time to explore different hands on activities such as wheel throwing, hand building and slip casting all lead by SUNY ceramic students. In the center atrium of the Fine Arts Building professional potters offered students a closer inspection through demonstrations on the wheel, using colored clay, and with 3D printed forms.

Before heading home the Wappingers potters had a chance to go to the Dorsky Museum of Art to see an exhibit of local work of mixed media. It was an inspiring, informative and creative day enjoyed by all!

BABY NEWS

Teachers Kourtney & Steve Cabello of JJ Math and RCK Spanish respectively, gave birth October 7th to a healthy baby girl. Sabrina Idalia Cabello weighed in at 7.8 pounds and is 19 inches long. Both mom and baby are looking fantastic!

Our members are growing.
Let us know:
commentator@wcteachers.org
The old but true adage, “If you don’t use it you’ll lose it,” frightened some teachers a few weeks ago. The District has been maintaining the yearly subscription to Turnitin but recently contemplated the teacher usage and the price, which increases 10% each year. If more teachers do not use the service it will be lost.

The company’s website touts: “Turnitin is the global leader in evaluating and improving student learning. The company’s cloud-based service for originality checking, online grading and peer review saves instructors time and provides rich feedback to students. One of the most widely distributed educational applications in the world, Turnitin and Ephorus is used by more than 15,000 institutions in 140 countries to manage the submission, tracking and evaluation of student papers online. Turnitin also offers iThenticate, a plagiarism detection service for commercial markets, and WriteCheck, a suite of formative tools for writers.”

To translate a few terms: cloud – based service means items uploaded and held on a remote server, awaiting further action. The cloud and sharing creates a paperless environment where student can upload, teacher can grade and/or offer suggestions, and the editing can continue remotely. Another feature is trademark-labeled as iThenticate, which means the company cross-references the papers against thousands of others to check for plagiarism, even other student papers.

The California company began humbly in 1995 as Plagiarism.org, with co-founder John Barrie, a doctoral student and teaching assistant at the University of California, Berkeley. Like many inventions, he came up with the idea to solve a problem. He became aware and frustrated by the rampant cheating and market for buying papers. He set out to create a huge database with enough resources from all fields that would deter students from cheating.

As the District contemplates its cost of maintaining this service, consider what it accomplishes and how it prepares students for college life, where many papers are only submitted through Turnitin. Listen to a few responses from teachers and consider trying the service while it is still available.

“I teach 11 AP Language and Composition, and I use Turnitin for all the essays my students write outside of class. Turnitin is very important and valuable to me, because unfortunately without a deterrent, some students will cheat. Turnitin has flagged three cases of major plagiarism in my AP classes this year; those students have had to tell their parents about their cheating and have also suffered serious consequences. I do not know of any alternative programs, but this one is invaluable. I don’t know what I would do without it.”

- Anonymous submission
Plagiarism is rampant in our schools; sometimes because students feel the need to cheat, but more often because they are not aware that they are plagiarizing. Students need to be held accountable as improper writing techniques in high school can lead to major problems and consequences, such as expulsion, at the college level. Turnitin.com makes it significantly easier to check for plagiarism and therefore easier to grade papers, making them much less daunting to assign. It is in your best interest, and our students, for you to begin using turnitin.com. Set up is quick and the steps to check for plagiarism are easy to learn.

-Alyson Dodge JJ Social Studies

I would hate to lose this writing tool. It is especially valuable for teaching students how important paraphrasing and correct citations are in order to avoid plagiarism. My seniors can see which sections of the text need revision before submitting their papers for a grade. It really does help the students to better understand the requirements of college-level writing.

-Marilyn Norton RCK English

While I understand the cost involved, I think this is a resource that has proven invaluable to some of us in teaching the students how to prevent plagiarism. In dealing with Honor Societies, I can attest to the decrease in plagiarism incidents. I attribute a lot of it to the use of Turnitin and the instruction during class.

- Nancy Beiner JJ Spanish

SAT, continued from page 4

Some students may find some of the changes more challenging due to the new configurations. Most questions will require multiple steps to get to an answer, particularly in the math section. The reading passages will include complex structure and vocabulary. A more robust analysis of the passage in question will be required.

Basic math skills will be more important, but rather the transfer of these skills to complex word problems will be even more paramount. No more direct response math questions. The math section will tighten its focus on data analysis, problem solving, algebra and topics leading into advanced math. Calculators, now permitted throughout the math section, will not be allowed in some portions to help evaluate math fluency.

While there will be fewer sections on the redesigned test, there will be longer times for each section. Again, the College Board is emulating the current ACT design. Reasoning and critical thinking skills will be the focus of the SAT. The redesign will strengthen the essay, giving students who choose to take it 50 minutes to analyze evidence and explain how an author builds an argument. The remainder of the test will be three hours. Currently the SAT takes three hours and 45 minutes. In addition, the scoring method will be changed. Currently, a perfect score is 2400. The new redesign will top out at 1600. Details as to the specific computation are still sketchy at this time. According to the College Board, the new SAT will be available to be taken on computers, but these details are still being evaluated.

Let parents, students, guidance counselors, administrators and teachers not be lulled into a false sense of security. While the test may seem to be a little more objective, it will still require a significant amount of preparation in order for the student to be successful and attain the score they seek to achieve. Just like purchasing the first production of a new model of a car, the buyer should be aware of the imperfections that may be lurking underneath the shiny new exterior. Taking the new SAT on its first release? You might be better off with the tried and true ACT.
New school year, new contract, new step, new paycheck stub. MAKE EXTRA SURE ALL IS WELL. It is always a good idea to take a close look at your first pay stub that was emailed to you last week. It has a new look from the past several years’ stubs.

Your ANNUAL SALARY is now listed as ENTITLEMENT. You should soon be receiving a note in your school mailbox from the district (assuming past practice is repeated). It should have your education status (ex: Master +24) and step #. Check this against the new contract that can be found at the union website and/or the district website. If you are having any trouble interpreting the table, feel free to contact me at wctmembership@gmail.com

The DEDUCTIONS, Not our favorite part, so make sure that all items make sense.

FICA, MEDI, FEDERAL, STATE – those are all there for everyone.

DUESTCH - is your union dues and should be $42.70 this year for all members making more than $32,000 a year.

NYSTRS contributions.- Tier 4 members-your 3% contributions stop after 10 years of credit. Congrats to those who have crossed the line this year.

Every other deduction should be something that you elected to have deducted. This could be AFLAC, PLAN 125, retirement contributions, and hopefully, from the Union standpoint, VOTECOPE (Thank you)

-Any questions that you have should first be researched by you through the contract.
-If you are having trouble matching the contract pay grid with your step level, you could contact me through email, wctmemembrship@gmail.com
-Next, question HR at the district office to clarify.
-If there is still an issue at that point, then contact your building rep.

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FROM PAYROLL DEPARTMENT RE: OCTOBER 30, 2014 PAYCHECK

Just an update on what you will see on your next paycheck:

Your accrual time (Sick, Personal, Vacation) will now be printed on your check. It will also give you your time remaining for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

You may have noticed in your last check that your year-to-date salary has been updated to reflect your 2014 calendar year-to-date salary.

Please call payroll with any questions after you have reviewed the information as presented on the stub.
MEET THE MENTEE

Background: I grew up in a northern suburb of Buffalo and moved to the Hudson Valley 6 years ago. I have a great family, including an amazing 10 month old baby boy.

Education: Undergraduate: SUNY Geneseo Graduate: Syracuse University

Previous Teaching: 6 years in Poughkeepsie City School District

Favorite Food: Hummus and cucumbers
Favorite Book: Pride and Prejudice
Favorite Movie: Love Actually

What I am looking forward to this year: I am looking forward to being in a new district where I can learn, teach and grow.

OASYS UPDATE FROM JOANNE SEREDA

As I'm sure your principal and/or department administrator have notified you, the OASYS online evaluation system, an add-on to the MyLearningPlan.com online approval system, will be used exclusively in 2014-15 for processing, submission, and retention of all forms included in the WCT APPR system (Pre-Observations, Observations, Post-Observations, Evaluations, Professional Growth Plans) for all WCT unit members. Paper copies of these documents will no longer be produced.

The system is easy to use but it is suggested that all WCT unit members watch the "end user" tutorial videos on using OASYS:

Go to MyLearningPlan.com and log in using your email address and MLP password. At the top of the screen, double-click on the Help button (an "i" in a blue circle). On the left side of the screen, double-click on MLPOASYS - Teacher/EndUser." Double click on Tutorials/Webinars. Double click and watch Webinar: End User Tutorial Double click and watch Webinar: Using the Artifact Tool
FAVORITE TEACHER REMEMBERS GIANT'S JOE PANIK

By Robert Seipp

The Giants are the #1 baseball team. Joe Panik graduated from John Jay in 2008 and then attended St. John’s University. He is reported as saying Seipp is his favorite teacher. He was a 1st round draft (29th pick) by Giants in 2011 and debuted May 2014. He bats left handed and throws right from second base and is renowned for his quick defense and precise double plays.

I had the pleasure of having Joe Panik in math class for 3 years when he was a student at John Jay High School.

Joe was a model student. He always was on time, paid attention, took notes, did his homework, and performed very well on tests and quizzes. He was everything that any teacher would want in a student. You would never know that Joe was a star player for the John Jay Varsity Baseball Team.

When Joe would return home from St. John’s University on break, we (me, Joe, and Craig Carvalho – the athletic trainer at the time at JJ) would go out to lunch to catch up. When I asked Joe at once such lunch meeting what made him so good, he couldn’t answer the question. The kid doesn’t have an ounce of arrogance in him at all and he couldn’t put into words that he is a gifted athlete with a tremendous determination and commitment to excellence. I saw this strive for perfection in him as a high school honors math student, but he also had it in almost every other aspect of his life. Watching Joe now in the World Series approaching each pitch of each at bat with tremendous focus and determination, I see that he hasn’t changed one bit from his high school days.

I saw Joe over the summer at Citi Field when the Giants came to play the Mets. You would think that Joe wouldn’t think of coming over to his old math teacher during batting practice, but he took a few minutes to stop by and ask me how I was doing. He asked how our soccer team would be this fall. I couldn’t help but laugh.....he was wondering how a high school soccer team would be this coming fall and he was moments away from playing Major League Baseball in NYC. But that’s the kind of kid Joe Panik was and it’s the man he still is today.

I have two young boys at home who play baseball and are watching Joe play on TV. I share with my boys how hard Joe worked to get there and how he has done all the little things right along the way. He was a model student and one of the nicest kids I’ve ever had the pleasure of meeting. I can only hope and pray that my two boys grow up to be just like Joe Panik. I am certain that my boys won’t ever be playing professional baseball or playing in the World Series, but I hope that they are as hard working, kind, and caring as Joe was and still is today. Joe Panik is a great baseball player but he’s an even better person! I’m lucky to know him and the WCSD is lucky to have him as a graduate!
WCT MEMBERS LAUDED

On October 16, at Anthony’s Pier Nine, WCT members Martha Bilsback (Myers Corners) and Gloria DiNardi (RCK) received Awards for Excellence from the Mid-Hudson School Study Council SUNY New Paltz. Martha received her award for Excellence in Teaching while Gloria received her award for Excellence in Pupil Personal Services. They were among 32 teachers, social workers, nurses, administrators and support staff from districts such as Washingtonville, Pearl River, and Florida, New York. Over 400 attended the celebration.

The Wappingers’ contingent was three tables strong as colleagues, retirees, family and administration celebrated both Martha and Gloria. Celebrating Martha was her husband, Woody and her co-teacher, Jackie (DeRito) Calahan as well as her college (Rider University) friend, Marylou Welbrock Reeves. Wendy Heuman (JJ Social Worker) was there as a friend of Gloria DiNardi along with Gloria’s husband and twin sister.

It was a nice surprise to see WCT retirees, the Devines, Ginny Marcus and Flo Mondanaro come out to toast our awardees. Other colleagues in attendance were Kim Castano and Linda Burnham.

Among the administrators who joined in the celebration were Jose Carrion (Interim Superintendent), Sydney Vasquez (Myers Principal), Joanne Sereda (HR Director), Shelby Outwater (WCT Personel Assistant), Joe Simoni (Director of Special Education and Student Services), David Seipp (RCK AP), Caroline Pidala (RCK AP), and Anthony Giovinazzi (RCK AP). Rena Finsmith (JJ Senior Building Rep) and I (Secondary-at-Large) also attended as both friends of Martha, as well as WCT representatives.

There were several surprises in store for us during the evening. The first was Martha’s former 4th student, Lea, who arrived with her mother. Lea wrote a letter expressing why Martha should receive this award and gave a brief speech for Martha at the table. The other surprise was former superintendent, Marco Pochintesta, who was there in his new role as superintendent of Pearl River.

All in all, it was a lovely evening where different Wappingers’ factions came together with one thought in mind – the celebration of Martha and Gloria and the acknowledgment of what they do for the students of our district.

By Diane D. DiChiara, Secondary-at-Large
Awards Dinner Moments

WCSD Staff, Retirees and Administrators

Jose and Marco

Martha Bilsback & co-teacher Jackie Calahan

Honorees: Bilsback & Gloria DiNardi
CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN GIAMETTA OF JOHN JAY PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We would like everyone to have a chance to congratulate John Giametta on his new position as Assistant Principal at Beacon Middle School. We will be celebrating at the “Last Chance” bar Rt 376 Summerland Plaza on Thursday, November 6th at 4:30pm. It would be great if you could stop by!

Note from Editor

In regard to Turnititin, this is a valuable service that ties directly to future usage. Please direct questions to any teachers who use the service so that our numbers and usage can increase by next year. In addition, a future training may be arranged.

We are proud of the members of our Union and wish to stay united and strong by sharing information through The Commentator and our website at wcteachers.org.

Please submit ideas, articles, pictures, news with these sources:
commentator@wcteachers.org

FOR SALE:

Oak kitchen cabinets $300

Frigidaire electric range
smooth top surface, 4 years old $150

Call Dan 845-471-8894

<table>
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**THE WCT WELFARE TRUST FUND**

Trustees:

Flip Gertler      Chairperson
Theresa Stowel    Treasurer
Erin Mulligan     Secretary
Kim Mahusky       Trustee
Pasquale Delli Carpini Trustee

WEBSITE: [http://wcteachers.org](http://wcteachers.org)
WEBMASTER: [webmaster@wcteachers.org](mailto:webmaster@wcteachers.org)
COMMENTATOR: [commentator@wcteachers.org](mailto:commentator@wcteachers.org)

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:**

WCT OFFICE: 845-227-5065  
DANIEL H. COOK 800-342-6651  
MIRKIN & GORDON (LAWYERS) 914-997-1576  
DAVIS VISION 800-999-5431  
STACY BRAUN ASSOC (FINANCIAL) 888-949-1925  
HEALTH ADVOCATE 866-695-8622

**DIRECTIONS TO WCT OFFICE**

2537 ROUTE 52, SUITE 15
HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY 12533

- Heritage Square complex east of Rt 376 and 52 and west of the Taconic
- Enter parking lot and make second right
- Use front entrance
- Go to 2nd floor, door at the end Suite 15