Brinckerhoff Apple Day

The Brinckerhoff Second Graders held their annual Apple Day on Friday, October 15.

The children rotated through all the second grade classrooms participating in various apple related activities with the help of parent volunteers. In Mrs. White's classroom they performed measurements on the apples using standard and nonstandard measurement, and balance scales. Mrs. Hatfield's room conducted sink and float experiments, Mrs. Mikelic's room did apple artwork and Mrs. Halpin had apple tasting. Each class also made delicious applesauce.

Evans Elementary Halloween Fun

By Shareen Whitehouse

On Friday evening, October 22nd, the James S. Evans community celebrated Halloween at their annual Halloween Fun Night. Over 300 students participated in carnival games, listened to Halloween stories, sang spooky Halloween songs at the sing-a-long, and completed crafts. A pizza dinner was enjoyed throughout the evening. Later a haunted house delightfully scared the students and their families in the Haunted House. Staff, teachers, and parents pitched in and helped run all of the activities throughout the evening. Also, seven Roy C. Ketcham National Honor Society students, including some Evans alumni, helped the children have a fun time with the carnival games. It was a fun time had by all.
Kinry Road and Oak Grove Elementary schools kicked off their annual 10 Day Walking Challenge program this year with a walk on the Walkway Over the Hudson after school on October 18. Marley Brothers, a P.E. student teacher at Oak Grove, showed her school spirit by completing the walk in full costume. She was dressed as a squirrel representing the school mascot for Oak Grove.

The total after ten days was Oak Grove walked 7,107 miles compared to Kinry’s 4,476 miles. The championship trophy is on display at Oak Grove Elementary School this year.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this fun event. Oak Grove had 106 students turn in their walking logs and 23 teachers. Kinry had 60 students and 15 teachers turn in their walking logs.

Those forms contributed an average of 50 miles per day to the each school’s total.

Shoe lace tokens will be distributed during P.E. classes to all students who turned in a family walking log forms. Thanks again to everyone who participated and keep walking.
QUESTION OF THE MONTH??

Does the show *Teach* starring Tony Danza work for or against public school teachers?

If you haven't seen the show go to [http://www.aetv.com/](http://www.aetv.com/) Send your replies to commentator@wcteachers.org by December 10.

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This is a new monthly column. Send questions you would like to see the answers to via email to: commentator@wcteachers.org by December 10th.

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Your answers can be kept confidential if you wish... just indicate that in your response.

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This column can be a forum for any topic of discussion that members would like to see in future issues!

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**Noted Actor Helps Launch 'No Kids Hungry' Campaign**

*(courtesy of AFT Weekly, November 12)*

Many of us will forever associate the actor Jeff Bridges with a character known as "The Dude" in the movie "The Big Lebowski." Now, AFT members can get to know him as chief spokesman for the No Kid Hungry campaign that's launching in November, sponsored by the anti-hunger group Share Our Strength and supported by the AFT. An anti-hunger activist since 1983, when he founded the End Hunger Network, the Oscar winner is dead set on meeting the SOS campaign's goal of ending childhood hunger by 2015. "Poverty is complicated, but feeding a child is not," Bridges told a packed house of hunger activists and journalists at the National Press Club on Nov. 10. "We can do that. Come on! We're the guys! This is our country." He encouraged everyone to *take the No Kid Hungry pledge* [http://nokidhungry.org/aft](http://nokidhungry.org/aft) online. [*To Read more visit: [http://leadernet.aft.org/news/article_detail.cfm?ArticleID=3066](http://leadernet.aft.org/news/article_detail.cfm?ArticleID=3066)*]

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**Brinckerhoff Halloween Collection**

Mrs. Sokol, Mrs. Vena, and Mrs. Long's fifth grade class at Brinckerhoff Elementary collected "Halloween Candy for Troops." This is the third year they have participated in this event. Overall, the school collected 183 pounds of candy to be sent overseas. They beat last years total of 114 pounds.
Memo to: Wappingers Central School District Employees & Retirees

From: Carleen Scherer
Business Office

Date: October 2010

RE: Health Insurance Open Enrollment Period

November is the month you have the opportunity to change your health insurance plan. There are four meetings scheduled with representatives from MVP, CDPHP and Empire Blue Cross & Blue Shield (Alternate Blue Choice PPO). There will be a question and answer period following a brief presentation from each representative.

Anyone electing to change their health insurance plan must complete an application and return it to me in the Business Office by Tuesday, November 30. Applications may be obtained in the Business Office for any one of the three plans.

If you elect to change your insurance plan, it will become effective January 1, 2011. You will be covered by your present plan through December 31, 2010.

If you do not wish to change your insurance plan, you do not have to call me.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (845) 298-5000 extension 113.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

1. 11/01/10 DISTRICT OFFICE 10:00AM CONFERENCE ROOM A
2. 11/05/10 VAN WYCK JR. H.S 3:00PM LIBRARY
3. 11/09/10 MYERS CORNERS 5:30PM LIBRARY
4. 11/12/10 OAK GROVE 4:00PM LIBRARY

***PLEASE NOTE, if you are contemplating changing to a different health insurance plan or a change from individual to family or a change from the buy-out to District health insurance, you must do so between November 1 and November 30, 2010 with an effective date of January 1, 2011.

The next opportunity to make a change will not be until open enrollment in November 2011, unless there is a qualifying event (loss of coverage, marriage, birth or adoption).
Welcome back and congratulations to Tim Kermani (JJ Math) and his wife Rebecca on the birth of their first child Chloe Susan on Oct. 7th.

Kerry and Pat Ruppert had their third child on Tuesday, October 5, 2010. Michael Patrick Ruppert was born weighing 7lbs 2 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. Kerry is a 4th grade Special Education teacher at Gayhead Elementary.

New Babies...

Congratulations to the following John Jay Students who have been accepted to the 2010 NYSSMA Area All-State Honors Ensembles!

### Area All-State Chorus:
- Caitlin Bailey
- Grant Benedict
- Cheyenne Cutter
- James Czernaiwski
- Morgan Dean
- Sam Eisnebaum
- Matthew McNamara
- AJ Nandi
- Michael Coghlan
- Gina Vecere
- Paul Dominguez

### Area All-State Band:
- Mike Seward
- Samantha Fay
- Stephanie Schechter
- Amanda Scannell
- Matthew Jernigan
- Michael Coghlan
- Gina Vecere
- Paul Dominguez

### Area All-State Orchestra:
- Jeffrey Girton
- Bryan Chan
- Andrew Eng
- Megan Polk
- Megan Carswell
- Linda Yu
- Jimmy Jiang
- Joe Geraci
NYSTRS Annual Delegates Meeting

by Ellen Korz

I was really excited to go to the NYSTRS Annual Delegates Meeting this year. This is my retirement year and I wanted to hear of anything new coming up that would affect my plans. Last year the big news was the 55/25 retirement incentive. This year there was a new incentive, Chapter 105. Not only was there a new incentive, but a new program for members to be educated about the retirement system and financial planning for the future. Then there was “Pensionomics”. There is so much information thrown at you, but it’s all on the NYSTRS website.

It turns out that the Chapter 45 incentive is now not optional; Districts must participate. It provides an unreduced retirement benefit to eligible Tier 2, 3, and 4 members, 55 with a minimum of 25 years of service. The new incentive, Chapter 105, has a part A and B and Districts must elect to participate. Certain employees are targeted by the employer for this incentive and they must have 25 years of service, but less than 30. Again, for clear and updated information, go to the NYSTRS website.

PREP, the new pension and retirement education program was introduced and this looks like a really worthwhile day for the new and the seasoned teachers. As they stated, “it’s never too early or too late to prepare for retirement”. It’s set up as modules so you only go to those that pertain to you at your stage in your career. It includes financial planning, estate planning, benefit options, filing requirements, and even adjusting to retirement. There’s something for everyone and if you wait until you think you’re ready you could have missed something that may have benefitted you, had you known.

“Pensionomics” is a new term and caught my interest. It addressed the economic impact of public pensions. In a time when we are always reading about how taxpayers fund our so called “lavish” pensions, this presentation gave us the data and the rebuttal to that argument. It was clear that the defined benefit pension was the “better bang for the buck”. Through slides of data it was shown that the cost of funding our plan was half the cost of funding a defined contribution plan. Our pensions allow us to spend locally, keep people working and businesses operating as well as paying our taxes. Our pension plan is fully funded at last valuation. The people who point to us as the reason for the economic downfall should be looking at the collapse of Wall Street and the executives enjoying their huge bonuses. Our system invests in private companies and supports private sector jobs. Most of us don’t retire with $100, 00 pensions. The average public pension is $33, 000.

Do yourself a favor and go to the NYSTRS website and www.nirsonline.org. Get familiar with your retirement system and the data available. It will make you feel good and you’ll be able to refute the bad press we always seem to receive.

Thanks for letting me be a delegate these past few years and I hope someone who takes my place in the future will enjoy the connections you make by being an active participant in your union.
Brinckerhoff Native American Day

On Friday, October 29th the fourth grade classes at Brinckerhoff School participated in Native American Game Day. Students played games such as Iroquois Triangular Tug of War, The Stick Game, Danger Signal, Toss and Catch and Hoop and Spear. They also planted corn and made a craft where they drew pictures on beans with Native American symbols and told a story. There were lots of snacks and good times. These activities tied in with their unit on Iroquois and Algonquian Indians.
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- Indoor pool and aqua classes (Newburgh)
- Annual programs & events including: 12-Week Body Transformation, member holiday party, cancer walk, road races, ADA golf outing, and Tour de Cure
- 24-hour access (Fishkill)
- Kids’ Club - child care
- KidZone - children’s fitness and activity center (LaGrange)
- Children’s Birthday Parties (Newburgh & LaGrange)
- Children’s Summer Camps (Newburgh & LaGrange)
- Basketball • Volleyball • Racquetball • Indoor tracks (Newburgh & LaGrange)
- Boxing Studios

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Contact: Mike Terzini at mterzini@goldsgym.net

Fishkill, 982 Main Street 896-3300 • Newburgh, 15 Racquet Rd, Rte. 17K 564-7500 • LaGrange, 258 Titusville Rd. 463-4800
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

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

December 7, 2010
January 11, 2011
February 15, 2011
March 15, 2011
April 5, 2011
May 17, 2011
June 14, 2011

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.

Times - 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Please call 227-5065 to schedule an appointment.
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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Ed McKenna - 845-471-7607

Happy Thanksgiving WCT!
**For Sale:** Dining room set which includes 42x58” oval table with 1 leaf, four chairs, and hutch with 2 additional end chairs for $500. Call 845-297-6471

**For Sale:** 10 year old console television - cherry finish - for $75. Call 845-297-6471

**For Sale:** 2006 Yamaha upright piano Model M500QA with bench - cherry finish. Asking $2800. Call 845-297-6471

**For Sale:** $1,200 for a beautiful diamond for the holidays! GIA Certified. Round Brilliant, .69 carat, VVS1, Color J, Fluorescence Strong Blue. Original purchase price in 1982 for $2,145. GIA certificate, original receipt, two appraisals dated 1982. Contact Teresa at 485-5485

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**For Sale:** Toddler’s English protective riding helmet. Like new, 2 years old. Black velvet with a fully adjustable design. There is a size dial in the back of the helmet to change the size. This is an official regulation show/protective helmet made by the international company. This would fit a child age 2-4. Asking $45 or best offer! Please call 845-661-2567 (leave a message).

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**For Sale:** 52x28’ Woodfield 28 Series manufactured home with whole house AC on 4 Scribo Rd in W.F. - den, 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths and spacious open kitchen, dining and living room areas. All appliances included. Fully carpeted except for kitchen and separate laundry area. Gray siding with white shutters and a 13x28 roofed porch. Asking $110,000. Call 845-297-6471 or 845-896-8909
**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.