The APPR: Teaching Standards, Elements, and Performance Indicators
By Diáne D. DiChiara

The Back to School Special Edition issue of the Commentator presented a summary of the APPR components. As teachers, it is time to take a closer look at the APPR and the impact on teacher education programs and teacher career development.

At a January 2011 meeting, the Board of Regents adopted Teaching Standards. The Standards “give teachers and schools the tools to define and measure teaching excellence” (NYSUT Bulletin). Teacher evaluation will be based on the standards and will be used throughout a teacher’s career.

There are seven Teaching Standards; each standard has several different Elements and each Element has several Performance Indicators. They are

I. Knowledge of Students and Student Learning
Teachers acquire knowledge of each student, and demonstrate knowledge of student development and learning to promote achievement for all students.

II. Knowledge of Content and Instructional Planning
Teachers know the content they are responsible for teaching, and plan instruction that ensures growth and achievement for all students.

III. Instructional Practice
Teachers implement instruction that engages and challenges all students to meet or exceed the learning standards.

IV. Learning Environment
Teachers work with all students to create a dynamic learning environment that supports achievement and growth.

V. Assessment for Student Learning
Teachers use multiple measures to assess and document student growth, evaluate instructional effectiveness, and modify instruction.

VI. Professional Responsibilities and Collaboration
Teachers demonstrate professional responsibility and engage relevant stakeholders to maximize student growth, development, and learning.

VII. Professional Growth
Teachers set informed goals and strive for continuous professional growth.

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STAY INFORMED... IT’S UP TO YOU !!!!

{A Monthly Feature in The Commentator}

Below are some important articles to keep you up to date with current

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<th>Useful FACEBOOK links for teachers</th>
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<td><strong>Are you registered to vote?</strong>: (p.12)</td>
<td>NYSUT United (formerly known as NY Teacher) - <a href="http://www.facebook.com/NYSUTUnited">http://www.facebook.com/NYSUTUnited</a></td>
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<td><strong>Brief Summary</strong>: The title of this article sounds like a no brainer, however, you would be surprised how many people are not registered to vote. People who move, change their name, get married or divorced may fall into this category. This article gives you a website to see if you are registered.</td>
<td>AFT – (American Federation of Teachers) <a href="http://www.facebook.com/AFTunion">http://www.facebook.com/AFTunion</a></td>
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<td>NEA – (National Education Association) <a href="http://www.facebook.com/NEA.ORG">http://www.facebook.com/NEA.ORG</a></td>
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<td><strong>Why we sued the Regents</strong>: (p.18)</td>
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<td><strong>Brief Summary</strong>: In only the second time in NYSUT’s history, it was forced to sue the Regents. After the Regents invited NYSUT to participate in the development of the law, the Regents ignored key portions of the statute during the final regulations. The one part that will get your attention was when they tried to mandate that 40% of standardized test scores be used in a teacher’s yearly evaluation. If NYSUT did not sue and win to get it restored to 20%, this would have been part of the evaluation system. This was a great example of your union at work. Your VOTE COPE monies directly allow us to be part of law making process with regards to education.</td>
<td>AFT (American Federation of Teachers) - <a href="http://www.aft.org">http://www.aft.org</a></td>
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The APPR: Teaching Standards, Elements, and Performance Indicators (cont’d from page 1)

Teachers who have gone through the National Board process recognize that these new Standards sound very much like the National Board Core Propositions. Back in 1987, the Carnegie Forum on Education and the Economy’s Task Force on Teaching as a Profession released A Nation Prepared: Teachers for the 21st Century. Shortly after its release, NBPTS issued its first policy statement, which included the Five Core Propositions. From the Core Propositions, Teaching Standards were developed for each individual certificate. The Core Propositions are

1. Teachers are Committed to Students and their Learning
2. Teachers Know the Subjects They Teach and How to Teach Those Subjects to Students
3. Teachers are Responsible for Managing and Monitoring Student Learning
4. Teachers Think Systematically about Their Practice and Learn from Experience
5. Teachers are Members of Learning Communities.

Since the NB stipend was first added to the WCT contract the process has been strictly teacher-driven - teachers encouraging other teachers to go through this valuable process. Along the way, there have been a few building level administrators who have also encouraged teachers to pursue this time-consuming professional development process because they identified it as way towards improving student performance and excellence in teaching. However, in general those outside of the buildings have not encouraged the process. Why else would teachers languish in My Learning Plan limbo waiting for approval for any professional development course including the National Board Lab Class? Standard VII Professional Growth is part of the new NYS Teaching Standards. The district’s failure to approve or deny MLP requests in an expedient manner will prevent teachers from completing Performance Indicator VII.2 B Teachers engage in opportunities for professional growth and development.

The new Teaching Standards will assist in promoting teaching excellence and maximizing student performance. Districts across NYS must work to support teachers and see that they are given the opportunities and tools to maximize professional growth. Teachers must be afforded the right to professional development and not be thwarted in the process by purposeful inaction in the approval process. To deny a teacher the opportunity for professional growth is to ultimately deny the student the opportunity for a teacher of excellence.

I strongly encourage every teacher to pursue further information on each Standard, Element, and Performance Indicator. Please go to the NYSUT website at http://www.nysut.org/cps/rde/xchg/nysut/hs.xsl/bulletins_16862.htm and download the entire Fact Sheet.
Hi Mr. Delli Carpini,

I would like to share some information and a video highlighting the efforts of one of your teachers over Columbus Day weekend. Mr. LaSusa from Brinkerhoff went up to Schoharie over Columbus Day weekend with his kids and his wife, Kate, whom is a member of our teachers association in Mahopac. The goal of the weekend was to help insulate homes that were destroyed in hurricane Irene. In all, the team from Mahopac, which included Brian LaSusa and his family, insulated 9 homes in two days. Mr. LaSusa and his family were an asset to our team. We would like to thank him and his family for their efforts.

Below is a link to the video showing the destruction and the rebuilding efforts. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aekF1dnxFYY&feature=channel_video_title

Jennifer Cauthers
Mahopac HS - Science and Building Technology Leader
Last week, Van Wyck held a Breast Cancer awareness fundraiser and raised over $700 dollars towards the Making Strides walk for the American Cancer Society. Team Griffin proudly walked in support of us who are breast cancer survivors, and our loved ones who are currently fighting the battle.

KINRY ROAD SCHOOL WINS WALKING CHALLENGE OVER OAK GROVE SCHOOL

The Kinry Road school community along with the Oak Grove school community entered into the 2nd Annual 10-day Walking Challenge which took place from October 11 to 20. Physical Education Teachers, Dawn Turpin-Orgetas of Oak Grove and Anne Seymour of Kinry Road planned this event last year after the NYS Healthy Steps program was cut from the state budget.

The competition encourages students to increase their level of activity outside of physical education class by tracking their daily steps. It also serves to bring families together since students could count the steps of any family members who walked with them during the 10 day period. Students learned about the health benefits of walking, monitoring heart rates, and increasing cardiovascular endurance. The competition included a walk over the Hudson River Walkway and the development of a wiki page which incorporated technology into physical education. The addition of the wiki page proved to be very motivational as students interacted with one another on-line reporting their progress and offering encouragement toward reaching their goals.

When Oak Grove won the challenge last year, Turpin-Orgetas created a trophy adorned with a squirrel, the Oak Grove mascot. After proudly displaying the trophy at Oak last year, it was sent to Kinry to help motivate students at the start of this year’s challenge. The trophy certainly provided inspiration to Kinry students who won the contest this year by walking 9,551 miles compared to Oak Grove’s 8,203 miles. Kinry plans to replace the squirrel with a cougar, the Kinry mascot, and display the trophy at their school this year.
On Monday, September 19, 2011 James S. Evans Elementary School celebrated Home Depot Revitalization Day. Home Depot arrived bright and early with many tools and supplies with no cost to our school. Throughout the day students, teachers, teacher assistants and parent volunteers helped Home Depot workers transform the face of Evans! Home Depot volunteers repaved the walkway from the front parking lot to the school. Old paint was scraped off the flagpole and a new school sign was placed on the front of the school building. During the day, each class had the opportunity to paint, plant, and de-weed. Special Education and First Grade classes created their own bird houses with the direction of a Home Depot specialist. It was a challenging day for students. Not only did they continue with their academics for the day, they also performed enthusiastically in the warm weather to make Evans a beautiful school. Many of the things mended were the front rails, flagpole, the swing set, and the wood barriers around the playground and front lawn. Parents and students helped to make the front garden picturesque once again with their care and perseverance. New shrubs and flowers were also planted in front of the building. With much enthusiasm and dedication from Mrs. Warden, Evans’ principal, Evans PTA, many parent volunteers, teachers, students and our Home Depot workers, Evans was transformed in just several hours!

At the end of the day, Ms. Garcia, Evans Music Teacher, led the entire school in several patriotic tunes, as two special Home Depot volunteers raised our flag on the newly painted flagpole. It is a day that teachers, staff, parents and students will always remember. Thank you to all the volunteers who dedicated numerous hours to make our school a beautiful place to work and learn. In addition, Mrs. Stock, 3rd grade teacher and students from the Citizenship Club, will continue to keep our school looking beautiful, by keeping up the work that has been done.

By: Erin Giammichele
Melissa Valentino is a new hire as a School Psychologist to Van Wyck Junior High School. Melissa is a graduate from Iona College, while attending graduate school she did her internship in the Wappingers Central School District at Oak Grove Elementary School and Wappingers Junior High School. During the 2010-2011 school year she worked on a leave replacement at Fishkill Plains Elementary School. Melissa choose to become a School Psychologist because she wanted to work with students to help them succeed academically, socially and emotionally.

Melissa & her mentor, Larry Brooks
Van Wyck Junior High School

RIP Steve Jobs
Lori Chiappetta

5th Grade Self-Contained at Brinckerhoff

I have the absolute pleasure to be Lori Chiappetta’s mentor this year. This is Lori’s first full year teaching here at Brinckerhoff! Lori is a very well-liked colleague who has been dedicated to her students since day one. Lori comes into school early and stays late every day. Lori is extremely hard-working, considerate, ambitious, and a determined young teacher. The love she has for teaching and learning can definitely be felt by her students. She will be able to instill that same love to all of her students that pass in and out of her classroom. Lori is a wonderful asset to the Brinckerhoff Community.

Education: Lori received her Bachelor’s Degree in Childhood Education (1-6) and a Master’s Degree in Special Education (1-6) both from SUNY New Paltz.

Prior Experience: Last January, she came into Brinckerhoff as a leave replacement and taught fourth and fifth grade self-contained. Prior to teaching at Brinckerhoff, she completed two other maternity leave-replacements, one at Fishkill Elementary and another at Gayhead Elementary. In between those positions, she frequently subbed in many of the elementary schools in the Wappingers Central School District.

Why teaching?: From an early age, she knew she wanted to be a teacher. Lori’s very first job was working in a daycare center and she loved every second of it! She has enjoyed learning so much from her fellow colleagues in the short amount of time she has been working in this school district and she can’t wait to continue to instill the same joy of learning in her student’s life as well!
Team 6B, Jennifer Colucci, Sean Keenan and Angela Foppiano, won a Community Foundation Field Trip grant for $2000 to visit Liberty Science Center in December.

Jennifer Kirschenheiter (6th grade, VW) had a baby on October 12th, a little girl, Ashley Carol. She is the youngest sister of 3 proud big brothers!

Logan Robert Morrison 8lbs. 11 oz, 21 inches long. Born on 4/28/11 Parents: Robert and Heather Morrison Big sister: Savannah Morrison Grandparents: Kathy and John Snowder

Renee Lord and her husband John welcomed their third son. Ryan John was born 10/17/2011. He weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and was 21 inches long. Renee is a fifth grade teacher at Gayhead elementary.

Jeannie Newman (VR and GH) and Bill Newman (JJ) welcomed their daughter Lauren Avery Newman on June 7, 2011

Jenny Ward (VR and JJ) and husband Paul welcomed their daughter Shea Jenna Ward on October 7, 2011

Congratulations to Kelly Barnum Knight (WJHS) and CJ Knight (VW) who entered into the bonds of matrimony on July 22nd at Marist College.
Important Information about the WCT Welfare Trust Fund

Trustees:
Christine Romano, Chairperson
Kim Mahusky, Treasurer
Erin Mulligan, Secretary
Flip Gertler, Trustee
Pasquale Delli Carpini, 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 online 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:
Wednesday, November 16, 2011
Wednesday, December 7, 2011

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.

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
My name is Michele Diliddo and I am the newest addition to the special education program at Van Wyck Jr. High School. I am a co-teacher for 8th grade Math and ELA. This is my first full time teaching position however, I am no stranger to the Wappinger’s Central School District.

During my graduate program I was a substitute teacher and a home school teacher for Wappinger’s schools. I also had the privilege of working with John Jay High School's special education department during my master's student teaching placement. Working in the district has always been a dream of mine, and these experiences have been invaluable.

I was a student in the Wappinger’s Central School District, and attended Brinkerhoff elementary, Van Wyck Jr.High, and John Jay High School. I continued my education completing a two year Associates degree in Adolescent Education 7-12 from Dutchess Community College. I then continued on to a Bachelor’s degree in Adolescent Education 7-12 with a concentration in Social Studies from Suny New Paltz. My experience at Suny New Paltz was so rewarding that I and choose to continue there and complete my Master's degree for Adolescent 7-12, Special Education. I graduated in May 2011 and interviewed in June for the Special Education position at Van Wyck Jr. High. It has been a wonderful journey and I am delighted to be a part of the Wappinger’s Central School District. I look forward to my future as an educator and am excited to begin this new chapter of my life.
For Sale: **POOL TABLE** - A Brinkman model; cue sticks, etc. reasonable SYMPHONIC color
TELEVISION - 19 INCH SCREEN - reasonable
Call: 845-462-5526

For Sale: **Passport by Fender**
- 300 Watt Pro Portable PA System GREAT DEAL!!!!! SUPER CONDITION!!!!! My Asking Selling Price - $500.00 (Willing to Negotiate)
Angela - #845-546-5079
Email: zumbangela@hotmail.com

The Passport by Fender System was purchased NEW on 3/6/10 at Alto Music in Wappingers Falls, NY. I paid $655.22. I have the original Owner’s Manual and it comes with all the necessary wiring, a FREE Shure Pg48qtr Microphone & 5-year Warranty! You can plug and play!!! The Passport 300 PRO brings you the best in sound, style, convenience and cost. Experience enhanced sound in Passport designs that are small, light and easy to use. The Passport PRO is ideal for whatever your application may be—education, sporting and worship events; meetings, seminars and presentations; gigs at parties, small clubs and coffee houses. Amazing sound. Amazing convenience. Amazing price.

For Rent: Small 2BR bayside canal waterfront house with private dock for rent on FL West coast. See VRBO.com listing #268706 for details.

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blog: http://enriquezentertainment.blogspot.com/
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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.