From the PR Committee:

**Kids Expo, a Success**

Kids Expo took place April 4-5, 2008. It was as great a success as it has been in the past with many activities taking place at a variety of venues. The Dutchess County Teachers were at the Civic Center promoting literacy; after brainstorming what activity could engage children, the PR Committee decided to read to them, have them color bookmarks, and give their parents literature about reading from the Federal Department of Education.

Thanks to our volunteers, Franca Petrillo, Joe Glauda, Emily Guthoff, and Ellen Korz, who touched many families who attended. Franca read children’s books such as *Green Eggs and Ham*, in Spanish. What a great idea that turned out to be; even children who didn’t know Spanish were interested in hearing the story. Joe read *Casey at the Bat*, and had some young boys mesmerized. For the two hours of fun, thanks for your help and making a difference.

Other activities that your PR Committee is busy working on are to raise money for the WCT Scholarship Raffle and purchasing books on tape/large print books for local senior citizen facilities. Our WCT Union gives three scholarships to worthy high school seniors whose parent(s) are members of our WCT. This is an important cause and deserves our utmost support. As teachers we really need to step up and be counted to strengthen our commitment to education. **Please buy at least one raffle ticket when they become available in your building.**

Ellen Korz and Emily Guthoff wrote a grant and received $1,000 from the PR Committee of the Dutchess County United Teachers to purchase large print books and books on tape for the local senior facilities. This is part of our work in providing outreach to our community. We will be writing press releases to the *Poughkeepsie Journal* and *The Southern Dutchess News* to inform the community of the purchase and our desire to support lifelong learning.
Hoops for Hope
By: Nicole Scalzo, Gayhead Elementary

On Sunday, March 9th, women from three schools in the Wappingers Central School District participated in Hoops for Hope at Marist College. Hoops for Hope is a three-on-three women’s basketball tournament with a mission to raise funds for the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation. The Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation is a 501c3 not for profit organization founded in March of 2003. Since its inception the Foundation has raised over $1 million for women and families affected by breast cancer living in the eight counties of the Hudson Valley.

The schools who had teams of women participating were Gayhead Elementary (with four teams of 3+ women), Fishkill Elementary, and Fishkill Plains Elementary. The day was filled with laughter, intensity, some hip checking, and “athleticism.” GREAT JOB LADIES!

For more information, please see the website for Miles of Hope: http://www.milesofhopebcf.org/

(Pictured: Team from Gayhead Elementary School)

Foreign Language Festival a Big Hit!:
¡OLÉ! BRAVO! JUHEE!
By: Allyson Rubin and Franca Petrillo

On the evening of March 27, the Van Wyck Foreign Language Department hosted its second annual Foreign Language Festival. Seventh grade students who study Spanish, German, and Italian with Franca Petrillo, Allyson Rubin, Lauren Guerrero, Nancy Torres-Diaz, Johanna Valente, Tina Schmitz, and Luciene Zollner participated in the event. The students’ Foreign Language Week projects were on display; additionally, many students prepared delicious ethnic treats to share with everyone.

The following students were a tremendous help to the Foreign Language teachers in setting up the cafeteria, serving the food and beverages to our guests, and cleaning up. These students helped their teachers from 3 p.m. through 8 p.m. We are extremely grateful to: Ashley Santiago, Jordan Urban, Brittany Leonforte, Steven Martz, Carlos Fuentes, Rachel Kornet, Christian Zollner, Danique Bradshaw-Clark, Dylan Alves, Cathryn Gaudio, Stephanie Lucas, Thomas Ghatts, George Colabattisto, Kyle Monahan, James Earl, and Nick Tranchina.

Special thanks go to the many students who helped the Foreign Language teachers for various periods of time over the course of the event. VERY special thanks also goes to Mrs. Fuentes, the Van Wyck custodial staff, the Van Wyck cafeteria staff, Mrs. Basuljevic, and the Van Wyck administrators for their support. The evening was a huge success!
Wappingers Congress of Teachers
Recognition Dinner
Honoring 2008 Retirees, Members with 25 years of service, &
Members receiving Tenure

Friday, May 16, 2008
6 PM - 11 PM
Sinapi’s Arbor Ridge, Hopewell Junction

Butler Cocktail Hour, Open Bar (all evening), Penne ala Vodka, Salad
Dinner Choice: Chicken Marsala, Prime Rib, Salmon in a lemon caper sauce
Coffee Table, Cake, full Viennese Table

Price: free for 2008 retiree / $50 per guest

RSVP to the WCT Office by Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Please return this lower portion of the invitation with your payment. Checks are to be made out to "WCT."
Reservations cannot be accepted after April 30, 2008. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Number attending: ____________  Building: __________________________

Dinner Entrée Choice:

Chicken: __________  Prime Rib: __________  Salmon: __________
February Fun at Myers
By Rob Pribeck, Myers News Rep

February was buzzing at Myers with a variety of special presentations and fun activities. The 6 Grade Green Team, under the direction of Christine Romano and Alice Wong, once again organized a Chinese New Year’s celebration. Students learned simple Chinese phrases, led an enthusiastically loud parade around the building, and enjoyed a luncheon of delicious Chinese food.

Food was also central to “Super Bowl Day” organized by our third grade teachers. Students wore sports jerseys, read stories, did graphing activities and brought in cans of soup to be donated to the Wappingers Falls Food Pantry.

The entire second grade enjoyed a presentation by Ellen Woods from the Poison Control Center located at Phelps Memorial Hospital in Tarrytown. Students watched a video, participated in guessing games, and discussed how common but potentially dangerous household substances or medicines could be mistaken for drinks and candy. They also received stickers to label these products.

Our Veterans were also honored in February. Under the supervision of Louise Rose and Kim Robbins, close to 1,000 Valentine’s Day cards and notes were made by the Myers students and delivered to the hospitalized Veterans at the Castle Point Campus, VA Hudson Valley Health Care System.

RCK Teachers Participating in Avon Walk for Breast Cancer

Dear Friends and Colleagues in the WCT:

We are two RCK teachers who will be participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, a two day, thirty nine mile walk to raise money for breast cancer research and to assist those who are medically underserved. We will be walking for all those affected: our sisters and mothers, our daughters and grandmothers, our neighbors and friends, and yes, even the men in our lives. We will walk with determination, with pride and with hope.

In order to participate, each of us needs to raise a minimum of $1800 in donations. We are hoping you will help with a contribution. We would be happy to represent you and your hope for a cure every step of the 39 mile route, and if you’d like, we’d be honored to walk in memory or in honor of you or WCT loved ones who battled with this disease. Just send us the name(s) and we will wear them with pride, close to our hearts.

You need to know that:

- About 40,460 women and 450 men in the US die each year from breast cancer
- Every 3 minutes there is a new diagnosis of breast cancer
- There are over 2 million women in America who are breast cancer survivors
- Every 13 minutes a life is lost to breast cancer.

We need to change those numbers so they are more in our favor, better still a cure. We know the members of the WCT are caring and concerned people and we hope you will help. Checks can be made out to the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer and sent to Hannah Abrahamson or Patricia Wells at RCK. Or you can donate online by going to walk.Avonfoundation.org. Contributions are tax deductible.

For two days we’ll walk with the strength of all those who have suffered with this disease. For two days we will walk with your hopes and dreams for a cure. For two days we will walk as one. Thank you.

In solidarity,

Hannah Abrahamson and Patricia Wells
Every program endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits Trust is researched, designed and monitored to enhance your lifestyle.

With the group buying power represented by more than 585,000 members, we're able to offer quality products and services that are competitively priced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insurance Benefits</th>
<th>Discount Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Life</td>
<td>OfficeMax Retail Connect®</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catastrophe Major</td>
<td>Bose® - New!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Dell Computers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>Barnes &amp; Noble.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Property and Liability (Umbrella)</td>
<td>Working Advantage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term Care</td>
<td>(Discount Tickets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retiree Dental Plan</td>
<td>Lifeline Medical Alert Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WrapPlan® Term Life</td>
<td>Car Rentals - Alamo, Avis, Budget &amp; Hertz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Coordination Plan</td>
<td>Six Flags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidental Death &amp; Dismemberment</td>
<td>The Buyer’s Edge Buying Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision Plan</td>
<td>Heat USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Benefits</th>
<th>Other Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preferred Savings Plus®</td>
<td>MAP - Member Assistance Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgages</td>
<td>MetDESK (Division of Estate Planning for Special Kids)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equifax Credit Watch® Gold</td>
<td>Payroll &amp; Pension Deduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Credit Counseling Service</td>
<td>Consumer’s Guides</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal Services</th>
<th>Defensive Driving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal Service Plan</td>
<td>Identity Theft Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retiree Legal Service Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To request more information, please call:

(800) 626-8101

E-mail us at: benefits@nysutmail.org or visit us on the Web at www.memberbenefits.nysut.org.

Some benefits may not be available in all local associations.

For information about these programs or about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits Trust or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed programs.
Good News!
♦ Congratulations to Kari Foley, Occupational Therapist at Gayhead Elementary, and husband Bill Foley, as they announce the birth of their baby girl, Paige Elizabeth, born April 2, 2008.

Brinckerhoff Students Donate Items to the Dutchess Co. SPCA
By: Kimberly Sokol

The Student Council at Brinckerhoff Elementary School sponsored a Love Your Pet Contest. Students could enter their pets in the contest by donating one item to the SPCA. Prizes, donated by Petco, were awarded in three categories – Most Adorable, Most Unique, and Silliest.

Acts of Kindness at Fishkill Plains:
Children Helping Children
By Steve Schwartz

During March, 2008, the third, fourth, and fifth grade students at Fishkill Plains Elementary School were invited to participate in a fundraiser for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. It is a known fact that St. Jude’s Hospital treats children with serious diseases like cancer and genetic immune defects.

At Fishkill Plains’ Elementary School, as per the Character Education endeavor, grades: three, four, and five voluntarily participated in the Math-A-Thon program to raise money. 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. By undertaking this act of charity and generosity of spirit, the students demonstrated their commitment.

Our school raised a grand total of $7,623. Mrs. Leone’s class raised the most which was $1,151

This was indeed another shining example of how the students at Fishkill Plains dedicate themselves to showing “acts of kindness,” specifically for the benefit of other children. The project proved to be an achievement that the students, teachers, and administration are proud to announce. Character Education lessons teach us to seize every opportunity to perform gracious “acts of kindness” towards others!
FOR SALE: Lovely custom built brick ranch on the south side of Poughkeepsie. Three bedrooms, one and a half baths, hardwood floors, arched doorways, two-zone heating, fireplace, many new updates, all new thermal windows, new appliances, finished basement & laundry room, two car garage, beautiful level backyard with privacy fence, professionally landscaped. Great House!! Reduced price $285,000. Call Dan 845-656-2391.

FOR SALE: one bedroom co-op in Rombout Village, this unit has a view of the Hudson River from deck, hardwood floors, crown molding, new kitchen appliances, central air, community pool, tennis courts, lovely country setting. Asking $138,000. Call Joe at 845-416-3081.

Discount hotel accommodations for Wyndham Sugar Bay Resort & Spa, St. Thomas Virgin Islands. Good for travel from July 2 - July 18. For reservations call 1 800 927 7100. The discount code is Reiki Certification. If you need more info, call 454 1732.


FORSALE: Solar blanket for 16’x32’ swimming pool *Heavy gauge, nearly new for sale for $85 (originally $180). Please contact Sue Blodgett at 845-221-5634.

FOR RENT: Vacation in Ocean City, Maryland. 2 bedroom/2 bath CONDO, on the water (bayside). 1st floor unit, next to pool, beautiful sunsets, just cross the street to the beach - centrally located, close to everything. Contact Sandy for information at 896-1678.

FOR FREE: Beautiful coal stove - cast iron with ceramic tile covering - made in Germany. If interested, contact Ellen Korz at Van Wyck.
Members’ Classified Ads

(Continued from page 7)

Stacy McCusker
Licensed Sales Agent

Currier & Lazier
Realtors®
4 Commerce Street
Suite B-2
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
www.coldwellbanker
hudsonvalley.com

845.452.1156 business
845.453.9113 cell
845.452.1631 fax
stacy.mccusker@coldwellbanker.com

KEEL SYSTEMS, LLC
Computer Setup/Repair/
Improvements Software Setup
and Instruction
Virus/Spyware Protection,
Detection & Removal
Data Backup & Recovery
Networks: Wired/Wireless
Mobile Computing
(Laptops/ PDAs)
Digital Photography/
VHS to DVD

Ed McKenna
845-471-7607

Shirley Rosicke
PHOTOGRAPHY
PORTRAITS
Seniors, Families, Children
Created in the studio or on location
Specializing in WEDDING Photography.
Shirley Rosicke
845-226-5019
www.ROSICKE.com

Thinking of Buying or Selling a Home?
Call for a market analysis of your home!
Contact Chuck Deppe,
a Century 21 Agent with 25 years experience in residential sales & a WCT member for over 35 years)
845-227-3859
CTDEP1@optonline.net

LITTLE DEPOT
Lionel, Williams, K-Line Trains
6000 part inventory
REPAIR SERVICE
by appointment only
OLD TRAINS BOUGHT
thelittledepot@earthlink.net
845-226-5019

Remember to RSVP for the May 16th dinner by April 30th!

Never Clean Your Gutters Again!

Gutter Protection Systems
The First. The Best, The #1 Gutter Protection System in the World
Joe Schmid - (845) 297-0500
www.gutterhelmet.com
gutterhelmet@verizon.net
*Special 15% discount to WCT Members

SHIRLEY ROSICKE
PHOTOGRAPHY
PORTRAITS
Seniors, Families, Children
Created in the studio or on location
Specializing in WEDDING Photography.
Shirley Rosicke
845-226-5019
www.ROSICKE.com

Celebrate With Us!