GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On Wednesday, September 4, 2013 there will be a General Membership meeting in the auditorium of RCK at 2:30 p.m.

The check-in will start promptly at 2:15 p.m.

Please understand that the district is giving us part of the work day to conduct this general membership meeting.

The expectation is that every WCT member will attend, as it is part of the work day.

*We would like to encourage car pooling with other members to avoid traffic jams.
WIN BOOKS FOR STUDENTS IN NEED

Win a customized home library for students from low-income homes!

Lead your students on the road to success with a 6-book home library.

Up to 30 low-income students from your school can benefit from a range of books, courtesy of our partnership with First Book.

Select the books that best support the educational and emotional needs of your students, and match them based on your educational and curriculum strategy. The range of books is vast, and spans Tender Topics such as death, violence and bullying to popular fiction and graphic novels.

We're awarding the home library to 16 educational professionals. Eight winners will be selected from those who register in August and the following eight from September. All new Share My Lesson subscribers have a chance to win.

Contest entrance is easy, just check your school's or program's eligibility and follow these two simple steps:

1) Register for Share My Lesson – (https://account.sharemylesson.com/Register) - it's completely free and takes less than a minute.

2) Register on First Book on AFT's partner site—Criteria for First Book entry: Educators working in Title I or Title I-eligible schools or programs qualify. However, if you are not an educational professional in an eligible school, you can elect to have the prize given to an eligible school or program of your choice!

It's as simple as that!

*Registration for this contest takes place from August 1 through September 30, 2013.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS, OPEN HOUSE, and BACK TO SCHOOL DATES

Sept. 12—Vassar @ 6:00
Sept. 12—Van Wyck @ 7:00
Sept. 16—Myers Corners @ 6:00
Sept. 18—Gayhead (K-2) @ 6:30
Sept. 18—Brinckerhoff (K-2) @ 7:00
Sept. 18—Fishkill (K-2) @ 7:00
Sept. 19—Fishkill Plains @ 6:00
Sept. 19—Sheafe @ 6:00
Sept. 19—Gayhead (3-5) @ 6:30
Sept. 24—Myers Corners @ 6:00
Sept. 24—Kinry Road (4-5) @ 6:30
Sept. 25—Kinry Road (6) @ 6:30
Sept. 26—Orchard View @ 7:00
Sept. 26—RCK (10,11,12) @ 7:00
Sept. 26—Van Wyck @ 7:00
Oct. 3—John Jay @ 7:00
ANNOTATED 2013 3-8 ELA AND MATHEMATICS STATE TESTS QUESTIONS


In Spring 2013, New York State administered the first ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Common Core tests intended to provide students, families, educators, and the public better measures of student proficiency in the knowledge and skills students need to succeed in college and careers. On this page you will find links to access a representative sample of questions used on the 2013 state test. There are questions available in every grade (3-8) for both ELA and Mathematics. These questions have been annotated to display the kinds of thinking students are required to do in the new Common Core Tests. These documents will be helpful for better understanding the requirements and expectations of the Common Core state tests.

Text the word VOICE to 518-631-3202 to receive updates from NYSUT!

GOOD NEWS!

♦ Congratulations to Chad and Monique Mallozzi (Kinry Road) on the birth of their daughter, Brooke Marie. Brooke was born on July 22, 2013 and was 7 lbs., 7 oz., 19 inches long.

♦ Congratulations to Brian and Cherese Cosentino (Kinry Road) on the birth of their son, Joseph Michael. Joseph was born August 15, 2013 and was 7 lbs., 11 oz., 19 inches long.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members,

The WCT Commentator will be published on the 15th of each month from September through June.

To ensure the timely inclusion of any information, ads, articles, good news, or pictures you want published, please send it to commentator@wcteachers.org by the 7th of each month. If it arrives after the 7th, it will have to wait for the next issue.

Please remember this publication is for the membership and I need your help to guarantee the content is relevant. I try to include news from AFT and NYSUT that pertains to our members but I can only get local news from you! Are you doing a special project in class? Did you attend an interesting conference? We’d love to hear about it.

Feel free to send me information, ask questions, or make suggestions. Thank you for your help.

In Solidarity,

Meredith Inkeles
TEACHER’S CORNER

  It is “a free way for teachers to text message students and stay in touch with parents.” An example from an article shows how the teacher used it to send a question to the class as a "Do Now." The kids don't respond on the device, just the old fashioned way by raising their hands. However, the website advertises it as a way to remind kids and parents of HW, a test, field trip, etc. Kids/parents can't reply to the message and no one (teacher or kids/parents) sees each others' phone number.

- **Socrative** at www.Socrative.com is another app that acts as a student response system. Responses show up on the smart board. It can be used for entrance/exit tickets, quizzes, games, etc. It works on smartphones, tablets and laptops.

* This issue’s recommendations were submitted by Diane DiChiara (Secondary at Large). If you have any resources, apps, web sites, Facebook pages, Pinterest Pins, or anything to share with members, please send them to commentator@wcteachers.org to be placed in the Teacher’s Corner section.

KNOW YOUR 2013-14 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

**President**—Pasquale Delli Carpini (JJ)

**Treasurer**—Donna Kart (VW)

**Secretary**—Martha Bilsback (MC)

**VP Grievances, Secondary**—Ray Koretsky (RCK)

**VP Grievances, Elementary**—Mike Lyons (SR)

**VP Political Action**—Flip Gertler, (FE)

**VP Internal Communications**—Kim Mahusky (FE)

**Secondary at Large**—Diane DiChiara (JJ)

**Secondary at Large**—Ann Liebergot (VW)

**Secondary at Large**—Paul Nostrand (WJH)

**Elementary at Large**—Michelle Ross (GY)

**Elementary at Large**—Dawn Sala (MC)

**Elementary at Large**—Theresa Stowell (FP)
WHAT IF THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS ARE A HUGE MISTAKE?
Reprinted from Diane Ravitch’s Blog
(http://dianeravitch.net/2013/08/09/what-if-the-common-core-standards-are-a-huge-mistake/)

The law specifically prohibits the U.S. Department of Education from interfering or directing curriculum or instruction.* There must be a hole in that law big enough to drive a truck through, and drive the Obama administration did.

As we all know, the Obama administration used the $5 billion in Race to the Top funding, and its power (contested) to issue waivers, to push, prod, and bribe states into “voluntarily” abandoning their own standards and adopting the untried Common Core standards. Some states dropped weak standards, some dropped better standards that had proved their worth.

Secretary Duncan says these standards will make everyone “college and career ready.” The nation’s major corporations agree. So do the nation’s two big teachers’ unions.

But how do they know what the effect of the Common Core standards will be?

We know that they cause a dramatic decline in test scores. Their boosters say that is great, great news, couldn’t be better. Making the tests harder, they say, will make everyone smarter, and soon everyone will be college and career ready.

But how do they know? Where is the evidence?

What if they are wrong?

*SEC. 9527. PROHIBITIONS ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

(a) GENERAL PROHIBITION- Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize an officer or employee of the Federal Government to mandate, direct, or control a State, local educational agency, or school’s curriculum, program of instruction, or allocation of State or local resources, or mandate a State or any subdivision thereof to spend any funds or incur any costs not paid for under this Act.

(b) PROHIBITION ON ENDORESEMENT OF CURRICULUM- Notwithstanding any other prohibition of Federal law, no funds provided to the Department under this Act may be used by the Department to endorse, approve, or sanction any curriculum designed to be used in an elementary school or secondary school.

(c) PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING FEDERAL APPROVAL OR CERTIFICATION OF STANDARDS- (1) IN GENERAL- Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law, no State shall be required to have academic content or student academic achievement standards approved or certified by the Federal Government, in order to receive assistance under this Act.

The new WCT t-shirts are in and will be available at the September 4th General Membership Meeting.

The new shirts are affordable, neutral-hued (asphalt), 100% cotton and made in America. Guaranteed to lift your spirits and help begin the school year with creative energy.

We have a women's fitted scoop neck and unisex/men's style shirts in a wide variety of sizes.

Just bring $5 CASH to the meeting and walk away with your new WCT t-shirt!
Welcome Back
WCT Picnic

Food, Games, Music & Fun

September 27th
3:00-6:30
Bowdoin Park—Pavilion 4

RSVP to the Union Office by Sept. 20th

We’re Going Back To School
FROM THE WCT
WELFARE TRUST FUND

Upcoming Financial Planning Days:
September 19
October 23
November 20
December 18

Upcoming Legal Days:
September 25
October 30
November 20
December 18

Appointments are one-hour blocks available between 2:00-6:00 pm on a first-come first-served basis. Appointments are available at no cost to you; this is a benefit through the Welfare Trust Fund.

Since these slots fill up very quickly, call as soon as possible! (845-227-5065).

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 lot and make the second right into the parking area.
⇒ Enter the main entrance of the building. The sign over the entrance reads “PRUDENTIAL.”
⇒ Take the 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 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 must be sent to Daniel H. Cook every semester.
- Dental & prescription reimbursement forms are on-line at the WTF website at WCTeachers.org
- Please direct all questions & concerns to the WCT office or directly to Daniel H. Cook.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS
Daniel H. Cook
(1-800) 342-6651
Davis Vision
(1-800) 999-5431
Health Advocate
(1-866) 695-8622
Mirkin & Gordon (attorneys)
(914) 997-1576
Stacey Braun Associates (fln. consultant)
(1-888) 949-1925
WCT Office
(845) 227-5065
DAY OF GOLF TO BENEFIT MEALS ON WHEELS

The New Hamburg Yacht Clubs 10th Annual Day of Golf to benefit Meals on Wheels of Wappingers is Friday, September 13, 2013 at Beekman Golf. All proceeds will go to this organization. Last year we raised $8500.00. Our goal this year is $10,000.00. The tournament Registration is at 10:00 A.M. with a shotgun start at 11:00 A.M. The cost per golfer is $125.00. Checks are payable to NHYC. A buffet will follow the tournament.

Former WCSD teachers on the committee and strong supporters of our efforts are Skip Rottkamp—Chair, Bob Blose, Jack Devine, Joe Corrigan, Rosemarie Gardner, Roger Higgins and Charlie Powers. As in the past, we are looking for golfers, tee/green sponsors, program advertisers, gifts and prizes for our raffle. Please consider being a booster for $25.00 or a donor [any amount]. Checks are payable to NHYC with Meals on Wheels in the memo section.

Whatever anyone can do to aid our efforts will be most appreciated. If you would like a registration form or have any questions, call Skip Rottkamp at 845-297-3546 or e-mail him at skipro44@aol.com. If you would like to be a booster or donor, you can mail your contribution to Skip Rottkamp, 57 DeGarmo Hills Rd., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

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: $5.00 per issue. Your payment made out to “WCT” can be sent to the WCT Office.

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 email.