

Hands on Cooking - Mexican Style

By Janice Clough
John Jay

John Jay High School departments joined forces to connect subject matter across the board and make the experience “come alive” for students!

Ms. Clough of the Foreign Language Department and Ms. Herberger of the Career and Life Sciences Department teamed up once more to make the Cultural Languages classes experience “hands on cooking” Mexican style! ¡Ole! The Cultural Language classes had just completed an intense study of Mexico, which included the Aztec Culture, the conquest by the Spaniards, and the effects of modern

Mexico’s influence on the United States. They included foods and spices within this topic, and it was time to “take a bite,” or better yet, taste Mexican culinary!

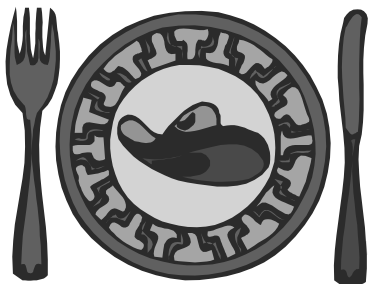
Ms. Herberger supervised the students as they prepared a typical Mexican breakfast: an enchilada casserole, which consists of eggs, peppers, tomatoes, cheese, and onions, rolled into a flour tortilla. The enchiladas were baked in a light creamy sauce and garnished with peppers. To accompany the main course, Ms. Nicalek served authentic cocoa. Ms. Clough also contributed by baking two types of popular cookies, Bizcochos and Mexican wedding cakes.

Needless to say, this hearty breakfast was enjoyed by all. Recipes for



(Pictured: Carl Redfearn, Brian Ruffino, and Chris Goddard preparing breakfast as Ms. Herberger watches.)

these treats were handed out at the door while Ms. Herberger received many thanks, Mexican-style, “¡Muchas gracias por todo!”



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Countdown:
of days left in
the 05-06 school
year -
48

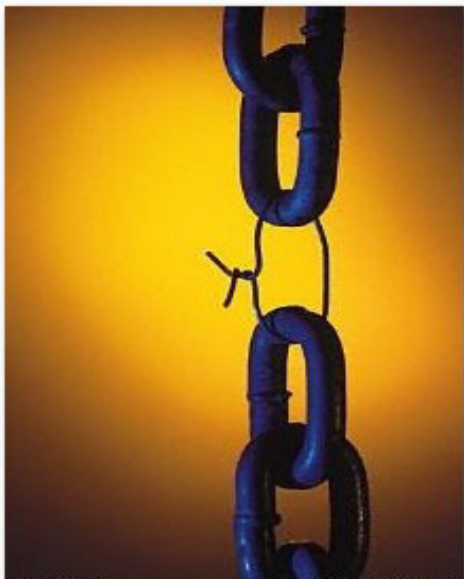
From the President's Pad

LET'S NOT BE THE WEAK LINK!

Kudos to the WCT members for the success of the 2005 VOTE/COPE campaign! We have shown great improvement in contributions from 2004. We have posted significant gains, going from \$19.85 to \$23.19 per member.

Recognition for this success goes to **Michael Lyons**, VOTE/COPE Chairman, and the building representatives, who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Their dedication, perseverance, and hard work toward the 2006 campaign are greatly appreciated by all.

In challenging times like these, it is more important than ever for us to come together as a union, in support of public education, improved health care, labor, and the issues that are dear to us. Through voluntary political action contributions to VOTE/COPE, our union becomes a chain, link by link, to pull for the issues and legislation that are crucial to our members.



This is an election year, with key state races for the governor, the attorney general, the comptroller, the U.S. Senate, as well as Congress and the state legislature. It will be imperative for us to support candidates who are pro-education on both sides of the aisle.

Today, many groups are attacking public education. Even the Governor's budget has proposals such as vouchers and charter schools that will harm public schools. Media attacks, like John Stossel's 20/20 portraying public schools and unions as what is wrong in this country, are inherently unjust, skewed, poorly researched, and unsubstantiated.

VOTE/COPE is our political voice, a non-partisan political action arm of New York State United Teachers. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions from members, VOTE/COPE helps us fight these inequities and more. Our legislators in Albany and Washington know the strength of our efforts and our ability to elect candidates and campaign committees that support education and labor. If we wish to have a positive influence in our professional future, we must take an active role in this political process. NYSUT offers all locals the opportunity to participate in steering our own future by supporting VOTE/COPE, the NYSUT political action fund.

On a local level, districts are facing an uphill battle to pass school budgets this year. Inflation and the increasing energy costs have exhausted precious extra taxpayer money, including that of our own members. This burden could be a factor in the May 16th school budget



vote and election of school board candidates.

Thanks to our members' voluntary donations, VOTE/COPE has won a permanent cost-of-living adjustment for retiree pensions, built momentum for greater investment in our schools, and spearheaded an historic override of vetoes that restored \$1 billion in education and health-care funding. If you are a Tier I or II pension system member, VOTE/COPE helped you to gain an additional 4% on your pension. This represents a substantial amount of money over your retirement years. If you are a Tier III or IV pension system member, after your tenth year of service, you are no longer required to pay the mandatory 3% contribution. Through the political effectiveness of VOTE/COPE, we have gained more of a voice about the decisions State Ed. and Regents make on professional and educational issues. One of the latest examples of this would be the reinsertion of a five-year time frame to get a Master's Degree.

VOTE/COPE also helps strengthen political action programs on all levels – national, state, and local – by providing us with rebates of up to 40% for political activities. These rebates are used for endorsement of pro-education school

(Continued on page 3)

Retiree: Barbara Mitchell, Library Media Specialist - 30 years

Barbara says, "My career as a Library Media Specialist has spanned almost thirty years and two states. I began my career in Pennsylvania and worked in a junior high library for about 5 1/2 years. We moved to Poughkeepsie in 1972. I spent over 15 years as a substitute in the Wappingers District. I have spent the last nine years working full time at WJHS.

While I was substituting, I spent time in all grade levels and all buildings in the district.

I think I will miss three things: 1. The friendship and camaradery of my co-workers, 2. the enthusiasm of the students, and 3. the fact I always learned something new every day. I will not miss getting up at 5:30 AM every day.

My plans for the future include reading, swimming, traveling, and spending time with my two grandchildren."



Save the Date:

• Fishkill Plains Retirement Party for Marge Moran and Steve O'Loughlin will be June 9. Please mark your calendar if you would like to attend. More information will follow.

LET'S NOT BE THE WEAK LINK!

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board candidates and to support campaigns to promote local school budgets.

Our annual VOTE/COPE campaign has begun. At your faculty or union meeting, your Building Representatives will be addressing the need to strongly support the 2006 Campaign. They will recommend a contribution to you. Please join with thousands of your colleagues throughout New York State and support our VOTE/COPE drive. How else will we get our message across to the politicians who pass sweeping "educational reforms" and then forget they have the obligation to fund them?

VOTE/COPE does not favor one political party over another. Endorsements are made based solely on their voting record. Your contribution will show your commitment to a sustained effort for better education.

I strongly urge you to contribute to VOTE/COPE – and invest in yourself and your future. As always, you may exercise your right not to contribute. Thank you in advance for your participation.

In solidarity,

Pasquale Delli Carpini

Pasquale Delli Carpini
WCT President

the WCT COMMENTATOR

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COMMENTATOR deadline for the next issue is the Monday after the paycheck. Send all information for the April 21st issue to WCTINK@HOTMAIL.COM, or to the WCT Office by Monday, March 10th.

WCT Dinner/Dance

Where: Holiday Inn, Fishkill

When: Friday, May 19, 2006

Music by: Anthony Nardone III aka Tony Flash

Cocktail Hour: 6PM-7PM (open bar)

Four-Course Dinner: 7PM (cash bar)

\$40 per person

**2006 retirees only - no charge*



Retiree: Dominica “Maria” Quackenbush, teacher - 34 years

My first year of teaching was at St. Catherine Laboure in Lake Katrine, NY, teaching 5th and 6th grade. I have been teaching in Wappingers for 33 years, so I have a total of 34 years.

Most of my experience has been in 4th grade, but I have taught grades 1 - 9 over the years. I worked at James S. Evans Elementary for 19 years, and then 14 years at Oak Grove Elementary. I have been teaching an inclusion class for 19 years as the regular education teacher. For 17 of those years, I have teamed with Teresa Brusco, the special education teacher.

I will miss the kids the most. They bring an excitement and positiveness to the classroom, and to my life. I just loved watching them get into any kind of group work where they are invested in their learning and the outcome. I loved the way the students not only learned to tolerate each other, but also liked and appreciated each other under the cooperative structure. It always gave me hope for the future. I will miss the smiles, the hugs, the drawings, and the notes that I got from them.

I will miss the parents, who have appreciated teachers and everything we do to help make their children successful.



I will miss my colleagues. They always made me feel loved and validated. I will especially miss Terry Brusco and Ginny Mandell, who made it a joy to come to work every day. They were not only partners, but have become my best friends.

I will not miss feeling so drained at the end of the week because of all the mandates, that I have nothing left to give. I will not miss giving all the tests. I don't think the outcome justifies the cost. The cost isn't just the money.

My plans for the future are to work part time doing something in the field of education. I hope that I can somehow influence education to continue to go in a positive direction, maybe through future teachers.

Advice to young teachers: Teach with your hearts as well as your mind.

Retiree: Carlo Picciotti, teacher - 40 years

Carlo, a business education teacher at RCK, has been working for the Wappingers Central School District for 34 years. He also has 6 years' experience teaching outside the district. When asked what he will miss when he retires, Carlo states, “the kids and staff.” However, Carlo says that he will not miss getting up at 5:30 AM. Once it becomes July, and Carlo is officially retired, his plans are to just enjoy his retirement.



Dates to Know:

Remaining 2006 Board Meetings

April: 25th

May: 8th & 22nd

June: 12th & 26th

July: 10th

April 10-17 - Spring Recess

May 13 - Community Picnic

May 19 - Retiree Dinner

May 29 - Memorial Day

WCT Shirts

Shirt forms available online at...

<http://nysut.org/wappingers/shirtform.pdf>

2006 Pay

Dates:

April 21st

May 5th

May 19th

June 2nd

June 16th

June 23rd

WCSD Factoid

According to the State Ed web site, here are the dollar amounts spent per pupil in the 2003-2004 school year for other Tri-State Consortium Accredited schools:

Wappingers: \$10,412

Pearl River: \$17,561

Scarsdale: \$17,281

Bedford: \$18,028

MEMBERS' CLASSIFIED ADS

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FOR SALE: Tickets to Hudson Valley Renegades Fireworks on Friday, July 14, 2006. Tickets \$7.00 each (\$4.00 a ticket to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation). For information, email Kruppert39@aol.com or call 223-9817 if interested or for information about the Hudson Valley Renegades Tickets. Order Tickets by May 22nd!

FOR RENT: Weekly summer rental in Ocean City, New Jersey. Two bedroom, one bathroom upstairs duplex. Awesome location, short walk to the beach and boardwalk. To look inside and check out the rates as well as availability, visit www.ocnj.com. Once there, click on "summer 2006 rentals," and then check 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Next, look for "406 4th Street." If interested, call Ann at 255-4105.

FOR SALE: Vintage toys, 70's-80's. Cabbage Patch dolls, pound puppies, smurfs, Fisher Price items, Transformers, Ghost Busters, and more. Appropriately priced. 845-227-4127.

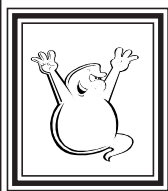
FOR SALE: Teaching materials. Mostly early childhood. Games, puzzles, classroom library, and more. Retired teacher. 845-227-4127.

FOR RENT: One Bedroom Apt. Sublet with option to lease in Hudson View Park. Available April 1st. Cable, heat, & hot water included \$935/month. Call (914) 489-8875.

FOR RENT: weekly summer rental: Falmouth Cape Cod. Three bedroom, two bath duplex, 5 minute walk to Sound Beach, walk to Town, fine restaurants, bike path. June \$1400/wk; July, \$1700/wk; August, \$1800/wk. Call Bill McCabe, 223-5734.

(Continued on page 6)

MEMBERS' CLASSIFIED ADS (continued from page 5)



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FOR SALE: Moving - furniture for sale. View at www.frontiernet.net/~R1chard. Call Pam at **227-5218**.

FOR RENT: (perfect for retiree) Venice, Florida 55+ from April to Nov. One bedroom, living room w/ sleeper, furnished, heated swimming pool, tennis court, shuffleboard, fishing dock, boat ramp, community center, etc. Bike to Venice Beach 8 minutes, nonsmoker, no pets. 3 bikes. \$800/per month. Call Liz (845) 473-4696 for more details.

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Enjoy the Spring Recess. See you April 18th!