

THE WCT COMMENTATOR

JUNE 18, 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PAD ...

Enjoy a well-deserved vacation!

Dear Colleagues,



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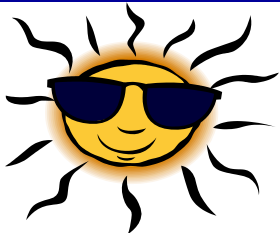
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The pride and sense of duty of the school community came together May 18th to send a strong and positive message to our students and faculty that quality education is essential and critical for the development of future generations. 10,948 votes were cast, a turnout almost double than that of past years, and the budget passed by 2,762 votes.

Although the budget was approved, the \$6.1 million reduction in state aid resulted in the elimination of 51 teaching positions. The leadership of the WCT is cognizant of the hardship these necessary cuts have brought to these members and their families. Rest assured we will be working tirelessly to restore these positions. With the support of NYSUT, we are

lobbying elected officials in Albany and Washington, urging them to increase funding for education.

I must acknowledge the hard work of our members, building representatives, retirees, and the Union leadership. It was through the perseverance of countless volunteers that we were able to pass a \$184 million spending plan and also elect three positive school board members, with the expert leadership and guidance of Flip Gertler (VP Political Action). I would be remiss if I did not recognize the diligence and enthusiasm of Superintendent James Parla.

(cont'd on page 2)

From the President's Pad (cont'd)

He spent a great deal of time presenting the budget to the community, answering questions, and explaining the many difficult choices that needed to be made. During this difficult process, the input of retiree Cliff Foley was invaluable.

Our new administrative assistant, Ronnie Dwyer, has risen well above the challenges of her demanding position. Her professionalism, patience, and integrity have made her a veritable asset to the union.

I am very fortunate to have an unremitting Executive Board. My sincerest thanks go to: Michael Lyons, Ray Koretsky, Donna Basile, Christine Romano, Mary Ann Moran, Flip Gertler, Kim Mahusky, Jane Stockslager, Paul Nostrand, Diane Di Chiara, Michelle Ross, Dawn Sala, and Martha Bilsback. It is a pleasure to work with such talented and dedicated individuals.

This year, we held the WCT Executive Board elections. I am privileged and humbled to have been given the opportunity to serve and represent you for another term. Christine Romano (Secretary) will not be returning to serve on the Executive Board for the 2010-2011 academic year due to professional and personal obligations, but she will remain the chairperson of the Welfare Trust Fund. Her wisdom and convictions, even in difficult times, will be missed. Martha Bilsback will assume the duties of secretary. I am happy to welcome back Theresa Stowell in the

role of Elementary at Large (Fishkill Plains).

Also deserving of recognition are Beth Rizzi (WCT Commentator Editor) and Ellen Mead (Webmaster) who keep members updated on important information.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the members of the Welfare Trust Fund: Christine Romano (Chairperson), Betty Dean (Treasurer), Erin Mulligan (Secretary), Flip Gertler (Trustee), and Ronnie Dwyer (Administrator). Their diligence and fiduciary responsibility are much valued and appreciated.

During these tough economic times, Michelle Ross and Dawn Sala generously gave of their time to organize the second annual Community Food Drive. Thanks to their efforts, as well as the contributions made by our members, 3,788 pounds of food were donated to the Zion Food Pantry. With the help of Jack Devine (WCRT) and Joe Porpora, these efforts provide assistance to 65-75 families a week.

Wishing you and your families a happy, rejuvenating, and well-deserved summer vacation. See you in September!

In solidarity,

Pasquale Delli Carpini

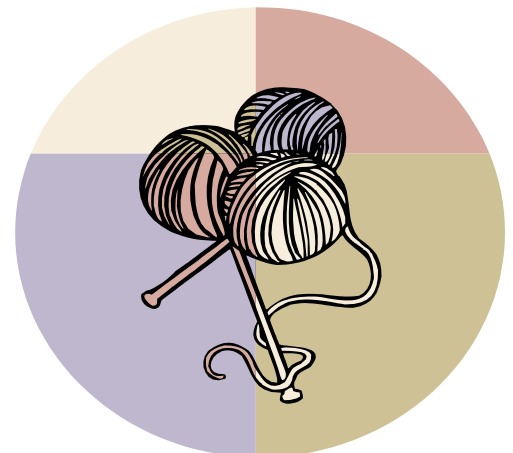
Pasquale Delli Carpini
WCT President

Knitting and Crocheting for a Good Cause

By Dawn Sala

Last year, the Wappingers Congress of Teachers and the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers and their families and friends **took part in Save the Children's Survive to 5 Knit One, Save One Campaign.** This grassroots effort aims to reduce the more than 9 million preventable and treatable deaths globally among children under 5. Forty percent of these deaths occur in babies less than one month old. The caps, sent to babies in Africa, Asia and Latin America help keep them warm during the first critical hours and days after birth. We sent over 200 caps to Save the Children. The response was so successful that the campaign did not run this year.

Since the die hard knitters and crocheters among us can't bear to put down our needles and hooks, this year we have come up with a project a little closer to home. The Pines at Poughkeepsie Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation specializes in Skilled Nursing services for patients and families seeking long term care. Karen Barone, Recreation Director at the Pines, suggested shawls for the patients as these are often easier for them to manage than sweaters. A simple pattern suggested was fastening three 12x12 inch squares together with a chain stitch tie at the front, the middle square set on the diagonal. This is just a suggestion so let creativity be your guide. Another suggestion was lap afghans for those patients who do not prefer the shawls. Again, let creativity be your guide. Get a jump start on the lazy days of summer and use up that scrap yarn. This will be an ongoing project so the more involvement we have the better. Questions or completed projects can be sent to Dawn Sala at Myers.



Prom Memories...and More

by Natalie Bliss

As a special education teacher in a Self-Contained classroom, it is not unusual to see my students come to class and then go home at the end of each school day without ever getting involved in any extracurricular events. I started the school year back in September wanting this year to be different for them. I wanted to help integrate my students into the John Jay community and the outside community.

Our first endeavor toward this goal was the John Jay Annual Leaf Raking for Senior Citizens. Five of my students (not a bad turnout for a class of ten) and many of their parents and even a few siblings showed up at John Jay with rakes and gloves in hand to get our assignment, along with students from several other JJ clubs and teams. I am proud to say that my students worked hard to make the yards of two members of the community clear of leaves. They were even invited in for snacks **at one senior's home, where they told her that they would be back to help her out again next fall.**

The success we had this year in facilitating new friendships between my students and other John Jay students was due, in part, to the help of Mr. Ambron and Mr. Pedota, John Jay's senior class advisors. While having his hall duty outside of our classroom for the first semester, Mr. Ambron got to know many of my students. A few months into the school year, he asked if I thought two of my girls would like to be on the Senior Prom Committee. Needless to say, we were all ecstatic, including the parents of these students. The two girls did not miss a meeting and were actively involved in all aspects of the planning. Along the way

they made friends with the senior class officers and their friends.

The senior class officers helped start an **“unofficial” Peer Group, which organized** several events during the year including a breakfast, bowling and mini golf. These events were well attended by both special education students and some of the class officers and their friends.

Our new friends stopped by our classroom occasionally to say hello or visit for awhile, and joined us to celebrate birthdays and graduations throughout the year.

The culminating event of the year was six of our students attending the senior prom at West Point. They had the total prom experience; complete with a pre-prom party, pictures, corsages and boutonnieres, gowns **and tuxes, and a limo ride. I don't think there** was a dry eye among the parents, as they watched their children climb into the limo and head off to the prom just like almost every other high school student experiences. It will always be a wonderful memory for all involved!

In addition to these activities, some of my students participated in the Renaissance club, bake sales, food drives, a letter writing campaign for St. Jude's, Patriots for Patriots-sending cards to soldiers, their first 5k at the RCK 5k Run/Walk, and Varsity Bowling.

Although this is just the beginning, I think we are headed in the right direction and will keep encouraging all of my students to get involved in their school and community. There is nothing better than walking down the hall with one of my students and hearing someone from outside our classroom say hello to them! More importantly, it is a two-way street and everyone involved benefits from the experience.

Wappingers Congress of Teachers Food Drive a Whopping Success

By Dawn Sala

On the grounds of the Zion Episcopal Church, two dedicated men and a multitude of volunteers feed the hungry on a weekly basis. In what was once just a garage, a food pantry now exists, feeding at least 65 families per week. On Tuesday May 25th, Pasquale DelliCarpini, WCT President; Michelle Ross, Elementary at Large, and Dawn Sala, Elementary at Large delivered food items and visited the food pantry. On a tour of the converted garage, Joe Porpora, a former WCSD Board of Education member and a retired teacher, pointed out shelving units that were assembled by a WCSD wrestling team, neatly organized by category. He showed us the refrigerator and freezers that hold the perishable items like milk and eggs, and the frozen goods such as chicken and turkey. In the back room is ample space for storage of mass quantities of dry goods and non-perishable items. On a work table in the center of the space, donation bags were stocked and ready to go for Wednesday distribution.

Whatever food is not donated is purchased from the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley giving the food pantry more buying power. Joe and Jack indicated that they have run out of funding for the remainder of the year, meaning the food bank relies heavily on donations from outside sources.

The Wappingers Congress of Teachers 2nd Annual Food Drive to benefit the Zion Food Pantry was held from May 17th – May 21st. New to the food drive this year was a donation station located at the Gazebo in Mesier Park during the annual Festival of the Arts which was held on May 15th. This gave members of the community an opportunity to participate and do something worthwhile for others.

Every building in the district including the district offices had collection boxes for donations of non-perishable food items. Jack Devine, member of the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers made the rounds through the district picking up the donations upon completion of the food drive. According to Jack, the “winning” donation in one building weighed in at 1,150

pounds with a total donation of **3,750 pounds of** food throughout the entire district. This converted into money terms would be worth approximately \$2,000, “a fantastic success.”

Many thanks to all who donated and we look forward to an even bigger and better food drive next year.



Dawn Sala, Jack Devine, Pasquale DelliCarpini, Michelle Ross, & Joe Porpora

June 11, 2010

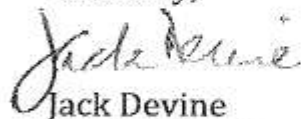
Dear WCT Members,

The Zion Food Pantry of Wappingers Falls thanks you for the 3,788 pounds (to be exact!) of donated food you have collected at the 14 District schools. This magnificent achievement was placed in motion by Michelle Ross and Dawn Sala, School Psychologists at Gayhead and Myers Corners School. We would also like to recognize the role played by Pasquale and the representatives in the individual schools who did their part by spreading the word and organizing the collection of food. It was a team effort.

Our grant money has been reduced and we are depending more and more on donations. The food collected by the WCT will save the Food Pantry almost \$2000! This gives us some breathing room and it also allows us to use this "found" money to buy things like meat and eggs (How many times can you eat Kraft Mac & Cheese?). Although we have many families in dire straits we have also had some great turnabouts. One of our clients who was out of work for three years recently found a job – actually a good job – and now brings us food. There are other success stories, but we are still a major assistance to 65-75 families a week. We take great pride in giving food to any and all that show up at our door, no questions asked or documentation needed. It is through the generosity of organizations such as the WCT that we can provide food to those in need and still allow them to retain their self-respect.

On behalf of Joe Porpora, myself, and the twenty-five volunteers at the Zion Food Pantry, thank you your generosity and investment in the betterment of our community. Please come and visit us at 11 Satterlee Place, Wappingers Falls, in back of the Zion Episcopal Church. We are open on Wednesdays from 12:30-2:00 and 6:30-7:30 every Wednesday. We would love to thank you in person.

Sincerely,



Jack Devine

for the Zion Food Pantry

PR NEWS

By Emily Guthoff

May was a busy month for the WCT. Ellen Korz and I wanted to make the most far reaching positive impact on the communities that we serve. I knew that the local town libraries summer reading program budgets were cut from the Dutchess County Budget, and after we discussed it, we could not wait to help out. Our WCT union, through its membership with the Dutchess County United Teachers, was able to help fund the vital summer reading programs at the Blodgett Memorial Library in Fishkill, the East Fishkill Community Library, and the Grinnell Library in Wappingers Falls. All three libraries wrote glowing letters of praise and gratitude to our WCT union in the Southern Dutchess News and The Poughkeepsie Journal. We should all feel proud that as teachers, we were able to expand opportunities that encourage literacy to the children of our communities. The money that our Public Relations Committee donates goes a long way to support the goodwill that our union perpetuates in the communities that we serve.

CAPASSO SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

By Tracy Sheremeta, Rita Langva, and Louise Rose

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2010 WCT Ralph and Janet Capasso **Scholarship. This year's recipients are Ian Guthoff, Michael Meck, and Francesca Pinczes.**

Ian Guthoff is the son of Emily Guthoff who teaches at Van Wyck Junior High School. He plans to attend the University of Delaware in the fall and major in Political Science, History, and English.

Michael Meck, the son of Dale Meck (WFJHS), will be attending the University of Delaware. He will be majoring in Mechanical Engineering and Kinesthesiology. Michael will **also be competing in the university's Division One** swim team.

Francesca Pinczes, daughter of Rosemary Versace-Pinczes, a teacher at James S. Evans Elementary, will study Chemical Engineering and minor in Dance at Drexel University in the fall.

A reception for the recipients was held on Tuesday, May 25th. Mr. Ralph Capasso and President Delli Carpini awarded each of the students a \$ 1500 scholarship.



Mid-Hudson Regional Office
 201 Stockade Drive
 Kingston, NY 12401-3867
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Richard C. Iannuzzi, President
Andrew Pallotta, Executive Vice President
Maria Neira, Vice President
Kathleen M. Donahue, Vice President
Lee Cutler, Secretary-Treasurer

To: MSABC Coordinators and Presidents
 From: Tina Greene
 Re: **MSABC Walk - Sunday October 17, 2010**
 Date: May 28, 2010



Last year, NYSUT leaders, members, students and families braved the elements and raised over \$ 83,000 dollars. I understand that at this time of the year you are buried in paperwork and that the walk is months away, but now is the time to identify your local team coordinator(s) for this year's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.

This year the American Cancer Society will be **adding a second walk site** at Dutchess Stadium in Fishkill. We will use the same NYSUT brochures and all other information and timelines will remain the same.

This year the **MSABC Kick-Off Breakfasts** will be held:

For Woodbury Common Premium Outlets Walk Site:

DATE: August 4, 2010
PLACE: Anthony's Pier 9, New Windsor, NY
TIME: 7:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

For Dutchess Stadium Walk Site:

DATE: August 11, 2010
PLACE: Holiday Inn, Fishkill
TIME: 7:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Please join us for this year's **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk**. If you plan to participate in this event, please complete the attached Making Strides Team Coordinator Form. **Use a separate form for each coordinator. You may send your form(s) to:**

For Woodbury Common Premium Outlets Walk Site:

Tarrytown Regional Office
Attn: Cheryl Aguilar or Barbara Johnson
 520 White Plains Road, Suite 400
 Tarrytown, NY 10591
FAX: (914) 345 – 3302

For Dutchess Stadium Walk Site:

Mid Hudson Regional Office
Attn: Tina Greene
 201 Stockade Drive
 Kingston NY 12401
FAX: (845) 339-1840

The **MSABC T-shirt order** deadline will be Friday September 17, 2010. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (845) 339-4450, ext. 18.

In Solidarity,

Tina L. Greene

Tina L. Greene
 Senior Administrative Assistant

www.nysut.org

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THOMAS D. MACRINI SPORTS HALL OF FAME
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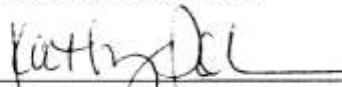
May 16, 2010

PRESS RELEASE

WCSD SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTS FIFTEEN

On April 23, 2010 in a ceremony held at Christo's in Poughkeepsie, the Thomas Macrini Sports Hall of Fame inducted 15 athletes and coaches, bringing its total number of inductees to 362. In addition, 1 special service recipient was honored for his outstanding contribution to the WCSD athletic program. The total number of special service honorees now totals 41. Inductees this year included: Ron Paino, Craig Roberto, Timothy Allen, and Joseph Simone from RCK...and David King, Erika Powers, Stephen Rybak, Lindsay Bernstein, Davide Di Genova, Tara DiMaggio, Brian Downey, Brian Gaudio, Jason Giancotti, Christopher McCloskey, and Rebecca Parsons-Boles from John Jay. The Special Service recipient this year was Craig Carvalho, Athletic Trainer at JJ.

Since its inception in 1989, the Hall of Fame has honored former athletes, having graduated at least 10 years prior, and retired coaches for their distinguishing accomplishments in their respective sports. If you wish to nominate an athlete or coach, please contact the district athletic office at 298-5062 for information.


Kathryn Polunbo
298-5062



RETIREMENT Planning?

The NYSTRS released its schedule of statewide Retirement Planning Seminars for 2010. These daylong meetings are designed to help active NYSTRS members prepare for retirement. It is beneficial for those who have less than 10 but more than 5 years until retirement. Topics include System benefits, financial planning, legal affairs, adjusting to retirement, and Social Security. Seminars run 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and you may arrive beginning at 8 a.m. There is no fee to attend and your spouse/companion is welcome too, but you must make a reservation in advance. Seminars are not designed for one-on-one retirement counseling. The following are a list of dates and locations for the seminars:

Albany:
July 26
August 16

Fishkill:
August 25

Middletown:
August 26

Mount Kisco:
August 11

**You can register online through the MyNYSTRS area of the website at www.nystrs.org (select the "My Tools" tab), or by calling NYSTRS at (800)356-3128, Ext. 6180 weekdays from 8:30-4:15pm. When calling, you must provide your EmplID or Social Security number, date of birth, address, and home phone number. If your spouse/companion will attend and is also a member, please provide this information for him/her too. Please bring your latest Benefit Profile with you to the seminar.



Going Home
Oil Paintings by
Ellen Metzger O'Shea
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2683 South Road, Poughkeepsie, NY
2 miles S. of the Mid-Hudson Bridge on Rt 9
May 20 - June 20
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Thursday May 20th, 5-8pm
Ellen will host a Free Landscape Mixed Media
Workshop for all levels at Locust Grove on
Saturday May 22 10am - noon
Stop by with materials of your choice
(children welcome, accompanied by an adult)
Gallery Hours: 10:00-5:00pm daily
<http://www.lgny.org/calendar/calendar>
(845) 454-4500 x 17, u.morgan@lgny.org

Congratulations!

Susanne Lake and her husband William welcomed a baby boy, Thomas Robert Lake Jackson, into the world on June 8, 2010. Congratulations!

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

From the Welfare Trust Fund

The attorney will be in the WCT offices to meet with members on the following dates:

TBA

Please call 227-5065 to schedule an appointment.

from the... WCT Welfare Trust Fund

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

June 23

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.

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 though 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

EdmundTMckennaJr@gmail.com

2010 Newsletter Schedule

June 18, 2010

THIS IS THE LAST ONE OF THE YEAR!

we're on the web

www.wcteachers.org

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A PUBLICATION OF THE
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OF TEACHERS

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Pasquale Delll Carpini

V.P. of Internal Communications:

Kim Mahusky

Editor: Elizabeth A. Rizzi

Proofreader: Frank Rizzi



MEMBERS' CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale: Black and Decker electric lawn and grass edger (new) \$65.00; Kenmore side opening window air conditioner \$40.00; Sony TV 22 inch screen \$30.00; George Forman Grill (new) \$25.00
Call 845-298- 8784

Vacation Rental: Falmouth, Cape Cod, week of July 10 to 17 available. 3BR, 2 baths, AC, patio, outdoor shower, private yard. 5 minute walk to Nantucket Sound Beach, 10 min to harbor, restaurants, shop, bike path. Special price of \$1,600 for WCT. Call Bill or Anne at 223-2734

For Sale: 2002 Harley Davidson Sportster model XL1200 Royal Blue, only 1700 miles with Screaming eagle tail pipes, extra rider seat. Asking \$4,995. Call Walt Franca (845) 462 2510/845 559 4170 or waltfranca@hotmail.com and ask for photos.



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