

The WCT COMMENTATOR

May 27, 2011

Kate Lanni Moore (1978-2011)

By: Pamela Brown, Brooke Gabriels, Tanya Griffiths, Sandra Ingargiola, Luisa Santiago, & Susan Stumberger



“Rainbow”

(Tune: Bicycle Built for Two)

*Rainbow, rainbow, here you come right on cue.
When the rains go that's where we look for you.
You have such a lovely style,
you always make me smile.
And when you're here you bring good cheer.
Rainbow, how I love you!*

Kate Moore was an extraordinary special education teacher at Vassar Road Elementary. She worked there for four years and was extremely dedicated to her work. She brought a lot of energy and humor to the school and her classroom. Kate's classroom ran effortlessly because of the mutual support and teamwork that she established from the beginning. Kate and her staff in Room 2 developed a closeness and sense of family that will be sorely missed. Kate was a very unique person and dedicated her life to being the best teacher, mother, wife, daughter, and friend. She loved gardening and lent her expertise as the co-advisor of the Vassar Road Garden Club. The Vassar Road Butterfly Garden will be dedicated in memory of Kate. Many thanks to Kate's husband, Craig, and his team of volunteers for enhancing the garden with additional beautiful flowers, lilac trees, mulch, fencing, and a bench dedicated to Kate.

*Orange, purple, red,
blue and green and yellow.
The sun shines through the rain,
putting on quite a show.
Arching across the skies,
dazzling my eyes.
Your display makes me say,
“Rainbow, how I love you!”*

We love you and will miss you forever, Kate!

The WCT is collecting donations for the education fund which has been set up for Kate's children and for a paving stone for the garden at Vassar Road (Kate was an advisor of the Garden Club). Donation checks should be made out to Craig Moore and can be sent to Diane DiChiara at John Jay High School via interoffice mail.

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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 educational issues. These issues will directly affect your job on a daily basis.

Randi Weingarten, Finnish teachers and administration discuss education

(video link below)

Why are other nations outperforming U.S. public schools? Forty years ago, Finland decided to make fundamental changes in education and their students now outperform students from 43 other nations – including the United States, Germany and Japan – in mathematics, science and reading skills. They are also ranked top in economic competitiveness. The government used the expertise of those directly involved in education to create reform – the teacher unions and the educators were heard and created the blueprint for reform.

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid20104044001?bckey=AQ~~,AAAAAC3mzbE~,dCIK-jAZidrn9DALadhTYIVeeZEollo6&bctid=822273381001>

NYSUT UNITED – May 2011

[Why we defend collective bargaining: \(p.8\)](#)

Brief Summary: This article speaks for itself. It is the heart and soul of public sector unions. Wisconsin started it and states all across the country have joined the easy fight. New York has also joined in against ending the rights of working men and women to stand together to negotiate with their employers a fair and equitable contract for all.

NYSUT UNITED – May 2011

[Forging ahead on teacher eval \(p. 12\)](#)

Brief Summary: Keep yourself updated on how the new teacher evaluation system will look. This article includes targeted dates for implementation. Please keep in mind that all facets of the new evaluation system is subject to collective bargaining. Can you imagine what it would look like if we didn't have a seat at the table?

Useful FACEBOOK links for teachers

NYSUT United (formerly known as NY Teacher) - <http://www.facebook.com/NYSUTUnited>

AFT – (American Federation of Teachers) <http://www.facebook.com/AFTunion>

NEA – (National Education Association) <http://www.facebook.com/NEA.ORG>

Other useful links for teachers

AFT (American Federation of Teachers) - <http://www.aft.org/>

NYSUT United (New York State United Teachers) – <http://www.nysut.org>

Speak Up for Education and Kids (National Education Association) - <http://www.educationvotes.nea.org/>

We Are One (AFL-CIO) - <http://www.aflcio.org/issues/states/>

Gayhead Goes Green!

By, Beth Munoz

Mrs. Munoz, Mrs. Tarantino, and Mrs. Lombardo's class did an environmental project this year. To get the school involved, their students broke into groups and created skits or games to play with other classes in order to teach them about the environment and recycling. They also had a door decorating contest. The classes had to use recyclable objects on their door and have an environmental slogan to go with their door theme. It was great to see all of the classes that participated. Mrs. Munoz, Mrs. Tarantino, Mrs. Lombardo's students went around and judged the doors. One winner was chosen from each grade level and that class will receive a plant to put in Gayhead's Garden of Life. An overall Gayhead winner was chosen and that class also won a trophy made by Mrs. Munoz, Mrs. Tarantino, Mrs. Lombardo's students with the help of one of the art teachers, Mrs. Robinson. The winners were:

- Kindergarten: Mrs. O'Hearon and Room 2
- First Grade: Mrs. Smith and Room 8
- Second Grade: Mrs. Hack and Room 4
- Third Grade: Miss Scalzo and Room 26
- Fourth Grade: Mrs. Valentino and Room 40
- Fifth Grade: Mr. Nurre/Mrs. Mastrianni/Mrs. Birmingham and Room 19
- Special Area/Other: Mrs. Robinson, with the help of Mrs. Raskin's class

And the overall best door in Gayhead was Miss Scalzo and Room 26!

Go Green!



Miss Scalzo's Door
"Lady Globe Globe"



Mrs. Robinson's Door
"Mars' Day"

A Community Service Project by John Jay Students

By: Rena Finsmith JJ Special Education Teacher

I was approached by our technology integration teacher, Ms. Mandy Dwight, about a wonderful opportunity to have my students participate in a community service project involving documenting the oral history of the residents of New Hamburg, New York. My students, Alex Belton, Giuliano Cavallo, and Jonathan Bateman have diligently worked on this semester long project to achieve their community service requirement for graduation. These three students have gone above and beyond in their dedication to this oral history project. In collaboration with their English teacher, Leslie Seigle, our students prepared interview questions, learned about documenting and creating an oral history project, and began the arduous task of editing interview footage to complete a movie.

Interviews took place after school for two sessions at the New Hamburg Yacht Club in New Hamburg.

Alex graciously volunteered to interview Ms. Rose Ronkese, a long time resident of the area. Both Giuliano and Jon worked behind the scenes to film the interview.

Upon returning to the classroom, students used Apple MacBook Laptops provided by the

district to continue work on the project. Giuliano and Jon edited interview footage using iMovie while Alex created his own movie soundtrack music using Garage Band. One student even commented "If I had this (Mac laptops and associated programs) back in 2nd grade, my education would have been different growing up." I believe this student's statement is a testament to the WCSD technology department and the district's continued efforts to promote technology in the classroom.

In addition, this project has empowered my students to be active members in their

community and promote activism within society while gaining 21st century technology skills needed for future success in college or employment.

Ms. Dwight, Mrs. Seigle, and I are extremely proud of these three young men. They have represented John Jay and the

WCSD with the utmost respect. The project will be on display for anyone who is interested on Wednesday, June 22nd (7pm) at the New Hamburg Yacht Club.



Alex Belton, Rose Ronkese, Giuliano Cavallo, Jonathan Bateman

A Visit from a Judge

by **Kathy Conroy**
Business Education Teacher RCK

On May 9th Mrs. Conroy's Business Law Class at Roy C. Ketcham High School was treated to a visit by a local Beacon Court Judge to discuss the field of law and a career as a judge.

Judge Mensch of the Beacon Court System paid a visit to the Business Law students at Roy C. Ketcham High School for a day. She discussed her educational background and her

career path while becoming a judge.

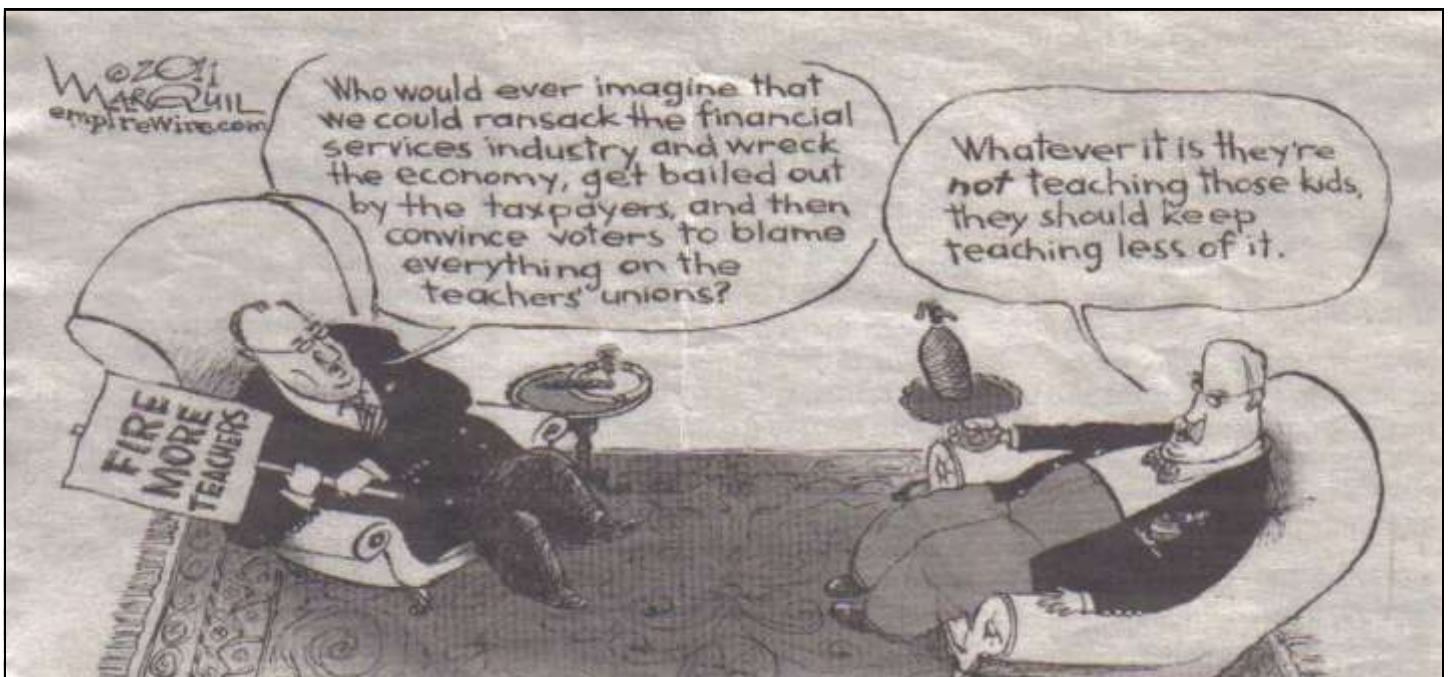
After her presentation, Judge Mensch answered questions from the students. All found her experiences interesting and the students received much needed information on the requirements to go into the field of law.



Judge Mensch

Oak Grove Partipates in “Hoops For Hope”

Oak Grove Elementary School participated in the 6th Annual “Hoops for Hope” Basketball Tournament on Sunday, March 13, 2011, at Marist College. As a school we raised \$513 to go towards the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation. Our team name was the Leddy’s Ladies and included, Angelina Rooney, Dawn Turpin-Orgetas, Therese Coris, Eleni Tarpey, Jenn Volpe, Jeanette LaSalvia, Gina Calvano, Cathy Augello, and Karen Zmudosky. The grand total of this event was a record set at raising \$38,510.11.



Brinckerhoff Staff Adopt-A-Highway Crew



**Brian LaSusa, Terri Langer, John Neevel, Renae Vena, Sandy Smith, Bob Furlong,
Amy McNamara, Barbara Haan, Jen Kirschenheiter, Megan Calimano,
Kathleen Howard, Greg Renino**

The staff at Brinckerhoff Elementary School has adopted a section of Route 82. On March 30th and again on May 11th they volunteered their time by picking up trash along a one mile stretch from the 52/82 split in Fishkill towards Hopewell Junction. There were many appreciative honks and waves, from members of the community, as they drove by.

Business Law at RCK

By Kathy Conroy
RCK Business Education Teacher

On April 11, 2011 Mrs. Conroy's Business Law classes at Roy C. Ketcham High School were visited by police officers, a nurse practitioner and a canine unit as guest speakers for the student's most recent round of debates.

Students brought in guest speakers as part of the research for their team's topic on Legalization of Marijuana. Sherry LaPerche, a Nurse Practitioner discussed the medical uses and negative effects of marijuana, while Officer Tim DeSantola discussed the laws and experiences he has had as a Narcotics police officer in Westchester County. State Trooper Dawn Melfi brought in a Canine Unit to demonstrate the dog's ability to search for drugs.

Once the presentations were over, the students continued with their debates and a class vote for the winning team. Mrs. Conroy's classes have two rounds of debates each year as part of the Business Law curriculum.



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also from the Welfare
Trust Fund

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

June 22.
Times:
2 pm—6pm
Please call
227-5065 to
schedule an
appointment.

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

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... WCT Welfare Trust Fund

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

June 14, 2011

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 through 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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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: guaranteed placement for half of the school year, \$35.00 per half year payable Sept. 15th and Feb. 1st or \$5.00 per issue.

2010-2011
Newsletter
Schedule

5/27/11

6/17/11

