

The WCT COMMENTATOR

September 18, 2009

From the President's Pad ...

A New Beginning...



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back! I hope you all have had a restful and enjoyable summer vacation and are ready to meet the challenges of the new academic year.

First, I would like to congratulate and offer our best wishes to Superintendent **Richard A. Powell** as he retires after seven years of dedicated service to the Wappingers Central School District. On behalf of the WCT, I wish him the very best for an enjoyable retirement with good health and much happiness for the future.

As of October first, we welcome the new superintendent, **Mr. James Parla**, to the helm of the Wappingers Central School District. He comes to us from the Island Trees School District, on Long Island. I have had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Parla and have found him to be an intelligent, astute individual who is willing to embrace this new challenge with enthusiasm and confidence. I am certain he will provide sound leadership and a new vision for the district. He deserves our utmost respect and cooperation in order to move the district forward toward future achievements. Mr. Parla's leadership qualities make him the right person to lead the district through these uncertain economic times. I look forward to establishing a working relationship with him to assure the success of our students

It is also my pleasure to introduce the new Administrative Assistant/Welfare Trust Fund Administrator, **Ronnie Dwyer**. She has been a resident of Dutchess County for the past twenty-one years, along with her husband and two children. She previously served as the Office Administrator for Prudential Realty for seven years. In her short time with the WCT, Ronnie has already proven to be a great asset to our organization. Please take the opportunity to make her feel at home.

I would like to welcome to the Executive Board **Kim Mahusky** (Fishkill Elementary) as VP of Internal Communications. **Beth Rizzi** (John Jay) will be taking on the role of *The Commentator* Editor. **Ellen Mead** (Wappingers Junior High School) will be serving as the Webmaster. The WCT is privileged and fortunate that these members have stepped up to serve and are willing to give their invaluable time and make vital contributions towards the success of the local.

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Editor's Note ... *Going Green. Saving Green*



The WCT is trying to reduce the amount of paper it sends out, which usually ends up in the garbage. As a result, you may have noticed, just like last year, that you did not get a COMMENTATOR in your mailbox. Instead, you need to look for it in your "In Box." The e-mail will

contain a link to the issue. You can also go to wcteachers.org/1294/index.html to view archived issues going back to the 2005-2006 school year. A limited number of paper copies will still be delivered to each building so be sure to check with your building

reps. If you have any questions or would like to contribute an article, please email me at: commentator@wcteachers.org

Beth Rizzi



Building Rep Elections

Elections should be held before the first R.A. meeting (September 29, 2009) in accordance to Article X, Number 3 of the Wappingers Congress of Teachers Constitution By-Laws:

X.3.a. Election of Representatives to the Representative Assembly shall be by secret ballot and shall take place according to election procedures established by the Election Committee during the month of September at least one week after nominating meetings are held in each building. Representatives-elect shall take their seats in the Assembly at the following R.A. meeting.

from the... WCT Welfare Trust Fund

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

September 9th & 23rd

October 7th & 21st

November 11th

December 9th

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.

TEACHERS, YOUR UNION NEEDS YOU!



East Fishkill Community Day is approaching fast and the WCT NEEDS YOU to sit and hand out FREE PENCILS and a FREE RAFFLE (for a \$50.00 gift certificate to dinner) at our table under the big tent.

EAST FISHKILL COMMUNITY DAY IS ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2009 (RAIN DATE SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27)

FROM 11:00AM UNTIL 5:00PM.

I need two volunteers to sit for ONLY 1 hour time slots starting at 11:00AM and ending at 5:00PM.

The day is always fun and you get tons of FREEBIES.

It is a great way to start off the school year.

PLEASE email me to let me know which hour is good for you.

epguthoff@optonline.net

Thank you

Emily Guthoff

From the President's Pad ... (cont'd from page 1)

On Wednesday, August 26th, I had the opportunity to greet ten new members at Rookie School. Their genuine enthusiasm and love for the teaching profession reminds me of the essential role we play as educators in the lives of all students. I invite them to become involved, to assume an integral role in the union, and to partake in positive activities that will shape, influence, and improve our schools.

It is crucial that the WCT, along with the brothers and sisters of the other locals, stand in unity and do not waiver in the face of adversity. I am confident that united, we will meet these challenges and overcome present and future economic obstacles without compromising the quality of education we deliver. As professionals we should set high standards and levels of excellence for ourselves and the students we instruct. Our duty and obligation is also to support, encourage and guide new colleagues to help them grow professionally and attain high pinnacles of success. The WCT members are beacons of light for the children we teach and the community we serve.

Have a successful, productive, and rewarding school year!

In solidarity,

Pasquale Delli Carpini

WCT President

What You Should Know About H1N1 Influenza A

reprinted from www.aft.org/topics/h1n1/

H1N1, a new influenza virus sometimes known as the swine flu, was first detected in the United States in April 2009. In June 2009, the World Health Organization declared that a global pandemic of H1N1 was under way, after more than 70 countries reported cases of the virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that the virus is spread from person to person in much the same way the seasonal flu virus is spread—through droplets from coughing or sneezing by someone who is infected. Most people who have become ill with H1N1 have recovered without requiring medical treatment, although some people have been hospitalized or died from the virus.

Although H1N1 cases in the United States have diminished, experts agree that they will increase just in time for the regular influenza season this fall. H1N1 will be the predominant flu strain, but

other seasonal flu varieties will be in circulation as well. The CDC is predicting that as many as 50 percent of Americans will be infected with H1N1 and as many as 1.8 million persons may need hospitalization.

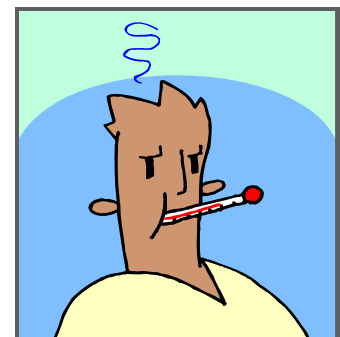
An H1N1 vaccine is currently in production and may be ready by mid-October, according to the CDC. It is expected to be administered in two doses, three weeks apart. The CDC says priority for the vaccination will be given to pregnant women, and people with chronic medical conditions, and healthcare and emergency medical services personnel. Members are advised to consider getting both the seasonal flu vaccination and the H1N1 vaccination.

Symptoms of H1N1 are similar to the seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat,

runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. If you are sick, the CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, except to get medical attention.

Members can stay informed by visiting <http://www.aft.org/topics/h1n1>.

New information will be posted as it becomes available.



Many WCT members had reason to celebrate during the late spring and over the summer! Our congratulations and best wishes go out to all!

Wedding Bells ...

Jeannie Rauschenbach (Vassar Road) married Bill Newman (John Jay) on July 18.

Lauren (Neely) Tarantino (Gayhead) married Dave Tarantino on June 26.

Jennifer Rich (Vassar Road) married Justin Taylor on August 1.

Eleni (Mustakas) Tarpey (Gayhead) married Brian Tarpey on July 11.

Janeen Palermo (Fishkill) married Brian Duncan on August 1.

Diane (Grix) Farris (Gayhead) married Steve Farris on July 25.

Joe Pedota (John Jay) married Janie this summer.

Tracy (Zeoli) Misch (Gayhead) married Rob Misch on July 19.

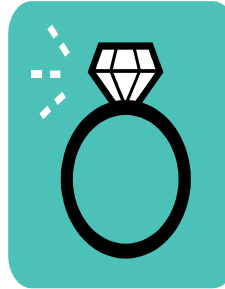
Jules McCord (John Jay) married Chip July 4th.

Jim Nurre (Gayhead) married Carolyn Klocker on August 7.

Tony DelGreco (John Jay) married Brianne Miller (Gayhead) this summer.



Engagements



Patricia Brilla (Vassar Road) to Peter Dean on May 30.

Michelle Oldenborg (John Jay) to Dan Pettigrew on August 15.

New Babies

Robyn Talbot-Howard (John Jay) and her husband Nathan welcomed a son, Samuel Wesley Scott Howard on August 4. He was **21" long and weighed 10lbs 1oz.**

Tiffany Devincenzi (Sheafe Road) and her husband Brian welcomed a daughter, Kendra Michelle on August 27. She was **21&1/2" long and weighed 7lbs 10oz.**

Carolyn Prongay (Literacy Coach) and Joe Prongay (Fishkill) welcomed a daughter Aubrey Nicole on July 26. She was 6lbs 10oz and **20" long. Her big sister Rachel is very proud.**

Diane Sampson (John Jay) and her family welcomed a daughter, Stephanie late last winter.



Victoria Strauss (John Jay) and her husband welcomed a daughter, Abigail in early spring.

Michael Panzer (RCK) and his wife Marie Jane welcomed a daughter, Zoe Jane on September 1.

AFLAC Enrollment Dates for September 2009

September 16

3 presentations to staff, at Ketcham High School

2:15 – High School teachers – Joan

3:15 – Jr. High School teachers – Brian or Greg

4:15 – Joan and/or Greg

Enrollments 10a.m to 4:30p.m. (or as each school requests)

September 17

Brinckerhoff Elementary (including Fishkill teachers) – Brian

John Jay High School – Joan

Gayhead Elementary – Linda



September 18

Van Wyck Jr. High School (including Fishkill Plains Elem. teachers) – Brian

Wappingers Jr. High School (including Evans Elem. Teachers) – Linda

District and Orchard View Alternative High School – Joan

September 21

Roy Ketcham H. S. (including Meyers Corners Elem. Teachers) – Brian and/or Phil

Sheafe Road (including Oak Grove teachers) – Linda and/or Phil

September 22

Vassar Rd. Elem. (including Kinry Rd. Elem. Teachers) – Brian or Phil

Transportation and Cafeteria - Linda

September 23-24

Return to needed schools – ALL REPS

September 25 – **ALL PAPERWORK TO DISTRICT**

Safe & Orderly Schools

Reprinted from <http://www.aft.org/topics/discipline/index.htm>

In poll after poll, parents, teachers and school staff say that school safety and order are their highest school priorities. Educators know that other efforts to improve schools will not be effective without an orderly and safe learning environment.

Fortunately, public schools are among the safest places for children. Studies show that of all the violent crimes involving children, only a very small fraction occur in school. We must never feel comfortable, however, resting on the knowledge that schools are relatively safe environments for students and teachers. We must constantly strive to make the school the safest environment possible. The students we have been charged to educate and the school staff the AFT represents deserve nothing less.

Schools can reduce the level of student aggression simply by improving the orderliness of their classrooms. Working closely with teachers on students' behavior management skills in the early grades can yield substantial future benefits, including a reduction in both the dropout rate and the incidence of crime.

To continue good behavior developed in the earliest grades, schools must maintain a safe and secure environment. Teachers and school staff, through their unions, can play a key role in establishing effective discipline and safety policies, and can advocate for building facilities that are both safe and conducive to learning.

For more information visit:
<http://www.aft.org/pubs-reports/downloads/teachers/safeandorderly4pgr.pdf>

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards: Gauntlet 2009-2010



Diane D. DiChiara

NBC Exceptional Needs 2003

At the end of the past school year approximately 25 WCSD teachers responded to the challenge and met in the John Jay computer lab to sign up for either the complete process of National Board Certification or to **just "dip their toes" into the NB waters with Take One!**

On Saturday, as facilitator for NYSUT's ELT National Board Lab class I had the opportunity to meet with thirteen of these teachers from the elementary, middle, and high school level. They have begun a journey that is rigorous, rewarding and reflective. Meanwhile, last year's candidates are waiting for the results which are generally posted the week of Thanksgiving. Currently there are seven National Board Certified teachers in WCSD.

While you might not want to begin the process at this time, if you have thought about NB certification, why not browse the NB site at <http://www.nbpts.org/>? A teacher does not have to be a candidate to access the portfolio instructions and entry directions. NB encourages all future candidates to fully understand the process before actually applying. Perhaps you will find that 2010 will be your year to take up the gauntlet.

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**



also from the
WelfareTrustFund

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

September 30

October 14

November 18

December 16

January 20

February 17

March 17

April 21

May 19

and June 16.

Times - 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Please call 227-5065 to schedule an appointment.

2009 - 2010 Newsletter Schedule

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| September 18, 2009 | February 19, 2010 |
| October 2, 2009 | March 5, 2010 |
| October 16, 2009 | March 19, 2010 |
| November 6, 2009 | April 9, 2010 |
| November 20, 2009 | April 23, 2010 |
| December 4, 2009 | May 7, 2010 |
| December 18, 2009 | May 21, 2010 |
| January 8, 2010 | June 4, 2010 |
| January 22, 2010 | June 18, 2010 |
| February 5, 2010 | |

MEMBERS' CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale: Rombout Village \$112,900 Beautiful one bedroom in desirable Rombout Village. Many updates including new kitchen appliances and countertops, new vanity and medicine cabinet, laminate wood flooring in dining room and foyer, tile in kitchen and bathroom, new windows, sliding glass door, and deck. Perfect for the first time home buyer or someone looking to downsize.

The house also includes central air conditioning, an attic for additional storage and plenty of closet space. The community includes a private inground heated swimming pool, tennis, and basketball courts. The property is also situated on many hiking and walking trails along the Hudson River.

On top of all that it is only minutes from I-84, the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, the Beacon Train Station, the Taconic State Parkway, Route 9, and I-87.

For more information, please contact us at: (845) 440-8146.

For Rent: Beautiful 1 Bedroom/1 Bath Condo in Fishkill N.Y. Conveniently located near Rt. 9 and I - 84. Updated Appliances with washer and dryer in unit. No Smoking/Pets. \$900 month plus utilities. For more information call Chris at (845) 214 - 0229.

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gutterhelmet@verizon.net

***Special 20% discount to WCT Members**

For Sale: Candel Country Kitchen table with leaf and 6 chairs (40x60 inches without the leaf). Table is natural color with green base. Chairs are natural color with green backs. \$800.00 & 3 White Halcyon Serenity Standard patio chairs and one swivel chair with floral cushions. \$125.00 Call (845) 471-3193.

For Sale: 2002 Volkswagon Jetta GLS 1.8T, Blue Sedan, Tan Leather Interior, Automatic, 4 Cylinder, Loaded Inside, Tinted Windows, Custom 4 piece grill craft front grill. 17" Voxx Performance Rims, Performance All Season Pirelli Tires, Factory Rims with low mileage tires. Custom Ebach Springs, lowered the car 1.5 inches to make it more aerodynamic. Brand new battery, 25 mph town, 30 mph highway. Call (845) 896-7664.

TWO BEDROOM CONDO FOR SALE: Beautifully maintained, freshly painted, spacious, one full bath, with updated kitchen. Located near Mount Saint Mary College. Huge master bedroom with two walk-in closets. Spacious second bedroom with plenty of closet space. Nice balcony for your grill with room for dining. Entire unit wired for music. Listed with RE/MAX for \$163,900.00. Call Chris: (845) 542-0412 for more information.

For Rent: New Hampshire waterfront cottage 2 BR cottage, sleeps 5. Dishwasher, washer/dryer, internet, much more. Swim May through Sept., canoe, fall foliage, antiquing, golf, outlets, etc. Large deck, BR water view. 1-1/2 hrs from Boston. Summer \$1200/wk., Fall \$950, late fall \$750. <http://nhwaterfront.home.comcast.net>, Call Kathleen (781) 444-4124, or Herb at (845) 297-5657.

we're on the web

www.wcteachers.org

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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.

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 e-mail system.

Press Release
from Van Wyck
Homestead

Saturday & Sunday
Sept. 19-20,
10 AM - 4 PM

Van Wyck
Homestead
Museum
504 Route 9
(Jct. Route 9 & 184)

Revolutionary War
Weekend

Re-enactors'
encampment.
Exhibits of
Artifacts from the
Fishkill Supply Depot,
1776-1783.

Sunday, Sept. 20
11 AM
Presentation by
Elizabeth Kaplan on
"George
Washington's Long
Island Spy Ring"
courtesy of the NYS
Council on the
Humanities.

Sunday 12:30 PM
Talk re: Fishkill
Supply Depot
1776-1783
Free.