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the WCT COMMENTATOR

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Oak Grove Has Pajama Day

By Dawn Turpin-Orgetas

Pajama Day was a blast! Oak Grove students and staff members worked hard in their comfy and cozy pajamas. The students were excited and are looking forward to next year.



It was “utterly” outrageous how far the Oak Grove faculty and staff were willing to go to get into the spirit of PJ day. Students reported seeing 7 adults resembling cows loose in the building in black and white flannel pajamas. They knew their teachers were nuts, but never dreamed they would all call each other to wear their crazy cow pajamas to kick off the day! Way to go Oak Grove!



What Makes Middle School Work

With all the talk of the impending Master Plan Referendum vote on March 11, 2008, one of the major changes members might have questions about is the idea of the junior highs becoming middle schools. A recent study may help clarify your questions.

The NYSUT web page has a link to this report conducted by the University at Albany, the Business Council of New York State, and the New York State Education Department on best practices of New York State middle schools. Ten higher performing middle schools were studied: J. Taylor Finley Middle School, Huntington; Holland Middle School, Holland; J.F. Kennedy Middle School, Utica; Albert Leonard Middle School, New Rochelle; Niagara Middle School, Niagara Falls; Port Chester Middle School, Port Chester-Rye; Queensbury Middle School, Queensbury; Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Middle School, Sherrill; West Middle School, Binghamton; and Westbury Middle School, Westbury.

The thirty-six page report findings are divided into two parts. Part one focuses on the five critical elements found in higher performing New York State middle schools. The five elements are 1.) trusting and respectful relationships, 2.) students' social and emotional well-being, 3.) teamwork, 4.) evidence based decision making, and 5.) shared vision of mission and goals. Part two discusses New York State schools within the nation *Just for Kids* framework. The framework also contains five essential themes: 1.) curriculum and academic goals, 2.) staff selection, leadership, and capacity building, 3.) instructional programs, practices and arrangements, 4.) monitoring: compilation, analysis, and use of data, and 5.) recognition, intervention, and adjustments.

To read the report, please go to the following site:
<http://www.albany.edu/aire/pdf/MiddleSchoolReport.pdf>.

Wappingers School Aid for 2008 - 2009

http://www.nysut.org/cps/rde/xchg/nysut/hs.xsl/legislation_9374.htm

*Source: 2008-09 Executive Budget State Aid Runs, New York State Department of Education.
 Compiled by NYSUT*

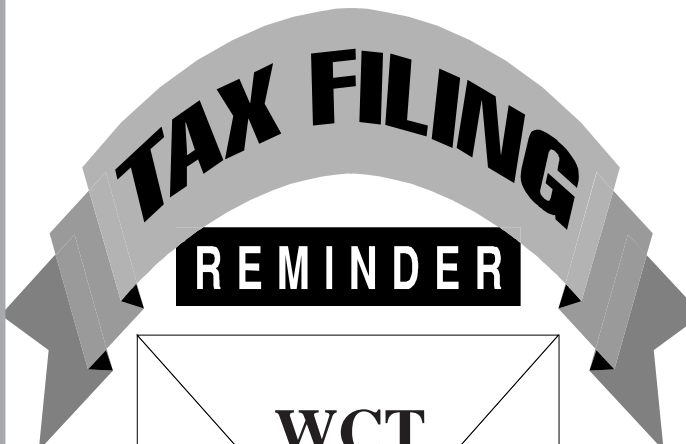
Grand Total Aid:

2007 - 2008: \$45,732,427

2008 - 2009: \$51,300,909

Change: \$5,568,482

% Change: 12.18%

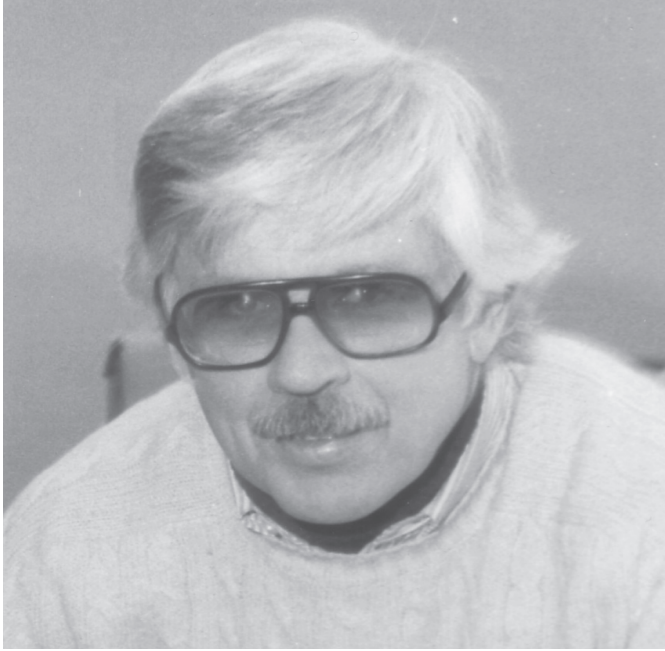


WCT
Full-Time
Dues 2007

January 2007 - June 2007:
12 @ \$33.00 = \$396.00

September 2007 - December 2007:
8 @ \$34.10 = \$272.80

TOTAL = \$668.80



Is It Time to Update Your Look?

Take advantage of the new frame allowance provided by the Welfare Trust Fund!

Visit <http://wcteachers.org/WTF/updates.pdf> for more information.

Attention Retirees

Retirees who would like to volunteer for the referendum phone banks at the WCT office, please return this form to the WCT Office or call 227-5065.

Name: _____

Check the date and time you wish to participate.

March 4 @ 3:30-5:00 p.m. _____ 5:00-6:30 p.m. _____ 6:30-8:00 p.m. _____

March 5 @ 3:30-5:00 p.m. _____ 5:00-6:30 p.m. _____ 6:30-8:00 p.m. _____

March 6 @ 3:30-5:00 p.m. _____ 5:00-6:30 p.m. _____ 6:30-8:00 p.m. _____

March 10 @ 3:30-5:00 p.m. _____ 5:00-6:30 p.m. _____ 6:30-8:00 p.m. _____

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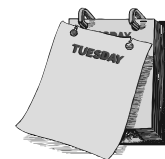
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Member Benefits

AFT has an expense reimbursement and/or endorsement arrangement for marketing this program. For more information, please contact AFT Financial Services at 800/238-1133, ext. 4493; send an e-mail to disclosureinfo@aft.org; or visit www.aftplus.org/disclosure.

Dates to Know



FEBRUARY:

- no school - February 18, 2008
- Master Plan Presentation - February 20, 2008
- BOE meeting - February 25, 2008 (MC & OG)
- pay day - Feb. 29, 2008

MARCH:

- BOE meeting - March 3, 2008 (JJ)
- New Members Workshop - March 5, 2008
- Referendum vote - March 11, 2008
- Financial Consultant - March 12, 2008
- pay day - March 14, 2008
- BOE meeting - March 17, 2008 (EV, VR, & KR)
- no school - March 21, 2008
- no school - March 24, 2008
- Superintendent's Conference Day - March 25, 2008
- pay day - Mar. 28, 2008

APRIL:

- *General Membership Meeting* - April 7, 2008
- BOE meeting - April 7, 2008 (WJH & FP)
- Vote on changes to WCT Constitution - April 9, 2008
- Financial Consultant - April 9, 2008
- pay day - Apr. 11, 2008
- Spring Recess - April 14 - 18, 2008
- BOE meeting - April 22, 2008 (GY, BR, & VR)
- pay day - Apr. 25, 2008

MAY:

- BOE meeting - May 5, 2008 (RCK, FS, & SR)
- Financial Consultant - May 8, 2008
- pay day - May 9, 2008
- *WCT Recognition Dinner* - May 16, 2008
- BOE meeting - May 19, 2008 (VW, JJ, & OG)
- Budget vote - May 20, 2008
- pay day - May 23, 2008
- no school - May 23, 2008
- no school - May 26, 2008

JUNE:

- pay day - June 6, 2008
- BOE meeting - June 9, 2008 (MC, EV, KR, & OG)
- pay day - June 20, 2008
- pay day - June 26, 2008

Good News!

◆ Congratulations to **Rebecca Caulfield** on receiving tenure as of March 4, 2008.

◆ Congratulations to **Grace Ann Smith** on the birth of her son Christopher Charles on January 31, 2008.

Referendum Video Airs

The *Meet The Leaders* program that Superintendent Powell recorded, "premiered" February 6th. It is scheduled for replay Friday, 2/15, at 5:30, 6:30, 7:30 and 10:30PM.

There will be more broadcasts beyond those, but the exact dates and times have not been determined. Sue Penny will follow up next week with more scheduled dates.



Members' Classified Ads

FOR SALE:

* Raymour & Flanigan oak kitchen corner breakfast nook table, breakfast nook bench and trestle bench. Includes table, outer bench and "L" shaped inner bench. Benches also double as storage areas (seats are hinged and lift up-one hinge needs repair) Overall in great condition! Paid \$876 - Asking \$400.

* Magic Chef Refrigerator 16.5 Cubic Feet. Works great! \$50.

* Roper (by Whirlpool) Stove. Basic model. Only 2 years old. Works great! Paid \$250 - Asking \$125.

* Antique Iron & Brass Bed. Full Size, Original unpainted metal. Complete and ready to use. Just add a mattress. \$125.

Please call 845-661-2567 (leave message).

FOR FREE: Office style desk in good condition. Call Susan at 226-8285 or email JohnRogerJr@Yahoo.com.

FOR RENT: Think Summer! Charlestown, R.I. (just 2 1/2 hours from home) four bedroom house within walking distance of pristine Charlestown Beach. Vacation near Newport, Mystic, Foxwoods, and Block Island. The house offers large screened-in-porch, washer/dryer, dishwasher, outside shower, and free beachside parking in private lot. Walk to Dunkin Donuts, coffee shop, deli, and casual restaurant. Pictures available. Call Roberta at 221-9872.

FOR RENT: Vacation in Ocean City, Maryland. 2 bedroom/2 bath CONDO, on the water (bayside). 1st floor unit, next to pool, beautiful sunsets, just cross the street to the beach - centrally located, close to everything. Contact Sandy for information at 896-1678.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Looking for another young-professional roommate to share house in Southside, POK. \$650 a month includes everything! (Heat, electric, washer/dryer, high speed internet, cable, off street parking.) Please call Melissa-453-7723.

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Hopewell Junction: 3/4 bedroom ranch, full finished downstairs: family room with fireplace,sauna, possible mother/daughter or rental, very solid, new furnace, well pump, septic tank & more. 4 car garage/workshop. Very private 2 acres, walk to Fishkill Creek to kayak to the Hudson, near Taconic Pkwy, prestige area. \$314,000. **Seller may be able to buy down your interest rate if you qualify.** 845-266-5304

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(Continued on page 6)

Members' Classified Ads

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Hopewell Junction, NY
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see us at:**

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