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Vol. 36, No. 4

# the WCT COMMENTATOR

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## Oak Grove Playground Being Dedicated in Memorial of Teacher



All WCT members and retirees are invited to attend the dedication of the Oak Grove Elementary School K-2 playground (behind the school) in loving memory of our 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Kasey Monopoli. The dedication will take place Saturday, October 27, 2007 at 1:00 pm.

We will always remember Mrs. Monopoli's wonderful, cheerful spirit, and the joy she brought to everyone in the Oak Grove Community. She touched the lives of so many.



# Notes

Dear Negotiations Team,

On behalf of the WCRT, I would like to thank you all for all the time and effort you put into securing a new contract. I know this took time away from your families and friends.

We would like to thank you specifically for holding the line on retiree health insurance. For this we are all eternally grateful.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Sincerely,

Susan Roger, President, WCRT

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Many thanks to the Negotiating Team that worked tirelessly month after month on behalf of the teachers who educate the children in our District. Please know just how much we appreciate your efforts and dedication to our cause as educators.

As always, in solidarity -

Foreign Language Department

John Jay H.S.

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TO: Wappingers Congress of Teachers and Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers

RE: New Contract

Bravo! To all who worked so very hard for such a long time to negotiate a very favorable contract! Thank you!

Esther F. Reisman

School Social Worker – retired

Dear Editor,

Now that the dust has settled on the WCT/WCSD contract, I'd just like to take a moment to thank Pasquale Delli Carpini, Mike Lyons, and his negotiating team for their tireless efforts and for their patience in achieving a fair settlement with the District. Current WCT members are fortunate to have such a committed and savvy group serving on the Executive Board, and WCT retirees are appreciative of the consideration that we have been given during negotiations and in the settlement. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Roger Higgins, WCT Retiree

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Dear Friends, "The Negotiating Team"

I just wanted to take a minute to write a note to all of you thanking you for your dedication and endurance that each one of you displayed in settling the recent contract. I truly feel that you were very focused keeping all parties of the membership "close to your heart." As a 2006 retiree, Health Benefits were my top priority. Thank you so very much for allowing the retirees to maintain the "blessing" of not worrying about our future. That security was safeguarded by your thoughtful perseverance. I am thoroughly grateful and once again thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Paino



# Protecting Yourself

*We live in troubled times, and school employees need to behave in such a way (and avoid certain situations) to protect themselves physically, medically, legally, and professionally.*

**By: Program Services Department of NYSUT**

**Handling Money:** Regardless of the circumstances, do not handle money unless you first understand the procedures required by your district for doing so. Consult your contract, your union representative and your principal. No matter what kind of employee you are, at some point in your education experience, you will be asked to handle money. It might be as simple as holding lunch money for some students or as significant as manag-

ing the school store or being in charge of a major fund-raiser at your school. If procedures for handling money are not in writing, you should do your part to get them reduced to writing, and then follow the

procedures exactly. Sometimes it is hard to draw a distinction between mishandling and misappropriating. Be careful when you handle money; never commingle or mix school funds with your own.

## BOE Schedule

Nov 13 - Myers & Oak Grove

Nov 26 - John Jay

Dec 3 - Evans, Vassar, & Kinry

Dec 17 - RCK & Orchard View

Jan 14 - WJH & Fishkill Plains

Jan 28 - Gayhead & Brinckerhoff

Feb 11 - Van Wyck & Sheafe

Feb 25 - Myers & Oak Grove

Mar 3 - John Jay

Mar 17 - Evans, Vassar, & Kinry

Apr 7 - WJH & Fishkill Plains

Apr 22 - Gayhead, Brinckerhoff, & Vassar

May 5 - RCK, Fishkill, & Sheafe

May 19 - Van Wyck, John Jay, & Orchard View

Jun 9 - Myers, Evans, Kinry, & Oak Grove

## Health News

Governor Spitzer signed the following bills into law:

\*Giving employees of school districts, and county and municipal employees, up to four hours leave annually for prostate cancer or breast cancer screening;

\*In a related matter, the governor also signed a bill that requires employers of 20 or more to provide up to three hours of annual leave to employees giving blood.



# Health Insurance Open Enrollment Period

November is the month you have the opportunity to change your health insurance plan. There are four meetings scheduled with representatives from MVP, CDPHP and Empire Blue Cross & Blue Shield (Blue Choice PPO). There will be a question and answer period following a brief presentation from each representative.

Anyone electing to change their health insurance plan must complete an application and return it to Carleen Scherer in the Business Office by Friday, November 30.

Applications may be obtained in the Business Office for any of the three plans.

If you elect to change your insurance plan, it will become effective January 1, 2008. You will be covered by your present plan through December 31, 2007.

**If you do not wish to change your insurance plan, you do not have to do anything.**

Schedule of Meetings:

- 11/1/07 - District Office 10:00 a.m. Conference Room B
- 11/8/07 - Van Wyck JHS 3:00 p.m. Library
- 11/13/07 - Myers Corners 5:30 p.m. Café
- 11/15/07 - Oak Grove 4:00 p.m. Café

\*\*\*Reminder\*\*\*

Please remember, there is a three month waiting period if you want to change from individual to family coverage without a qualifying event or have the buy-out and wish to enroll for health insurance with a January 1, 2008 effective date. You will have to submit an application for health insurance by October 31, 2007 to Carleen Scherer in the Business Office. Please keep in mind there is a three month waiting period for these changes. If you have any questions, call Carleen in the Business Office, ext. 113.

# Dates to Know

- PTA Council meeting @ Vassar - Nov. 1, 2007
- pay day - Nov. 9, 2007
- pay day - Nov. 21, 2007
- PTA Council meeting @ Gayhead - Dec. 6, 2007
- pay day - Dec. 7, 2007
- pay day - Dec. 21, 2007
- PTA Council meeting @ Brinckerhoff - Jan. 3, 2008
- pay day - Jan. 4, 2008
- pay day - Jan. 18, 2008
- pay day - Feb. 1, 2008
- PTA Council meeting @ Myers - Feb. 7, 2008
- pay day - Feb. 15, 2008
- pay day - Feb. 29, 2008
- PTA Council meeting @ Fishkill Plains - Mar. 6, 2008
- pay day - Mar. 14, 2008
- pay day - Mar. 28, 2008
- PTA Council meeting @ Oak Grove - Apr. 3, 2008
- pay day - Apr. 11, 2008
- pay day - Apr. 25, 2008
- PTA Council meeting - May 1, 2008
- pay day - May 9, 2008
- WCT Dinner - May 16, 2008
- pay day - May 23, 2008
- pay day - June 6, 2008
- pay day - June 20, 2008
- pay day - June 26, 2008

## Direct Deposit

100% direct deposit of your paycheck to the financial institution(s) of your choice becomes mandatory for all WCT unit members effective 1/1/08. On October 12, 2007, all members received an e-mail from Joanne Sereda containing the direct deposit form. If you do not currently have 100% direct deposit of your paycheck, please complete the form and submit it to the Business Office as soon as possible but no later than December 22, 2007. Questions regarding direct deposit should be directed to Kristine Hobson at 298-5000, extension 147.

# New Orleans Teachers Regain Bargaining Rights

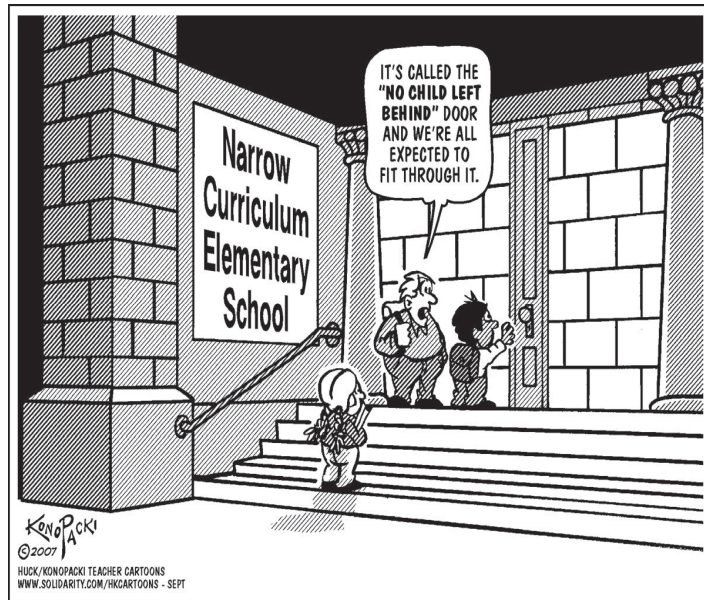
*NYSUT Leader - October 19, 2007*

More than two years after Hurricane Katrina caused widespread destruction and a troubled school system was turned upside down, the United Teachers of New Orleans has won back the right to collectively bargain contracts with the Orleans Parish School Board.

“This is a true picture of the collaboration and cooperation between the school board and United Teachers of New Orleans,” said UTNO President Brenda Mitchell.

The school board also recently agreed to pay \$6.8 million to the 6,800 members who were employed on Aug. 29, 2005. Eligible employees will be paid a total of \$1,000 each in two \$500 installments, the first to be paid by the end of 2007. The union has settled other grievances as well, including a grievance to provide all school employees with paper pay stubs documenting the 12 days they worked before the storm.

Watch *New York Teacher* for more in-depth coverage.



## Members' Classified Ads

**FOR SALE:** Antique Steel & Brass Bed-FULL size, complete \$125; Antique Pair of BRASS NYC public school knobs \$100; Total Gym \$25; Native American Matted & Framed Art prints (set of 7) Harrison BeGay \$250 for all. Please call 845-661-2567 if interested.

**FOR SALE:** 2 door antique pine cabinet with dark stain, interior painted Aztec gold. Great as TV cabinet or storage for clothing and linens or PC desk. 6' high, 21.5" deep, 55" wide. Asking \$250. Call Walter Franca @ 462 2510.

**FOR SALE:** Queen size mattress for sale in excellent condition. Brand new, used only for 1 month and purchased in May. Call Nelly at 845-360-5005 for further details.

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[Edmundmckenna@optonline.net](mailto:Edmundmckenna@optonline.net)

Ed McKenna  
845-471-7607

**HOUSE FOR RENT:** Millbrook area-1 mile to Taconic. 2-3 BR, 1 1/2 bath, W/D, 1 acre yard. Non Smoker. \$1500/mo. + utils. Call 845-868-7308.

(Continued on page 6)

# Members' Classified Ads

## Wappingers Congress of Teachers

2537 Route 52, Suite 15  
Hopewell Junction, NY  
12533

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**We're on the Web!**  
**see us at:**

**WCTeachers.org**

*(Continued from page 5)*

**HOUSE FOR RENT:**  
Furnished, Move right in - South side of Poughkeepsie near Vassar College. Nov to May with option to stay on as housemate. Also option to rent in Venice, FL - May thru Nov. Washer Dryer, Yoga Room, Office, Deck, Porch, Yard, Piano and Bicycle. Non Smoker, No Pets \$1500 per month plus Utilities. 845 473-4696 Rich or Liz.

**FOR SALE:** Lovely custom built brick ranch on the south side of Poughkeepsie. Three bedrooms, 1.5 baths, hardwood floors, arched doorways, two-zone heating, fireplace, many new updates, all new thermal windows, new appliances, finished basement & laundry room, two car garage, beautiful level backyard with privacy fence, professionally landscaped. Listing Price \$330,000. Call 845-473-1308.

**FOR SALE:** 75 Gallon Bowed Front Fish tank and stand - all accessories incl. paid over \$1100 sell for \$500. Karrie 702-8146.

**FOR SALE:** Thomasville solid oak queen size bed for sale. The headboard has storage space galore. Asking \$250 or best offer. Call 298-7712.

**FOR SALE:** 2 snow tires used only one season locally. Coopers - size 235/45R17. They are NOT on rims. Asking \$50 for both. Call Steve 462-8557.

**FOR SALE:** Lovely 3 bedroom ranch in Highland, NY - 1-1/2 baths, fireplace/wood stove insert, deck, 1 car garage, \$269,000. Call 845 691 8623.

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