

Apr. 3, 2009

Vol. 37, No. 15

the WCT COMMENTATOR

Inside this Issue:

Hoops for Hope	2
Food Drive	2
R.A. Reminder	2
Tier III & IV Workshop	2
Kinry Road Family Book Club a Success	3
WCT Gear Available at the Office	3
VW Foreign Language Festival a Big Hit!	4
Retiree: Jo-Ann Fury	4
What is the Wappingers Congress of Teachers Welfare Trust Fund (WTF)?	5
Health Advocate @ Your Service	6
Board of Education Meetings Schedule	6
Remember to RSVP for the WCT Dinner	6
Members' Classified Ads	7

WCT 2008 - 2009 General Membership Meeting

On **Tuesday, April 21, 2009** there will be an informational general membership meeting in the auditorium of Roy C. Ketcham H.S. at 5:15 p.m. The check-in will start promptly at 4:15 p.m.

Your attendance is of utmost importance.

The following will be discussed:

- *Wappingers Central School District Budget and how it will impact WCT members*
- *Update on federal and state stimulus programs*

Thank you in advance for your support.



Hoops for Hope

By: Anne Pedicone & Dawn Turpin-Orgetas

Members of the Oak Grove faculty and staff attended the Miles for Hope, Breast Cancer Foundation's, HOOPS FOR HOPE fund-raiser on Sunday, March 15, to support the foundation in their fight against breast cancer and celebrate with our dear school secretary, MaryAnn Leddy. Mrs. Leddy was chosen this year as the honoree at the annual event, for her 25th year as a breast cancer survivor.

WCT members, Dawn Turpin-Orgetas, Jennifer Segal, Rose Greene, Cathy Augello and Karen Zmudosky, as "LEDDY'S LADIES", competed in the Women's Basketball Tournament fund-raiser. The Oak Grove faculty and staff raised \$1,206 in honor of Mrs. Leddy. It was a wonderful day in supporting a great cause!



(Above: Leddy's Ladies)



Left: past and present Oak Grove faculty, staff and principals)

National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO



Saturday, May 9, 2009

Ask your mail carrier about the 17th annual food drive.

The largest one-day food drive in the nation.

Food goes directly to needy families and local food banks.



A Union of Professionals

R.A. Reminder

R.A meetings for the remainder of the school year will be held in the RCK Large Group Instruction Room, beginning at 4 PM.

- April 28, 2009
- May 26, 2009
- June 23, 2009

Tier III & IV Workshop

Sheila J. Salenger, teacher Board Member of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System(NYSTRS), will be conducting a workshop for members of the WCT in Tiers III & IV on Thursday, April 16th at 4 p.m. in the library at Roy C. Ketcham HS. The maximum number of participants for this workshop is 50. The workshop is NOT in lecture format. Your questions will set the discussion, in tandem with materials you will receive. Everything about tier III/IV, the retirement system, current benefits available to you, your future benefits, as well as any concerns or understandings you have about the TRS are great topics to bring up. Light refreshments will be served at the workshop. We hope to see you there. *****

TIER III/IV WORKSHOP – April 16, 2009

NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

Return to the WCT office via interschool mail by April 13th Affiliated with New York State United Teachers, American Federation of Teachers, NEA & AFL-CIO

Kinry Road Family Book Club a Success

By: Meredith Inkeles

The Kinry Road Literacy Committee (Elizabeth Daley, AIS; John Farrell, Principal; Meredith Inkeles, Librarian; Nancy Longenberger, AIS; and Erin O'Neill, 4th Grade Teacher) wanted a way to encourage families to share the joy of reading and decided to start a Family Book Club. The Puzzling World of Winston Breen by Eric Berlin (interest level: grades 3 - 6) was selected as the first book. This children's book is an intriguing mystery, full of puzzles*, and it keeps the reader guessing until the end.

After all participants read the book, the Kinry Road Family Book Club met on Friday, March 13, 2009 at the Kinry Road Library. An enthusiastic and varied group of faculty, staff, students, parents, and siblings attended; the children participating in the evening's events attend Hyde Park schools, Kinry Road, Myers, Oak Grove, Vassar Road, and Wappingers Junior High. Since puzzling was the cornerstone of the book, the evening began with everyone attempting to solve diverse puzzles and conversing about different aspects of the mystery.

The surprise of the evening was that the author, Eric Berlin, had contacted the Literacy Committee and set up to call in and speak with the group. At 6:45 PM, the phone

rang and Eric Berlin was on speaker phone chatting with the group and answering questions. Mr. Berlin spoke with the group for 20 minutes and when the call was over the students could be heard whispering, "That was so cool!"

The remainder of the evening was characterized with activities that would have excited the book's puzzle-loving main character, Winston. Families worked on puzzles located on Winston's Puzzle Blog (winstonbreen.com/blog), put together jigsaw puzzles, tried to take apart tavern puzzles, and solved an array of dilemmas, problems, and riddles on the Mensa for Kids web site (mensaforkids.com). At the end of the evening, one lucky student won the raffle of the newest Puzzling World of Winston Breen installment called The Potato Chip Puzzles (to be published in mid-April); all the children left with a puzzle-filled goody bag.

The Literacy Committee's goal of encouraging family reading proved successful and the group is planning a similar event for May 8, 2009. The next book selection is Mr. Chickee's Funny Money by Christopher Paul Curtis.

* (*The puzzles located throughout the book are available at www.winstonbreen.com.*)

WCT Gear Available at the Office

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.

short sleeve tees: \$9.00
long sleeve tees: \$12.00
lanyards: \$2.00



VW Foreign Language Festival a Big Hit!: ¡OLÉ! BRAVO! JUHEE!

By: The Van Wyck Foreign Language Department

On the evening of March 13, the Van Wyck Foreign Language Department hosted its third annual Foreign Language Festival for our seventh grade students and their families. Seventh grade students who study Spanish, Italian, French, and German with Johanna Valente, Allyson Rubin, Tina Schmitz, Nancy Torres-Diaz, Alexis Cascio, Lauren Guerrero, Lisa Herring, and Lucienne Zollner participated in the event. The students' Foreign Language Week projects were on display, many students prepared delicious ethnic treats to share with everyone, and the winners of the Foreign Language poster contest were announced!



(Van Wyck Foreign Language Department)

The following students were a tremendous help to the Foreign Language teachers in setting up the cafeteria, serving the food and beverages to our guests, and cleaning up. These students helped their teachers from approximately 3 p.m. through 7:30 p.m. We are extremely grateful to: *Taylor McAuliffe, Brittany Margosian, Sarah Kubikowski, Kayla Tutolo, Griffin Guccione, Tara Guinee, Sydney Parsons, Cassie Pyle, Emily Sepulveda, Mary Westerman, Joshua Marte, José Guvenilir, Timothy Arnold, Elizabeth Portch, Rose Brown, Dominique Cooke, and Jennifer Min.*

Special thanks also go to the many students who helped the Foreign Language teachers for various periods of time over the course of the event. VERY special thanks also go to the Van Wyck custodial staff, Mrs. Basuljevic, the Van Wyck administrators, the Van Wyck PTO, the Van Wyck Student Government Association, and Stewart's for their support and donations. An extra special thank you goes to the parents and family members who provided many of the ethnic delights and also shared the evening with us. Everyone helped make the evening a huge success!

Retiree: Jo-Ann Fury

Jo-Ann has been teaching in Wappingers since 1988. Prior to that, she taught in the Ballston Lake School District and in the Kingston City School District. She remained at home for 15 years with her children and taught preschool in Raleigh, NC for 5 of those years. During her time in Wappingers, Jo-Ann has taught 3rd grade at Fishkill Plains for 14 years before working for Dr. Hill as a Technology Integration Teacher.

When asked what she will miss the most, Jo-Ann said, "I will miss the professional and social interaction with my colleagues, and of course, the children. I will miss the people in my office, especially Betsy Zingaro, Mandy Dwight, Paul Rubeo, Charlie Hill, Maryann Politi and our wonderful support staff. I will miss the teachers and talented computer TAs I have had the pleasure of working with at

Fishkill, Oak Grove, Fishkill Plains, Vassar, Kinry and Evans, too." Additionally, Jo-Ann said, "I will not miss waking up to an alarm clock, and carrying computers and cameras!"

For the future, Jo-Ann is planning for lots of traveling, enjoying her husband, children and grandchildren, writing, painting, photography and becoming a perfect, organized homemaker!



What is the Wappingers Congress of Teachers Welfare Trust Fund (WTF)?

The Welfare Trust Fund was established to provide a variety of benefits for eligible bargaining unit members and their dependents. It was created as a result of Collective Bargaining between the Wappingers Congress of Teachers and the Wappingers Central School District. Employer contributions are based on the amount stipulated in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement and are provided at annual rates. Members, other than those on COBRA continuation coverage, part-time employees (more than .5), and retirees, do not make contributions to the WTF. The benefits presently offered by the Fund are as follows:

- Dental
- Optical
- Financial Planning
- Legal Services
- Life Insurance
- Health Advocate
- Prescription Co-Payment Reimbursement
- Hearing Aid

Who administers the WTF?

The Board of Trustees administers the WTF. It is made up of five persons, one of whom is the President of the WCT by virtue of holding that office, and the other four of whom are designated by the Executive Board of the WCT. The current Trustees are:

- ◆ Christine Romano, Chairperson
- ◆ Betty Seifert, Treasurer
- ◆ Erin Mulligan, Secretary
- ◆ Philip "Flip" Gertler, Trustee
- ◆ Pasquale Delli Carpini, Trustee

The Board of Trustees employs a Fund Administrator who is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the WTF. The WTF also employs consultants who assist the Trustees and the Fund Administrator.

- ◆ Fund Administrator – Linda Leito
- ◆ Third Party Administrator – Daniel H. Cook Associates
- ◆ Financial Advisor – Stacey Braun Associates, Inc.
- ◆ Fund Accountant – Gould, Kobrick & Schlapp
- ◆ Fund Legal Counsel – Mirkin & Gordon

The WTF Board of Trustees meets on a regular basis to discuss benefit improvements, concerns from members, legal issues, financial reports, third party administrator reports, and also addresses any other business/concerns that may arise.

How does it work?

The Wappingers Central School District (WCSD) makes a yearly payment for each full time bargaining unit member as per the negotiated contract. Based on the yearly increased contribution by the District, the Trustees, with the expert counsel of our advisors, recommend benefit improvements.

The Fund Administrator keeps and updates records for all members on file. It is very important that each member notifies the Fund Administrator of any change in their personal status (marriage, divorce, adding/removing dependents, change in address, etc). Ms. Leito is the liaison

between members and Daniel H. Cook, Davis Vision, Legal and Financial Services and is the person to contact in the event of any problems or concerns. She does the bookkeeping, manages accounts receivable/payable for the Fund, and takes minutes at all Fund meetings.

Please consult your benefit booklet (3 ring binder) to review your benefits. There is an explanation of each benefit and the procedure to follow. Any and all updates should be kept in this binder for future reference. You may also reference our WCT website (wcteachers.org) for information.

What do you do if there are problems with a claim?

The most effective way to deal with any problems or questions about a claim is to call, write, or email Linda Leito, WTF Administrator, at the WCT office:

Telephone number: 227-5065
E-mail: wct@frontiernet.net
Address: 2537 Route 52, Suite 15
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
(or interschool mail for employees)



Health Advocate @ Your Service

*Need to find a specialist? Confused by health insurance?
Overwhelmed with caretaking?*

Your **FREE Health Advocate** benefit helps you personally navigate the healthcare maze to resolve your healthcare and insurance issues promptly and reliably.

Here's how Health Advocate helps you:

- Assigned Personal Health Advocate (PHA) — typically a registered nurse backed by medical directors and benefits specialists — works one-on-one with you
- Resolves a range of healthcare issues
- Calls are unlimited. Service is available 24/7

Covers you, your spouse, dependent children, parents and parents-in-law

Who takes care of the caregiver? *We do!*

52 million family caregivers provide care for someone aged 20 and over who is ill or disabled. Caregivers who don't get any relief can develop anxiety and depression and are prone to getting sick, experts say.

The PHA can help ease the burden:

- Locate in-home caregivers, adult day care, special learning services, nursing homes, assisted living, hospice and more
- Coordinate same-day testing and treatments
- Arrange transportation to appointments ... and more

(National Family Caregiver Association, 2005)

Call Today - We get to the bottom of your issue to get reliable answers. Carry your insurance card *and* Health Advocate card.

1-866-695-8622 (toll-free) / visit www.healthadvocate.com

Independent. Confidential. Convenient. Health Advocate is not affiliated with any insurance or third party provider. Health Advocate does not replace health insurance coverage, provide medical care or recommend treatment. CHA-M-NL1008

©2008 Health Advocate, Inc.

Board of Education Meetings Schedule

- April 6, 2009 - Evans, Fishkill, Wappingers
- April 26, 2009 (TUESDAY) - Fishkill Plains, Myers, Van Wyck
- May 4, 2009 - Brinckerhoff, John Jay, Vassar
- May 18, 2009 - Gayhead, Orchard View, Sheafe
- June 8, 2009 - Ketcham, Wappingers

*Remember to RSVP for the WCT Dinner

Remember to download the RSVP form for the **April 24th** WCT Recognition Dinner. RSVPs must be received by **April 17th**.

Go to <http://wcteachers.org/forms/invite.doc> for more information.

Stressed about work? Having financial issues and need to talk about it? Are you having a family issue and you don't know what to do? Or you just need someone to listen?

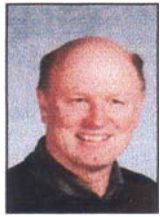
Call the Employee Assistance Program

The EAP provides free confidential assessments, information, and referral services to all WBSD employees and their immediate family members. EAP's 24-hour a day crisis line is staffed by a trained counseling professional.

Contact the 24-hour EAP Crisis Line at **1-800-724-0917** or during regular business hours, you may reach the EAP at **485-3710**.

FOR SALE: silver 2001 Chevrolet Cavalier 4 door automatic 4 cylinder in excellent running condition. 60,000 miles. Asking 3,000 or best offer. Please call 297-5047 if you are interested.

Members' Classified Ads



KEEL SYSTEMS, LLC

Computer (PC/Mac) Setup / Repair / Improvements Software Setup and Instruction

- Virus/Spyware Protection, Detection & Removal
- Data Backup & Recovery
- Networks: Wired/Wireless
- Mobile Computing (Laptops/PDAs)
- Digital Photography/VHS to DVD

Ed McKenna - 845-471-7607

EdmundTMckennaJr@gmail.com



Are you thinking of buying or selling a home now or in the future?

For a market analysis of your home or a referral to buy a home, call me or e-mail me:

Chuck Deppe

845-227-3859

ctdepl@optonline.net

25+ years of Real Estate experience, locally and nationally
A WCT member for 40 years
"Every day is a new day in real estate!"

Chuck Deppe

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

Houlihan Lawrence Realty

Route 52

Hopewell Jct., NY 12533

O'Dell Painting

Interior / Exterior Painting
Pressure Washing / Water Proofing
Fire & Water Damage / Wallpaper Removal

Free Power Washing with every Exterior Paint Job

Over 20 years of Experience!

Call for a FREE ESTIMATE

Ray O'Dell

(845) 297-2341 or (914) 245-0001

Free Estimates

CHRIS CAPASSO

Interior & Exterior Painting
Gutter Cleaning, Roofing, Siding, Windows

Power Washing & Staining

Phone: 845-242-8228

Never Clean Your Gutters Again!

Dutchess GutterHelmet Inc.

Gutter Protection Systems

The First. The Best. The #1 Gutter Protection System in the World.

Joe Schmid - (845) 297-0500

www.gutterhelmet.com

gutterhelmet@verizon.net

*Special 20% discount to WCT Members

Absolute Masonry Services

"Experienced Masons Serving the Hudson Valley"

Stone * Cultured Stone * Brick * Gardens
* Patios * Walls * Walkways * Concrete *
Block * Stucco * Fireplace & Chimney
Veneer * All Masonry Repairs

Scott D Cafarella - Masonry Contractor

Phone: (845) 883-0086

Cell: (845) 401-7787

E-mail: Vmason77@aol.com

A + D.J. Services

New York & Hudson Valley

D.J. HARRY

parties - retirements - weddings -
anniversaries - any occasion

H. Ramirez

5 Willi Rd.

New Paltz, N.Y. 12561

(845) 255-6732

Harryshine5@aol.com



STACY McCUSKER

Licensed Sales Agent & WCT Member

(845) 452-1156 BUSINESS

(845) 453-9113 CELL

(845) 452-1631 FAX

stacy.mccusker@coldwellbanker.com



CURRIER & LAZIER REALTORS®

4 Commerce Street, Suite B-2

Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

www.coldwellbankerhudsonvalley.com

SHIRLEY ROSICKE

PHOTOGRAPHY

PORTRAITS

Seniors, Families, Children

Created in the studio or on location



Specializing in

WEDDING Photography.



Shirley Rosicke

845-226-5019

www.ROSICKE.com

LITTLE DEPOT

Lionel, Williams,

K-Line

Trains

6000 part inventory

REPAIR SERVICE

by appointment only

OLD TRAINS BOUGHT

thelittledepot@earthlink.net

845-226-5019

(continued on page 8)

Members' Classified Ads *cont. from page 7*

Wappingers Congress of Teachers

2537 Route 52, Suite 15
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

NYSUT 13-270
AFT 1989

phone:

(845) 227-5065

fax:

(845) 227-1977

email:

wct@WCTeachers.org

WCT President:

Pasquale Delli Carpini

Editor & V.P. of Internal Communications:

Meredith Inkeles

Proofreader:

Brian Inkeles

Distribution:

Peg Nikola & Alice Heusinger,
WCRT



We're on the Web!
see us at:

WCTeachers.org



is a board game for passengers 13+ to play on road trips from 20 minutes to many hours long.

11" x 14"

Front View dry-erase, magnetic board Rear View



Road Trip Scavenger Hunt with 100 Game Pieces - \$35.00
Road Trip Scavenger Hunt with 50 Game Pieces - \$25.00

Please send an email to receive additional information or to place an order.



Chris Horton

Fun For All Entertainment, LLC

(845)-542-0412

funforall@hvc.rr.com

THINK SUMMER! FOR RENT: 2 BR, 2 BA Condo in OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND. Bayside, beautiful sunsets, fishing. Right next to the pool. Centrally located, close to all the amenities. Just cross the street to the ocean. Call Sandy at 896-1678 for more information or to reserve a week.

FREE CAT: Beautiful orange and white cat, friendly lap cat, playful, about 1-2 years old, neutered, all shots up to date, litter box trained, happy to be inside. He is wonderful in every way, except that since he came into our home in December, he can't get along with our current cats. Contact Tad or Sue 266-4676 or nine.8@att.net.

FOR SALE: GE Washing Machine, 3-4 years old in excellent condition, \$175 or best offer, call 845-849-2357.

THINK SUMMER! FOR RENT: 4 bedroom beach house in Charlestown, RI, only 2 1/2 hrs from Dutchess Co. 1 1/2 baths, large screened-in porch, newly remodded fully equipped kitchen, large rec room in finished basement with pool table, and outdoor shower. Sleeps 8 comfortably. Just bring your bathing suit! It is less than 1 mile to lovely beach with private beachside parking. It also is within 1/2 mile of stores and casual restaurant. Newport, Mystic, Foxwoods, and Block Island ferry are a short drive away. If interested, call Roberta at 221-9872.

FOR RENT: LAKEFRONT, Lake Wallenpaupack, PA. 1.5 hrs from Fishkill. Swim, fish, motorboat. House on level lot sleeps 8. BBQ, bicycles, HDTV, A/C & new EZ dock \$1,200/wk. For email photos & details call Gary 845-462-4686.

FOR RENT: Beautiful, spacious, recently renovated 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bottom floor, end unit condo in POK. New floors throughout, updated kitchen and baths, brand new wall-to-wall carpet in bdrms. Community pool, close to IBM, Marist and Culinary. Excellent for young professionals or a young family. \$1,395/month incl. heat/hot water. For more info or for an appointment, call Brad 845-430-3811.

McGUINEY FENCING

Mark D'Onofrio - Sean Keenan

914-490-5854

Free Estimates

Very reasonable prices.

Over 20 years of experience - specializing in pools and residential fencing. (wood, vinyl, aluminum, & chain link)



Hudson Valley's Most Dynamic DJs

enriquezentertainment.com