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the WCT COMMENTATOR

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Happy Thanksgiving!



WCT Members Helping to Keep Babies Warm

Thank you to all the members who have already contributed baby hats for the Knit One, Save One campaign. Remember, the deadline for handing in finished caps is December 19th so they can be sent together to Save the Children in Westport, Connecticut.

Easy Pattern for Knitters (courtesy of Patricia Lakin - www.patricialakin.com). For additional patterns, download the Knit One, Save One Kit at www.SavetheChildren.org or go to warmupamerica.org.

The babies Save the Children serves are often low birth weight, so the caps need to be smaller than we are used to making in the United States. A circumference of 9" to 11" is ideal. Use any smooth, washable yarn. Any infant pattern is fine so long as it is a suitable size and will keep a baby's head warm.

The Rectangle Hat

Size: 10" circumference

MATERIALS

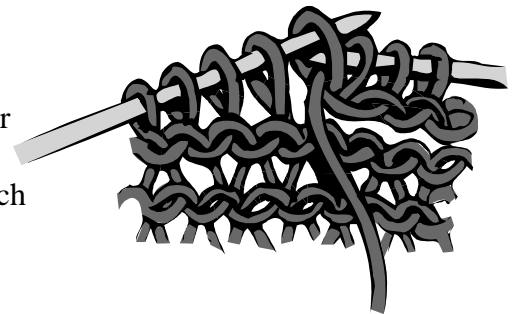
- size 5mm/8 needles
- worsted weight yarn, 3/4 oz.
- yarn (darning) needle
- extra yarn to sew hat together

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- the gauge is 4 stitches = 1 inch
- how to cast on stitches
- how to do the knit stitch
- how to bind off stitches
- how to sew three sides together

INSTRUCTIONS

- cast on 20 stitches (check to make sure this measures 5 inches)
- knit every row
- knit for 4 inches
- bind off all 20 stitches
- make an other square following steps a through d
- put one square on top of the other
- sew three sides of the square together
- with yarn needles, weave in any yarn ends
- pom-poms could be added and sewn on to the two sewn corners





NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Alert

Members Take Note...

Subscribers to any NYSUT Member Benefit Trust endorsed programs (life insurance, auto insurance, dental insurance, etc.) are required to maintain membership in order to continue eligibility for these benefits.

Members who plan to be on leave of absence should contact the NYSUT

Membership office at 800-342-9810 X 6222, or Tad Herman at the WCT office, 227-5065, to arrange for Associate Member status. This will allow for continuation of any benefits while on leave of absence. Agency fee payers are also eligible to subscribe to these NYSUT benefits.

Membership in NYSUT is prepaid for retirees. However, retirees are required

to maintain membership in our local, WCT/WCRT, for \$15.00/year, in order to continue eligibility to subscribe to NYSUT Member Benefit Trust programs.

If you have any questions or concerns, call the WCT office, 845-227-5065, and leave a message for Barbara Stuck or Alice Baker, or send an email to membership @wcteachers.org.

Reminder: Update Your Membership Information

WCT Members:

In order to update our records, please complete and return the following to the WCT office as soon as possible.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NO.: _____

Home School: _____

Also, if you have changed your marital status or you need to add/delete a child (or children) to your benefits provided by the Welfare Trust Fund, please request an enrollment form by calling 227-5065 or sending an email to membership@wcteachers.org. This is very important in order for claims to be processed promptly and efficiently.

Thank you.
Tad Herman
Membership Co-Chairperson

Mentoring Begins in Gayhead

By: Nicole Scalzo and Chrissy Axtmann
Gayhead Elementary School

October marked the beginning of the Mentoring Club at Gayhead Elementary School. The Mentoring Club pairs at risk students, students with low self esteem, and/or students who need help socially in the educational and social settings, with adult mentors in the school. This year the program has more than 25 students and teachers, as well as teaching assistants participating.

October 24th was the first official meeting between mentees and mentors. The program, run by Christine Axtmann and Nicole Scalzo, met for a fall activity. Fun was had by both mentees and mentors alike, as they played Halloween BINGO and won Halloween themed pencils.

The mentoring program, we feel, is an important club in the school. It is, for many students, a time when



the focus is on the student and making them feel good about themselves and not academics. We look forward to our December activity, as well as the rest of the school year.

Sick Day Sellback Date Reminder

(November 4, 2008 email from Joanne Sereda)

The deadline for members to return a completed form to the HR Office has been changed from Thursday, November 20 to Monday, December 1. Forms received in the HR Office after 5 pm on Monday, December 1 will not be processed for payment. If you are participating in the sellback this year, please note that there is no change in the January 5, 2009 deadline for you to file a 403(b) Salary Reduction Agreement form with the Business Office IF you are establishing a new 403(b) plan or IF you are not currently making regular payroll deductions to an existing 403(b) plan. If you have questions regarding the sellback, please direct them to the personnel associate, Shelby Outwater.

Thomas D. Macrini Sports Hall of Fame Press Release

Kathryn Polumbo, Chairperson HOF Committee

The Thomas D. Macrini Sports Hall of Fame will be holding its 18th induction ceremony on May 1, 2009. Nominations for inductees are now being accepted. Athletes who have graduated from a Wappingers' high school, in 1998 or prior, retired coaches and special service award candidates will be considered. Please mail your nomination, along with any supporting documentation, to WCSD Athletic Office, RCK Annex, 99 Myers Corners Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 no later than Tuesday, January 20, 2009.



Good News!

• Congratulations to **Paul Panesa** (FP) on receiving tenure effective December 13, 2008.

2008 - 2009 Pay Days

- Wednesday, November 26, 2008
- Monday, December 15, 2008
- Tuesday, December 30, 2008
- Thursday, January 15, 2009
- Friday, January 30, 2009
- Friday, February 13, 2009
- Friday, February 27, 2009
- Friday, March 13, 2009
- Monday, March 30, 2009
- Wednesday, April 15, 2009
- Thursday, April 30, 2009
- Friday, May 15, 2009
- Friday, May 29, 2009
- Monday, June 15, 2009
- Friday, June 26, 2009

Reminder: Financial Information Seminar

The Wappingers Congress of Teachers Welfare Trust fund has arranged for a representative from Stacey Braun, the Fund's financial advisors and provider of the Financial Counseling Benefit, to provide an informational seminar on Tuesday, December 9th beginning at 4:15 p.m. in the cafeteria of Roy C. Ketcham H.S.

The representative will discuss the credit crisis, economic bailout plan, the potential impact on your pension/retirement plans and answer your questions.

If you would like to attend this seminar, please complete the tear-off below and return it to the WCT office via interschool mail.

We hope you will take advantage of this informational seminar.

Financial Workshop – December 9th

Name _____

School _____

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Members' Classified Ads

FOR SALE: 1997 Ford Truck F 150, XLT, V-6, super cab with third door, 5 speed manual transmission, 80 K miles, original owner, red, very good condition, asking \$5000.00. Call: George @ 226-5071.

FOR RENT: Village of Wapp. Falls. 2BR apt. on 2nd fl. \$1,400/mo. heat & hw incl. Avail. 1/1/09. Call Anne: 297-1643.

(continued on page 5)

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EdmundTMckennaJr@gmail.com

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

WCTeachers.org

* Next issue of the *WCT COMMENTATOR* -
December 5, 2008.

Board of Education Meetings

Schedule *(meetings are held at the District Offices at 8:15 PM)*

- December 1, 2008 - Brinckerhoff, Oak Grove, Van Wyck
- December 15, 2008 - Gayhead, Kinry, Vassar
- January 12, 2009 - Ketcham, Orchard View, Sheafe
- January 26, 2009 - Fishkill, Fishkill Plains, Wappingers
- February 9, 2009 - Evans, Myers, Van Wyck
- February 23, 2009 - Brinckerhoff, John Jay, Orchard View
- March 9, 2009 - Gayhead, Sheafe, Vassar
- March 23, 2009 - Ketcham, Kinry, Oak Grove
- 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

Financial Advisor Dates

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

- December 3 & 17
- January 7 & 21
- February 4 & 18
- March 4 & 18
- April 15 & 29
- May 6 & 20
- June 3 & 17



Appointments are one (1) hour in length from 2 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on a first come first served basis. 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. 1-888-949-1925 directly and other arrangements may be possible.