

Hudson Teachers' Association

HTA OFFICERS

President: Elizabeth Novine
1st Vice President: Jen Clark
2nd Vice President: Wayne Kinney
External Secretary: Laurie Campbell
Internal Secretary: Kim Keeler
Treasurer: Lucy Rees
Assistant Treasurer: Alicia McCagg
Public Relations: Lynn Dykeman

Building Reps

JLE

Melissa Brown
Kim Cruger

MCSIS

Lynn Clark
Tani Quinion

JHS

Carey Ann Daniels
Emily Goldstein

HHS

Brian Palmieri
Valerie Spensieri

Negotiations Committee

Melissa Brown, JLE
Terry Ohl, JLE
Lisa Dwyer, JH
Jen Clark, JH
Chuck Peters, JH
Mike Antonelli, HS
Justin Cukerstein, HS

A Letter from the President

by Jack Beyer



APPR

Parents, teachers, administrators, school board members and national experts offered a wide range of opinions on how to move forward with the new teacher evaluation systems, but virtually everyone agreed on three things. The Governor's deadline is clearly unrealistic. The increased focus on testing must be scaled back and the Regents need to do everything they can to allow flexibility and local control. In fact, so many speakers urged the Regents to "be bold and courageous" in mitigating the worst aspects of the new law.

The Regents held an all day summit to gather

recommendations on upcoming regulations that will govern a new teacher/principal evaluation system. The Regents have until June 30th to approve regulations. School districts are supposed to have state approved evaluations by November 15th.

Important Dates around the District

Submit your CAFETERIA PLAN ENROLLMENT before June 30th!

3rd Grade Moving Up ~ 6/22 @ 9:30am

4th Grade Moving Up ~ 6/23 @ 9:30am

5th grade Moving Up ~ 6/24 @ 9:30am

6th Grade Moving Up ~ 6/25 @ 9am

8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony-Tuesday, June 23rd @ 7:00 pm

Senior Awards Night – Thursday, June 4 @ 6:30 p.m.

Graduation Rehearsal – Wednesday, June 24th @ 10:30 a.m.

Baccalaureate – Wednesday, June 24th @ 7:00 p.m. Seniors arrive @ 6:30 p.m.

Graduation – Friday, June 26th @ 7:00 p.m. Seniors arrive @ 6:00 p.m.

NEW THIS YEAR!!

If you get a huge summer check with your last paycheck of the year, you will receive that summer check on June 18th.

Your last regular paycheck will be held until the last day of school as usual.

Contract Corner

by Lisa Dwyer

Article 18 B. Initial assignment shall be in accordance with the written notification of appointment. Teachers, other than newly appointed and substitute teachers, shall be notified in writing of their tentative programs for the coming year, prior to the end of the preceding school year, including the schools to which they will be assigned and the grades and/or subjects that they will teach. Teachers whose school, grade, or subject assignments are changed during the summer shall be notified as soon as practical after the final determination to make such changes. If the teacher desires an appointment for consultation regarding the proposed schedule changes, the teacher must contact the Principal within ten (10) days of the notice. These same rights are extended to teachers returning from a leave of absence. (page 16)

APPR-The district will provide the teacher's Composite Effectiveness Score and HEDI rating on the locally selected measures subcomponent (if available) and on the other measures of teacher effectiveness subcomponent, in writing, no later than the last school day of the school year for which the teacher is being measured. Depending on the assessment used, a Composite Effectiveness Score may not be available until after the end of the school year. The entire APPR plan will be completed for each teacher as soon as practicable; however, teachers must receive their Composite Scores no later than September 1st of the school year next following the school year for which they are being evaluated. (APPR page 17)

Atia Begh and
Brittany Varriale
were picked out of
300 applicants to
receive the
Berkshire Bank
Scholarship Award
for \$1500. Hudson
rocks!

More Important Dates!

1st grade concert is Tuesday, June 9th at 9 and 10 am

3rd and 4th grade concert is Thursday, June 11th at 1pm

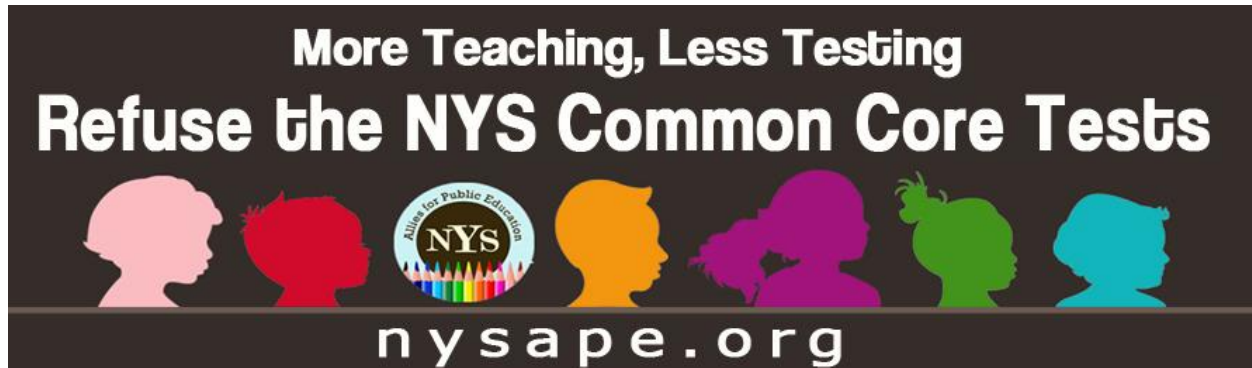
2nd grade Moving Up Ceremony is on Thursday, June 18th at 9 am at the Intermediate School.

JLE Field Day is on Friday, June 19th from 8:30-11. No rain date scheduled.

MC Smith Field Days are on Wed, June 17th and Thurs, June 18th

HELP US WIN THE WAR ON EDUCATION!

Have you seen this billboard on Fairview Avenue?



This is what **VOTE COPE** does for you!

- Cost of the billboard was \$1700
- Our current **VOTE COPE** collection is \$800

WE NEED TO WIN THE WAR ON PUBLIC EDUCATION!

WE NEED EVERYONE TO SUPPORT ALL EFFORTS

INCLUDING RALLIES, BILLBOARDS, ETC.

- Current number of HTA members is 177
- If all HTA members contributed \$2 per paycheck to **VOTE COPE** our collection would be \$2832.00
- REMEMBER, we are currently in contract negotiations.

HHS Envirothon Team

by James McDarby



The Hudson High School Envirothon teams finished with the top two scores in Columbia County at the Hudson Valley Envirothon. The Hudson Valley Envirothon had 23 teams from five different counties competing to go to the New York State Envirothon. The competition requires the teams to demonstrate their knowledge of Aquatics, Soils, Forestry, Wildlife, Current Issues, and Problem Solving.

Hudson's top team will go on to represent the county at the NYS Envirothon on May 27th and 28th at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY. The teams from Hudson finished with the 3rd and 6th highest scores in the entire Hudson Valley region. This is the fourth time in six years that a team from Hudson High has represented the county at the State Competition.

Team Members:

1) Nabila Akhter, Mahmuda Alam, Jake Kulyniak, Jenifer Rosete-Garcia, Patricia Van Valkenburgh (this was the winning team)

2) Farzana Akhter, Jean Busta, Alexis Stevenson, Ramisa Tasnim, Brianna Tsitsera

Alternate: Annette Sturdivant

HTA RECOGNITION DINNER-see your building reps!

Friday, June 19th at the Columbia Golf and Country Club at 6 pm

Dinner Buffett and Music

\$35 check required to hold your reservation which is returned to you.

\$35 for additional guests

Former HS Alum Johnwick Nathan Visits Kindness Club

On April 1st 2015 former Hudson student Johnwick Nathan was invited by The Kindness Club to speak about music and his profession as a producer and musician.

While visiting The Kindness Club, Johnwick spoke to the students about his love for music. He played all original music and taught the kids about the different sounds and instruments. He allowed the students an opportunity to try and identify the instruments as the songs were played. The student reaction was incredible. Dozens of students were stopping in out of interest of what was happening. The students had a great time learning about the recording equipment. They even had the opportunity to create their own rhythms.

It is important to have workshops like these in our schools in order to educate students who are interested in being a producer, recording engineer or simply a singer. It is important to equip them with the knowledge and opportunity to be proficient at their musical talents. Some of the top music schools require auditions and samples of self-created music created as a part of their application process. Hudson has talent!



Garage Sale Success by Anna Barletta

Mrs. Barletta had a very successful garage sale on Saturday, May 16th, 2015 in the High School Cafeteria. It couldn't have been done without the generous help of many volunteers. Thank you to Lisa Dolan, Kathy Bulcholsky, Mike and Alicia McCagg, Donna Lebrecht, and many student volunteers. Thank you to Dolores and Kelly in administration as well. Many of our staff and faculty donated many items for the sale as did quite a few community members. Proceeds from the sale will help with some of the costs for the Italy trip in April of 2016. Thank you once again for helping to make this event a big success.

Pictured from left: Anna Barletta, Lisa Dolan, and Kathy Bulcholsky



High School Students Travel to Spain by Amparo Gazzera

In May 2015, the following students traveled to Spain to be part of an exchange program with Gredos High School in Madrid. The students were Jeanna Lazzara, Brittany Wright, Luis Melendez, Alejandro Santos and Katie Vanvalkenberg. While in Spain, our students lived with Spanish families to practice and improve the Spanish language that they had studied for many years. The students had the chance to attend classes and learn about Gredos and the Spain educational system. The students also visited many museums and tourist places. Before they arrived to Spain, our students stopped in Paris, France for 4 days to learn and appreciate the French culture.

At the present time the students from Spain are in Hudson enjoying their 2 weeks with their host family and improving their English language fluency.



Mrs. Quinion's Class Steps Up for Donations by Tani Quinion



Mrs. Quinion's class recently donated \$50.00 to the Breast Cancer Foundation. Kaleigh Doty, a student in Mrs. Quinion's class wanted to raise money for charity, so she came up with the idea of having her class collect bottles.

Then her fellow classmate, Kristen Ellsworth, teamed up with her by bringing the bottles to her mom's work at COARC . Then they would return the bottles and the money collected would be given to her class to use for charity.

Kaleigh is now having her class collect bottles for The Ronald McDonald House. Her class has currently collected about \$14.00 towards the charity.

Planting Project by Maureen Zito



Renee LaPorto's, Maureen Zito's and Diane Duryea's classes went to Schodack Landing State Park recently to participate in a planting project. The students learned about trees and their benefit to us and the environment. Each child planted a plant within the state park with the help of the park employees. They planted trees such as white pine and blue spruce.



Benefits that matter to you!

Membership in NYSUT allows you to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits.

These endorsed programs include crucial products that the majority of NYSUT members already purchase:

- Homeowners Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Legal & Financial Services
- Life Insurance
- Shopping & Travel Programs

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.



For more than 30 years, the NYSUT Education & Learning Trust has been offering professional development programs created with the NYSUT member in mind -- providing an extensive online inventory with studies to fit your busy schedule.

The Education & Learning Trust offers online, VESi or in-classroom courses for graduate, undergraduate and in-service credit. Professional development training is available for public education issues such as:

- School Quality
- Student Achievement
- Achievement Gaps
- Teacher Retention
- Special Education
- Cultural Diversity
- Classroom Management
- And Much More

To learn more about ELT programs available and/or register online, visit nysut.org/inspire or call 800-528-6208.

