

# Hudson Teachers' Association

## HTA OFFICERS

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Wayne Kinney

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**Internal Secretary:** Sharon Hart

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Kim Cruger

### MCSIS

Tani Quinion

### JHS

Carey Ann Daniels  
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### HHS

Brian Palmieri  
Valerie Spensieri

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**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



In her latest column appearing in the New York Times, AFT President Randi Weingarten talks about the vital role a high-quality education system can play in giving students much needed skills and knowledge as well as stabilizing our communities and strengthening the economy.

As Congress debates the future of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, originally signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson as part of the War on Poverty, this is the time to ensure that the law refocuses on its original purpose: leveling the playing field for kids. "The law's most recent iteration. No Child Left Behind, in emphasizing testing, pulled us away from the focus on kids, especially those who are poor." Weingarten writes

Part of that renewed focus, she stresses, has to be on narrowing the achievement gap. "We narrow that gap through supporting, not sanctioning, kids teachers and schools.

We narrow that gap through teaching kids how to work with their hands, to work in teams, to solve problems –not just how to ace a test. We narrow the gap by provide early childhood education and helping all third graders read at level. We narrow that gap when we give all kids, not just the wealthier families, access to art and music, librarians and nurses. We narrow the gap by focusing on high poverty schools that struggle and helping these schools through interventions like wraparound services that combat the impact of poverty.

The result is a high quality public education system that can unlock children's potential, She says. Such a system can bring communities

together and ensure a top notch workforce for our economy.

A report released this week from the White House found that this bill would cap "spending for the next six years at \$800 million lower than it was in 2012." This would happen at a time when child poverty rates are alarmingly high and when Title I has failed to see any increase since 2012. The report also found that high poverty districts could lose \$700million, while more affluent districts could gain \$470 million.

We have an opportunity with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization to help reclaim the promise of Public education.

## Brooks BBQ March 26

Get your tickets for the Class of 2015's Brooks BBQ, scheduled for March 26, from 3:30-6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Anyone interested in buying a ticket should contact Phelicia Near at [nearp@hudsoncityschooldistrict.com](mailto:nearp@hudsoncityschooldistrict.com).

See [page 10](#) of this newsletter for local forum information!!

Reclaim Public Education

Stay connected!  
Regularly check out

[www.nysut.org/al/kidsneed](http://www.nysut.org/al/kidsneed)  
[www.nysape.org](http://www.nysape.org)  
[www.ageny.org](http://www.ageny.org)



## Contract Corner

by Lisa Dwyer

Applications for all extracurricular positions are due in the office of the Superintendent or designee by April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Education's decision for the following school year will be made no later than the last week in May. (reference Schedule A)

Applications for all grade level chairs and department chairs shall be submitted to the office of the Building Principal, Superintendent, or his/her designee by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Appointments to all positions will be made not later than June 15<sup>th</sup>. (refer to Article 5 on page 6-7)

### APPR

Review the APPR Timeline. Monitor student progress and collect evidence. Refer to Appendix G and H for types of evidence.

## Governor Cuomo's APPR Proposals

**These proposals could become your reality! Download the MAC App on your phone and fax your legislators to let them know this is NOT how we should be evaluated!**

### Annual Professional Performance Reviews

1. **50%** of the APPR evaluation will be based on the state test score, and the remaining 50% on observations. **(He recommends 35% of this come from independent observations while 15% from local supervisors.)**
2. Rather than districts setting their own scoring band cutoffs, **the state will now set the scoring bands** for the student growth measure and the observation portion of the score at the state level.
3. **If a teacher is rated ineffective in either portion of the score**, he or she may not be rated effective or highly effective. **Any teacher who is rated ineffective for two years in a row, will be dismissed.**
4. Tenure will only be granted when a teacher achieves **five consecutive years of effective or highly effective ratings.**

## Sign Up for the MAC App

Download the free MAC app on your smart phone

Text the word NYSUT to the contact number 38470



## Dues Information

by Lucy Rees

Union Dues for full time members who worked for the Hudson City School District from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 are **\$685.92** for tax reporting purposes. If you are new this year or work part time look at your December 18, 2014 pay stub for the amount of your dues.

## High School Book Club

By Theresa Cipollari

The students and faculty of Hudson High School will be starting a book club in March. The group will meet on Fridays and read a novel called *Brown Girl Dreaming*

by Jacqueline Woodson. *Brown Girl Dreaming* is a narrative about Woodson's life, written in prose. It won the 2015 Newbery Honor and the 2014 National Book Award. All students are

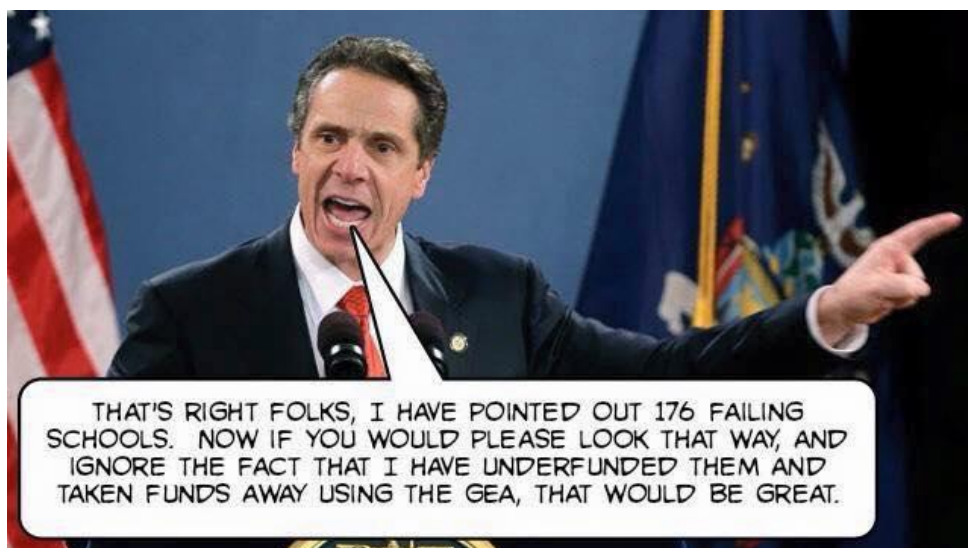
invited to attend. They will meet weekly during period 5 lunch. Those who attend will receive a coupon for a free signed book of their choice to redeem at the Hudson Children's Book Festival on May 2nd. She has offered to attend the last book club on May 1<sup>st</sup> and discuss the novel with students and teachers. This is an amazing opportunity for our students.

Jacqueline Woodson has written many novels for teenagers which can be found in the high school library. She will be at the Book Festival on May 2<sup>nd</sup> if you wish to meet her.

*\*Book clubs are also taking place at the JR High and MC Smith with Brown Girl Dreaming. Please come read with us!*



## Let Your Voice Be Heard! The Time Is NOW!



*Don't miss the high school musical "Carousel" on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30, and March 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00*



**Hudson Junior High  
and  
Senior High  
Progress Report Night  
March 19<sup>th</sup>  
5-7 pm**

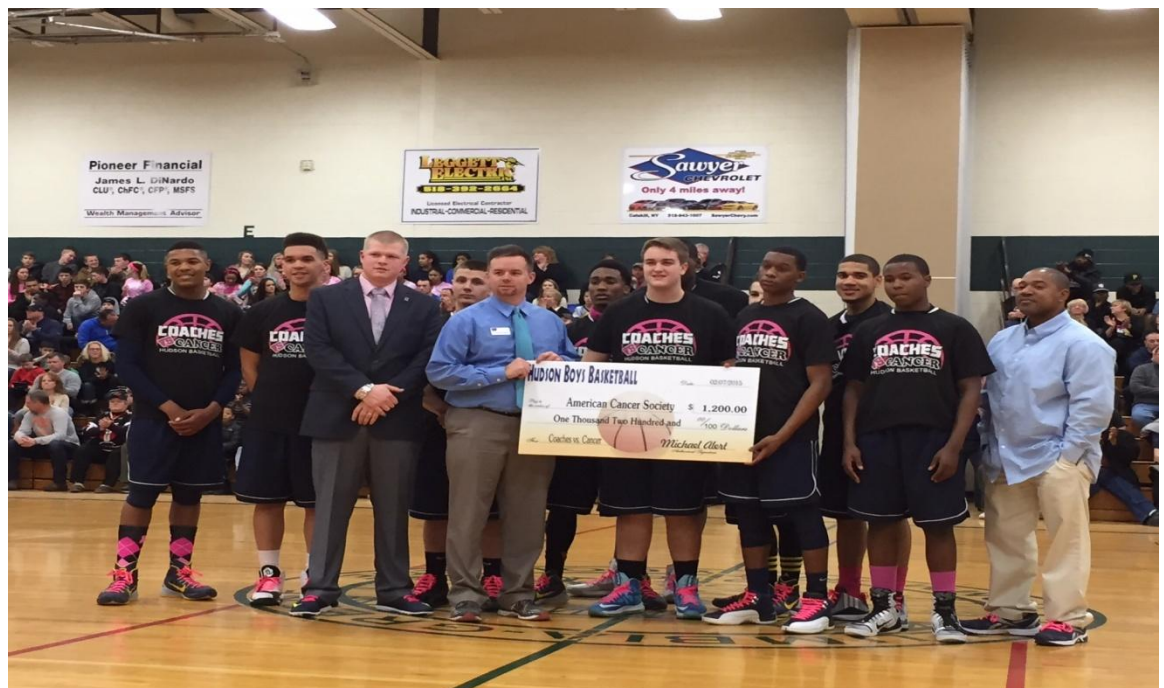
## Diversity of a Scarf

by Sallie Ostrander

Home and Careers students in Mrs. Ostrander's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes made a very large, awesome scarf. Each student who chose to participate, could crochet or knit a 12" section of the scarf. All sections were then sewn together. Many kids learned how to knit and crochet with the help of teachers, parents, and grandparents. The colorful scarf represents the diversity in our school and the warmth we have for each other. To see the scarf, (a work in progress) please visit the Tech. wing in the Hudson Jr. High. Thanks to the teachers and students who participated.



## Hudson Boys Basketball raised \$1200 for the American Cancer Society



## Ms. Howard's Students Work on Various Science Projects



**Shelf Life of Apple Juice Experimenting**



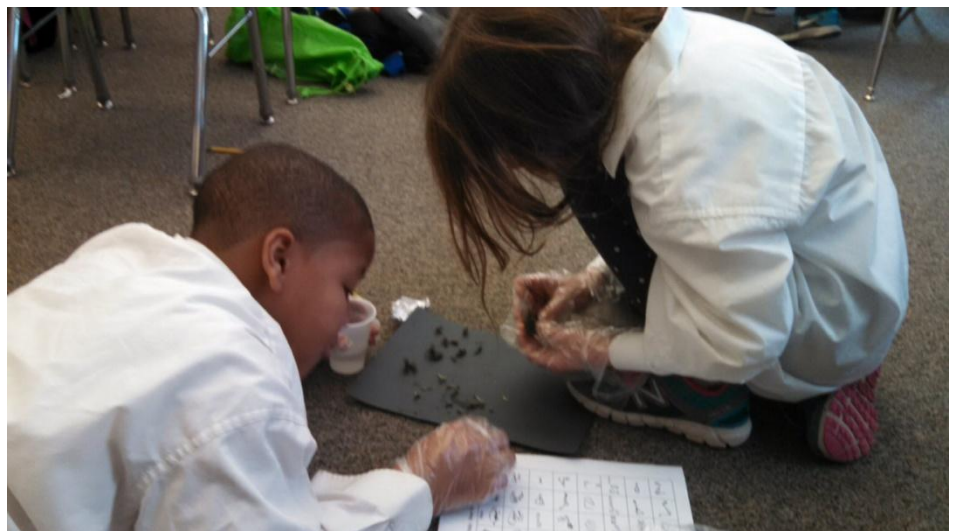
**What Is Quick Sand?**



**Drug Free Cough Drop  
Experimentation**



Fourth graders in Mrs. Quinion's class at MCSIS recently investigated owl pellets by dissecting them. Students found that the pellets contained the bones of rodents, moles, birds and shrews. After identifying the bones students then had to reconstruct a skeleton of the owl's prey. This lab is part of the new Science 21, a hands-on program here at MCSIS.





## Mrs. Cartwright's 100 Day Celebration

Her kindergarten class made a 100 day snack with 10 pieces of 10 different ingredients!





# JLE Celebrates Read Across America!



On Monday, March 2 John L Edwards celebrated Read Across America Day. Officer Jake Hoffman coordinated the event and invited members of the community to read Dr. Seuss books to the students. Students were excited to have special guest readers and enjoy some of their favorite stories! Thanks to Officer Hoffman and all of the other special guests!



Education Rally on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the State Capital

Victoria Dougherty went to the demonstration after school. It was great to see so many colleagues gathered together to voice concerns over Cuomo's agenda. The setting of the Grand Staircase lent a degree of gravitas and beauty to the event.



In order to continue to advocate for public education, the executive committee has voted and approved the purchase of a billboard on Fairview Ave going towards Walmart that is part of the NYSAPE campaign against over testing our students.

Be on the lookout for it!

Make sure you are continuing to contact your legislators, assemblyman, and senators!


Let your voice be heard!

Here is your opportunity to let your voice be heard! Please come and be a part of the discussion!

# *Reclaim Public Education*




*An Informational Forum & Community Event for Parents,  
Students, and Concerned Community Members*

**Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm**  
Ichabod Crane High School Auditorium  
2910 Route 9 Valatie, New York



*Panel of Speakers:*  
**Billy Easton, Executive Director Alliance for Quality Education**  
**Dr. Katie Zahedi, Principal, Linden Ave. Middle School, Red Hook**  
**New York State Assemblyman Pete Lopez**  
**New York State Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin**

*Topics to be discussed:*  
*Inequitable school funding*  
*Loss of local control*  
*Excessive high stakes testing*





We would love to have faculty and staff showing their support of our students and giving them some purchasing power on May 2<sup>nd</sup>! Please consider attending or donating!

Chris Jones and Susan Simon invite you to the

3rd Annual

## Hudson Children's Book Festival Scholarship Fund Cocktail Party

Saturday, March 28, 2015 | 5 -7 pm

Hosted by Colin and Katrina Stair

Stair Galleries

549 Warren Street, Hudson NY

Your tax-deductible donation of \$25.00/person will give a student the opportunity to attend the May 2nd, 2015 Hudson Children's Book Festival and purchase a book directly from an author of their choice.

Your generous support has provided every student who has wanted a book the ability to acquire one. In addition, in 2014, we were able to give 2 scholarships to graduating seniors for college books, and book gift certificates to students moving up from 6th grade, and from 8th grade.

Please RSVP to Lisa Dolan, [dolanlx@hudsoncityschooldistrict.com](mailto:dolanlx@hudsoncityschooldistrict.com)



If you cannot attend and would like to support a child (or more) please make your check to:

**HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND**

Mail to: Lisa Dolan, Hudson Reads

102 Harry Howard Blvd.

Hudson, NY 12534

## ***FINANCIAL RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS***

*NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to launch its newly created online Financial Planning Center* to assist NYSUT members & their families with making a variety of important financial decisions.



Whether you have questions about retirement planning, saving for college or considering purchasing a home, the Financial Planning Center offers valuable tools & resources to assist you. Take the time to check out everything this new section of our website has to offer and remember to bookmark it as we will continue to offer new items on a regular basis.

**This unique resource provides  
NYSUT members with free access to the following:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Financial calculators</li><li>• An interactive planning module</li><li>• Customized Kiplinger's retirement newsletter</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kiplinger's Annual Retirement Guide</li><li>• 403(b) Field Guide</li><li>• Preventive Law Guides</li><li>• And more to come</li></ul> |
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**To access the NYSUT Member Benefits Financial Planning Center, visit the Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) and click on "Financial Planning Center."**