

Hudson Teachers' Association

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 Jen Clark, JH
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A Letter from the President

by Jack Beyer



Court: State cannot ignore obligation to provide fair funding.

A Supreme Court Judge on Tuesday November 18th denied the state's motion to dismiss an education funding lawsuit related to the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, all but the ensuing the case will proceed.

"This decision confirms what NYSUT has long maintained," said Karen Magee. "When it comes to funding public education, New York has not fulfilled its constitutional requirement to provide students with a sound basic education." NYSUT hopes that as a result of this ruling, the Legislature, as it prepares for upcoming budget negotiations, will

make good on the state's obligation to provide fair and equitable funding to New York State's public schools.

Smart Schools Bond Act:

On November 4th, New York voters approved the Smart Schools Bond Act, Providing \$2 billion in funding for classroom technology and wireless internet connectivity, capital projects to construct, enhance or modernize educational facilities to accommodate pre-kindergarten

programs and provide instructional space to replace transportable classroom units; and capital projects to install high-tech security features in school buildings and on school campuses. This bond does not allow hiring anyone to run this technology. Districts would have to come up with the money to hire and maintain this technology.

Contract Corner

by Lisa Dwyer

Health Insurance Buyout. - Effective July 1, 2002, unit members who are otherwise insured may voluntarily opt out of the District's health insurance program and receive a payment of \$1500 each year of the contract. One half of the payment shall be made by January 15 of each year and at that time the employee must resubmit proof of alternative coverage and the balance will be paid by the end of the school year. Eligibility for participation in the buyout requires written notification of withdrawal and proof of alternate coverage from the employee by June 1st of the year preceding the buyout. Employees must be out for a full year to get full payment. (Article 3,D,C) page 4

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

Winter Concerts
JHS December
16th 7:30 pm
HS December
18th 7:30 pm

Festival of Wreaths-Dec 12th @ JLE 6-8 pm



Over 70 wreaths are on display at John L. Edwards ready for you to win one or two!

Did you get your tickets? 25 cents a ticket!

Drawing on Friday, December 12th at 8:30.

K, 1st, and 2nd grade will be singing between 6:30-7:30.

Ms. Wheeler and Mrs. Parmentier's class wrote letters to Special Agent Anthony who was deployed to the Middle East for six months as a Veteran's Day project. They also sent a care package to him. Students voted on items to include in the care package.



Discover Regents Chemistry by Mike Antonelli

Regents Chemistry students were studying the behavior of gases and the gas laws as they relate to hot air balloons. Students had to construct a hot air balloon out of tissue paper and launch them using hot air from a propane tank. Prior to launch, students had to record the temperature outside and inside the balloon and the atmospheric pressure. After the launch, the students calculated the gross lift of the balloons and discussed how the balloon changes in terms of pressure, volume, temperature, and density.



Upcoming Trip to Italy

by Anna Barletta

I would like to announce that I am planning a trip to Italy for students during the April break of 2016. Many students have already registered with EF Tours. The deadline to save \$200 has been extended to December 15, 2014. We will be touring 4 cities starting with Rome, then on to Florence, Assisi and Venice. Students will not only experience the culture but see how the Romans lived 2,000 years ago. They will enjoy seeing all there is to see in the historic center of Rome with a personal city guide. They will ride in a gondola in Venice and see glass blowing in person. In Florence we see the magnificent master works of Michelangelo and in Assisi we experience a true Medieval City along with seeing the Cathedral of St. Francis.

Students love this trip and it remains with them a lifetime.

I have included a few pictures in Assisi of the students on the April 2014 trip.



Kindness Club Activities

by Lisa Foronda Schmitt

The Kindness Club Bocce Team competed in Rome, New York back in September at the Regional Games where they took Silver in the 4 person team event and Gold in the 2 person team event. Rome is the home of the World Series of Bocce. This helped them advance to State Games.

The team took silver in the 4 person Bocce team out of 36 teams across the state. State games were held in Glens Falls at the Adirondack Dome. The Kindness Club Bocce Team is partnered with Sons and Daughters of Italy of Columbia County. It is their official training site. The team has been training since August.



Here is Kentavis Newkirk and Mahmuda Alam. The Kindness Club sold their famous Kindness Cotton Candy at the Harlem Wizards game and donated half of the profits to the class of 2016 totaling \$165.00.





Salvation Army Food Bank Donations by Janet Brust

All together we collected 6 boxes of baked goods to donate to the Salvation Army. Special thanks to all the building reps who helped organized building donations and all those who baked & donated. The Salvation Army is very grateful and appreciative of our generosity.



Kindness Club donates
baked goodies to the HTA
bake sale to benefit the
Salvation Army.







Give the gift of reading this holiday season and register with First Book at www.firstbook.org/AFT.

If you teach, work or volunteer in a school or community program that has at least 70 percent of the kids living in poverty, register today and choose from thousands of new, high-quality books, school supplies and more for 50-90 percent off retail prices!

Together, we can help to reclaim the promise of public education by giving the gift of reading.



The AFT and First Book have been working together for more than three years to bring new books, educational resources and grant opportunities to schools and programs serving children in need. Since then, we have registered 50,000 AFT members and growing, and distributed more than 2 million books.

Make sure as an HTA member, you take advantage of these resources by registering with First Book!

<p>Mark Your Calendars!! Hudson Children's Book Festival Hot Sub Sale</p> <p>Friday, January 16th from 11 am to 7 pm or until sold out!</p> <p>Hudson Central Fire Station Pepperoni, Meatball, or Sausage & Peppers \$8.00 per sub Cash, Checks (Made out to HCBF), or credit cards (only the day of sale) accepted!</p>		<p>Thank you to the National Junior Honor Society, the Honor Society, and the GSA. These 3 organizations gathered food for over 30 families in the Hudson City School District.</p> <p>There was a glitch with a community organization and many families would have been left without Thanksgiving meals were it not for the help of these students (and their adult advisors).</p> <p>by Tara McSherry-Wolfe</p>
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Protecting your family for the future



It's important that your family members are financially protected throughout their lives. Have you stopped to consider what would happen to your spouse and/or children if you were to suddenly pass away?

Would your loved ones be able to continue to live in their home, pay regular bills and maintain a comfortable lifestyle? What about your final medical, burial or funeral expenses?

And it's not a question of just having a life insurance policy... make sure you have *enough* coverage to provide for your family. Find a plan that's right for you and your specific financial situation.

Plans designed specifically for NYSUT members

As NYSUT members, it makes prudent sense to look into the Term Life or Level Term Life Insurance Plans endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits. Both of these plans offer specific terms and rates designed exclusively with NYSUT members and their families in mind.

The **Term Life Plan** is available for NYSUT members and their spouses/domestic partners under age 85. If you are under age 65, you can apply for coverage from \$25,000 up to \$1 million at premiums negotiated specifically for NYSUT members.

Meanwhile, the **Level Term Life Plan** offers terms for 10, 15 or 20-year periods. The premium that you start with is projected to remain the same and the benefit amount will not decrease throughout the term – regardless of your age or health condition.

You can enjoy an **additional savings of 15%** on published rates if your local association has approved automatic deductions from your paycheck or pension check and you sign up for that benefit.

To learn more about the Member Benefits-endorsed Term Life or Level Term Life Insurance Plans, call **800-626-8101** or visit memberbenefits.nysut.org.

Member Appreciation Month is coming!

NYSUT Member Benefits wants to start the New Year off right with a celebration of the entire NYSUT membership.

These offers will continue into February 2015, which has been designated as Member Appreciation Month!

It's the strength of the more than 600,000 NYSUT members that makes it possible for Member Benefits to offer approximately 50 endorsed programs & services designed with you in mind.

This special celebration will be kicking off in January 2015 with the arrival of your new membership cards. This mailing will include a variety of special offers only available to NYSUT members.



This will be a month filled with a series of special prize drawings for items donated by our endorsed program providers. To be eligible for these drawings, all you need to do is be a participant in our voluntary MAP Alert email service.

We will announce the winners of these special prize drawings exclusively on the Member Benefits website throughout the month of February.

For more details about this exciting event, visit the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101**.