This edition of the newsletter is full of reasons to be thankful for the teachers at Wayne Central School District. The samples of the community service cited this month display what a caring and compassionate group leads this profession. The value placed on the character development of the students we teach cannot be measured or evaluated on any state exam. It will not put us on any “list”. Simply stated, it is what gives us pride and Eagle spirit! Please enjoy reading a sample of what your colleagues are accomplishing in their buildings.

As Christmas approaches, consider these facts.
- Almost a third of America’s teachers leave the profession sometime during their first three years of teaching, and almost half leave after five years.
- Teacher drop out rates are the highest in the areas of special education, mathematics and science. In these fields almost 20% leave each year!

Teaching is a tough, tough job and not everyone is cut out for it. We need to be there for each other.

Is there someone next door to you that could use your “gift of friendship and advice”? I just returned from the High School where over 200 of our high school students delighted a full house audience with superbly performed music in celebration of the holiday. Mr. Lester and Mr. Derse are fine examples of teachers that accept only the best from our students. The students responded to the high expectation! My holiday spirit is doubled by the unshakable trust in the future.

Happy Holiday... Pat.

KUDOS For a Job Well Done!

It’s the classic answer someone gives when asked what good thing s/he has done lately, “I don’t know!”? Well it’s time we all know what wonderfully good things go on right here in Wayne Country! Tis the season for giving and thankfulness—so great big Kudos are what we are giving!

Congratulations to Sandy Karpp for the national recognition her Ecology club has received.

American Education Week couldn’t have come off as smoothly and nicely without the efforts of Heather Melnick and her committee. I know I wore my button proudly—thank you!

Handwork and dedication is what is being shown by our district’s designated literacy coaches. Julie Diffenderfer and her crew: Brenda Drexler, Kim Northrup, Nancy Dom, Sue Delperdange, Kathy Crable, and Cheryl Fry have been in charge of staff development to promote literacy initiatives. They have been doing a great job helping everyone to get on board with guided reading and running reading records.

The APPR committee has been hard at work revising and updating our APPR draft procedure. They really listened to the feedback given. The new booklet is more user friendly, with thorough explanations and all forms included.

Congratulations to Edward Currier on his special board recognition received for all the hard work he has put into securing a grant to put solar energy panels on the roof at the middle school. What a neat idea and way to get students and community interactively involved around math, science, and energy!

These are our peers, our leaders, our visionaries. Thanks for spurring us on to new professional heights!
The 3 R’s: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!

Problems/issues recently resolved
1. Health insurance issue—it was awarded.
2. Team Leader /Dept. Chair stipends settled in Union’s favor.
3. Special Ed now has a team leader at MS.
4. Teacher job share created in 1-2 looped classroom.
5. OP master schedule resolved and AIS solution found.
6. Seniority list concerns brought to HR attention.
7. Salary concern determined to be contractual.

Under review by WTA
1. AED training recommended to be considered for in-service credit.
2. Retirement issue.

Rule of thumb #4 There is only one way to get salary credit (real money!)- fill out the form and request it.

Ringing in the Holiday with Character!

Opportunities for giving, helping and sharing abound this time of year throughout our district.

And Wayne Teachers are always helping to steer the sleigh. Here is the hot list right out of Santa’s office of who’s being nice.

OE’s service club, facilitated by Fran Pucci has been actively servicing the community from the get go this year. They have organized a food drive, sent cards to the Veterans at Richard’s House, and now for this holiday season they are busy again! Not only have they organized, collected and wrapped 22 boxes for Operation Christmas Child (gifts being sent to needy children in 62 countries) they are also organizing a hat and mitten (socks and scarves) tree! And as if they didn’t have enough to do already, they have also made paper wreaths for Brown Square.

18 Families were identified through a district-wide, Wayne Teacher’s Association effort for Community Outreach and Weisenreider Fund assistance. Martha Hanley coordinated the referral process, card writing and gift giving. Each family received a Tops gift card and a check for $50.00. I heard personally from one family and they are grateful for our support.

Make A Wish with the MS health classes and Tim Mattle, as they attempt to raise 1,000 dollars to donate to Make A Wish Foundation. They made very colorful stars and have been selling them for .50 cents during lunch. The middle of the star is blank so students can write messages in them such as “Hi! Sherry From Stacy!” etc. As they watch the stars fill up the cafeteria wall they can rejoice in knowing that they are helping a boy right here in Rochester! He is 14 years old and is wishing for musical instruments for himself and his family.

Responsible Caring and compassion is the message being taught at the students at OP earn their items to donate to the local food pantry collection this year. Lori Sensenbach came up with this idea in which each kid performs a job at home to earn an item to donate to the food pantry. The child then writes up a little ticket explaining the job that was performed. Each class is assigned a particular item that they are working on collecting such as peanut butter or toothpaste. This way the students learn that giving from the heart is more than just saying Mom! Dad! I need . . .

Ragged number one on the Top Ten Big Gift Schools in 2002. Mrs. Dye, Mrs. Karp and the Ecology club’s fundraiser was a huge success! They raised $5,882.00 to help save the rainforest. Not only are they helping to save the rainforest but they have helped raise awareness around school too. They have cleaned up the school grounds, worked on a butterfly garden, made advertisements for Trash to Cash, written letters to President Bush and much more! Soon they will be adopting a raptor!

K.I.C.K.S. (Kids in Community Kindness Service) club at Freewill has been spotted over at the Wayne County Nursing Home! The club coordinators are Martha Hanley, Tammy Scheuer, and MJ Hoffman. They have helped the students make placemats for the residents, sing songs, make name cards, and spend time visiting. Additionally they donated a fresh Christmas tree from Wilbert’s farm and made decorations for it as part of the Festival of Trees held at the nursing home. Lately K.I.C.K.S. kids have been seen singing on TV (the morning announcements) to encourage all the students to donate items for the Hat and Mitten Tree!

Tom Sousa and cronies have been busy organizing a Valentines Dance fund raiser to help the Foos Family with medical expenses for Darlene Foos. As she recovers from her coma. This looks like it’s working up to be a real big shin-dig!

Word is that there are a lot of scruffy faces over at the middle school these days as the Best Beard contest or Follicle Frolic is currently underway thanks to Kevin Shoemaker and his crew. I don’t know who Mike Allens’ barber is but I hope he gets some help with that growth! This certainly is giving Darlene something to laugh about in her recovery! Good luck to Marian Wulfert and the judging committee as well as the eleven contestants.

Something is always happening here in Wayne Country to put a smile on people’s faces. As they say in the Goodness Gorilla’s, “Goodness Gorillas’ see the good in everyone!” I’m sure that many more things great and small are happening every minute, everyday here at WCSD. Wayne Teachers are really goodness gorillas in disguise! Let’s celebrate our goodness and keep it growing!

3rd Thursdays–
10 Minute Meeting
December 19th- Free Donuts!
10 minutes– Only the Nitty Gritty!
Topic: College / In-service -Salary Credit

DEADLINE: Friday, December 13TH!
Flexible benefit and open enrollment for health benefits.
Questions—call Abby Buddington x241.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
EVERYONE!