

WAYNE'S WORLD

WTA/NEA-NY

WTA Newsletter

Pat Yates (OP), President
 Lori Sensenbach (OP), Acting President
 Maureen Doyle (MS), Acting Internal VP
 Elizabeth Peters (FE), External VP
 Lisa Twitchell (HS), Treasurer
 Martha Hanley (FE), Secretary

January, 2006

Volume 4 Issue 5

Life's Journey According To...



Do you remember Mr. Rogers, television personality and author of a number of children's books? I received a daily calendar entitled Life's Journeys According to Mister Rogers as a Christmas gift. My first thoughts were of cardigan sweaters, sneakers, and a calm tone of voice which I found dull, but could settle my children and served to reinforce values I often feared were lost in the hurry-scurry of the everyday routine.

The gift, actually meant as a joke, has turned out to be one of my favorites. The simple, yet profound, daily reflections seem to be having the

same effect on me that Fred Roger's lessons once had on my children.

The message of Friday the 13th seemed especially to hit home. Perhaps it was because it's the first of the year and a time for resolutions. Perhaps it was because I had a mom in my office terrified because her husband just told her that he had lost his job. Perhaps it was because I observed a teacher talking to a student in the hallway, congratulating him on a paper well-done. Whatever, the reason, I'd like to share it with you.

When we're taking risks at any time in our lives, trying new things,

whether it's a new job or a diet or a different lifestyle, it certainly helps to know that people who love us will urge us to keep trying, and will also offer a hand, an ear, or even a shoulder to cry on when we feel like giving up. Maybe, too, they'll help us remember, even as we're disappointed about what we can't do, that there is much we can do.

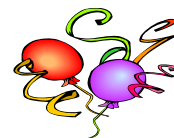
In the midst of mid-year assessments and report cards, I hope that you are able to reflect on all that you do for your students and for your colleagues.

Happy New Year!
 Lori Sensenbach

Inside This Issue:

- The 3 R's: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief 2
- Top 10 Reasons to Support Public Education 2
- They're Back! 2

LET'S



CELEBRATE!

Baby News:

- ◆ Guess Who's Expecting Twins!?!?!?
- ◆ Teresa Manfredi—Hill gave birth to Marco Christiano Hill on Dec. 23rd!
- ◆ April Roods had baby Britton Connor on Dec. 16th!

Special Recognitions:

Welcome back Bob Pearsles! (You have a fan club and have been missed!)

Weisenreider raffle raised \$206 for the fund!

Joe Siracuse Welcomed in Style!



Thanks to Ronnie Steele and her students for organizing a great,

members funded the event and the students prepared and served the food, on Mr. Siracuse's first day as the new principal. Mrs. Steel reports that it was a very classy event!



Also celebrating were the student clubs who threw a welcome reception as well!

successful, fresh start party for staff to welcome Joe Siracuse on board as their new principal. Staff welcomed him in style with a student catered reception by Project SHOW in the media center on January 3rd. WTA and staff



Union Trivia

Q: May superintendent conference days be counted for the purpose of student attendance when a district attempts to meet the required minimum number of student instructional days?

A. YES!!!!!! And the winner was Melanie Stevenson!

The 3 R's: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!

3rd Thursday— January 19th

Topic: What's your question? (developing the list of hot topics).



Issues currently being explored:

- ◆ Evaluation of Block Schedules at the HS.
- ◆ Literacy coaches role at the MS.
- ◆ Power Grade program issues.
- ◆ April parent/teacher conferences.

Issues acted upon/discussed:

- ◆ APPR committee revived.

Dates to Remember:

- ◆ **Next School Board** meeting is Thursday, Jan. 26th at DO. It is extremely important to have teachers there to support our board who supports us! Please make sure your building sends a representative to each meeting. Our attendance is noticed and recognized!
- ◆ **NEA/NY Scholarship** forms are currently available and are due Feb 15, 2006. See your building

rep to get an application if you child will be graduating this year!

- ◆ **Retirement Incentive letters** due to the Superintendent by February 1st.

NEA/NY UniServe Representative:

Jeff Trout JTrout@NEANY.ORG
Office: 800-536-5330
Fax: 585-272-1052

Rule of thumb #27: *If you look for success you will find it!*



Top Ten Reason's to Support Public Education!

10. An educated population is the cornerstone of democracy. This nation's well being depends on the decisions of its educated, informed citizens.
9. Education reduces costs to taxpayers. For every dollar spent to keep a child in school, the future costs of welfare, prison, and intervention services are reduced.
8. Public schools are the only schools that must meet the needs of all students. They serve children with physical, emotional, and mental disabilities, those who are extremely gifted and those who are learning challenged right along with children without special needs.
7. Public schools foster interactions and understandings among people of different ethnic, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.
6. "Education is the best provision for old age."- Aristotle. The future support of our aging population depends on strong public schools. In 1954 there were 17 workers to pay the Social Security cost for each retiree. By 1955 there was only 3 for each retiree. It is likely that the productivity of these three workers per retiree depended on the strength of our public schools.
5. More than 95% of our future jobs will require at least a high school education. There is no question about the need for an educated work force.
4. The nation pays a high price for poorly educated workers. When retraining and remediation are needed to prepare a worker to do even simple tasks, the cost is paid by both employers and consumers.
3. The cost of dropouts affects us all. The nation loses more that \$240 billion per year in earnings and taxes that dropouts would have generated over their lifetimes.
2. Children are our nation's future. Their development affects us all. Good education is not cheap but ignorance cost far more.
1. **Public education is a worthy investment for public funds. We can invest now or pay later.** (Illinois Coalition for Public Education, 1994)



They're Back!

You know those dark suits, you know those cookies, but do you know how your investments are doing or what you can do regarding your taxes?

Check out these friendly guys the next time they are in your building—you'll be glad you did.

The AXA (Men in Black) are also holding a Retirement Planning Class **coming up on Tuesday, January 24**, from 7 - 8:30 PM. It costs \$5

to attend and will be held at the Walworth Town Hall. Register online (www.townwalworthny.com) or call 986-1400, x 311. Deadline to register is Friday, Jan. 20th!

School Schedule

AXA's : Dave and Dan (always on Wednesdays!)

<u>Building</u>	<u>Date</u>
Freewill	January 25th
O. P.	February 1st

High School	February 8th
O. E.	TBD (after Feb break)
Middle School	TBD (after Feb break)

Legend Group's Mike Kramer

<u>Building</u>	<u>Date</u>
Freewill	Thursday, Feb. 2nd
O. P.	Monday, Feb. 6th
O. E.	Tuesday, Feb. 7th
Middle School	Tuesday, Jan. 17th
High School	Wed., Jan. 18th