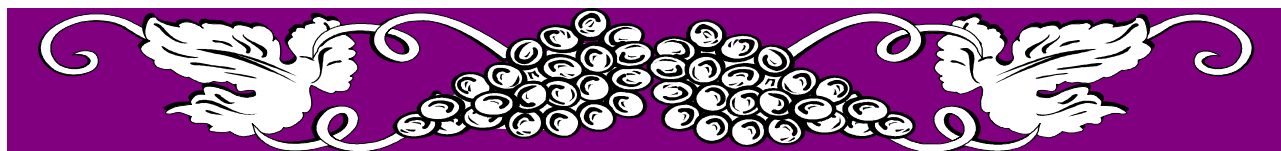


the grapevine

NTA TEACHING ASSISTANT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



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Contacts:

NTATAC Executive Committee

Sheila Manning (NWS)

Joni Mongelli (TH)

Berenda Johnson (PK)

Patricia Favata (VG)

NTA Office 562-8120

NTA President Phil Cordella

Vice President Vicky Pittman

Treasurer Angela Sartori

Secretary Karen Roberts

Human Resources 563-3424

NTA Benefit Trust Fund

562-7988

NECSD website:

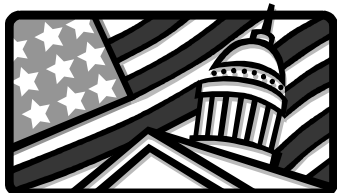
www.newburghschools.org

NTA website:

www.newburghta.org

Grapevine newsletter e-mail

Grapevinetanews@aol.com



"WE ARE THE NTA"
Teaching assistants and teachers working towards one goal : a strong and united union.

Standing Tall with the NTA at the RA

By Sheila Manning

Pictured:L-R:

Jeff Gebhardt, Jim Nee, David Brown, and Exec. Comm. Officer Sheila Manning.

More photos on page 5.



STANDING TALL

The NYSUT Representative Assembly was a wonderful experience. The RA was held in Washington DC this year. The NTA delegates had the fantastic opportunity of getting a tour of the Capital through Congressman Hall's office. We were also able to visit the offices of Congresswoman Gillibrand and Congressman Hinchey. Senator Clinton and Governor Spitzer, who both left the Assembly wanting to hear more, were among the many guest speakers at the RA this year. I also had the pleasure of meeting the SRP of the year Mary Jo Roberge.

The atmosphere at the RA was one of a family of professionals, teachers, teaching assistants, and all of the other job titles NYSUT represents. This feeling was present at every event and presentation that was given. As a delegate, I came away from the RA revitalized in unionism. The message from the RA and NYSUT was "We Are NYSUT".

I feel after working with so many NTA members, both teachers and teaching assistants that we have worked well together. Since the inception of our chapter, we have been welcomed into the NTA union family. We are like any other family; there are, and will be disagreements, but like any well-adjusted family we work through any problems that arise. I have found that teaching assistants and teachers are working hand in hand to promote unionism to its highest level. To rephrase the RA message "We Are the NTA", teaching assistants and teachers working towards one goal a strong and united union.

**WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD
APRIL 22-28, 2007**

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). During the Week of the Young Child, it is a time to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment—at home, at child care, at school and in the community that will promote early learning. This year's theme was: Building Better Futures For All Children.

Around the Newburgh School District, the week was celebrated with enthusiasm. At the Pre-K Center at St. Francis, the students enjoyed visits by guest readers which included Dr. Annette Saturnelli, Dr. Noriega, Dr. O'Connor, NJH principal Ronald Jackson, Mr. Townsend (NFA Athletic director) and others. Pre-K students and staff also visited a children's museum in New Jersey. There was also a special hat day planned for the enjoyment of the students.

(Photo credits TA Kim Riley and TA Gina O'Neill).



A rapt audience as Superintendent Annette Saturnelli reads to a Pre-K class at St. Francis.



GAMS hosted a "Passport to the World" evening where Kindergarten teacher Mr. Brady, Teaching Assistant Gina O'Neill and the children in their class presented the country of Ireland. The children and Mrs. O'Neill are shown sitting in front of one of their displays called "Castles of Ireland".

Pre-K classes at St. Francis visit the NJ Children's museum and experiment in the kitchen and on horseback.



Thanks to the PTO



PTO is recognized for all they do in supporting our staff and schools. Some of their participation includes:

Fundraising (discount cards, Sally Foster, school yard sales, book fairs, Holiday Boutique, movie nights, luncheons for teachers and TA's, Bingo, penny socials, Barnes and Noble Fundraisers, student walkathons, magic shows, school dances, donations/gifts for the staff such as a laminating or die-cut machine, attending monthly meetings and so much more.

Pictured:

Top: Fostertown PTO co president Angela Donaldson, Joni Mongelli and THA PTO Dotty Rodriguez.

Middle: Theresa Brady-Lyden, Sheila Manning, GFMS PTO VP Denise Spong , NTA Treasurer Angela Sartori.

Bottom: MH PTO: Jeannie Martin & Leslie Hofving, Lisa Maier.



Grapevine Gratitude

As TAC Grapevine Newsletter Chairperson, I want to thank all the members who sent in articles and photos this year. I am beginning to see participation in the newsletter and would love to hear from all members about what you would like to see more/less of in the newsletter next year. TA's have offered to get more involved which will help improve future newsletters. If your birthday was omitted from the newsletter this year, please e-mail me as I will be updating the old birthday lists over the summer. (Grapevinetanews@aol.com)

Enjoy your summer.
See you in September.



Maureen Pavlik

TAC SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS

The Newburgh Teaching Assistants Chapter broke ground this year by presenting two Newburgh Free Academy seniors each with a \$1000 scholarship for college. This year's recipients are Robert Johnson (Executive Comm. Member Berenda Johnson's son) and Bryant Flores (not pictured). Both recipients plan to pursue an education in the field of criminal justice. Robert Johnson will be enrolling at the Hudson Valley Community College.

Scholarship recipients applied through NFA and were chosen on an anonymous point grading system that included different criteria such as GPA, income eligibility, teaching assistant family member, letters of recommendation, etc...Each criteria gave the student anonymous points totaling to 100. For those with 2008 NFA seniors interested in applying for next year's scholarship, the entry forms should be available late March/April through NFA.



L-R : Proud family: Grandmother Juanita Johnson, Father David Hill, recipient David Johnson, mother Berenda Johnson.



APPRECIATION TEA

On Friday May 4th at 9:45 AM Gardnertown School held our first appreciation Tea. It was a way for our students and staff to say thank you to bus drivers, cafeteria staff, custodians, secretaries and security including the D.A.R.E officer. Our faculty and staff were asked to donate finger foods for the event. The response was overwhelming! There were enough delicious goodies to feed everyone several times over! Several students from each 5th & 6th grade class were assigned to set up, serve and clean up for the event. Watching the students interact on a more personal level with the district employees was just fantastic. Students made thank you cards, signs of gratitude and created paper flower decorations for the tables. Entertainment included 5th/6th grade chorus, poems written and read by students, and a student quartet.

The event was well received by all who attended. Comments were heard such as, "I have driven a bus for 15 years and this is the first time I was invited to anything". The students received many remarks of appreciation in return. Special thanks go to Mrs. Buchanan (SAVE room teacher) for an idea that was way overdue.

Photos & Article submitted by GFMS TA Theresa Brady-Lyden





Top: NYSUT Regional Staff Director Margaret MacCartney speaking to members at the RA.

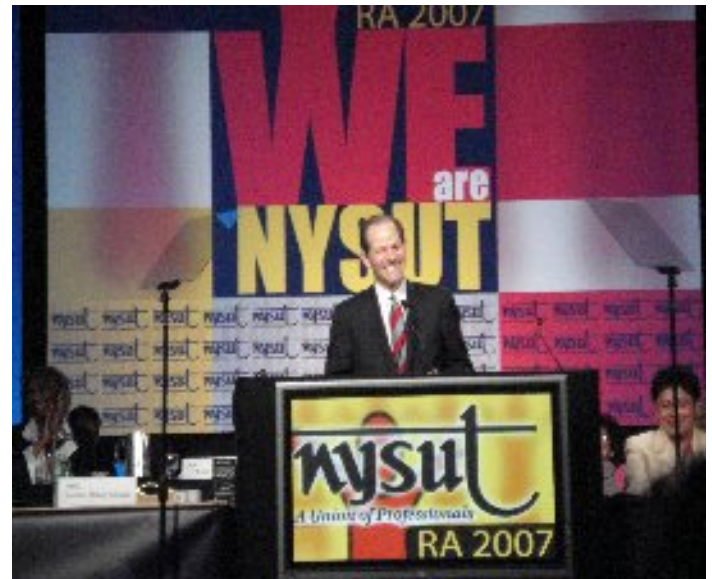
Bottom: Governor Spitzer at the RA.

Newburgh Group at the RA:

Carol Franklin, NTA President Phil Cordella, VP Vicky Pittman, Treasurer Angela Sartori, Patty VanDuser, Jim Nee, Jeff Gebhardt and David Brown. Photo credits Sheila Manning.

Pictured Below:

Sandie Carner Shafran Board of Directors, SRP Advisory Committee
Shelvy Young Board of Directors, SRP Advisory Committee
Margie Brumfield, Chair of the SRP Advisory Committee
Charlotte King, SRP Advisory Committee



“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other”.

**John F. Kennedy, part of a speech prepared for delivery in Dallas the day of his assassination, November 22, 1963
35th president of US 1961-1963 (1917 - 1963).**



BIRTHDAYS

Teaching Assistants' Chapter Year End Statement 2006-2007

Apr-03	Jimahl Powell	THA
Apr-04	Patrice Lark	PK-WAS
Apr-07	Susan Shultz	NFA
Apr-11	Santa Gaudiosa	HJH
Apr-12	Rose Marie Bohr	MH
Apr-23	Joyce McArdle	GFMS
May-01	Yvette Sayles	MH
May-02	Pamela Stuit	MH
May-05	Ellen Lander	MH
May-07	Sabrina Dolfinger	HOH
May-12	Maria Lattimore	MH
May-13	Christine Johnston	MH
May-13	Marsetta Shirley-Bird	HOH
May-15	Theresa Brady-Lyden	GFMS
May-18	Jacqueline Adorno	MH
May-19	Ellie Rios	NFA
May-20	Kristi Morris-Griffin	NFA
May-24	Melody Bruno	THA
May-24	Elizabeth Carela	VG
May-27	Lourdes Martin	THA
Jun-01	Joni Waite	GFMS
Jun-01	Jeanine Powell	FOS
Jun-06	Patricia Favata	VG
Jun-07	Milagros Rios	THA
Jun-10	Dolores Carlton	FOS
Jun-19	Elena Serrano	THA
Jun-20	Linda Corbett	VG
Jun-21	Elizabeth Kooperman	THA
Jun-22	Rose Munger	NFA
Jun-27	Kattya Fernandez	NW
Jun	Cheryl Gould	HJH

The Teaching Assistants' Chapter started this past school year off very productively, with the inception of the TA Retirement Chapter (Chair: Sally Clinton).

This year we became much more involved in community projects. Our chapter was recognized by the Safe Homes Organization for our help and participation in their largest yearly fundraiser. Each building made baskets that were raffled off at a fundraising dinner. We're told they were a big hit!

The TA's have developed a nice routine at our monthly Building Rep/Alt. meetings. Attendance is very high every month. Thank you all for the wonderful job you do everyday.

Denice Knox did an outstanding job as our VOTE/COPE Chairperson.

Congratulations to Glenda Crawford on the birth of her beautiful new daughter. Thanks goes to Pat Favata for joining the Executive Committee for the duration of Glenda's maternity leave.

Berenda Johnson is still going strong with the Defensive Driving courses, being offered to all NTA members.

Sheila Manning and Joni Mongelli continue to meet on a regular basis with Mary Ellen Leimer and Marsha Sobel to try and get more TA related professional development courses/classes for next year.

We now have TA's trained to provide training and teach courses for other TA's. Congratulations to Jean Stumpf, Theresa Brady-Lyden, Denice Knox, Berenda Johnson, and Jean Harrison for a job well done!

Thanks to Lisa Maier and Maria Lattimore, another new committee: Special Events. They have proven to be terrific coordinators for both the Board of Education and PTO Recognition receptions. We're sure the End-of-the-Year party will be a smash.

Also thanks to Gail Nichols and Eileen Stein (better known as the Scholarship Committee). Thank you for your hard work and dedication. The TA Chapter will be giving out scholarships to two deserving students, thanks to you.

If something or someone was not mentioned on this list, it does not mean your efforts went unnoticed. We thank everyone for all of their help and hope to see you all at the party.

Submitted respectfully by Joni Mongelli



Articles/ideas listed in the Grapevine are not necessarily those of the Newburgh Teacher's Association, NECSO or NYSUT or AFT.