

the **Pendulum**
The official in-house publication of the
Newburgh Teachers' Association

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A Message from the NTA President

As you are all returning to school, hopefully well rested and energized, I wanted to take a minute and recap the events of this summer.

Contract Ratified!

On June 25, 2010, the Newburgh Teachers' Association ratified the one year agreement by a 98% margin. I want to thank all our members, active and retired, for their support. I appreciate all the kind words and assistances (NTA Office staff, our retired colleagues, our Election Committee and the Negotiating Team!) in this enormous task to get the ballots out and votes calculated. You will receive an updated salary scale and a copy of the agreement in the very near future.

Professional Development

Teachers, teaching assistants, administrators and directors all gathered at the NTA Building this summer to explore a few initiatives. The first training discussed common formative assessments that can be used for instructional analysis within each building. The next training was to use data for informing instructional delivery at the building level. The final session looked at the old "Walk-through System" and created a new document that can provide more relevant information to support the Audit of Curriculum. It was a great experience to collaboratively work

together side by side and come to a conscience on what will help us all, and provide the best educational opportunities for the students of NECS D.

Retirement Incentive

In July, the NECS D Board of Education elected to participate in Part A of the early retirement incentive program as set forth in Chapter 105 of the NYS laws of 2010. Thirteen of our teachers elected to accept this incentive. Congratulations to them all and best wishes for good health and happiness in the future.

Federal Money for NYS Schools

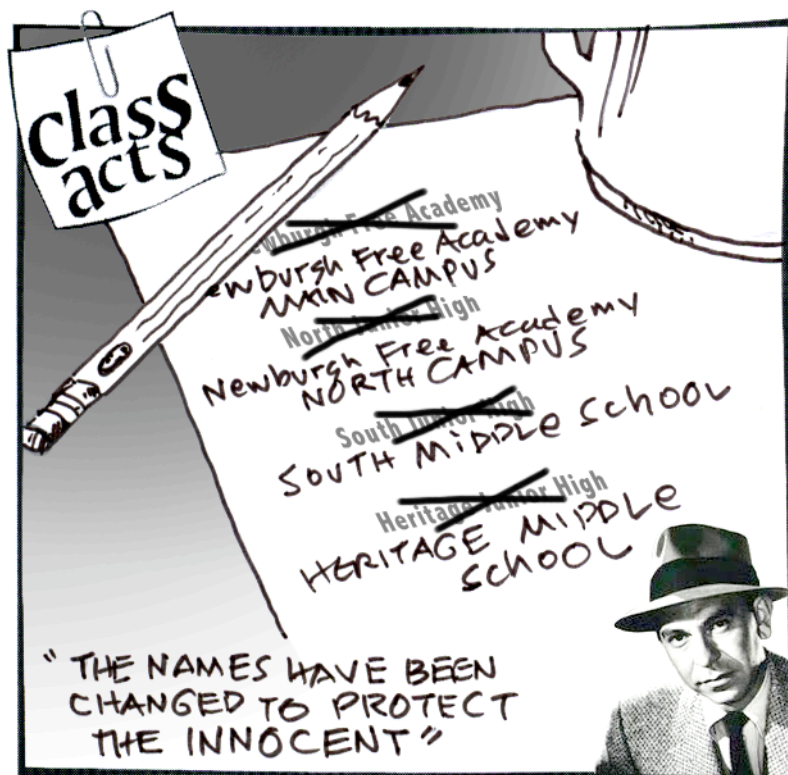
Congress successfully voted the passage of a \$10 billion federal education jobs bill that could save 8,200 education jobs in New York schools and provide \$608 million in education funding for New York State. President Obama signed the bill into law shortly after its passage in the U.S. House

of Representatives on Tuesday, August 10. The Senate approved the measure in July.

Endorsement Conference

As NTA President, I attended NYSUT's Endorsement Conference in Albany in August. NYSUT withdrew its longstanding support for a number of incumbent State Senators and Assembly members, saying they have abandoned their long-time commitment to supporting public education and protecting the rights and benefits earned by public sector workers. Not only does NYSUT make financial contributions

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from the cover



NTA Union President Patricia M. Van Duser

from VOTE-COPE to help candidates defray the cost of campaigns, Andy Pallotta, NYSUT Executive Vice President, said the union's extensive phone bank operation — staffed by volunteer political activists — will make hundreds of thousands of calls between now and election day. NYSUT volunteers will also hand out campaign literature, attend rallies and lead a get-out-the-vote effort at the grassroots level, he added. For a list of NYSUT endorsed candidate visit our website www.newburghta.com. I want to encourage all our members to get out and vote for the candidates that will best serve public education.

Alexander Graham Bell once said "Great....improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many great minds." Thank you to all the great minds out there for everything they have done to work together for the Newburgh Community! Have a great school year!

Race to the Top

Due to New York submitting a competitive application that focused on real, meaningful reform, New York is now a winner in Round 2 of the Race to the Top. The other second round winners are: the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ohio, and Rhode Island. The Race to the Top Fund provides competitive grants to encourage and reward states that are creating the conditions for education innovation and reform. Through Race to the Top, a President Obama education reform program, the federal government is asking states to advance reforms around four specific areas:

- **Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy.**
- **Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction.**
- **Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most.**
- **Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.**



What does all of this possibly mean for teachers? Teachers will become more individually responsible for what their students achieve. Budget-forced teacher layoffs could be based on the quality of the teacher, not simply on seniority. Fund money hasn't been awarded to date. However, many states have enacted change in teacher accountability and reform aimed at yielding better results just to stay in the "race" to obtain Race to the Top fund money. Some argue that exploring how we do business as usual is a constant journey to improve teaching and meeting the ever changing needs of today's learners. Some feel that such exploring should not be occurring just because there are funds to grab. Irregardless of how we view this, a new conversation has come to New York and other states that operate purely on a "last hired, first fired" policy instead of looking at overall effectiveness and merit.

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Founding Editor: John Wolner

52 Pierces Road
Newburgh, New York 12550
1.845.562.8120
(fax) 845.568.7905
(email) nta@hvc.rr.com
www.newburghta.org

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AFL-CIO

Editor Carol Franklin
Writers Ashley Mahon & Nick Angelo
Design and Production Jeff Gebhardt

President Patricia M. Van Duser
Vice-President Judy LeRoy
Secretary Jeanne Daley
Treasurer Ellen Hunt

**EVERY MEMBER
Can Volunteer To Help
the NTA Do So Much**

**Ask your head delegate
how you can help!**

Save the DATE!

Sept 7 Newburgh Teacher Center course registration opens **at 8 pm**

Sept 13 Order Making Strides T-shirts by **Sept 13**

Sept 14 Primary elections

Welcome Back Bash!

Sept 24



*It's a Friday Folks!
Laborer's Pavilion on
Little Britain Rd
3:00 – 7:00 pm*

Oct 17



**Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk
Sunday, October 17th**

*Woodbury Common
Premium Outlets
When your foot hits the ground,
you'll be making strides toward a
world with more birthdays — a
world where breast cancer never
steals another year of anyone's life.*

*Please mark October 17th on your
calendar and plan to join the
NTA Team. Together we
can make a difference!*

2010 Friend of Education & Retirement Awards Dinner

The 2010 Friend of Education & Retirement Awards Dinner was held on Friday, June 18, 2010, at the Powelton Club in Newburgh. This year's Friend of Education Award recipient was NYSUT President, Richard C. Iannuzzi.

Eleven new retirees were present and were honored for their dedication, efforts and accomplishments.

Class of 2010

Frances Bennett	Velma Garey
Dorothy Brooks	Consuelo Hill
Philip Cordella	Susan Killeen
Laurie Crotty	Laurie Mallen
Wendy Dominick	Anthony Sculley
Elaine Fried	Mark Turner

Many lives have been influenced by the outstanding careers of these individuals and their dedication, effort, and accomplishments. With thanks and gratitude, the NTA congratulates these professionals and wishes them a happy and healthy retirement.

Senator Bill Larkin, NUSUT Regional Director Marc Laffer, NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist Ken DeStefano, Newburgh Board of Education President Dawn Fuchek, and Carla McLaud Pine Bush Teachers' Association President, ED 14 Director and member of NYSUT's Board of Directors also helped celebrate the occasion.

2010-2011 Contract Ratification Successful!

On June 23, the NTA's negotiating team presented a contract to the teachers and teaching assistants of the Newburgh Enlarged City School District. The general membership meeting, held in the newly renovated NFA auditorium, was held to answer any questions members had regarding the contract.

Voting took place on Friday, June 25. The teacher's contract was ratified by a vote of 1351 to 27. The teaching assistant's contract was ratified by a vote of 174 to 9. A special thanks to the Elections Committee, the Negotiating Team, and all those whose hard work helped us to reach this agreement.

Since this is a one year contract, the negotiating team will once again be asking for your input as they prepare to head into negotiations once again. When the time comes, please take the time to fill out the survey as thoroughly and truthfully as you can!

**nta contact information: nta@newburghta.com
phone: 845.562.8120**

AFT Convention News

“Although Seattle may be best known for its coffee, Space Needle and often gray skies, it was buzzing with a different kind of activity as more than 3,000 people from across the country gathered in the Emerald City, July 7-11, for the 81st AFT convention. Meeting under the theme “Building Futures Together,” the convention provided AFT members with a forum to vote on major policy resolutions, to celebrate the union’s growth and the outstanding work members do every day, and to hear from AFT president Randi Weingarten.

The Newburgh AFT Delegates were treated to an unusual 5 day sunny streak in Seattle, nicknamed the Emerald City for its green landscape and its environmentally green attitude. Seattle was an inviting, small, hilly city.

The convention, with its theme, “Building Futures Together”, was an interesting mix of people and issues. Bill Gates’ appearance caused a stir. Some delegations decide to walk out on his speech because the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation makes large contributions to charter schools. His speech emphasized collaborative education reform. “There is a new understanding that school reform must include teacher partnership. If reforms aren’t shaped by teachers’ knowledge and experience, they’re not going to succeed,” Gates said. AFT President Randi Weingarten was re-elected by 95% of the vote. “Over the course of the last two years, we charted a vision to lead and propose and to improve what goes on in the classroom, in healthcare facilities and in public services. This election is a clear affirmation of that,” Weingarten said. “AFT members are in their classrooms every day, working to transform our public schools for kids and communities. I’m grateful that the membership trusts our leadership to continue to travel down this road. They want to be part of the solution that saves public education the way it ought to be, and they want us to fight those who scapegoat teachers.”



The 2010 NTA Scholarship was proudly awarded to Nick Terralova, son of Mrs. and Mr. Terralova. Mrs. Terralova teaches at Gardnertown School.



**Newburgh
Teachers'
Association**

52 Pierces Road
Newburgh, New York 12550