

CTA SNIPPETS

<http://ny.aft.org/corningta>

CORNING TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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Volume 10 Issue 1



President Report, Rick Gallant

Today is a beautiful fall day, and I was pleased to spend the morning with art teachers, second-grade teachers, and school social workers. That's how I've spent the past couple of weeks, working with all of our members as our local APPR is being "rolled out". All of our different groups have been wrestling with the same thing: how APPR is going to affect them. Every grade level, every course area, all special education and AIS teachers, and every related arts teacher has been writing SLOs. CTA members Cathy Honness, Kristie Gates-Radford (IB coordinators), Brenda McClure (helping teacher), myself, and Kerry Hochreiter and Michelle Caulfield, have been working together with all of these groups to produce these SLOs

It has been a total collaborative effort between CTA and central administration. Leslie Varga, Sharon Campbell, and I worked closely with Ms. Hochreiter, Ms. Caulfield, and Mr. DeLorme this summer and last year to meet the legislature's mandate. We think

we have an APPR that will work for all of us, but the document and all it entails is "fluid". Everyone seems to understand and appreciate that. Thank you for that.

Since the legislation was passed last year, APPR has caused much stress among all of us. I hope as the process becomes a reality, we all realize that it is really not anything to be afraid of. Every CTA member will continue to do what we have done for every day of our careers....we will do what is best to get every one of our students to accomplish their individual goals. By doing this, our evaluation will show that we are all effective teachers.

I hope everyone's year has started off on a good note. I know that more is being asked of all of us. There have been many "unintended consequences" from last spring's budget cuts, and levels of stress are already very high. Let's make sure that we stick together. Let's support each other, and do all we can to help each other out. Together makes us much better.

Yours Together, Rick

HEART TO HEART HOLIDAY DRIVE:

Oct 22-26

- Toilet paper
- Shampoo
- Kleenex
- Toothpaste
- Body soap
- Deodorant



Vice-President Report, David Rich

Over the summer, I worked on several projects for CTA. Firstly, I set up our new CTA website: <http://ny.aft.org/corningta>. I believe this could prove to be a valuable resource and method of communication. Currently you can view things like our Constitution, Meeting dates, APPR info, and even an order form for CTA Apparel.

Secondly, I worked with Unique Solution Monogramming of Horseheads to provide an opportunity for our members to buy CTA logo apparel. (see picture to the right). For a limited time, members can order CTA logo embroidered shirts

(and more). Order forms and payment are due to the CTA office at West High by Oct. 5.

To complete my summer CTA experiences, I attended a conference sponsored by the Elmira NYSUT office.

Please note that CTA will be assisting Heart to Heart with a collection of supplies for their Holiday Baskets. See side panel for the list of supplies in need. More info to follow, but please contact me at West High if you have any questions.



From the Grievance Chairperson, Leslie Varga

As a fellow educator, I feel confident making the statement that appropriate assessments are an integral part of a high-quality public education. Over the past few decades, testing of students has increasingly become a political issue. The No Child Left Behind act implemented in 2002 mandated annual testing in reading, math and science. NCLB required that 100% of students be “proficient” on state reading and math tests by 2014. In 2009, Race To The Top was signed into law inviting states to compete for extra funding based on the strength of their student test scores. An overhaul of NCLB was proposed, and incentives were promised to states if they develop improved assessments tied more closely to state standards.

AFT believes that “the current generation of low-level, high stakes tests—and their extreme misuse as a result of ideologically and politically driven education policy—has not improved our schools. Indeed, several studies have shown the exact opposite: test-based rewards and sanctions for schools have slowed our progress in narrowing the achievement gap and have diverted attention away from many other important educational goals.”

The mandated APPR “forced” on districts from NYSED require that 40% of teacher evaluation be based on test scores. The “top down” decision changed the spirit of the APPR that was collaboratively developed by our teachers and administrators. As a member of the original APPR committee, I believe that the intent of our evaluation system was to facilitate growth and foster continuous learning and collaboration of educators. The use of test scores as teacher evaluation was not part of the plan.

I believe that the public school accountability system should be re-examined. I absolutely believe in teacher accountability. Balance must be restored to our classroom. High quality instruction cannot be measured by a state test. AFT has challenged the current fixation on high-stakes testing, and a new AFT resolution calls for testing to inform, not impede, teaching and learning. I invite you to go to the new CTA website developed by Dave Rich, CTA’s Vice-President. There you will find a link to the petition that demands an end to the misuse of high-stakes testing. Since July, over 23,000 parents, teachers and students have signed the petition. Think about whether our mandated tests nurture growth, collaboration, curiosity, inquiry and invention—all essential components

of a 21st century education. If your answer is “no”, I encourage you to sign the petition.

Sign AFT’s Petition:

<http://ny.aft.org/corningta>



Newly Tenured Teachers Congratulations!

Elizabeth Cristofaro

Jacqueline Best

Ashley Bowers

Sarah Eddy

Rebecca Fowler

Jenelle Glover

Jennifer Haischer

John Knapp

Susanna Mason

Tabitha Mayhew

Katherine Peterson

Darius Romero

Jessica Wilkinson

Valerie Callahan

Effective October 8, 2012

Joseph Melanson

Effective November 1, 2012

Nicole Salyerds

Effective November 18, 2012

Emily Morse

Effective November 19, 2012

Katherine Paulison-Harris

<http://ny.aft.org/corningta>

Let's celebrate!! You are invited to take part in the

15th Annual Bring Your Parent to Work Day!

When: Friday, October 19, 2012

Who: ALL C-PP District Staff are encouraged to participate!

What: Parents (or a special relative or friend) can meet your friends and colleagues and stay into the day to meet your students.

Extras: Each parent will receive a token of appreciation from the Corning Teachers' Association. **As an added bonus,** if your building has the greatest number of staff participating, you will have a chance to win a \$50.00 Visa gift card!

RSVP (for an accurate count) : Rebecca Pearce, CFA by OCTOBER 16

**Bring
Your Parent
to Work
Day**



A project of the
Corning Teachers' Association

Good News and Info from our Members....

From Susan Szewczyk-Black:

Our daughter, Nicole Szewczyk who is completing her 5th year at Mansfield University and band president for a third year, was able to attend the Olympics this past summer in London. The Spirit and The Pride of PA Marching band was invited to play at several venues over a 10 day period. We were so proud to see the footage on youtube.com at several sites in which they played. The proudest was when they were asked to come into the US athletes village dorm and play as someone had heard them playing and asked them to come in and perform for the athletes and their families. Watching the athletes take pictures of our kids and chant USA gave me goosebumps. Wanted to say thank you for all those who supported these kids by buying whatever raffles I was selling to support them in the once in a lifetime experience.

From Mary Bacalles: My son Lee

Bacalles was married on June 15, 2012. He is a WHS graduate class of 1998. His wife, Lindsay, is a speech teacher in the Central Bucks School District-Pennsylvania.

From Stephen Edgerton: I could use cardboard, packaging peanuts, foam, straws, scrap pieces of wood, jars with screw on tops, etc. for my 7th grade technology classes. If any staff member has anything like these items laying around at home, I would appreciate the donations. I know how difficult it can be getting students to bring stuff in. If you have other materials you feel may be useful you can email me at sedgerton@cppmail.com and I will let you know if it can be used. Thanks in advance for your help!

From Kim Pitcher:

Larson Pitcher, son of Kim Pitcher was married on May 19th, 2012 to Maronee Elizabeth Snyder in Pawley's Island, SC. Larson completely surprised Elizabeth during a summer trip North and proposed to her on the boat, off the bluff of Keuka Lake. Their wedding took place in May in Pawley's Island and the reception was held at the Belle Isle Yacht Club. Luke and Hawkins were Best Men standing up for their brother and MacKenzie was a bridesmaid for her brother and new sister that she has always wanted. They went on their honeymoon to Los Cabos, Mexico. Larson and Elizabeth live in Murrell's Inlet. They will have their first home in October!



Dues will start being deducted on Oct. 12 thru June 7

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