

THE Yonkers Teacher

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Dear YFT Members,

Welcome back from the holiday break! I hope you were able to spend time with family and friends and, above all, made time for yourself. As we enter into the second leg of our school year, let's reflect on some of the things we've done so far.

Community

When Yonkers families were displaced due to several apartment buildings having been condemned, we joined Councilwoman Corazon Pineda's efforts to collect money and goods to donate. Within one week our members filled two rooms of the YFT offices with coats, clothing, toiletries, toys, and household goods to assist the families in need.

Earlier in the year, Paideia 15 was evacuated due to mold. YFT members from across the district gathered supplies, materials, textbooks, and workbooks and drove them to St. Bart's and Dodson so that the teachers of Paideia 15 would have what they needed to do their jobs and provide an appropriate education to the students. We should be proud of our sense of compassion for one another and our ability to organize at a moment's notice.

This prompted a district-wide effort for us to collect evidence of mold, leaks, rotted floors, falling ceiling tiles, etc. Our teachers flooded the union office with pictures and descriptions of the crumbling infrastructure. With the help of a NYSUT grant, an industrial hygienist from Occupational and Environmental Health Center of Eastern NY conducted a workshop for our union members to explain what to look for, how to formulate information generating questions, and how to collect samples for testing. In addition, we met with AFT's Human and Civil Rights organizer regarding our health and safety concerns and to help us initiate a grassroots movement within the community to rally around the issue of our schools' crumbling infrastructure.

Political Action

Through your political action efforts, we were able to get pro-labor candidates elected and elevated our friend Andrea Stewart-Cousins as the next Senate Majority Leader. She is the first woman and person of color elected to that position! Having Andrea in that position means that this budget season we might have a real shot at getting significant changes to the APPR. Last season, NYSUT was able to get enough senators signed onto the bill to decouple student assessments from teacher evaluations, but the majority leader at the time refused to bring the bill to the floor for a vote. With Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins as the new majority leader, we have renewed hope and as of this month, the bill will be submitted again.

Voice

The NYS Commissioner of Education has convened two work groups – one focusing on student assessments and the other on APPR. The YFT has representation on the APPR Work Group, which met in Albany to begin the process of reviewing teacher and principal evaluations. Central to the message is that teacher evaluations should be locally negotiated, rather than dictated by legislation. The work group has been charged with the task of formulating recommendations to the NYS Board of Regents to consider amendments to APPR regulations. The Regents will deliberate and then submit their recommendations to the legislature. In the interim, please continue to send your thoughts, ideas, and stories to the YFT office and consider signing up to work on one of our local YFT research groups: APPR, Student Assessments, or Equity in Education. In addition, we have representation on the NYS Commissioner's Advisory Council where we continue to raise the issue of computer-based testing as well as APPR.

Unionism is about listening, helping each other, building on each other's strengths, generating ideas, and working towards a common goal. I am proud to be taking that journey with you.

In Solidarity,
Samantha Rosado-Ciriello
President

REMINDER!

If you plan to retire this year, you **MUST** submit your letter of intent to the Board of Education by **JANUARY 15th** and work until the end of the school year to qualify for the sick day payout.

Thank you to all members who participated in the 2018-19 YFT Leadership Conference. Conference highlights included a presentation by NYSUT on *How to Be a Better Leader*, NYSUT Legal Department's presentation on current legal concerns, and President Samantha Rosado-Ciriello's State of the Union Address. Lia Council and Dr. Kara Popiel also facilitated a lively session entitled *How to Make a Splash Without Making Waves*, during which our YFT Executive Board members were able to share their valuable advice and experience, and participants shared concerns and provided advice to each other on important issues we are face in our schools every day. ***Thank you all for your participation, solidarity, and for helping to build an even stronger union!***

YFT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2018
Strategies from the YFT
Executive Board ...

Use your supports

Go in with the facts and details

Mediate (especially teacher v. teacher)

Ask for your rep

Know your rights

Use TIC meetings to address issues

Build relationships

Take time to investigate

Understand the teacher's perspective

Maintain confidentiality

Stay calm

Make connections outside the building

Know that **the YFT has your back**

Remember that difficulties help you grow

Make a connection with your administrator before problems arise

Do you want to feel good or do you want to solve the problem? (as Former President Steve

Frey used to say)

Support the issue and the contract

Give your administrator the opportunity to resolve the problem

Have confidence

Use communication skills as a tool

Every member, every day



Retiree Member Corner by Florence McCue

I hope your holidays were warm and wonderful and that the new year finds you in good health, ready for another year balancing travel, work, helping others, and enjoying your retirement. It's hard to believe it is already 2019. Where does the time go?

Thank you again for your activism at our YFT and Labor Council phone banks, virtual phone banks, through social media posts, and of course, by voting. Your VOTE-COPE contributions also help very much. Our union in-service member voice has become much stronger thanks to the friends of education you have helped get elected. When the union is strong, we are better protected.

Many of you will be submitting a claim to the district for Medicare Parts B and D Income related surcharge reimbursements. Not everyone pays the income related surcharge, but if you do, please remember to save the 2018 SSA 1099 form you will receive in the mail this month. You will need to send a copy of it to the district after they mail you the request. Hopefully, it will arrive in January. You will send this form along with a copy of your SSA 1099 to the Employee Benefits office, Yonkers Board of Education, 1 Larkin Center Yonkers, NY 10701.

If you are not yet receiving Social Security payments, and you pay more than the basic Medicare Part B payment, you will need to submit your 2018 Medicare billing statements and proof that you have paid more than the basic amount in order to receive the enhanced reimbursement. If you do not pay an income related surcharge, then you will not be applying for reimbursement. Reimbursement for any 2018 surcharges should arrive some time during the month of May. Your quarterly basic Medicare reimbursements will continue to be sent.

Happy New Year! If you have questions you can always email me at fmccue@yft860.org.

YFT Community Outreach Committee

We hope you had a wonderful holiday and restful vacation!

The COR Committee would like to thank the following people for participating and raising funds for the 2018 Breast Cancer Walk!

Olivia King
Lisa Foto
Jacqueline Baker
Ethel Stuart
Brooke Nealis
Candice Wood

Florence McCue
Vito Foto
Karen Yalko
Anne Marie Star
Effie Kolltos
Molly Vericker

Felice DiMondo
Alyce A. McMahan-Phelan
Rita Rienin
Marissa Degaetano
Emiko Castro

We would also like to thank the following schools for the raffle sales for our Breast Cancer Fundraiser:

School 13
School 17
Hostos
Paideia 15
Pulaski
School 30
Pearls
Enrico Fermi
PPS/SETRIC

School 16
Scholastic Academy
School 21
Museum School
YECA
School 31
Martin Luther King School
Lincoln High School
Boyce Thompson

Please keep us in mind when you are traveling and bring any unopened toiletries from your hotel!


THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 POLITICAL ACTION VOLUNTEERS!

Mike Ciriello, Lincoln High School
 Joanne Casella, Dodson
 Lia Council, Riverside
 Debbie Collier, PAC/Retired
 Elizabeth O'Donnell, Riverside
 Claire McHugh, Siragusa
 Dan Florin, School 9
 Mary Keaveney, Siragusa
 Cathy O'Connor, DiChiaro
 Jen Lorio, Fermi
 Bryan Boyd, Paideia 24
 Christine Morrone, Pulaski
 Barbara Carey, School 16
 Joan Llenin, Fermi
 Felicia Cossifos, Paideia 24
 Roseanne Freih, YMHS
 Susan Havranek, Cross Hill
 Sonia Byrd, Psych/Social Worker
 Alaina Sabia, Early Childhood
 Christina Spano-Delaney, Early Childhood
 Ashley King, YECA
 Bernadette O'Sullivan, YECA
 Joe Zappia, Lincoln High School
 Kimberly Fenty, Paideia 24
 Rosemary Sassone, School 30
 Kelli O'Connor, School 30
 Alyssa Gibson, School 30
 Afsi Parandian, School 30
 Gina Bellino, School 30
 Morgan Heaveninch, School 30
 Felicia Tokson, School 22
 Monique Rye, Riverside
 Sarah Hawkins, Pulaski/15
 Mitch Polay, Paideia 15
 AnaMaria Grippo, Pulaski
 Jessica Piccoli, Pulaski
 Judith Augustine, School 13
 Olivia King, Retired
 Claudia Caione, School 17
 Michael DeBiase, School 16
 Millie Hernandez, School 17
 Lori Sabetti, School 16

Agnese Amato, Montessori 31
 Herson Martinez, Siragusa
 Marc Pekowsky, PEARLS
 Christina Bellusci, PEARLS
 Janet Russo, Montessori 31
 Florence McCue, Retired
 Heather Rein, Cedar/Thompson
 Dionis Soler-Claudio, Riverside
 Dylan Roche, VOYA
 Maxine James-Smith, PEARLS
 Stacy Schmeltzer, Palisades Prep
 Lauren Vachna, Siragusa
 Jessie Smith, Siragusa
 Mala Lipos, PEARLS
 Alyssa Murray, Pulaski
 Nancy Libow, School 32
 Samantha Rosado-Ciriello, YFT
 Kara Popiel, YFT
 Paul Diamond, YFT
 Mike Garbowski, YFT
 Julio Soler-Claudio, Riverside
 Elizabeth Asprea, PEARLS
 Kathleen Gallo, PEARLS
 AnaMaria Madeira, PEARLS
 Beth Kroupa, School 32/School 29
 Joanne Saitta, School 22
 Sheila Halligan, PEARLS
 Rita Riehman, Fermi
 Linda Riehman, YECA
 Aileen Acevedo, Dodson
 Michelyn Goodin, Museum 25
 Linda Heron, Roosevelt
 Rose Martin, Paideia 15
 Olivia King, Retiree
 James Hayes, Riverside
 Patrick Harrington, YMA
 Peggy Ahment, Roosevelt

Kirk Bauer, Riverside
 Kathy Iurato, Pulaski
 Joann Kleinelp, School 17
 Renee Zulli Spillo, Cross Hill
 Tricia Fuller, Early Childhood
 Elizabeth DeLuca, School 22
 Jeannine Kocher, Pulaski/15
 Lynn Leoni, W.B. Thompson
 Emiko Castro, School 21
 Arline Frey, Retired
 Bob Stein, VOYA
 Elaine Betancourt, District Office
 William Betancourt, Fermi
 Bettina Branley, Museum 25
 Alyson Simms, Museum 25
 Angeline Grady, Museum 25
 Richard Kauffman, Riverside
 Olivia King, Retired
 Aileen Meyers, PEARLS
 Kerri Madigan, Saunders
 Wendy Hollander, Retired
 Karen Liberatore, PEARLS
 Leila Sweeney, PEARLS
 Jeanne Ismael, School 21
 Angela Vetrano, Pulaski
 Alexis Morianaccio, Museum 25
 Nicholas Creazzo, Museum 25
 Melissa Panteja, Museum 25
 Alyssa Tamburello, Museum 25
 Jenn Puja, WPCLB
 Tom Muniz, Roosevelt
 Erin Gorman, PEARLS
 Liz Furman, School 29

January 2019 Calendar

	16th	3:45pm	Executive Board	YFT
	16th	7:30pm	BOE Stated Meeting	Saunders
	24th	3:45pm	Building Assembly	Saunders
	30th	3:45pm	Executive Board	YFT