



THE EDUCATOR

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The Future of Arlington Is At Stake

The decisions that our school board makes affect every aspect of the running of the Arlington Central School District, both within the schools and outside in the community.

Board members are charged with making policy and financial judgments.

Do you care about which textbooks you use, what extra-curricular activities are offered, or if students are allowed to take an international field trip? The school board must approve all of those things.

How about which section our sports teams play in, or what security measures are in place in

our buildings? The school board is responsible for those decisions too.

And then there are the big financial matters: the district budget and contract settlements. The

school board members who keep the best interests of the students and employees in mind while also considering the impact on tax-payers. With the continued decline in

enrollment and the ongoing financial difficulties that the district is facing, many important decisions will have to be made in the coming years. Sure, we have to offer

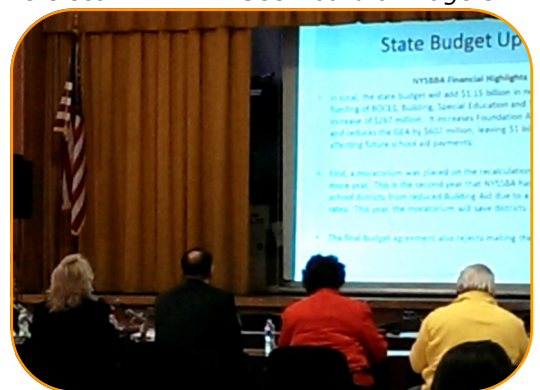
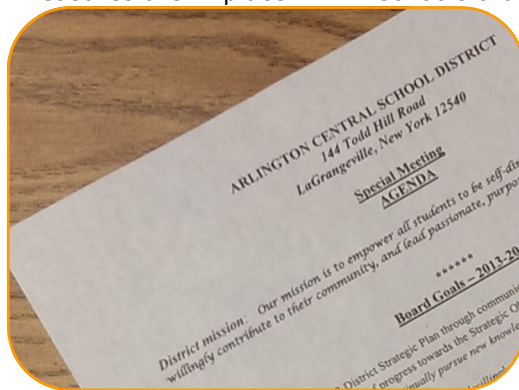
the core subjects, but what about art, music, and even library services? When the things that make an Arlington education great are on the line we need school board members who care.

We all know someone
See Board on Page 3

Please contact the ATA Office at 845-454-7002 or ataupdate@gmail.com if you know of anyone who would be interested in running for a school board position. Signed petitions must be returned to Central Office by April 21.

school board must approve the superintendent's proposals on everything from how many faculty members to lay off to how much we pay for our health insurance.

It is vital for the continued excellence of our schools that we elect



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Trivia Challenge

Answer the question below correctly and you could be the proud winner of ATA gear!

Who is Arlington's longest-serving School Board member?

Last month's winners, selected at random from among the correct responses received, were **Kelly Donohue** from AHS and **Shar Estey** from OPS. They correctly identified **136** as the number of teachers in NY who earned National Board certification this year. They are now the proud owners of a ATA gear.

Answer this month's question and you could win ATA gear too!

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to rmchugh@acsdny.org by April 25th. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

State Budget Impacts Education

For the fourth consecutive year the New York State budget has been passed on time, allowing school districts to firm up their own budget plans for the May 20 vote. Along with the monetary provisions in the State budget there were also many other policies affecting education. Here are some of the details:

State Aid to Schools

The 2014-15 state budget contains an increase of \$1.1 billion in education aid. Although this still does not bring it up to 2009-10 levels, it is about \$500 million more than Governor Cuomo's executive budget proposal. Dutchess County will be receiving almost double the amount of funding that the governor had originally proposed.

The impact on Arlington is that the district will be receiving about \$1.8 million more in state aid than was originally planned for when drafting a budget for 2014-15. This will allow the district to

lessen the proposed tax levy increase and reduce the spending of reserve funds. The final school budget plan will be adopted by the school board on April 8.

Education Funding in the 2014-15 NY State Budget:

- \$1.1 billion increase in education aid
- \$2 billion "Smart Schools" referendum to be held in November that would fund technology upgrades
- \$340 million for pre-K program expansion (of which \$300 million goes to NYC)
- \$10 million for a teacher excellence fund that districts could apply to in order to reward highly-effective teachers
- \$75 per-pupil increase in community college aid

Common Core

Many changes have been made to how the roll-out of the Common Core will affect students. Individual student scores on the grade 3-8 math and ELA tests may not be placed on a student's

transcript or on their permanent record. These scores will still be used to compute teacher's APPR scores, although Governor Cuomo did acknowledge after the budget passage that the impact on teachers should be revisited before the end of the legislative session in June.

Regulations were also issued regarding students with disabilities and English language learners. Students with disabilities who are not eligible for an alternate assessment can now be assessed on instructional level rather than chronological age. In addition, ELL students in their first two years of enrollment can be assessed with a state exam that measures their development of the English language instead of the ELA exam.

Other testing-related items include limits placed on the amount of time that teachers can spend on test preparation, reduction of field tests, and the removal of New York from the InBloom database.

Board Candidates Sought

Continued from Front
 who fits that description, whether he or she is a family member, friend, or neighbor. Often these people don't know how much we need them though. Several current school board members have stated that they only ran when they were asked to. That's where you come in: the ATA is requesting your help to identify possible school board candidates and to talk to them about running.

This year the terms of current Arlington school board members Sean Johnston, Neil Martin, and Jim Shuttleworth are up. Please contact

the ATA Office at 845-454-7002 or ataupdate@gmail.com if you know of anyone who would be interested in running for those positions. It is a great opportunity for people who care about their children's future and their community as a whole to make a difference.

To be eligible, candidates must live in the district and not be currently employed by Arlington. In order to be on the ballot on May 20 a petition must be obtained from Central Office and returned there with 100 signatures by April 21. ATA members are available to help with that task.

ATA Elections

As per the ATA constitution, elections for next year's officers were held at the end of March. ATA President Bob Maier, First Vice President Greg Nieman, and Second Vice President Steve Hertzog were unopposed and will continue in their positions.

Current Treasurer Kathie Blank Cicala was challenged by newcomer Kathen Cowen. 440 ATA members voted in the March 31 election, resulting in Blank-Cicala's re-election. Thank you to all who participated in the election process.



March Madness Basketball Tournament!

All proceeds go to award college scholarships to students who have suffered the loss of a parent or guardian at some point during their academic endeavors.

April 11

Doors Open at 4:30 p.m.—Tip Off at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$5 or \$3 for anyone wearing HOPE apparel

Negotiations Update:

In negotiations, we have met twice with the district. Those discussions were very informative and friendly and informal in nature, however a settlement was not reached. We have mutually decided to move to the formal process, which means that the next time we meet both sides will have their lawyers present. We continue to be optimistic that we will reach a settlement that is both fair and equitable.

*-Donna Doerrier,
Chief Negotiator*

Spotlight on the Contract: Vehicular Vandalism

Each issue of The Educator spotlights a particular part of our contract in an effort to make our members more familiar with their rights and the terms and conditions of their employment. If you have a section you would like to see featured, email sfalk@acsdny.org.

"If a teacher's vehicle is vandalized while on school property and the damage to that vehicle exceeds \$200.00, the District shall compensate that teacher for such vandalism up to \$200.00 provided that the teacher first files a police report and a claim against his or her insurance carrier. The teacher must carry appropriate insurance against which such claims shall first be made."

Explanation: According to this provision of the ATA contract (Article X, page 12), if a teacher has a police report and insurance claim for over \$200 stating that his or her vehicle was vandalized while on school property, the District will pay \$200 toward the repair. Contact the ATA office with any questions about filing such claims with the District.

Math Carnival Adds Fun to Learning



Photo by Marisa Ouranitsas

Middle school students created math games for elementary students to play at Interactive Math Carnival Night at LaGrange Middle School.

Shift 3 of the Common Core Curriculum states that "Students are expected to have speed and accuracy with simple calculations; teachers structure class time and/or homework time for students to memorize, through repetition, core functions."

The traditional way to make sure that students completed a task such as knowing their multiplication tables was through rote worksheet exercises and recitation: $2 \times 1 = 2$, $2 \times 2 = 4$, $2 \times 3 = 6$, $2 \times 4 = 8$... While generally effective, this method definitely does not inspire a love of math or the expansion to higher-order thinking skills.

This year 8th grade teacher Keira Godwin

had an idea to improve student learning by engaging not only her math students at LMS, but also those in the 5th grade at all of LMS's feeder schools.

At Wappingers, where Godwin used to

work, there was an annual Math Carnival. Inspired by that, Godwin and LMS 7th grade math teacher Marisa Ouranitsas decided to create one for Arlington. They

enlisted the help of 7th grade math teachers Dan Erceg (LMS) and Jill Sitler (UVMS) to guide their middle school students in creating fun math activities for 5th graders to participate in.

LaGrange Middle School's Interactive Math Carnival Night was held on March 24. 7th and 8th grade students set up tables of math activities and facilitated the completion of them by 5th grade students. Over 50 students and their families from West Road, Titusville Intermediate, Arthur S. May, and Noxon Road schools attended.

By the end of the night all of the elementary students had participated in hands-on math activities and parents benefitted by learning



Photo by Marisa Ouranitsas

Over 50 elementary students and their families attended the Interactive Math Carnival on March 24 at LaGrange Middle School.

enlisted the help of 7th grade math teachers Dan Erceg (LMS) and Jill Sit-

some fun ways to help their children with math at home.

Unity Pub Brings Members Together



Beekman Elementary



Vail Farm Elementary

The ATA held a Unity Pub event of the year on Friday, March 14 at Rambler's Rest in Beekman. Many members from all schools made their way to the restaurant after school to enjoy the camaraderie of their colleagues and some great food.



Beekman Elementary



LaGrange and Union Vale Middle Schools

2013—2014 ATA Officers

President

Bob Maier

First Vice-President

Greg Nieman

Second Vice-President

Steve Hertzog

Treasurer

Kathleen Blank Cicala

Chief Negotiator

Donna Doerrier

PR Committee Chair

TBA

Community Action Chairs

Betsy Marshall

Robert McHugh

Welfare Trust Chair

Ron Higgins

Media Specialist

Sam Falk

Éminence Grise Emeritus

Robert McHugh

Senior Building Representatives

ASM — Johanna Pungello

BES — Anne Schillinger

NES — Elise Pattison

VFES — Pam Goetz

OPS — Anne Marie Beesmer

Traver — Siouxzanne Harris

JDWR — Betsy Marshall

TIS — Sue Ramsden

AMS — Carmine Anastasio

LMS — Steve Bronzi

UVMS — Jim DeBonis

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Noreen Mills Martin

What's Going On?

"What's Going on" is a monthly feature of The Educator. It highlights noteworthy accomplishments by ATA members. Do you know of a colleague who deserves recognition? Let The Educator know by emailing sfalk@acsdny.org. We can't know what's going on at all of your schools without your help!

Congratulations to the following ATA members for their contributions to the Arlington community and beyond.

Healthy Schools Communities: Vision in Action Conference

Paula Dante, the school social worker at Union Vale Middle School, presented at the First Annual Healthy Schools Communities: Vision in Action Conference on March 21 at Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES. The presentation was called Schools in the Front Line in the War Against Bullying. Dante discussed the Dignity Act and the challenges posed by this new regulation from the student support perspective. There were a variety of other workshops for pupil personnel, guidance, counseling staff and administrators.

Faculty Lunches

The Arlington Middle School faculty and staff have been regularly gathering together to enjoy lunches orchestrated by special education teacher *Janet Ionescu*. Her dedication to preserving



Photo courtesy of Colleen Napora

Shamrock Run

Many ATA members (including those pictured) participated in the 26th Annual Shamrock Run in Kingston on March 16 to benefit the Irish Cultural Center and its drive to end hunger.

the AMS family is very much appreciated by her colleagues. These lunches provide the faculty and staff an opportunity to gather as a group, share conversation, laugh and enjoy the company of the wonderful group of people who work in our building. Some of her themes have been Italian Buffet (to celebrate Columbus Day), a Thanksgiving Feast, her traditional "Soup"er Bowl Luncheon and St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage event. We can't wait to see what she comes up with as we finish out the year!

-Amanda Sosnick (AMS)

Teaching and Learning Conference

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards held its first annual Teaching and Learning Conference on March 13 and 14

in Washington D.C. AHS special education teacher *Colleen Napora*, LMS computer teacher *Jayme Stofko*, and LMS music teacher *Mia Chong* attended the event, along with 3,000 educators from all 50 states and 14 countries. Keynote speakers included United States Education Secretary Arne Duncan and philanthropist Bill Gates.

Literacy Connections Spelling Bee

The Literacy Connections Spelling Bee was held on March 19 at Marist College. AHS English teachers *Rhapsody Mancini* and *June Wheeler*, along with UVMS English teachers *Jonathan Pickles* and *Brenda Waldbillig*, represented the ATA. AHS English teacher *Lucille Ogden* also competed and brought some of her senior English students.

AMS Spirit Shines at Memorial Basketball Game

On Thursday, February 20 the AMS faculty and staff held a memorial basketball game dedicated to Mike Garan, a 6th grade teacher and friend who passed away suddenly on January 1, 2014.

All proceeds from the 300 tickets that were sold, concession sales, donations and sales from #welovemrgaran bracelets (ordered by Jessica Schoenberg) were deposited into a college fund for his children, Madison and Michael, as coordinated by Megan McGuinnis, who also arranged for Madison and Michael to be at the game. Over \$2000 was raised.

The game was organized by Carmine Anastasio with the assistance of administration and the faculty and staff. Green and white, #welovemrgaran t-shirts were ordered by Joe Healy, with the help of Mike Garan's sister, Patti Higham who was also in attendance. Those participating in the game were: Carmine Anastasio, Barbara Breslow, Erin Dyke,



Photo courtesy of Amanda Sosnick

The Green Team and their student coaches pose for a team picture before the game.

Greg Fredricks, Paul Hackett, Sean Murphy, Christine Urbanski, Kristine Jackson, Amanda Sosnick, Joe Healy, Wendy Kane, Sara LaCelle, Jamie Lolkema, Krista Muttee, Jason Prue, Lisa Roloson, Pete Sevigny, Vinny Spadaro, and Kaitlyn O'Dowd (who had JUST returned from maternity leave!!!)

Chris Slattery graciously became the "Voice of AMS" for the event with AV support from Dan Sims. Jennifer Fischetti organized a slide show in memory of Mike that was played at the conclusion of the game. It was a fun event that brought back the spirit of AMS, just the way Mike would have wanted.

-Amanda Sosnick (AMS)



Photo courtesy of Sparrow's Nest

Sparrow's Nest

Faculty and staff at many Arlington schools wore special tee shirts on March 28 to support the local charity Sparrow's Nest. Vail Farm Elementary was exemplary with over 40 people participating.

Sparrow's Nest is a non-profit charity organization with a mission to prepare and deliver homemade meals to the families of moms with cancer in the Hudson Valley. They are currently feeding more than 20 local families.

Beekman Elementary School showed their support for local charity Sparrow's Nest on March 28.

Dates to Remember



APRIL

5th—District Arts Fair, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., LMS

8th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., TIS

14-18th—Spring Break

22nd—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432

Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

26th—Rebuilding Together Dutchess County

27th—Spring Highway Cleanup, 8:30 a.m., AHS



MAY

6th—APPR Open House, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m., ATA Office

13th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432

Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., UVMS

20th—**School Budget Vote**

26th—Memorial Day, No School

27th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., BES



Announcements

Stay informed! *Like us on Facebook or check out www.arlingtonteachers.com for forms, photos, calendars, and more.*

PR Chair Needed!

Would you like the opportunity to make a difference in our community? The ATA is in immediate need of a chairperson for our PR committee. Contact the ATA office at ata4547002@aol.com or (845)454-7002 for more information.

Would you like to aid in showing the positive effect that educators have on their community? Do you like to help the environment? Please consider joining the ATA's annual highway cleanup on April 27. We will meet at AHS at 8:30 a.m. to pick up trash along Route 55. Gloves, hard hats, vests, garbage bags, and pick-up sticks will be provided. Contact Deborah Pollack at LMS to sign up. The more people that help the faster the job will be completed!

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4 to 6 p.m. on April 11 and 14 and May 9 and 12. Please contact Colleen Napora at cnapora@acsdny.org to sign up.