



THE EDUCATOR

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AMS Prepares to Enter a New Chapter

As the 2013-2014 school year comes to a close, the faculty and staff at Arlington Middle School pack up our classrooms in the school we have all come to love for the final time. This has been an emotional year for us; facing the loss of our beloved building, as well as two of our colleagues, friends, mentors and inspirations. The history of our building is a rich one, very much like the relationships that have been formed within its walls. We wanted an opportunity to "pass the torch" onto the Arthur S. May faculty and staff. We hope that you come to love this building and its history as much as we have.

In 1996, following a chance discovery of a supply closet that contained records dating back to the 1940's and 50's by a student while

on a historical tour of Arlington Middle School, teachers Jocelyn Banfield and Andy Arenson set about to chronicle the history of the Arlington Central School District and its flagship school, Arlington High School. The result of this chronicle was the pandect now known as "The History of Arlington." This tome provided the foundation upon which Andy Arenson would base his historical walking tours with his students. It is also the springboard from which Andy would launch his inspirational pre-school year speeches to the faculty of Arlington Middle School, reminding them each that their middle school contained a rich history as Arlington High school, and that its walls saw students head off to World War II, Vietnam, Korea, as well as

head off to the rest of their lives.

Andy would organize his classes in front of Arlington Middle School (which, ironically, was the back of the school for the time period between the 30's and 50's) and regale the students with the story of how AMS was built in 1933, to replace the existing high school classes, which were being held in what is now Arthur S. May Elementary. It was built during the time of the great depression. In order to give people the opportunity to work and receive payment to feed themselves and their families, Franklin Delano Roosevelt initiated the Works Progress Administration, or WPA. Times were bleak, so an effort was made to inspire the people by making the

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Trivia Challenge

Last month's winner, selected at random from among the correct responses received, was **Darlene Swartz** from Overlook. She correctly identified **the Korean War** as the war that Arlington graduate Charlie Johnson gave his life in.

Be sure to look out for the next trivia challenge in September and you could win ATA gear too!

ASM is Much More Than a Building



"A large suburban school district east of Poughkeepsie." That statement would probably be part of any reply you'd get when people are asked about the district. For those of us that teach at Arthur S May Elementary, it's a response that we're used to hearing and, frankly, find amusing.

Arthur S May Elementary, previously Arlington Elementary School, formerly the Raymond Avenue School, and originally Arlington High School, has a proud non-suburban history, but just as importantly, a rich tradition of community. We are a true neighborhood school. With our diverse population, we are a microcosm of the real world. Our students come from many walks of life and myriad circumstances. That mix could easily lead to competing priorities and goals, but just the opposite happens here. I have taught for over 35 years in different states and several

school districts, but I have never taught in a school quite like ours. The absolute commitment that everyone shares to the "collective good" of all of our students is awe-inspiring.

Our strong sense of community is the foundation for so much of "what works" in our school. It empowers our students and inspires our faculty and staff. It supports our academic success in ways that surprise others in the district, but not us. It also brings support for the school district as a whole. I believe our school has supported the district budget more consistently than any other building over the past 25 years.

Yes, next year our school is moving, but we have always been more than a building of bricks and mortar. Our school has been at the heart and soul of Arlington's history and growth right here in Poughkeepsie!

-Michael Yarmosky, ASM

Negotiations

Update:

Negotiation talks continue to be productive. We have met several times and as always are hoping to settle with a fair and equitable contract that is agreeable to both sides. We have two dates scheduled before the end of the school year and will be putting together our calendars to try to make dates work during the summer months. We will contact you during the summer (via home email) if we have something of significance to share. It is important that you make sure that the ATA has your current home email address as we will not be using the school server to disseminate information to you concerning negotiations. Please contact ataupdate@gmail.com if you need to update your address. Thank you so much for your support. Have a wonderful, safe and restful summer.

-Donna Doerrier,

AMS Begins a New Chapter in its Rich History

Continued from Front

"ray of light" motif the symbol of the WPA. The rising sun reminded people that even though times were tough, the sun would rise again tomorrow, signaling the start of a brand new day of opportunity and hope for a better future. This emblem was re-created on the front entranceway, which was built during the summer of 2005.

Walking around the back of the school, students would stop at the 1933 cornerstone, which was placed with full Masonic ritual. The stone itself was bathed in corn, wine and oil, as part of the traditional ceremony. According to legend, the story and complete history was laid away somewhere in the foundations of the building. If custom dictates, this cornerstone, which serves as a time capsule, should be opened in the year 2033.

Andy would then head the students into AMS, to the current faculty room, which had changed much over the years. Andy would tell the students about the faculty room fireplace, which was actually fully functional until 1999. Students would react in shock when Andy told them of how the walls once had racks on them from which the students would hang their .22 rifles (students would actually be allowed to bring guns into school?) and would pick them up after school to go hunting in the swampland that is now the Robert Waelde Memorial track and football, soccer, and softball field. The field is named after Robert Waelde, QB for the Arlington Maroon football team, who threw an interception late in the game and, trying to hold a 6 point lead over rivals Oakwood, threw himself into the linebacker who had intercepted the ball to make sure he wouldn't score and tie up the game. Waelde was successful in stopping him, but suffered a ruptured spleen, and, sadly, died sever-

al weeks later.

In the lobby of the auditorium, Andy's voice would resonate when he would speak of John Mack while standing in front of the Jane Bolin plaque, the very same one that adorns many schools in our area. He would explain how In 1925, John Mack, a resident of Arlington, and the district Attorney, addressed to Arlington School Board with concerns over two members of "The Citizen's League," who wanted to get elected to the school board. But they had a hidden agenda. They wanted to have education of the Bible in-

Thanks to Andy Arenson and Jocelyn Banfield, the proud and rich history of Arlington has been preserved. It is up to its faculty, administration and staff, to continue to tell the stories of our history, of who we were, in order to shape our collective future. Who are we? We are Arlington.

cluded in the Arlington District. Their agenda would serve to alienate the non-Christian members of the school, but there was an even darker goal: It seemed that the Citizen's League was also the political arm for the Ku Klux Klan.

John Mack delivered a powerful speech on May 25, 1925 that, even though it didn't keep the two Klan-affiliated members from being elected to the school board, caused these two trustees to conform to the long standing traditions of Arlington, to work for the same good, believe the same God, and continue to welcome and embrace diversity. Had this confrontation not taken place, and John E. Mack not rallied the voice of diversity and tolerance, Miss Jane Bolin, a graduate of Poughkeepsie High School, may never have

been given the chance to become the nation's first black female judge.

Entering the auditorium, students would listen to stories of how the Arlington War dead during World War II would be read aloud during morning announcements, a tradition that still continues in AMS every Veterans' Day.

A quick trip to the basement prompts the recounting of how much it has changed over the years. Principal Paul Hackett still retains one of the original Nuclear Fallout signs that hung in the area near the elevator, once a 'dumbwaiter'! In the summer of 2005 the elevator was built. Before this time, the staff of our building would use this 'dumbwaiter', a large wooden box on a rope-pulley system, to cart books and equipment from the basement to the first or second floors. There were no mechanics to this system; you would have to manually haul the rope to get your stuff from one floor to another!

Finally, the tour would end back in Andy's room, where students would view "The Wall," the back of Mr. Arenson's class where students, as a rite of passage as they prepared to leave AMS to head off to the high school, would paint their names and decorate 'their' brick with little messages, team numbers and school sports affiliations. Students would learn that the bricks they were painting were once part of the outer wall of Arlington, as Mr. Arenson's classroom, and the wing beyond, did not exist 60 years ago!

Thanks to Andy Arenson and Jocelyn Banfield, the proud and rich history of Arlington has been preserved. It is up to its faculty, administration and staff, to continue to tell the stories of our history, of who we were, in order to shape our collective future. Who are we? We are Arlington.

-Joe Healy, AMS

Retirees Say Goodbye

The ATA's annual recognition dinner was held on Friday June 13 at Christos in Poughkeepsie. Twenty June retirees were honored. Many more photos of the event can be found at www.arlingtonteachers.com. All photos by Siouxzanne Harris

Angela Calabrese– 15 yrs with Arlington
Arlington Middle, Reading

I will miss the amazing staff I've had the pleasure of working with and, of course, my students, who kept me on my toes and provided me with daily doses of laughter.

Kathryn Clark– 25 yrs with Arlington
Union Vale Middle, Art

Keep in the forefront of your mind that you are, AND WILL ALWAYS BE, Beyond the Points. Get a binder and some sheet protectors and create your own "Beyond the Points" book. Fill it with letters, articles, photos and any input that illustrates WHO you are as an educator. When you need a reminder of why you chose teaching in the first place, look through your BEYOND THE POINTS book. Once you've started it, add to it each year. Present it to the person who has been assigned to give you a score based on what they view in under an hour and show them who you ARE. Do this for YOU. You are NOT the sum of anybody's points. You are a teacher. God Bless Us Every One."

Donna Curran– 29 yrs with Arlington
Union Vale Middle, Special Education
As I contemplate retirement and



Michael Yarmosky



Traver and West Road's Recognition Dinner attendees

reflect back on my career, I would not hesitate to again choose teaching as a career despite all the recent changes in education. I would also like to thank the ATA for all of their support throughout the years.

Don Dingee–
Arlington Middle, Math

Sharlene Estey– 28 yrs with Arlington
Overlook Primary, 2nd Grade

I've enjoyed my career teaching in the Arlington Central School District--it doesn't seem like it's been 28 years! Thank you to my colleagues at OPS for your friendship and constant professionalism--you're the greatest and I will miss you all!

Karen Fowler–
Vail Farm, Library

Kathryn Galli– 21 yrs with Arlington
West Road, 3rd Grade

Cheryl Hodaba– 20 yrs with Arlington
Arthur S. May, 3rd Grade

To paraphrase a country song: "I'm gonna miss this... I'm gonna want this back.... I'm gonna

wish these days hadn't gone by so fast... These were the good times, you may not know it now," in the midst of so many changes in education, but relish every moment! Because you really will miss this thing we call our job, our mission, our children, our colleagues, our love, our passion. Here's hoping to see my fellow colleagues between the pages of a future book or in a future Teacher's Center or web page. Support one another, protect one another, collaborate with one another to minimize stress and the demands of our



Donna Curran



Kathryn Paulsen

job. Know when it is time to leave. Really spend the time needed to take care of yourself. Don't allow your time, like mine, to be cut short.

Lorraine LaMothe– 18 yrs with Arlington *Beekman Elementary, Social Worker*

LouAnn Mallozzi– 11 yrs with Arlington *Arthur S. May, Library*

Use the librarian in your building - she can be most helpful. Libraries are by nature all about literacy and collaboration.

Jerri Miller– 23 yrs with Arlington *Arlington High, Guidance Counselor*

I have no idea what to say....it's hard to process this whole thing called retirement. I'm thinking of it as an opportunity to start living again after 33 years in education. It's been good, life is good and it's about to get better.

Heidimarie Moore– 28 yrs with Arlington *Arlington High, German/Special Ed.*

I am really sad that such a great school district has decided to phase out both Russian and now German, both programs having exchanges between the countries. I have done GAPP Exchanges with Sinnsheim and Salzburg and had both German students stay here for 4 weeks and our students stayed in Germany for 3 1/2 to 4 weeks in their school system dur-

ing our summer off. I have also taken students to NYC to march in the German-American Steuben Day Parade and have taken them to various German restaurants to taste German food. I love my students and my colleagues and will miss them all.

Kathryn Paulsen– 29 yrs with Arlington *LaGrange Middle, Art*

Teaching is an art. I've always been grateful for the opportunities to teach with so many dedicated, talented, and creative ATA colleagues.

Linda Penn– 31 yrs with Arlington *Beekman Elementary, 1st Grade*

Thank you to the many colleagues who have touched my life during my long career in Arlington. I am a better person for having known all of you!

Marion Quinn– 23 yrs with Arlington *Traver Road, Speech Therapist*

I leave Arlington having spent my time with a committed and dedicated group of professionals who have always had the best interests of children at heart! It has been a pleasure.

Michael Rawdon– 10 yrs with Arlington *Arlington High, Chemistry*

Teaching is a profession that requires so much more personal enthusiasm and commitment than the general public will ever realize, and Arlington's teachers are fantastic examples of this. The years ahead will be



Michael Rawdon

rough, as the education community deals with the intrusion of politics and commercial interests into the classroom. Stay focused on the students, remain optimistic and cheerful, and great things will continue to happen in the minds and hearts of our students. Thank you for the support and camaraderie you've given me these past ten years!

Patricia Shanny– *Arlington High, Special Education*

David Whalen– *Arthur S. May, 5th Grade*

Douglas Wysocki– 22 yrs with Arlington *LaGrange Middle, Technology*

Michael Yarmosky– 23 yrs with Arlington *Arthur S. May, 4th Grade*



Enjoying appetizers with retiree Linda Penn (left) before the meal.

2013—2014 ATA Officers

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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.

Arlington Art Department

Arlington Art teachers are now in the process of hanging next year's Alexander Juried Art show in the lobby of the HS Auditorium. This show highlights the work of 3-5 students from each art program in Arlington to represent excellence in Art. The framed drawings, paintings, mixed media collages, and prints will be on display during the summer and the 2014-2015 school year. Enjoy the show!

Arlington High School

Health teacher *Nicole Benedetto* has been given the PTSA's exceptional vol-



Photo courtesy of Mia Chong

LaGrange Middle and Union Vale Middle

On Monday, June 9, the New York Wind Symphony made their Carnegie Hall debut. This included Arlington teachers *Gina Gaspary* (UVMS, in center), *Bill Stevens* (UVMS, left), and *Mia Chong* (LMS, right) and security greeter Jeff Geller (LMS). The New York Wind Symphony is a wind ensemble based in the Hudson Valley that includes music educators and professionals, performing formal concerts as well as out-reach programs like the annual "Play with the Pros" events with local school districts as well as fundraising events for organizations like the Wounded Warriors.

unteer award for AHS.

Guidance counselor *Scott Jakubek* was awarded the 2014 Joseph B. Whitehead Educator of Distinction Award for Exemplary Dedication to the Field of Education. The award is given by the Coca Cola Scholars Foundation and the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation in acknowledgement of educators who, with vision and purpose, enhance the minds and experiences of the future leaders of this country. Jakubek was nominated by for the award by student Ben Lei.

Science teacher *Maribel Pregnall* was honored with the Helmy El-Sheriff Teacher

to Harvard Award, 2014 from the Harvard-Radcliffe Club of the Hudson Valley. The club chooses one teacher from five counties who receives a tuition free summer course at Harvard University. Pregnall will be taking a course entitled "Future of Learning." The award was presented to Pregnall in surprise fashion as she thought she was called to the office to celebrate one of her students, Joanna Chung, who actually nominated Pregnall for the award.

Arthur S. May Elementary

ESL teacher *Alice Estevez*
See Excel on Page 7

ATA Members Excel Outside Their Classrooms

Continued from Page 6

expanded her multicultural celebration previously held on the evening of curriculum fair and beautifully executed her first Multicultural Fair this past May 22 and 23. The ASM gym was transformed into a round-the-world representation of all inhabited continents, with food, spices, traditional apparel, information, artifacts, and games. Families were invited for an international buffet, dance recitals and lessons, game playing, and other activities relevant to the countries represented. Children in Estevez's ESL classes brought reports and projects while all ASM children were welcome to research their heritage and bring culturally applicable items and projects to share at the event. It was a fantastic effort with a huge turnout both days, and everyone enjoyed their tour. Estevez would especially like to thank Librarian LouAnn Malozzi, Beth Koustebekis, Brigid Nussbickel, parents, teachers and

PTA for their support. ASM loves a celebration!

Beekman Elementary

Several fundraising events have happened recently at BES. On May 21 Kickball for Life raised \$5,020 and on June 6 a walk for cystic fibrosis raised just over \$1,500.

Teacher *Julie Shook* and teaching assistant Carolyn Stump held a very successful fundraiser event to raise money for a BES student summer camp scholarship - the event was attended by many Arlington teachers, staff & administrators.

Noxon Elementary

Noxon held its 2nd International Festival on June 6. ESL teachers *Sucheta Baichwal* and *Melissa Tirado* organized a fun-filled evening for the Arlington community. There were foods, activities and games from different countries. To enhance the festival, we had a Tae

Kwon Do demonstration along with Lacrosse and Soccer games.

Overlook Primary and Titusville Intermediate

Teachers *Janet Ohnikian* (TIS) and *Nancy Thomas* (OPS) will be recognized at the Hudson Valley Renegades Educator of the Night game on July 12. In addition, the OPS/TIS PTA has selected music teacher *Eva Mimran* to direct Overlook second graders as they sing the National Anthem before the game.

West Road Elementary

Teachers *Christine Cauda*, *Ryan Mikesh*, *Christopher Greco* and *Erin Duvivier* recently participated in the Spartan Sprint in Tuxedo New York along with several other staff members from their building. Completing the 4.5 mile obstacle course with 21 obstacles and a lot of mud was all about teamwork, endurance, and having fun.



Photo courtesy of Shaun Boyce

Many ATA members and their families joined State Senator Terry Gipson (center) at the ATA office on June 4 for a press conference discussing the Pearson corporation.

Anti-Pearson Press Conference

As a result of a discussion with Arlington and Carmel teachers in May, State Senator Terry Gipson drafted two pieces of legislation aiming to discontinue New York State's contracts with the Pearson Corporation for both Common Core and edTPA materials.

A press conference was held at the ATA office in Poughkeepsie on June 4 to publically announce the legislation. Not only were Arlington teachers and their families in attendance, but also teachers from the Carmel, Hyde Park, Millbrook, Poughkeepsie, and Spackenkill school districts.

Dates to Remember



JUNE

- 23rd—Half Day, ASM and AMS
- 24th—Last Day of Classes (Half Day), All Elementary and Middle Schools
Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 25th—Professional Development Day
- 26th—Superintendent's Conference Day
- 28th—High School Graduation, 6 p.m., Dutchess Stadium



JULY

- 29th—ATA Night at the Renegades, 5:30 p.m., Dutchess Stadium

2014-2015 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SCHEDULE



September 16
November 18
January 20
March 17
May 12

October 21
December (no meeting)
February 17
April 21
June 9



Announcements

Thank you to the ATA's Communications Committee for all of their help with *The Educator* this year!

Amanda Sosnick - AMS

Erica Dunn - ASM

Bill Mueller - BES

Betsy Marshall - JDWR

Juliet Menasche - NOX

Nancy Thomas- OPS

Amanda Buhler- TIS

Tara Paradise Dwyer - TRS

Katherine Falcone - UVMS

Please consider volunteering at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie during July and August. Lately, the numbers of people needing a meal, including entire families, have increased due to the economy. For some in our community, this meal may be their only meal of the day. If you are available during the summer please consider volunteering from 4-6 p.m. on July 11 and 14 and August 8 and 11. Please contact Colleen Napora at cnapora@acsdny.org to sign up.

Stay in touch over the summer! Like us on Facebook or check out www.arlingtonteachers.com for forms, photos, calendars, and more.