



THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

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We're Ready For This

Grit—Growth Mindset—Upstander—Bucket-filler.

If you're like me, education argot was not the language of your summer. Beaches, books, family; that's more like it. Does that mean we've failed our students and wasted the precious hours we were not in the classroom?

Of course not. While it may look to the casual observer that we are merely spending our days luxuriating over the ability to sleep late and travel for weeks at a time, we know that there is more to it than that. Preparation for school needn't be in the form of reading articles on best practices to instill success skills in students.

As you will see in the following pages, Arlington

teachers did amazing and inspiring things this summer. They travelled abroad, did charity work, sailed the Hudson, and worked with NYSUT, to mention just a few of the stories you will read. All of

As you will see in the following pages, Arlington teachers did amazing and inspiring things this summer.

these experiences are invaluable to building up the background of character that we can walk into the classroom with in September. Even if you didn't physically travel farther than the sitting on the couch with a good book this summer, your students will benefit from the time you took to enrich

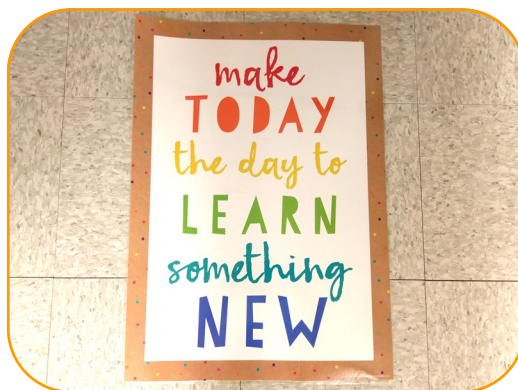
your life and refresh your spirit.

And now it's fall and we're ready. We'll be bone-tired the first week, but we'll be energized by the new faces we will meet and the old friends that

we get to work with once again. We'll talk about our summer and we'll slowly get back into the routine of waking up before dawn and following a bell schedule. We might go through professional development on building empathy and resiliency, but we'll also be able to use our own life experiences to help make our classrooms the wonderful learning environments that they are.

Welcome back.

-Sam Falk, editor



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Member Organizers Spread the Word

Trivia Challenge

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

When will the next total solar eclipse over North America take place?

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to rmchugh@acsdny.org by September 15th. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.



Just one of the many signs placed by NYSUT representatives this summer. This one was in Highland.

Not only was I given the opportunity to meet some inspiring people this summer, I even got paid for the privilege. In June NYSUT put out a call looking for people interested in joining what was billed as an Education Summer-Member Organizing Institute. I sent in an application laying out my union bona fides and expressing an interest and was quickly asked to join the program.

After three days of training, I set out along with 60 other NYSUT members to talk with our union brothers and sisters in communities throughout the state. Together we knocked on 33,097 doors. We talked with 8,419 teachers and other service related professionals. We placed 3,123 VOTE NO signs in yards from Long Island to Buffalo and got 7,508 commitments to vote no on a

ballot question asking whether to hold a new constitutional convention for New York State.

Almost without exception, the people that I spoke with were happy to see a representative from NYSUT out in their community talking to people.

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They thanked me personally for taking the time to do the summer work and spoke in positive terms about their own local contracts that guarantee wages and benefits, allows them some collective say in working conditions, and protects their right to advocate for programs and services that meet the needs of their students.

If there was a common complaint, it concerned inadequate funding levels that lead to larger case loads for some counselors and therapists, and standardized testing and the constraints that the current standardized testing places on a teacher's time, creativity and professional autonomy. Otherwise our fellow union members reported that their individual locals are strong and that they feel well represented by their local leadership. While some conversations that I had were somewhat brief and to the point, I also had many conversations with people whose passion for the work that they do as educators left me feeling invigorated and even more proud to be a part of what I have always considered a noble profession.

Our union is well on its way toward reaching an ambitious goal that was set at the yearly NYSUT Representative Assembly this last spring. The goal was to have a one-on-one conversation with each of the more than 650,000 NYSUT members across the state within the next year. Those of us who spent part of our summer as member organizers made a good start.

-Betsy Marshall,
CAC Co-Chair

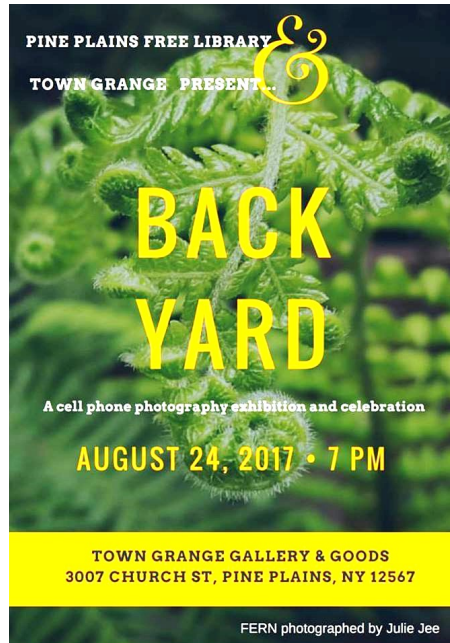
What's Going On?

"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 High School

English teacher Julie Jee participated in BackYard, a cell phone art show sponsored by the Pine Plains Free Library and Town Grange. Her photo was one of 20 selected to be exhibited, and was also used in the event flier. The



aim of the show was to explore the interplay between modern humanity and nature through images of buildings, animals, plants, and landscapes.

Arthur S. May School

Special Education teacher Michele Anderson completed her 200-hour yoga teacher training this summer, concluding with a 105-hour retreat in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Her family yoga certification enables her to teach everyone, from babies to senior citizens. She regularly includes "yoga breaks" in the classroom to help kids calm down and focus, and is now teaching yoga classes for adults, children and teens at Rainbow Body Yoga Studio in Red Hook.

The PR Committee Needs You!

As we start the new school year, you may be wondering how you can give back to the ATA and our community. The Public Relations (PR) sector of the ATA works on outreach programs within our community. We set up a tent at the Arlington Street Fair on September 16 to put a friendly face out to our neighbors. We raise money for local organizations that ben-

efit students right in our district, keep the highway clean, and collect supplies for the SPCA. While doing all of this, we also build friendships and relationships with other teachers and members in our district. We become stronger through these relationships.

Please email Kristine Jackson at kjackson@acsdny.org if you can offer some time for the Ar-

lington Street Fair on September 16. ATA members are needed to help set up at 11am, clean up at 6 pm, and take shifts at the ATA tent. The following time slots are available: 12-2 pm, 2-4 pm, 4-6 pm, set-up, and or clean up. We will have coloring materials available for children to create a bookmark. Thank you.

-Kristine Jackson, PR Chair

Congratulations to Newly Tenured ATA Members

Elementary

Arthur S. May
Michael Garabedian, Laura Oliver

Noxon
Nicole Sheehan

Traver Road
Caitlin Barry, Meredith Geerlings

Middle

LaGrange
Jesse Borle, Kelley Hand

High School

Michael Collyer, Courtney Grey, Brendan Hunt, Megan Murphy, Bradley Veeder

Welcome, New Members!

The Arlington Teachers' Association hopes that all members are settling in to their classrooms this year and would like to welcome the following brand new people to the Arlington School District and the ATA. Please let us know if there are more additions to your building that we can include in the next issue.

Overlook Primary

Teresa Ilardi - Kindergarten

Hometown: Poughkeepsie, NY
Favorite Food: Pizza

Katie McKeon - Special Ed.

Hometown: LaGrange, NY
Favorite Food: Ice Cream

LaGrange Middle

Telma Koch - Spanish

Hometown: Poughkeepsie, NY
Favorite Food: Vegetarian

Elizabeth Socci - Computer

Hometown: Millbrook, NY
Favorite Food: Italian

Nicole Fiore - Special Ed.

Union Vale Middle

Lisa Decker - Science

Hometown: Wappingers Falls, NY
Favorite Food: Kale, Fried Chicken, Dark Chocolate

Michelle Simonetty - Special Ed.

Hometown: Poughquag, NY
Favorite Food: Grilled Cheese

Noxon Elementary

Jenna Venditti - Speech

Hometown: Poughquag, NY
Favorite Food: Pizza/Chinese

Arlington High

Jesse Cerosimo - English

Hometown: New Paltz, NY
Favorite Food: Italian

Amanda Conklin - Special Ed.

Hometown: Wappingers Falls, NY
Favorite Food: Anything Potato

Elizabeth LaTuso - Physical Ed.

Hometown: Poughquag, NY
Favorite Food: Baked Ziti

Evan Rzodkiewicz - Music

Hometown: Poughkeepsie, NY
Favorite Food: Ziti

Arielle Sharp - Special Ed.

Hometown: Newburgh, NY
Favorite Food: Iced Cream, Sweet Potato Fries

John Sullivan - Special Ed.

Rita Roman - Foreign Lang.

Beekman Elementary

Rachel Perrone - 5th Grade

Hometown: Poughquag, NY
Favorite Food: Chicken Parmesan

Samantha Venditti - Remedial Reading

Hometown: Mahopac, NY
Favorite Food: Penne Alla Vodka

Lauren Darragh - Psychologist

Gina DeMaria-Friedman

Did we leave someone out? Please let us know so that we can include him or her next month!

Vail Farm Elementary

Jennifer D’Antoni - Reading

*Hometown: Hopewell Junction, NY
Favorite Food: Ice Cream*

Jeannette DeLuca - Special Ed.

*Hometown: Massapequa, NY
Favorite Food: Peanut Butter, Guacamole*

Debbie Devlin - Speech

*Hometown: Poughquag, NY
Favorite Food: Mexican*

Kimberly Nicastro - 2nd Grade

*Hometown: Putnam Valley, NY
Favorite Food: Pizza*

Jennifer Schafer - Special Ed.

*Hometown: Wappingers Falls, NY
Favorite Food: Pasta*

Brook Chadwick - ENL

West Road Primary

Katie Cory - 5th Grade ICT

*Hometown: Poughkeepsie, NY
Favorite Food: Fruit*

Kimberly Eger - 3rd Grade

*Hometown: Poughkeepsie, NY
Favorite Food: Italian—Lasagna*

Melissa Kelly - 4th Grade ICT

*Hometown: Milton, NY
Favorite Food: Eggplant Parmesan*

Paula Richardson - ESL

*Hometown: Brewster, NY
Favorite Food: Chicken Cutlets*

Central Office

Colleen Gilbert - Science/Math

*Hometown: Poughkeepsie, NY
Favorite Food: Chocolate*



ATA New Teacher Luncheon - August 29, 2017

What I Did on My Summer Vacation

2017 — 2018 ATA Officers

President

Bob Maier

First Vice-President

Greg Nieman

Second Vice-President

Steve Hertzog

Treasurer

Dave Cordella

Chief Negotiator

Robert McHugh

PR Committee Chair

Kristine Jackson

Community Action Chair

Betsy Marshall

Welfare Trust Chair

Ron Higgins

Communications Chair

Sam Falk

Senior Building Representatives

ASM — Erica Dunn

BES — William Mueller

NES — Nicolle McMorris

VFES — Gwen Moschetto

OPS — Nancy Thomas

Traver — Diana Judge

JDWR — Chris Greco

TIS — Sue Ramsden

LMS — TBA

UVMS — Jim DeBonis

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Noreen Mills Martin

Along with beach vacations and spending time with family, many Arlington teachers are fortunate to be able to take advantage of extraordinary opportunities to expand their horizons over the summer. Here are just a few examples of the variety of ways ATA members spent their time away from school.



Beekman teacher Liz Jordan helped to haul up the sails on the sloop Clearwater.

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

On August 1, Liz Jordan, Janice Rifenburg, and Eileen Snook from Beekman Elementary and I got to sail on the sloop Clearwater in Beacon. They offered a free program for educators to learn more about the environment of the Hudson River and how we can use field trips on the Clearwater with students. They taught us about things like plastic pollution, the history of the Hudson, Hudson river fish, and how to see how much oxygen is in the water.

-Colleen Napora, AHS

Nicaraguan Mission

I went to Nicaragua for a week in July with North Country Mission of Hope, a humanitarian organization based in Plattsburgh. Mission Esperanza, as it's known in Nicaragua, supports families in the Chiquilistagua area, outside of Managua. Part of that support is maintenance on the schools. I did a lot of painting, both the interior and exteriors of schools. I also helped build shelving units for several classrooms. There are 11 barrios, (neighborhoods) in the Chiquilistagua area where the poorest of the poor live. We went into the neighborhoods, distributed some food (rice and beans) and made sure the people in the neighborhoods know about the clinic and other services available at Mission Esperanza.

Mission of Hope also receives food grants from Save My Starving Children and Stop Hunger Now. They provide daily meals to over 6,500 children in 20 schools and help the schools create the infrastructure needed to store and cook the food. I helped out at the ribbon cutting ceremony at a school that was newly implementing the feeding program. I also participated in an annual birthday party for orphaned children with HIV and got to visit the 3 children I sponsor to attend school.

-Eileen Snook, BES



Beekman teacher Eileen Snook helps a local boy paint his school building in Nicaragua.



Five years after Giulia (right) was an exchange student staying with her in America, Arthur S. May teacher Lori Ann Salem was able to travel to Italy and stay with Giulia's family.

Foreign Exchange Experience

Our journey all began while I got to know parents during parent/teacher conferences of the 2010-2011 school year. One of my student's parents talked about his career of placing foreign exchange students. I took an interest because I knew my children would all be away at college in the fall and our nest would be empty. My husband and I started to look over prospective students from World Heritage Student Exchange and read many bios. I was interested in someone from Italy because it would give us something in common, as I am of Italian descent. Everything fell into place to host a student during the 2011-2012 school year.

Giulia became a part of our family right away. We treated her like our own, having family dinners, expecting homework completed, good grades, and chores. She came in to visit my American elementary classroom. We made college visits to our children for family weekends. She was involved in many Arlington High School activities, such as track and French Club, as well as the International Student club. Giulia fit right in with extended family during holidays. We took her to many historical sites; FDR Estate, Vanderbilt Mansion, Walkway Over the Hudson, etc., as well as many trips to NYC. We had a lot of fun. It was extremely hard to say goodbye.

Five years later, in July 2017, my husband and I were able to visit her hometown of Turin, Italy. Her family invited us to stay with them. They were very grateful for the amazing experience we gave Giulia and wanted to show us around their hometown and other parts of Italy. Back in Turin we saw many basilicas and piazzas. We also did a lot of everyday things like dinners at home, pizza out, walk dogs, walk the mall etc. It was amazing to see her in her element. Our families have so much in common. Our life changed forever! We now have family in Italy!

-Lori Ann Salem, ASM

Dutchess County Dragon Boat Races

This year's Dutchess Dragon Boat Races took place on July 22 at the Hudson River Rowing Association's dock in Poughkeepsie. Dragon boat races have 16 racers, and must have an equal amount of men and women. There were two divisions, club and community. I raced with a boat made of members of the Shamrock Association (of which I am president.) We raced in the community division and finished third. With earning the bronze, our boat has the distinction of being the only boat to race in all four years and medal in all four years the races have been held. All money raised went to Habitat for Humanity this year. The Shamrock Association is big into helping local charities, which is what got us involved in the race. Overall it was a great day, in addition to the races there were vendors and food trucks and activities for kids. It was an all-day event and one that I am proud to have done.

-Chris Malet, UVMS



Union Vale teacher Chris Malet (front left) took part in the Dutchess County Dragon Boat Races in July.

Dates to Remember

SEPTEMBER

12th—Flex Benefit Plans Meetings, 3—4:30p.m., AHS room 1436

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

14th—Middle School Open House

15th—ATA Unity Pub, 3-5p.m., La Puerta Azul

16th—Arlington Street Fair, 12-6 p.m.

19th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432

21st—Rosh Hashanah—No School

26th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

OCTOBER

1st—Deadline to submit information for graduate or inservice credit

Deadline for using 2016-2017 Welfare Trust Benefits

5th—High School Open House

9th—Columbus Day—No School

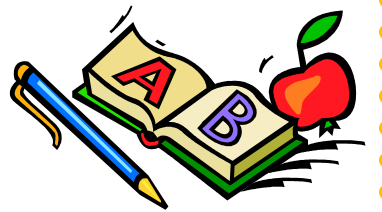
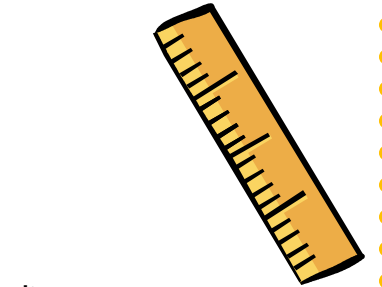
10th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

17th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432

24th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

25th—Professional Development Delayed Start Day

31st—Elementary School Half Day



Announcements

Have You Heard?

Professional development days have changed from half days to delayed start days. This means that on October 25, March 16, and May 14 schools will operate on a two hour delay schedule for students while staff will report at the regularly-scheduled time.

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4 - 6 p.m. on September 8 and 11 and October 9 and 13. Contact Colleen Napora at AHS to sign up.

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