



THE EDUCATOR

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Let Summer Attitudes Continue Into Fall

Welcome back! I don't know about you, but I'm starting the school year with a sense of optimism. Maybe it's just that the memories of challenges from the last school year have dimmed over the summer, but I am looking forward to a new year. In August it's easy to remember why we do this job.

Before we are hit with the realities of paperwork and mandatory training and faculty meetings, we anxiously await the day when we finally get our class lists and can start to envision the make-up of our classrooms. It's exciting to meet so many new kids, and we look forward to that.

We start with the fun of decorating our classrooms and getting ready to welcome our new children.

Should I have a theme to my room? Will the students feel comfortable with the seating arrangement? No one starts the new year thinking about things like APPR and student test scores.

Let's try to prolong those summer feelings of wellbeing and optimism as late August fades into fall and we fall back into our school-year routines.

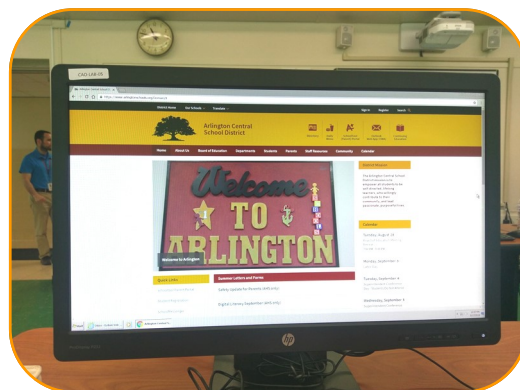
The time will come when the logistical realities cannot be ignored, but for the end of August and early September we can focus on extending that summertime sense of goodwill and planning for the exciting challenge of making learning fun.

Of course, the world of education didn't stop over

the summer. Headlines about Betsy DeVos and the Janus decision were prevalent, but those were easier to digest in the absence of a long work day. Be assured that the ATA was still looking out for you over the summer, and we are ready for any new challenges this school year may bring.

In the pages of this newsletter you will be introduced to our new deputy superintendent, and our new ATA members. You will also read about summer events, and upcoming ones. Let's try to prolong those summer feelings of wellbeing and optimism as late August fades into fall and we fall back into our school-year routines.

-Sam Falk, editor



ARLINGTON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
46 Davis Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



(845) 454-7002 · www.arlingtonteachers.com · ata4547002@aol.com

New Deputy Values Open Communication

Trivia Challenge

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

Where is America's oldest public school located?

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to sfalk@acsdny.org by September 14. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.



Photo by Sam Falk

Arlington's new deputy superintendent, Jonathan Brown, started in the position in July 2018.

Jonathan Brown, Arlington's new deputy superintendent, is a man who keeps busy. While his primary occupation for the last seven years was as a principal in the White Plains and Mount Vernon school districts, during that time he also earned an Ed.D., taught at the college level, wrote op-ed pieces for Westchester's *Journal News* and was a community member of their editorial board, and was on the board of the Northeast Starter STEM Academy. In the past he has also coached baseball, and even played in the National Adult Baseball Association. He currently resides in Peekskill with his wife and three children; two sons, aged 11 and 14, and a 16 year old daughter.

So, what drew him to take the job as Arlington's deputy superintendent? According to Brown, "Opportunity." He had been planning to move on to central office work after being a principal, and, he explains, "When I saw the position it was the one that most appealed to me because as deputy you get to do lots of different things." At the time of this interview he had one week on the job and was gaining an understanding of what being dep-

uty superintendent completely entails: "I'm still learning, so I'll give you the funny answer—the deputy does whatever the superintendent asks him to. That's the first part of the job and that's the part that I actually like because it creates variety and challenge." He also has more specific responsibilities, such as heading the department of curriculum and instruction, overseeing the disciplinary process for general education students with superintendent's hearings, sitting on the school board's advocacy committee, and leading the district's equity team.

On top of all of that, Brown hopes to be out in the schools talking with people. "My m.o. is all about relationships and high visibility," he explains, "In a perfect world I'm going to be in a school every single day, talking to teachers, and kids, and parents, and educators in the building, just to get a feel for how the decisions that are being made are impacting teaching and learning. The paperwork can be done once everybody goes home; the interactions can't occur when everybody's home, so during the actual time of day when school is open I envision interacting with

people on their turf. We'll see how much that happens, but it is definitely a priority for me to do that."

Brown also finds time to read, and specifically enjoys non-fiction. "I love reading on leadership," he expounds, "because every day you can do your job better. I'm constantly reading to make sure my tools are as sharp as they can be, but also I think that it's stimulating to think about reading from different perspectives. One of the things I love to do is read books from authors who I don't think I would necessarily agree with. I don't know how you get better if you only surround yourself with 'yes' people."

Prior to becoming an administrator, Brown was a social studies and math teacher in New York City, and was a UFT chapter leader. In his own words, he is a "huge fan of unions. The America that I know, is the America that I know because of what unions were able to do in developing a true middle class, and I think that some of the concerns that I have about the America we're becoming are because the middle class is being chipped away at; and that coincides with the reduction of influence of unions. I think that unions have to be valued because of what they do for society as a whole."

As the interview winds down, Brown pauses to reflect on the topics discussed. "If no other message gets delivered," he concludes, "I really hope that the message of my willingness to participate in open communication is shared. I want to hear the truth, and one of my clichés is 'Don't tell the water cooler. It can't help you.'"

But, lastly, the all-important New York question—Yankees or Mets? "Mets."

—Sam Falk, editor

Impact of Janus Case Remains Unclear

As the 2017-2018 school year came to a close, you may remember hearing some rumblings about a Supreme Court case that was soon to be settled that could have a significant impact on our way of life as union members. The leadership of the ATA asked for you to take a moment and complete a pledge form to show your support for our union. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with several buildings completing the forms for all of the members in their building within a week.

I was so pleased to have such a monumental task taken on by such a wonderful group of helpers, your

fellow ATA members. Thank you to all of you who signed your pledge form and showed your continued support for our union. An even bigger thanks goes out to the many



Scan this QR code to listen to the **New York Times' podcast audio-summary of Janus vs. AFSCME from June 28 or visit www.nytimes.com/2018/06/29/podcasts/the-daily/supreme-court-labor-unions-janus.html for more information.**

building representatives and union activists who pounded the pavement to make sure we could go into summer vacation without our union being in a precarious position.

That case, Janus vs. AFSCME, was settled at the end of June, as

we were all scattering in our different directions for summer. If you didn't hear about it, there is a great podcast audio-summary from the New York Times from June 28, with additional reading materials linked from the website as well. It provides a great overview of the case, the history behind it, and the possible changes that may result. We are still watching the changes unfold as the ruling gets put into effect and keep you up to date regarding changes as the year goes on.

-Steve Hertzog,
2nd Vice President

NYSUT Endorsements Involve Locals

Several weeks ago, I had the pleasure of representing the ATA at NYSUT's Endorsement Conference in Albany. I was one of hundreds of teachers from around the state, including dozens of representatives from other locals in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Our purpose was to choose which candidates to endorse for state and federal office in the upcoming elections.

Each region met in a separate room to hear what the recommendations were for each of the races from NYSUT's Political Action Committee. After hearing about the recommendations, a motion was made to endorse a particular candidate. Sometimes a debate would ensue and the motion was withdrawn, or after the debate, the candidate received the endorsement by a show of hands. The most important factor we considered for any incumbent was how he or she voted regarding attempts to change APPR during the

last legislative session. We also considered how each candidate answered questions in interviews and on surveys.

After making a number of decisions with the options of an endorsement, no endorsement at this time, or no endorsement at all, we broke for lunch and heard from a panel of seven students who have become leaders in their schools and communities and have already had a remarkable impact. After listening to those students speak, it reminded us all of why we became teachers.

At the conclusion of lunch, we returned to complete our discussions and issue all final recommendations. Some of the endorsed candidates will have primaries on Thursday, September 13. The majority of those primaries will be in minor parties. Assemblywoman Didi Barrett, who was endorsed by NYSUT, and Will Truitt are running un-

opposed in the Democratic and Republican parties respectively on November's ballot; however, they are both vying for the Independence Party line in the September primary. The candidate who receives the majority of votes by Independence party members on September 13 will become the nominee of that party for the general election in November. In addition, there are primaries for the gubernatorial and attorney general races in the Democratic party, but NYSUT has not made any endorsements for them. Please vote if you are registered in a party and your party has a primary. If you are unsure whether you are registered, please feel free to check with your local board of elections. The list of NYSUT's endorsements is available on their website and will be discussed further in the next issue of this newsletter.

-Brendan Lawler, CAC Co-Chair

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 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.

◆ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ◆

Arthur S. May

Nina Personius—Library

Meaghann Rush—5th Grade

Samantha Rymer—Reading

Kristen Sheehan—Special Education

Beekman

Kaitlyn Clark Matatia—Special Education

Noxon

Breanna Lechase (also at Vail Farm)

Rebecca Trosa—Art

Overlook

Shannon Cobb—Special Education

Christine Fiore—Music (also at Traver Road)

Eileen Ploetz—Social Work (also at LMS)



ATA New Teacher Luncheon - August 28, 2018

Titusville

Stephanie Cobb

Nicole Michelin—AIS Math (also at West Road)

Rebecca Sadrianna—ENL (also at Arthur S. May)

Vail Farm

Marisa Gargaro—Speech

Tatianna Louisidis—Speech

Kristen Mateja—3rd Grade ICT

Jennalee Ritacco—4th Grade ICT

Lorena Britos—ENL (also at UVMS)

◆MIDDLE SCHOOL◆**LaGrange**

Sara Corrow—Phys. Ed. (also at AHS)

Jessica Domes—Physical Education

Rebecca Forman

Sarah Hough—8th Grade Earth Science

Ryan Jarvis—8th Grade Social Studies

John Myrick—Foreign Language

Katelynn Polhill—Special Education

Union Vale

Michelle Keene—7th Grade Science

◆HIGH SCHOOL◆

Michelle DeForno—Speech

Jordan DeNitto—Art

Lindsay Ellis—Social Work

Jaclyn Heeney—Library

Carlene O'Connor—Theater

2018 — 2019 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 — Christene Way

Traver — Diana Judge

JDWR — Betsy Marshall

TIS — Larry Jeannotte

LMS — Kevin Walsh

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.

Arlington High

Librarian Lucy Miller attended the Reimagining Education Summer Institute at Teachers College at Columbia University in New York City in July. According to Miller, it gave her the "opportunity to connect with people across the country who are committed to sustaining racial-

#LoveMyClassroomLibraryBecause

it's the hub of our room, where new learning takes place and houses our ever-growing book collection!



Arthur S. May School

Second grade teacher Julie Shook was recently awarded a \$500 classroom library from Booksource, a company that specializes in curating classroom libraries. Her Twitter photo (shown left) was randomly selected in a classroom library photo contest. She has requested a variety of picture books that depict diverse characters and promote empathy, acceptance, and character education.

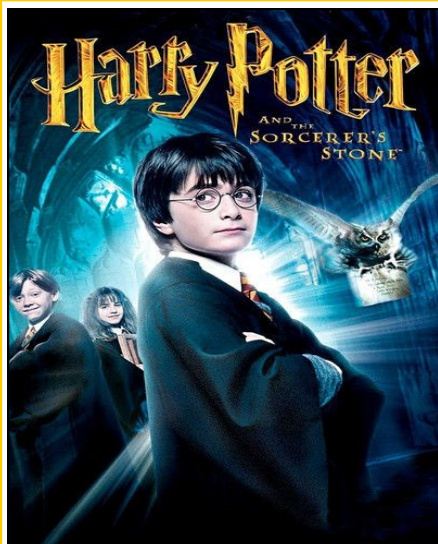
ly, ethnically and socio-economically integrated schools and classrooms."

Union Vale Middle

Health teacher Kathleen Vogt traveled to Salem, MA in August to attend the Massachusetts Annual Two-Day Health Education Conference hosted by the state's Association for Health, PE,

Dance & Recreation. She reports, "It was a worthwhile trip being able to connect with other health educators from MA, as well as, VT, NH, ME, IL, and NY. So many of the educators I follow on Twitter were there so it was really cool to actually meet and share even more resources and ideas face-to-face."

Save the Date!



You're Invited to an ATA Fundraiser for the Arlington Education Foundation

What: A screening of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Where: Hyde Park Roosevelt Cinemas

When: Saturday, October 27. Doors open at 9:15 a.m., movie at 10 a.m.

Cost: \$5 if purchased and received by 10/19 or \$6 at the door

Fliers will be in school mailboxes shortly

8th Annual ATA Night at the Renegades Was a Hit



Fans of all ages enjoyed the experience of a night out at the ballpark.

Approximately 50 ATA members and their families gathered at Dutchess Stadium in Beacon on July 12 for the 8th Annual ATA Night at the Renegades. Unlike previous years, there was not a rain cloud in sight. The evening included all-you-can-eat food, play area access for kids, and some great baseball.



Ample seating was to be found on the left field patio, which afforded a nice view of the field.



The event brought many ATA families, like the Reiters, out to spend time together with their friends and colleagues.

Photos by Sam Falk

ATA Members' Generosity Continues



Photo Courtesy Kathy Peifer

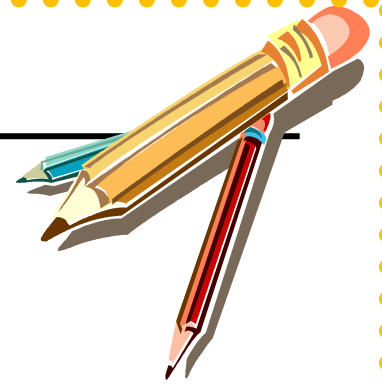
In July and August both active and retired members continued to fulfill the ATA's commitment to serve dinner at Dutchess Outreach's Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie on the second Monday and Friday of each month. Shown here on August 10 are volunteers during a typical shift.

There is a Google spreadsheet with details that can be

accessed at <https://goo.gl/HFy8EF> to sign up to help for upcoming months, or volunteer organizers Liz Jordan (BES) and Kathleen Vogt (UVMS) can be contacted directly.

Families are encouraged to volunteer together. Upcoming dates to serve dinner are September 10 and 14, October 8 and 12, November 9 and 12 and December 10 and 14.

Dates to Remember

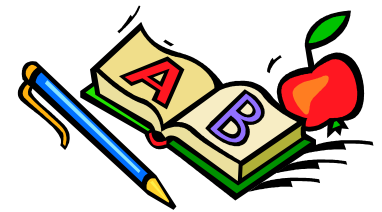


SEPTEMBER

- 10th—Rosh Hashanah—No School
- 11th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 18th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
- 19th—Yom Kippur—No School
- 20th—Middle School Open House
- 25th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

OCTOBER

- 1st—Deadline to submit information for graduate or inservice credit
Deadline for using 2017-2018 Welfare Trust Benefits
- 4th—High School Open House
- 8th—Columbus Day—No School
- 9th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 16th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
- 23rd—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 24th—Professional Development Half Day
- 27th—Harry Potter AEF Fundraiser, 9:15 a.m., Roosevelt Cinemas
- 31st—Elementary School Half Day



Announcements

**Congratulations to the following ATA members for
being awarded tenure this fall:**

Joei Marras—AHS, Jessica Sgroi—ASM, Khalie Wood-Aker—LMS

ATA Executive Council meetings are open to all members. They will take place this school year at 4 p.m. in AHS room 1432 on the following Tuesdays: 9/18, 10/16, 11/27, 1/15, 2/19, 3/19, 4/23, 5/14, 6/18

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