



THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

VOLUME 9, ISSUE III

DECEMBER 2018

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As Need Grows, We Rise To Meet It

As educators, we are all well aware that our jobs entail much more than just teaching subject matter. Our students spend the majority of their waking hours in school, and we play a big part in their overall well-being. Each winter this fact is highlighted by the numerous charity drives that happen in all of our schools. For Thanksgiving we contribute to putting food on the tables of our neediest families, and each December we donate coats and mittens to keep them warm. We also collect gifts so that our students and their families can celebrate the

holiday season in a way that they might not be able to without our help.

Our food and clothing drives seem to have

who appear to be experiencing poverty at your school there is a concrete reason for it—our Arlington population has been changing.

As can be seen from the bar graph on page 3, the percent of Arlington students receiving free and reduced price lunch has increased from 7% in 2001 (the first year the figure was available from the New York State District Report

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expanded over the last few years. Perhaps the most striking illustration is that a few of our schools now have programs to provide students with food for the weekends.

Card for Arlington) to 27% in 2017 (the most recent statistic available.)

If you have noticed an uptick in students

Arlington has a reputation for being a rather well-off district, and compared to many others, we are, but we See Need on Page 3



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Trivia Challenge

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

How many educators achieved National Board certification in NY this year?

Last month's winner, selected at random from among the correct responses received, was **Julie Shook** from Arthur S. May. She correctly identified **1999** as the year the Arlington Education Foundation was founded. She will be the proud owner of ATA gear.

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to sfalk@acsdny.org by **December 29**. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

November Elections Flip NY Senate

"We will remember in November" was a vow that was made by NYSUT members when the Republican-led State Senate failed to stand up for public education and pass Senate bill S.8301 last June. The legislation was designed to make the state's teacher evaluation system more fair. Our State Assembly had overwhelmingly passed its version of the bill, the senate had garnered bi-partisan support from 55 of 63 senators, and Governor Cuomo had already promised to sign the bill. But at the last moment the charter industry stepped in to demand that more funding for charter schools be added to the bill. So, during the waning hours of the legislature's last session in June, the Republican majority agreed to include a poison pill which would guarantee its defeat. The bill was never brought to a vote by Republican leader John Flanagan. Perhaps that was the Republican plan all along? The legislation that was never voted on would have finally decoupled flawed standardized tests from teacher evaluations and permanently eliminated the

state's mysterious "growth score".

Certainly showing support for public school teachers and the 90% of children in the state who attend public schools was not the only issue that led New Yorkers to elect more Democrats across the state but it did create a groundswell of political activism among NYSUT members. During the 2018

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-ATA CAC Chair Betsy Marshall

election cycle there were an unprecedented number of union members who knocked on doors to talk to their neighbors and a record number of people who joined phone banks to remind others to get to the polls and vote. Going forward, now that all branches of state government are under Democratic control, we will see how much Governor Cuomo really cares about public education, and a host of other progressive issues that he has been able to claim he could do nothing about because of Republican control of the State Senate.

In State Senate District 41, the Senate district that includes the community in and around the Arlington School district, Sue Serino eked out a narrow victory against her Democratic challenger Karen Smyth. Now that she will be a member of the minority party she will no doubt be forced to vote on issues that will effect the future of public education here in New York State. With some pressure from her constituency, maybe she will be more supportive of our public schools than she has been in the past.

After the unprecedented level of voter participation in the mid-term elections last month, I am hopeful that people will continue to take their civic responsibility to remain informed and engaged seriously. It is more important than ever to watch what our elected representatives are doing and let them know that we are watching. It is only through civic engagement that our democracy can flourish and provide for the greatest good for everyone and not just a few at the top.

*-Betsy Marshall,
ATA CAC Co-Chair*

As Need Grows, We Rise To Meet It

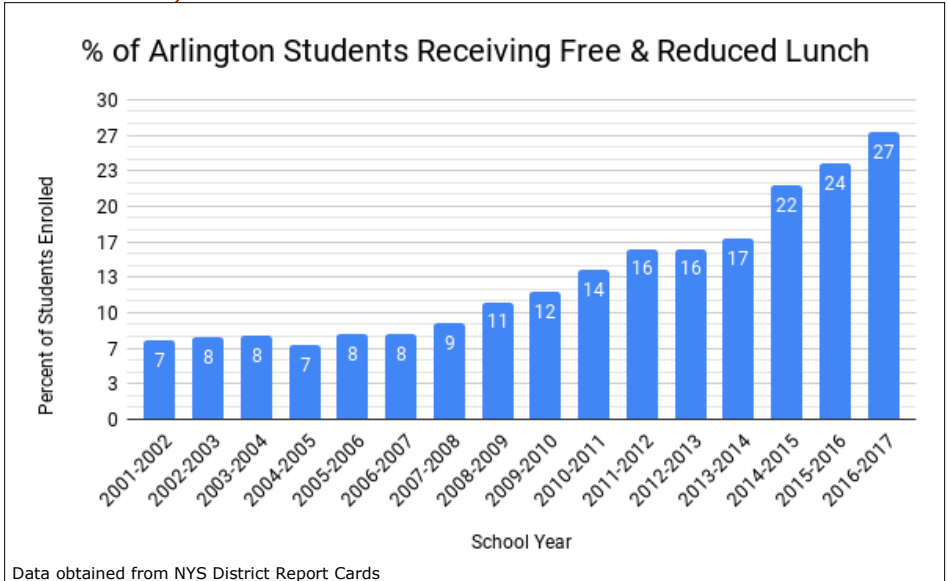
Continued from Front
 need to be aware of the changing demographics of our students and the fact they are not as economically advantaged as they used to be.

At LaGrange Middle School, special education teacher Staci Wagner noticed an increase in the number of students that she had who were having a hard time in school. Upon further investigation she found out that their families were struggling to get enough to eat. She spoke with guidance counselors, administrators, and LMS's social worker, and got a list of students who had similar circumstances. Using that information, in February 2017 she started the Arlington Care Packages program. Each Friday, 13 students receive a backpack with two lunches, two breakfasts, two snacks, two drinks, and two servings of canned fruit and vegetables. Permission slips were sent to families that are identified in order to make sure the program is aware of



Photo by Staci Wagner

The food pantry at LMS is kept stocked by students and staff.



Data obtained from NYS District Report Cards

food allergies, and additional families have called asking for help.

According to Wagner, "Most of the donations are from our amazingly supportive faculty! Even some of the families of our faculty donate on a regular basis. We also have donations from students' families. We do a drive during the summer walkthroughs and students have organized their own drives as well." Family and Consumer Science teacher Jamie Lolkema also works with Wagner to make sure that the pantry stays stocked.

When kindergarten teacher Kristin Clerkin at Overlook Primary School saw a similar need in her building she contacted Wagner to learn about the LMS program. OPS has a much smaller staff, so Clerkin decided that it would work better for her program to go through the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.

This year special education teacher Katie McKeon began coordinating the program with Clerkin. They have solicited staff donations through dress-down days and donations from

many local businesses. Once they fundraise the money, they are able to provide backpacks for students. The food and backpacks come from the food bank at \$6.10 per student per week.

Clerkin explains, "Last year, we started with five students and increased to serving 16 students this school year. Any staff member can refer a student, and as long as we have the funds, we are able to serve the students in need. Students may be referred throughout the year." For more information about the backpack program go to <https://regionalfoodbank.net/backpack-program/>

By nature, educators tend to be compassionate people. The spirit of the winter holidays accentuates this, but the above examples show that ATA members are looking out for their students all year long. As the need for help beyond just academics grows, we will continue to expand our capacity for nurturing our students.

Happy Holidays!

-Sam Falk, editor

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Photos by Kathleen Vogt



These photos and many more can be found on the ATA's website at www.arlingtonteachers.com



**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 School

Chemistry teacher Cindy Binnie recently achieved her National Board certification.

Biology teacher Steve Hertzog recently renewed his National Board certification. In addition, he is a New York State Master Teacher and will be running an in-service course that meets over a several month period to educate, support and encourage prospective candidates for this year's round of MTP applications due at the end of February. Interested STEM teachers can sign up through MyLearningPlan online.

Social studies teachers Elizabeth Brzozowski and Krysta Weiss will be facilitating a book club discussion at Dutchess County BOCES in the spring. The group will be reading *The British in India: A Social*



Photo courtesy of Brendan Hunt

Arlington High School

Health Education teacher Brendan Hunt organized a Movember charity drive to benefit the Premier Cares foundation, a local 501c3 non profit that provides grants to local patients suffering from serious urological and gastrointestinal diseases such as prostate, testicular, and colon cancer. Participants grew their facial hair for the entire month of November and posted before and after (as shown above) pictures on social media to solicit donations. Tee shirts were also sold to raise money. In this first year the AHS Movember drive raised \$2,660.

History of the Raj by David Gilmour. Interested teachers can sign up through MyLearningPlan online.

English teacher Julie Jee gave a talk titled "Identity, Assimilation and Stereotypes about Asians from the Perspective of an Asian-American Teacher" at the Boardman Road Library on November 4.

Prompted by issues found in the 2018 NEA Big Read novel, *Everything I Never Told You*, this presentation was a personal reflection on identity and race. The AHS P.E. program has been awarded \$1,000.00 for their proposal submitted to the Ac-

tion for Healthy Kids School Grants for Healthy Kids program. They have also been awarded \$1,149.30 for their proposal submitted to the Southeastern Zone of the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The grants will help fund heart rate watches.

Arthur S. May School

Physical education teacher Chris Keenan presented at the NYSAPERD Conference in Verona, NY in November. He also gave a presentation at the at the NYSAPERD SEZ

See Great on Page 7

Dress Down Day Raises Over \$2000 For the Children's Home



'Tis the season for giving, and once again the ATA came

through with generosity and good cheer. On November 20, 2018, many schools in the district participated in a dress-down day to benefit the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, an organization that strives to improve the lives of at-risk children.

Collectively, the ATA was able to raise over \$2,000 as well as collect hats, scarves, and gloves to give to the resi-

dents of the Children's Home. The ATA is proud to help members within our own community through these fundraising efforts and good works we continue to do throughout the year. The PR committee extends wishes of good cheer and peace to all members in the New Year and thanks everyone for all you do to make this a wonderful place to work.

-Kristine Jackson, PR Chair

ATA Members Do Great Things in the Community

Continued from Page 6 conference in November.

LaGrange Middle

Special Education teacher Sara Jernigan recently achieved her National Board certification.

English teachers Dana Newsum and Maggie Eschbach have lead the school's Community Service club in running a penny drive that raised \$1754.25 for the Pleasant Valley Library.

Noxon Elementary

Second grade teachers Vivian LaColla and Allison Kilroy used the website BLOOMZ to organize a Thanksgiving food basket drive for a needy family in the

community. Parents signed-up on the website to donate food items that would be brought into school on the Friday before Thanksgiving. When that day turned out to be a snow day LaColla was able to use BLOOMZ to notify parents that she would be at school on Saturday to collect their donations. All of the parents responded and a large amount of food was delivered to the family the next day.

Overlook Primary

Physical education teacher Steve Ciancio was recently named Elementary School Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the New York State Alliance of Health,

Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Southeastern Zone (NYSAHPERD SEZ). The award was presented on November 6 at the NYS AHPERD SEZ Conference in White Plains, NY. The award is given to a teacher who demonstrates outstanding teaching performance and the ability to motivate students in meaningful physical activity. Ciancio also presented at the NYSAHPERD Conference in Verona, NY in November.

Union Vale Middle

Health Education teacher Kathleen Vogt presented, "STARS of the Health Classroom" at the NYSAHPERD SEZ conference in November.

Traver and West Road Schools

Following a devastating fire on Election Day, the Pleasant Valley Library closed for business indefinitely and was surrounded by a chain-link fence for safety purposes. Second grade teacher Chris LeRoy rallied Traver and West Road teachers to have their students make ornaments to show support for the library. Those ornaments, along with many messages of hope and strength from the students, now adorn that fence (pictured here with some of the participating teachers.) Many students expressed how sad they were to lose the library they often go to.



Photo courtesy of the Pleasant Valley Library

Dates to Remember



DECEMBER

24-31st—Winter Recess - No School

JANUARY

1st—Winter Recess - No School

8th—Board of Education Meeting & Budget Workshop, 7 p.m., NOX

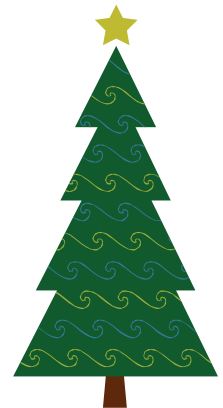
15th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432

21st—Martin Luther King Day - No School

22-25th—Regents Week

22nd—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., JDWR

26th—Superintendent's Conference Day



FEBRUARY

1st—Deadline for June 2019 Retirement Decisions

12th—Board of Education Meeting & Budget Workshop, 7 p.m., OPS

15-18th—Presidents' Day - No School

19th—ATA Executive Council Meeting, 4 p.m., AHS Room 1432

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



Announcements

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

The staff of
The Educator would like
to wish all ATA
members a happy and
healthy
holiday season.

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner at the Lunch Box in Poughkeepsie from 4 - 6 p.m. on January 11 and 14 and February 8 and 11. Please contact Liz Crivello-Jordan at BES or Kathleen Vogt at UVMS to sign up.