



# THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

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## Another Year Has Come To An End

Another school year has come to an end. Once again, we made it through in the face of the challenges of administrative grading mandates, and state curriculum changes, and time forced to be spent with educational consultants. When we're in our offices and classrooms we excel at our jobs in spite of all of that.

Last night I attended the ATA's annual recognition dinner and was privileged to hear the advice of those who had spent countless hours in the classroom and are now moving on. They didn't speak of how to achieve high

test grades or score well on one's APPR. To a person they all spoke of the relationships they formed over the years in this profession. On the surface teaching is about delivering curriculum to stu-

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dents, but we all know that it is really about human connections. We are modelling to our students how to get by in this crazy world by working with others.

And that can be exhausting. So, hopefully you can take this sum-

mer to refresh and do whatever it is that keeps you going, whether it is participating in a fun workshop, spending time with friends and family, travelling the world, or just catching up on

your reading list. If you need anything, know that your union is still there for you in July and August to provide support for whatever issues might arise, even when school is closed. We'll help to provide some entertainment too—join us for a Renegades Game on August 24! I hope to see you there.

-Sam Falk,  
ATA Communications Chair



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## Trivia Challenge

Last month's winner, selected at random from among the correct responses received, was **August Scagnelli** from VF. He correctly identified **red** as the color of foods traditionally eaten as part of Juneteenth Celebrations.

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

# Spotlight On: Jaclyn Heeney

AHS librarian Jaclyn Heeney always wanted to have children, so when she found that she wasn't able to on her own, she decided to try another way. "I really felt like foster care was a good fit for me to have an alternative family," she says, "I also felt a calling to do it."

Heeney's first job as a librarian was in the Berkshire Union Free School District at a school for adjudicated youth. It was there, about 20 years ago, working with kids on PINS (Persons In Need of Supervision), that her interest in the foster care system was sparked. Since then she has worked in many different settings, though most of her career was at the elementary level. She has now been at AHS for six years.

Although Heeney attended a foster care orientation in Brooklyn many years ago, it wasn't until recently that she became certified as a foster parent. This entailed steps like background and home safety checks, and 12 week MAPP (Model Approach to Partners in Parenting) training through Dutchess County Family Services. According to Heeney, the COVID era has been a difficult time for the foster care system. Although there was a surge in people like her signing on to be foster parents, because kids were not in school, and schools were the main source of calls to CPS (Child Protective Services),

fewer children were being placed in the foster care system. Many courts were also not in session.

Heeney received her first call to house children in June 2022. "I entertained the thought of two kids, and then didn't really think it through," she remembers. "I was waiting for so long, I said yes, and very quickly had a 2 year old and a 5 year old, brothers. It was really a whirlwind." Since Arlington currently does not offer leave for foster parents, Heeney had to ask for permission to use sick days to get the children settled in. She had the boys with her for about a month before they were sent to live with their grandmother.

The next September the call came again.

The boys weren't doing well with Grandma, but Heeney didn't feel that she was able to take them back at that time.

The school year had just started and she didn't know how much leave she would be al-

lowed to take, so she had to decline. However, when she was approached again at Thanksgiving about the same kids, she couldn't say no, and she has had them with her ever since.

Heeney describes the most challenging part of the foster care process as trying to juggle her work responsibilities with very suddenly having young children placed in her care. Foster parents are not generally given the leave time that birth, or even adoptive, parents are.



Photo by Sam Falk

AHS librarian Jaclyn Heeney has been navigating the foster care system.

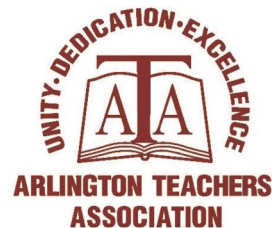
"There's lots of ways people have families," Heeney states, "I just don't understand, why it is in our society in general that the value is given to the birth mother." Nevertheless, she has persevered, being fortunate to be able to use sick days to take most of December off when it was difficult to find daycare on short notice. Although it hasn't been easy, she says, "The kids are great. They're happy, and at the end of the day, that's why you do it."

Heeney encourages others to become foster parents. She credits AHS faculty members who have been through the foster parent system with mentoring her, and wants to pay it forward. There are many resources available for those who want to learn more, such as the NYS Office of Family Services website at <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/fostercare/requirements.php>, and even Facebook groups where foster parents share their experiences.

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# Arlington Teachers' Association Night at The Renegades!



**Hudson Valley Renegades vs. Aberdeen IronBirds**  
**Heritage Financial Park**  
**Thursday, August 24, 2023 @ 7:05 p.m.**  
*First 1000 fans receive a Renegades soccer scarf!*

The Arlington Teachers' Association has reserved the Right Field Riviera area at Heritage Financial Park. *The picnic area opens for our members prior to the game at 6:00.*

We will enjoy an all-you-can-eat grill for two hours. The menu includes hamburgers, hotdogs, macaroni and cheese, salad, cookies, and soft drinks.

*Only \$25 for adults and \$15 for children (under three years old are admitted free)!*

The price includes a ticket to the game, exclusive access to the right field picnic facility, and bracelets for all kids to have access to the HFCU Fun Zone.

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**The Arlington Teachers' Association at Dutchess Stadium**  
**Thursday, August 24, 2023**

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.<sup>00</sup> each

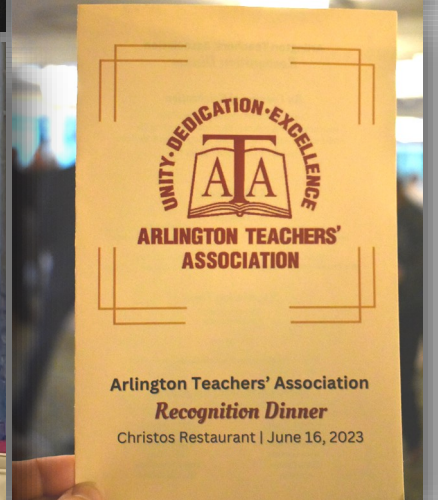
Number of Children Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.<sup>00</sup> each

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to The Arlington Teachers' Association and send to the ATA Office by June 23.*

# Retirees Say Goodbye

The ATA's annual recognition dinner was held on Friday, June 16, at Christos in Poughkeepsie. This year's retirees and tenure recipients were honored with heartfelt speeches, dinner, and dancing. Many more photos of the event can be found at [www.arlingtonteachers.com](http://www.arlingtonteachers.com).



All photos by Lara Ivchenko



## 2022 — 2023 ATA Officers

**President**

Bob Maier

**Elementary Vice President**

Nicolle McMorris

**Secondary Vice President**

Greg Nieman

**Vice President For Membership**

Steve Hertzog

**Treasurer**

Dave Cordella

**Chief Negotiator**

Robert McHugh

**PR Committee Chair**

Kristine Jackson

**Community Action Chairs**

Brendan Lawlor

Bill Mueller

**Welfare Trust Chair**

Ron Higgins

**Communications Chair**

Sam Falk

**Senior Building Representatives**

ASM — A'Rehema Leach

BES — Christie Boydston

Noxon— Lynette Battle

VFES— Gwen Moschetto

OPS — Christene Way

Traver — Diana Judge

JDWR—Barbara Mackey

TIS — Heather Blatz

LMS — Chris Greco

UVMS — Jim DeBonis

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Theresa Daleo-Stock

# 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](mailto: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

This summer, Art teacher Sean Bayless is leading several online AP Summer Institutes for teachers of AP Art History. The institutes are hosted by Bellevue School District in Seattle, Washington; University of Texas at Austin; and Marymount Manhattan College in NY. Bayless is also participating in the Upstate Art Weekend with his paintings on exhibit as part of the "Down To Earth" project at Lex Arts and Science, in Lexington, NY, from July 21-24.

School psychologist Mary Beth Neils recently published a book titled *A New Reflection: Creating Your Best Self*. In addition, Neils ran a half marathon and raffled off gift baskets in June to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

In May librarian Lucy Miller was interviewed by Spectrum News about school libraries and diverse reading. The article and



Photo courtesy of John Filor

### Arlington High School

After many years of sporting long tresses, social studies teacher John Filor recently got a haircut and donated his hair to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that provides custom-made hair prosthetics to children in need.

video can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y7sw2hbr>

### Arlington P.E.

The schools in the Arlington CSD have been supporting the American Heart Association's Mission of teaching kids the importance of living long health lives through activity, avoiding all tobacco products and drinking water. They have also learned about Hands Only CPR and the signs of stroke. Collectively the elementary physical education teachers have raised \$924,950.06 in all the years they have participated. This year they have raised a total of \$64,080.05 for all eight

schools that participated in the Kids Heart Challenge for the 2022-2023 school year.

### LaGrange Middle

Under the direction of FACS Teacher Jaime Lolke-ma, LMS hosted a Career Day on May 18. Seventh and 8th graders were able to explore 28 different careers during three sessions. Highlights included an animal agent, an agricultural educator, chefs, National Guard members, an applied mathematician, an asset recovery agent, and a cybersecurity engineer.

French teacher Kerri Simeone (also at AHS) attended a conference in Lake Placid on June 5 where she

See Great on page 7

# Third Grade Comes Full Circle

The third grade team at Vail Farm Elementary was happy to welcome Emma Doerrier this year, but most excited about the addition was Steve Kubicek. Why? Doerrier had been a third grader in Kubicek's class at LaGrange Elementary in 2000-2001, and now they're teaching together.

Notable things that happened when Doerrier was in Kubicek's 3rd grade class were that he became a U.S. citizen, they read lots of Roald Dahl books, and she learned to type on a Quickpad digital typewriter.

When asked if teaching with his former student makes him feel old, Kubicek said, "No, I feel that I've

come full circle. It's always fun running into former students, but having a chance to work with one is great. I'm truly thankful for having a chance to work with Emma!"

Next year, Doerrier is off to embark on her next adventure in education. She will be teaching Special Ed in Doha, Qatar. She is extremely grateful for her time at Arlington and the wonderful teachers, like Kubicek, that she learned from and had the opportunity to work with.

**Emma Doerrier (left) taught 3rd grade at Vail Farm this year alongside her 3rd grade teacher, Steve Kubicek (right).**



Photo courtesy of Emma Doerrier

## Congratulations To the 2023 ATA Retirees!

**Patty Bauerlein - LMS**

**Dianne Blazek - OPS**

**Brett Booth - UVMS**

**Scott Carruthers - JDWR/TRP**

**Hildegard Cioffi - JDWR**

**Dale Corzine - AHS**

**Jean Cwik - LMS**

**Jeff Dezago - AHS**

**Kathy Falcone - UVMS**

**Christina Hopper - LMS**

**Mary Jo Kraus - UVMS**

**Scott Kuster - AHS**

**Gail Lynch - UVMS**

**Lori Mandy - VF**

**Mariann Markard - UVMS**

**Lucille Ogden - AHS**

**Barbara Roberts-Kurdziel - JDWR**

**Craig Sanborn - AHS**

**Peter Sevigny - LMS**

**Michael Tucci - UVMS**

## ATA Members Do Great Things

*Continued from page 6*  
met and collaborated with World Language Teachers from Northern New York. The conference was generously supported by the Adirondack Foreign Language Enhancement Fund at Adirondack Foundation. The conference was led by Comprehensible Input Guru, Mike Peto. In this workshop, Peto showed teachers how to put their students' lives in the center of their classroom and build class conversations from student ideas. He showed teach-

ers how to take the stress out of planning and create the enjoyment of teaching as teachers focus on connections built with their students. Someone enjoyed a full day of demonstrations of key activities and received a copy of Peto's book *The Two Conversation Classroom* plus a full year subscription to the CI Master Class, which has videos of demonstrations done in workshops, essays on how to use CI effectively without being a "Teacher Performer", and class-

ready materials for World Language Teachers.

### Overlook Primary

This past May, social worker Laura Bagnarol (also at ASM and VF) took a two-day self-defense instructor certification course through Defend University. Bagnarol runs youth empowerment programs through her business Be Big Be Brave LLC and plans to add a women and girls' self-defense class to her list of programs.

# Dates to Remember



## JUNE

22nd—Last Day of Classes (Half Day), All Elementary and Middle Schools

23rd—Last Day of School

24th—High School Graduation, Heritage Financial Park, 10 a.m.

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



## JULY

11th—Board of Education Reorganization Meeting, 5 p.m., CAO

## AUGUST

24th—ATA Night at the Renegades, 6 p.m., Heritage Financial Park

## 2023-2024 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SCHEDULE



September 19

November 28

January 16

March 19

May 14

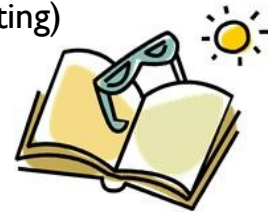
October 17

December (no meeting)

February 27

April 16

June 18



# Announcements

**Thank you to the ATA members who helped with the landscaping at the ATA Office this year!**

*Jenna Filor - AHS John Filor - AHS  
Eleni Anemelos - AHS Steve Ciancio - OPS*

**Special thanks to Nancy Thomas (OPS) for coordinating the effort.**

Anyone interested in learning more about National Board Certification should reach out to Stefanie Rice or Colleen Napora at AHS.

### Summer Hours

*The ATA officers are still there for members over the summer. While the office will not be physically open, President Bob Maier checks the ATA's email and voicemail a few times a week in July and August. Messages can be left at 845-454-7002 or [ata4547002@aol.com](mailto:ata4547002@aol.com).*

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