



THE EDUCATOR

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Do You Know What's On Your Ballot?

In this presidential election year you probably don't need convincing to get out to the polls. And, you have probably seen enough in the press to make up your mind as to who your choice for president is, but do you know what else will be on your ballot?

On the next page of this newsletter you will find endorsements from NYSUT. The candidates listed are those that are the most likely to support the needs of educators and union members like us. But, what about the back of the ballot? Not only is there a state-wide equal rights proposition, but many towns and villages have their own proposi-

tions to vote for. In Beekman, Clinton, Gardiner, New Paltz, North East, Poughkeepsie, Union Vale, and Millbrook (to name a few) voters get to decide how much to fund their libraries. In Beekman, there is a

On these local matters, every vote makes a difference. Do some research before you head out to cast yours.

question as to whether to abolish the elected position of highway superintendent and to create a department of public works.

On these local matters, every vote makes a difference. Do some research before you head out to cast yours. Helpful resources in-

clude your county board of elections (Dutchess's is at www.elections.dutchessny.gov/) or Vote411 (www.vote411.org/ballot). There is a lot of biased information out there, so make sure that you are thorough in gathering information to help inform your vote.

On November 5 (or before then—take advantage of early voting!) exercise your right to help choose not only those who will support legislation to represent and protect you and those you care about, but to help protect equal rights, and even to support your local library.

-Sam Falk, editor



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



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

Political Action Update: Elections

Trivia Challenge

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

What year was early voting first allowed in NY?

Last month's winner was **Kim Nolan** from BES. She correctly identified **1926** as the year the first Arlington High School graduation was held. She will be the proud owner of ATA gear. Answer this month's question and you could win ATA gear too!

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to sfalk@acsdny.org by November 8. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

Each year NYSUT endorses candidates for the November elections. The endorsements, which are non-partisan, are based on the candidates' voting records and stated positions on educational and labor issues. Below are the local endorsements.

Please remember to vote on November 5!

U.S. PresidentKamala Harris

U.S. Vice President.....Tim Walz

U.S. Senate.....Kirsten Gillibrand

U.S. House of Representatives

District 17.....Mondaire Jones

District 18.....Pat Ryan

District 19.....Josh Riley

NY State Assembly

District 103.....Sarahana Shrestha

District 104.....Jonathan Jacobson

District 105.....No Endorsement

District 106.....Didi Barrett

NY State Senate

District 39.....Yvette Valdez Smith

District 40.....Peter Harckham

District 41.....Michelle Hinchey

District 42.....James Skoufis

Need information about where to vote, or what districts you're in?


Visit <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>



PROPOSAL 1
THE NEW YORK EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT
IS ON THE NOV. 5 BALLOT




On
Nov. 5
VOTE YES
 on Proposal 1
 New York Equal Rights
 Amendment!




FLIP YOUR BALLOT!

Proposal 1, the New York Equal Rights Amendment, will appear on the **BACK** of your ballot!




What is Proposal 1?

- ✓ Previously called the New York Equal Rights Amendment
- ✓ Amends the New York state Constitution
- ✓ Prohibits discrimination – gender, age, ethnicity, pregnancy, disability or sexual orientation
- ✓ Safeguards reproductive freedoms in New York state

Learn more at nysut.cc/ERA



Welfare Trust Benefits You

Did you know that you can submit Welfare Trust claims through email?



You have until Dec.30 to submit claims from Oct. 2023 through Sept. 2024.

Welfare Trust Basics

Up-to-date information about Welfare Trust benefits, including printable forms, is always available at arlingtonteachers.com

Benefits At-A-Glance:

As a reminder, the Welfare Trust is part of members' contracted benefits and does not cost active members anything to be enrolled (or to enroll dependents).

Your benefits include:

- Yearly vision reimbursement of \$375 per family
- Yearly personal health reimbursement of \$425 per family
- Yearly dental coverage at a maximum of \$3,000 per family member. Dental reimbursements are determined by dental codes set by the American Dental Association. If you have questions about how much a given procedure will cost, you can call the ATA Office for information.
- Hearing Aid reimbursement of \$500 per family available every 36 months

The plan years for Vision and Personal Health run from October 1 – September 30. The Preferred Group allows a 3-month grace period to submit claims from the previous year (so you have until Dec.30 to submit claims from Oct. 2023 through Sept 2024).

The Dental plan year runs on a calendar year from January through December.

Making Claims:

The Preferred Group has let us know that they are happy to receive claims digitally, via email at claims@tpgplans.com (simply attach scanned copies of your form and receipts) or via the PG Blue Portal at mytpgplan.com. Detailed instructions for submission via email are available from the ATA Office if you need them.

Please note that claims sent via US Mail should be mailed to the Albany address on each form (*Arlington Teachers' Association c/o The Preferred Group, PO Box 15136, Albany, NY 12212-5136*). Be sure to make and keep a copy of any claims you submit.

Important Details:

When a dependent child reaches the age of 19 and is a full-time student, you must submit a *Dependent Student Form*, and resubmit the form every year the dependent is a student. As long as a dependent child is a student, they are eligible for benefits until the end of the year in which they turn 25 years old.

If you have a change of address, name change, or change in dependents (including spouse) please be sure to download a *Welfare Trust Enrollment Form* from the website and submit your change. You can send the form inter-office to the ATA Office or email ata4547002@aol.com



The Arlington Teachers' Association's Annual Morning Movie

to benefit the Arlington Education Foundation

Come see the Disney/Pixar classic, *Toy Story*, on the big screen!
(Rated G)

Sunday, December 8, 2024
Doors open at 9:30 AM
Show starts at 10 AM sharp
Hyde Park Roosevelt Theater
4060 Albany Post Rd. Hyde Park

Tickets are \$7 each
Venmo: @ata4547002 (it will come up as Dave Cordella 1452)
include your last name, number of tickets, and school in the: *what's this for?* section
OR send a check or money order to:
ATA C/O Kristine Jackson 46 Davis Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 OR through interoffice mail
Please include your last name, number of tickets, and school in the memo
Example: Smith/4/OPS
No physical tickets will be issued, but we will have a record with your information at the door.
NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR

You don't want to miss out on the raffle prizes!!

Questions can be directed to Kristine Jackson: kjackson@acsdny.org



Sponsored by:
Arlington Parent Teacher Association
Arlington Teachers' Association



2024 — 2025 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

Communications Chair

Sam Falk

Senior Building Representatives

ASM — A'Rehema Leach

BES — Christie Boydston

Noxon— Lynette Battle

VFES— Alison Durkin

OPS — Christene Way

Traver — Diana Judge

JDWR—Barbara Mackey

TIS — Heather Blatz

LMS — Bill Mueller

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. 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.

Local Government

Several ATA members are running for local offices this year.

- In Millbrook, AHS social studies teacher Julia Bucklin is running on the Democratic ticket for the village board. In that same race LMS technology teacher Elizabeth Molella Socci is running on the Republican ticket.
- In Pleasant Valley, AHS technology teacher Scott Cookinham is running for town board on the Republican and Conservative tickets.

Scan here if you have info to share for next month's newsletter!



Perfect Book Pairings!

I am so excited to introduce *Shook's Books With Julie Shook!* You'll get recommendations for perfectly on-level books to pair with each issue. The best part? They're written by our friend Julie Shook—a fantastic second-grade teacher and a passionate advocate for kids' books. (Just ask her about the new *Reading Rainbow* documentary!)

Happy reading!
Blair Rainsford, Editor

Here's how to get started:

1. Go to our website at sn2.scholastic.com. (If you haven't registered yet, now's the time to do it! Your access code is **CJWDDLUVU**.)
2. Click on an issue, then navigate to "Lesson Plan for This Issue" in the Resources tab.
3. Look for "Shook's Books!" Bonus: if you download the lesson plan PDF, you'll see this helpful guy:
4. Visit your local library and grab your books! Tell 'em *Scholastic News* sent you.

Julie Shook

Shook's Books

Second grade teachers nationwide who subscribe to *Scholastic News* will get to enjoy monthly book pairings called "Shook's Books" courtesy of ASM second grade teacher Julie Shook. Shook, a long-time fan of *Scholastic News*, contacted the magazine last December looking for some preprints. She describes, "Unfortunately that wasn't possible, but I was put in touch with the editors and creators of the magazine. They asked to virtually join a *Scholastic News* lesson in my classroom, which I call "Non-Fiction Friday", to see how I incorporated the magazine and online features into my reading workshop. When we debriefed after the lesson I talked about how many of my students often lack background knowledge and how pairing a related read-aloud text has helped to build their background knowledge. The folks at *Scholastic News* thought that other teachers could use my paired texts as a resource & "Shook's Books" was born. I have signed a contract and am a paid freelance contributor for the magazine."

Simeone Saves Student

On Friday, September 27, world language teacher Kerri Simeone (AHS and LMS) noticed a student choking in the hallway at LMS. She immediately responded and performed abdominal thrusts, which saved the student's life.

Simeone credits her knowledge of CPR and first aid training for her quick response. She says, "I got my training through adult education in my home district. This is the second time that I've had to use my CPR, First Aid, and AED training in two years. In my family, I'm the one that doesn't like blood and all those situations, but for some reason I felt a calling to do this and wouldn't change a thing. My brother is a firefighter and medic who gives me great ways to turn a scary moment into a positive and humbling experience. In class, I assign student jobs. One of the

jobs is for someone to be the phone person. This person would call the nurse, security, etc. if I am helping a person and am unable to contact the nurse for more professional help. I encourage my students to take the babysitter CPR course. It's not necessary to be a babysitter, but the training is different for the given age and may save their little brother or sister's life."

CPR and first aid certification courses are often available through Arlington Continuing Education. Their next course takes place on November 19. Details can be found in the Fall course catalog at www.arlingtonschools.org/Domain/79, The American Heart Association also offers courses and has a website at cpr.heart.org/en/ to find those that are locally available.



Photo by Sam Falk

AHS and LMS world language teacher Kerri Simeone recently saved the life of a student who was choking.

ATA Committee Round-Up: Sunshine

This month we will begin a new feature that highlights the work of ATA committees.

The ATA's Sunshine Committee is chaired by AHS reading teacher Eleni Anemelos. According to Anemelos, "The purpose of the Sunshine Committee is to promote a positive school culture where ATA members feel valued, cherished, and connected through recognition and support. The Sunshine Committee extends support to our colleagues during long-term illnesses (being out of work for two weeks or more) and bereavements. Another purpose is to celebrate any personal and professional milestones of our ATA members. These milestones can be a birth, marriage, departure from the district, or maternity leave. The

ATA supports our members by sending fruit baskets, flowers, gift certificates, stationary cards, as well as making donations to different charities. Handwritten cards are sent to ATA members for any personal

"Overall, the Sunshine Committee's purpose is to cultivate a vibrant sense of community during both celebratory and challenging times."

-Committee Chair Eleni Anemelos

and professional milestones. Overall, the Sunshine Committee's purpose is to cultivate a vibrant sense of community during both celebratory and challenging times."

As the committee chair, Anemelos sends updated documents to the committee members in each building ensuring they have all necessary

forms and stationary. She maintains copies of all requests, collects and approves donation and payment authorization forms, and subsequently submits those forms to the ATA treasurer for processing.

In each building, committee members are responsible for checking in with their colleagues to ensure they feel connected and supported. They also place orders, fill out donation and payment authorization forms, and write cards. Some committee members have also taken on the task of delivering fruit baskets and/or flowers to their colleagues.

Questions about Sunshine Committee donations can be directed to Anemelos at eanemelos@acsdny.org.

Dates to Remember



NOVEMBER

5th—*Election Day*

Superintendent's Conference Day

11th—No School—Veterans' Day

12th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., NOX

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

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

27-29th—No School—Thanksgiving



DECEMBER

5th—ATA Children's Holiday Party, 5 - 7 p.m., ASM (snow date 12/6)

8th—ATA Movie Morning, 9:15 a.m., Hyde Park Roosevelt Cinemas

9-12th—Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences (dates vary by school)

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

23-31st—No School—Winter Recess



Announcements

Volunteers Needed!

Help is appreciated for our annual Movie Morning on Sunday, December 8 at Hyde Park Roosevelt Cinemas. We are looking for volunteers to set up, sell raffle tickets, greet guests, and to clean up. 9 a.m. to noon. All proceeds go to benefit the Arlington Education Foundation. If you know of a local business that would like to donate, please let us know! Contact Kristine Jackson at LMS if you can help. Thank you!

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