

**We stand united...
we stand for
education.**

Niagara Wheatfield
Teachers' Association

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
[WWW.NWTA-UNION.
ORG](http://WWW.NWTA-UNION.ORG)

We are pleased that our history dates back to 1971 when The New York State Teachers Association certified our union. Today we are proudly affiliated with The New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and The American Federation of Teachers (AFT). We are also honored to be a part of The American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO).

What's good on the bookshelves

My sister gave me a copy of the first in the series, *The Women's Murder Club*, **First to Die**, by James Patterson. What a thrill ride from the opening few pages! Patterson weaves the tale of a "club" of powerful women who set out to find a serial killer who is murdering newlyweds. I couldn't put it down until the twisted end.

Darla Bubar, Editor

Duma Key by Stephen King

This is, in my opinion, the best King has done since his accident. While his injuries may still be stimulating some of the ideas, this is what real book reviewers call a great ride.



This story has excellent development of characters and mood, with enough of the creepy, scary, and spooky to remind us of some his great earlier works. A great build up to a fantastic "other world" as well as emotional conclusion.

Dry Ice by Stephen White

White has written a neat psychological thriller with many twists. A central question develops; do we bring on our worst nightmares through our own actions or inactions?

This will definitely hold your attention. For the timid, it is just low key creepy.

Charles Donner, ETMS

"It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently." -Warren Buffet

The Agenda

Niagara Wheatfield Teachers' Association

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Darla Bubar, Editor*

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Meet the candidates night held

On May 7, 2008, the Board of Education sponsored a Meet the Candidates Night. Six candidates are running for three open seats in the upcoming May 20th school board election. Incumbents Michele Hoerner and Donald Moyer, Jr. are seeking re-election. The third seat currently held by Denny Klidonas will be open as he is not running for re-election.

Other candidates on the ballot are Russell Brumby and William Conrad, who have run unsuccessfully for seats in the past; as well as newcomers, Henry Foote, and Richard Crossley.

All six candidates were asked to make both opening and closing remarks as well as answer five questions posed by Paul Sikora.

Each of the candidates stressed the idea of teamwork, communication, and putting children first. All are long-time residents of the district.

Incumbents Hoerner and Moyer bring their current board of education experience, while Brumby and Foote have educational backgrounds. Brumby is a retired vocational teacher and Foote currently teaches at St. John Lutheran.

Crossley is a 10-year board member of the NWAA and currently serves as its VP. Conrad is employed in construction management.

The top three vote-getters will win the three board seats. If you are a district resident, we strongly encourage you to get out and vote **YES** for education.



**The
Agenda
gets a
new
look!**

*Let me
know what
you think...
if you love
it, hate it,
or have any
comments,
please feel
free to
email me .*

**This issue is
FULL of
valuable
information!**

**Check it out
and
ENJOY!**

Help support women fighting breast cancer

Submitted by Peggy Palmer, SHS

From a nurse... I'll never forget the look in my patients' eyes when I had to tell them they had to go home with the drains, new exercises and no breast. I remember begging the Doctors to keep these women in the hospital longer, only to hear that they would, but their hands were tied by the insurance companies.

So there I sat with my patients, giving them the instructions they needed to take care of themselves, knowing full well they didn't grasp half of what I was saying, because the glazed, hopeless, frightened look spoke louder than the quiet 'Thank You' they muttered. A mastectomy is when a woman's breast is removed in order to remove cancerous breast cells/tissue. If you know anyone who has had a Mastectomy, you may know that there is a lot of discomfort and pain afterwards. Insurance companies are trying to make mastectomies an outpatient procedure. Let's give women the chance to recover properly in the hospital for 2 days after surgery.

It takes 2 seconds to do this and is very important. Please take the time and do it! Please send this to everyone in your

address book. If there was ever a time when our voices and choices should be heard, this is one of those times. If you're receiving this, it's because I think you will take the 30 seconds to vote on this issue and send it on to others you know who will do the same. There's a bill called the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act which will require insurance companies to cover a minimum 48-hour hospital stay for patients undergoing a mastectomy. It's about eliminating the 'drive-through' Mastectomy where women are forced to go home just a few hours after surgery, against the wishes of their doctor, still groggy from anesthesia and sometimes with drainage tubes still attached. Lifetime Television has put this bill on their Web page with a petition drive to show support. Last year over half the House signed on. PLEASE!! Sign the petition by clicking on the web site below. You need not give more than your name, state, and zip code. (<http://www.lifetimetv.com/breastcancer/petition/signpetition.php>)

This takes about 2 seconds. PLEASE PASS THIS ON to your friends and family, and on behalf of all women, THANKS.



Take care of your self... take care of your health—and support those fighting breast cancer!

Mark your calendar: Sunday, October 5, 2008 "Making Strides" walk!

See Liz Young and Peggy Palmer for more information.



Sick Bank seeks donation of days

The NWT A Sick Bank is looking for donations of Sick Days from its members.

If you have accumulated more than 200 days consider donating days in excess of 200 to the Sick Bank. Any member of the Sick Bank who has contributed days in excess of his or her personal total of 200 days may have all or part of the excess returned upon retirement, if the days contributed will help that teacher reach or approach the 200 day limit for buy back purposes.

In other words, donating excess days to the Sick Bank could mean more money in your pocket.

Days in excess of 200 will be lost if you do not donate them. You may not begin the school year with more than 200 days.

If you are thinking of retiring within the next three years you should not donate any days to Sick Bank. You may receive a bonus at retirement if you use five or less days. Check out the contract.

If you are leaving the district please consider donating all of the days you have left. Term substitutes are in a position to donate. Any member who is laid off and contributes their remaining accumulated days to the Sick Bank will have these days returned if he or she is reinstated. Otherwise sick days are lost when you are laid off.

Please contact Karl Heilemann, NWT A Sick Bank Chairman, if you would like to donate days. (X5180, kheilemann@nwcsd.org)



On June 5, 2008 TWO important events will take place...

- The NYSUT Leadership Dinner will be held at Samuel's Grande Manor
- The Corporate Challenge will take place in Delaware Park

*Please mark your calendars!



Please help keep our Sick Bank healthy!



Call Maureen Mack with any questions about the recent BC/BS meetings!



FROM OUR TREASURER

A standard expense form was approved at our last BOD. The form must be submitted with all receipts and is available on our website.

BC/BS Open Enrollment Period

The district open enrollment period for health insurance is May 15, 2008 through June 16, 2008 for the school year beginning July 1, 2008. TWO informational meetings were held on SATURDAY, May 10, 2008 for those teachers or retirees wishing to find more information about the Traditional and Point of Service plans. Meeting #1 Saturday, May 10, 2008 @ 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM at the High School Adult Learning Center is targeted at those CURRENT employees interested in changing coverage. This meeting focused on the differences between the Traditional Blue plan verses the POS (Point of Service) plans. The biggest difference presented was in the "in" network coverage as compared with "out of" network coverage. Teachers participat-

ing in the POS plans are reimbursed monetarily by the district as an incentive. Meeting #2 Saturday, May 10, 2008 @ 11:00 AM - Noon at the High School Adult Learning Center is targeted at all employees AND retirees at or near age 65, to explore and explain a more affordable Senior coverage, which will be complimentary to Medicare coverage for those 65 years of age or otherwise eligible to receive Medicare coverage. This meeting focused on the new PPO plan offered to those retirees or spouses who are 65 or older and also receive Medicare A and B. This plan works in conjunction with Medicare and supercedes Medicare as the primary insurance. A spokesperson from BC/BS gave both presentations and entertained questions.

From where I stand... words of wisdom



My mom is tough. She was a nurse for 36 years. She always told us how things were growing up—didn't sugar coat anything. Armed us with the facts. She never stopped working even after having four children. She stayed on as a consultant after retirement because of her passion for the job. She admits of course, that being a stay-at-home mom isn't something she was cut out to do. Although I look more like my dad and followed in his profession, in many ways, I am my mother's daughter. I have relied upon her advice for inspi-

ration and modeled my work ethic after hers.

My mom was with me for the births of both of my children, stayed by my bedside when the doctors told me and my husband that I had cancer, been my kids' surrogate parent during my husband's many deployments, held me up when I told her my son had cancer, too. She has been a support to me that I could not have survived without at times.

I talk with my mom often—about work and about life in general. Especially this time of year when the two of us are busy in the grape vineyards! After all these years, she I have come to be friends. We

have shared many laughs and even a few tears. It is a wonder she put up with me sometimes during those crazy, rebellious teenage years! Thankfully, she stood by me through thick and thin. And fortunately, I still have her to rely on. She has always encouraged me and expected me to give 110%. I thank her for that. I could certainly never have accomplished all that I am without her. As we celebrate Mother's Day this year—I celebrate my mother. She never taught in the classroom, but she taught me many life lessons. I thank her for all the words of wisdom she has given me.

I love you, Mom!



Happy Mothers Day Sunday, May 11th

As we celebrate Mother's Day this year—I celebrate my mother and thank her for all the words of wisdom she has given me!

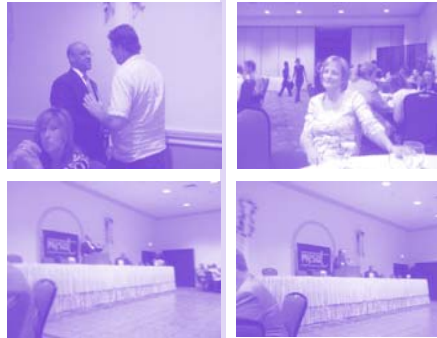


Statewide School Budget Vote May 20, 2008 Vote **YES** for education!



Local legislative cocktail party held

On April 24, 2008, NYSUT and the local presidents sponsored a Legislative Cocktail Reception at Antonio's in Niagara Falls. It was an excellent opportunity to hear them speak about current and upcoming political trends. VOTE/COPE recognition was also given to locals who were top contributors. NWSA finished in the top ten winning an Abel Blattman award.



Above from top left Kevin meets with Antoine Thompson, Lee looks on during the VOTE/COPE recognition, Antoine Thompson speaks of the importance of education, Alan Lubin, NYSUT VP, addresses the audience about change.

CONGRATULATIONS

to

Kathleen Banzhaf

Edward Town Middle School Building Rep
Who is the recipient of this year's
NYSUT Leadership Award.

She will be honored on June 5, 2008 at Samuel's Grande Manor
Ticket information to follow!

Ninth and final Marissa Saulino Walk announced

Dear NWCSO Family,
On Saturday, June 21, 2008 at 9:45, Colonial Village will host the ninth and final walk (1.5 mile walk) in memory of our former student, Marisa Saulino, who lost her battle with cancer. This would have been the year that Marisa would

have graduated from our high school. Her brother Nicholas and Danielle Saulino graduated from NWCSO. This final year is free, and we hope to have a large turnout to show the Saulino family how much we care about our students and their

families. We will have granted 17 (\$1,000) scholarships throughout the years. Hope to see you there!

L. Mascaro,
C. Broughton

“Super Search” Update

At the Board of Education meeting on April 23, 2008, the associates of Hazard, Young and Attea presented the findings of the Leadership Profile Assessment and also reported

that they are actively seeking a new candidate. The firm and Board of Education hope to have a new superintendent in place by June 30, 2008!

According to HYA, copies of the report are now available on the district's website along with the qualifications the Board has set forth in its search.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

The team is going right back to the table because we anticipate a long drawn-out battle for a long-term agreement.

Look for more info on our website!



Questions about certification?

Visit:
<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert>

Falcon PRIDE Award winners cont'd

Raglow-Defranco, Mary Brayley, Megan Gonyea, Megan Walck, Mia McKie, Nancy Siewell, Nate Schmidt, Nicole Contrino, Pamela Mordick, Paul Garabedian, Oaul Smith, Philip Fending, Rachel Pearson, Renee Carr, Samantha De-Luke, Sarah Reinhold, Shawn Haseley, Stephen Chong, Stephen Kudiba, Taylor Chew, Tom Kotrys, Victoria Ayers, Yasmeen Shaaf, Sara Clark, Valerie Siegmann

Edward Town Middle School

Todd Fiel, Alana Knaebe, Alexis Garabedian, Alissa Portik, Allsion Rung, Allyson Richards, Anna Schultz, Anthony Cappuccilli, Anthony Stott, Anthony Tardibuono, Ashley Ward, Bridgette Ehrmann, Cody Triechler, Cory Evans, Danielle Kendall, Dino Lostracco, Elizabeth Sharpe, Emilt Thaler, Emily Belote, Ethan White, Isaiah Brown, Jack Buddenhagen, John O'Rourke, Jordan Magil, Joseph Corio, Josh Edwards, Josh Miller, Kaitlyn Mzierski, Kali Ryan, Kalie Lazarou, Katie DiMatteo, Kayla Marott, Kaleigh McMonagle, Kirsten Scherrer, Kristina Clendenning, Kyle Kline, Leanne Wills, Marco Notaro, Maria Malvestuto, Marissa Watroba, Megan Breier,

Nichole Golias, Nick McCCasey, Nina Frye, Rachel Gromlovits, Raman Maur, Ryan Kuhn, Samantha Roszel, Sarah Collins, Sarah Dacey, Tiffanie Tisack, Tom Modica-Amore, Amanda Mrzygut

Tuscarora

Jon Bisell, Bria Fauzey, Jeremy Ditto, Cassandra Bissell, Kaylea Napoleon, Kaylin MtPleasant, Kyle Judware, Madelyn Gansworth, Megan Farnham, Philip Brayley, Quinna Hamby, Samantha MtPleasant, Wile Chapman

West Street

Abbey Weber, Alana Svennson, Alicen Ambrosia, Angelo Vilardo, Anna Krehan, Cameron King, Colton Pankiewicz, Hannah Evert, Jacqueline Mazzaea, Jake Yund, Jenna Miller, Juliette Roma, Justin Adams, Karly Torppey, Kathryn Lewis, Kelsey Kendzia, Kyle Poulos, Lily Newell, Lovepreet Singh, Madeline Hardy, Madison King, Melissa Ziegler, Sara Rinehart, Chace Woods, Matthew Vekich, Cayla Zaharkin, Tiffany Tycz

A special thank you to our Public Relations Team and those teachers who nominated students!

The lighter side



N-W Flex Spending Enrollment Schedule

Monday, 5/19:
NW High School
7:45 am - 3:00 pm

NW Buildings & Grounds/
Transportation:
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Tuesday, 5/20:
NW West Street
8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Colonial Village
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Wednesday, 5/21:
NW Errick Road
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Tuscarora
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Thursday, 5/22:
Edward Town Middle School
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Administration Building
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Wit and wisdom from our president

Kevin Rustowicz

In light of recent events, I find it necessary to speak to the membership in regards to my leadership philosophy. It appears to me that many people feel programs have “turned this district around.” Many administrators have taken credit for their “fast food” approach to educating children in “today’s society.” In a school, people come and go and programs change. This is evident by the revolving door policy of principals in the high school. What does remain constant is the classroom teacher who makes the greatest impact on student success. Using our own personal skills, and understanding of our curriculum and our classroom, along with teaching values and respect, we strive to reach all students. I’ve never felt it necessary to say, “kids

come first.” I believe my actions dictate this. When I chose to run for a full term as the NWTA president, I had to put all teachers in the district first—much like putting kids first in my classroom. I believe in open communication and in the idea that committees are what make a union function. I operate the same way in my personal life. I’d like to leave you with a quote from Lao-Tse that captures my philosophy.

“A leader is best when people barely know he exists. Not so good when people obey and acclaim him, worse when they despise him, ‘Fail to honor people, They fail to honor you’; But of a good leader, who talks little, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, They will say, ‘We did this ourselves.’”

~ *Rusto*

Falcon PRIDE Award winners announced

The Niagara Wheatfield Teachers’ Association is initiating the 1st Annual “Falcon Pride” Award. The NWTA will recognize outstanding students in the Niagara Wheatfield Community and present each of these students with this award. The students receiving this award have consistently exhibited the following characteristics: **P**ride,

Responsibility, **I**ntegrity, **D**etermination, and **E**nthusiasm. A special thanks goes to 11th grader Ashley Hoffman for designing the falcon pride logo.

The Winners are named on the next two pages.



Colonial Village

Allison Hatfield-Wilson, Andrew Olsen, Andrew Tober, Anjelica Beiter, Austin Sauer, Candice Horton, Carly Milleville, Chloe DenHaese, Ciara Hottot, Courtney Day, Dakota Becker, Joseph Rsocetti, Logan Slusser, Lydia Barreto, Madison Klidona, Marlena Taylor, Meaghan Gleason, Megan Seefeldt, Nicholas Barile, Sabrina Jasper, Sahuna Halleen, Summer DenHaese, Tommi-Lynne Piernik, Trinity Tromble, Zoe Giandomenico, Russell Apfel, Samea Jackson, Abigail Cappuccilli, Briana Walker, Larissa Reid, Tyler Halleen

Errick Road

Alex Haake, Amberly Lelito, Callista Zayatz, Caroline Chonka, Calyton Ruland, Conner Henderson, Conner McKean, Elaina Spendio, Elise Kendt, Gabriella Albert, Hailee Cipollina, Haley Mills, James Smith, Jenna Hiscock, Julia Mikolajczak, Kali Yeates, Kimberly Holas, Mackenzie Franks, Madison Kwitchoff, Maria Marinaccio, Marisa Previte, Matthew Mangione, Matthew Zirnheld, Michalla Rood, Nicholas Ranney, Rachel Redanz, Timothy Metzger, Noah Wrazin, Daniel Mikolaczak, Joe Nist, Morgan

Kuhn

Senior High School

Alexandria Weinholz, Adele Tierney, Alec Dube, Alexis Willard, Amy Pokelwaldt, Andrea Keller, Andrew Weinke, Angela Hasteings, Angela Loveland, Ashley Beamish, Ashley Enright, Ashley Hoffman, Ben Paesron, Brandon Clouser, Brittany Mazierski, Bryan Kaiser, Bryan McSawn, Caleb Kitcho, Cameron Cusick, Carly Gruarin, Casey Mathheus, Casey Prohn, Chad Leading Fox, Charlene Fratello, Chelsea Lowman, Chris Gruarin, Christina Collins, Christina Martinez, Christopher Durick, Christopher Hill, CJ Taylor, Dave Nash, David Licht, Dominic Bax, Emily Thlaer, Emmett Henry, Francesca Ognibene, Hannah Ball, Hetal Patel, Jacob Vivian, Jacquelyn Luisi, Jamahl Miller, Jared Hebler, Jasmin Dhanjal, Jeff Kohnke, Jen Hubacher, Jessica Niesser, Jessica Smith, Jessica Stachkowski, Joe Silluzio, Joseph Fortuna, Kailey Walck, Kaitlyn Frye, Kane McClure, Katie Gruarin, Katie Kroening, Kayla Bardley, Kaylee Cirrito, Kelly Gravel, Kelsey Weilgosz, Kim Scherrer, Koreena Livergood, Krista Dean, Kristen Olsen, Laiana Lewis, Laura Horner, Lauren Bunker, Lukas Shumway, Madison Brown, Manmehar Kaur, Mariska