

What is the Census?



NYSUT COUNTS IS OUR UNION'S INITIATIVE TO ENSURE THAT EVERY RESIDENT OF THE STATE IS REPORTED IN THE 2020 CENSUS. THE RESULTS

AFFECT THE ALLOCATION OF \$700 BILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING TO SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, MUNICIPALITIES AND NEEDY FAMILIES.

The U.S. Constitution requires the Congress to count every person living in the United States every 10 years. That means all residents, including noncitizens and children. Why is it important? Information from the Census is used to distribute more than \$700 billion in federal funds for programs such as: Medicaid, Title 1, school lunches, special education and housing assistance and many others. In addition, results will reshape local, state and federal legislative districts. Experts project New York could lose one – possibly two – congressional seats. When? The Census Bureau will begin sending mail to all residents in the middle of March. The first day you can complete the Census online is March 12. In the following weeks, the bureau will send reminders to households that have not responded, and nonresponders may be contacted at home. Several populations are at higher risk of being undercounted: children, non-English speakers, immigrants and those without access to the Internet. Our outreach can help ensure they are counted.

What's at stake for our region? Projections show that the Westchester/Tarrytown region could receive an additional \$807 million in federal funding if the census return rate increased from 85% of households to 95%.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: nysutcounts.org Pledge to complete your Census form! nysutcounts.org/pledge #CountMeIn #NYSUTcounts



NYSUT 2020
COUNTS census

GEARING UP FOR THE 2020 ELECTIONS

By Carene Domato, MVFT President

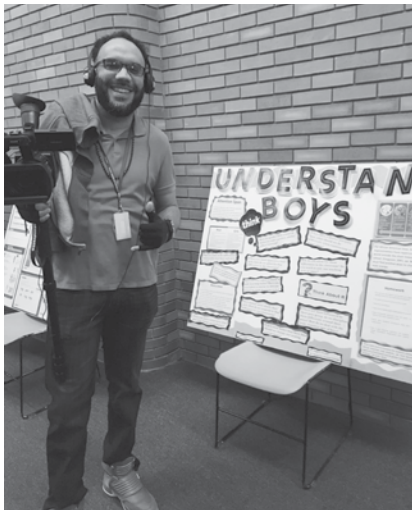


NYSUT Locals from our ED 14/15/16 met at the Tarrytown Regional Office on February 12th to discuss the Presidential candidates and their positions on policy, electability and support of pro-education agendas. We agreed to reconvene after the primaries to put forth an endorsement. Since that meeting, the AFT passed a resolution encouraging locals and state affiliates to support, be actively involved with, or endorse the candidacies of democratic Vice President Joe Biden or Senator Bernie Sanders. This AFT resolution signals to our members and leaders that support for either of these candidates is welcome at this stage of the process before the union makes a national endorsement.

SPOTLIGHT

THE MVFT CELEBRATES PARENT INVOLVEMENT DAY 2020

Schools welcomed parents/guardians, families, community members, and staff to honor and highlight their contributions to support student success. Parents enjoyed student performances, workshops, class visits and many other planned activities. A special thank you is extended to the MVFT PID Committee for all their efforts. The MVFT donated over 450 personalized pens to help support this powerful initiative!



NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK FEBRUARY 3-7, 2020

Thank you to all of our MVCSD Counselors who make a tremendous impact on the lives of our students, staff and parents. You are appreciated!



Lincoln Counselor, Erica Porco

TEACHER MAKES SCIENCE FUN AND EXCITING!

By Thalia Langley

Mrs. Sue Fontecchio, a second grade teacher at Hamilton Elementary School, found a way to motivate her students about science. While planning for a unit on Sun & Energy, Mrs. Fontecchio reached out to an Electrical Engineer graduate student from RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology). They created a hands-on experiment for the students which included a solar panel and DC fan. The students were able to explore the sun's energy. The project was shared with the entire second grade team at the school and it has truly raised an interest in learning more about the sun and the energy it produces.

RTES SALUTES THE FACES OF BLACK HISTORY

By Nicole White-Lee, RTES Teacher

Rebecca Turner School kicked off black history month with daily facts during morning announcements about black leaders. We showed unity and school pride by wearing a personalized shirt displaying our school name. Staff, parents and students were delighted with a performance from Irving Street Representatives: The Faces of Black History (A McDonalds Tribute). *The performers acknowledge the contributions of African Americans to America during the 28 days of Black History Month. This live musical show saluted many well-known celebrities, personalities and history makers in an entertaining and educational format. The four-member cast took the audience on a high energy excursion through African American Culture. A special thank you to Mrs. Jarrett, cohort teacher and her husband for organizing this event. Kudos to our PTA and the following staff members for creating a bulletin board highlighting various contributors of black history: Gabrielle Gilpin, Josephine Kirkland-Hudson, Kristen Diaz, Chelsea Griffin, Tashina Haywood and Charissa Manigault.*



YOGA IN THE CLASSROOM

By Christine Ceglie, Graham School, Teacher

The Pre-K classes at Graham School received a grant for students to have yoga classes once a week. The children learn breathing exercises to build self-regulation skills. It has been a great learning tool for the kids and the staff!



ALL ABOUT ROBOTICS

For the 2019-2020 season, the Mount Vernon Bots Robotics Team set out to answer the question, what if you could build a better world? Where would you begin? The team members at Traphagen came together to explore, innovate, and solve problems. Their innovation project was designed to help combat hunger in the Mount Vernon community. They also built a robot that could help their city alleviate real world challenges. The team participated in a tournament at Robert E. Bell Middle School in Chappaqua, NY on 1/18/20.



Traphagen Teacher, Christine Wright with Robotics Club

MVFT KICKS OFF ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

By Carene Domato, MVFT President

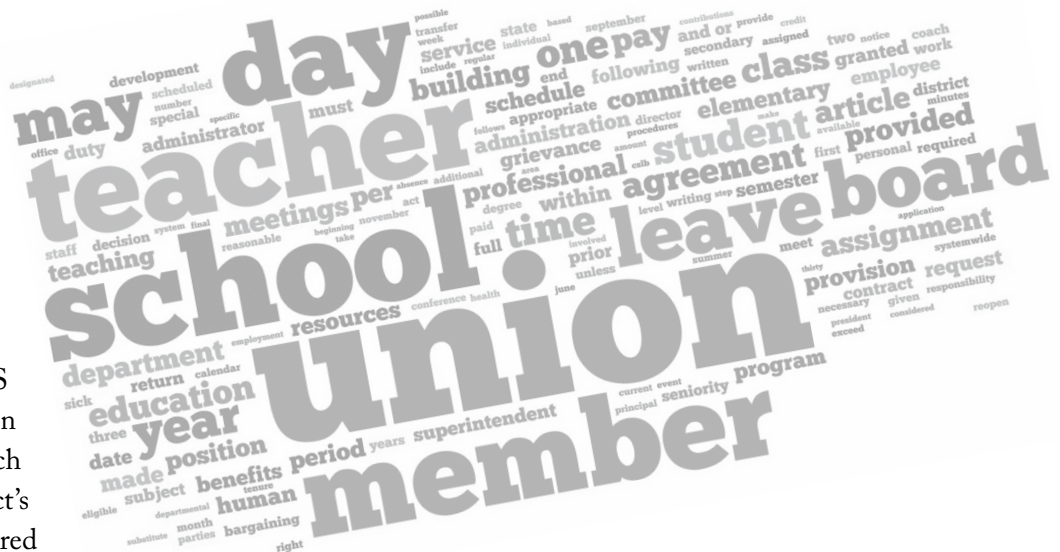
Thanks to the generosity of our members, along with district staff, we are one of the largest contributors in the county to “Feed Westchester Food Pantry”. MVFT Vice President of the High Schools, Karl Nifontoff, will tell you it takes a group effort to make our annual food drive successful each year. His STEAM and Thornton/PVAM students count out flyers and prepare the donation bags. Superintendent Hamilton approves dress down days that help our building representatives collect thousands of dollars in donations. Our delegates then load up their cars with hundreds of pounds of donated cans and drop them off at MVHS where MVFT Food Drive Co-Chair, Mike Malocsay and his auto mechanic students unload and pack up the cans to be transported to the food pantry. The MVFT would like to thank all of our volunteers and contributors. Thank you for being a part of “Feed Westchester’s” mission to end hunger in our community.



DISTRICT OFFERS RETIREMENT INCENTIVE

By Carene Domato, MVFT President

More than 70 of our members attended the Q&A session on February 11th at MVHS hosted by the MVFT leadership. Teachers who have served ten or more years in the district and are eligible to retire without penalty from the NYSTRS had to submit a letter of resignation for purposes of retirement by March 20th if they chose to receive the district’s retirement incentive. One hundred and fifty teachers were eligible for this incentive.



At the time of this writing, those who are eligible for this incentive, must now make sure they are financially and mentally prepared to retire and whether this added incentive is worth it for them to rush that decision.

RETIREE NEWS

TO ALL RETIREES:

Included in this mailing is the proposed constitution for the MVFT Retiree Chapter for your review. Frequently asked questions are included at the end of the document. We will have a vote to ratify this document in April via email. Although the Retiree Chapter has existed for some years, it has lacked a constitution which is a requirement for recognition by NYSUT.

IMPORTANT: If you do not have an email address, or have not shared your email address with the MVFT, you can request a written ballot. Mail your letter of request to: MVFTRC, 22 W. First St. Rm. 303, Mount Vernon, NY 10550



The Scarf initiative was a rousing success! Chaired by Maz Hogan, the committee collected and with the help of the building reps and social workers distributed over 600 scarves to our students.



The Ronald McDonald House Cooking Teams continue to expand their menus with delicious meals prepared with love.

Bulletin Board:

The next general membership meeting for retirees will be after the spring break (third week of April) exact date TBA.

The social committee is organizing a cruise on the Hudson River in May. Details TBA.

The Cooking Committee continues to prepare delicious meals for Ronald McDonald House once or twice a month.

GET WELL

Lauren Wynn (Columbus)
 Nicole De Maio (Lincoln)
 Ornella Alves (Lincoln)
 Kathy Hernandez (Parker)
 Rosa Tirado (Pennington)
 Anthea De Vincentis (Pennington)
 Lori Angi (Pennington)
 Lisa Pizzolla (Rebecca Turner)



WELCOME BACK

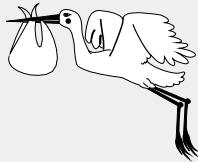
Mary Dempsey (Steam)
 Bernita Washington (Parker)
 Mirka Medina (Parker)
 Karl Nifontoff (Steam)
 Lori Angi (Pennington)
 Francine Bifolco (Rebecca Turner)
 Deysi Cabrera-Lima (Rebecca Turner)

WEDDING BELLS

Stefanie Principio (Steam) name change: Stefanie Annunziata

BIRTHS

Kathleen Lawler (Graham) son
 Lisa Celzo (Williams) granddaughter
 Anna Zelek (Columbus) daughter
 Gloria Montgomery (Graham) grandson
 Barbara Millstein (Holmes) grandson
 Maureen Alleva (Holmes) grandson
 Frederick Kahn (Lincoln) son
 Kerri Hope (Grimes) daughter
 Mekiyah Knox (Grimes) son
 Camille Bisceglia (Graham) twin boys
 Gloria Montgomery (Graham) grandson
 Toriann Kendall (Rebecca Turner) son
 Julia Bonura (Retiree) granddaughter



CONGRATULATIONS

Bianca Ruggiero (Graham) engagement
 Cheryl Ann Wallace (Pennington) Master's Degree
 Jackie Biaggi (retiree) son's wedding



CONDOLENCES

Andrea Gelling (Graham) loss of father-in-law
 Lawanda Goodyear (Rebecca Turner) loss of grandmother
 Tamisha Grey (Williams) loss of mother
 Tammy Dixon (Williams) loss of husband
 Dominick Ciccone (retiree) loss of father
 Marilyn Felder (retiree) loss of brother-in-law
 Lynn Gardini (retiree) loss of husband



To the family of Rosejean Castriota (retiree)
 To the family of Josephine Lombardi (retiree)
 To the Family of Loretta Johnson (retiree)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Carene Domato
President

Jeanne Casino
Vice President, Grievance Chair

Angelique Perez
Treasurer

Anita Amieiro
Secretary

Karl Nifontoff
High School VP

Richard Suozzo
High School VP

Christine Ceglio
PreK-8 VP

Diana O'Sullivan
PreK-8 VP

Charlene Clarke
PreK-8 VP

Keith McCall
PreK-8 VP

Josephine Kirkland-Hudson
Pupil Personnel VP

David Watson, Jr.
Security Chapter Leader

Melvin Campbell
Teaching Assistant Chapter Leader

UNION OFFICE

MVFT Rm. 303
 22 West First St.
 Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Phone: (914) 664-3189
 Fax: (914) 664-0860

Online at: www.mvft.org

BUILDING REPS

Ryan Kirk #1
 Jhanice McDonald #1
 Toba Duggan #2
 Modesta Curzio-Spies #2
 Andrea Hyatt-Copeland #4
 Shawn Harper-Tarrant #4
 Thalia Langley #5
 Marcia Wint #5
 Rebecca Challop #6
 Kathryn Santoro #6
 Tashi Campbell-Tulloch #7
 Stacia Fogg #7
 Janeen Clayton #8
 Nikysha Copeland Bey #8
 Michael Jernegons #9
 Alexis Paupaw-Myrie #9
 Lynne Petrone #10
 Scott Pollard #12
 Annette Coppola #12
 Donald Emerson #13
 Lydia Rose #13
 Nicole White Lee #14
 Charissa Manigault #14
 Tonja Hills #16
 Denisha Hawkins #16
 Nadine Shields Alcalde #17
 Isabel Garcia #17
 Michael Malocsay #18
 David Israel #18
 Eddie Sauls #18
 Jacqueline Simone #18

The Agenda

Editor
 Josephine Kirkland-Hudson

Staff
 Carene Domato
 Karen Molinaro
 Charissa Manigault
 Nicole White
 Karen Wallace
 Barbara DeAngelo

Membership Report	
Active	1120
Leave	29
Retirees	593
Total	1742

The MVFT wants to hear from you!
 Submit a photo and short blurb
 to MVFT Agenda editor, Josephine Kirkland-Hudson at
jkirkland@mtvernoncsd.org