

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

**WELCOME BACK!** I hope you all had the opportunity to enjoy your summer, and most importantly your family and friends.

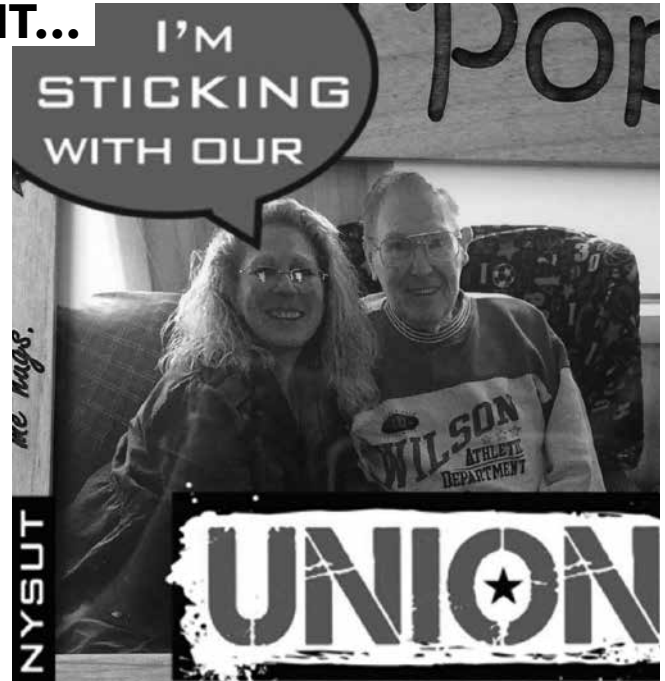
I know many of us worked this summer, regardless of what others may believe about us having too many days off. Our MVFT teachers, teaching assistants, and security guards need to work in the summer and take on extra work throughout the year just to make ends meet!

As your newly elected MVFT President, I want you to know that I too will work as much overtime as necessary to represent each and every one of our members!

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to prove my commitment to this organization and profession. You have allowed me to fulfill a dream as well as a promise I made to my father, who recently passed at the end of last year.

My dad was a shop steward for the teamsters in NYC and we spent many hours swapping stories about our involvement with our unions. My pops and I shared a special bond, because of our leadership roles in our unions. We both watched the devastating affects of layoffs and strikes on our members and our families, and we both knew that as long as we all stayed united and held on to our convictions, we would prevail. He recognized the passion I had to make our union strong, and made me promise him, that when the time was right, I would run for President of the MVFT. Although my Dad did not live to see me become President of the MVFT this summer, I know in my heart that he is proudly smiling down at me and will be by my side the whole way.

That is why I ask all of our teachers, teaching assistants, and security guards to “Stand together, Stand up for Yourself, and Stand Up for Each Other”!



## MVFT EXECUTIVE BOARD AND DELEGATE ASSEMBLY 2018-2019

Meet the Mt. Vernon Federation of Teachers 2018-2019 Executive Board and Delegate Assembly. They not only come to school each day prepared to give our students the best they have to offer, they also go above and beyond to protect all of our MVFT members. Help them help you. Know your building reps, know your contract, attend your MVFT building meetings, and work together to keep our union strong!



Front Row R to L: Annette Coppola, Angelique Perez, Christine Ceglie-Iaffaldano, Carene Domato, Nikysha Copeland Robinson, 2nd Row R-L: Francia Mendoza, Anita Amieiro, Nadine Shields-Alcade, Diana O'Sullivan, Charissa Ayala, Nicole White, Charlene Clarke, Josephine Kirkland-Hudson, Back Row R-L: Thalia Langley, Eddie Sauls, Andre Upton, Marcus Green, Derrick Thompson, Francina Jubilee, Keith McCall, David Watson, Gregory VanDecarr, Pat Duggan *Photographer: Lisa Cavallero*

# I'M STICKING WITH MY UNION

by Carene Domato, MVFT President

On June 27, 2018, the US Supreme Court decision in Janus v. AFSCME overturned a 41-year old legal precedent that preserved a union's right to collect fair share "agency fee" from non-members. The wealthy special interests who funded this case are the same special interests who have been attacking unions and working families for years.

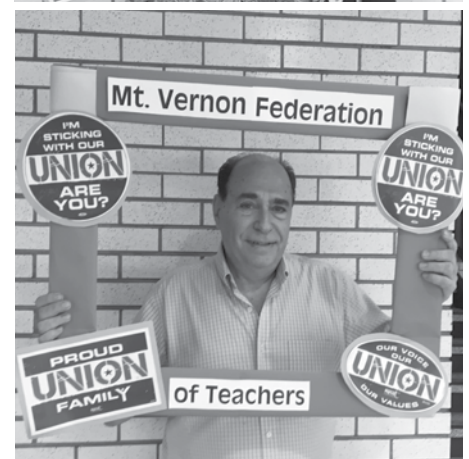
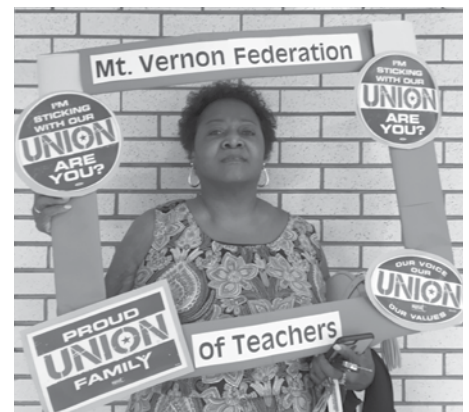
Immediately following this decision, all MVFT agency fee members were classified as non-dues paying members. All newly hired teachers, teaching assistants and security guards would have to be enrolled in the MVFT before they would be considered dues paying members. Payroll was alerted that our dues could not be deducted from potential MVFT members without proof of official enrollment provided by the MVFT.

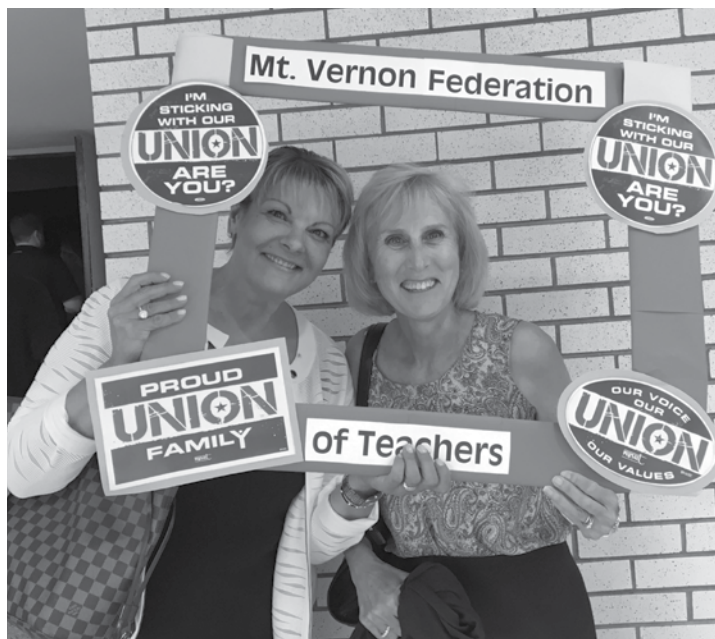
We have been diligent in our efforts to enroll ALL prior agency fee paying members, as well as all new hires. Proudly, our agency fee payers signed up in July. At the New Teacher Orientation in August, MVFT Officers successfully enrolled 39 out of 39 teachers present at orientation.

On our first day back to school, at Convocation, we enrolled 10 new members, and to date payroll will be deducting dues for all new members thanks to the continued efforts of our executive board and building delegates.

The MVFT also launched a Re-Commitment Campaign at the end of last year, asking all of our 1100 members to re-enroll in our union. By the end of June, 95% of our MVFT members signed on, making it clear that they were "Sticking with Their UNION". We will not stop until 100% of our members re-commit!

We need each and every one of our members to be a champion for our union. Defending our union means preserving our voice, standing up for our values, and protecting everything we fought for.





# "WHAT IGNITES US, UNITES US"

## FOR THE 25TH MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER WALK THIS YEAR!

by Patricia Duggan



Pictures L-R, back to front: Patricia Duggan, Patricia Griffin, Marilyn Anderson, Christine Francis, and Suzette Francis.

The Making Strides of Westchester Kick Off Breakfast was held on August 2nd at the Westchester Marriott hotel in Tarrytown, NY. The MVFT members present at the breakfast were Suzette Francis (Graham School), Christine Francis (Grimes School), Patricia Griffin (retired BTMS), Marilyn Anderson (retired BTMS AP), and Patricia Duggan (MV STEAM Academy).

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer raises money to save lives from cancer by helping the American Cancer Society fund efforts for ground breaking research to find better treatments and drugs to treat or cure cancer; for free places to stay for cancer patients and their caregivers when treatment is far from home; and for education to help people reduce their risk of getting cancer or to help people find cancer early when it would be most treatable.

The 25th Making Strides of Westchester Walk will be held on Sunday, October 21st, at 9 a.m. at Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY. Please join the MVFT Striders on October 21st and walk with us or sponsor an MVFT member!

Cancer does not discriminate and can affect anyone. The drugs, treatments, and research that help people living with breast cancer can also help people with other types of cancer strive and thrive!

Please support the MVFT's efforts by purchasing a t-shirt from your building rep; by walking on October 21st; or by making a donation to the American Cancer Society through the [www.MakingStridesWalk.org/Westchester](http://www.MakingStridesWalk.org/Westchester) and join team Mount Vernon Federation of Teachers.

## WHY DOES MY CREDIT APPROVAL FORM KEEP COMING BACK TO ME???

by Angelique Perez

and the Credit Approval Committee

We ask our students to read carefully and follow directions but some of us forget to practice what we preach. So here are some guidelines for getting your courses approved:



- Make sure you are submitting the **pre-approval** form **before** the course begins (at least 2-4 weeks before).
- Forms must be submitted to Human Resource Office at the Education Center and time stamped. You can bring your own copy to be time stamped as HR will not make copies for you.
- Fill out the **pre-approval** form completely and remember to press hard as it is a triplicate form (if you have a copy of the form please submit 3 copies).
- Print or make a copy of the **official course description** for each course including the name of the institution granting the credit.
- The **official course description** must include the dates, times, and total hours or credits being issued (you cannot just hand write the dates and times).
- If it is an on-line course, make sure to include start date and end date of course or the time frame in which the course must be completed.

## MVCSD MENTOR PROGRAM WELCOMES OUR NEW TEACHERS!



by Katie Santoro and Carene Domato, MVFT Mentor Program Co-Coordinator

*“There is so much we can learn from each other when given the time and the opportunity.”*

Welcome and congratulations to all of our newly hired teachers! You have survived your first month! It was a pleasure to meet those of you who attended the New Teacher Orientation in August, organized by staff developers Julie Termini and Tanganyika Lindner-Brown, who are also members of the MVCSD Mentor Program. This year, Katie Santoro will be coordinating the Mentor Program, along with Carene Domato. The Mentor Program Committee welcomes back Hamilton Elementary School Assistant Principal, Lucille Martir.

Those of you who are first or second year teachers with initial certification, and have never been formally mentored, will be assigned a mentor by the MVCSD Mentor Program. New teachers are matched with trained mentors within the same certification area and located in the same school, when possible.

The MVCSD Mentor Program is collaboration between the district and the MVFT. It is state mandated and was first implemented in our district in 2005. The Mentor Program Handbook is available on the district web page. Participants of the mentor program meet monthly, offering collegial support and an opportunity to share positive experiences. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mentor Program Coordinator, Katie Santoro, [ksantoro@mtvernoncsd.org](mailto:ksantoro@mtvernoncsd.org) or Carene Domato at [cdomato@mtvernoncsd.org](mailto:cdomato@mtvernoncsd.org).



## Welcome New Hires!

Regina Butler  
Meghan Aldridge  
Lisa Dellaporte  
Sarah Sabatino  
Helen Racanelli  
Troye Cornwall  
Daniela Beechner  
Andrew Guignard  
Carmela Sanzi  
Andrew Wang  
Christina King  
Brynn Rabinowitz  
Christie Kosmogiannis  
Isaura Molina  
Ian Smith  
Rita Taylor  
Wanda Rivero  
Adrian Tovar  
Andrew Visconti  
Joseph Ferretti  
Janill Cabrera  
Lindsay Hoyt  
Jorge Hidalgo Arevalo  
Kristen Fields  
Aimee Arreguin  
Ricardo Boreland  
Sarah Buckley  
Michael Pompa  
Kathleen Neer  
Francesca Pucci  
Ashley Corral

*Teaching Assistant*  
*Math*  
*English*  
*Reading*  
*Elementary*  
*Physical Education*  
*Math*  
*Math*  
*Elementary*  
*Music*  
*ENL Teacher*  
*Library Media Specialist*  
*Reading*  
*Music*  
*Social Studies*  
*Elementary*  
*Library Media*  
*School Psychologist*  
*Science*  
*Physical Education*  
*Social Worker*  
*Home & Careers*  
*ENL*  
*Teaching Assistant*  
*Elementary*  
*Barbering*  
*Science*  
*Elementary*  
*ELA Coach*  
*Speech Pathologist*  
*Elementary*

Nathaniel Davidson  
Monica DeOliveira  
Frederick Kahn  
Robin Rapillo  
Shannon Shields  
Stephanie Tirado  
Dessrick Boothe  
Jaclyn Friedman  
Allie Heisner  
Kimberly Kahan  
Kathleen Rosario  
Vito Tassone  
Sean Paul Wade  
Corraine Daley-Minto  
Gregory Fuller  
Linda Fortugno  
Sonia Flannory  
Gina Brown  
Michele Lavarde  
Robert DiSapia  
Kristen Kowalski  
Shawnta Smith  
Cheryl Teran  
Erica Porco  
Alicia Vassell  
Ranya Kassas  
Essence Ware Bryant  
Glenda Guevara  
Jennifer Quiros  
Robert Garbardino  
Tanya Haddad

*Social Studies*  
*Elementary*  
*Biology*  
*Pre-K*  
*Pre-K*  
*Pre-K*  
*Elementary*  
*Special Education*  
*Elementary*  
*Elementary*  
*Guidance Counselor*  
*Foreign Language*  
*Guidance Counselor*  
*Security*  
*Security*  
*Bilingual Ed*  
*ENL Teacher*  
*Special Education*  
*Special Education*  
*Elementary*  
*Pre-K*  
*Special Education*  
*Foreign Language*  
*Guidance Counselor*  
*Teaching Assistant*  
*Special Education*  
*Social Worker*  
*Foreign Language*  
*ENL Teacher*  
*ENL Teacher*  
*Elementary*

Sonia Haskins  
Marjorie Lewis  
Brttanya Groves  
Lisa Gayle  
Nicole Berberena  
Kacie Daniels  
Kathy Nieves  
Alexis Santavicca  
Samantha Fortier-Vieni  
Althea Simon  
Millie Matthews  
Elizabeth Smith  
Brian Baker  
James Gencarelli  
Enyota Dixon-Carter  
Claudette Conteh  
Jennifer Grant  
Stacia Johnson  
Cassandra Mack  
Preeya Singh  
Jaleesa Swain  
Mabel Taveras  
Judith Samuel  
Ronveer Chakraborty  
William DeMorris  
Miranda Dorian  
Ashley Ference  
Christina FitzMorris  
Maria Arvonja Gizzo  
Ann Murray  
Dana Murray  
Brittany Richter

*Business Education*  
*Elementary*  
*Security*  
*Speech Pathologist*  
*Art*  
*Library Media*  
*Elementary*  
*Social Worker*  
*Physical Ed/Health*  
*Elementary*  
*Science*  
*Reading*  
*Music*  
*Health/Phys Ed*  
*Elementary*  
*Teaching Assistant*  
*Teaching Assistant*  
*Teaching Assistant*  
*Teaching Assistant*  
*Teaching Assistant*  
*Teaching Assistant*  
*Teaching Assistant*  
*Teaching Assistant*  
*Teaching Assistant*  
*Reading Teacher*  
*English*  
*Social Worker*  
*English*  
*Elementary*  
*Mathematics Coach*  
*Special Ed*  
*Elementary*

# SPOTLIGHT

MVHS

## HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

by Rich Suozzo

The end of the 2017-18 school year closed with the annual **ACE Program Graduation Dance** as our dedicated and hardworking staff put together a spectacular event for our children. There were smiling faces, awesome dance moves and joyous camaraderie as the 9th Annual Dance was held on June 16<sup>th</sup> at MVHS. Students, faculty, and friends joined in the merriment of the “Enchanted Forest” themed festivities. “This is an evening for these students to literally shine from within and without and the joy is contagious!” said the dance’s coordinator, Maureen Casey. Once again, the very talented and creative ACE Program Team transformed the cafeteria into a themed wonderland featuring mostly student-made decorations. A great time was had by all and we thank our teachers, TAs, and security who worked so hard to make the night a success. The MVFT was proud to support the dance.



Ace Prom

**The Mock Trial and Debate Team at MVHS** under the tutelage of Miss Tiffany Izzo enjoyed a very successful first year. The team made it through several elimination rounds knocking out schools that have been competing for years and finishing as high as second place. Under Miss Izzo’s direction students reviewed cases from prior years to prep for the season. When the competition began, the team met four days a week and during spring break to prepare. The team impressed many judges and attorneys who complimented the students on their professionalism and legal understanding. At the event, the team had the opportunity to meet with Mount Vernon alum and present District Attorney Anthony Scarpino. The team is looking towards another successful campaign under the direction of Miss Izzo. Congratulations to both the team and Miss Izzo for a job well done.



Mock Trial Team 2018

**BARBARA MILLSTEIN**  
**KINDERGARTEN TEACHER**  
**WILLIAM H. HOLMES SCHOOL**

Mrs. Millstein has been a teacher with the Mount Vernon City School District for more than 40 years. She began her career with the



District at what is now known as the Edward Williams Elementary School, where she served as a second grade teacher for three years, and then as a first grade teacher for eight years. She then moved to the William H. Holmes School, where she has worked as a kindergarten teacher for the past 28 years.

A product of the Mount Vernon education system, Mrs. Millstein attended Pennington Elementary, Nichols Junior High School, and Mount Vernon High School.

“I always wanted to teach, and I was lucky enough to be offered a full-time position after substitute teaching with the District for two years,” said Mrs. Millstein. “I feel very fortunate to have received a strong foundation in my own Mount Vernon education and a long career with the District.”

Mrs. Millstein received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from SUNY Cortland before completing her master’s degree in Elementary Education at the University of Bridgeport.

“I constantly strive to have a positive impact on my students,” she added. “In addition to helping the children in my classes, I have also enjoyed being a mentor to many new teachers and a resource to others. I feel my passion and dedication for teaching, along with positive feedback from others, has allowed me to grow as an educator.”

**JOSEPHINE KIRKLAND-HUDSON**

*MVFT PPS Representative, Vice-President*

Josephine Kirkland-Hudson is newly-elected to the MVFT as Vice President for Pupil Personnel Services. Hudson proudly represents speech-language pathologists/speech teachers, social workers, counselors, psychologists, and attendance teachers. She is currently the school social worker at Rebecca Turner and Lincoln Elementary Schools.



Ms. Hudson understands the interests of the PPS staff. She is a fan of accountability, transparency, fairness, hard work, determination, and teamwork. She will work hard to advocate for fair contract negotiations and resources that make the greatest impact on student learning. These resources include professional development, materials/supplies, adequate working conditions, manageable caseloads/schedules, and improved relationships with administration.

Josephine has leadership positions within MVCSD. She is the coordinator of the Mount Vernon Ambassadors Program at RTES which has taken nearly 100 students on service learning trips to Johannesburg, Cape Town, Nairobi, Quito, and Bangkok. She currently serves as the PBIS district liaison in the MVCSD.

**MONIQUE VAGUEIRO DACOSTA**  
**5TH GRADE TEACHER**  
**HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Monique Vagueiro DaCosta, 5th Grade teacher at Hamilton Elementary School, had a busy and fulfilling summer. This new mom not only gave birth to her first son, Jake, she also published her very first children’s book titled, “Allergic to Bullying.” Monique was diagnosed with celiac disease in 2012 and began to witness students in her classroom being bullied by their peers because of their allergies and beliefs. Her book is about a girl who has allergies that keep her from eating the same things as everyone else. She is bullied and made fun of by her classmates, but of course, there is a positive ending to the story, highlighting that it is OK to be different. This wonderful book can be purchased through Amazon and Barnes and Noble. It is a beneficial resource for students, teachers, and parents.



# RETIREE BULLETIN BOARD

## MVFT RETIREE CHAPTER



L,R: Demetrios Mihailidis, Maeve Nolan, Anne Marie Autieri-Clarke, Carrie Jones, Christine Hylton, Maxine Harris, Seated Front: Sophia Williamson, Pat Griffin

On Sept. 20, 2018, MVFT Retirees attended the annual retiree luncheon hosted by NYSUT Retiree Council for Westchester and Putnam. Keynote Speaker, Senator Shelley Mayer encouraged retirees to stay connected and active. The MVFT Retiree Chapter will be convening again this year, and asks all retirees to join in on their fundraising and community-building initiatives.

### KEEPING HEALTHY PAYS OFF!

by Carene Domato, MVFT President

Congratulations to our MVFT members who received the newly negotiated sick incentive stipend this summer. The MVFT is proud to announce that a total of 580 teachers, teaching assistants, and security guards stayed healthy enough during the 2017-2018 school year, and were awarded a \$500 stipend this summer.

For those of us hoping to stay healthy this year and having it literally pay off in the summer, the **sick/personal leave incentive** states:

“Effective July 1, 2017, in the event a unit member **uses 7 or less personal and/or sick days in a year (9/1-6/30)** said unit member shall be eligible for a payment in the amount of \$500 at the conclusion of each qualifying school year. Unit members must work a full school year in order to be eligible for said payment. Those on unpaid leave of absence for any period of time shall be ineligible for said payment.”



## TO ALL MVFT RETIREE MEMBERS OF THE WELFARE FUND:

There will be a RETIREE TRUSTEE vacancy on the Mount Vernon Federation of Teachers Welfare Fund Board as of November 1, 2018. All retirees who wish to apply must be a retired member of the MVFT in good standing and a current member of the Welfare Fund.

If interested, please send a letter of introduction and qualification, no later than October 31, 2018, to:

Mount Vernon Federation of Teachers Welfare Fund  
22 West First Street, Suite 303  
Mount Vernon, New York 10550

The retiree trustee will be voted in by the MVFT Executive Board at the November 6, 2018 meeting. The term of service is November 1, 2018- October 31, 2022. The trustees meet at the Union/Welfare Fund office at least four times during the school year and are responsible to oversee the administration of the fund.

LEAVE RECORD												
Mark any days out with appropriate code. Enter holiday/retreat periods in your calendar.												
CODE KEY: S = Sick Leave P = Personal Leave C = Coverages V = Non-attendance N = Vacation												
Leave Days This Year: P- _____ V- _____												
Accumulated Unused Days: P- _____ V- _____												
Month	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Use/Week				
SEPT 2018	2	3	4	5	6	7	8					
26	27	28	29	30	31							
OCT 2018	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20						
28	29	30	31									
NOV 2018	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24						
29	30											
DEC 2018	9	10	11	12	13	14	15					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29						
JAN 2019	6	7	8	9	10	11	12					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25						
FEB 2019	5	6	7	8	9							
16	17	18	19	20	21	22						
27	28	29	30									
Subtotal												

LEAVE RECORD (cont'd)												
Month	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Use/Week				
MAR 2019	3	4	5	6	7	8	9					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23					
30	31											
APR 2019	8	9	10	11	12	13						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28						
MAY 2019	5	6	7	8	9	10	11					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25						
31												
JUNE 2019	9	10	11	12	13	14	15					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
JULY 2019	7	8	9	10	11	12	13					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27						
AUG 2019	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24						
29	30	31										
Subtotal												
Insert subtotal from previous page												Total Days Used

Please be aware that the district will be relying on the daily attendance roll sent in by your building attendance secretary. The district management system, AESOP/Frontline, will **not** be used to determine who is eligible to receive the incentive. The MVFT reminds you how important it is to keep records of your absences/personal days. We recommend using the Leave Record in the back of the NYSUT Planning Calendar. Wishing all of our MVFT members a healthy, germ-free school year.



## HEALTH & SAFETY

by Keith McCall, Pre K-8 Vice President

Colleagues!!! Welcome back to the beginning of the school year. Hopefully all of you have had a wonderful summer. During the summer months there was extensive repair work done at each building. Also, many construction projects are being completed now. From time to time health and safety issues may arise. Please remember that all staff and students have the right to working conditions that are healthy and safe. Many health and safety issues can be rectified just by simply letting your administrator or custodial staff member know about the problem. However, there are times when a health and safety issue is very complex and time is needed to develop appropriate solutions to the issue. When this is the case, please follow these steps to ensure that the matter is remedied as efficiently as possible:

- Notify administration in person verbally about the nature of the problem.
- Follow-up with a written e-mail to administration confirming your verbal conversation and describing the issue/problem.
- Give a reasonable amount of time for the issue to be resolved.
- If you get no response from administration after step #3 or you feel that the health & safety matter has not been resolved adequately, then contact your building representative. Your building rep will then refer the matter to the MVFT Health & Safety Committee.

Have a Great School Year!!!

## USE DONORS CHOOSE INSTEAD OF SPENDING YOUR OWN MONEY!

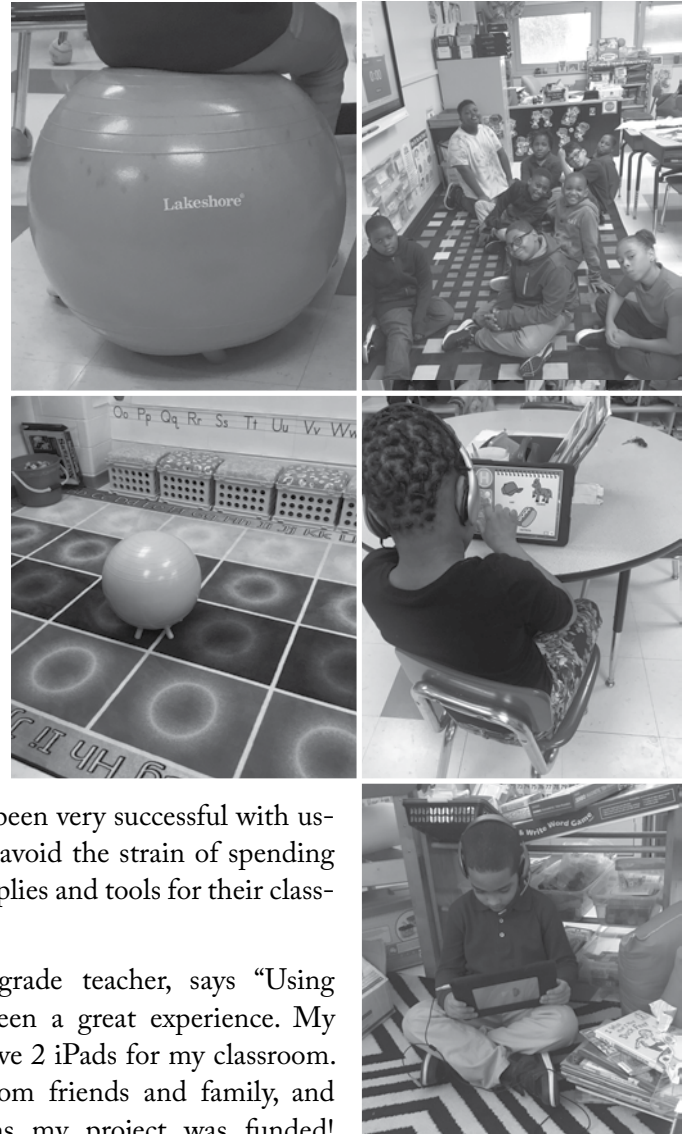
How often do we stock up on paper when it goes on sale, buy pocket charts and Expo markers? Have you dreamed of having a new rug for your classroom, but your small allotted amount of teacher's choice supply money will hardly cover a carpet square? According to a survey of K-12 teachers in the U.S. from SheerID and Agile Education Marketing, educators are spending an average of \$652 each to ensure they have the supplies they need for their classrooms. Teachers

at Grimes School have been very successful with using **Donors Choose** to avoid the strain of spending their own money on supplies and tools for their classrooms!

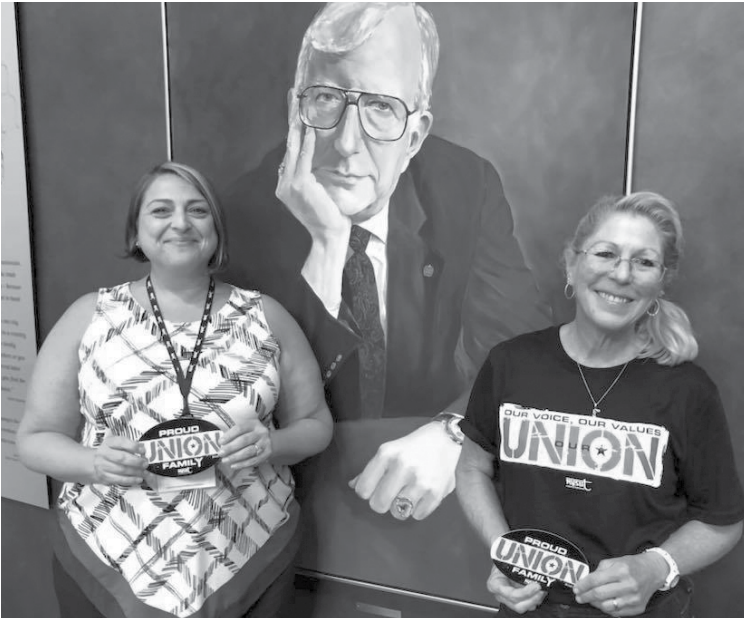
Janees Gonzalez, 1st grade teacher, says "Using **Donors Choose** has been a great experience. My first project was to receive 2 iPads for my classroom. I received donations from friends and family, and within about 2 months my project was funded! Staples even donated a large chunk of the project. The iPads are used for small group instruction time, positive reinforcement, and differentiation when needed. My students are motivated and driven when they are able to use the iPads in class. I can't wait to begin my next **Donors Choose** project!"

Valerie Runge, 5th grade teacher, reports "**Donors Choose** was easy to do! There were lots of supplies to choose from and models to use for support. There are many generous people including the Gates family who donated to my request! Everything came quickly, and my class and I are excited to use our new rug and flexible seating."

Troya Hewlett, Kindergarten teacher, explains "The process is easy and they have a lot of examples on the website to help you with preparing your project. You just have to come up with a catchy title for your project and explain why you need it, and how it will be beneficial to your students. After receiving your items you have to upload pictures of your class using them, and have your students write each donor a thank you letter."



# WHAT DID YOU DO THIS SUMMER?



MVFT President Carene Domato & YFT President Samantha Rosado-Ciriello at NYSUT New Local President Conference



NYSUT President Andy Pallotta



MVFT President Carene Domato and VP Jeanne Casino getting their "Teamster On" at the AFL-CIO Endorsement Conference



Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body AFL-CIO Council Director, Jennifer Puji and MVFT AFL-CIO Delegate, MVFT Retiree Diane Torstrup, gearing up for the NYS Primary



BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL WOMAN IS A TRIBE OF OTHER SUCCESSFUL WOMEN WHO HAVE HER BACK



Summer Organization Committee! Join us on Facebook and Twitter.

Facebook: NYSUT WOMEN

Twitter#NYSUTWOMEN

## WHY THE EMBARGO?

by Charlene Clarke

As many of you may already know, the 2018 state examination scores for grades 3-8 have been embargoed. Each student's scores on the math and English examination in grades 3-8 were sent to schools the last week in August. "According to a letter from SED Deputy Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green to principals and superintendents prior to the private release on August 27, the information is not to be published in any format to anyone outside of the school officials and personnel who need to know and use the data for programmatic planning, scheduling, and other preparation for the upcoming school year until the public news release." The State Education Department intends on releasing the scores during late September.

Traditionally scores have been released, to schools and the public, in late August along with itemized data. The state attributes this change to the number of days the test was given (from 3 to 2 days). This change in practice has led to speculations on why the state has chosen to change their past practices. Jonathan Burman, a spokesperson for the state said, "releasing them at the same time as school wide and statewide data will give families "a reference" to put them in context."

Although we do not encourage using the state exams as a singular view of a student's capability, it is a resource in identifying areas of need within a class, grade level and school building. Furthermore, there is a high expectation for educators to use data driven instruction. Any delay in analyzing data increases the amount of pressure which already exists in closing the performance gap for each student. Let's all hope that the data is released in its entirety for us to perform at the standards in which we are held accountable.

## 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*

Patricia Duggan  
*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](http://www.mvft.org)

## BUILDING REPS

Jhanice McDonald #1

Jessica Pizzuti #1

Toba Duggan #2

Modesta Curzio-Spies #2

Diana O'Sullivan #4

Shawn Harper-Tarrant #4

Thalia Langley #5

Marcia Wint #5

Rebecca Challop #6

Kathryn Santoro #6

Tashi Campbell-Tulloch #7

Derrick Thompson #7

Lisa Cavallero #8

Nikysha Copeland Bey #8

Francia Mendoza #9

Alexis Paupaw-Myrie #9

Marcus Green #10

Deborah Thompson #10

Monique Bell #12

Annette Coppola #12

Greg Vandecarr #13

Aret Ishan #13

Nicole White Lee #14

Charissa Ayala #14

Tonja Hills #16

Francina Jubilee #16

Nadine Shields Alcalde #17

Isabel Garcia #17

Andre Upson #18

David Israel #18

Eddie Sauls #18

Jacqueline Simone #18

**The Agenda**

*Editor*

Lisa Cavallero

*Staff*

Carene Domato

Karen Molinaro

The MVFT wants to hear about you and your accomplishments and spotlight our talented MVFT members in each of our newsletters. Email MVFT Agenda editor, Lisa Cavallero, at **MVFT1@mtvernoncsd.org**

## THE FACES BEHIND THE MVFT

Perhaps you have called our MVFT Office located in the Chase Building on 22 West First Street, Suite 303. The friendly voices answering our phones every day are Karen Molinaro, MVFT Office Manager and Welfare Fund Administrator, and our always cheerful secretary, Claire DePaul. They assist in taking care of over 1,600 members of the MVFT: teachers, teaching assistants, security guards, and retirees.



Karen and Claire are the first to welcome our new members and explain all of the benefits of joining the MVFT. If you are newly hired and have not met them yet, what are you waiting for? All you need to do is call 664-3189 to make an appointment. Once you have enrolled in our Welfare Fund, you will receive dental, optical, and legal benefits that are the envy of all Westchester and Putnam local teacher unions.

## CHECK YOUR PAY STUBS

by Lisa Cavallero

As always, it is important to check your pay stubs. It is always possible that an error was made, and you are the best person to identify any discrepancies with your pay. If you do find anything incorrect on your pay stub, notify payroll immediately. Make sure to pay close attention to:

- Salary: make sure your contractual pay is correct
- Longevity payments
- Withdrawals for retirement plans, credit union, and Vote Cope
- Loan payments: make sure amounts are current and correct
- Union dues deductions

Combined Dues Amounts

(NYSUT, AFT, NEA, MVFT)

- Teachers: \$40.16
- TAs: \$29.65 over \$34,000: \$34.37
- Security: \$26.95 over \$34,000: \$31.25

## LOST AND HOPEFULLY FOUND!

One of our members needs your help! Donna DeCecco lost a family heirloom on the day of Convocation. It is a bracelet, like the one in the picture. If you find it, please contact Donna at [Ddececco@mtvernoncsd.org](mailto:Ddececco@mtvernoncsd.org).



## CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

By Anita Amieiro, Secretary

### GET WELL

Renee Buggie-Brown (Grabam)



### WELCOME BACK

Larry Nangle (Grabam)

Mary Anne Reilly (Williams)

Michelle Atterberry (Pennington)

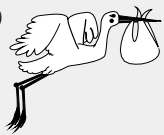


### WEDDING BELLS

Christine Ceglie Iaffaldano (Grabam)

Marsh Hunter Davis (Grabam)

Greer Wyckoff (Holmes)



### BIRTHS

Vito Di Matteo (Parker) birth of daughter

Ariella Knolls (Parker) birth of son

Camille Bisceglia (Grabam) birth of son

Melissa White Harris (Holmes) Son

Jaclyn Smith (Pennington) birth of daughter

### CONGRATULATIONS

Jennifer Goire (RTES) engagement

Tonja Hills (Pennington) son's wedding

Maz Hogan (Retiree) birth of grandchild

Jackie Biaggi (Retiree) birth of grandchild

### CONDOLENCES

Annette Coppola (Steam) loss of mother

Karl Nifontoff (Steam) loss of father

Jeff Yonkers (Retiree) loss of father

Keith Nixon (Parker) loss of wife

Sharon Young (Grimes) loss of grandmother

Vanessa Farr (Williams, retired security guard) loss of mother

Johnny Morrison (Williams, member of security)

Richard Gasparini (Retiree, security) loss of spouse

Michele Gorshoff (Retiree) loss of spouse

Raymond Goshoff (Retiree)

Lisa Ramsey (Grabam, member of security)

Carol Brock (Retiree)

Cynthia Teiko (Retiree) loss of mother

### Membership Report

Active	1115
Leave	16
<b>Retirees</b>	<b>538</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1669</b>