



# Happenings

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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## Message from the President

### Officers

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man:**

**Robert Avdoyan**

I hope that everyone enjoyed plenty of family, friends, and food during the Thanksgiving holiday. Holiday or not, it has been a very busy month for PJTA!

### Grievances

A member has filed a grievance regarding PLC time at the secondary level. This grievance is now entering Stage 3 and will be heard by the Board of Education in executive session.

PJTA filed a grievance in regards to a member being denied sick days after going through workmen's compensation.

### School Community Forum – December 6th

The Buildings & Grounds Committee came to a conclusion that the Middle School needs to be replaced with a new school. At the November 13th Board of Education meeting, there was a presentation done giving a number of options for a new building. You can log onto <http://www.pjschools.org/district/NewBuilding/PJSDBuildingOptions6.2.pdf> and review the presentation.

A community forum will be on December 6th at 7p.m. in the High School cafeteria for the community to provide their suggestions based on the presentation that was given to the Board of Education at the November 13th meeting. The superintendent suggested that he would like PJTA members to attend.

The community, as well as PJTA can send any questions, comments, and feedback on the presentation to the E-mail address [facilitystudy@pjschools.org](mailto:facilitystudy@pjschools.org), or by calling 858-3100, Ext. 15531.

### Hurricane Sandy Relief

If you would like to donate to the Hurricane Relief foundation, you can make a check payable to "NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund" to NYSUT Headquarters, Attn: Jeff Lockwood, Accounting Department, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, New York 12110. The NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund (EIN: 11-3761261) is an IRS registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. You can also visit the NYSUT website at [www.nysut.org/disasterrelief](http://www.nysut.org/disasterrelief) for more information.

## President's Message

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### **Snow Days**

Since there was a state of an emergency declared for the three days which forced us to be closed due to the hurricane, we had to use three snow days according to the state. This means that we have five snow days left. Hopefully, this will be a mild winter. We are lucky because other districts have lost their spring break.

### **VOTE COPE**

VOTE-COPE is an acronym representing the **V**oice **O**f Teachers in **E**ducation, the **C**ommittee **O**n **P**olitical **E**ducation. VOTE-COPE is also referred to as PAC (Political Action Committee), the non-partisan political action arm of New York State United Teachers. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions from members, VOTE-COPE is used to help union-backed candidates and campaign committees that support education and labor. VOTE-COPE helps strengthen political action programs on all levels - national, state and local. To help on the local level, VOTE-COPE provides rebates to participating unions for political action. VOTE-COPE funds, by law, are kept separate from those of NY-SUT. Decisions on the use of VOTE-COPE contributions are made by a statewide committee. Voluntary VOTE-COPE contributions can be made through payroll deduction or by writing a check. Contributions or gifts to VOTE-COPE are not tax deductible.

The Building Representatives will be around asking for your support again this year.

### **Website**

Our website is up and running! You can log onto [www.pjta.us](http://www.pjta.us) and view everything that would be useful for you. Please see your Head Building Representative for the password. If you think of anything else that you would like to add and would be beneficial to our members, please let one of your Building Representatives know. They will bring it to the next Building Representative meeting. I want to thank our very own PJTA member, Scott Reichert for designing and maintaining this website for us!

### **Christmas Toy Drive**

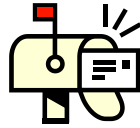
For many years, the Port Jervis Teachers' Association has made Christmas more special for many in the Tri-State area because of their spirit of giving. Our toy drive, in cooperation with the Port Jervis Elk's club #645 has been a great success. Once again, this year, PJTA will participate in this most worthwhile event. PJTA is asking all of our members to donate one gift to this cause. The gift should be wrapped and labeled on the outside for either a boy or a girl and the approximate age. If one of our members wishes to give more than one gift, that would be wonderful.

Please check with your Head Building Representative to see where you would place the gift. Retired PJTA member, Kevin Cunningham and I will be around to collect the gifts at each of the schools and send them to the Elks club on December 21st.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful start to the holiday season!

*Regis Foster*

## Correspondence



### Cards Sent

#### Get Well

Linda List

#### Congratulations

Kyle & Jill Ross—birth of their son, Logan James



**Have you let state education officials know  
just what you think about their obsession  
with standardized tests?**

**If not, now is the time**

Thousands of your colleagues from across the state have already taken advantage of NYSUT's online campaign to **Tell It Like It Is** to Commissioner King and the Board of Regents, flooding them with poignant, personal letters about the impact of too-much testing on students. Now it's time for the commissioner and the Regents to hear your voice. Tell them what's happening in your classroom. Tell them that their decisions are detrimental to your students.

Use the following link to begin the process to **Tell It Like It Is**:

[http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1846/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=11782](http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1846/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=11782)