

The Official Publication of the Wallkill Teachers' Association  
NYSUT Local # 13-265  
AFT Local #3082 affiliated with NEA \* AFL-CIO

**June 2024**  
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*Jordan Dirago, Editor*

# IMP@CT

## President's Message

As the school year ends, it is essential to pause and reflect on the journey we have taken together. NYSUT has secured legislation to return teacher evaluations to local control and won the biggest win for pension reform in 20 years. We made ground for fixing Tier 6 by lowering final average salary calculations from five to three years. NYSUT also secured legislation to set maximum temperatures in classrooms and protect the health of students and educators. The next step will be the Governor's desk. Our successes would not have been possible without your energy, loyalty, and commitment.

We also have all experienced a mix of emotions this year: uncertainty, excitement, exhaustion, joy, anxiety, peace, and relief. Each student, each challenge, and each success has left its mark. Acknowledge these feelings and celebrate our achievements. Remind yourselves of your accomplishments and celebrate with your fellow educators. We have built a community and that is worth celebrating too! Remember, taking time to pause and celebrate ensures we end the year on a positive note and start our summer refreshed and ready for new adventures. Use this time to learn from your experiences and prepare for a successful 2024-2025 school year!

As the new WTA president reflecting on the end of the year, I had a unique opportunity to assess my leadership journey and set the stage for the year ahead. Thank you for allowing myself and the new executive team to find our way this year. I have genuinely enjoyed serving the Wallkill Teachers' Association, and I am looking forward to working with you to make 2024-2025 another wonderful year.

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## President's Message (Continued)

Please participate in new upcoming union activities, WTA committees, community functions and anything that will further strengthen the WTA. Remember, you members are the union.

Again, thank you for taking such great care of our students and colleagues this year. Most importantly, remember to take care of yourself and the WTA will take care of you!

In Solidarity,  
LeeAnn Pazoga  
Wallkill Teachers' Association President



## Thank you Delta Dental!

*Submitted by Kathy Winter*

Delta Dental sent Leptondale 50 dental care pouches with toothpaste, floss, and toothbrushes for our backpack program.



## Battle of the Buildings Faculty Softball Game

Pictures from Deb Rosenfeld



## Battle of the Buildings Softball Game (Continued)

The Middle/Elementary School defeated the High School in the annual Faculty Softball game hosted by Amanda Murphy and the Leo Club. This years game raised \$675 for the Weekend Meals for Kids Program which is run by the Walkkill Reformed Church's Loaves and Fishes food pantry.



## Congratulations Retirees

Glenn LaPolt, Kristina Rubin, Anne Mildner, and Deborah Reese were recognized and celebrated for their commitment and service to the Wallkill Teaching Community. Wishing you all the best in your retirement endeavors!



*Congratulations!*

## WTA Senior Breakfast

On May 4 we had a celebratory breakfast for our local senior citizens. The Plattekill Golden Seniors showed their gratitude with the following letter. A special thank you to all who volunteered.



Wallkill Teachers Association  
Attention: Danielle Eve  
PO Box 305  
Gardiner NY 12525

Dear Danielle,

On behalf of the Plattekill Golden Seniors, I wish to thank all the teachers and students for the lovely breakfast on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

It had been a long time since many of us have been to the elementary school and to see the many changes. The music was a wonderful accompaniment but the best part was to see the young people come out and perform just for us. What talent! Did our hearts good to have the students entertain us. The decorations were a very nice touch as we could tell a lot of time and effort went into making sure we enjoyed ourselves.

Of course, the food was plentiful as were the prizes. We all were quite overwhelmed with your generosity and efforts to go such lengths for the seniors. Your efforts did not go unnoticed and certainly made our day.

*Thank you again for such a wonderful time!*

*Sincerely yours,*

  
Mary Antzak

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