



# FOCAL POINT

Weymouth Teachers Association News

*Education—the key to success!!*

This copy of the *Focal Point* is being sent electronically based on the charting list done this past fall. If you know of anyone who is not receiving emails please have them email Mary Lou Buell.

Also, In an effort to publish the good things our members are doing we encourage you to email articles to:  
wtafocalpoint@gmail.com

## WTA Officers

### President

Mary Lou Buell

### Vice President

Richard Duseau

### Secretary

Ydana Chella

### Treasurer

Val Devlin

### Prof. Rights & Responsibility

John Pappas

## Executive Board

### Primary

Karen Barclay

### Middle

Pamela Marlowe

### HS

John Pappas

### SPED

Donna Beath

### Special Interest-Unit D

Maureen Mohr

### Career and Tech Ed

Rob Libenson

### Focal Point Editor

Mike Miller

## Good Things are Happening in our Schools!!



### Chapman Souperbowl

Chapman Campus held the second annual souperbowl, which benefited the Weymouth Food Pantry.

Students helped those in need in their own community and judging by the look on the faces of those students who helped bring all of the donations to the food pantry you could tell that they felt so proud of their large contribution!

**The winner of the “Souperbowl was Mr. John Connolly’s 7th grade homeroom. They contributed over 884 food items.**

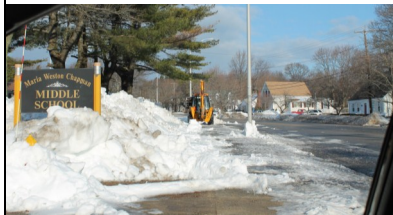
Special thanks to the Diversity club and advisers Pam Marlowe and Val Devlin for their hard work.

### Academy Ave. Primary

Some of the recent projects students at Academy Avenue have been working on:  
Coats for Kids  
Mitten Tree  
Food Pantry  
Coins for a Cause



Students collect coins for a cause.  
Credit: Christine Hart



### Look at the Snow!!

2 recent snowstorms buried the Weymouth Public Schools. Special thanks to all of the people who moved the snow from around the schools and got them ready for the return of the students. Job well done!!

Photo Credit: Charles Hickey

## BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

- One Unit A rep. for every 10 teachers in the building is the allotment in order for you to have full representation.
- Unit D should have one representative per building.
- You will receive a stipend for each meeting you attend.
- It’s an opportunity to meet others from within the district.
- Keep up-to-date on topics which affect your career, your job, and your livelihood.
- **Still have plenty of spots available. Email Mary Lou if interested.**
- Meetings are held at the Weymouth High School at 3:45, and take place the third Tuesday of every month (unless vacation interferes).
- Meetings have resumed and the general membership is invited to attend. The first 10 minutes of each meeting are reserved for general membership concerns.
- Members of the representative council will be published prior to each meeting. These lists will be updated as needed.

If members have questions or concerns, please contact your building representative, the WTA office: 781-337-9700- or email:[weymouthteachers@yahoo.com](mailto:weymouthteachers@yahoo.com)

## Negotiation Jargon Guide

Unit A members are currently in **mediation**, which means that we have been assigned a mediator, Joe, who shuttles between the WSC and the WTA's negotiating team. Since we have not been able to settle this contract ourselves at our own pace, the deal with the mediator is that both parties must make proposals that move the process towards a settlement.

What does **unity** mean for our membership? Overtly, it means that we wear our **red clothing** on specific days to show that we are a united union and that we can show that not only to others but also to ourselves. Unity also means that we recall that, while we all have different talents and years of experience, we are all equally important in our union. It's very important during the negotiation process for all members to be supportive of one another and, at times, to put the good of all ahead of the good of self. Whatever the terms of the contract will be, some will be happy, some will be content, some will be unhappy. The team is struggling to balance the needs and wants of a diverse and talented union.

Lastly, it is important to remind ourselves that there are only two things with which we have to negotiate a contract with the WSC, our time and our talent. It is prudent for all us to keep that in mind as the Negotiating Team attempts to bargain a contract that includes a reasonable compensation for our time and our talent for next few years.

**Thanks to Tom Healy for this update and the Negotiation Team for all of their hard work!**

### Evaluation

The Evaluation Committee is currently looking at the law and working together to come up with a new evaluation plan. Members are encouraged to learn about the new evaluation law and ask Union Representatives about how it will affect evaluation in the future. For more information visit: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/edeval/>

**Weingarten rights** guarantee an employee the right to union representation during an interview by the employer. If the interview could in any way lead to the employee being disciplined or terminated, or affect his or her working conditions, he or she should respectfully request that a union representative or officer be present at the meeting. If representation is requested and denied, the employee may choose not to answer any questions.

*WTA Office- Gerri Rennie is our Office Manager Suite 23 33 Union St. South Weymouth, MA 02190*



781-337-9700



[weymouthteachers@yahoo.com](mailto:weymouthteachers@yahoo.com)



*Email WTA to be added to our group site!!*



**Focal Point** is the official publication of the Weymouth Teachers Association. This publication is for members of the Weymouth Teachers Association and may not be reprinted in whole or in part without the permission of the Editor. Editorials and opinions may not necessarily reflect the policies of the Weymouth Teachers Association.



## What's On Your Mind



**Q: I started a full time teaching position in January 3 years ago. I have been in the district for three years, but at a full time teacher position for 2 1/2. When am I granted Professional Status?**

**A:** Professional Teacher Status (PTS) is granted after your third full year in a teaching position. A full year starts on September 1. Principals or District Administration may determine to grant status prior to the three years with good reason or cause. Your PTS should be granted in September if your evaluations are in good standing, and the principal of your building retains you for the next school year. You will get notification in September of the next school year.

## Teacher Education and Professional Standards

**Are you planning to change salary lanes?**

- Complete an application.
- Send the original to Leah Shapiro Ciliberto at Wessagusset.
- Meet the deadlines for submission.
- Do NOT send transcripts or grade reports.
- Applications that arrive after the deadline will not be reviewed until the next TEPS meeting.

### **Deadlines**

April 3

June 5

*Applications are available in each building and on the district and WTA websites.*



### Just a Reminder

Computers are the property of Weymouth Schools. Anything you do on the computers can be traced. Personal email and facebook should not be running on school computers.

Also, be aware that WPS has a facebook policy between staff and students. Staff should not "friend" students, and should be careful of what they post online. If you would not show it in your classroom you should not put it online.