

October
2020

WITA

West Irondequoit Teachers'



President's Message...

Dear Colleagues,

I want to start this first printed issue of the Scoop since January with an enormous THANK YOU to every WITA member. Your commitment and dedication to our students shows in everything that we do, and we are doing so much right now. We are learning new technology, new teaching methods, new guidelines, rules, expectations, processes and procedures. We have been successful with reopening our schools because of YOU!

I realize that all this "new" is pushing people to new limits, and sometimes to a point where they are feeling overwhelmed and unable to meet expectations. It is important to bear in mind that we all have our own families and lives outside of work and need to take time for ourselves. To reuse an old cliché, this is a marathon, not a sprint. If we are to be successful throughout the school year, we cannot burn out during the first leg of the race. We must rely on each other to help us through the difficult times and support each other with the expectations that fall to each of us. To reiterate some of the points that were sent in an email several weeks ago:

Workload: Our contract day is still our contract day regardless of your teaching model or models. Time for yourself and your family is more crucial than ever during this trying time.

What if I can't get it all done? If you are finding yourself unable to meet your work expectations within your typical day, please reach out to your supervisor for a meeting. They should help you to problem solve if requested.

What if I feel ignored when I talk to my supervisor? Please contact your building representative for assistance. If you are told that you must work beyond your contract day to get things done is a potential grievance.

Moving on to some celebrations, welcome to our newest members! We truly appreciate you stepping in during this difficult time. We are glad to have you here with us as we strive for excellence regardless of the challenges that we face.

Congratulations to our Teachers and Teaching Assistants who received tenure over the past months. We were hoping to celebrate your accomplishments with a reception this month but based on current social distancing guidelines have had to put that on hold. The list of Teaching Assistants who were recognized by the Board in August as having received tenure can be found on page 3. Teacher tenure was acknowledged in our year end video.

Although the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk may not look like it has in the past, WITA remains committed to supporting this event. Countless WITA members, colleagues, family members and friends have been affected by breast cancer. Whether or not we can walk together, we stand together in our efforts to eradicate this horrible disease. Please join us in contributing to this worthy cause and helping to raise funds if you are inclined to do so. Many thanks to our Making Strides Team Captain Tammy Jaynes for her work. Links on how to contribute and how to join were sent through home email. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Tammy for more information or to offer your support.

Please remember to VOTE on or before November 3rd. Make a plan now. Whether voting absentee, early or on Election Day, every vote counts. Information regarding NYSUT endorsements will be sent through home email, but regardless of whom you support please vote.

Finally, please note that we are no longer sending member communications through District email. If you are not receiving home emails, please email me at WITAPresident@GMail.com with a personal email address and I will add you to our distribution list.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your building representative or I with questions or for support. Take care and stay well.

Yours In Solidarity,

West Irondequoit Teachers'
Association
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Phone: 336-2950
Fax: 336-3027
E-mail:
WITAPresident@gmail.com

Important Events 2020-2021

(Meetings start at 3:30 pm, via Zoom, except as noted)

<p>NOVEMBER 2020</p> <p>Nov 3—Executive Committee Nov 6—WITA Logo Shirt Day Nov 10—Governing Council Nov 17—SRP Recognition Day</p>	<p>MARCH 2021</p> <p>Mar 2—Executive Committee Mar 5—WITA Logo Shirt Day Mar 9—Governing Council</p>
<p>DECEMBER 2020</p> <p>Dec 1—Executive Committee Dec 4—WITA Logo Shirt Day Dec 8—Governing Council</p>	<p>APRIL 2021</p> <p>Apr 6—Executive Committee Apr 9—WITA Logo Shirt Day Apr 13—Governing Council</p>
<p>JANUARY 2021</p> <p>Jan 5—Executive Committee Jan 8—WITA Logo Shirt Day Jan 15—Governing Council</p>	<p>MAY 2021</p> <p>TBD—NYSUT Rep Assembly in Albany May 4—Executive Committee May 7—WITA Logo Shirt Day May 11—Governing Council May 18—WITA Excellence in Education Dinner</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 2021</p> <p>Feb 2—Executive Committee Feb 5—WITA Logo Shirt Day Feb 9—WITA New Member Reception & Governing Council in the I.H.S. Campus Center</p>	<p>JUNE 2021</p> <p>Jun 1—Executive Committee Jun 4—WITA Logo Shirt Day Jun 8—Governing Council</p>

Hosts for Dinners

The host schools for the Excellence in Education

Banquet rotate on a regular cycle. The host schools through 2025 are as follows:

- 2021....Irondequoit High School
- 2022.....Neighborhood Schools
- 2023.....Rogers School
- 2024.....Iroquois School
- 2025.....Dake School

Have you joined the West Irondequoit Central Parent, Teacher, Student Association yet?

Please help support those who support us.

Visit:

<https://wicptsa.memberhub.store>

to join today!



HAVE YOU JOINED THE MAC YET?

mac.nysut.org

Please contact the WITA office to place an order if you need a new WITA t-shirt or sweatshirt. \$5 from each shirt purchased goes to our scholarship fund.



Have you seen our website? Check it out at

WITEACHERS.ORG

Baby News...



Christian John

born May 9 to Caitlin (Rogers) and John Farrell

Adeline Elizabeth

born June 28 to Leighann (Colebrook) and Dave Szmania

Josie

born August 24 to Kaitlin (Listwood) and Mike Bollinger

Wedding News...



August 21

Mallory Blackburn (Brookview) married Adam Cake

August 28

Caroline Kimber (Brookview) married Jordan Dobies

October 10

Ginny Tate (Briarwood) married Blake Sanderson

**WITFCU
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Welcome New Members!**Brookview: Francesco Martella****Colebrook: Sara Edell, Mariam Johnson, Seyda Morrison****Dake: Alison Curwin, Marissa Harris, Jillian O'Donnell,
Samantha Speed-Line, Alyssa Weaver****IHS: Rachel Benjamin, Dina Demersman, Jonathan Rose****Iroquois: Lindsay Lennertz****Rogers: Chelsea Didas****Southlawn: Heather Mirabella, Jacqueline Shellard****District: Angela Nassimos****WICSD TENURED
TEACHERS!**

Nicole Hobbins

Leigh Onorato

Karen Paliani

Andre Rogers

Jennifer Sullivan

Vote
November 3rd!

WITA Officers for 2020-2021:**President**— Scott Steinberg**Executive Vice President**— Steve Schockow**Second Vice President**— Kate Dobosz**Secretary**— Wendy Boomer**Treasurer**— Todd Fleming**Delegates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly:**
Scott Steinberg, Todd Fleming, Steve Schockow, Julie Wolf**Sick Time Usage During the Pandemic**

It is the right of every WITA member to call in sick when they are sick. Per our contract, no documentation from a physician is required for absences that do not exceed ten school days. You have no work obligation when utilizing sick time.

What about COVID-19? If you answer "yes" on your daily screening or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 that are new or unusual to you, per the New York State Department of Health you may be required to submit a doctor's note or a negative COVID-19 test result to return to work. Please protect your student and colleagues by staying home when sick and getting tested as appropriate.

Is there other documentation that the District can request? If you are using an FMLA leave rather than sick time you may be asked to provide additional documentation. The District may also ask if you are able to telework and substitute working remotely for this leave.

Contact Tracing and Mandatory Quarantine: It is the role of the Monroe County Department of Public Health (DPH) to do contact tracing and issue mandatory quarantine orders. It is important that we continue to work with DPH and trust their efforts to keep us safe. Under federal privacy laws the District is only able to release the building in which a case exists. You will be contacted by DPH if you are identified as having been potentially exposed.

