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A WTA Newsletter

December, 2007
 Volume 6, Issue 4

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President's Message



Recently an amendment was made to Section 413 of the New York Social Services Law (Chapter 193 of the Laws of 2007). This amendment clarifies who is a mandated reporter and therefore is responsible for reporting suspected child abuse or maltreatment, via phone, to the Statewide Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment. Mandated reporters or "school officials" include, but are not limited to: teachers, guidance counselors, psychologists, nurses, administrators, and any school personnel holding a license or certificate.

If you have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment, or have been given a disclosure of child abuse or maltreatment, you must directly call the child abuse hotline.

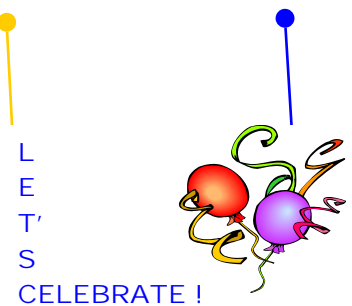
must directly call the child abuse hotline. In the past it was possible for a teacher who had reasonable cause to inform their building support professionals (counselor, psychologist, social worker) or administrator who would then make the call. This

is no longer the case. Failure to make this call **yourself** could result in you being charged with a class A misdemeanor and sued in civil court for monetary damages.

to your school counselor or psychologist office and pick up the form LDSS-2221A (Rev 9/2007) Report of Suspected Child Abuse or Maltreatment. This form must be completed and filed to your local child protective service within 48 hours of you making the call "oral report". The support professionals in your building can help walk you through this process. The address of your local child protective service and information regarding this form can also be obtained when you call to make the oral report. You must also immediately notify your building administrator that a call has been made as they are required to complete an internal report and are in charge of subsequent internal administration which may include providing additional follow up information to CPS.
(continued on page 2)

What does this change in law mean and how does it affect you? If you have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment, or have been given a disclosure of child abuse or maltreatment, **you**

However it is still advisable to seek guidance or assistance from your school counselor, psychologist, or administrator. In fact the first step of this process is for you to go



Congratulations to Andy and Shannon had their baby boy, Ryan Anthony on Saturday November 17th.

Welcome Aboard to Angela Wasserman—the new art teacher at OP.

Jackie Leszyk - the new HS WTA building rep.

Supporting the Community That Supports Us!



"There's no one cause for the issues we face—and no single solution. But, when we act as one, we can make a real difference." Last year alone, here is the difference the collective we made locally through the United Way contributions collected:
ZIP code: 14520
 Number of People You've Helped (2006): 35

Student Readiness and Success: 7
 Strengthening People and Families: 28
ZIP code: 14568
 Number of People You've Helped (2006): 1,954
 Student Readiness and Success: 500
 Supporting People in Crisis: 1
 Strengthening People and Families: 1,453

ZIP code: 14502
 Number of People You've Helped (2006): 2,296
 Student Readiness and Success: 651
 Supporting People in Crisis: 5
 Strengthening People and Families: 1,639
 For more information check out www.uwrochester.org
 Fill out your pledge card today!

Thank YOU to are awesome WTA auditors who finalized the internal audit on December 11th: Kathy Uerz— chairperson, along with Gail Streeter and Catherine Grisley.

The 3 R's: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!

3rd Thursday: Happy Holidays from WTA— enjoy each other's company and the donuts!



Issues currently being explored:

- Concerns regarding pre-determined goals on summatives.

Issues acted upon/resolved:

- Conducted and accepted WTA internal audit /report.
- Approved Region 6 Retiree council's

16 proposals for NYSUT state Rep Assembly.

- Clarified questions & procedures regarding our stipends contract agreement.
- Seniority List & Stipends Amendment Revisions - WTA has final copy of both to be distributed to members soon.

Dates to Remember:

Friday, December 21—United Way Pledge Cards due to HR

Rule of thumb #44: "With regard to your new year's resolutions remember the 80-20 rule—80% of your really important results come from 20% of your goals!" (from the One Minute Manager)

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President's Message (cont.)

Nothing has changed as far as what is classified as child abuse or maltreatment. What has changed is the procedure. You may choose to have the support professionals walk you through this process. **If you find yourself in a situation where you are not sure whether or not you have reasonable cause, the only resolution and answer to this question is for you to pick up the phone and call.**

Your building counselor, psychologist, or administrator cannot make that decision for you. You must call, and child protective services will decide whether to take the case or not. Suspect Abuse or Maltreatment? **Report it Now!**

Statewide Toll Free Telephone Number:

1-800-342-3720

If you believe that a child is in **immediate**

danger, call 911 or your local police department.

Please visit the WTA website for the Summary Guide for Mandated Reports in New York State.

Wow! After all that – here's wishing all of you a report free safe holiday season.

Jason Carter



NEA Foundation Grants

The NEA Foundation supports a variety of efforts by teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff to improve student learning in the nation's public schools, colleges, and universities. The next application deadline is quickly approaching—**February 1, 2008**. Below are two categories of grants that WCSD staff can qualify for:

Learning & Leadership Grants: provide opportunities for teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff to engage in high-quality professional development and lead their colleagues in professional growth. The grant amount is \$2,000 for individuals and \$5,000 for groups engaged in collegial study.

Student Achievement Grants: provide \$5,000 to improve the academic achievement of students by engaging in critical thinking and problem solving that deepen knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The work should also improve students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection. (These grants replace the Foundation's Innovation Grants program, which has been discontinued.)

This past year our very own Jen Spina received the learning and Leadership grant to participate in a competency-based school neuropsychological training program designed for school psychologists in order to provide support for elementary students who experience difficulties due to

learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactive disorder, and brain trauma. Through direct instruction, group instruction, and field experience, Ms. Spina along with Anne Wigent are learning to administer, score, and interpret a variety of neuropsychological tests to evaluate individual children and how to utilize neuropsychological tools to identify areas of the brain responsible for facets of learning and tailor interventions to specific areas of the brain.

So if Jen can do it so can you! The next deadline is quickly approaching. Check out <http://www.neafoundation.org/> for more information.





**Working
to Benefit
You!**

nysut Member
Benefits
Trust
A Union of Professionals

Every program endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits Trust is researched, designed and monitored to enhance your lifestyle.

With the group buying power represented by more than 585,000 members, we're able to offer quality products and services that are competitively priced.

Insurance Benefits

Term Life
Catastrophe Major Medical
Disability
Personal Property and Liability (Umbrella)
Long-Term Care
Retiree Dental Plan
WrapPlan® Term Life Coordination Program
Accidental Death & Dismemberment
Vision Plan - *New!*

Financial Benefits

Preferred Savings PlusSM
Mortgages
Equifax Credit WatchTM Gold
Consumer Credit Counseling Service

Legal Services

Legal Service Plan
Retiree Legal Service Plan

Discount Benefits

OfficeMax Retail ConnectSM - *New!*
Bose® - *New!*
Dell Computers
Barnes & Noble.com
Simply Certificates
Working Advantage (Discount Tickets)
Lifeline Medical Alert Service
Car Rentals - Alamo, Avis, Budget & Hertz
Six Flags
The Buyer's Edge Buying Service
Heat USA

Other Services

MAP - Member Assistance Program - *New!*
MetDESK (Division of Estate Planning for Special Kids)
Payroll & Pension Deduction
Consumer's Guides
Defensive Driving
Identity Theft Workshops

To request more information, please call:

(800) 626-8101

E-mail us at: benefits@nysutmail.org or visit us on the Web at www.memberbenefits.nysut.org.

Some benefits may not be available in all local associations.

For information about these programs or about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits Trust or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.