

STC Connections

SOUTHTOWN TEACHERS' CENTER - A NYS TEACHER TRAINING AND RESOURCE CENTER



Serving Public and Non-Public Educators in the Frontier and Hamburg Central School Districts and the Community

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TIMELY TIDBITS FROM OUR DIRECTORS

We thought we would try to put a smile (or a laugh out loud) on your lips with our last Newsletter of this school year.

“THE SUREST SIGN THAT INTELLIGENT LIFE EXISTS IN THE UNIVERSE IS THAT IT HAS NEVER TRIED TO CONTACT US.” -BILL WATTERSON, CALVIN AND HOBBS

“WHEN SOMEBODY TELLS YOU NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, ASK HIM TO DRIBBLE A FOOTBALL.” -AUTHOR UNKNOWN

We have heard that we are being funded at the same level as last year. While it isn't what we hoped for, we are happy to be included in the state budget. Thank you for your faxes, phone calls, emails, and letters, and all of the support you have given to us throughout the year.

Be sure to check out our summer course offerings. We hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

-Marianne and Janet



CONTACT US:

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 Hamburg, NY 14075
 Big Tree Elementary
 School Room 140
 716-649-6775 Phone
 southtowntc@verizon.net

Hours
 Monday-Thursday
 10:00AM-2:30PM
 and
 3:45PM-5:00PM

Closed from 2:30-3:45 for dismissal and on Fridays
See summer hours ----->

Find us on
 Facebook
 and Pinterest!

SUMMER HOURS

Beginning
 Tuesday, June 28
 STC will be open

Tues-Wed-Thurs
 8:30AM
 to
 2:30PM

We will be
 closed July 26-28
 for staff vacation



SUMMER PRO-GROWTH

For more on these courses see page 4!

<u>Creating a Useful and Engaging Classroom Website</u>	
July 11, 18, 25 and Aug 2, 9 -Scott Panfil, Instructor <i>Teachers</i>	15 Hrs.
<u>How to Maximize Your Intelligence with Growth Mindset</u>	
July 11, 12, 13 & 14 - MaryAnn Meegan, Instructor <i>Teachers, Aides, Support Staff, Administrators</i>	15 Hrs.
<u>Foundations of National Board</u>	
Aug 3, Sept 28, Oct 26 and Nov 16 Mary Ann Dates, NBCT-Instructor	15Hrs
<u>Google in the Teaching World</u>	
Aug 9, 10 & 11 - Lisa Wolski, Instructor <i>Teachers, Aides, Support Staff, Administrators</i>	15 Hrs.
<u>Meeting the Needs of ELLs in the General Education Classroom</u>	
Aug 16, 17 & 18 - Nicole Miller, Instructor <i>Teachers, Aides, Grades 3-12</i>	15 Hrs.
<u>Latin American Cultural Awareness Field Trip</u>	
Aug 22nd Location: El Buen Amigo	4 Hrs.



Congratulations to our Golden Apple Honorees!



Anna Love - School Nurse, Blasdell Elementary School



Anna Love is an absolute God-send. She treats students who come to her with serious illnesses, and those who just might need an encouraging word, with the same dignity and respect. School can be difficult. School, when you are not feeling well, is overwhelming. She is always patient, and sweet to the kids, even when the waiting room is full.

In addition, Anna has helped me with her wisdom. As a parent, you don't always know what to do with the sniffles or bellyaches, but it was Anna who told me when my child needed more medical attention, and it really impacted our lives.

Anna embodies all that is good about nurses--compassionate, problem-solver, patient, and gentle. It is with sincere appreciation that I nominate Anna Love.

Traits observed: Compassion, Gentleness, Patience, Wisdom

Laurie Rettig - Teacher Aide, Boston Valley Elementary School

Laurie Rettig is a classroom aide at Armor Elementary School, but that only begins to describe the value that she brings to everyone she works with at our school and in our community. Laurie's creativity is unmatched! She shares this talent with others in a multitude of ways. Her artistic ability and influence can be seen throughout the hallways and classrooms at Armor school. She uses it to reinforce concepts or to create engaging opportunities for student learning. Laurie even created a school song, that is often played on the announcements that reflects the community spirit and pride that embody Armor School. Laurie is an observer. She is always looking for ways to help others, especially the students she works with. Maybe it's her

mother's intuition, perhaps it is her attention to detail, or even her compassionate nature that allow her to be so in tune with student needs. She gives every bit of herself each day to ensure that each child she works with gets what they need academically, socially and emotionally. Laurie takes pride in what she does because she sees the value in helping children achieve their highest potential. The students in my class love when they get to work in a group with Mrs. Rettig, because even as fourth graders, they know the compassion and dedication they get when working with her.



Laurie can be seen attending board of education meetings in Hamburg regularly because she cares about her community and wants the best for her students! She goes above and beyond her job description every single day! Mrs. Rettig not only serves as a role model for students, but she's the type of person that adults look up to as a mentor in character, creativity, dedication and passion for education. Armor School is very blessed to have Mrs. Rettig. Please

consider acknowledging her dedication by awarding her with the Golden Apple.

Traits observed: Availability/Mentorship, Compassion, Creativity, Determination/Overcome challenge, Discretion, Enthusiasm, Flexibility (adapting to changes in a positive way), Generosity of Time & Resources, Gentleness, Initiative, Joyfulness-Morale Booster, Patience, Resourcefulness, Sincerity, Wisdom

Patricia Antonik-Microcomputer Repair Technician, Hamburg Central Schools

picture unavailable

I am nominating Patricia Antonik, Hamburg Central Schools' Microcomputer Repair Technician, for the Golden Apple Award. In 2016, all educators have realized the value and importance of implementing technology into our curriculum. We use it everyday to plan, communicate, and to motivate our students! Technology is great until something goes wrong, and then we are all stuck in a world where the best plans come to a screeching halt!

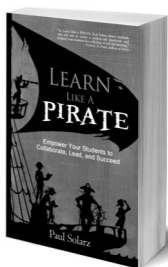
Patricia is always an email or phone call away whenever there is a staff or student need. She shows compassion and patience as she listens to the issue and trouble shoots what could be the cause and the solution. Do you need a new app installed on an iPad? Did your laptop stop working? Are you in need of a protective case? Is your screen on your chromebook showing, "funny things?" When you contact Patricia you are in trustworthy hands. If she can't solve your problem immediately, she gives you a timeline of when she can meet you. She travels without complaint between schools to provide personal assistance. She welcomes all questions with enthusiasm and professionalism.

Patricia Antonik is deserving of this nomination because of her wisdom, patience, and professionalism with staff and students to manage the challenges of technology.

Traits observed: Availability/Mentorship, Enthusiasm, Flexibility (adapting to changes in a positive way), Generosity of time and resources, Initiative, Patience, Resourcefulness, Wisdom.

STC LENDING LIBRARY BOOK RECOMENDATON

Learn Like a Pirate-Paul Solarz



Empower your students to Collaborate, Lead and Succeed!

Peer Collaboration-builds community, supports teamwork

Improvement-Focused Learning challenges students to strive to be their best

Responsibility for daily tasks builds ownership in the classroom

Active Learning turns boring lessons into fun & memorable experiences

Twenty-First Century Skills engage students now and prepare for the future

Empowerment allows students to be confident risk-takers who make bold decisions

Did you know...

We have a classroom set of **Cubelets** available for loan? Cubelets are great for teaching beginning robotics and programming. Why not take a set out to play around with this

Summer and **turn up the STEAM** in your Classroom!



Did you also know...

STC accepts payroll donations? We are humbled and grateful for the direct support we receive from our teachers, aides, administrators and support staff.

These donations have kept us afloat during the years we were not funded and have gone a long way to bridge the gap for the last few years in which we have seen significantly reduced grant funding. Donations are used in the daily operation of STC, **most importantly they also provide:**

- *New Books* for our Professional Development Book Lending Library
- *Current technology* for loan such as iPads, Chrome Books, Laptops etc...
 - Uninterrupted services to our educators
- Professional Learning opportunities that meet the specific needs of teachers

If you would like to support us through a payroll donation, please submit the coupon below to the payroll department. Deductions will begin in September.

I hereby authorize _____ Central School District to take the designated voluntary payroll deduction as indicated below from each pay period in support of The Southtown Teachers' Center. I understand that this deduction will remain in effect until I submit a written request to discontinue the deduction. **Payroll deductions are taken from September -June*

Name (Printed)

Signature

Building

Date

I designate the following deduction to the Southtown Teachers' Center:

- \$ 1.00 per pay period
 \$ 2.00 per pay period
 \$ _____ per pay period
 \$ _____ One Time Donation
 Change my current payroll deduction to \$ _____

Building Liaisons

- Big Tree - Maureen Carducci
- Blasdell - Parker Reed
- Cloverbank - Megan Insera
- Pinehurst - Heidi Backus
- Frontier Middle - Scott Garvey
- Frontier High - Karen Morgan
- Armor - Lynn Sullivan
- Boston Valley - Erin Holstein
- Charlotte Ave - Nancy Dennis
- Union Pleasant - Judy Nye & Linda Gegenfurtner
- Hamburg Middle - Kelly Lauria
- Hamburg High - Joe Karnath
- Immaculata Academy- Penny Wapshare
- St. Francis - Pat Kaczmarczyk
- Sts. Peter & Paul - Ann McGrath
- Southtowns Catholic-Erica Aikin
- St. Mary's Bright Future Early Learning Center - Mandy Eppolito



STC Policy Board Members

- Julia Bermingham
- Barbara Broomell
- Mary Ann Costello
- Mary Ann Dates
- Candy Ditkowski
- Patty Evans
- Katie Grogan-Co-Chair
- Erin Holstein-Co-Chair
- Megan Insera
- Marylou Kallin
- Rachel Kent
- Marti McCorkhill
- Mary Ann Meegan
- Dan Meyer
- Gina Palermo
- Wendy Rayburg
- Robert Smith
- Hattie Strnad
- Lynn Marie Sullivan
- Amy Takacs

STC Policy Board meeting 2016/17
9/30, 11/18, 2/3, 4/21 5/19

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



CREATING A USEFUL AND ENGAGING CLASSROOM WEBSITE

Scott Panfil, Instructor

Creating a useful and engaging classroom website is quicker, easier, and cheaper than ever before. Gone are the days of coding four hours to maintain content! In this class, we will spend time creating a website that will extend your classroom into the home and portable devices of your students. We'll spend time on the technical details, the appearance, and the uses for your classroom website, as well as begin populating your site with interesting content!

Learners will also get access to video tutorials about each topic that can be viewed at any time to refresh what we've done in the lab, as well as access to a private Facebook support group of all attendees.

Best of all, at the end of this course, you will have a working classroom website that can be easily updated and minimally maintained.

July 11, 18, 25, Aug 2 & Aug 9 9am-Noon Frontier MS Rm 172 15 Hrs \$75
Teachers

HOW TO MAXIMIZE YOUR INTELLIGENCE WITH GROWTH MINDSET

MaryAnn Meegan, Instructor

Ever wonder if your intelligence is fixed? Is it possible to Maximize your Intelligence? What is Growth Mindset all about anyway? In this course participants will learn about fixed and growth mindset and why a growth mindset is important for our own intelligence and that of students. We will look at our own beliefs about intelligence, ways to build a growth mindset, the barriers to learning, and how failure and perseverance can foster learning. Participants will also examine resources available for growth mindset, including literature, web resources, film clips, and brain games. As a participant you will receive FREE resources and have the opportunity to apply your knowledge through an independent session before meeting at the final session to share your findings with the group.

July 11, 12, 13 & 14 9am-12:45pm Big Tree LMC 15 Hrs. \$75
Teachers. Aides, Support Staff, Administrators

FOUNDATIONS OF NATIONAL BOARD

FREE

Mary Ann Dates, National Board Certified Trainer

National Board Certification is a performance-based and peer-reviewed process with an emphasis on content knowledge and commitment to student learning. It is a professional development opportunity that supports improvements in teaching and learning, and enhancing teacher effectiveness.

This course is an overview of National Board Certification including the Five Core Propositions, the Architecture of Accomplished Teaching, Eligibility and Funding, Certificate Standards, Component requirements, and the Three Types of Writing (Descriptive, Analytical, Reflective). Candidate support will be provided for those who continue with the National Board Certification process.

This is for Teachers who may be interested in pursuing National Board Certification. You do not need to be a candidate to take this course.

Aug 3*, Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 16 & Dec 14 4:00-6:15 PM Hamburg HS LMC
*Note the first session will be from 9am-3pm at Erie Catt Teacher Center
3000 School View Rd, Eden

Southtown Teachers' Center is proud to support teachers seeking their National Board Certification.. NBC support is funded through a grant and is free to you. Please be sure to submit any prior approvals your district requires for Professional Development.

GOOGLE IN THE TEACHING WORLD

Lisa Wolski, Instructor

So you have a shiny new Google account. What now?

Participants will be able to understand how a Google account can enhance their profession. In today's world collaboration, using technology, is a key learning objective. Learn to share documents, calendars, and applications with other participants. Become familiar with and understand the capabilities of the Google Apps for Education as well as email, calendar, groups, YouTube, hangouts and Google Classroom.

Aug 9, 10 & 11 9am-2pm Pinehurst LMC 15 Hrs. \$75
Teachers. Aides, Support Staff, Administrators

MEETING THE NEEDS OF ELLS IN THE GENERAL EDUCATION CLASSROOM

Nicole Miller, Instructor

Participants will learn many strategies and instructional techniques for meeting the ever-changing needs of English Language Learners in the mainstream and/or inclusion classroom. Teachers will develop a tool-kit to take back to their classrooms that consists of working with ELLs with disabilities & differentiation/modification for students at various proficiency levels of English development within the departmentalized classroom. Also addressed will be: cultural responsiveness in the classroom; addressing cultural differences within the classroom; resources and materials available to help meet the needs of ELLs; assessing ELLs in the classroom; the role of the ESL teacher in the partnership with the gen-ed/sp-ed teachers; and successful parent communication. Participants will learn from other educators via various teaching video, articles, protocols and practice the strategies being discussed.

Aug 16, 17 & 18 9am-2pm Big Tree LMC 15 Hrs. \$75
Teachers & Aides (Grades 3-12)

LATIN AMERICAN CULTURAL AWARENESS FIELD TRIP FOR EDUCATORS

Aug 22nd 10am-2pm **PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED** \$20

Join us at Buffalo's own El Buen Amigo, 114 Elmwood Ave. for a fun-filled day. The Cultural Education Program is designed to encourage tolerance and appreciation of the arts and learning as well as introduce them to Latin American culture and fair trade practices. Discussion topics include Latin American culture and the importance of cultural



understanding, social and economic justice, and respecting the rights of all people around the world. Participants will take part in the following sessions:

Cultural Awareness Presentation topics: Latin American Culture, Globalization, Fair Trade vs. Free Trade, Social Justice Issues and Human Rights.

Groups will enjoy a brief tour of El Buen Amigo, and enjoy presentations about El Buen Amigo's fair trade store.

Character Tower: This unique character building activity helps teach: Teamwork; Balance; Self-reflection; Patience and Humility

Jewelry-Making Workshop Learn to create beautiful jewelry with traditional beading, from bracelets to necklaces.

Salsa Dancing Class: Students will learn the history of Latin rhythmic dances such as merengue and salsa and participate in a live dance lesson taught by the expert instructors of dance groups. These dances are physical reflections of traditional Latin American culture and identity.

Lunch: Participants enjoy an authentic, family-style lunch from Niagara Café – a local Puerto Rican food restaurant on Buffalo's West Side.