



Welcome Summer!



Summertime

Summer is almost here. It is a time to relax and spent time doing things that you enjoy. Many people travel to different parts of the U.S. or the world to visit with family and friends. Some explore new places, while others enjoy the season at a familiar summer place. It is when you can work on hobbies, read or just slow down.

Many teachers go on adventures with education in mind. Whether it is through an institute, on a fellowship or with your own plan, teachers continue to learn on their own time. Some teachers teach classes in summer school, others attend classes to further their education. Whatever you do take time for yourself. Rejuvenate before the next school year begins.

Enjoy this edition of the "WHEA World" with our colleagues' Awards and Accomplishments.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

YOUR 2009-2010 OFFICERS:

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Workshops

The West Hartford Education Association (WHEA) along with the Connecticut Education Association (CEA) will continue to support teachers. The following are events that were offered: ‘*WHEA Social*’ was held on March 26; ‘*Planning for the Future*,’ long range workshop was held on 5/13/10; ‘*The 50th Annual Recognition Dinner*’ was held at The Farmington Club on May 20, 2010.

Upcoming events: ‘*Celebrate West Hartford!*,’ WHEA booth 6/12 and 6/13; ‘*NEA/RA*,’ 7/1-7/6; ‘*CEA Summer Academy*,’ Mohegan Sun, 8/2-8/4.

For further information about these or other workshops/events please see your building representative, or visit www.whea.org or www.cea.org.



‘WHEA World’ Purpose

The latest issue of the West Hartford Education Association’s ‘WHEA World’ is here! The WHEA has been working for the advancement of West Hartford’s public school teachers, children and schools since 1928.

The purpose of our ‘WHEA World’ is to keep members informed with the latest news and highlight achievements of our colleagues. The ‘WHEA World’ will be able to showcase, highlight and share the accomplishments of the top-notch teachers of West Hartford.

Please pass along any information about awards and achievements that you and your colleagues have received so that we may publish them in upcoming newsletters. Please e-mail or complete the “Award and Achievement Form” and send the information to the PR chair at wheaoffice@gmail.com. The form can be found on the last page of this edition. Let’s share our wonderful accomplishments with our colleagues!

The Boat

By J. Bogdan © 4/10

The boat sits in the harbor waiting for its new destination, its new passengers and new adventures. Where will it go? What are your plans for the summer? Maybe just a sail around the ocean at your favorite beach or a cruise to a new place. It could be that you are a land lover and just admire the ship passing by. Whatever you Chose ‘Enjoy the View!’

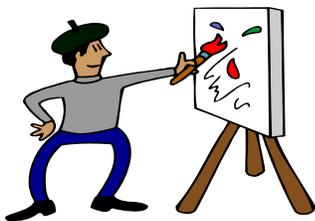
Leading Students

Works of Heart

Chris Bivona, Hall social worker, is the advisor of 'Works of Heart' group. The group of about 20 Hall students meets once a month to help raise awareness about mental health and suicide. This is the second year that this group has been helping students.

Artbeat 2010

The West Hartford Art Leagues' Clubhouse Art Gallery featured the annual 'Artbeat 2010'. Carol Ann Cogan, one of the many Art teachers in our district explained Artbeat for WHEA World. "Artbeat is an annual townwide K-12 art exhibit. All visual arts teachers participate with a number of student pieces. It is an exhibit and not a competition. The work is chosen by the individual art teachers. Since there are a limited number of pieces representing each school it is an honor for students to be included. The exhibit begins with a gala art opening and the display continues for several weeks usually in March. For years and years it has been at the Saltbox and Clubhouse Galleries in West Hartford. This year the Saltbox is being renovated so only the Clubhouse was used, therefore even though all schools were represented the exhibit was smaller due to space constraints." Thank you to the Department of Fine and Performing Arts for showcasing our student's artwork.



Train Show

On April 10-11 the Sedgwick Technology Student Association (TSA) sponsored their fourth annual Train Show at Sedgwick under the leadership of Maggie Kaiser and Cathy Lukas, sixth and eighth grade technology education teachers. The show featured the Torrington Area Model Railroaders and the Valley N-Trak Railroad Club. Many train hobbyists set up their model trains with hands-on exhibits. The two day exhibit was enjoyed by many West Hartford and out-of-town families.



Leading Students cont.

Sharing Life's Experiences

The West Hartford Public Schools Mentor Program is a district-wide program serving students in every school, kindergarten through grade 12. For the past few years, Carol Wilkas, Business Education Teacher, REACH Program (alternative high school) has coordinated the program at the district-level. The mission of the program is to allow students the opportunity to reach their potential by offering guidance, encouragement, and support through partnerships with caring adults. The long-term goal for the program is to have every student matched with a mentor at some point during his or her educational journey. The approach in this school and volunteer-based program is to bring about change in our students over a period of time with a particular focus on developing self-esteem and building in their strengths. Mentoring has proved to be a powerful tool in helping young people, benefiting more than 150 West Hartford students over the last five years. Studies through the Governors Prevention Partnership have shown that mentoring assists in raising academic performance, increasing their school attendance, improving attitude and behavior, promoting self respect and also helping to prepare the work force of the future. During these difficult economic times, it's important for us to further develop volunteer-based programs that support our students and help them become productive citizens. Carol Wilkas said, "The need for positive adult role models, specifically male mentors, continues to grow each year. All it takes is one hour per week during the school year to make a difference. Become a mentor; help us change a life today!"



Knitting Club

The Sedgwick 'Knitting Club' helped with 'Relief to Haiti'. The group of students led by Andrea Carrubba, 6th grade Adjusted Curriculum teacher; Kathy LaBombard, 7th grade health teacher; Rona Berkowitz, reading teacher; and Barbara Steele, math teacher knitted washcloths and collected soap, toothpaste and flashlights that were sent to Haiti.



Leading Students cont.

History Day

Twenty-three Quest students at Sedgwick, conducted sophisticated, in-depth, historical research for an array of innovations. They pulled together a thesis statement from their initial research questions and chose the best category to defend it. After defining the **innovation** and placing it in historical context, they described the immediate **impact** and developed the entry to include the long term **change**. The top three entries in each category prepared for the State Finals on May 8, 2010, where they competed with thirteen entries from other CT Regional competitions. Eight Quest students led by Jennifer Hunt, Quest teacher at Sedgwick, competed in the State Finals with their research on historical topics. The categories are: Individual Performance, Group Documentary, Group Exhibit, Group Documentary, and Historical Paper. Sedgwick and West Hartford should be especially proud of our students who placed in the top three slots.



Jennifer Hunt in her classroom

International Dinner

Every year in April ‘The Multicultural Clubs’ of Conard and Hall High Schools, host ‘A Night Around the World’. The advisors for the event are Holly Banak, mathematics teacher at Conard; Eva Fruhwald, world language teacher, and Maryam Wardak, history teacher, both from Hall High School.

It is an event that is open to the public and it is a great opportunity for the people of West Hartford to share their diverse backgrounds and culture with others. Students bring in food from their native countries and perform dances, songs and poems. In addition, we often have local restaurants donate food.

Holly explained, ‘‘This is one of the happiest nights for me as a teacher and advisor at Conard High School. I love to see students from all different backgrounds get together to share their cultures. They feel proud and have a great time. I will often hear from the students, ‘‘can’t we do this every month’’?’’



Leading Students cont.

Music

Sedgwick music students participated in the Northern Regional Band/Orchestra/Choir Festival at Har-Bur Middle School, Burlington, CT.

The Interim concert *'Mid Fest Music Festival'* was presented at Belding Theatre in the Bushnell. All three middle schools participated.

Performances

Conard students presented *'Once On This Island'* on March 19, 20 and 21, 2010. Joseph Marino, music teacher at Conard, was the Director. The Music Director was Scott Porter, music teacher at Conard. Assistant Choreographer/Musical Staging was Melissa Lotstein, 6th grade music teacher at Sedgwick. Terry Rush, Conard Theatre Teacher, was the Technical Director. Stephen Clink, music teacher at Conard/Hall/Smith was the Sound Director. Helen Hughlett, retired special education teacher, played a synthesizer in the orchestra. It was an excellent performance!

On April 9-11, the Sedgwick Drama Club performed the zany musical called *'Kokonut Kapers.'* It was the fourth year that 7th grade social studies teacher, John P. Tracey, acted as the Assistant Director for the famed Sedgwick musicals. Each of the performances was a smash and well-attended. John is pleased to announce that he has taken over as director and next year's production is going to be the hilarious and rockin' *'Hairspray.'* Stay tuned for further details.

At Hall High the 52nd edition of *'Pops 'n Jazz'* was another spectacular show that played for more than 4000 people. The concert jazz band, jazz band, dancers, and jazz singers were featured along with internationally-acclaimed guest artists. *'Pops 'n Jazz 2010'* is led by Haig Shahverdian, Department Supervisor for Fine and Performing Arts, John Mastroianni, and Lorri Cetto, Hall music teachers, Scott Sampietro, technical director/teacher at Hall, and Darlene Zoller, choreographer.



Leading Students cont.

Performances cont.

This April, King Philip Drama Workshop had the honor of producing the world premiere production of a musical written especially for middle school students about middle school students. *The Day May Saved the Day*, written by local playwright and musician Melanie Guerin centers around the ups and downs of a quirky group of friends, as they navigate the sometimes baffling new world of middle school.

Because this was a premiere production, the cast was afforded opportunities they would not experience while producing a typical show. Throughout the rehearsal process, the students and directors were able to periodically meet with the playwright in order to discuss their characters, ask questions, and make revisions to the script. The experience of being the first to bring these characters to life onstage was quite exciting for everyone. This very authentic theatrical process is not often available to middle school students.

The production crew for this show included: director, Corinne Kravetz, 7th grade resource teacher; musical director Joe Ganci, band director; producers, Jared Boulet and Patti Buccheri, both are paraprofessionals. The play was choreographed by NYC actor, Josh Feder and two KPM students.

The Drama Workshop provides a variety of different theatrical experiences to the students at KPM including *On the Spot* an improv troupe, the mainstage production, and the ever popular KPM Coffeehouse. Guest artists are also brought in to share their expertise in the many aspects of theatre. The club makes an annual trip to Broadway to see a show and take a workshop.

Corinne Kravetz said, “In the theatre, there is a place for everyone. There is a creative outlet for all types of people. The theatre is a family.”



Leading Students cont.

Unified Sports

The “Be a Fan” award was presented to the Middle School Unified Sports Team by the Connecticut (CT) Association of Schools, the CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference, and the Special Olympics CT for working with the Unified Sports Program. Involved in the program from Sedgwick are Jonathan Baldwin, 6th grade math, Colin Bowie, 8th grade health, Amy Tebecio, special needs teacher, Denise Brezinski, paraprofessional and from King Philip, Jennifer Ukanowicz-Parrett, 7th grade math teacher. Unified Sports is a registered program of Special Olympics that combines athletes with developmental or cognitive disabilities and their peers without disabilities on the same team for training and competition. The program provides both a forum for positive social interaction between teammates and competition experience.

Our West Hartford program consists of over fifty (50) special education athletes and regular education partners from Bristol, King Philip and Sedgwick Middle Schools. High school students from Conard and Hall assist our program with their coaching skills.



High School Hoops 4 Haiti

Holly Coleman, Conard math teacher, and Steve Boyle, School Counselor at Hall, helped to run ‘Hoops 4 Haiti Faculty Basketball Game’ with faculty from Hall vs. Conard. The event was held at Hall on April 12, 2010. The proceeds benefitted the American Red Cross Relief Efforts in Haiti. Other events included a Tug of War, Dodgeball game, and a 50/50 drawing. Holly said, “The entire town came together to raise money for the American Red Cross to help the rebuilding efforts in Haiti. We look forward to holding similar events in the future.” They raised just short of \$3000 for the cause. Many faculty members played and/or volunteered to help.

Leading Students cont.

Middle School BB Game

The third annual 'King Philip vs. Sedgwick/ Bristow Faculty Basketball Game' was held at Conard High School. This was played with more than 1,000 fans watching and raised money for the PTO's at the three middle schools. Organizers included from Sedgwick, Bob Lorenzo, guidance counselor and Matt Celio, 6th grade social studies teacher; from KP, Peter Gustafson, physical education teacher and Edward D'Addio, guidance counselor. "With food, music, door prizes, dancing, singing and fun, a basketball game breaks out, and a good time is had by all," Bob Lorenzo explained. Thank you to the following faculty and staff who participated: Sedgwick—Meghan Gaignard, Matt Celio, Chris Jud, Craig Bukowski, Tracie Zavis, Steve Kay, Jen Tauro, Christina Carroll, Patrick Nobou, Jas Singh, Brendan Coates, Bob Lorenzo, John Tracey, Jonathan Baldwin, Juan Melián; Bristow—Mike Cobb, Kevin Lilly, Steve Boyle, Chelsea Crabbe, Allayne Sundt, Jackie Colon, Andy Morrow; King Philip—Ed D'Addio, Coach, Mike Renkawitz, Coach, Bill DeWitt, Lou Ramirez, Kathy Walling, Matt Bannon, Johnell Burts, Paul Duquette, Brian Merritt, Troy Jones, Janel Aquadro, Pete Gustafson and Rock Foster. The game ended in a tie and plans are being made for a rematch next year. "It was my pleasure to participate in this event and play in a great game! I cannot wait for next year!" stated Pete Gustafson.

The entertainment during half time was a performance by the Sedgwick Step Team led by Migdalia Colon, speech-language therapist, and Dawn Legenza, 7th and 8th grade special education teacher.



Kudos go to:

CEA 'TV Star'

Margo Parenti (formerly Walerysiak), Wolcott kindergarten teacher, is featured in 'Lights, Action, New TV Ads' with the Connecticut Education Association (CEA) Ad Campaign. On the website at www.cea.org you can view the ads and as stated there, "The tagline of the campaign is: ***Connecticut Teachers: Giving their best every day.*** Teachers are continuously improving, adapting, and innovating. They're leading change and improvement in our public schools." The commercial started airing in March and is still running on TV. Her ad has been shown during American Idol, 60 Minutes and Glee. The digital billboards were located on Interstate 84 West near the Sisson Ave exit, as well as on Interstate 91 North in Wethersfield during the month of March.

During CEA's Summer Leadership Conference last August, Margo answered some questions on video for CEA Communications. She was selected as one of six teachers to be part of the ad campaign. She received a phone call to participate in the ad campaign at the end of January. At first, she wasn't sure if she wanted to do the advertisement but then thought, "Why not? This is an opportunity that may never come along again." She said, "All in all, I had a wonderful time filming the commercial the morning of Super Bowl Sunday at Dunbar Elementary School in Hamden with another fellow CEA colleague." There were 6 teachers that were selected from CT. Shortly after filming the commercial, the teachers found out that they were going to participate in a photo shoot during February vacation for billboard ads.

Margo shared, "Never in a million years did I think I would ever be on a billboard, let alone a TV commercial! It was a true honor to represent Connecticut teachers. I had a lot of fun learning about what goes on *behind the scenes.*" She was also featured in the CEA Advisor, April 2010. Great job!



Literary Recognition

At Sedgwick Matt Celio, 6th grade social studies teacher and Meghan Gaignard, 6th grade English teacher, are advisors for *'The Sedgwick Scroll,'* the student literary magazine. The magazine was ranked Excellent in the 2009 NCTE Program to Recognize Excellence.

Kodaly Envoy

Frank Gallo, music teacher at Sedgwick, will have his article titled *'The Kodaly Concept in the Secondary Choral Classroom'* published in the Kodaly Envoy, the national publication for the Organization of American Kodaly Educators, a music organization. Congratulations!

Kudos go to cont.:

West Hartford Author

Matthew Dicks, fifth grade teacher at Wolcott, published his first book “Something Missing” earlier this year and had a book signing in West Hartford. His second novel “Unexpectedly Milo” hits the bookshelves August third. Matt will have a book signing at Barnes and Noble, Blue Back Square at 7 P.M. as the first stop in his summer book tour. Stop by to see Matt!

Here is a synopsis of the book from Doubleday and Amazon.

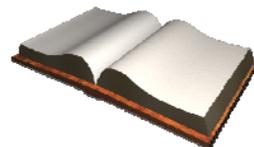
“The author of SOMETHING MISSING returns with another hilarious and sneakily profound tale about a man whose behavior is truly odd, but also oddly relatable.

Milo Slade, a thirty-three year old home healthcare aide, is witnessing the rapid dissolution of his three-year marriage to a polished, high-powered attorney named Christine. Though Milo doesn't quite know the root of his marital problems, he inevitably blames himself, or more specifically, he faults the demands his obsessive compulsive personality place upon him--the need to open a jar of Smuckers grape jelly or sing 99 Luftballoons in front of an audience, to name just a couple.

Yet Christine is still none the wiser about these inexplicable quirks as Milo has painstakingly hidden them from her and everyone else for years. No one knows the true--and in his mind more insidious--Milo, and such is the root of his profound loneliness, especially now that he and Christine are living apart during a trial separation.

Then one day Milo stumbles across a video camera and tapes, left behind in a park. He watches the first tape, which is a heartfelt confessional by a young woman who begins to reveal her secrets, starting small at first, and finally revealing that she blames herself for a tragic death of a friend. But not all the details add up and Milo is struck with the urge to free the sweet confessor from her guilt. He is, after all, an expert in keeping secrets...

In typical screwball fashion, Milo sets out on a cross-country journey to crack the case, but quickly gets sidetracked as his un-ignorable demands call. But it is during these sidetracks that the true meaning of his adventure takes shape. Milo is weird, but as he discovers, so is everyone else. UNEXPECTEDLY, MILO is a humorous and touching novel about finding oneself, embracing the journey, and, unexpectedly, love.”



Your Credit Union



MicroSoft ClipArt



Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union

All West Hartford Public Schools staff, employees, volunteers, and students are eligible for membership in Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union. The credit union offers a wide variety of products and services, including savings accounts, checking accounts, loans, mortgages, credit cards, debit cards, direct deposit, and on-line banking. In addition, they are part of a network of over 30,000 surcharge-free ATMs nationwide.

Franklin Trust was founded as a teachers credit union in 1934. Now the fourth oldest federal credit union in the country, they are celebrating their 75th anniversary this year.

The credit union's West Hartford office is located at 927 Farmington Avenue, near Blue Back Square. Their Main Office is at 632 Franklin Avenue in Hartford. For more information, including a form that allows you to sign up through the mail, call Franklin Trust at (860) 296-4379, ext. 203. They can be found on the web at www.franklintrust.org, as well as on Facebook and MySpace.

Quick Tips

“Don’t wait for your ship to come in. Swim out to meet it.”

Unknown



- Check out upcoming events, school reps, e-mail addresses for officers at www.whea.org.
- Attend your Building Rep’s monthly 10 minute meetings. Stay informed!
- Check out the home mailings from NEA & CEA. If you are not receiving them contact your building rep. Check out the websites at www.nea.org and www.cea.org.
- Stay informed with school policies and information by visiting www.whps.org.
- Read ‘WHEA World’ at www.whea.org. To add your news, please complete the ‘Award and Accomplishment’ form on the last page of this issue. Watch for your news in upcoming editions.
- Questions, concerns? talk to your building rep.

Current Issues

National and/or State News

Check the websites at www.cea.org and www.nea.org for ongoing information on important state and national issues. Stay current with the latest information. At the State Department of Education hearings, about certification changes, nearly 150 educators spoke; others attended and/or submitted written testimony. They spoke about the problems with the proposed changes. The certification changes are in Special Education, Teacher Leadership, and Reading/Literacy. All teachers will be affected by these proposed certification changes. With fewer specialized teachers, all other teachers will have more students in their classrooms. Our Governor signed sweeping Education reform legislation at the end of May. The legislation, 'Senate Bill 438, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut,' was signed with CEA leaders present as invited officials. The law is designed to increase student achievement with new opportunities. Among the changes are increased minimum credits to graduate, with more emphasis on math, science and world languages. The changes begin with the Class of 2018 and also include an independent project for seniors, 'a Capstone project.' These are some of the current proposed legislation. The EduJobs bill is stalled and Connecticut has signed on for the next round of 'The Race to the Top (RTTT)'. The reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is being discussed. We need to continue to monitor the effects of new legislation at all levels and to act by calling our legislators.



Local News

In West Hartford the budget is being questioned by the Taxpayers Association. It will come to a referendum. The WHEA is in favor of the budget as is the administration and the Board of Education. Voting took place on June 15th.



Award and Accomplishment Form

Date:

Name(s):

School(s):

Subject/Area:

Grade level(s):

Name of the Award or Accomplishment:

Description:

When and where was this received?

Why and how did you receive this honor?

Awarded by whom?

A quote from you:

Attach a photo.

Congratulations on your achievement!

Please e-mail this form to WHEA at wheaooffice@gmail.com. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at 860-463-2547.

Joyce Bogdan

PR Chair