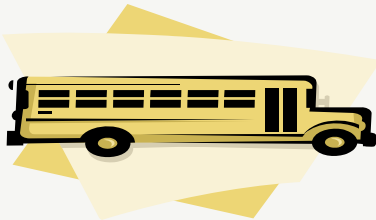




*Welcome Back!*



*Congratulations!*

*'West Hartford Teacher of the Year'*

On May 20, 2010 at the Farmington Club in Farmington, CT the long awaited announcement was made. The three finalists, Scott Ferguson, English teacher at Hall, Tom Ledvowski, math teacher at Hall and Shannon Perotti, fifth grade teacher at Braeburn, waited in anticipation. The 'West Hartford Teacher of the Year' for 2010 is Scott Ferguson. He said, "I feel honored to be recognized by my peers; it's a true highlight of my career."

On Monday, August 30 at Conard High, Scott addressed the audience with an inspiring message. He began his speech with the question "How did I win?" and continued to show his wonderful qualities as a teacher and made us think about our profession. He stated, "What all adults learn is that the fiction of our imagination rarely matches the struggles of our reality, but we also realize that struggle often brings about the greatest rewards. . . We never really chose to teach, we NEED to teach."

Congratulations!



**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

**YOUR 2010-2011 OFFICERS:**

**President:**

David Dippolino

**Executive V.P.:**

Theresa McKeown

**Administrative V.P.:**

Margo Parenti

**Treasurer:**

Tom Hine

**Editor:**

Joyce Bogdan, PR Chair

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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 attended by WHEA members: *'The 50th Annual Recognition Dinner'* was held at The Farmington Club on May 20, 2010; *'Celebrate West Hartford!'* WHEA booth 6/12 and 6/13; *'NEA/RA,'* 7/1 through 7/6; *'CEA Summer Leadership,'* Mohegan Sun, 8/2-8/4.



Planning for this year's workshops and socials is going on now. Look for the Upcoming Events. The location, dates and times will be coming soon.

For further information see your building representative.

## '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 can publish them in upcoming newsletters. Please e-mail and/or complete the 'Award and Achievement Form.' Please 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!

## Comfort in Nature

By J. Bogdan © 6/10

Soothing, comforting, healing  
the gentle power of nature around us,  
grasses bending in the meadow,  
flowers swaying in the fields,  
bushes quivering in a row,  
leaves moving in the trees.  
remind us of the soothing,  
comforting, healing power around us.

## *WHEA Team*

### *Your Representatives*

The following are building representatives and alternates for 2010-2011.

**Rep. Council Chair:** Jasdeep Singh

**CEA Rep.:** Sara Pomponi

**Building Reps.:** **Aiken**—Pat Vaninwagen; **Braeburn**—Kimberly Maloney; **Bristow**—Greg Burns, Marcelo Pelliccioni, Allayne Sundt; **Bugbee**—Anthony Weber; **Charter Oak**—Lillian Rausch; **Conard**—Carol Chase, Kim Hoffman, Chris Islaub, Sam Rader; **Duffy**—Brenda Key, Sheila Levanti, Jen Prigodich; **Ed. Center**—Christine Newman; **Hall**—Gay Adams, Tom Devine, Donna Fernandes, Michelle Nicklas; **King Philip**—Kate Schrass, Jenn Ukanowicz-Parrett; **Morley**—Megan Wares, Tony Wilusz; **Norfeldt**—Wendy Baker, Mary Sheridan; **Retired**—Helen Hughlett; **Sedgwick**—Joyce Bogdan, Linda Gengel, David Simon, Jennifer Tauro; **Smith**—Tracy Bennett, Sharon Courneen; **Webster Hill**—Karen Howard; **Whiting Lane**—Dawn Beckley, Erica Puglielli; **Wolcott**—Bonny Butkiewicz.

**Alternate Reps.:** **Bristow**—Sandi Harss; **Bugbee**—Maria Bateas; **Duffy**—Clare Taylor; **Norfeldt**—Trudy Davis; **Smith**—Jane Macca.

### *Your 2010 WHEA Negotiations Team*

The following are the 2010 WHEA Negotiations Team.

Margo Parenti, David Dippolino, Theresa McKeown, Jasdeep Singh, Tom Devine, Mary Sheridan, Kim Hoffman, Tony Wilusz, and Greg Burns will be working on our new contract this upcoming fall which will go into effect July 1, 2011.

### *WHEA Rep. Council Meetings*

Most meetings are held at Conard High in room 169. The following are the dates for 2010-2011 school year: September 13, October 18, November 1 with Rep. Council Training, December 6, January 10, February 7, March 7, April 4, Annual meeting May 2.

## NEA and CEA News

### CEA News

At the Connecticut Education Association/Representative Assembly (CEA/RA) in March, Brenda Key, Duffy third grade teacher, was elected for one of two CEA Ethnic Minority Directors At-Large positions of the CEA Board. The other position was won by Edgar Roca, Regional School District #4 teacher and Linda Lew-Roca, a Groton teacher, was elected for a one year interim seat. Other positions that were up for election were treasurer and secretary. Jeff Leake, Cheshire teacher, was reelected for treasurer and Cheryl Prevost, an East Hartford teacher, was reelected as secretary.



Brenda Key with Carrie Blanchard,  
Duffy Adjusted Curriculum Teacher



Brenda Key with David Dippolino

### Summer Leadership

Several West Hartford WHEA members attended CEA Summer Leadership from August 2nd through the 4th at Mohegan Sun, in Uncasville, CT. At the 2010 CEA Awards Dinner Banquet several people were honored with Minority Scholarships, Phil DiGiovanni Future Teacher Scholarship, Ethnic Minority Initiative Award, Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award, and the Human and Civil Rights Awards. Several politicians spoke at the event including Ned Lamont, John Larson, and Joe Courtney.

A variety of courses were offered for CEA members from across the state. All that attended learned new skills and will bring the information back with them.

## NEA and CEA News cont.

### NEA News

From June 30th until July 7th the National Education Association/Representative Assembly (NEA/RA) was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The message for the 2010 RA was ‘Turning Hope into Action.’ It was held at the Convention Center along the Mississippi River. The West Hartford delegates attended caucus meetings for the Connecticut Caucus, as well as other interest areas. Attending were President David Dippolino, Conard math teacher, Executive Vice President Theresa McKeown, Braeburn and Bugbee Quest teacher, Brenda Key, Duffy third grade teacher, Joyce Bogdan, Sedgwick ESOL teacher, Carol Chase, Conard math teacher, and Lillian Rausch, Charter Oak ESOL teacher.

Joyce Bogdan was elected as the National Education Association (NEA), English Language Learner (ELL) Caucus, Northeast (NE) Regional Director.



The West Hartford delegates with John Key and Amy Dippolino.

## Leading Students

### Inspiring Young Writers

On May 16, 2010, Jeffrey Michaud, a kindergarten teacher at Wolcott, held a “Book Sale” with his students and their families at Barnes and Noble, in Blue Back Square. His students wrote, revised, and published their own hard covered books in different genres. The students displayed their completed books at a mini book signing event. The families ‘purchased’ the books and participated in this motivating and exciting event. Jeffrey explained, “Inspiring kindergarten students to become published authors has encouraged them to become enthusiastic writers who are capable of making remarkable use of the English language in the written form.” For the past three years Jeffrey has inspired his young students by encouraging them to become new authors. He said, “I know that each student who participates in the *Inspiring Young Writers* initiative will remember and benefit from the experience for years to come.”



### Mock Trial Team

On May 7, 2010, the Hall High School Mock Trial Team won the 2010 State Mock Trial championship. The announcement was made by The Connecticut Consortium for Law and Citizenship Education. The team, advised by Maryam Wassil-Wardak, social studies teacher at Hall, attended a dinner sponsored by the American Bar Association. They had the honor to meet retired United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.





## Leading Students cont.

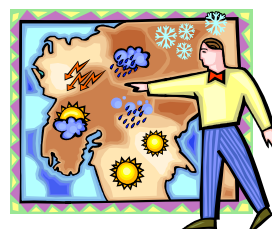
### Helping Animals

At Sedgwick the Art Department had a fundraiser for the Connecticut Humane Society. They collected supplies for the helpless and abandoned animals in Connecticut. Items collected included pet treats, pet food, litter boxes, toys, carriers, crates, sheets, blankets, towels, and bedding. Also, paper towels, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, garbage bags, newspapers were items that could help the animals. The art teachers included Rachel Melanchon, 6th grade, Susan Gudat, 7th grade, and Christina Carroll, 8th grade. The fundraiser was successful with many items donated. "The Humane Society was extremely excited and appreciative," the teachers reported.



### Weather

Many sixth grade students at Sedgwick had the opportunity to see and hear from area meteorologists about their careers. Joe Furey, Fox News 61, came to Sedgwick on May 6th to speak to Team 6-1 students. Cedric Wesley, 6th grade science teacher, explained, "This is a great opportunity for our students studying meteorology to connect classroom learning to a real world career." Darren Sweeney, weatherman from Channel 30, spoke on May 7th to Team 6-3 students. Sarah Faulkner, 6th grade science teacher, said, "Team 6-3's students were especially pleased to learn about weather broadcasting from a former Sedgwick student!" Students were able to learn how these two celebrities turned their passion for weather into their career.



## *Kudos go to:*

### *West Hartford Recognition Dinner*

On Thursday, May 20, 2010, the West Hartford 2010 Recognition Dinner was held at the Farmington Club in Farmington, CT. Along with the honored retirees, the WHEA and the WHAA Officers attended, as well as colleagues, community members, family and friends of those being honored.

The honored retirees were Margaret Beecher, Floyd Campbell, Nancy Cornell, Nancy Pacht, Joan Pease, Joyce Suffish, and Debby Szajnberg.

The 'Citizens of the Year' awards were given to Claudia Storm and Cathy Woods.

Joyce Bogdan, Sedgwick ESOL teacher, received the 'WHEA Member of the Year' award. She said, "I am honored to receive this award. I am also privileged to showcase our top notch teachers with our 'Awards and Accomplishments' in the 'WHEA World'—our newsletter. Let's continue to showcase our colleagues' achievements and activities."

The 2010-2011 West Hartford 'Teacher of the Year' was announced. The process includes being nominated, applying, writing essays, being video taped in the classroom and interviewed by the committee members. Then the finalist is chosen. It is an honor to be nominated and we congratulate all three of the finalists.

A special thank you to Carol Chase, Conard math teacher, and Mimi Hostetter, Conard social studies teacher, for their hard work as co-chairs of this event. A special recognition to Conard Jazz Combo for providing the entertainment.

Congratulations to all!



Joyce Bogdan accepting the '2010 WHEA Member of the Year' Award.



Carol Chase and Mimi Hostetter, co-chairs of the WHEA Recognition Dinner.



## *Kudos go to cont.:*

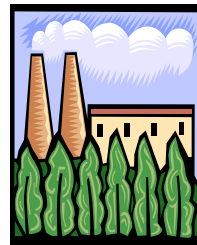
### *Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools*

A Special Initiative Grant, Alternative Energy Technology, Awareness Lab and Community Display has been awarded to Conard High School in the amount of \$10,000. The 'Green Power Display Lab' (GPDL) will be developed and run on the Conard campus by students and the technology and science teachers and their departments. The venture is to emphasize Alternative Energy Technologies, their connections with technology and science and their ability to be sustainable. The technology teachers are Charles Daly, Anthony Truss and James Genovese. Their department supervisor is Pat Drago. The science teachers are Timothy Decker and Marcy Zacchea. Their department supervisor is Richard Fritz.

The mission of The Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools is "to provide financial support for educational projects, programs, and initiatives that will enhance and promote the excellence of West Hartford Public Schools.

For the school year 2010-2011 they have granted a total of \$74,789. For the complete list of grant awards, schools and projects see [www.fwhps.org](http://www.fwhps.org).

Thank you to The Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools for their continued support.



### *Physical Education Teachers' Awards*

The Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (CTAHPERD) has named Pamela Moffo, Conard physical education teacher, the '2010 Secondary School Physical Education Teacher of the Year.'

Mario Lopez, Bugbee physical education teacher, was also named 'Outstanding New Professional for 2010' by CTAHPERD. This award is given to one outstanding physical education educator, with five or less years of experience, who has excelled in the profession.



## *Kudos go to cont.:*

### *Summer Learning*

Many West Hartford teachers work, attend classes, and/or accept fellowships during the summer. This year summer school was held at Webster Hill, Sedgwick and Hall High. A variety of courses were offered and many West Hartford teachers taught students from West Hartford and other surrounding towns.

During the first week in August 2010, Marty Keena, Grade 6 Social Studies teacher at King Philip Middle School, participated in the Teacher Institute at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens in Mount Vernon, Virginia. Weeklong activities were designed to bring greater clarity to the life and times of George Washington. A focus on Washington's life as surveyor, farmer, innovator, family man, military man and politician was supported by tours of the estate and surrounding region; lectures by topic specific scholars; and interaction with a cohort of twenty-three other teachers from around the country. Marty and the other participants were sponsored by anonymous donors to the Teachers Institute. Marty lived on the grounds of the estate and had 24 hour access not given to the general public. As expected, he looks forward to integrating his experience into his social studies curriculum. For more information on participating in this program, please feel free to contact Marty or John Tracey of Sedgwick Middle School, a Summer 2009 participant.



**Kudos go to cont.:****TEAM Training Program**

Also, this summer Mimi Villanova, District Facilitator—New Teacher Support, led the TEAM Training Program. The classes update teachers with the new ‘Teacher Education and Mentoring’ (TEAM) program. These teachers are prepared to serve as mentors to teachers as the TEAM Program commences in September. The following teachers completed the training:

Cindy Raynis	Elizabete Nascimento	Sandra Gomez	Michelle Florence
Lisa Horan	Jennifer Ukanowicz-Parrett	Sheila Levanti	Michele Griffith
Hannah Shapiro	Marcelo Pelliccioni	Nancy Dorchester	Noreen Cavanaugh
Luke Pitcher-Draghi	Meredith Napolitano	Troy Jones	Christine Harrison
Jessica Kazigian	Melissa Zych	Gail Costello	Janel Aquadro
Dawn Legenza	Trudi Zandes	Jessica Blitzer	Shirley Green
Donna Corcoran	Laurel Mills	Marty Keena	Patti Farquhar
Gail Banwell	Kim Monahan	Kim Greenwell	Joyce Bogdan
Sean O’Connor	Jackie Makarewicz	Michaela Volovsek	Sue Henneberry
Traci Mayette	Jessica Kerelejza	Therese Horn	Stephen Steele
Gina Navarro	Gwen Testerman	Jennifer Burkey	Alicia Almagro
Kim Jackson	Nancy Salvatore	Susan Lewis	Susan Martucci
Jennifer Lanese	Karyn Hill	Leslie Roberts	Mary Edwards
Mike Kenyon	Maureen Curran	Claire Kusmik	Marlee Mooney
Adrienne Gwara	Judi Goldenthal	Peter Letizia	Sue Manion
Deb Kotler	Beth Reilly	Sarah Faulkner	Jane Macca
Amy Parker	Lisa Kropp	Allyne Sundt	Sarah Burke
Shana LaPointe	Ann Marie Houlihan	Deb Hartshorn	Chris Weaver
Pam Moffo	Meredith Clark	Holly Coleman	Susan Stafanowicz
Barbara Davis	Ellen Cercone	Loretta Whiting	Lynette Roy
Chris Bombara	Linda Powers	Meaghan Carroll	Silvia Lopes
Valerie Hansen	Amy Schmelder	Kristi Luetjen	

## *Kudos go to cont.:*

### *Board of Education Awards*

The Board of Education Awards were presented to students and staff on May 25, 2010. The awards honor “achievement in the areas of academics, arts, athletics and leadership.” For the complete list see [www.whps.org](http://www.whps.org). Please congratulate the following recipients:

Kristi Luetjen, Whiting Lane, kindergarten teacher, was honored as the 2010 CT Teacher of the Year. She traveled this spring to Washington D.C. and met President Barack Obama and U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Cristina Perriello, Charter Oak third grade teacher, as the teacher advisor for the school project “Animal Club” which was awarded the “2010 Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award” from the State Student Advisory Council on Education and the Commissioner of Education.

Joanne Barry-Dutro, Hall art teacher, was named the Outstanding CT Art Educator for 2010.

Joseph Ganci, King Philip music teacher, for placing First with The Jazz Band that is under his direction at the ‘2010 University of New Hampshire Clark Terry Jazz Festival’.

Scott Porter, Conard music teacher, is the Director of the Jazz Combo. The group competed in the ‘Berklee School of Music High School Jazz Festival’ and placed First.

Joan Pease, Hall science teacher, was the winner of ‘2010 American Chemical Society Division of Chemical Education Northeast Region Award’ for Excellence in High School Teaching.

Jennifer Hunt, Sedgwick Quest teacher, was chosen ‘CT Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year’ for her participation in National History Day.

Pamela Moffo, Conard physical education teacher, was an inductee into the ‘CT Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame.’ Congratulations to all!

### *Town of West Hartford*

Kiplinger’s Personal Finance Magazine ranked West Hartford as one of the 10 best cities to live in for the next decade.

See <http://realestate.yahoo.com/promo/10-best-cities-for-the-next-decade>

See <http://www.kiplinger.com/magazine/archives/best-cities-2010-west-hartford-conn.html> this link includes a video tour.

Newsweek ranked the best high schools in the USA. Conard #329, Hall #855

See <http://www.newsweek.com/feature/2010/americas-best-high-schools/list.html>

## Your Credit Union



### 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](http://www.franklintrust.org), as well as on Facebook and MySpace.

## Quick Tips

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature." Rachel Carson



- Check out upcoming events, school reps, e-mail addresses for officers at [www.whea.org](http://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](http://www.nea.org) and [www.cea.org](http://www.cea.org).
- Stay informed with school policies and information by visiting [www.whps.org](http://www.whps.org).
- Read 'WHEA World' at [www.whea.org](http://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.
- See [fwhps.org](http://fwhps.org) for the latest grants awarded to teachers.

## Current Issues

### National, State News

Check the websites at [www.cea.org](http://www.cea.org) and [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org) for ongoing information on important state and national issues. Stay current with the latest information. You can sign up for updates through the blog at the CT Education Association (CEA) website.



At the state level there will be changes in the high school graduation requirements. At the national level stay informed with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

### Local News

You can access your local, state and national elected officials on the West Hartford Public Library website at [www.westhartfordlibrary.org](http://www.westhartfordlibrary.org). On the website click on Town of West Hartford Links on the left column, then click on Local Elected Officials. The list includes the elected official's position, their name, address, phone number and e-mail address. You can log onto the website for further information.



At the local level: Be sure to keep up to date with information about the candidates running in the fall election. See how the candidates feel about the important issues. This fall the League of Women voters of Greater Hartford will host televised debates for candidates in the 18th, 19th and 20th assembly districts and the 5th Senatorial district. For more information see [www.lwvgh.org/](http://www.lwvgh.org/) The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, political organization.

Log onto [www.whps.org](http://www.whps.org) for the future dates for the Board of Education meetings.





**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](mailto:wheaooffice@gmail.com). If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at 860-463-2547.

Joyce Bogdan

PR Chair