



## *Happy New Year!*



The WHEA  
Executive Committee wishes  
all of you a Happy New Year!

David Dippolino  
WHEA President



Snow storm Benedict  
Wednesday, January 12, 2011

### **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

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## Workshops

The West Hartford Education Association (WHEA) continues to plan for this year's workshops and social events. The first workshop was on Thursday, January 20, 2011. The seminar "Mythbusters: Understanding your Legal Rights and Responsibilities in the Special Education Process" was presented by Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA Program Development Specialist.

Mark your calendars for other workshops presented by Robyn. They are on Thursday, February 10 about retirement and Thursday, April 7.

The next social event will be on Friday, March 27. For further information see your building representative.



Pictured from left to right are Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA Program Development Specialist; Kara Kelaita, Braeburn and Webster Hill school psychologist; Executive Vice President Theresa McKeown, Braeburn and Bugbee Quest teacher; and Mary Porter Wright, Hall social worker at the workshop.



## 'WHEA World' Purpose

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' newsletter is to keep members informed about the latest news and achievements of our colleagues.

Please pass along news, awards and achievements about you and your colleagues so that we can publish the information in upcoming newsletters. Please send the 'News Form' to the PR chair at [wheaooffice@gmail.com](mailto:wheaooffice@gmail.com). The form can be found on the last page of this edition.

Let's share our wonderful accomplishments with our colleagues!

## Right Place

By Joyce Bogdan

Do you ever ask *Am I where I should be?*

Rest assured that this is the spot meant for you.

At this time in your life you have found your way.

Be at peace, surrounded with good friends.

Trust in yourself, enjoy this day.

Share your gifts, be content.

You are in the right place.

## **WHEA News**

### **Your Representatives**

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

**Rep. Council Chair:** Jasdeep Singh, Sedgwick      **Vice Chair:** David Simon, Sedgwick

**CEA UniServ Representative:** Sara Pomponi

**Building Reps.:** **Aiken**—Pat Vaninwagen; **Braeburn**—Kimberly Maloney; **Bristow**—Greg Burns, Marcelo Pelliccioni; **Bugbee**—Anthony Weber; **Charter Oak**—MaryAnn Muccino, Lillian Rausch; **Conard**—Carol Chase, Kim Hoffman, Chris Islaub, Sam Rader, Adam Linker; **Duffy**—Sheila Levanti, Jen Prigodich; **Ed. Center**—Christine Newman; **Hall**—Tom Devine, Donna Fernandes, Michelle Nicklas; **King Philip**—Jenn Ukanowicz-Parrett, Kate Kiesewetter; **Morley**—Tony Wilusz, Megan Wares; **Norfeldt**—Wendy Baker, Mary Sheridan; **Retired**—Helen Hughlett; **Sedgwick**—Linda Gengel, David Simon, Jennifer Tauro, Joyce Bogdan; **Smith**—Sharon Courneen; **Webster Hill**—Debbie Kotler, Kerri-Lynn O'Neill; **Whiting Lane**—Wendy Martin, Patricia Orticari; **Wolcott**—Bonny Butkiewicz.

**Alternate Reps.:** **Aiken**—Lisa Horan; **Bristow**—Allayne Sundt, Sandi Harss; **Bugbee**—Maria Bateas; **Charter Oak**—Michele Hadlock; **Duffy**—Brenda Key, Clare Taylor; **Norfeldt**—Trudy Davis; **Retired**—Anna Mae Maglaty; **Sedgwick**—Sara Tamborello; **Smith**—Jane Macca.

### **Contract Negotiations**

The 2010 WHEA Negotiation Team worked hard on our new contract which will go into effect July 1, 2011. The members of the negotiating team are Margo Parenti, David Dippolino, Theresa McKeown, Jasdeep Singh, Tom Devine, Mary Sheridan, Kim Hoffman, Tony Wilusz, and Greg Burns. Thank you for all of your hard work!

### **WHEA Rep. Council Meetings**

The WHEA Representative Council meets monthly to discuss issues of importance for our teachers and schools. The meetings are attended by the elected Representative Council members and alternates from each school and are open to our membership. Most meetings are held at Conard High in room 169 from 4 P.M. until 5 P.M. The following are the dates for 2010-2011 school year: February 14, March 7, April 4, Annual meeting May 2.

## NEA and CEA News

### NERLC

The 2011 Northeast Regional Leadership Conference (NERLC) was held Friday, January 21 through Sunday, January 23, 2011 in Philadelphia, PA. It was hosted by the Pennsylvania State Education Association. This year's National Education Association (NEA) theme is *Turning Hope into Action—Action into Power*. The NEA website states, "The NERLC is designed to further enhance the knowledge of K-12 educators, education support professionals, higher education, student, and retired members." The conference included many sessions including *Cyberbullying: Your Responsibilities and Rights* presented by Jasdeep Singh, WHEA Chair and Sedgwick science teacher, and Lynn Rice Scozzafava. Keynote speakers included Dennis Van Roekel, NEA President; Lily Eskelsen, NEA Vice President; and Becky Pringle, NEA Secretary-Treasurer. Participants included members from New England and Middle Atlantic states. From Connecticut the CEA officers, some local officers and members attended. The conference was informative and focused on present and future action. *NEA advocacy: Your Values and Activism in Action!* is at [www.educationvotes.nea.org](http://www.educationvotes.nea.org). Log on and join today. Your voice is needed for action!

### CEA

On Friday, November 19 and Saturday, November 20, 2010 the CEA held a President's Plus Symposium at the Marriott Hotel in Rocky Hill. President David Dippolino, Conard math teacher, attended with three members of the WHEA. They were Executive Vice President Theresa McKeown, Braeburn and Bugbee Quest teacher; Allayne Sundt, Bristow math teacher, and Joyce Bogdan, Sedgwick ESOL teacher. This is designed to enhance the leadership skills of 'newer' association presidents and/or officers while developing the leadership skills of emerging association leaders. It was an interactive leadership conference led by CEA Officers and UniServ Representatives for local unions in CT.

Other CEA news—The next Hartford County Council meetings are Monday, February 7 and Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 4 PM at the Chowder Pot, Hartford.



Allayne Sundt and David Dippolino  
at the President plus Symposium

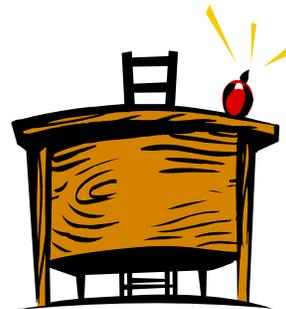
## CEA News cont.

### New Teacher Conference

On Saturday, April 2, 2011 CEA will have a New Teacher Conference at Mohegan Sun Conference Center, Uncasville, CT. You can register online at [www.cea.org](http://www.cea.org), just log in and register. The cost of the conference is \$20.00 and will be reimbursed by WHEA. Just send your receipt to David Dippolino at the WHEA office. This is an opportunity to hear the keynote speaker, attend a choice of workshops, have lunch and network with other teachers from across our state.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Jeffrey Duncan-Andrade, Associate Professor of Raza Studies and Education Administration and Interdisciplinary Studies at San Francisco State University (SFSU). He is also a high school English teacher at Mandela High School in East Oakland and directs the East Oakland Step to College Program. Besides teaching he works closely with teachers, leaders and district officials to help them with effective teaching in schools serving poor and working class children. He has published articles, book chapters and two books, *The Art of Critical Pedagogy: Possibilities for Moving from Theory to Practice in Urban Schools* and *What a Coach Can Teach a Teacher*.

To chose the workshops you would like to attend, go to [www.cea.org](http://www.cea.org) and log in to register.



## Leading Students

### Reading Tails Program

On December 2, 2010 Scot Haney, WFSB meteorologist and co-host of Better Connecticut, visited Sedgwick Middle School. He was there to see Amy Tebecio, Sedgwick's special needs teacher, and her students. He taped a story on Reading Tails, a program where trained therapy dogs visit the classroom, and the students read to these special dogs. Sedgwick received a grant from the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools (FWHPS) to have this program visit once a week. Taffy Wilcox, whose dogs visit Sedgwick, contacted Mr. Haney because she wanted to spread the word about the benefits of having such a program in school systems and to encourage more people to volunteer with their dogs.

Amy said about the experience, "The Reading Tails program has brought so much to our classroom. Our students deal with negative stereotypes associated with being part of this classroom; this program and now the TV segment have caused the kids to feel special in a positive way. Instead of seeing 'that kid from the special needs room,' mainstream students can see 'that kid who gets to read to the dogs and is on TV.' Scot Haney and Peter, his camera man, were awesome to work with and the kids had a great time. We can't wait until the segment airs!"

The piece aired on WFSB, Better Connecticut Show on Tuesday, December 21, 2010 at 3 PM. The link for the news story "Great Scot: Tails of Joy - Better Connecticut News Story - WFSB Hartford" is at <http://www.wfsb.com/betterct/26209928/detail.html?taf=hart>



Amy Tebecio, Sedgwick special needs teacher, is pictured here in her classroom.



## Leading Students cont.

### Alphabet Man

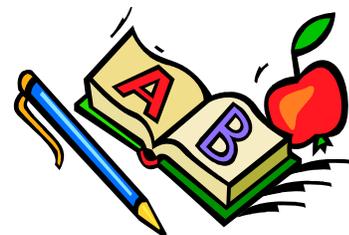
The Alphabet Man visited Aiken School thanks to Pat VanInwagen, Aiken's Library Media Specialist, and the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools (FWHPS) through a grant from the Stohler family. On November 30, 2010 Jerry Pallotta spoke with students about the writing process. He explained where he gets his ideas, how he develops them into books, the process of revisions and point of view. Students at all grade levels participated in the interactive hour. Jerry tailored his presentation to the student's level so that even the youngest students learned that ideas for writing can come from anywhere in your life experience.

Now the students are working on Alphabet books in the media center. Ms. VanInwagen is teaching research skills while each grade level turns those ideas into books. Kindergarteners listened to gingerbread stories and each class wrote a unique class book using words generated from the stories they heard. First grade explored ocean life and penguins and wrote class books incorporating those subjects. Second grade learned about communities and wrote class books about that topic. The intermediate grades created individual books. Third graders worked cooperatively with a partner to write about biomes, and fourth grade students are writing about environmental topics. Fifth grade students are writing about a country that is part of their personal heritage. Included in the creation of these books are point of view, voice, humor and personal experiences.

Using Nationwide Learning, Inc., Topeka, Kansas, the students submitted manuscripts that will be turned into hard-bound books available for purchase by family members. They plan to share their books with classmates, book buddies, staff and families. Pat said about the visit and the projects, "So much learning goes into the creation of these books. Stop by Aiken one day this spring to see what we have accomplished."



Pat VanInwagen organized  
Jerry Pallotta's visit.



## Leading Students cont.

### Helping Others

Many teachers led students with programs to help families in our community. Teachers set an example of sharing and caring when they are involved in helping others. We know that it takes extra time but the benefits for our students, ourselves and the people we want to help are immense. Many of the following projects are annual events. A very special thank you to all!

**Braeburn**—In November Ellen Cercone, Curriculum Specialist, and Allison Raggie, Spanish teacher, led their student council in a school spirit day. The children wore their favorite sports team t-shirt and donated a can of food to the West Hartford Food Bank. In December, the council members made fleece blankets for holiday gifts that went to a social worker who supports families in the New Britain area. In January, the council sponsored another spirit day. The children wore a t-shirt with an animal on it. They donated \$1.00 or brought a can or box of pet food. They will donate what they collected to the Humane Society.

Jennifer Hudner, social worker, and Kara Kelaita's, Braeburn and Webster Hill psychological services, Girls Group planned and led a school wide food drive. This was in conjunction with a PTB sponsored food drive. The food was used for Holiday Baskets for families at their school as well as, for delivery to the West Hartford Food Bank. Jen said, "The girls had a great time making posters, writing and making announcements over the intercom, and counting and collecting the food."

**Bristow**—Team 7-2 teachers: Ofelia Bolduc, World Language teacher; Sandi Harss, library media specialist; Lauren Maisch, special education teacher; Allayne Sundt, math teacher; Priya White, science teacher; Sloane Williams, English teacher; and Susan Winslow, social studies teacher, organized a visit to the Hughes Rehabilitation Center with their seventh grade students. Before the trip the students made holiday cards and prepared festive entertainment. Ofelia said that at Hughes the students "greeted and chatted with guests, passed out their colorful masterpieces and then shared holiday songs and dances. The visit brought big smiles to all!"



From left to right Bristow's team 7-2 are Ofelia Bolduc, Priya White, Allayne Sundt, Lauren Maisch, Sloane Williams and Susan Winslow. Photo taken by Marcelo Pelliccioni.



## *Leading Students cont.*

### *Helping Others cont.*

**Charter Oak**—Carolyn Sherman, second grade teacher, led her students in a project called *Chores for Charity* where students volunteered to do some chores at home and then donated their earnings to the Charter Oak Children’s Center. They earned \$75.00 which Carolyn matched. They delivered the amount in food cards.

Jessica Dunn, fifth grade teacher, and Montse Rich, Spanish teacher, led the Student Council in a school wide drive to collect non-perishable food. This was to benefit the West Hartford Food Pantry for the holidays. The Student Council is composed of third, fourth and fifth grade class representatives. The teachers helped the Council members interview personnel at the West Hartford Food Pantry. This information will be shared at their monthly school assembly so that students learn who they are helping and understand why this is important.

**Conard**—Bill Antonitis, English teacher, led English students in a fundraiser to benefit the Bridge Family Center in West Hartford. Conard students paid \$1 to vote for the ugliest Conard sweater! Bill said, “Remind students to vote early and often.” They collected \$300 for the cause.

Alison Peake, Spanish teacher, had her students gather items for American soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. They were all especially inspired by those students who have relatives in the military and are presently serving overseas.

Coaches John Benyei, Thomas Verrengia, and Alex Wilson, led the boy’s basketball team’s fourth annual *Coats, Hats and Scarves* basketball clinic. John said, “This event is dedicated to helping refugee families new to the greater Hartford area. Many elementary and middle school students donated a gently worn coat, hat or scarf to be a participant of the clinic. The Conard boy’s basketball staff and players would like to thank all of the student athletes that gave their time to coach our generous young West Hartford students. They all made a positive difference in someone’s life.”



## *Leading Students cont.*

### *Helping Others cont.*

**Duffy**—The social work staff—Laura Perry, Liz White, interim, and Nina Belfer-Tyler, intern and the psychology staff—Dr. Bobbie Tundermann and Justine Banker, intern, coordinated their annual *Holiday Bear* program. The faculty, staff and community bought gifts and winter clothing for 30 Duffy families in need of some support during this time of year. Each one sponsored at least one family. This year, our teachers and school staff shopped for, wrapped and gave individualized gifts to thirty families who were experiencing financial issues. Laura Perry and Roberta Tundermann would like to thank the WHEA, who came forward and supported several Duffy students. Also, CEA bought gifts for several children, as well as coats and snowpants. Laura Perry said, “In addition we want to acknowledge our very generous PTO Board, as well as numerous Duffy families who stepped up to the plate to help support this program. The teamwork and generosity displayed by all was truly inspiring.”

Third grade teachers Kelli Bedner, Tien-Tien Chen, Christine Harrison, and Brenda Key led their students by collecting gently used coats for the people of the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. They collected 172 coats this year.

**Hall**—The Hall High Choral Department has been collecting canned goods for the West Hartford Food Pantry for the last five years. At each of their choral concerts they ask families to bring canned goods. Lorri Cetto, music teacher, said, “Our slogan is, ‘Cans you bring. . .we sing!’ Well over 2,000 pounds of food has been collected. This is a small way we can help the community. We will be continuing our efforts throughout this school year.”

**Morley**—Morley’s Student Council, under the direction of fifth grade teacher MaryAnn Swain and fourth grade teacher Laurie Perry led the school community in Morley’s latest service project. While Dawn O’Connor, second grade teacher, and Peg Flower, teacher for the learning disabled, helped guide the *A Fleece for a Friend* global outreach service project. The Morley Community, families and faculty collected new fleeces. This service project will supply fleece coats for our sister school, W. B. Goodwin School in North Charleston, SC, who are in great need of winter clothing. The drive collected over 200 fleeces that were vacuum bagged and sent the week before the holiday break. Megan Wares, early intervention teacher, said, “Morley is hoping this collection will keep many little bodies at the W. B. Goodwin School warm this winter and we hope to maintain communication with this school in the future.” Dawn O’Connor noted, “They arrived before their first snowfall this year!”

## Leading Students cont.

### Helping Others cont.

**Sedgwick**—A holiday gift program named *Helping Hands* was offered for some families. The families benefited from contributions such as food, clothing, toys and gift cards. This was led by social workers Christine Welch-Meier and Renee Kleinman. The program's success is due to the generous support of the Sedgwick Community.

In December the music department held a book fair at Barnes & Noble to support Sedgwick. Music teachers John Bennett, Dr. Robert Hopko, and Meredith Neumann led their students in performances.

The Student Council organized a school wide food drive for the local food bank. Sara Tamborello, eighth grade English teacher, is the Student Council advisor.

**Whiting Lane**—The kindergarten team teachers Kelley Flammia, Patricia Orticari, Rosemary Hill and Kristi Luetjen donated 120 snack bags and \$200 in gift certificates to children at the Bridge Center. Families donated the food. The children decorated and stuffed the bags while the teachers delivered them to the Bridge.

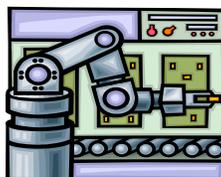


Some of the gifts collected at Sedgwick.



## Robotics

Quest students from the first robotics team from the Smith School of Science, Math and Technology and Smith School alumni from King Philip Middle School, competed at the First LEGO League (FLL) State Championships at CCSU on Dec. 12, 2010. The *Pulse Protectors*, coached by Kathy Hardesty, Smith Quest teacher, not only finished 5th out of 51 teams, the majority from area middle schools, but also won a first place trophy for Robot Quality Design. The judges said the Smith team's robot "brought innovation and strategy together and was an elegant, complete system." They were also awarded \$200 from the IEEE society of Electrical Engineers for their robot.



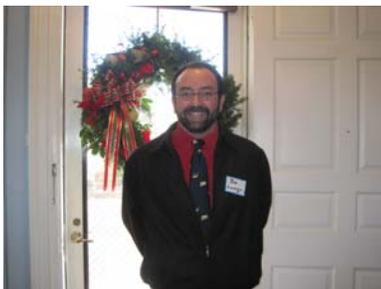
## *Kudos go to:*

### *Governor's Mansion*

On Saturday, December 4 and Sunday, December 5, 2010 then Governor M. Jodi Rell opened the Governor's Mansion, on Prospect Avenue in Hartford to the public. The Mansion was decorated for the holidays by various businesses and groups. The tour of the rooms was manned by volunteers as well as, with the Governor's staff members and the State Police. Several groups provided music including Conard and Hall. The former Governor was present and spoke with the many visitors. Among the volunteers were Bob Lorenzo, Sedgwick guidance, and Joyce Bogdan, Sedgwick ESOL teacher. Many other people from West Hartford visited the residence including Johannah Kosienski, King Philip ESOL teacher with her mother, Mrs. Lawrence.



On the left is the entrance to the Governor's Mansion with the State of CT seal on the gate. On the right are Johannah Kosienski and her mother, Mrs. Lawrence.



On the left is Robert Lorenzo greeting visitors at the front entranceway. On the right are Joyce Bogdan and the former Governor. Below is a Christmas tree with handmade ornaments decorated by representatives from Westmoor Park, West Hartford.



## *Kudos go to cont.:*

### *Artist*

By Karin Diamond

The artistry began when Craig Diamond, a 28 year old 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Morley School, received a miter saw for Christmas several years ago and started experimenting with making angled cuts. The wall designs grew out of the need to decorate their Simsbury home. Discouraged by mass-produced wall décor at chain stores, Craig decided to try his own hand at creating statement pieces to decorate their empty walls.

He works with a variety of wood types and stains, including wood from lumberyards, barn board and other reclaimed wood. He most enjoys recycling and repurposing wood and other materials. He works with a planer to bring fresh life to otherwise discarded wood. His building techniques include pocket hole joinery and wood mosaic with different textures and colors. He often begins with a sketch, but his pieces evolve as the wood and patterns dictate which path it wants to take.

His designs are sometimes geometric and sometimes nature inspired. He constantly observes his surroundings, intrigued by everything from shadows and tree branches to modern architectural structures and symmetry. Recently, Craig began incorporating other organic textures into his wood art such as dried grasses, birch tree bark, bamboo reeds, and fabrics. These varied textures and colors are framed by modern and sleek geometric figures. Playing off each other, the textures create a visual statement on interconnectedness and balance.

Craig's work is being showcased in a solo art exhibition at the 100 Pearl Street Gallery until February 26. There was a public opening celebration on Thursday, January 27. The wall hangings at the exhibition are for sale by contacting him directly. Craig's wall hangings are also on display until March 2011 at the LaSalle Market in Collinsville. An online photo gallery of his works can be viewed at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/craigtdiamond/GeometricWallHangings#>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wood-Wall-Art-by-Craig-Diamond/176010095761497>

## WHREA Corner

### WHAT IS THE WHREA?

*By Ken Sopelak*

The West Hartford Retired Educators Association is your retirement organization of retired and active educators, 55 years and older, who have one goal in common . . . to get the most out of retirement by protecting and improving retiree benefits, assisting each other, supporting education, and maintaining friendships. You do not need to be retired to support our work or use our services! Membership is open to any teacher or administrator, 55 years or older. Dues are only \$25 per year (or \$80 lifetime). If you would like more information about the WHREA, please contact me at [kensopelak@comcast.net](mailto:kensopelak@comcast.net) or our membership chairperson, Anne Keegan, at [afkeegan@aol.com](mailto:afkeegan@aol.com).

### Retiring? It's Time to Start the Process!

If you are planning to retire this year, then it is time to start the process. Your first step is to review your current and future financial status so that you can determine which pension payout option is best for you. Use the handy Benefit Estimator on the Teacher's Retirement Board (TRB) webpage at [www.ct.gov/trb](http://www.ct.gov/trb) to get a close estimate of your monthly benefits. Once you have a selected plan, you should file as soon as possible, and no later than March. If you wait until June 30 to file, due to TRB staff reduction, you may have a very long delay before receiving your first payment. Applications and related information are on the fore mentioned website.

Next, you need to make a decision as to when you want to notify Human Resources (HR) and your Principal. You must do so in writing. If possible, do not wait until June 30 because you desire to keep it a private matter. HR will respect your wish for privacy. By waiting until the last minute, you could deprive someone of a job!

Finally, this spring you will have to make a decision about future insurance coverage. Human Resources will meet with you and explain your options. You may want to investigate other options before that meeting. Remember, your cost will rise dramatically because the District will not be contributing towards any of the cost. If you remain with the District plan you will receive a small \$110 monthly subsidy from the State.

If the West Hartford Retired Educators Association can be of any assistance, or you wish to join the Association, please contact Ken Sopelak at [kensopelak@comcast.net](mailto:kensopelak@comcast.net) or call 860-658-1560.

## 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.

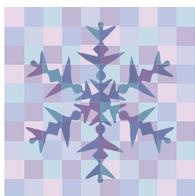
Franklin Trust was founded as a teachers credit union in 1934. Now the fourth oldest federal credit union in the country, they are celebrating their 76th anniversary this year.

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.

advertisement

## Quick Tips

"No snowflake ever falls in the wrong place."  
Chinese proverb



- Check out upcoming events, 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 *News Form* on the last page of this issue. Watch for your news in upcoming editions.
- Questions, concerns? talk to your building rep.
- See [www.fwhps.org](http://www.fwhps.org) for the latest grants awarded to teachers by the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools.

## 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) .



In national news, there were several changes in the House of Representatives and in the Senate. Items on the agenda will include the budget, health care and the reauthorization of ESEA. Be sure to log onto NEA's Education Votes at [www.educationvotes.nea.org](http://www.educationvotes.nea.org) to add your voice and advocate for education.

In state news, on January 5, 2011 Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman were sworn into office. This is the first time in 20 years that Connecticut has a Democrat for these two offices. The main business during the regular session will be to adopt a two-year budget and to close the approximately \$4 billion deficit.

It is important to stay up to date with the issues. The funding of our public schools, our children's education and closing the achievement gap will be high on the list. Be an education activist!



### 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.

**Board of Education** meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. They are held in the Town Hall, Legislative Chambers, room 314. Log onto [www.whps.org](http://www.whps.org) for further information.

WHEA members voted to accept the new contract. The Board of Education has voted to accept it also. Now it is with the Town of West Hartford waiting for their vote. The two year contract is for

## *News 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