



Community Spirit!



2011 Storm Alfred

On Saturday, October 29, 2011 the Northeast was hit with Storm Alfred, a fall snowstorm. With trees still covered with leaves, the branches began to break and whole trees were uprooted. Ninety-six percent of West Hartford was without power. The West Hartford Public Schools were closed for 6 days. Elmwood Community Center was first set up as a warm-up center. Then Conard was set up as a shelter, and the Community Center and the West Hartford Public Libraries became warm-up and recharging centers. There was a far greater need for help as the power outages continued. The community came together to help one another. It was a perfect example of West Hartford "The Town that Cares!"



The top picture is one of the thousands of downed branches and trees. The middle photo is the gas lines. The bottom photo shows one of the FEMA trucks in Elmwood.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

YOUR 2011-2012 OFFICERS:

President

David Dippolino

Executive V.P.

Thomas Devine

Administrative V.P.

Lillian Rausch

Treasurer

Allayne Sundt

Editor

Joyce Bogdan

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Community Spirit!</i>	1
<i>WHEA Officers</i>	
<i>Workshops</i>	2
<i>'WHEA World' Purpose</i>	
<i>WHEA, CEA & NEA News</i>	3-7
<i>Leading Students</i>	8-12
<i>Kudos go to: WHEA Corner</i>	13-16
<i>Your Credit Union Quick Tips</i>	17-19
<i>Current Issues</i>	
<i>News Form</i>	

WHEA News

Workshops

The West Hartford Education Association (WHEA) is planning the first workshop. It will be on Thursday, January 19, 2012. This workshop about Retirement will be presented by Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA Program Development Specialist. It will be held at Sedgwick in the Multi Purpose Room (MPR) from 3:30 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. Refreshments will be served. If you are interested in other workshop topics please let your building rep. know.



'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 wheaworld@whea.org. The form can be found on the last page of this edition.

Let's share our wonderful accomplishments with our colleagues!

Journey

By Joyce Bogdan

This season is upon us.
It's time to venture on.
Travel the distance.
Visit with family and friends.
Enjoy food, gifts and greetings.
There are bumps along the way.
Continue to journey on the highway.
This is life's path.
¡Buen viaje!
Journey well!

WHEA News cont.

WHEA Officers and Your Representatives

Rep. Council Officers: **President** David Dippolino, Conard math teacher; **Executive Vice President** Thomas Devine, Hall social studies teacher; **Administrative Vice President** Lillian Rausch, Charter Oak ESOL teacher; and **Treasurer** Allayne Sundt, Conard and Sedgwick math teacher. The new officers assumed their office on July 1, 2011. Congratulations!

Building Representatives, Alternates and Committee Chairs for 2011-2012

Rep. Council Chair: David Simon, Hall **Vice Chair:** Chris Islaub, Conard

CEA UniServ Representative: Sara Pomponi

Building Reps.: **Aiken**—Lisa Horan, Pat Vaninwagen; **Braeburn**—Kim Maloney, Theresa McKeown; **Bristow**—Greg Burns, Marcelo Pelliccioni; **Bugbee**—Maria Bateas, Anthony Weber; **Charter Oak**—Jessica Kazigian, Gina Navarra; **Conard**—Steven Bassi, Carol Chase, Kim Hoffman, Chris Islaub, Adam Linker, Hannah Marks-Hamilton, Lynn Racz; **Duffy**—Lisa Garand, Sheila Levanti; **Ed. Center**—Christine Newman; **Hall**—Kristin Bieniaszek, Michelle Flaucher, Kim Hart-Kindelberger, Jennifer Lanese, Michelle Nicklas, Michael Wilkosz; **King Philip**—Kate Kiesewetter, Jenn Ukanowicz-Parrett; **Morley**—Megan Wares, Tony Wilusz; **Norfeldt**—Wendy Baker, Mary Sheridan; **Retired**—Helen Hughlett; **Sedgwick**—Joyce Bogdan, Linda Gengel, Jen Prigodich, Sara Tamborello, Jennifer Tauro; **Smith**—Sharon Courneen, Jane Macca; **Webster Hill**—Jennifer Burkey, Debbie Kotler; **Whiting Lane**—Wendy Martin, Patricia Orticari; **Wolcott**—Bonny Butkiewicz, Andrew Sparkes.

Alternate Reps.: **Braeburn**—Allison Raggie; **Bristow**—Sandi Harss; **Charter Oak**—MaryAnn Muccino; **Conard**—Adam Linker, Sam Rader; **Duffy**—Brenda Key, Clare Taylor; **Norfeldt**—Trudy Davis; **Retired**—Anna Mae Maglaty; **Sedgwick**—Jas Singh.

Committee Chairs: **Membership**—Chris Islaub, Conard; **PR**—Joyce Bogdan, Sedgwick; **Social**—Theresa McKeown, Braeburn and Bugbee.

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 the 2011-2012 school year: January 9, February 6, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4.

WHEA News cont.

WHEA Social

The first social event was held on Friday, October 14, 2011 at Murphy & Scarlett's, Farmington, CT from 3:00 P.M. until 6:30 P.M.



In the photo on the left and from left to right are Sedgwick 6th grade teachers Cedric Wesley, science teacher and Andrea Carubbba, special education. In the photo on the right and from left to right are Sedgwick science teachers Sarah Faulkner, Diane Coburn, Ted Goerner; and Hall World Language teacher David Simon.



In the photo on the left and from left to right are Norfeldt special education teachers Aimee Heaton, Celeste Higgins, Trudy Davis; and Wendy Baker, 4th grade teacher. In the photo on the right and from left to right are Greg Burns, Bristow Technology Education teacher; and Hall teachers Norine Burns, and Tracy Smith, special education; social studies teachers Liz Devine and Tom Devine; John Tracy, adjusted curriculum; Chris Bivona, social worker; and Oreal Smith



In the photo on the left and from left to right are Conard social studies teachers Nichole Richman and Christopher Islaub. In the photo on the right and from left to right are Conard math teachers Linda Infantino, Brian Noel, Holly Banak, Jackie Coricelli, Andrea Rose, and Mike Fadziewicz.



WHEA & CEA News cont.

The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund

“The purpose of The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund (HBMF) is to help needy teachers who have served but are no longer active in the teaching profession.” The fund was established in 1953 and named after Henry Barnard who served as the third president of CEA. It has been helping teachers stay independent with financial and other assistance as needed. The WHEA helps this fund by contributing. One of the ways that WHEA helps is with the posting of the *Trading Post*. You can help by starting to look in your closets, attics and garages for anything you would like to put in the first *Trading Post* of the year. Dates and further information will follow. To learn more about The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund go to www.henrybarnardfund.org

CEA Hartford County Council

The Hartford County Council met on Wednesday, October 19, 2011.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at the Chowder Pot in Hartford from 4 P.M. until 8 P.M. If you are interested in attending, please call or e-mail David Dipolino.



In the photo on the left is Theresa McKeown, Braeburn and Bugbee Quest teacher. She is presenting information from the CEA Legislative Commission. In the photo on the right and from left to right standing are WHEA members Norfeldt teachers Wendy Baker, 4th grade, Trudy Davis, special education; Mary Sheriden, Early Intervention; Charter Oak ESOL teacher Lillian Rausch; Duffy 3rd grade teacher Brenda Key; Conard social studies teacher Christopher Islaub; Sedgwick 8th grade English teacher Sara Tamborello; Conard teachers Hannah Marks-Hamilton, English; Tom Devine, social studies; sitting Jeff Leake, CEA treasurer; Theresa McKeown; and David Dipolino, Conard math.



CEA News cont.

CEA Education Reform

Education Reform is coming. Are you ready? Both the new Education Commissioner and Governor Malloy have stated that Education Reform and closing the Achievement Gap will be major initiatives over the next two years. The Superintendents' Association has put forth a bold package of reforms that will also be a part of the mix.

CEA is gearing up for the 2012 legislative session in which bills will be brought up by CEA and the members of the legislature that will directly impact teachers. Some of the topics include school funding, tenure and seniority, teacher evaluation, and school climate.

To hear from members CEA is holding *Education Reform* across Connecticut. CEA will be sponsoring a series of state-wide forums to hear from teachers. The focus is on the important issues for teachers. Attend to voice your ideas to help "Take Back Our Profession." The upcoming reforms are free. Registration begins at 3:30 P.M., and the program runs from 4:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. Please consider attending. More information will follow. The forum for Hartford County is scheduled for January 25.

The dates and locations across the state are:

Wednesday, January 18, 2012—The Spa at the Norwich Inn, Norwich

Thursday, January 19—Georgina's, Bolton

Monday, January 23—The Brushmill, Chester

Tuesday, January 24—Inn at Woodstock Hill, Woodstock

Wednesday, January 25—Rocky Hill Marriott, Rocky Hill

Thursday, January 26—Crystal Peak, Winsted

Monday, January 30—Trumbull Marriott, Trumbull

Tuesday, January 31—Park Central Tavern, Hamden

For more information go to www.cea.org. To register, go to www.cea.org/members/reform.



CEA & NEA News cont.

2011 Holiday Bear Project

This year WHEA participated in the Holiday Bear Project sponsored by CEA. “The Connecticut Education Foundation’s (CEF) Holiday Bear Project is the holiday gift-giving project that links CEA members, the public, and businesses with needy public school students.” Sheila Cohen, CEA Vice President and CEF President, leads the Holiday Bear Project. The brochure states, “It can be difficult to bear the holiday season if you are a disadvantaged child. Bear down for a worthy cause by sponsoring a needy Connecticut child. Your efforts will help brighten a child’s holiday.” This project helped many children this year.



NEA

Stay informed with National issues that are affecting teachers throughout the country. Check out *NEA advocacy: Your Values and Activism in Action!* at www.educationvotes.nea.org. Log on and join today. Your voice is needed for action!

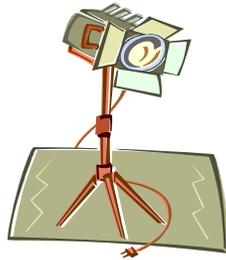


Leading Students

Be the Media

Be the Media is a grassroots journalism project launched at WHC-TV, Community TV. In 2009 the station received a grant to involve community people of all ages in tell their stories. The grant was from the Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account. *Be the Media* presented a marathon in September with live broadcasts of films that have been made in the past.

Cathy Lukas, Sedgwick Middle School's 8th grade technology education teacher, is the Video Club adviser at the school. The club meets after school once a week with interested students. They participated in the *Be the Media Marathon*. The video club shared movies that were created in the last two years.



Code-It-Up Theater Company

Amy Jaffe, Whiting Lane social worker, began a program with students in grades 1 through 5 using theater to promote positive behavior. With a grant from the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools, she enlisted the help of Jeff Gilberto, who runs the Elmwood Experience youth summer theater program. Students performed examples of positive behavior in different situations. The positive behavior was based on Whiting Lane's code which is "Whiting Lane Citizens are respectful and responsible, make good choices and always take care of each other." The students wrote a script on each of the three part of the code and then performed them for the whole school. The theater group is called *Code-It-Up Theater Company*.



Leading Students cont.

Community Day

On Wednesday, October 19, 2011 Sedgwick celebrated *Community Day*. The goals of the day were to build a sense of community in the school, town, and larger society, as well as to provide background knowledge about different heritages, prejudices, and treatments of others as part of making Sedgwick a better place. The day began with each student “leaving their impression” in clay as part of a school-wide art project, and proceeded through five rotations focused on building community.

Teachers teamed up across grade levels, teams, and subject areas. They presented a variety of lessons and activities to students in order to build a sense of community.

The art teachers Rachael Martinelli, Sue Gudat and Nicole West, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade respectively, created a Community Mural out of clay. The framed art piece is now hung near the main office and the library media center. Each tile is listed on a paper grid so that each member of the Sedgwick Community can identify where their personal tile is located.

Many people helped with this art project including Neela Thakur, Vice Principal; Jen Tauro, 8th grade math; Carol Yachanin, 8th grade music; Colin Bowie, 8th grade health; Amber Schlatter, 6th grade art; Lauren Pouliot, 7th grade music; Traci Zavisza, health/physical education; Ali Rowlson, 6th grade health and physical education teacher; Amy Tebecio, special needs teacher; Heather Pelkey, special needs teacher assistant; physical education teachers Pete Pfeffer and John Benyei; John Tracey, 7th grade social studies; Diana Nagler, teacher assistant.

Thanks to Sara Falkner, Sue Gudat and Nicole West for helping with this article.



In the photo on the left and from left to right are Sedgwick art teachers Nicole West, Sue Gudat and Rachael Martinelli. The middle photo is the piece of art created by the art teachers with clay squares that each member of the Sedgwick community ‘left an impression’ as part of Community Day. The photo on the right is a puzzle activity that students matched a language with the word for ‘Community’ in that language. Then they put together the puzzle which says, “Sedgwick Many Languages One Community.” The project was created by world language teachers Christopher Jud, Sarah Burke and Stacie Lucia and ESOL teacher Joyce Bogdan.

Leading Students cont.

Let's Explore Nature

Pre-Kindergarten teachers, Patricia Hardison, Smith; Randi Leopold, Webster Hill; and Nichola Dustin, Charter Oak; received a grant to fund *Let's Explore Nature*. They will have the opportunity to participate in two educational programs at the 4-H Education center at Auer Farm in Bloomfield. On their first trip the pre-K students learned about apples, apple trees and cider. On their second trip they will learn about maple trees and the maple sugaring process. Pat wrote that these field trips will give "first hand educational benefits in terms of background information, vocabulary building and concept development. . ." See additional grant winners at www.fwhps.org.



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Sara Tamborello, Sedgwick 8th grade English teacher, and Student Council Adviser, helped the Student Council run a school wide *Food Drive*. They collected items for the West Hartford Food Bank. Due to the present economic situation and with Storm Alfred, many people were in need at Thanksgiving time. The school community collected 1,702 non-perishable food items and toiletries.

Leading Students cont.

Unified Theater

On Thursday, November 17 and Friday, November 18, 2011 Sedgwick’s Unified Theater presented fifteen acts in *Super Bowl VIII* which featured humorous commercials. The group is student-led and student-created. There were about 150 students who participated.

Melissa Lotstein, 6th grade music teacher; special needs teacher assistants, Denise Brezinski and Heather Pelkey; Amy Tebecio, special needs teacher are the main advisers for Unified Theater at Sedgwick. Melissa wrote, “The mission of Unified Theater is to create and support theatrical groups equally featuring the talents of individuals with and without special needs. Unified Theater productions are fully inclusive, where individuals work side-by-side as equally contributing members throughout a student-led theatrical process.”

Others that helped to enable this amount of students to participate are Renee Kleinmann, social worker; Trish Hartunian, 7th grade social studies teacher; Jas Singh, 7th grade science teacher; John Jordon, head custodian and his staff; Dr. Ben Skaught, principal; and other teachers.



Where in the Blazes R U?

Clare Louise Taylor, Duffy 5th grade teacher, and her class invited Mayor Slifka, Fire Chief Singalli and Police Officer Grant to their classroom. They are involved in a project funded with a grant from the Foundation of West Hartford Public Schools from the Dowd Family and also funded by the PTOs and the Board of Education. The project is called *Where in the Blazes R U?* The students are working on marking fire hydrants in town with GPS units. As well as marking the hydrants they are looking for residents who want to adopt a hydrant and be responsible for clearing it of snow. If you want to be a stakeholder (mark the hydrant when it snows), or an adoptive parent (clears the hydrant of snow) contact your local elementary school and a 5th grader will get in touch with you. If you already clear your hydrant we want to know so we can give you a certificate.



Leading Students cont.

Dig Pink

This October Conard girls volleyball team participated in two *Dig Pink* events under the direction of Kerry Roller, Conard administrative assistant. She wrote, “*Dig Pink* is an organization that helps to raise funds for breast cancer research. They award grants to medical research organizations and entities dedicated to providing compassionate support to breast cancer patients and their families.” The members of the team were collecting money to donate. Their goal was \$1000, and they reached it and raised \$1053.75.



Wounded Warrior Project

The Chieftain’s Lacrosse team under the direction of Steve Garneau and John Benyei, Sedgwick physical education teachers, is supporting the *Wounded Warrior Project*. In honor of Veterans Day they sold bracelets for \$2.00 each. The donation was in memory of Larry Phillipons, a Sedgwick and Conard alumni. He was killed in action May 8, 2005. The *Wounded Warrior Project* is designed to meet the needs of injured veterans.



Hello! West Hartford

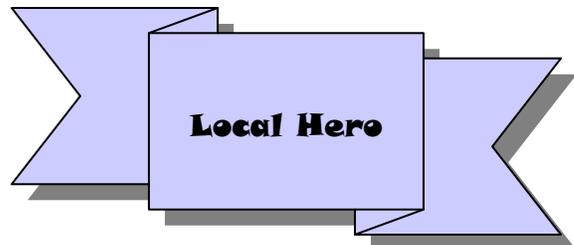
Hello! West Hartford is a town-wide initiative to build bridges between community members. Many schools and community groups are participating and showcasing the over 70 languages spoken in West Hartford. Check out the website at www.hellowesthartford.org. See the award-winning videos on the site, send in a thought on the blog, click on the globe and scroll down to print “hello and welcome” in the featured language each month to hang where you work or live. Also look for *Supper @ Seven* where you can get involved by visiting seven different world restaurants to sample their cuisine and/or have a coffee or tea. You pick the seventh item on the menu. Then write down the items that you had and post them on the website and/or at the *Hello! West Hartford* booth at *Celebrate West Hartford* in June.

Kudos go to:

Local Heroes

On Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at the Connecticut Governor's Residence in Hartford two West Hartford teachers were honored with the *Local Heroes Award*. The 5th annual award is given by Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts and included a \$1000 grant for each teacher's school. Joyce St. Germaine who is "West Hartford 2011 Teacher of the Year," was a finalist for the "CT Teacher of the Year," and is the "2009 CAEA Outstanding Middle Level Art Educator" teaches art at Bristow. Kristi Luetjen who was "West Hartford 2009 Teacher of the Year" and "2009 CT Teacher of the Year" is a kindergarten teacher at Whiting Lane.

On Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, Hartford County, presented the *Local Heroes Award*. Bank of America Charitable Foundation honored Maxine Smith, Sedgwick guidance counselor. She received a \$5000 grant that is given to an eligible non-profit organization. She donated her award to the *Career Beginning Mentoring Program* of Hartford. Maxine was nominated by the Director of the *Career Beginning Mentoring Program* which is one of the programs of the Hartford Consortium of Higher Education which works with youth and adults in the region, as well as students, faculty and staff from member schools. For the past eight years, Maxine has volunteered with the program to help under-served Hartford area high school seniors navigate the college selection and application process and go to college. She also serves as the secretary for the Circle of Hands Foundation, a group dedicated to helping Jamaican orphans with HIV/AIDS. Maxine and her husband have been sponsored parents for children in the orphanages since 2002. Maxine continues to mentor several young people informally. "It has been an honor and humbling experience receiving this award on behalf of our children in the Hartford area. If anyone is interested in mentoring and has the time to commit approximately 5 to 6 hours per month please contact me or the *Career Beginnings Program* directly," Maxine stated.



Kudos go to cont.:

National School Outreach Award

Marcelo Pelliccioni, World Language teacher at Bristow, was named the winner of the American Translators Association's (ATA) School Outreach Program Award. Marcelo gave a career presentation to sixth graders at Bristow last June. The focus of the presentation is to educate students about the career opportunities in translation and interpreting. Dr. Pelliccioni is President of MAP Translation Services, a language service specializing in translations in science, education, technology, finance, law, and business. He received his award in October at the ATA's 52nd Conference in Boston.

Artistic Director

Sean Harris, Hall theater teacher, is the Artistic Director at the Playhouse on Park. In the fall the playhouse presented "An Enemy of the People," adapted by Arthur Miller from the play by Henrik Ibsen. For upcoming events see www.playhouseonpark.org.



Bronze US Challenge Award

West Hartford Public Schools received the *Bronze US Challenge Award* in the USDA-sponsored "HealthierUS School Challenge." This program is promoted through First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move Campaign*. The focus encompasses healthy eating and physical activity for students throughout the school day. Trish Molloy, RD, CD-N, Nutrition Services Operations Manager, said, "We are the first school district in the Northeast to be 100% certified. This award shows the commitment of all West Hartford staff to educate the whole child."



Kudos go to cont.:**Memorial Golf Outing**

On Saturday, October 8, 2011 at Rockledge Golf Course many players participated in the 7th annual Golf Outing dedicated to the Ashleigh Woodfield and Jennifer Hamilton Scholarship Fund. Since its inception in 2004 this event has given away \$32,000 in scholarship funds to Conard seniors. Participants play a round of golf and then enjoy dinner at Angelo's on Main. This event is open to the public each year, and the date is usually the second or third weekend in October. Dinner comes with the opportunity to win some wonderful door prizes. Ted Holmes, Conard Adjusted Curriculum teacher, coordinated this event. He is the girls' golf coach and Ashleigh was a starter on the 2004 team.

**National Board Certification**

Sarah Lynch, Wolcott Library Media Specialist, completed the requirements for National Board Certification in the field of Library Media. National Board Certification is a rigorous 10-part performance assessment that includes video portfolios, analysis of classroom practice and evaluation of content knowledge.

Coaches

Sue Curnias, Hall track and field coach, was selected as the National High School Girls' Track and Field Coach for 2011 by the National High School Coaches Association.

Tom Verrengia, Conard softball coach, is the Coach of the Year 2011 for softball selected by Connecticut High School Coaches' Association. Conard's team was voted the #1 team in CT by the Hartford Courant.



WHREA Corner

Teachers and Social Security

By Ken Sopelak

West Hartford Retired Teachers Association

Social Security (SS) laws regarding CT teachers are very complex and often confuse financial planners and some lawyers. In your long range financial planning there are several important things you should know. I will try to simplify these by speaking in non-legalese English.

In the 1960's, State and municipal employees were given the option to participate in Social Security. Thirteen States opted NOT to enroll, and CT was one of them. As a result, you and your school district do not pay into Social Security, thus, you are not entitled to SS benefits. In the past, if you worked for an additional employer for more than 40 quarters, and contributed towards SS you would have received both your pension and SS. Unfortunately, in 1977 and 1983, new laws were passed which offset dollar for dollar your SS benefits by the amount of your pension. This was later reduced to a maximum offset of two thirds. As a result, if you were previously employed and paid into Social Security, the maximum amount you could collect would be one third of SS due you. You will NEVER recoup the entire amount YOU paid into Social Security! Many current educators work part time and/or pursue other employment before and/or after retiring in which they will contribute to SS. Those teachers will also never receive their fair share of SS benefits.

To make matters worse, any CT public school teacher who has a spouse that paid into SS CANNOT collect any spousal benefits (except Medicare). Unlike other employees, if you are predeceased by your spouse you will not be entitled to any of their SS – even if your spouse was solely employed in the private sector!

When doing financial planning for the future, do not make the mistake of counting on SS as a major source of revenue.

The West Hartford Retired Teachers Association is working on your behalf to eliminate the anti-teacher Social Security laws. You can help our cause by becoming an Associate Member for only \$10 per year. Please contact me at 860-658-1560 or e-mail whrea@comcast.net for membership information.

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 77th 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.

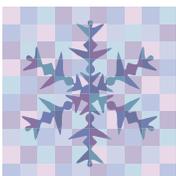
advertisement

Quick Tips

Quote:

"Every season is a journey. Every journey is a lifetime."

Mike Krzyzewski



- Check out upcoming events, 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 *News Form* on the last page of this issue. Watch for your news in upcoming editions.
- Questions, concerns? Talk to your building rep.
- Check the website for the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools Grants at www.fwhps.org.

Current Issues

National, State News

In national news Congress has begun reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), presently No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Senator Blumenthal is on the Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee which is in charge of this legislation.



Creating jobs has become a very important issue and the President is looking at new way to do this. He is trying to have Congress pass separate parts of his 'Jobs Bill.'

Candidates are beginning their campaigns for the Presidency. There are many candidates running from the Republican Party. They will run against Democrat Barack Obama.

In state news many counties in Connecticut have been declared disaster areas due to Storm Alfred. FEMA is in our state to help with clean up. Residents can apply for federal funds for repairs.

Local News

You can access your local, state and national elected officials on the West Hartford Public Library website at www.westhartfordlibrary.org.



For Board of Education (BOE) "Opening of School Briefings" and BOE meeting documents see <http://www.whps.org/whps/primary-offices/boe-page/documents>.

The controversial Busway from New Britain to Hartford was approved and the project has begun. A section of the busway runs through West Hartford. This project is projected to cost more than \$573 million. The federal government will fund \$460 million while the state will pay \$113 million.

Halloween was canceled due to Storm Alfred. Many residents were without power for 7-11 days. West Hartford Public Schools were closed for 6 days, and Conard was set up as a shelter and warm-up station. Many residents used the services, and others came to volunteer to help. FEMA has been here to pick up the downed trees.

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 wheaworld@whea.org. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at 860-463-2547.

Joyce Bogdan
PR Chair