



End of the Year

This has been a very unusual year. It was the *Year of Hurricane Irene*, the *Year of Storm Alfred* and the *Year of Education*. We all came together as a community in a variety of ways. It began in August/September by helping people with power failures and flooding from Hurricane Irene. Then we were hit with Storm Alfred in October. We helped our neighbors with downed trees and power failures. We even had help from around the country with FEMA. Finally we came together with our colleagues to take back our profession! We stood up and spoke up professionally with our best ideas for our students, our schools and our teachers. Thank you to all!



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

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WHEA News

Meetings/Workshops

The NEA/RA (Representative Assembly) will be held in Washington D.C. from Saturday, June 30 until Thursday, July 5, 2012. There will be delegates from WHEA attending.

CEA Summer Leadership will be held from Monday, August 6 until Wednesday, August 8, 2012. It will be held at Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT. See more information on page 8 under CEA.

If you are interested in a specific workshop topic 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!

Sunnyside

By Joyce Bogdan

When things look bleak,
Don't get down.
Look for the positive side.
Keep your head held high,
Find the good points.
When shadows are at your back
You are looking at the sun.

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 next meeting will be held in September 2012.

WHEA News cont.

Future Negotiations Team

The WHEA Future Negotiations Team has opened meetings to members in order to share information, ideas, and concerns. Several meetings were held with many members attending. A 'Negotiations Contract Survey' was created to get information and input from all members. Lillian Rausch, WHEA Administrative Vice President, is the Negotiations Chair.

Teacher Appreciation Day

The West Hartford Education Association made a donation in recognition and appreciation of the West Hartford Teachers. The donation was made on May 8, 2012 *Teacher Appreciation Day*. The donation will be used for the teacher mini-grant and in-residence grant program. Thank you to the best teachers!

Celebrate! West Hartford

Look for the WHEA Booth at *Celebrate West Hartford!* on Saturday, June 9 and Sunday, June 10 in West Hartford Center. Stop by to say hi to your colleagues and to see West Hartford students' works of art on display. Students can enter for a chance to win a door prize.

Best High Schools in CT

The *U. S. News* Best High Schools 2012 rankings are out! Out of Connecticut's High Schools Conard is ranked #2 (200th nationally) and Hall #6 (322nd nationally)! See <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/connecticut>.



WHEA News cont.

52nd Recognition Dinner

The WHEA/WHAA 52nd Recognition Dinner was held on Thursday, May 17, 2012 at the Farmington Club, 162 Town Farm Rd., Farmington, CT, from 5:30 PM until 10 PM. This was an opportunity to honor our colleagues and community members who are retiring teachers, Citizen of the Year, Member of the Year, and Teacher of the Year.

The retiring administrators and teachers are Wendy Baker, Norfeldt fourth grade teacher; Pat Drago, Coordinator of Information Technology; Cindy McLane, Norfeldt and Webster Hill Quest teacher; Kathleen LaBombard, Sedgwick seventh grade health teacher; Joyce St. Germaine, Bristow art teacher; Dr. Benjamin Skaught, Sedgwick's Principal; ESOL teachers Ellen Spratlin, Wolcott, and Sue Lincoln, Norfeldt.

The 2012 Teacher of the Year finalists were Norfeldt French teacher Shery Bober; Hall theater teacher Sean Harris; and Duffy fifth grade teacher Clare Taylor. The 2012 West Hartford Teacher of the Year is Shery Bober. Shery currently teaches French at Norfeldt for third grade through fifth grade. She created the K-5 French curriculum for Norfeldt and has received the Jane Graveen Award from the Connecticut Organization of Language Teachers (COLT). She decided when she was young that she wanted to be a French teacher. Shery said, "I am honored to represent Norfeldt School and the World Language Department. Building and maintaining the West Hartford Early Language Learning (WHELL) program has been a collaborative effort and a labor of love. Merci beaucoup!"

Continued on page 6.



Shery Bober is the 2012 West Hartford Teacher of the Year. Congratulations!
Photo taken by David Simon.

WHEA News cont.

52nd Recognition Dinner cont.

The WHEA Citizen of the Year is Helen Rubino-Turco. She is the coordinator of Celebrate West Hartford, Co-President of Conard's PTO, and a board member of the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools (FWHPS). In the past she was Duffy's PTO President, chair of FWHPS, and President of the West Hartford Women's Soccer League.

The WHEA Member of the Year is Dr. Marcelo Pelliccioni, Bristow world language teacher. Marcelo has been a WHEA building rep. for eight years. Marcelo is passionate about education and previously taught at Sedgwick Middle. Marcelo, upon receiving the award said, "In light of the so-called 'Education Reform,' this year has been a key and critical year for me, a proud West Hartford educator and a proud member of our education association, to advocate passionately for the great equalizer of our society, public education." Marcelo was very active especially with the education reform. He attended several of the Governor's Town Hall meetings and updated members with the much-needed information that kept changing by the minute. His closing remarks showed his commitment to public education. He quoted NEA President Dennis Van Roekel, "Education is the great equalizer...opening doors of opportunity for all. As a nation, we must be committed to providing education equity and resources all students need to succeed."

Continued on page 7.



On the left is Helen Rubino-Turco, WHEA Citizen of the Year, and on the right is Dr. Marcelo Pelliccioni, WHEA Member of the Year. Photos taken by David Simon.



On the left is Master of Ceremonies (MC) Jasdeep Singh, Sedgwick seventh grade science teacher and on the right is Theresa McKeown, Braeburn and Bugbee Quest teacher, Social Chair and MC. Photos taken by David Simon.



WHEA News cont.

52nd Recognition Dinner cont.

Photos from the Recognition Dinner taken by David Simon, Hall world language teacher.



On the left is Tom Devine, WHEA Executive Vice President, and on the right is Natalie Schulman, WHAA President.



On the left is Ken Sopelak, WHREA President, and on the right is Bruce Putterman, Chairman of the West Hartford Board of Education.



On the left is Clare Dowd, FWHPS President, and on the right is Patti Farquhar, Chairperson for the Teacher of the Year Committee.



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. To learn more about The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund go to www.henrybarnardfund.org

CEA

The CEA/RA (Representative Assembly) was held on Friday, May 4 beginning at 4:00 P.M. and on Saturday, May 5 at the Marriott, Crowne Plaza, Cromwell. The CEA/RA includes representatives from across Connecticut making decisions and voting for the new officers and other important items. Voted in as CEA’s new officers are President Sheila Cohen (current vice president), Vice President Jeff Leake (current treasurer), NEA director Tom Nicholas, NEA director Pat Jordon and NEA director alternate Kevin Haddad. They will take office on August 1, 2012. You can read more on www.cea.org.

CEA Summer Leadership will be held from Monday, August 6 until Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT. Please visit www.cea.org to view the Summer Leadership Conference brochure and register online. This information is located under ‘Upcoming Events’ at the bottom of the home page. Save your receipts and proof of attendance at the workshops and submit them to the WHEA Office for reimbursement.



In the photo on the left and from left to right are Jeff Leake, Tom Nicholas, and Sheila Cohen.

In the photo on the right is Pat Jordon.



WHEA & CEA News cont.**Education Reform**

Education Reform has been the topic in The Year of Education. CEA members rallied at the State Capitol. Nearly two thousand teachers were there on Tuesday, April 24 and Wednesday, April 25 to be sure that they were heard. Many teachers wrote, e-mailed and called their state legislators and senators. The bill SB 458 was passed just before the end of the legislative session and signed by the governor. CEA President Phil Apruzzese said, “(There will be a) special legislative session to vote on bills requiring implementation of this bill and the budget.”

Highlights of the bill are:

- 1,000 new seats in preschool programs for ‘high need, low-performing communities.’
- “intensive supports and interventions” for 25 “chronically low-performing” designated schools
- in lowest performing districts expanded funding and access to charter schools and additional funding for technical high schools, magnet schools and agricultural science schools
- teacher tenure and evaluation program changes that ties tenure to “effectiveness” and provides for dismissal of “ineffective” teachers
- an increase of \$50 million in the Education Cost Sharing Grant to CT public schools, \$39.5 million of this amount designated to the 30 lowest-performing districts.

Remember to call or email your State Legislator and Senator to thank them for their support.

CEA & NEA News cont.**NEA Fund**

By Bob Brown, CEA Chair for NEAFUND

This is VITAL to our profession. Big money, to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, is now being raised to undermine public schools, collective bargaining and our union. The only way we can fight back is political action—Congress, the President, and our state political leaders make ALL of the crucial decisions about our profession. The NEAFUND is the only way we can raise money to fight back. This money is used to support leaders teachers endorse, to run ads, and to influence political leaders to listen to us and do what we think is best for public schools. We CANNOT use dues money by law—we depend on teachers' voluntary contributions. Please give something—even \$10 from every teacher would help enormously. Please use the envelope for your contribution.

**NEA News**

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

Visual Imagery

Kim Waltmire, Wolcott first grade teacher, and her students created their written pieces through visual imagery as a result of Project Based Learning. The work of several of the students was featured in *The West Hartford News*.



Garden

Lindsay Thomson, Norfeldt third grade teacher and co-leader of the Norfeldt Green Team, and Alicia Brown, parent and co-leader of the Green Team, along with kindergarten teachers Judie Goldenthal and Joan Greenfield, special education teacher Jenna Santangelo, speech and language pathologist Monica McDermott, other Norfeldt teacher volunteers, and student members of the Green Team and their families, broke ground during their *Garden Groundbreaking Weekend*. The team built six raised vegetable beds, a strawberry patch/bed and benches, planted, installed rain barrels and compost bins. Additionally, there is space set aside for a future outdoor classroom. With the help of students, parents, and teachers the Green Team has hosted assemblies and programs, farmers' markets, created a blog, and participated in planting edibles and flowers around the school grounds over the course of the last two years. They will continue to educate families and the Norfeldt community as the project grows. Other sponsors were the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools, Judie Goldenthal, Whole Foods Market, Green Cycle, Moscarillo's Garden Shoppe, North Central Conservation District, and Lyon & Billard Lumber. For more information and to see pictures of Norfeldt's Green Team visit <http://blog.whps.org/greenbloggers>.



Leading Students cont.

Hello! West Hartford 'A Year in Revue'

By Bepsie Perry

Hello! West Hartford had a wonderful celebration of language and culture, where over 50 schools, restaurants, and/or organizations along with approximately 400-450 residents from our town came together to celebrate, break through language barriers and learn about the richness of our global West Hartford.

The night's performances included Trinity Samba Ensemble, Lok Suseli Samuh; Boston, Agrupación Folclórico Cultural KUSKALLA del Perú along with West Hartford's Schools student performances of songs, dances and poems, and speaker Richard de Maij, Deputy Mayor Sheri Cantor, State Senator Beth Bye and many, many more, were there to celebrate in many languages. HopeWorks, West Hartford Early Childhood Partnership, UCONN School of Social Work and West Hartford Community Television were partners with *Hello! West Hartford* to bring this evening together.

This was a gathering at which residents of West Hartford smiled all night long. Those attending tasted ethnic foods from our local restaurants. They learned about at least 10 of the more than 70 languages spoken here in West Hartford. They also watched the culmination of the exciting year that *Hello! West Hartford* put together in their award-winning videos created with WHC-TV's *Be the Media* program. The videos are also posted on *Hello! West Hartford's* website created by Tom Virgin of www.Studio-Tom.com each month. We had the pleasure of watching and listening to the spectacular program and creating new friends as we tried the activities presented by town organizations. Thanks to all of you that came to join in on April 30 and throughout the year. Please go to hellowesthartford.org to view pictures in the coming days or to let us know that you would like to feature your language in a month this year! The group meets in Room 405a in Town Hall. Please join us, or email Bepsie Perry at hellowesthartford@gmail.com for more information.



From left to right are Cheryl Curtiss, ESOL/Bilingual coordinator, and Migdalia Fletcher, Bilingual Speech & Language Consultant.

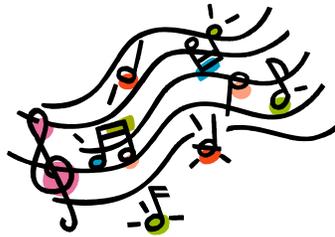
Photo taken by Bepsie Perry.

Leading Students cont.

Musicals

King Philip presented *High School Musical* on May 10 through May 14, 2012. The director was Corinne Kravetz, adjusted curriculum teacher. Bristow presented *Music Man Jr.* The director was Sloane Williams.

Sedgwick presented *Grease: School Version* on May 3 through May 6, 2012. Director John Tracey, seventh grade social studies teacher, double-cast this musical. More than ten percent of Sedgwick's students were involved in the cast or crew. There were at least seven staff members who made cameo appearances. Voice overs were done by Ben Skaught, Principal; Neela Thakur, Vice Principal; and Jas Singh, seventh grade science teacher. Three staff members shared the role of one part. The sold-out audience enjoyed the show and the 1953 Dodge on the set.



Conard AP Courses

Advanced Placement (AP) teachers at Conard were recognized in an article “Excelling at Advanced Placement/ A lesson from Conard High School” in the CEA Advisor, May-June 2012 edition. The article said, “Last Spring, 76 percent of Conard juniors and seniors took at least one AP exam. A decade ago that number stood at 47 percent.”



Leading Students cont.

60th Anniversary

Duffy opened in 1952 and will celebrate its 60th Anniversary this year. On June 7, 2012 at 2 P.M. the school will have an assembly and welcome alumni. The fifth grade teachers Clare Taylor, Ryan Roberts-Walstrom, and adjusted curriculum teacher Kim Ashworth, are having their students participate in a biography project. The *'Who-What-Where-When West Hartford'* project is funded by the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools. The students are interviewing alumni, writing the stories and publishing the memoirs of alumni. They are also collecting historical milestones during the time that the school has been open. These will be on a 60-foot timeline for the 60th Anniversary.

Design Connection

Duffy fourth grade teachers, Mary Green, Sheila Levanti, Stephen Lewis, Rebecca Pauluk and adjusted curriculum teacher Kim Ashworth, participated in *'We Are All Going Away to College.'* This was a two week architecture project where students created drawings and models of their future dormitory rooms. The students and teachers are working with Anna Sanko, a designer and executive director of the Architecture Resource Center. Anna is a Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development master teaching artist. The students used real mathematics skills by computing the area and perimeter of their rooms. The Duffy fifth grade teachers, Leslie Bates, Ryan Roberts-Walstrom, Tracy Scutari, and Clare Taylor participated with their students in *'My Neighborhood'* from Design Connections©. Students solved real problems and communicated design solutions. The project was funded by the Duffy PTO.

Leading Students cont.

Director

Lauren Pouliot, Duffy, Wolcott and Sedgwick music teacher, was one of the directors for the Windsor Youth Theatre. Kelsey Fitzsimmons and Hannah Blough were co-directors. The youth group presented *Once On This Island* on May 11 through May 13 at LP Wilson Community Center Auditorium in Windsor.



TSA Train Show

Cathy Lukas, Sedgwick 8th grade technology teacher, is the advisor for the Technology Student Association (TSA). On Saturday, April 28 and Sunday, April 29 TSA presented the 6th Anniversary Train Show at Sedgwick Middle School. The show featured Torrington Area Model Railroaders, Valley N-Trak, TSA alumni train layouts, and the Sedgwick TSA members. This fundraiser helps with the cost for Sedgwick TSA members to participate in the state and national conferences.



Leading Students cont.

ESOL Multicultural Potluck

Johannah Kosienski, King Philip ESOL teacher, had her 2nd Annual ESOL Multicultural Potluck on Friday, May 18th. The ESOL Multicultural Potluck allows the ESOL students, their families and their teachers time to come together for an ethnic potluck dinner. This year they had foods from Brazil, Peru, Puerto Rico, Germany, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam and many other countries. Students and parents danced before the night was over. Johannah said about the evening, “This potluck is wonderful because it allows for the ESOL families and school staff to come together and socialize in a relaxed environment, and what brings people together better than delicious food?”



Music

Robert Hopko, Sedgwick music teacher, and his students participated in the Northern Regional Music Festival at Har-Bur Middle School.



Kudos go to:**Board of Education Awards**

On Tuesday, May 29, 2012 at 6:00 P.M. the Board of Education held their annual Award Ceremony at King Philip Middle School. Several teachers received recognition at the event.

Clare Taylor, Duffy fifth grade teacher, was awarded the John McCormack CT Education Association/Foundation for the Improvement for Education (CEA/NFIE) Award for Teaching Excellence. She will receive the honor in Washington D.C. and will represent CT in the National Education Association (NEA)/NFIE. Jacqueline Corricelli, Conard math teacher, was the runner-up for this award.

The music department received the “Best Communities for Music Education in the US” by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM). Andrew Mayo, Department Supervisor for Fine and Performing Arts received the award.

Charter Oak Quest teacher, Michele Hadlock, is the coach for two teams of students for the *Odyssey of the Mind Program*. Both teams won first place at the state level and will compete at the International Competition at Iowa State University.

Sedgwick’s eight grade technology teacher, Cathy Lukas, is the advisor for Technology Student Association (TSA). Several Sedgwick students won in the CT TSA State Conference.

From CT High School Coaches Association Charles Claffey received Coach of the Year in Boys Golf and Nick Moffo was recognized as the Coach of the Year in Girls Soccer.

United States Tennis Association (USTA) awarded West Hartford Public Schools the 2011 USTA School Tennis Program of the Year Award. Receiving the award were Rosey Bonner, Department Supervisor for Health and Physical Education; Marc Blanchard, Human and Leisure Services; and coaches Kim Hoffman, Conard social worker; Glenn Horowitz, Charter Oak physical education teacher; Josh Satlof, King Philip social studies teacher; and Jim Solomon, Hall English teacher.

Congratulations to all!

WHREA Corner

WHREA Defeats Proposed Insurance Increase!

By Ken Sopelak, President of WHREA

To help balance the budget, Governor Malloy proposed to increase the cost of Stirling Benefit Supplemental Medicare Insurance and merge the Teacher Retirement Board (TRB) with the Comptroller's Office. The increase in benefit cost would have been a major blow to retirees that are on a fixed income and the merger would weaken the voice of the TRB. Upon learning about the proposals, the West Hartford Retired Educators Association, along with our affiliate, The Association of Retired Teachers of CT, sprang into action to work for defeat of what was to later become House Bill 5016.

Our Lobbyists, Executive Director, Executive Board and Association members immediately met with the Governor's staff, Appropriation Committee members, the TRB, State Comptroller, and individual Legislators. Even though we gathered strong support and guarantees, the WHREA and ARTC continued to exert pressure by having many members, including representatives from other cooperating organizations (such as AFL-CIO), speak against the Bill at the public hearing! We knew that promises could be broken or others could change the Bill during the final days of the political process. As part of the ongoing pressure, ARTC also sponsored a well attended lobby day. Scores of members met with their Representatives to remind them of their commitments and some even met with the Governor asking him to reconsider those areas of the Bill affecting retired teachers. Our full time lobbyists also kept working until the final budget was adopted so that your insurance costs, stipends, and pension would remain untouched. The merger of TRB with the Comptroller's Office was referred for further study.

It was the mutual work of many that caused the defeat of HB 5016. We thank all active teachers, retired teachers, and their families and friends and other cooperating organizations for their letters, e-mails, and phone calls made to Capitol Hill. Working together there is strength in numbers!

If you would like more information about the WHREA, West Hartford's only organization devoted to retirees, please contact Ken Sopelak at <mailto:whrea@comcast.net> or whrea.comcast.net.

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 under renovations. 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:

"Turn your face to the sun, and the shadows fall behind you."

Maori proverb



- 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 and 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

Candidates are continuing their campaigns for the Presidency. The main Republican candidate is Mitt Romney and the Democrat candidate is Barack Obama.



In state news the House and Senate passed Connecticut's new education reform law SB 458. Governor Malloy signed it and it is now Public Act 12-116. The Hartford Courant quoted Senate President Don Williams as saying that listening to teachers made a big difference. He said, "It was critical to resolving the differences and it made perfect sense because I think only teachers could have given input necessary to resolve it, because they are the ones in the classroom." Governor Malloy said that his administration and lawmakers reached 'meaningful education reform' that adds nearly \$100 million in new education spending. Be sure to thank your legislators for their support. You can reach them at www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CGAFindLeg.asp or you can call Senate Democrats 1-800-842-1420, House Democrats 1-800-842-1902, Senate Republicans 1-800-842-1421, House Republicans 1-800-842-1423.



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) meeting documents see <http://www.whps.org/whps/primary-offices/boe-page/documents>.

Karen List, Superintendent of Schools, presented to the Board of Education the annual budget. The Board voted to accept the proposed budget.

For more information see www.whps.org.

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