

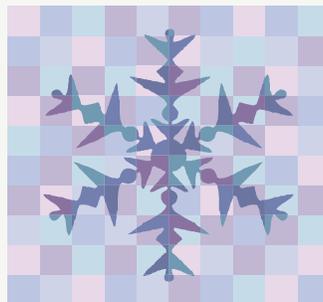


Snow!

So far in 2015 the West Hartford Public Schools have closed early, had a delayed opening and closed for snow storms. Blizzard Colbie was a ‘Bombogenesis!’ The meteorological definition is a storm that develops rapidly with a central pressure drop of at least 24 millibars, or 24 mbars, in 24 hours.

The National Weather Service does not give winter storms names like they do for hurricanes. Our winter storms are named by WFSB, Channel 3. They have been naming winter storms since the 1970’s. The Weather Channel only began naming storms three years ago during the winter of 2012-2013. So you may hear different names for the same snow storm.

There haven’t been any power outages in West Hartford and a minimal amount in Connecticut. Everyone has been receiving plenty of warning for snow and have made preparations.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

YOUR 2014-2015 OFFICERS:

President

David Dippolino

Executive V.P.

Thomas Devine

Administrative V.P.

David Simon

Treasurer

Christopher Islaub

Editor

Joyce Bogdan

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WHEA, CEA & NEA News

WHEA World

Notice the changes in *WHEA World*. It has been revamped to make it more concise. The calendar of upcoming events and other information will be on the website at www.whea.org.

WHEA “Meet Our State Reps”

The WHEA is hosting “*Meet Our State Reps.*” This will be held on Monday, February 23, 2015 at Sedgwick Middle School, in the MultiPurpose Room. All four of our state legislative representatives have agreed to attend. This includes Beth Bye, Andy Fleishman, Joe Verrengia and Brian Becker. Ted Goerner, WHEA Political Action chair, said in his email, “Each representative will give a short opening statement followed by a question and answer session. The purpose of this meeting is to help our members stay informed about upcoming legislation, as well as, foster a dialogue with our state lawmakers.” Many education issues will be brought up at this legislative session. It is important to stay informed and be proactive. Mark your calendar and plan on attending.

Keep this for your reference:

- State Senator Beth Bye, Chair of the Appropriations Committee, Vice Chair of Children’s Committee, Member of the Education Committee and others
- State Representative Andy Fleishmann, Chairman of the Education Committee, Member of Appropriations Committee and others
- State Representative Joe Verrengia of the 20th district, Vice Chair of Public Safety and Security Committee, Member of Judiciary Committee and others, retired West Hartford police officer
- State Representative Brian Becker of the 19th district, Chair of Regulations Review Committee and Member of Commerce Committee and others

Further information will be coming from Theresea McKeown, WHEA Legislative Representative.



CEA & NEA News

CEA

CEA Regional New Teacher Conferences will be held on Saturday, February 7, at the Norwich Inn, Norwich; Saturday, February 21 at the Trumbull Marriott; Saturday, March 7 at the Sheraton Hartford South, Rocky Hill; and Saturday, May 2 at the Heritage Hotel, Southbury. If you are interested check out the workshops and register online at www.cea.org. Also email David Dippolino that you are planning on attending at www.wheapres@gmail.com.

NEA/RA

The NEA officers are President Lily Eskelson Garcia, Vice President Rebecca Pringle, and Secretary/Treasurer Princess Moss. Check out the website at www.nea.org and Lily's Blackboard, her new communication system.





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 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.

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Quick Tips

Quote:

"It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are."

Roy Disney

- 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 Member Benefits pages 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 email the PR Chair.
- 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

Members of the 2015 Connecticut General Assembly may be exploring changes in state laws for English Language Learners (ELLs). Brendan Sharkey, the Speaker of the House plans to convene a task force on ELLs to hear from experts on language acquisition. According to the CEA blog, “More than 30,000 public school students in the state are now ELLs, an increase of nearly 50 percent since 2001.” Some areas for change may be laws related to bilingual education, standardize testing requirements, and have a focus on effective programs.



Local News

For your safety and in light of the latest Blizzard you can sign up for Emergency Alerts on the Town of West Hartford website at www.westhartfordct.gov. You can find Winter Storm Safety Tips, Be Red Cross Ready, and Sign-up for Community Alerts.