

# Wallingford Adult Education

Wallingford Adult Education celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> graduating class at its annual commencement exercises on June 1, 2017. The Wallingford Adult Education community is very proud of the 18 members of the Class of 2017 who completed one of three high school diploma programs.

## Adult High School Credit Diploma (AHSCD):

The AHSCD program provides a rigorous course of study that requires students to meet the minimum credit standards in academic and elective areas (Math, English, Social Studies & Sciences) as outlined in Connecticut State Statutes.

## National External Diploma Program (NEDP):

This program is designed for adults who have gained skills through life experiences and who have demonstrated competence in a particular job, talent or academic area. Student portfolios are assessed and are aligned with College and Career Readiness Standards. Students also have to demonstrate digital literacy.

## GED & CT State High School Diploma:

Adults demonstrate, through a four part examination (Language Arts, Math, Science & Social Studies) the attainment of academic skills and concepts normally acquired through completion of a high school program. Applicants for this examination must be at least 17 years of age and officially withdrawn from school for at least 6 months. Individuals who pass the GED are awarded a Connecticut State High School Diploma. Congratulations to our graduates! And, thank you to the Adult Education Program staff who work tirelessly to meet the unique needs of our adult learners.

# Student Run "Pop Up" Restaurant

For two days in April, the Wallingford HUBCAP, the district's business and entrepreneurial incubator, was transformed into an Asian fusion "Pop Up" restaurant. It was led by Lyman Hall students who designed and implemented this interactive dining experience as part of the school's Hospitality and Culinary Arts Management program. The interactive experience allowed restaurant goers to pick their ingredients and then watch as the students prepared their stir fry meal.

The idea for the Pop Up Shop began when senior Allie Tolla expressed that she had aspirations to become an event planner. "I told her that if she wanted to be an event planner, let's plan an event," Drossopoulos said.

While the entire experience was student-led, teachers Sharon Drossopoulos and Vinnie Testa provided their guidance and support for the students throughout the process.

The students are already preparing for Pop Up Bake Shop planned for December 9, 2017 that will feature artisan breads and baked goods. You can follow the students on Twitter @cookstablelh.



Back Row (L-R): City Fenn, Andrew Aguirre, Kyle Bonet, Russell Eden, Mat Morales  
Front Row (L-R): Deylith Vargas, Lindsay Selmecki, Natalie Rajs, Sharon Drossopoulos, Allie Tolla, Danielle Colarito, Luis Dominguez

# 2016 Lyman Hall High School Varsity Scholars 2017



TOP Row (L-R): Alannah Garrison, Michael Yeung, Bianca Chima, Daniel Messier, Matt Hultgren, Michael Caruso, Brian Malone, Robert Bertekap III, Derrick Rackie, Joshua Relucio  
BOTTOM ROW (L-R): Finley VanHouten, Neha Mukradia, Jane Marr, Sara Celik, Alexa Eves, Maimouna Sy, Kailee Heinrich, Kayla Hopkins, Jenna Gannon  
MISSING from photo: Alex Amendola, Alyssa Baldyga, Daisy Barrionuevo, Rebecca Berzner, Zachary Blier, Jamie Carbone, Christian Chasse, Hallie Dorsa, Karina Escobar, Gabriela Gigola, Mason Ginter, Kahli Gonzalez, Emily Hendershor, Kaitlin Kowalik, Megan Lane, Raleigh Low, Hailey Lynch, Grace Mandy, Alyssa Massores, Francisco Medina, Willow Mennone, Andre Rodriguez, Julia Sensini, Jacqueline Silberman, MacKenzie Wall

The Education Connection  
Your Wallingford Public Schools Community Newsletter

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## THANK YOU!

All of us in Wallingford Public Schools owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to parents and volunteers who contribute their time and efforts to support the needs of our students. Thank you for all that you do to make our schools, our students, and our community so successful!

# Wallingford Education Foundation

## Executive Board

Members 2017-18  
Chairman: Doug Papallo  
Vice Chair: Gail McCormack  
Secretary: Stacey McPherson  
Treasurer: TBD

## Boosting Morale

News  
Moran Kimberly Musker  
James Anderson  
Laurie Brandl

## Social Emotional Learning Course

Moses Y. Beach  
Jessica Harris



## Culinary Arts

### Program for Middle Schools

Lyman Hall/Dag Hammarskjold  
Sharon Drossopoulos

## Grants Recipients

for 2017-18  
Kinder Tinker, Cook Hill,  
Jennifer Wilson, and Anna O'Brien

# Superintendent's Message

Dear Wallingford Community,

## Wallingford Public School Vision Statement

Wallingford Public Schools, in partnership with our families and community, will provide a safe, healthy, and supportive environment that ignites an enduring passion for excellence in every learner, so that each becomes a lifelong contributor to the local, national and global communities.

This year, the vision of the Wallingford Public School District was achieved through numerous curricular and extracurricular experiences for students. Our dedicated teachers, support staff, and administrators worked collaboratively with students and families to make 2017 an incredible year for education in Wallingford.

There are far too many student and staff accomplishments to list individually, but I do want to share a few program highlights with everyone.

## Elementary Highlights

This year, our district was able to implement two additional full-day preschool programs. This achievement capped off a two-year plan to provide preschool at each PreK-2 school in our community. By doing so, we opened the doors to all neighborhoods within Wallingford to free public preschool. In addition, we maintained full-day kindergarten at each school. These noteworthy accomplishments complete the last pieces of the district's transition to a PreK-2 and 3-5 elementary education system. Without reconfiguration, these program expansions would not have been possible due to space and cost constraints. I am grateful for everyone's hard work and commitment to seeing these endeavors come to fruition for our students and families.

At the grade 3-5 levels, we were able to implement Capstone experiences in Makerspaces utilizing the district-developed 3D Learning Program. The hard work of our library media specialists and teachers made this an engaging and enjoyable experience for students. The spaces will continue to be used at an increasing level through the gradual implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards. We are very grateful to everyone's hard work and commitment to authentically infusing design thinking into science through the Makerspace model.

In addition, students experienced incredible success through their participation in the Invention Convention, musical events, and artistic opportunities. From school talent shows to the performance of The Lion King, our students were in the spotlight throughout the year!

## Middle School Highlights

Middle school students were an active bunch exhibiting incredible talent in and outside the classroom. From undefeated sports seasons to incredible musical performances, our students certainly demonstrated their talent in a wide range of interest areas.

In addition, the middle school Capstone program was implemented with great success. We look forward to seeing the continued growth and expansion of this program.

The middle schools continue to see a high level of enrollment. This coming year, additional student sections have been added at both Dag Hammarskjold Middle School and Moran Middle School to address class size concerns.

In the fall, middle school students and staff will embark on a new schedule to provide students with access to longer class periods similar to those that they have experienced at the elementary level. This will help them transition to the middle school experience while preparing them to meet the demands of the longer instructional periods present in high school. Building-level administration will work closely with staff to monitor the implementation for the greatest level of success.

## High School Highlights

From state recognized scholar athletes to Broadway-worthy productions, students excelled at Lyman Hall and Sheehan High Schools. With challenging programs offering rich experiences across all curricular areas, student success was evident from Algebra to technology education.

Students at both high schools experienced new and enhanced programming. At Sheehan High School, students participated in a new Advanced Manufacturing/Pre-engineering Course. The district Certified Nursing Assistant Program (CNA) program took up permanent residence at Sheehan High School in its new state-of-the-art space. And, at Lyman Hall High School, a Foods 3 Course was developed to further develop students' skills in hospitality through the expanded use of the food truck, the grab and go café, and a pop-up restaurant at HUBCAP Wallingford.

In addition, both high schools made great strides in implementing a new special education delivery model to respond to recommendations of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Additional special education staffing was provided through the 2016-2017 budget. District-wide training was offered focusing on Individual Education Plan development and implementation to support this endeavor and to more fully align with the District Focused Monitoring Plan required by the State of Connecticut. We are very proud of all of our staff for their commitment to these opportunities to increase the academic achievement of our students. I truly believe that students and staff have met the challenge of the district vision this year. I look forward to seeing where our journey takes our community of learners next year. I also encourage you to read the curriculum update from Assistant Superintendent, Carrie LaToere. I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe summer! May the Yankees still be in playoff contention come the new school year!

Salvatore E. Menzo, Ed.D.  
Superintendent





## A Fond Farewell to our Retiring Staff

- Opal Berardesa, Central Office - Business Department
- Peter Braunfeld, Highland and Yalesville Elementary Schools - Music Education
- Patricia DeFillo, Central Office - Business Department
- Karen Dunn, Moran Middle School - Speech Pathologist
- Deborah Genovese, Moran Middle School - School Psychologist
- Deborah Harnel, Moses Y. Beach Elementary School - Paralegal
- Nancy Houston, Sheehan High School - Business Education
- Roberta Kania, Moran Middle School-Family Consumer Science
- Christine Kulesza, Yalesville Elementary School - Paralegal
- Donna Latch, Sheehan High School - School Psychologist
- Julie Lavado, Highland Elementary School - Library Media Specialist
- Janet Lawrence, Moran Middle School - Special Education
- Denise Martin, Lyman Hall High School - World Language
- Teresia O'Hala, Pupit Personnel Services - Transition Coordinator
- Alan Olson, Sheehan High School - Technology Education
- Carla Roselli, Lyman Hall High School - Agricultural Education
- Beverly Santucci, Central Office

## Teacher/Paralegal of the Year — Nominees

School	Teacher of the Year	Paralegal of the Year
Cook Hill Elementary	Erin Berthold	Mar Ann Belchner
Dag Hammarskjöld Middle	Gianna Gurga	Therese Clark
Highland Elementary	Renece Stiles	
Lyman Hall High	Dean Dellavaccchia	Jodi Cooney
Moran Middle	Michelle Wolfrum	Janey Santiago
Moses Y. Beach Elementary	Diana Ball	Sue Chipokas
Parker Farms Elementary	Karisa Laguna	Lisa Laplante
Pond Hill Elementary	Barbara Minutillo	Susan Morasini
Rock Hill Elementary	Emily Banach	Chaima Murray
Sheehan High	Carrie Palange	Debra McLaughlin-Malicki
Stevens Elementary	Tamara Swift	Pamela Savenelli
Wallingford Pre-School	Jodi Sinigalli	Linda Sobkowak
Yalesville Elementary	Sinead Mezzi	

- Administrator of the Year — Robert Arciero — Moses Y. Beach Elementary School
- Paralegal of the Year — Susan Chipokas — Moses Y. Beach Elementary School
- Teacher of the Year — Erin Berthold — Cook Hill Elementary School

## The Wellness Connection



## Wallingford Students Excel at National Invention Convention!

On June 1-3, five Wallingford students had the opportunity to represent their community at the second annual National Invention Convention in Washington, DC. Audrey Larson, 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Dag Hammarskjöld, Drew Billet, 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Dag Hammarskjöld, and Franav Parikh and Ellie DiMatarco both 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Rock Hill all represented Wallingford this year. They were accompanied by former Rock Hill student Manav Parikh, who now attends the Foote School in Hamden, Jonathan Forter, 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Pond Hill, was also selected for the National convention but opted not to attend.

Each of the students had to first pass through multiple levels of competition in order to reach the National level. They began with a local convention held at Cakdale Theater, then progressed to a Regional Convention. From there, they were selected to compete at the State Invention Convention where they were all multiple award winners. There were over 660 students competing at the State Invention Convention and only 100 students were chosen to compete in Washington, DC. It is quite an honor to be selected for national competition as these students were identified for their excellence in innovation, creativity, and impact their invention could have on the world.



L-R: Drew Billet, Audrey Larson, Ellie DiMatarco, Teacher: Karen Ripa



L-R: Manav Parikh, Franav Parikh, Teachers: Karen Ripa

In Washington, the competition was fierce. As you can imagine, the best of the best were in attendance. 300 students from 20 states, grades Kindergarten to 12, came to compete at the Parent and Trademark Building, a fitting setting for such a historic event. Only three winners were selected from among dozens of students in each grade/level. Drew Billet won a 2<sup>nd</sup> place for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Audrey Larson won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade category.



L-R: Drew Billet, Audrey Larson, Manav Parikh

However, the most amazing awards were yet to come for our students. At the end of a long list of special awards given out by sponsors such as Microsoft, Adobe, and a long list of others, the Best in Show awards were finally announced. These included some of the most prestigious and covered awards of the event, including the Cantor Colburn Parent Award. How excited and delighted was the contingent from Wallingford to discover that three of the students from our community would be bringing home three of the seven Best in Show awards! Drew Billet was awarded the Best Automation and Robotics Award for her Fire Fighting Buddy, Manav won the Best App Award for his Food Allergy Alertor and Audrey Larson won the Cantor Colburn Parent Search Award for CAN.O.P.E. — Carbon Abatement Naturally Over Paved Environments. This award will provide her with access to a patent lawyer to help secure her idea and get a patent while she proceeds through research and design in the future.

There are many moments that make teachers proud throughout the course of their careers and this weekend in our Nation's Capital certainly was one of them! To see some of the most innovative and brightest minds use the gifts and talents they were given to challenge themselves to make the world a better place is all teachers can ever hope to inspire in their students. Mr. Bikakis and Mrs. Ripa couldn't be more proud of these students from their STEF programs. It is their fondest hope that more students will follow in their footsteps and be inspired to invent, innovate and change the world.

## A message from Carrie LaTore Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum

As we all enter our summer vacation, I wanted to give our community an update on our progress in moving forward components of the Mastery Based Learning initiative.

As you may recall, the goals for this year centered on the following:

- continued creation, reflection, and revision of standards, performance indicators, and scoring criteria for all content areas;
- communication of Habits of Work in the areas of preparation for learning, engagement with learning, and interaction with adults and peers for all students;
- implementation of Redo/Retake guidelines for all students in grades 6-12.

Throughout the course of the school year, the teachers, along with the Curriculum Department, participated in the creation and revision of standards and performance indicators in all content areas. This work was very valuable in providing district personnel with clear and consistent expectations of specific content, as well as how the big ideas progressed from one grade level to the next. English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Health/PE standards and indicators have been thoroughly vetted through the various district level committees prior to receiving Board of Education approval this spring.

**Habits of Work**

For our elementary students, the revised Habits of Work (HOW) appeared on the report cards and were communicated to parents three times a year. At the middle and high school, parents viewed the habits of work scores in Powerschool. The scores provided insight into students' preparation for learning, interactions with peers and adults, as well as engagement in learning.

**Redo/Retake Guidelines**

At the end of January, the Board of Education approved redo/retake guidelines for all grade 6-12 students. All middle school and high school teachers met and collaborated on consistent opportunities allowable for redo/retake as well as a common form to be used by students. Students were able to request opportunities for redo/retake on various assignments and were able to successfully reflect on their learning in order to strengthen their understanding of content.

As a district, we have made wonderful gains in our progression towards mastery based learning. We could not accomplish this without the time and dedication of our faculty and staff who provide valuable feedback and insight as well as the support of our students and families.

We look forward to another year of continued success for our students and wish all of our families a peaceful and restful summer break.



2016 Mark T. Sheehan High School Varsity Scholars

FRONT ROW (L-R): Emma Rapano, Shannon Bradley, Emma Lupo, Sarah Blinghous, Sarah Ferrino, Megan Ioino, Sarah Pazik, Bethany Kietkebocker SECOND ROW (L-R): Matthew Naser, Karay Maniar, Carly Chulock, Martew Rameili, Mceghan Burns, Khushbu Patel, Sydney Spizzucro, Derek Wood, Bianca Rancuro, Mia Syme, Margaret Biera, Ramelli, Joseph Asmus, Brydon Mingo, Hannah Cullagh, Victoria Bechdel, Mackenzie Wilson, Marlena Williams, Meghan Tarascio, Breana Dean, Julia Zidinski, Maya Shoshani, Ahmed Said FOURTH ROW (L-R): Lina Koepfer, Noah Pires, Katie Schlick, Nicholas Ferraro, Cassandra DuGay, Samuel Dekajo, Kirsten Wilson, Britanna Etoh, Johanna Crossen, Andrew Caplan, Yun-Hwan Kim