

# SIX TO SIX news



March 2013

## TWO TMMS STUDENTS WIN AT STATE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

Seventh grader **Hyojune Jung** placed first in the South Eastern New England Marine Educators category. He was also selected as a highest honors finalist, as well as a Pfizer finalist. His project was *"What is the relationship between dissolved oxygen and coliform in the Pequonnock River?"*

Eighth grader **Jonathan Siveyer's** project *"An investigation into the use of pyrocystis fusiformis as an early indicator of acidic pollution"* also received several awards, including:

Pfizer Life Sciences Awards - fourth place; Urban School Challenge Awards with support from CASE - third place; Quinnipiac University Scholarships; Alexion Biotechnology Awards - second place; Air and Waste Management Association, Connecticut Chapter - first place; and Milton Fisher Science Fair Award for Innovation and Creativity, For Excellence in Creativity and Innovation by a Middle School student.

Jonathan received several award trophies, prize money, invitations to compete at Broadcom MASTERS, and a \$20,000, 4-year scholarship to Quinnipiac University.

Both students were interviewed and judged by top Connecticut scientists in academia, nonprofits and industry.

## ANNA NELMES-STOUGHTON HIRED AS NEW PRINCIPAL OF SIX TO SIX



Anna Nelmes-Stoughton has been selected to serve as the new principal of Six to Six Magnet School.

"Anna has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in her current role and shows great promise in leading the school into the future," said Dr. Evan Pitkoff, Executive Director of C.E.S.

Chris La Belle will serve as the associate executive director of C.E.S., which is the coastal Fairfield County regional educational service center based in Trumbull and operates Six to Six.

"As the new principal, I look forward to continuing the growth and achievement of all of our students," said Anna. "Implementing Common Core State Standards and ensuring we are prepared for the new Smarter Balanced Assessments are a high priority."

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## NELMES-STOUGHTON CONTINUED...

Since 2004, Anna has worked in various positions at Six to Six including preschool and first grade teacher, reading specialist, and literacy coordinator. Throughout 2008-09, while completing her administrator certification coursework, she served as an intern to Mr. La Belle and the school's two assistant principals. She became the assistant principal of the elementary grades in 2010.

Mrs. Nelmes-Stoughton holds Connecticut state certifications in integrated early childhood special education and elementary education. She holds a Master's degree in education from Sarah Lawrence College, and an Ed.M. in Educational Leadership from Teachers College at Columbia University.

"I believe strongly in the mission and vision of Six to Six and C.E.S.," she explained. "Working with the dedicated and skilled staff, as well as with the engaged families and parents within our school community, was a primary reason for my interest in the position."

## FAMILY-SCHOOL COMPACT CORNER

### PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES ARE ON APRIL 10 & 11

Evening conferences will be held on April 10 and afternoon conferences will be held on April 11 (Students are dismissed at 12:30 p.m. both days). Please attend this very important meeting. It's an opportunity to work collaboratively with your child's teacher to provide the individual attention and support your child needs to reach his/her learning goals.

### PRESCHOOL VISITS THE MARITIME AQUARIUM

On March 20, preschool went on a field trip to The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk. Our 79 preschoolers were accompanied by teachers, support staff and 48 parents/family members! At Six to Six we strive to build strong relationships between the school community and our families. The overwhelming turnout of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles on the field trip was a wonderful demonstration of our belief in and practice of the Family-School Compact for Achievement. The field trip became a school-family event!

The Family-School Compact for Achievement is an agreement that families, students and teachers develop together that outlines how families and teachers work together to make sure all students receive the individual support they need to reach and exceed learning goals.

## ACTS OF KINDNESS

The Six to Six community extends a very special thank you to the **Six to Six PTSA** for providing the snacks for students during the CMTs.

### PTSA & PLAYGROUND ANNOUNCEMENTS

► The Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough orders will be available for pick-up on April 12 beginning at 2 pm. Pick-up will be on the lower level in the Six to Six cafeteria. If you have any questions, please call Brigitte Moore at 203-521-1887.

► Greek Life at SHU held their second annual 24-hour see-saw-a-thon on February 27 to support our efforts to build a new playground at Six to Six. They are on track to raise \$12,000 this year! Thank you to all of those who donated and/or attended the event to show your support. This is a significant contribution to our goal of \$75,000!

### GRADE 1 WRITING CELEBRATION

First grade classrooms held a writing celebration school-family event on February 15. The writing unit focused on researching a specific animal and creating a report based on resources used through the internet, books, pictures and video.



# NEW LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTES AT SIX TO SIX AND TMMS

## MS. KAILA O'MALLEY



In February, Six to Six welcomed long-term substitute teacher Kaila O'Malley to replace Kindergarten teacher Jenny O'Connor who is out on maternity leave until the end of the school year.

"I really enjoy my class, and my aide Bonnie," said Kaila. "I love our routine and the parent community. I've really bonded

with the students and feel very welcome."

Kaila recently completed a long-term substitute position in a second grade classroom in Norwalk Public Schools. Prior to that, she completed her student teaching, internships and observations in the Norwalk Public Schools. Her Master's degree and initial certification in elementary education is from Fairfield University.

Kaila is from Fairfield and currently lives in the Black Rock area of Bridgeport.

## MS. LIZ BREINES



On March 18, Liz Breines joined TMMS as a long-term substitute for Ms. Sabine Januski, who is on maternity leave. Ms. Breines has served in two previous long-term substitute positions in Darien and in New Canaan. Last year, she taught at a home for adolescent girls in Fairfield County. She also served as an English Language Arts teacher at a public school in

North Carolina for five years after receiving her Master's degree in education from Western Carolina University.

"I've never worked in a school with such a small student population, so this is really exciting for me," said Liz. "The transition has been seamless, and very quick, because of the size and the helpfulness of the staff."

Liz is a graduate of Staples High School, and received her undergraduate degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. She currently lives in Norwalk with her son.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

► TMMS is hosting the King of ZUMBA, John Layseca on April 25 from 6 - 7 p.m. Come get your sweat on with an hour of pure Zumba fun. Tickets are \$10/person. The event supports the Grade 8 class trip to Washington D.C.

► The Family Center at Six to Six is collecting gas cards and grocery store gift cards of any amount to support a family in our school community as they face a very serious illness. If you would like to contribute, please drop off a gift card to Suzanne in the Family Center or to staff in the main office. Thank you for your generosity.

► 105 prospective families attended the Open House on March 11. Thank you to all of those of you who spread the word about Six to Six, and to the volunteers who helped out at the event!

## TMMS PARENT MEETING PARENTING YOUR CHANGING PRETEEN

Come engage in conversation on Thursday, April 4 at 6 p.m. with other parents about the joys and challenges of parenting children during the preteen years. The session will be facilitated by Suzanne Clement, our Family Specialist.

## HONORING MR. LA BELLE



The Six to Six/TMMS school staff celebrated Mr. La Belle's promotion to Associate Executive Director at C.E.S. and Mrs. Nemes Stoughton's appointment as the new principal at the staff meeting on March 27. Mr. La Belle was presented with several personal books made by students in the elementary classrooms and middle school grades.

The PTSA will plant an apple tree on the grounds of Six to Six in honor of Principal Christopher La Belle and his dedication to the Six to Six community over the past eight years.

## GRADE 2 HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY DAY

The second grade classrooms presented their historical biography research projects to the first grade classrooms on Wednesday, March 20. The students dressed up as the historical figure they researched and 'transformed' into the person by walking from one side of the SMART board to the other. They also created their own PowerPoints on the historical figures. Among them: Abraham Lincoln, Helen Keller, Barack Obama, Ruby Spears, Rosa Parks, Louis Pasteur, Eleanor Roosevelt and Amelia Earhart.



## FOUR TMMS STUDENTS WIN AT FAIRFIELD DISTRICT HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

Elena Hernandez, Savannah Colon, Justin Feliciano, Jon Siveyer took first place in the Group Historical Performance Jr. Division (for grades 6-8) at the Fairfield District History Day Competition at Fairfield University on March 2.

The theme of this year's History Day contest was *Turning Points*. The TMMS History Club chose to focus on the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court ruling as a turning point in equal education. Students met after school twice a week beginning last October to research, plan, creating props and rehearse their historical performance.

They now move on to the statewide History Day Competition at Central Connecticut University in New Britain on April 27.

## UPCOMING EVENTS - [WWW.CES.K12.CT.US/SIXTOSIXEVENTS](http://WWW.CES.K12.CT.US/SIXTOSIXEVENTS)

### APRIL 4

Grade 4 Field Trip to Eli Whitney Museum

### APRIL 4

PTSA Parenting Your Preteen Workshop @ 6 pm

### APRIL 10

Early Dismissal - Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

### APRIL 11

Early Dismissal - Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences

### APRIL 12

Grade 3 Field Trip to Maritime Aquarium

### APRIL 12

Cookie Dough Fundraiser Pick-up @ 2 pm

### APRIL 15 - 19

Spring Recess - NO SCHOOL

### APRIL 22

Grade 3 Field Trip to  
The Institute for American Indian Studies

### APRIL 24

Grade 2 Field Trip to Web Mountain Discovery Zone

### APRIL 25

TMMS King of Zumba John Layseca @ 6 pm

### MAY 2

Grade 5 Field Trip to Eli Whitney Museum

### MAY 2

PTSA Executive Board Meeting @ 6 pm

### MAY 3

Spring Picture Day

# GOT NEWS???

Send an email with your newsletter items to Jodie Orzechowski, C.E.S. PR/Marketing Specialist at [orzechoj@ces.k12.ct.us](mailto:orzechoj@ces.k12.ct.us)