

Waterbury Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony

June 13, 2012
Crosby High School



*Waterbury Teacher of the Year
Vincent Balsamo thanked his
family and Kennedy High
School staff and administra-
tors during his acceptance
speech.,*



Welcome

Anne Marie Cullinan
Assistant Superintendent

Remarks

Neil M. O'Leary
Mayor, City of Waterbury

Dr. Kathleen M. Ouellette
Superintendent of Schools

Charles L. Stango
Commissioner, Board of Education

James C. Butler
Waterbury Teacher of the Year 2011

Presentation of Awards

Alison Cremins
Joan Dooling
JoAnne Piccirillo
Waterbury Teachers of the Year

Presentation of Finalists

Paul V. Sequeira, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

Announcement of Waterbury Teacher of Year

Paul V. Sequeira, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

Closing Remarks

Anne Marie Cullinan
Assistant Superintendent





Bucks Hill

Lindsey Federico

Lindsey is a first grade teacher at Bucks Hill. She is extremely positive with her class and she makes learning interactive and fun. She is constantly differentiating her instruction so that everyone is able to learn. She follows through with behavior plans consistently, and she keeps excellent data, is constantly in touch with her students' parents, and provides valuable feedback on their progress. She can always be counted on to assist when needed.

Bucks Hill Pre-K Jennifer Drechsler

Jennifer was chosen by her colleagues not only for her professional skills, but also for her positive attitude and professionalism. She is always smiling and always happy to see each child every day. She helps students recognize their mistakes and assists them in making positive choices. Her calm demeanor is refreshing when working with a classroom of wiggling three-year-olds.



Bunker Hill

Louise Byron

Louise is an excellent collaborator, working with members of her school team to create lessons for students. In fact, other pre-kindergarten teachers in the district model their programs after hers. She has excellent attendance, and she sets a wonderful example for her students, proving them with a safe, nurturing academic environment.

Carrington

Mary Baker

Mary Baker is a great teacher who is the first to finish just about everything. She is witty, and so humorous that she keeps people happy while they are focused. Her work with students is a combination of seriousness, passion, fun, singing, dancing, moving, and overall enjoyment – the kind of enjoyment that comes naturally from learning. She tells it like it is, and in such a way that the reality is accepted. She is enthusiastic, motivating, knowledgeable, and hard working. In short, Mary is the kind of person that you like to be around, and the kind of teacher that you would like to have for your own children.





Chase

Amy Rice

Amy is a third grade teacher at Chase Elementary School. She is a member of the school's Positive Behavior Intervention Support team as well as its School Improvement Plan team. She firmly believes that it is not where a student starts at the beginning of a school year, but where that student finishes at the end. She tries to help each student become a better person and enjoys seeing the smiles on her students' faces.

Wendell Cross

Linda McGill

Linda possesses the ability to identify and nurture the needs of her students academically, behaviorally and emotionally. As the second grade immersion teacher, she takes pride in seeing her students become independent readers. It is not unusual for her to come into the office or another teacher's room with a student in tow to read for them. She is a great role model and a respected colleague.



Driggs

Ashley Treichel

Ashley is a compassionate and dedicated educator. Her passion for teaching and for her students are what makes her Driggs School Teacher of the year. She has a very positive rapport with her students, and her dedication is evident in her daily interactions with staff, students, and families. She takes an active role in building and maintaining positive relationships with school, family and community.

Duggan

Richard Hart

Richard is a fifth grade teacher at Duggan. He is an energetic, highly motivated individual, and a lifelong learner. He is reflective, very honest in self-evaluation, and open to suggestions. He is very familiar with best practices and strives to meet the needs of all of his students. He is a charismatic person who has good rapport with parents, teachers and students.



Generali

Karen Rutkowsky

Karen is an amazing person and social worker who is an integral part of the Generali School family. She has a calming influence on students, families, and staff, and her gentle way and kind spirit is always found to be uplifting. Karen has an infectious laugh with twinkling eyes. As one staff member pointed out, the word NO does not exist in Karen's vocabulary. She makes herself available to all teachers and students no matter how much of a work load she has. She is dedicated and compassionate.... a true professional.

Gilmartin

Kelly Croce

A reading teacher, Kelly goes above and beyond her teaching duties in all aspects of education. Her work with below level students in the classroom is exceptional. She helps to make accommodations to meet the needs of all children. She is very supportive to classroom teachers and serves as an excellent resource. She has a wonderful rapport with students. She works hard to support PBIS program. She initiated several reading programs for the entire school, ordering books from Scholastic, and providing school wide reading incentives, such as Read Across America.



Hopeville

Laureen Lambo

Laureen has been a first grade teacher at Hopeville School for eight years. She possesses a keen knowledge of instructional pedagogy and current educational trends, best practices and research. She is always willing to share her expertise with others and is often sought out for teaching suggestions and advice. Her lessons are creative, innovative, exciting and motivating.



Kingsbury

Feigie Radner

Feigie is always willing to share ideas and materials relevant to the successful instruction of each student. She is extremely knowledgeable in Reading and Language Arts and prepares her students by challenging them while raising the bar. She has created files of materials and she shares these files with others. She is especially helpful with Tier Three students by diagnosing their problems and focusing on SMARTGOALS to assist their needs.

Maloney

Patricia Yurchyk

Patti has been teaching for 27 years. She displays professionalism in all that she does. She fosters a positive classroom environment. Patti is always willing to assist her colleagues. She dedicates her time to the United Way as Maloney's school representative. She also works in Maloney's after-school program. She is an asset to the magnet program!



Regan

Rowena Zylali

Rowena teaches English as a Second Language at Regan. She believes school should be enjoyable for both teachers and students and that one of her jobs as a teacher is to help students get what they need to grow into the smart, talented people they are inside. She seeks out interesting topics and ties those topics into her lessons, asking students to use academic and functional language to learn how to transfer their knowledge across the curriculum.

Rotella

Mary Monroe

Mary has been a teacher at Rotella for her entire teaching career. She helped to plan the arts integrated approach that is the foundation of the school. She embraces the arts and makes strong connections using arts integration in her third grade classroom. Her lessons and activities make learning fun, allowing her students to move beyond their usual academic limits. She often has former students return to her as older students or adults to tell her that she was always their favorite teacher.



Sprague Cheryl Newland

Cheryl is a teacher of English Language Learners at the elementary level. She is always optimistic and encouraging to her students. She is conscientious to match her instruction of her ESL students with that of the classroom teacher. She finds ways to relate to her students and provide many opportunities for them to use language. She is also positive with her colleagues and ready to help in many ways. In addition to helping students in our school, she gives her time outside of school to help refugees who have newly relocated to this area. She is a positive role model for these families; helping them muddle through paperwork and arranging appointments.



Tinker

Mary Case

Mary is an elementary school music teacher. She firmly believes a teacher should be a facilitator of learning and that it is a teacher's job to find different ways for students to access information. She seeks to stimulate her students' interests in music through the use of multiple intelligences. "Music speaks to one's soul, and gives one's voice wings," she explains.

Walsh

Josefa Perez

Josefa Perez, originally from Spain always had a passion for learning. She was told as a little girl that she would never go to school. She came to the US as a teenager to pursue her education. She learned to master the language and now instills that drive to her students, peers, and administrators. Josefa Perez epitomizes the meaning of "Teacher".



Washington

MaryAnn Malgari

Mary has twenty nine years of teaching experience which she is willing to share with her colleagues. Even as a seasoned teacher, Mary Ann is willing to explore and implement innovative instructional practices in her kindergarten classroom. She is an active member and contributor to the school's Positive Behavior Intervention Support team, and she uses PBIS strategies to ensure a safe, responsible kindergarten class.



North End

Dana Wallace

Dana is currently serving as a guidance counselor at North End Middle School. Prior to becoming a guidance counselor, she taught fifth grade at Carrington School and grade six at West Side Middle School in the areas of reading, language arts and social studies. She believes cyber-bullying to be an important issue in today's schools and has taught developmental guidance lessons on bullying and cyber-bullying to students. She serves as the co-coordinator of the Tools for Schools Indoor Air Quality Committee.

Wilson

Molly Mendez

Molly has received Special Recognition as the top fundraiser and is a Guinness Book World Record Holder as a participant in the world's longest kickball game to support non-profit organizations dedicated to Childhood cancer research. She believes educators must provide students with opportunities to develop critical thinking, interpersonal and problem solving skills necessary to function in our ever-changing society.



Wallace

Bridget Regan

Bridget is a seventh grade math teacher and Teaching Vice Principal at Wallace. She is a member of the school-wide leadership team, chair of the data team, co-chair and coach for the Positive Behavior Intervention Support team, a math teacher with the after-school pre-engineering CPEP program, a cooperating teacher and a Mentor Teacher. She collaborates daily with her colleagues to plan quality instruction for her students, and she is an exemplary teacher.

West Side

Fatos Meka

Fatos is a sixth grade science teacher at West Side who has undertaken the task of restoring a nature boardwalk behind the school with his students. Utilizing a grant from POTE (Providing Opportunities for Education), Fatos has organized a group of volunteers that included staff, students, and administrators to cut, trim, rake and remove ten years of neglect from the area. The next step will be rebuilding the 210 feet of boardwalk so that students may use the area to study and enjoy nature.



Crosby

Ryan McDonald

Ryan is a tenth grade Social Studies / English teacher who served as chairman of the Crosby NEASC Curriculum Committee in 2009 to 2010. He has participated in many school Special Olympics, and Crusade for a Cure. His students have scored very well on the CAPT test throughout his teaching career, and he has held school-wide workshops for students to prepare for CAPT tests. Students respond well to his teaching style and they enjoy his classes.



Kennedy

Vincent Balsamo

Vincent is a math teacher at Kennedy. He is the creator and lead mentor of the school's FIRST Robotics team, the Nuts and Bolts of Fury. He encourages his students to participate in everything that benefits them and urges them to remember that "Organization is key." He feels that all students want to feel accepted and capable and that it is important that he model positive skills.

Wilby

Patricia Seymour

Patricia has had multiple perfect and near perfect attendance years. Her dedication to her profession is an example for both students and colleagues. In addition to her time in the classroom, Patricia spends several hours each week tutoring students after school in her classroom. Many students have reached out over the years after graduation to re-kindle a relationship with her, citing her persistence and perseverance as primary motivators for their post-secondary successes.





Waterbury Arts Magnet Jeanette Gumbulevich
 Jeannette is a visual arts teacher at Waterbury Arts Magnet School. She explains that she became an art teacher because her art teachers always nurtured and challenged her as a student. They helped her see that art can be a valuable tool in problem solving and that art can be connected to other content areas, such as math and language. She is always searching for new ways to reach every learner in her class.

Enlightenment / State St. Susan Phelan
 Sue is a special education teacher in the middle school level of the State Street program. She decided at an early age to become a teacher. She consistently provides her students with the necessary nurturing and modeling to promote a safe, welcoming classroom where students are encouraged to be successful learners. She executes creative and engaging lessons, and her demeanor fosters an environment in which students feel successful. She also serves as a role model for her colleagues. She readily shares her expertise and knowledge with others.



Semi-finalists: Amy Rice (Chase), Laureen Lambo (Hopeville), Rowena Zylali (Regan), Mary Monroe, (Rotella), Mary Case (Tinker), Mary Ann Malgari (Washington), Molly Mendez (Wilson), Dana Wallace (North End), Bridget Regan, (Wallace), Fatos meka (West Side), Ryan McDonald (Crosby), Vincent Balsamo (Kennedy), Jeannette Gumbulevich (Waterbury Arts Magnet), Susan Phelan (State Street)
Finalists: Mary Monroe, Vincent Balsamo, Fatos Meka

Congratulations!



2012 Teacher of the Year Selection Committee:



Scott Seraine, Waterbury Teacher of the Year 2006



Joan Dooling, Waterbury Teacher of the Year 2007



JoAnne Piccirillo, Waterbury Teacher of the Year 2010



Alison Cremins, Waterbury Teacher of the Year 2009



James Butler, Waterbury Teacher of the Year 2011

Dr. Paul Sequeira, Assistant Superintendent
Anne Marie Culliinan, Assistant Superintendent