



**WATERBURY  
Public Schools**  
*Today's Students, Tomorrow's Leaders*

# Waterbury Public Schools News Update

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**WATERBURY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL /  
COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS OFFICE**

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## NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Governor Dannel Malloy, Mayor Neil O'Leary, CT Education Commissioner Dianna Wentzell and Waterbury Board of Education President Elizabeth Brown were among those on hand to celebrate Mrs. Hayes' being named National Teacher of the Year.

Jahana Hayes from John F. Kennedy High School in Waterbury, Connecticut was named 2016 National Teacher of the Year on April 28, 2016 by the Council of Chief State School Officers.

Shutterfly donated \$20,000 to 2016 National Teacher of the Year Jahana Hayes and \$20,000 to her school, John F. Kennedy High School. The donation was announced during Mrs. Hayes' guest appearance on the "Ellen: the Ellen Degeneres Show."

More information on page 6.

## NEWSLETTER SPECIALS

Several recent activities have been featured in expanded Newsletter Specials—full color, photo-filled pages that focus on a single activity with more photos than would be possible in the usual newsletter. Some of these specials include:

- Teacher of the Year
- Superintendent's Student Awards
- KidsMarathon
- Global Leadership Institute Presentations
- Parent and Community Leadership Conference
- Family and Housing Expo

Look for these specials on the district website under School/Community Relations, then click on WPS News Update Newsletter. Website: [www.waterbury.k12.ct.us](http://www.waterbury.k12.ct.us)

## Partners In Education

School Governance Council members were invited to provide feedback to representatives of the State Department of Education on the adoption of new arts standards and the new K-3 SEIH (Social, Emotional, and Intellectual Habits) framework.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, students who participated in a youth health photo project exhibited their projects during the "Picture of Health" exhibit at the Mattatuck Museum featuring photographs created by Waterbury high school students. The "Picture of Health: A Youth Perspective" Opening Reception was held



As part of the activities for our after-school arts program, supported by a \$5,000 regional arts initiative grant from the Arts & Culture Collaborative, Waterbury Region, in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts, our students showcased their art work in an exhibit at the Mattatuck Museum on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Individual schools also conducted Project Art Nights, featuring five fun interactive art centers.



Liberty Bank Foundation officials awarded a \$30,000 early literacy grant to the Waterbury Public Schools for its Jump Start for Kindergarten program June 16<sup>th</sup>. Early Childhood Education Supervisor Patricia Moran, Mayor Neil M. O'Leary, School Superintendent Dr. Kathleen M. Ouellette, along with Chief Academic Officer Darren Schwartz, received the check from Liberty Bank Foundation Program Officer Toral Maher and Liberty Bank Branch Manager Dan Ruocco.

Jump Start for Learning is an intensive remediation program for pre-kindergarten children to enhance and enrich reading readiness and preparedness for kindergarten. Through whole group, small group, individual and center activities, children will develop oral language, vocabulary, comprehension and numeracy skills. As a result of increasing these skills, the students' independence and confidence will be heightened to ensure a smoother transition to kindergarten.

## Staff Honors

Matthew Magda, a social studies teacher at Wilby High School and Wilby's Teacher of the Year, was recently named the winner of the Jan Pikul Award for Continued Excellence in Instruction, a particularly difficult award to win. He previously won UConn's Outstanding Instructor Award in 2005. Matthew is a UConn certified teacher.

Congratulations to Suzanne Dionne for having been selected as the Magnet Schools of America Region 1 Teacher of the Year for 2016. She will receive formal recognition at the MSA Annual Conference in Miami, which will be held May 3-7, 2016. Mrs. Dionne was Rotella's Teacher of the Year in 2013. She joins fellow teacher Joan Dooling, who won regional and national MSA awards in 2010 and former principal Gina Calabrese, who won regional and national MSA awards in 2011.

Crosby teacher and LifeSmarts program coach Donna Mancuso was named the 2016 National LifeSmarts Coach of the Year during the national competition in Denver.

On March 4th, Gilmartin Literacy Facilitator, Laura Caruso "L.M. Carr", author of the Giving trilogy, was showcased on CT Style (channel 8) for her amazing books.

Education Liaison Mary Ann Marold received a Leadership Award from the Greater Waterbury Chapter of the National Congress of Black Women.



Crosby High School Principal Jade Gopie was honored by the Exchange Club as Educator of the Year on March 30, 2016. Superintendent Dr. Kathleen M. Ouellette is shown offering her congratulations.

John Alfredson, a Video Production teacher at Crosby High School, received the first annual Greater Waterbury Cable Council Channel 16 Community Service Award during a Waterbury Board of Education workshop in June of 2016.

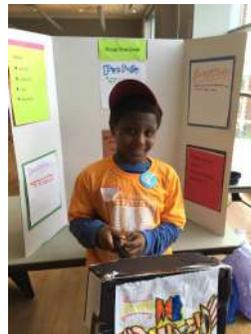


## INVENTION CONVENTION WINNERS IN STATE COMPETITION



Science Supervisor John Reed reported that forty-three Waterbury students in second through fifth gradegrades 2 -5 presented their inventions at the State-wide Connecticut Invention Convention, held in the Gampel Pavilion at UCONN. Many families made the trip as well. It was a great day for our students, who were among over 900 inventors present. They were interviewed by judges and heard a number of inspirational speeches. Although the goal was not to win awards, Waterbury did well in that department, too, as we took home the following six awards:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Invention</u>	<u>Award</u>
Aiden Puzzo	4	Bunker Hill	Bunk Bed Dog Crate	Recognized Inventor
Hamid Shahbaz	5	Buck's Hill	Sponge Hands	3M Purification Award
Nathaniel Ruiz	5	Driggs	The Worm Prison	Recognized Inventor
Catherine Fuentes	5	Kingsbury	Camera Scanner	Stanley Black & Decker Award
Abigail Pearson	5	Rotella	The Dress Mini	Recognized Inventor
Angel Velez	5	Kingsbury	Magnetic Gloves	Recognized Inventor



Reed School hosted an Invention Convention for the district this year. This event grew out of the Extended School Hours program, and around 500 students in grades 3-5 originally took part. Approximately 120 students were at Reed, and 50 were selected to go on to the UCONN statewide convention on April 30th.

## Student Awards



### Crosby LifeSmarts Team News

Crosby's LifeSmarts team recently competed at the Nationals in Denver and did quite well. Junior Alyssa Simoes placed first on a 100 question written exam on personal finance. Klajdi Gjonaj placed first in the final Smarty Standing Competition, an individual buzzer round. Alyssa placed second in that same round. Coach Donna Mancuso was named the 2016 National Coach of the Year.

### Waterbury Public Schools HALO Award Winners

High school students from 64 Connecticut schools competed recently for honors in the 13th annual Halo Awards. The awards were given out in a number of categories during a two-day red carpet event at Seven Angels Theater.

**Best Props Design and/or Management:** Kennedy/Sacred Heart High Schools: Jenna Facondini, Nehway Sahn and Brook Radaski for "Anything Goes" (Design)

**Best Dancing:** Waterbury Arts Magnet School: "Grand Hotel"

**Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Contemporary Play:** WAMS: Chris Briney as Lenny Ganz in "Rumors"

**Stanislavski Award:** Crosby High School: "Zachary Petrarca"

## National Teacher of the Year—CCSSO Press Release:

Hayes teaches at John F. Kennedy High School, but the community is her classroom. Connecting lessons learned in school to real life is an integral part of her instruction. Hayes seeks to send students into the world not just academically prepared but as conscientious and productive members of society.

"I am honored to be the 2016 National Teacher of the Year," Hayes said. "In the course of the next year, I hope to stoke a national conversation about education that is inclusive of everyone. I want to engage people who have not traditionally been part of the conversation to join in this important effort to prepare well-rounded students for success in life."

The National Teacher of the Year program, run by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and presented by Voya Financial, Inc., identifies exceptional teachers in the country, recognizes their effective work in the classroom, engages them in a year of professional learning, amplifies their voices, and empowers them to participate in policy discussions at the state and national levels.

As the 2016 National Teacher of the Year, Hayes will spend a year traveling the nation to represent educators and advocate on behalf of teachers. Hayes looks forward to sharing her belief in the importance of service-learning, and in making the teaching profession more attractive and appealing to young people across all demographics.

"CCSSO is honored to support the nation's great teachers, and I am excited that people across the nation and the world will soon learn from Jahana Hayes' commitment to education," said Chris Minnich, executive director of CCSSO.

"Jahana values a quality education for all students, and she finds ways to engage students outside of her classroom walls to improve her community - and strengthen the character of her kids. I look forward to the year ahead and all that parents, students and fellow educators will learn from Jahana."

Every year, exemplary teachers from each state, the U.S. extra-state territories, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity are selected as State Teachers of the Year. From that group, the National Teacher of the Year is chosen by a panel representing 15 renowned education organizations, which collectively represent more than 7 million educators.

"The Selection Committee selected Jahana Hayes as the 2016 National Teacher of the Year because we believe her message of service-learning resonates in the education discussion today," the committee stated. "In addition, we believe she has a strong story that speaks to educators and will bring an important perspective to the public discourse over the next year."

"Teachers like Jahana Hayes are leading the way to a brighter future for America. What an exceptional educator - we are all proud," said Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy. "Extraordinary academic rigor, high expectations, and unwavering commitment to service outside the classroom are the characteristics that Jahana brings to Waterbury students each and every day. She is truly preparing the next generation of global citizens. I want to congratulate Jahana and thank her for making a difference in the lives of so many Connecticut children and families."

"Jahana Hayes inspires her students to believe in their ability to change the world. She ignites a love of learning and builds their self-confidence. This well-deserved distinction provides Jahana the platform and opportunity to share her gifts, passion, and talent with students and educators across the nation. Without question, Jahana will inspire others to believe in the power of teachers to change the world through education," said Connecticut Department of Education Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell. "Connecticut is so proud of Jahana. She is a true role model for educators across the nation who seek to deliver on the promise of an outstanding education for every student."

"To be the National Teacher of the Year requires not only pedagogical precision, but also the ability to connect to the hearts and minds of a school community," said Waterbury Superintendent Kathleen M. Ouellette. "Jahana's own life experience, her passion for education, and the inspirational manner in which she impacts her students, all contribute greatly to her success. Jahana has masterfully refined a focused, pragmatic, yet heartfelt approach to an evolving global vision of education, bringing her to this pinnacle - the 2016 National Teacher of the Year! We in Waterbury, Connecticut are very proud!"

## News Briefs

Members of the Sacred Heart Boys' Basketball team joined Sprague School students and staff for a PBIS March Madness Basketball Game.



School Governance Council members from throughout the district were invited to provide feedback to representatives of the State Department of Education on the adoption of new arts standards and the new K-3 SEIH (Social, Emotional, and Intellectual Habits) framework.

Thanks to the hard work of Grant Writer Louise Allen Brown and our school librarians, Waterbury received several Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries grants, worth approximately \$7,000 of library resources. The grants will benefit Sprague, Rotella, Duggan and Maloney.

Recipients of this year's Margaret M. Generali Foundation Awards included teacher projects at Wallace Middle School, Bucks Hill, Chase, Carrington, Wendell Cross, and North End Middle School.

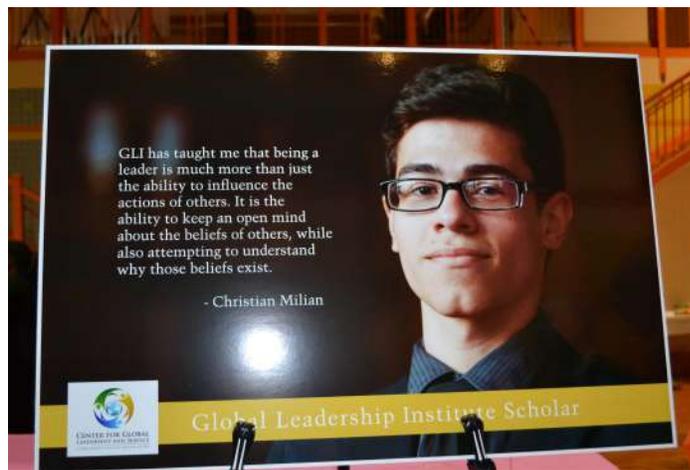
Mayor Neil O'Leary and School Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Ouellette participated in a tour of the Manufacturing Alliance Service Corp. (MASC) facility here in Waterbury that provided Governor Dannel Malloy, and several other dignitaries the opportunity to see the facility in person. Those visiting with Governor Malloy included Scott Jackson; Commissioner Scott Semple, Department of Corrections; Cathy Awwad, Executive Director Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board and a host of several others. MASC has been working in conjunction with the Department of Corrections, CT Works, Department of Labor, and several other State of Connecticut agencies in providing ex-offenders an opportunity to receive manufacturing training to support their reentry into society. The program is a 12 to 15 week manufacturing training course in CNC machining. It consists of 60 hours of Blue Print Reading, 60 hours of Shop Math and 120 hours of hands-on training. During the visit, Governor Malloy toured the facility and met with students who come from local halfway houses and are obtaining job skills in order to obtain employment as they prepare to reenter the workforce. The Governor also advocated for the legislature to pass Second Chance 2.0. His message primarily focused on moving towards a system in which most dangerous offenders are kept in prison based on their risk, while misdemeanor offenders don't just sit in jail waiting for their court appearances costing tax payers large sums of money to fund their incarceration period.

## Global Leadership Institute Presentations



The Waterbury students in the Global Leadership Institute presented their global issues projects on May 16th and May 24th at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School. Each evening began with a reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by the student presentations in the Apron Stage.

The Global Leadership Institute marks an exciting collaboration between Taft School and the Waterbury school district. Thanks to a grant and a generous partnership with Taft School, selected Taft and Waterbury high school students come together to study global issues and develop strong leadership skills. Students must apply to the two-year program as sophomores. If accepted, students attend an orientation program, then attend monthly meetings where they participate in teambuilding exercises and diversity leadership workshops. Students then select a summer internship as a service project. In their second year of the program, students choose a global issue of interest to them and develop and complete a Global Leadership Project. Not only do the students research the issue, they must write about their project, consider possible solutions to the issue, and present the information before a panel of judges.



## Waterbury Students Give Back



Carrington School staff supported Autism Speaks by wearing blue on the designated day.

The final total of the "Wear Blue Day" for Autism Speaks 2016 from the Waterbury Public Schools (23 schools) is \$5, 098.61. The schools who collected the most and will receive a prize are Maloney Magnet with \$963.41 for elementary schools, and Wallace Middle with \$828,00 for middle schools. Congratulations to all the schools for doing a great job!

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Students in Mrs. Alena Cybart-Persenaire's English and journalism classes at Kennedy High School worked together recently to donate 20 bags of diapers to Carolyn's Place. The students collected spare change and small bills, then pooled their resources to make the purchase.

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## PROJECT LOVE—

Project Love is the brainchild of Wendell Cross Parent Liaison Margaret Rocco. Concerned that many homeless families living in shelters were unable to participate in evening school/family activities, Mrs. Rocco came up with a brilliant solution: inviting homeless families from the shelters to special family activities they could attend. With the help of fellow Parent Liaisons, Mrs. Rocco arranged for the use of a school, bus transportation to and from the shelters, food, and activities. Families were able to socialize with each other outside of the shelter environment, and, as a bonus, parents received information on local resources.

As the school year progressed, the committee of Parent Liaisons working on Project Love were able to continuously expand on the original program, making it even more successful. The group brought in speakers for the parents, and, when the group moved the activity to the Waterbury Career Academy, school coaching staff and student athletes volunteered to work with the youth on fun activities, leading to even more benefit for the families.

## Some Memorable Performances



Rock of Ages, High School Edition  
West Side Middle School  
C & C Multi-School Community Players  
(West Side, Kennedy, Kaynor Tech and Waterbury Career Academy students)  
June 4 and 5, 2016

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The Lion King, Jr.  
Rotella Magnet School  
After School Enrichment Program  
April 9 and 10, 2016



## Lady Wildcat Empowerment Rally



On Friday, March 18th, Wilby hosted its first Lady Wildcat Empowerment Rally in honor of Women's History Month. 100 young ladies listened to fabulous women guest speakers from the community, who volunteered their time to discuss their stories and celebrate other 'she-roes' in their lives. The event was powerful and all were engaged. Yoellie and Luanelly Iglesias spoke from Madre Latina, Inc, LaToya Smith from Brass City Media, Gladys Wright the city's community liason, Tracy and Deb from Jane Doe No More, and Marilyn Maughn owner of JayMar.

Submitted by  
Stephanie LaBonte, Wilby High School English Teacher



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## Waterbury Career Academy Activities— Submitted by Helen Taylor



Waterbury Career Academy students and staff supported district Autism Speaks fund-raising activities.



Waterbury Career Academy representatives marched in the victory parade for the UConn women's basketball team.