

# Waterbury Public Schools News Update

Vol. 10, Issue 3

December 2008—January 2009

## Crosby High School Hosts Visitors From China



Following a visit to China this past summer by three Crosby students, a student and two educators visited Crosby from China this December. They were greeted by a state organizer and local education officials. Meeting in the Crosby lobby, from left to right, they are: Professor Chen, Vice President Wang and student Du Hong of Ningxia Polytechnic and TV University, Crosby students Alex Pacheco and Jay Bhagat, New School Student Ambassadors President and Director Stephen Wilmarth and Waterbury Public Schools Assistant Superintendent Dr. Paul Sequiera and Crosby Principal Barbara Carington-Lawlor. Story and more pictures on pages 10 and 11.

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## Mayor Proclaims January To Be Mentoring Month

Urging everyone to consider giving back to the community and helping a new generation by becoming a mentor, Mayor Michael Jarjura has formally declared the month of January to be Mentoring Month in Waterbury, joining both the State of Connecticut and the United States in this observation.

Echoing the words of Governor Jodi Rell, Mayor Jarjura proclaimed within the document, "I have made a firm commitment to mentoring and challenge business leaders and educa-

Article continued on page 8, proclamation reproduced on page 9

**Bucks Hill Students Enjoy Gifts From Friends at First Assembly of God Church During Annual Program**



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**College Week Live.** College Week Live is a virtual college fair where students and their families can participate for free at their convenience on any computer. All they have to do is register on line. Attached is a poster and additional free materials will be available for pick up at the Department of Higher Education at 61 Woodland St Hartford CT. The dates of the event are March 25<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 10pm EST. Brochures and posters are also available for download at [www.collegeweeklive.com/counselors.html](http://www.collegeweeklive.com/counselors.html). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or the coordinator Dane Kopnisky at College Week Live [DKopnisky@collegeweeklive.com](mailto:DKopnisky@collegeweeklive.com) 617-938-6014 or [www.CollegeWeekLive.com](http://www.CollegeWeekLive.com)

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Members of Kennedy High School's Pride and Sprited Seniors (PASS) group recently organized a canned goods collection for the local Food Pantry as part of school spirit activities. Students who wished to attend a school spirit rally brought in canned goods. Helping organize the collection were PASS members (from back clockwise): Rashon Wright, Javier DeJesus, Jillian Lewin and Zander Mitchell.

The Maloney Student Council spearheaded an effort to raise funds and collect pajamas for needy children in Safe Houses just before the holidays. The school donated about 75 pairs of pajamas. This is the 4th year the student council has donated pajamas for needy children in our community.

Left to right are: Katherine Ross, Alyssa Colagrassi, Andruw Flemming and Jenna Guerin

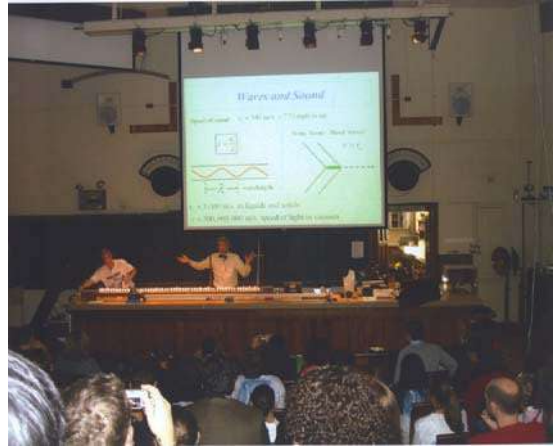


Generali School students collected food for the needy.





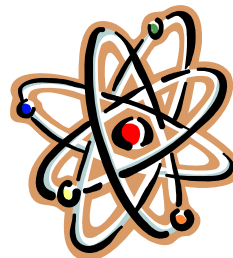
## Wilby Students Compete in Physics Olympiad at Yale University



Team VELOCITY from Wilby  
at Yale Physics Olympics—



Nicholas Anderson (math, science ELL, and physics), a teacher at Wilby organized a physics club at Wilby and took students to the Physics Olympiad at Yale University on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Our students competed and toured the physics facility.



## Eagle PRIDE Big Part of Kennedy's Positive Behavior Support Program

Kennedy High School kicked off this year's celebration of positive behavior among students with a decision to reward those students who exhibited positive behavior with a PBS EAGLE PRIDE bracelet which they could wear around school and to school activities. Because of the large number of students who are eligible for a PBS Eagle PRIDE (positive behavior, respect, integrity, determination, and excellence) bracelet, it was decided that there should be two reward ceremonies (one for juniors and seniors and one for freshmen and sophomores). The PBS (positive behavior, respect, integrity, determination, and excellence) reward ceremonies were held on Nov. 14 (for juniors and seniors) and Nov. 17 (for freshmen and sophomores) in the Kennedy cafeteria. In order for a student to have been invited to the ceremony, he or she could not have any write-ups during the first marking period and the student could not have more than 2 unexcused absences during the marking period.

At the PBS reward ceremony, students received their Eagle PRIDE bracelets, and the students enjoyed cake, cookies, and punch prepared by the ladies in the cafeteria. The ceremonies were a success and the students were very excited to earn their Eagle PRIDE bracelets. At the PBS ceremonies for marking period 1, the number of students recognized were: ninth grade, 138 students; tenth grade, 140 students; eleventh grade, 117 students; and twelfth grade, 116 students. The ladies from the cafeteria mentioned how polite and courteous the students were at the ceremonies, and at the reward ceremony held on Nov. 14, Mrs. Donna Fortin, cafeteria manager, mentioned that at least 95% of the students said "thank you" when they received their cake and cookies.



## Short Stories:

North End students did a wonderful job in raising money to help families in need this Thanksgiving. The NEMS prevention team organized a COIN Collection - Caring for Others In Need. Students raised almost \$500 from donating change during their lunch periods with no incentive other than knowing they were helping people in need. The school put together 10 baskets to give to North End families.



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The Waterbury Arts Magnet School is pleased to announce the names of its students who have been selected to participate in the Connecticut Music Educators Association Southern Region High School Music Festival. They will perform with other selected students from the region in the areas of Chorus, Orchestra, Band and Jazz Band. The concert will take place at Maloney High School in Meriden, CT on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 3 P.M.

Left to right: Chelsea Duncan, Madeleine McCord, Jianna Miller, Corissa Rodriguez, Devena Smith, Jean Carlos Rodriguez, Rachel Armour, Rachel Dziezynski and Toure Richardson.





A team of students called K-Five from Kennedy High School is preparing to take part in a very special competition in a few weeks. Under the guidance of teacher Ken Ludwig, the K-Five Team, have been using engineering software programs to design and test the performance of a new fuel efficient wing for an aircraft. Connecticut has two teams vying for a chance to represent the state at the Real World Design Challenge National Finals in Washington, DC in March of this year. The state finals will be held on Feb 10th.

Kennedy students participating are: Klejton Dinkollari, Lefter Dinkollari, Michael Matic, William Betances, and Jordan DeAngelis.

Congratulations to Waterbury Arts Magnet School student Brandon Myer who earned an Honorable Mention in the Group 2 Painting category in the recent Connecticut Scholastic Arts Completion. His teacher, William LaVallee, encouraged him to enter. The exhibition, the largest student visual arts event in Connecticut, will be on view through February 6 in the Silpe Gallery, located on the University of Hartford campus, off Bloomfield Avenue. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, noon to 5 p.m. on weekends.



WAMS students walked downtown to the Waterbury Green to participate in the MADD campaign against Drunk driving. Student council members listened to speakers from MADD, the Waterbury police force, Fire Department and Joe Geary from the Mayor's office. Students also came away with red buckets to be placed in businesses to solicit donations for the MADD organization.

## “World Rhythms” Performance

On Nov 18 and 19, a special event took place at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School. Four musical artists, two of whom came directly from Senegal, presented workshops to WAMS high school students in subjects across the curriculum. The group, World Rhythms, is led by Tony Vacca. These four artists used music and their knowledge of West Africa to enrich and enliven what is already being taught in geometry, social studies, English, French, physics, and art classes.

Students in music and dance classes also used the time to prepare for a concert that took place at the Palace Theater on Nov. 19 during which they performed alongside these amazing musicians. All proceeds from the concert were donated to help fund schools and purchase mosquito nets in Senegal, making this more than just a concert. Students at WAMS will be encouraged to become aware of issues outside of their own school and community.

The World Rhythms Band fuses the sounds of West Africa with funk, jazz, reggae, and hip-hop.

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### Mayor Declares, continued from page 1

tors in the City of Waterbury to join me. Together, we can prepare our future workforce by developing children’s skills and confidence and expanding their notion of what is possible.”

Mentoring Month has been observed annually since 2002. Each year celebrities and others participate in public service announcements and special events to call attention to the benefits of mentoring. Earlier this month, President Barack Obama appeared in a print advertisement promoting mentoring under the slogan, “Be the Change: Mentor A Child.”

There are several programs which offer mentoring to students here in Waterbury, including the Waterbury Public Schools, Nutmeg Big Brothers / Big Sisters, Covenant to Care, Forefathers, Rivera Memorial Foundation, Boys to Men and Waterbury Youth Service Systems, Inc. Over the past several years, these programs have worked together to recruit mentors as part of the Waterbury Prevention Policy Board.

The Waterbury Prevention Policy Board (Waterbury PPB) is a community collaborative of Waterbury stakeholders working together to increase positive youth development, as well as provide a forum for communication among youth serving organizations and agencies and served as a vehicle for collaboration among such organizations. It has also worked closely together with the Mayor to help improve opportunities for youth in Waterbury and has requested the Mayor’s support for mentoring on this and other occasions.

For more information on mentoring, please contact these local organizations or go to [www.preventionworksct.org](http://www.preventionworksct.org) (Connecticut Mentoring Partnership) or [www.mentoring.org](http://www.mentoring.org) (MENTOR, the National Mentoring Partnership).



### *Proclamation*

Mentors represent our State's best hope for a better future. Mentors are helping to build stronger communities and a brighter outlook for our youth. The extraordinary commitment of individuals who share their time and talent is one of our most valued assets.

Mentors inspire all of Connecticut's residents and they deserve our deepest appreciation for enriching the lives of so many young people.

National Mentoring Month aims to raise awareness of the benefits and value of mentoring; recruit individuals to mentor, especially in programs that have a waiting list of young people; and promote the rapid growth of mentoring by engaging organizations—including businesses, faith communities, schools and community groups—to encourage their employees and members to become mentors.

Many of Waterbury's youngsters have benefitted from the caring and guidance of adult volunteers. Now is the time for all adults to consider giving back to the community and helping a new generation by serving as mentors.

January has been proclaimed as Connecticut Mentoring Month by Governor M. Jodi Rell.

The Connecticut Mentoring Partnership, a program of the Governor's Prevention Partnership, is leading a statewide effort to recruit more mentors. I have made a firm commitment to mentoring and challenge business leaders and educators in the City of Waterbury to join me. Together, we can prepare our future workforce by developing children's skills and confidence and expanding their notion of what is possible.

Therefore, I, Michael J. Jarjura, Mayor of the City of Waterbury in recognition of the need for mentors to help children achieve their fullest potential, do hereby officially proclaim the month of January 2009 to be observed as **MENTORING MONTH** in the City of Waterbury and encourage citizen involvement and support of mentoring.



Michael J. Jarjura  
Mayor, City of Waterbury  
Signed under my hand and the seal of the  
City of Waterbury this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of  
January, 2009.



## Chinese Educators, Student Visit Crosby For Day



Photos:

Left:  
Student Hector Guzman chats  
with Stephen Wilmarth and  
Barbara Carrington.

Below: Crosby students  
showed the Chinese visitors  
around the high school, in-  
cluding some science class-  
rooms.

The visitors were also treated  
to a delightful luncheon pre-  
pared by Crosby's culinary  
arts students.



## Ningxia Dragon Student Ambassadors— The Trip

Last summer, three students from Crosby High School took the trip of a lifetime to China's Ningxia's province. They spent two weeks there, spending time with host families, learning about China and the area, and visiting some of the sites. The students were so impressed that they returned to the United States determined to help acquaint other students with China and its customs. Recently, the three students had an opportunity to return the favor by providing a tour of Crosby High School to three Chinese visitors who were here in the United States learning more about the American university system. While at Crosby, the visitors ate lunch prepared by the culinary arts students and toured some of the school's classrooms.

## Ningxia Dragon Student Ambassadors— Web Site

"In March of 2008, [a group of 30 students and teachers from Hartford, Connecticut and Central Connecticut State University traveled to the city of Yinchuan](#) in the province of Ningxia (actually, its full name is Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region), one of the provinces and regions that make up the northwest geography of China. According to an article published in the Yinchuan local People's Daily newspaper, it was the largest delegation of American students and educators to ever visit this city, which lays claim to being the northern gateway to the ancient Silk Road. The response of the people in the city of Yinchuan, and the culturally and historically rich experience enjoyed by the students and teachers, made this journey as memorable as any they have ever had. "

Dear Crosby Teachers, Principal, Vice Principal, and Staff

In July of 2008, I participated in a cultural exchange program to Northwest China through Ningxia Dragon Student Ambassadors. Ningxia Dragon Student Ambassadors is a non-profit organization that addresses the issue facing thousands of Chinese and US students interested in traveling abroad and being exposed to the idea of a global education. Our goal is to establish a connection with students in China and the US through cultural exchange programs that would break down the brick walls that stand in the way of good Chinese and US students from fulfilling their dreams and traveling abroad even though they are faced with the adversity of their financial capabilities.

After participating in such an experience, I was moved and motivated to provide Chinese and US students with the same opportunity that I was fortunate to have. Pursing this dream has meant a lot to me and has convinced me to take the necessary steps to make it easier for good students in China and the US to participate in the cultural exchange programs we offer without the fear of money that prevents these students from being part of such a great experience.

I do not ask for your money. I only ask for your support. Please visit my website and become a member today! Your membership could bring me one step closer to getting the financial support these students need so badly.

The Website: <http://www.dragonstudentexchange.org> \*Make sure you say Hector Guzman referred you\*

Sincerely, Hector Guzman



## Roller Coaster Model Contest Set At Quassy Amusement Park!

### Your Student Teams May Register For Event NOW! Build It, And They Will Be Judged For Prizes

Regional students will have the opportunity to explore the ups and downs of some basic principles of physics in a new educational program being sponsored by Quassy Amusement Park.

**The American Association Of Physics Teachers (AAPT)** and Quassy have teamed up to present a roller coaster model contest on Saturday, May 2 at the Middlebury, Conn., park. Teams from elementary, middle and high schools may construct and enter models in the event. **Divisions have been established for grades 1-4, 5-8 and 9-12.** First and second place winners will be selected from each division. There is no fee to participate with registration for the event currently under way.

Completed models must be brought to the park at 11 a.m. May 2 and set up for judging to start at noon.

Student teams are encouraged to construct models of materials including wood, wire, string, twine, doweling, toothpicks, cardboard, glue and other low-cost items. Commercially-available roller coaster kits are discouraged, although students may use them for ideas in creating their own unique projects.

Roller coasters are called "gravity rides" for a good reason: once the coaster has been dragged to the top of the first hill and released, it is the force of gravity that keeps the coaster going all the way back to the station platform at the end of the ride.

As the coaster goes through its twists, turns, rolls, and loops, it gains and loses its initial potential energy (supplied by dragging it up the first hill). Energy changes from potential into kinetic energy and back into potential energy. Since some of this initial energy is lost due to friction, the roller coaster can never rise as high as the first hill. The roller coasters students will design are to be "gravity rides."

In the "Spirit of the Competition," the key ingredients are creativity and application of science principles, according to the AAPT. Doing a great job is encouraged over spending lots of money to complete the project.

#### Three Categories

Roller coasters will be judged based on three categories:

- a. Technical Merit
- b. Theme and Creativity
- c. Most Exciting to Ride

Each model should be designed for a steel ball or glass marble. This means that the steel ball or glass marble when released from the top of the first hill by the judge will travel through the entire ride, and arrive at the bottom loading platform.

(Note: for this contest, you will raise the steel ball or glass marble by hand from the loading platform to the top of the first hill to start the "ride".)

A ball must be provided by the team so that it can be tested on judging day. The ball must be either a glass marble of regular size or greater, or a steel ball that is 1 cm (1/2-inch) in diameter or greater.

Magnets, electricity, springs and other forms of energy may not be used - this is a "gravity ride" only. These other sources of energy can be used for esthetics (i.e., background lighting). No electricity is provided in the contest area. The starting position at the top of the first hill should be clearly marked. The steel ball or glass marble must end in a designated area or container.

Each competing team can have a maximum of four students with up to three teams from each school.

Teachers may download the official roller coaster model contest rules and entry forms from the Press Room page at [www.quassy.com](http://www.quassy.com) or by e-mailing [ron@quassy.com](mailto:ron@quassy.com). The official rules, provided by AAPT, also include dimensions of the finished models. For more information about the American Association of Physics Teachers visit [www.aapt.org](http://www.aapt.org).

## **Registration Is Under Way For All Grade Levels**

# **Regional Schools To Face Off In Third Annual 'Art In The Park' Competition**

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. – Teams from regional schools will face off against one another in the Third Annual Art In The Park sidewalk art competition sponsored by Quassy Amusement Park.

Registration is under way for the May 31 event and there is no fee to participate. Each school may enter up to three four-student teams with divisions set up for elementary, middle and high schools. A registration form is available for teachers to complete by e-mailing [ron@quassy.com](mailto:ron@quassy.com) or sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: "Art In The Park," Quassy Amusement Park, P.O. Box 1107, Middlebury, CT 06762.

"We're pleased to again present this art competition as it allows aspiring young artists to be creative and display work done by a team," said George Frantzis II, a Quassy co-owner. "The park now sponsors more than a half-dozen free educational programs - and we look at it as a way of giving back to the communities that have supported us throughout the years."

The pre-registration process will ensure that participating teams will each have a 4 by 6-foot area of Quassy paved turf to draw a collage themed "Quassy Has Thrilled The Generations." With walkway space limited, registration will be cut off when all spaces are allocated. Each team must provide its own chalk.

Teams will start drawing at 11 a.m. on May 31 and must be finished at 1 p.m. for judging. Winners of each school division will be announced at 2 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams in the three categories. Winning schools – first through third place – will also receive bundles of Quassy day passes to use as fundraisers.

Students may draw a single element of the park that has entertained guests throughout the park's 101-year history, or combine a number of rides and attractions in their full color chalk sketches. Teachers may coach during the event, but cannot take part in the actual drawing process.

## **School Music Festival Returns**

Quassy has also set June 13 for its Fifth Annual School Music Festival for elementary, middle and high school bands, orchestras and choruses. Music teachers and instructors may contact the park for more information and a registration form.

Educational workshops and tours are also being scheduled now by contacting the park office at 203-758-2913 ext. 105.

**WATERBURY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL /  
COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS OFFICE**

37 Leavenworth St., 2nd Floor  
Waterbury, CT 06702

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[www.waterbury.k12.ct.us](http://www.waterbury.k12.ct.us)



## Registration Currently Under Way Fifth Annual School Music Festival Set For June 13

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. – Quassy Amusement Park will be alive with the sound of music Saturday, June 13 as the Fifth Annual School Music Festival returns to the lakeside facility located on Route 64.

Elementary, middle and high school bands, choruses and orchestras are invited to participate by registering now for the day-long event. Performances will take place at the Vacation Village Resorts Lakeside Theatre stage.

School music teachers may register their groups for the festival by calling 203-758-2913 ext. 109 or e-mailing [ron@quassy.com](mailto:ron@quassy.com). The festival features student performers from throughout Connecticut and the Hudson Valley of New York. There is no fee to participate.

The festival will be open to the public with no admission charged at Quassy. Parking is \$5.

Quassy opens its 101<sup>st</sup> season April 25. The park features more than two-dozen rides and attractions, "Saturation Station" interactive water play area, beach, redemption arcade, restaurant, entertainment and special events.

