

Waterbury Public Schools News Update

Vol. 10, Issue 1

June 2009

Students Compete in Annual Olympics of the Mind Contest



Third and fifth graders from throughout the district competed in teams during the annual Olympics of the Mind competition May 26. See page 16 for details

Superintendent's Student Award Winners Announced

Students from throughout the district were honored during the annual Superintendent's Student Recognition Awards on May 21.

The awards are to be based upon the following criteria: community service and service to others, academic prowess (relative to ability) and leadership service to the community.

These awards are designed to allow the Superintendent and Principals to move beyond the academic achiever who routinely receives recognition and to use their discretion and their understanding of students to reach a wider spectrum

- see page 8 for more information

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Teacher of the Year Awards

2009 (CT State 2009-2010) Award Recipients

Buck's Hill Annex

Medelise Hubbard

Medelise Hubbard is a pre-school special education teacher at the Bucks Hill annex. With 25 years experience in the Waterbury Public Schools, she feels strongly that effective communication with parents helps students improve and achieve in the classroom. She invites parents to volunteer and become active participants in the classroom and sees many of them each day. Medelise was one of two preschool teachers



Waterbury Teacher of the Year Alison Cremins spoke briefly to the audience after being named this year's district level winner as Kennedy Principal Michael Yamin looks on.

Story continues page 3

NEMS Teacher Catherine Leogrande Wins Award



Catherine Leogrande was North End Middle School's Teacher of the Year last year.

North End Middle School teacher Catherine Leogrande has been awarded the The 2009 Ruth Korzenik Memorial and Joseph Korzenik Holocaust Educator Award, made possible by The Chase Family Foundation.

The Fellowship was originally funded in 1986 by Mr. David T. Chase to encourage the introduction of units on the Holocaust in public and private schools. In 1997, the Zola and Rubin families of Hartford, Connecticut, inaugurated the Joseph Zola Fellowship in Holocaust Teaching and in 2004, the Joseph Zola Professional Development Grants were established.

Catherine Leogrande submit-

ted an award winning proposal entitled "Introduction to the Holocaust through Essential Questions: Who are you today (a perpetrator, victim, bystander, or rescuer) and who do you wish to be in the future?"

She received the award during the Holocaust Educator Awards Ceremony and Lecture on Monday evening, May 4th, in Wilde Auditorium on the campus of the University of Hartford.

The keynote speaker for the evening's festivities was Steve Shaw, executive producer of "Manana Never Came: The Voyage of The St. Louis," a new film on the mysterious destiny of a Jewish refugee ship on the eve of the Holocaust.

PPB Dinner Awards Bus Drivers, Staff for Commitment to Waterbury Youth



Close to 100 people were honored for their commitment to youth during this year's annual Waterbury Prevention Policy Board's Champions for Youth dinner held May 14. Honorees included bus drivers, school secretaries, custodians, and

educators who consistently go out of their way to welcome and assist youth. Special Champion for Youth Awards were given to Assistant Superintendent of Schools Anne Marie Cullinan, and Jeffrey Hunter, Sr., Waterbury Public Schools Transportation Coordinator. Mrs.



Cullinan was praised for her leadership in bringing Positive Behavior Support (PBS) to all Waterbury Schools. Like the 40 Developmental Assets, PBS is designed to build character, skills and qualities youth need to succeed. Mr. Hunter was honored for his commitment to assisting youth to build developmental assets directly as a coach and mentor, and indirectly by coordinating bus routes and schedules to facilitate student attendance in school and after school programs where those assets are also built.

The event was generously sponsored by PPB supporters: Connecticut Community Foundation, the United Way of Greater Waterbury, the Waterbury Office of the Mayor, Waterbury Youth Service Systems, Inc., and Naugatuck Savings Bank Foundation.

Teacher of the Year (continued)

to pilot the Preschool Intervention Program where parents come to school with children to learn how to address challenging behaviors at home. This experience has taught her that parents are sometimes overwhelmed and do not know how to help with a child's inappropriate behavior. Her philosophy of communicating positively with parents has proven successful.

Barnard

Suzanne Jokubaitis

The Barnard School Teacher of the Year selection committee has named Suzanne Jokubaitis as Teacher of the Year. Suzanne has been an extraordinary educator for many years. She has truly loved being a teacher and enriching the lives and minds of her students. What other teacher would postpone retirement to that they could learn and teach a new reading series? Sue has always been the consummate professional, as well as being kind, compassionate and articulate. She supports Barnard School through fund raisers and is well liked and respected by her peers. She was the originator of the Barnard School Knitting Club, and she has many talents that she shares with the staff. The selection committee believes selecting Sue for Barnard's 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year would be an appropriate, well-deserved and fitting way to end her career.

Brooklyn

Branden Strileckis

Branden Strileckis has worked diligently to raise his student's fourth grade CMT scores. With his assistance, students have been able to achieve tremendous growth, allowing

Brooklyn School to have the top fourth grade scores in Math in the city. Branden is willing to work beyond his job description and often contributes his time and energy to many after-school events. He is an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled teacher.

Buck's Hill

Melissa Ciccone

It is an honor to announce that Bucks Hill School's choice for Teacher of the Year is Melissa Ciccone. She is an enthusiastic, caring, and fantastic teacher who works everyday to enrich the lives of all her students. She utilizes strategies that give all children an opportunity to learn. She creates an environment that makes her students enjoy being in school. Perhaps her colleagues said it best when they wrote in their nomination forms that she is a true professional in every way. She is knowledgeable regarding best practices and uses innovative ways to engage her students. She makes learning fun. Her students are respectful of her, and she teaches them to be respectful of each other. On another level, Melissa is a great team player. She has mentored her two new grade level partners along with other teachers in the building. She has opened her classroom to model exemplar teaching strategies and she is a member of the PBS committee. Melissa is a true example of a great teacher!

Bunker Hill

Maureen Lyon

Maureen

Lyon is a speech pathologist at Bunker Hill School who shows a personal dedication to her students along with a tireless work ethic. Maureen is a con-

summate professional who maintains a positive attitude. She is a team player and an excellent Special Education Resource. As a consistent professional development participant, she implements the L.I.P.S. Kindergarten Program and Lynn Moody Program in her teaching repertoire.

Carrington

Julie Plaza

Julie Plaza is a second grade bilingual education teacher at Carrington School. Julie is a tireless advocate for her students, who devotes her personal time to the betterment of her students. She is a team worker who works to unite her group to excel in their work & goals as well as a strong advocate for effective parent / teacher / student relationships & communication.

Chase

Elizabeth Castro

Elizabeth Castro is a special education teacher at Chase School. Beth is dedicated to all of her students and has a wealth of knowledge she willingly shares with her colleagues and parents. Beth is always willing to help others and is well respected by her peers and by administrators. She is always implementing strategies that will enable students to achieve and succeed. She shows compassion to all students while at the same time holding each to a high standard.

W. Cross

Alicia Pomerleau

Alicia Pomerleau's performance is one to be emulated by her peers. As a special education teacher, she has taken inclusion to a new level. The majority of her students' service time

Teacher of the Year (continued)

takes place in the regular education setting. For her students, inclusion is the norm and pull out is the exception. She advocates for her students and teaches them not only how to learn, but how to advocate for themselves.

Alicia works with both regular and special education students in the regular classroom setting every day. For Alicia, these are all her students whether they are identified as special education or not. She collaborates with the regular education teachers to ensure that her instruction is consistent with what the regular education teacher is teaching. She is a valuable asset to the entire Wendell Cross community and we all celebrate her achievement.

Driggs Bernadette Ouellette

Bernadette Ouelette exemplifies the highest qualities of collegial leadership and professionalism. She consistently demonstrates her commitment to excellence in teaching in her kindergarten classroom by ensuring that all of her children are cared for and are making progress. Mrs. Ouelette's calm and loving warmth brings a feeling of security and confidence to her children that enables them to make significant progress along their own learning continuum. Her classroom is always alive with exciting activities, her children clearly understand the classroom routines and expectations associated with her strong classroom management skills, and they consistently demonstrate their joy in learning.

Mrs. Ouelette also exhibits a high degree of initiative and leadership within her kindergarten team. She helps her

team focus on collecting data and in making strategic decisions regarding pacing and units of study and has developed and implemented a successful co-teaching model with another kindergarten teacher that enable both teachers to focus on individual student needs. She also organized and implemented a very successful school-wide fund raising activity that supports our PBS recognition fund.

Generali John Orzechowski

Mr. O, as he is affectionately known, has been a speech pathologist at M. M. Generali School for 22 years and is the pillar of the M. M. Generali Community. His colleagues state that he is hard-working, dedicated, and always pleasant. He is always smiling and most importantly he does bus duty everyday and enjoys it. Mr. O has a wonderful and positive attitude. He never says anything negative. Mr. O is truly loved by all the students, staff, and parents of M. M. Generali School. He always has the students' performance at the fore front of his goals and does a great job helping students to succeed. Other duties that Mr. O has volunteered for over the years include as "Mr. O the Science Pro". He is also determined and successful in keeping the entire staff functioning as a cohesive unit. He consistently attempts to build a sense of community among the staff. He is truly the heart and soul of M. M. Generali School.

**Gilmartin
Kathleen Orzechowski**
Kathy Orzechowski significantly contributes to the school culture of Gilmartin School and

demonstrates an on-going commitment to the school community. Her professionalism, positive attitude, and spirit of community are evident in many ways. She provides leadership in the Early Intervention Process (EIP) as well as in its implementation. She has volunteered to raise funds for Gilmartin's Positive Behavior Support program as well as playing a role on the school team in the Relay for Life cancer event. She always helps with our "Good Cheer" program which provides comfort and support to staff members during hardships or celebrations. Kathy Orzechowski is an outstanding Speech Pathologist. Her knowledge in this field is exemplary and her students greatly benefit from her services. She demonstrates a vast knowledge in her area of speech and language spanning the full spectrum of services including sign language and communication devices. She is a team player and has excellent communication skills. She is dedicated to the students she teaches and they greatly benefit from her services. She is a true professional and Gilmartin staff feel fortunate to have her in their building.

Hopeville

Maria Ramirez

Maria Ramirez has been teaching many years and is a wonderful classroom teacher with excellent classroom management skills. She utilizes creativity and differentiates instruction to meet the needs of her students. She helps not only her students but every student in the building and has a great rapport with all. She is also always available to help another teacher with Spanish translations for notes or meetings and

is willing to translate anything that goes home to all parents in the building. She never complains about her students even if they have behavior problems and gives her students structure while being fair. Mrs. Ramirez shows respect and dignity for her students, parents of her students and coworkers. She has a wonderful connection to teachers and parents and is sincere about her position and her belief in the bilingual program.

Kingsbury

Laura Halloran

Kingsbury School has nominated Laura Halloran, the school's Library Media Specialist for Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Halloran has created a Media Center at Kingsbury School that optimally serves all students and staff in all areas of library circulation and technology. She goes above and beyond the call of duty putting in extra hours, creating schedules and is always on call to help anyone with a technological problem. She possesses superior skills in all areas of technology and has generated professional quality documents for Kingsbury School with no expectation or desire to be recognized for the accomplishments. Due to her broad knowledge of many educational issues, Mrs. Halloran is called upon to serve on various committees and assists in many school projects. She gives a full time commitment to Kingsbury School and demonstrates dedication not only to the students of Kingsbury but to the whole Kingsbury Family.

Maloney

Margarita Vargas

Margarita Vargas has been teaching in Waterbury for 26 years. Margie is always fair to her students, never playing

favorites. She is always kind to everyone. There is never a question of right or wrong in her classroom. Respect is given and received by all. Margie holds her students to high standards. The students know what is expected of them and they rise to meet her expectations. The work the students produce in her class is second to none. Students grow by leaps and bounds in her nurturing classroom. We have seen a student arrive in her class in September who could barely write a sentence. That same student now writes beautifully neat, organized stories. Finally, Margie's enthusiasm for her students and teaching radiates in her beautiful smile. She makes learning fun and exciting. Her excitement rubs off on her students and they in turn love to come to school. She is an inspiration to all of us.

Regan

Kevin Mitchell

Kevin Mitchell is a truly dedicated teacher. He always goes above and beyond for his third grade students. He is a perfect role model, not only for his students, but also for his peers who work with him at Regan School. In addition, he is a teacher who is highly regarded by his students. They seem to respond well to his mannerisms and his personality. They find that he is firm, however, that he is also extremely fair and they respect and like him as a teacher.

Rotella

Meg Harrigan

Meg Harrigan devotes endless hours to her position as Integrated Arts Coordinator for Rotella Magnet School. As chair of the Integrated Arts Committee, she brings together the innovative ideas of her colleagues and synthesizes

them into a meaningful artistic whole. Meg is the creative force that weaves each year's magnet theme into all instructional activities and artistic events. She recruits resident artists and guest performers with the yearly theme in mind and ensures that their work reinforces the elementary curriculum. By making certain that our students are able to make clear connections between traditional academic disciplines and the four areas of the fine arts, she enhances the unique educational experience we seek to provide. She is the heart and soul of Rotella's mission to integrate the arts with all aspects of teaching and learning.

Meg is also intricately involved in Rotella's After-School and Summer Programs. Her contributions to the Theater Arts program are immeasurable. She works closely with the students, offering constant encouragement to student performers and their back stage counterparts. With her help, many children have recognized heretofore hidden talents and have gained the confidence to perform on stage. Meg is instrumental in so many areas of school life, it is almost impossible to list them all here. She is a delightful, positive presence at Rotella and is most deserving of this honor.

Sprague

Claudia Bergin

Claudia Bergin is a special education teacher who has a clear focus on instruction and is committed to every student in her groups not only achieving but excelling. She works intensely with students in a small group setting and at the same time her calm demeanor allows all students to feel welcome in her presence. She expects each student to give their per-

Teacher of Year (continued)

sonal best. Dedication, caring, firmness, fairness, quality instruction and accountability are hallmarks of her teaching. She has helped countless students progress from being struggling readers to becoming successful readers. She has made a positive and priceless impact on student reading at Sprague School.

Tinker **Cathy Grasso**

B.W. Tinker School is pleased to name Mrs. Catherine Grasso as its Teacher of the Year. Teachers today face many challenges as they work to educate our children. Mrs. Grasso has always gone the extra mile to make her classroom a safe and secure teaching and learning environment. She tirelessly strives to keep the parents in her class actively engaged in the educational process of their children. Not only does she instill a love of learning in her students, she also is a very positive influence on the teaching profession. Her smile and wonderful sense of humor are infectious, and she is truly admired and loved by her colleagues. Thank you, Cathy, for all you do!

Washington **Art Principe**

What can we say about Art Principe other than he is a "miracle worker". What other person can take a group of elementary children, see them once a week for ½ hour and teach them to play an instrument!! The students begin the year with nothing more than a desire to "play" an instrument. Those same students end the year reading music, understanding how their instrument works, following a conductor and playing in a concert. We call that a miracle.....Art Principe is an exemplar teacher, a patient, kind man and an asset to the development of our

future citizens.

W. Wilson **Monica O'Neal**

Monica is the epitome of the definition "Teacher of the Year". Ms. O'Neal has taken on a leadership position at Wilson School like no other.....she is now the Teaching Vice Principal, co-chair of the school's PBS team, chair of the EIP team and is one of the lead teacher/administrators for the schools new Century 21 program. She has even taken on the lead at Bus Duty! Everyone in the school looks up to Ms. O'Neal and her commitment to the staff and students. Ms. O'Neal believes in quality....she has high expectations for herself and the ones around her. She believes in only presenting the best....which may mean that she is at Wilson or on her sofa at home until midnight doing school work. She is committed to Wilson School's children. She services her students with a great deal of pride and with a focus on student achievement. She commits herself to providing her students with the best education possible and works hard to target her student's needs. She shoots for the moon, knowing that even if she fails, she will land among the stars.

North End **MJ DeFazio**

MJ Defazio is an 8th grade math teacher North End Middle School. His students are always engaged, whether instruction is by whole or small group. His skills and solid knowledge of math have helped his students achieve. A member of the school's math technology committee, he is responsible for assuring that all math equipment is updated and kept in good working order. He also

coaches the school's basketball and baseball teams and has been recognized for never taking a sick day!

Wallace

Jessica Dizenzo
Jessica Dizenzo is a 6th grade ESL teacher at Wallace Middle School. Throughout her tenure at Wallace Middle School, Jessica has been an active member of many committees. She currently serves as a member of the Leadership Team, the School Environment Committee, and multiple Data Teams. She has also conducted several professional development workshops, primarily in the area of Sheltered Instruction. Her approach to working with students is exceptional. She is a hard working, dedicated teacher who continuously goes above and beyond the call of duty in providing opportunities for her students to succeed. Her vivaciousness is contagious and well received by her students. Mrs. Dizenzo truly understands the art of education and knows how to assist students in improving their academic achievements, while maintaining high expectations. With a vast knowledge of content matter and teaching experience, Mrs. Dizenzo creates a safe and loving learning environment that is embraced by her students. Perhaps the most compelling quality Mrs. Dizenzo possesses is her ability to exude passion and empathy for members of the school community. Mrs. Dizenzo is always willing to spend countless hours working with her colleagues to provide additional opportunities for students and staff to succeed.

West Side **Joanne Piel**

Joanne Piel is a reading / language arts teacher at West Side Middle School. A dedicated veteran teacher, Joanne has been working with students

Teacher of Year (continued)

and helping her middle school charges develop reading and writing skills for more than 35 years. She is a consummate professional and is well respected by her peers.

Crosby

Kirk Palladino

Krik Palladino is more than just the Culinary Arts Teacher at Crosby High School. Well-respected by both students and staff, he is an integral part of the school. He regularly goes above and beyond for his students. When named this year's Crosby Teacher of the Year, he never hesitated about whether or not he should decline catering this year's event. The learning experience for his students was more important to him than relaxing and enjoying the day's honor. To see a fine example of his teaching expertise, you need only look around you to see his students at work.

Kennedy

Alison Cremins

An English teacher at Kennedy High School, Alison Cremins is extremely capable of engaging students and motivating them to achieve and to make strides thorough the curriculum. Alison has assumed the lead in the school's new Positive Behavioral Support program and has been instrumental in trying to make a systemic change in the culture of the school. She is one of the lead teacher's for PBS in the school and her effort has been enormous in improving student behavior and attendance. She has implemented a student of the month program and attendance awards for students. She created and distributes a monthly PBS Newsletter, has teachers select students for special rec-

ognitions, and portrays student successes by acknowledging different students monthly on school bulletin boards. She does this overwhelming task on weekends and/or late into the evenings. She has established herself as a well respected role model for students, teachers, and the community and is invaluable to the students and staff of this school.

Waterbury Arts Magnet

Licia Fitzpatrick

Licia Fitzpatrick is an excellent teacher who tries to use a variety of teaching methods to reach all levels of students. She is enthusiastic and encouraging of all groups. She is also an outstanding community member who spends a great deal of her personal time coordinating activities. She is a role model of civic responsibility and has led or assisted such groups as "WAM-bassadors," Student Council, the high school newspaper, blood drives, Red Shirt Day, leadership conferences, and Books and Blooms, to name just a few. She feels it is important to teach students values in addition to academics, and she tries to instill in her students a sense of self-worth and pride in their community.

Wilby

Sylvia Demicco

Mrs. Sylvia Demicco has been a special education teacher in the City of Waterbury since 1984. In the past 25 years, Mrs. Demicco has stood out among her colleagues as a professional who goes above and beyond the call of service with both her students and her colleagues. Sylvia has expert experience in dealing with students who have the most severe social, emotional, and behavior difficulties. She was a

pioneer in setting up special education programs in the Adult Education Program and the Wilson Learning Center in the early 1980's.

Mrs. Demicco has infinite patience with her students and she has a genuine interest for their welfare. She models good character and is compassionate and determined. She is a constant encouragement to all students in assisting them to recognize their talents and to challenge them in reaching their highest potential. As part of the "Wilby Family," Mrs. Demicco is positive, supportive and encouraging to staff. She not only assists colleagues with a multitude of strategies for special education students, but she is an involved member of the PBS Team and the EIP Committee. She has been a mentor in the building for newer staff, a cooperating teacher for interns, and most importantly, she is a colleague who always has the time to listen and share ideas with others.

Enlightenment / State St

Gail Moriarty

Gail Moriarty is an upbeat and friendly teacher who always has a smile on her face. She wears many hats in the Enlightenment School and is a role model to other teachers because of her commitment to improving the school environment. She creates a supportive learning environment for all students and acts as a mentor to other teachers, lending her support and expertise.



Student Award Winners (continued)

of youngsters not often considered "stars."

The following students received awards this year:

BRIGHT FUTURES AWARDS:

George Reklaitis:

George is a sweet boy who is kind to others and is always respectful. He has grown by leaps and bounds in all areas of development. He always works hard in school and tries to do his best. We are proud of his achievements.

Matthew Minutolo:

Matthew Minutolo was chosen for this award because he has demonstrated tremendous growth in all areas of development since first beginning at Bucks Hill Pre-K last school year. He has made great gains in his communication skills, his academic skills in language arts and reading, and in his ability to interact with adults and peers. Matthew is a pleasure to have in class, and we are all very proud of his accomplishments.

SUPERINTENDENTS CERTIFICATES OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Barnard Mariah Cruz

Mariah is an excellent student, a member of the Focus program, and plays the flute. She is also in talented chorus and talented art. Mariah also won the Fire Prevention Poster Contest this year. Mariah sets a very positive example around Barnard School, not only for her classmates, but for the younger students as well.

Brooklyn Montanique Ford

Montanique represents Brooklyn Elementary School, accompanied by Principal Donna Cullen. Montanique is a very conscientious student which reflects in her academic performance. She is respectful at all times and is willing to help others whenever needed. She truly represents the school.

Buck's Hill Odalyz Arias

Odalyz is a lovely young lady who is actively engaged in many activities in school. She is a Peer Helper working with the guidance counselor to welcome new students into the school. She is a member of both the Fifth Grade Chorus and Talented Art. She is a

Girl Scout with the lunch Bunch troop at school, and an honor roll student who follows the Bucks Hill Respectful, Responsible, and Safe expectations. Outside of school, Odalyz has been involved in gymnastics. She also is interested in music and has drums and a guitar.

Bunker Hill Mirushe Sela

Mirushe has been recommended for this award because of her academic excellence and her outstanding character. She is an avid animal lover and aspires to be a veterinarian someday in the future.

Carrington Mariella Rodriguez

Third grade was Mariella's first year out of a bilingual classroom. She had mastered the English language in all aspects, including speaking, reading, and writing. She was a model student. Her work ethic was superb. She was kind and respectful. She helped classmates without having to be asked. Her self-motivation and enthusiasm for learning showed that Mariella will have a lifetime of success in classrooms and in her community. Since third grade, she has continued to excel and to impress her teachers while serving as a true role model for her classmates.

Chase Laura Dao

Laura is an exceptional member of her fifth grade. She is highly motivated and always looking for new challenges. She is willing to help anyone in need and has a special place in her heart for animals. She has a beautiful smile and a bubbly personality that makes her easy to get along with.

W. Cross Destin Trammell

Destin is an excellent student. She has been a member of the Wendell Cross Student Council for the past 3 years. This year she was elected president. Destin is always polite and respectful and eager to help in any capacity. She actively participates in community service activities such as food drives for the Salvation Army and tea with the senior citizens of the East End Senior Center. Destin is also a soloist at her church, Community Tabernacle. The entire Wendell Cross Community is proud of her and her achievement.

Driggs Kladji Sosoli

Kladji consistently exhibits the highest level of achievement and citizenship in his fifth grade class. He is always eager to help his classmates, his teachers, and his principal. His demonstration of kindness and generosity has earned him the respect of his classmates and his teachers. Kladji is a member of the Driggs Student Council and the Talented Music Club. He is a conscientious student who always works hard to achieve at high levels. He shows great promise to continue to be an excellent student in the future.

Generali Diana Ruiz

Diana Ruiz is a lovely young lady who is a model M. M. Generally School student. She always shows STAR behavior. Diana is a hard worker who comes to class everyday prepared to do her best. Her effort is outstanding and she is an exemplary student. She is a leader among our fifth grade students. Diana is always willing to help any student or staff member. She is always polite and respectful. Diana is extremely kind and courteous to all students and staff at our school. M. M. Generali School is so proud of Diana and we wish her well in Middle School. She has been an asset to our school and she will be sorely missed.

Gilmarti Yazalyn Para

From Gilmartin School, we have Yazalyn Para, accompanied by Principal Dr. Donald Burzler. Yazalyn has emerged from a shy hesitant young lady into a well-rounded classroom role model. Inspired by her fourth-grade teacher, Yazalyn aspires to become a teacher herself. She demonstrates intense concentration skills, enabling her to grasp, comprehend, and apply difficult subject matter. Her mastery of fractions has been exemplary. She enjoys playing a variety of sports and is a die-hard Yankee fan.

Hopeville Jeanette Rendon

Jeanette has made impressive growth during her time at Hopeville. She exited the bilingual program after second grade and has excelled within the classroom ever since. She is a math wizard and a gifted artist. She is a future superstar of the city!

Student Award Winners (continued)

Kingsbury Rabina Rahamat
Rabina is a tremendous asset to the Kingsbury community. Her demeanor and positive attitude towards learning shines through on a daily basis. Not only does Rabina strive to do her best academically, she also tries to be a tremendous friend to each one her classmates. She is always there to help out or answer a question, and her classmates know they can count on her. Her best quality, though, may be her beautiful smile which lights up a room whenever she enters. It is a smile full of enthusiasm and a love of life and learning.

Maloney Kelsey Hazelton
Kelsey is an excellent student and is a member of our school's chorus. She is a staff member of "Tiger Talk," the Maloney School newspaper. She is very involved with her local church and spends much of her time volunteering. Most recently, Kelsey fasted for 30 hours to raise awareness and money for the starving children of Africa. During these 30 hours Kelsey worked at a local community camp cleaning the grounds. Additionally Kelsey is a member of the Girl Scouts, and plays softball and soccer.

Regan Alison Mulhall
Alison is an intelligent student, and her grades reflect her academic prowess in the classroom. In addition to this, she has demonstrated her service to others in numerous ways. She regularly volunteers her time to assist in cleaning up her neighborhood. She has been extremely committed to a club she helped establish at Regan to raise awareness and funds to protect abused and neglected animals, and she is in the beginning stages of starting a club that will assist the elderly in her community. Alison is a mature young lady and an obvious asset to the city.

Rotella Anisa Caraballo
Rotella School is proud to honor Anisa Caraballo as the recipient of the Superintendent's Award. Anisa has exhibited excellent academic work, which is a reflection of her motivation and optimistic attitude. Her willingness to help others and her overall positive conduct have made her a respected student at Rotella School. Anisa is very conscious of global issues, particularly in saving the endangered harp

seals. This passion has carried over into school and has positively influenced her classmates. Congratulations Anisa!

Sprague Melissa Soto
Melissa Soto is an excellent choice for Sprague School's Student of the Year. She is hard working, respectful and enjoys learning. She is a helper at school – delivering the attendance folders to classes each day and returning them to the office. Melissa volunteers to help others. She uses her time wisely. She has a great sense of humor and is respected by her teachers and peers. She will be missed when she goes on to the middle school.

Tinker Carlie Collini
Together with her outstanding academic performance, Carli volunteers to help our food service personnel, is an active participant in Tinker's annual school plays, is a member of both the talented art and talented music programs and has served on the safety patrol. Outside of school, she has been active on a competitive dance team and participated in a local pageant. Carlie has raised money for cancer research, made "Carlie's Cupcakes" to assist families facing serious illnesses and even sponsored a Relay for Life team. Thank you Carlie for being such an exceptional role model for your peers. Your enthusiasm has not gone unnoticed.

Walsh Caitlin Vargas
Caitlin is a superior student and role model. She demonstrates the ability to be a leader and always strives for excellence. Her enthusiasm and sense of humor brings out the best in her peers.

Washington Millennia Figueroa
is accompanied by Maria Jiminez. Millennium has shown outstanding academic achievement in all areas. She has demonstrated excellent interpersonal skills with her peers as well. She is a caring, compassionate young woman, who is always willing to go above and beyond the expectations. She had great relationships with her peers and is an excellent role model and the epitome of an exemplar student.

W. Wilson Anisha Bouffard
From Woodrow Wilson School, Anisha Bouffard, accompanied by Principal Susie

DaSilva.
Anisha is an outstanding, hard-working student. She excels in all subject areas and she is a talented artist. She is a member of the Talented Art Club and the Olympic of the Minds Team. Her hobbies include drawing, knitting, and crocheting. She is an active member in the community. She crochets and knits items to donate to the needy which include warm winter scarves, hats, headbands, and colorful hair ties. She is also active in her church and she has participated in food drives to help stock the pantry at the local Soup Kitchen. She is also a member of the Boys' and Girls' Club where she enjoys playing basketball and making crafts.

North End Yasmin Jimenez
Yasmin has been an exemplary sixth grade student. Her academic grades have earned her first honors all year while her behavior is beyond reproach. She is a model student. A member of the Student Council, she has volunteered her outstanding artwork for the school's Positive Behavior Support program door contests.

North End Kari Ervin
Kari is a model student that exhibits exemplary academic skills. She is highly motivated and a self-starter. An integral part of her seventh grade class, she is well-liked by her peers and participates in both the school's softball and basketball teams.

North End Katie Speer

Katie is a highly motivated student. She is a well-rounded, polite young lady who is active in school and the community. She has initiated a school-wide project on the importance of recycling and has taken the time to organize petitions and advertise her cause throughout the building. Katie has been recognized by the Waterbury Republican American newspaper for this effort. This exceptional young lady is a member of our Focus program and has done well while maintaining the highest GPA in the Gold

Student Award Winners (continued)

House at North End.

Wallace Maria DaRocha
Maria has been a wonderful student. She volunteers in her community and is very helpful to her fellow students. She is known to go above and beyond what is required of her. Academically, she excels in all that she does. She is a pleasure to have in class and is an asset to the school.

Wallace Anxheliki Duro
Anxheliki is a well-rounded student who is involved with sports and community service. She is well behaved and polite to other students and teachers. Often, many students will go to her for assistance or advice on school work. She is very responsible and always puts forth her best effort.

Wallace Amanda Kling
Amanda has a very strong work ethic and is a great role model for her classmates. She is an honor student who gives back to the community by volunteering and assisting students with special needs.

Wallace Rashawn Gaaney
Rashawn is very active in school and community sports. He volunteers at the Boys Club. He puts forth his best efforts in everything he does and is an active participant in the classroom.

Wallace Eric Simmons
Eric is a First-Honors level student. He has attained Level 5 scores on the CMT test for Grade 5 for all subjects. He is a member of the Greater Waterbury Youth Symphony as a trumpet player and also plays the trumpet in his church. He is motivated, independent and represents strong leadership qualities.

Wallace Cindy Chatterpaul
Cindy is an outstanding dedicated and motivated student who is in the top 1 percent of her class. She is extremely inquisitive and keeps her teachers on their toes. She is an excellent peer model who has a good rapport with her classmates as well as her teachers.

Wallace Sydney Meehan
Sydney has been an enthusiastic and outstanding student and is an aspiring actress. She is currently appearing in Willy Wonka

and the Chocolate Factory at the Blessed Sacrament School. She also plays softball and soccer in the East Mountain League. Truly a deserving recipient.

West Side Xhoni Agolli
Xhoni is a well-rounded student that excels academically. He also is an advocate for the environment and works actively with local groups to make a difference in the community. This makes him a leader among his peers and an ideal candidate for this award.

West Side Destiny Hofler
Destiny Hofler is an all-around star in school and in her community. She participates in sports and theatrical activities while maintaining a stellar GPA. Furthermore, she is an asset to her community where she actively volunteers and works with her church organizations.

West Side Shannon Laccione
Shannon Laccione has shown exceptional qualities both in and out of school. Her academic record shows her determination to do well and her desire to excel in all areas. Outside of school, Shannon is an active member of her church and volunteers her time at several community events. In school she continues to shine by participating on volleyball and softball teams.

West Side Daral Evans-Nixon
Daral has demonstrated citizenship and leadership qualities throughout his time here at West Side Middle School. He has also shown great academic improvement as well, making him a good candidate for this award.

West Side Andre Somerville
Andre is accompanied by House Principal Maria Burns. Andre has proven himself to be a valuable member of the academic community at West Side for the past three years. He is a member of FOCUS and the CPEP programs. He is a leader in the classroom with his diligence toward his studies and his respectful attitude. Andre can often be found reading or studying, even during lunch. He is very

active in the community. He practices karate at the Boys and Girls Club and is very involved, along with his family, in the Prison Ministry family support program, providing visitations and books to families. Andre will be attending the SOAR program next year at Kennedy.

West Side Anxhela Muca
Anxhela has proven to be an excellent student and is a member of both FOCUS and CPEP. She has worked diligently on the yearbook committee this year and has been practicing for her part as a munchkin in the Wizard of Oz. She can always be around with a smile on her face and the willingness to go above and beyond what is required of her. She is also an active member of her church's community service program and will be attending the SOAR program at Kennedy next year.

Waterbury Arts Magnet Phillip McCorkle
Phillip is a wonderful student that consistently exhibits enthusiasm and a positive attitude towards learning. His pleasant nature and good work ethic is contagious to other students in the classroom. Phil is always on his best behavior and is certainly an asset to his eighth grade class. He sets a great example in citizenship as well as scholarship.

Waterbury Arts Magnet Megan Ezeji
Megan's intelligence and motivation is that of a top notch student. She has always done an excellent job in all academic areas and has worked hard and applied herself throughout the year. Megan is a cooperative and willing 8th grade student who accepts responsibility beautifully.

Waterbury Arts Magnet Jaudia Quinn
Jaudia is a 12th grade honor student who has been attending WAMS since the school opened five years ago. She is most interested in dance but also became involved in theater. After graduation, Jaudia will be attending Cornell University in Ithaca, NY majoring in biology and psychology, to become a genetic engineer.

Student Award Winners (continued)

Waterbury Arts Magnet

Scott Janneke

Scott is a senior at WAMS who starred in several plays including "Glass Menagerie", "Arsenic and Old Lace" and "End Game". He is also interested in canoeing. Recently he participated in the 2nd Annual Naugatuck River Race. In the fall, Scott will be attending the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City.

Crosby Rebecca Boucher

Rebecca is a member of Team B in the freshmen academy where she has attained high honors. She is a member of the Principal's Student Advisory Council and has done various fundraising activities at school and with the East Mountain Athletic Association. Rebecca's strong academic areas are English and Science, and she hopes to someday become a writer or photographer.

Crosby Hafsa Khanum

Hafsa is also a member of the Principal's Student Advisory Council, and she created Crosby's Teacher of the Month program. She is vice president of FBLA, a member of the Muslim Student Association, the talented and Gifted Program, the Environment Club, and a Science Bowl participant. She runs cross country and is on the rifle team. A member of the ACE program, she is in the top ten of her class and wants to be a neurosurgeon.

Crosby Danny Mucci

Danny is a junior at Crosby. He runs cross country, swims on the Crosby team, and is a member of the track team. He is also a member of the Junior Class Advisory / Fundraising Committee and he plans to pursue a career in law enforcement. Danny represents the heart and spirit of Crosby. He is always there to help.

Crosby Jonathan Vega

Jonathan is a senior honor roll student and the Bulldog Battalion Commander of the Crosby JROTC unit. He is also a member of the International Dance Club. He plays varsity baseball and is treasurer for the class of 2009. Jonathan has completed 400 hours of community service which includes organizing blood drives, the relay for life and working Special Olympics.

Kennedy Maria Rodriguez

Maria is a student of the S.O.A.R. program. She is very happy and proud to be in such a respected program. Her favorite subject is math. Maria also participates in the key club. In key club, she spends time with 2nd graders at Tinker Elementary and makes sandwiches for the less fortunate.

Kennedy Ryan Boland

Ryan Boland has participated in Key Club and is in the Talented and Gifted program. This year he attended the Leadership conference hosted at Holy Cross. He is a member of both varsity baseball and football teams. His community service includes participating in holiday activities

Kennedy Michael DaSilva

Michael DaSilva is a junior in S.O.A.R. program at Kennedy High School and is also a member of the Talented and Gifted Program. He is a confounder of the John F. Kennedy Company, a non-profit organization that will be going to New Orleans to rebuild for the third consecutive year. Last summer he went to Brown University for a study program and this summer, he will study international relations and counterintelligence at Georgetown University. He is also currently a captain of the varsity soccer and golf team.

Kennedy Amanda Farley

Amanda Farley is a senior in the S.O.A.R. program at J.F. Kennedy High School. She participated in the Talented and Gifted Program and the National Honor Society. She also is an active member in the Key Club, Search Club, Stock Market Club, Italian club, and Mock Trial. Amanda Volunteers at Our Lady of Mount Carmel church every year at the annual festival. She has also tutored fellow classmates in different math subjects. Amanda has also participated in Pennies for Patients, making sandwiches for local shelters, and arts and crafts with an after school program once a month at Tinker Elementary School.

Wilby Miranda Arnold

Miranda has already begun to leave an imprint on Wilby High School. She currently ranks 22 in her freshmen class of 311 students and is excelling in her honors level classes. She has been a member of Girls,

Inc, the Girl Scouts and ConnCAP. She sings in her church choir and works at her father's restaurant to help out. At Wilby, she actively seeks opportunities to participate in many clubs including the Drama Club. She enjoys displaying her talents as part of Wilby's talent shows.

Wilby Lemar Larsen, Jr

Lemar is a sophomore who stands out amongst his peers. His is hard working and has excelled academically the past two years. Not only has he shined as a student but he is also an invaluable member of the Wilby High School varsity basketball team. Lamar has been praised by both his coaches and teachers as a respectful, courteous and all-around wonderful student.

Wilby Benjamin

Harmon

Nejamin is an exemplary student who has shown great commitment to his academic work. He is a CAPT scholar and has been nominated to be a member of the National Honor Society. Benjamin has been part of the ATOMS program since enrolling in Wilby. Outside the academic world, he has been part of Wilby's basketball team and library student staff. His community services include but are not limited to helping in the Scholastic Book Fair and Waterbury Youth Services. His is considering pursuing a career in math or science.

Wilby Sasha-Kay Patrick

Sasha-Kay has overcome many obstacles throughout her high school years, including moving from her previous home to this area in her freshman year. Despite these obstacles, Sasha-Kay has done well academically while participating in sports, clubs and volunteering. She has been a Peer Helper, a Medical Response Technician through the program at Waterbury Hospital, and a member of the Talented and Gifted Program and the Student Council. Her special interests include music, singing, dance and reading.

Student Award Winners (continued)

Enlightenment Jerrell Brazier

Jerrell is a polite and well mannered student who always greets teachers and is willing to help out in the classroom. Jerrell has a positive attitude towards learning as evidenced by his good grades and willingness to ask for extra help when needed. He is well liked by his classmates and attends school regularly.

Adult Education Waterbury Adult Education

Marie Rehman

Marie is a highly motivated young lady who has experienced many different challenges in her life. Her academic work was always outstanding because of her relentless determination. She constantly displays an insatiable zeal for learning in all of her classes. Her positive attitude and compassion for others endeared her to her classmates. As a Class of 2009 graduate, we feel she is capable of achieving any goal she sets for herself and will go far in life.



Lions Club Peace Poster Contest Winners

Renee Manelli, West Side Middle School; Shantelle Pacheco, Wallace Middle School; Marjorie Inga, North End Middle School; and Carlos Velasquez, Waterbury Arts Magnet School are this year's winners of the annual contest sponsored by the Lions Club. Representing the Lions Club are Lisa Martin, president, and Michael Granatuk, contest chairman.



FBLA members who attended. Pictured from left to right are: (back) Alex Pacheco, Lillian Vega, Ahysa Baez, Angie Rivera, Rayssa Pereira, David Boodoo, (front) Alyssa Mendes, Daisy Megnath, Kaitlyn Sprague, Sephine Woods, Lydia Jones, Hafsa Khanum.

Congratulations to the Crosby FBLA

members who attended and competed in the 2009 State Leadership Conference yesterday. As a new chapter it's very rare to win awards, and Crosby FBLA did a fantastic job! The following awards were won:

5th Place medal in Public Speaking I: Sephine Woods
 4th Place medal in Computer Applications: Daisy Megnath
 3rd Place medal in Future Business Leader: Angie Rivera
 Who's Who in Connecticut plaque: Angie Rivera (among others from around the state)
 Connecticut FBLA State Secretary: Sephine Woods (who was sworn in and participated in a lighting ceremony)

A special thank you to those who worked on the scrapbook that was on display at the conference, especially Natacha Mercedes who finished it the weekend before the conference.

Crosby was also recognized as a new chapter and as the winners of the pin design.

Melissa (Marcoux) Sieffert is the FBLA Advisor

Student Award Winners (continued)

Wilby Innovation Winners

At the Connecticut Student Innovation Exposition this year in Hartford (at the CT Convention Center) a team of three Wilby students won three awards:

= Outstanding Research in Physical Science (a netbook for each team member)

= "AT&T Greenie" award for Outstanding Green project (\$500 for the team)

= a research opportunity award (\$2500 to be used by the team to work with someone in the field).

These awards, like the results of Wilby's effort at the Connecticut Science Fair (a different group of students), resulted from the grant Wilby High School teacher Helene Melchionne arranged with the Education Connection. The solar panel that the students brought for display at the Expo was built in cooperation with students and teachers in the technology education department. This was a good, cooperative project. Helene, the students involved, Mr. Battistrada and Mr. Ferreira and the Education Connection are all to be commended for their support in this effort.

Student Playwright Honored

Kristin Miller, a student at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School, was one of four finalists in this year's 13th annual Young Connecticut Playwrights competition, sponsored by the Maxwell Anderson playwrights Series.

Kristin's play was entitled *The Trial*.

All four finalists will receive the Gilda Anderson Award, a Fellowship to Observe at the National Playwrights Conference at the O'Neil Center in Waterford.

The other winning playwrights were: Lorraine Blatt (Classical Arts Magnet School), Jordyn Woodtke (Rockville high School) and Curtis Dunn (Thomaston High School).

The four plays were presented to an audience at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School on May 22.

Student Athletes of the Month for May 2009

West Side Student Athletes of The Month for May:

West Side M.S. Baseball: Jerry Ayala

West Side Softball - Sonya Lee Alvarez-

North End Student Athletes of The Month for May:

NE Softball: May Audra Spellman

NEMS Flag Football- Martin Pierce Grade 7

North End baseball - Jacob Thomas

Wallace Student Athletes of The Month for May:

Wallace flag football: Rayquan Scott

Wallace Middle School Softball: Brittany Balek

Congratulations to the City Champions!

Wallace Flag football

Wallace Softball

Bucks Hill School Team Places Third in Quassy Art in the Park Contest

Dozens of students lined the walkways at Quassy Amusement Park Sunday to create one-of-a-kind drawings in the Third Annual Art In The Park sidewalk chalk art competition.

Winners were selected in three divisions. Bucks Hill Elementary School placed third in the elementary school division. Team members were Christopher Thomas, Michael Thomas, Jamika Culpepper and Cindy Bustillo.

All student teams received certificates for participating with top winners receiving ribbons and Quassy passes that can be used for school fundraisers.

The theme for this year's contest was "Quassy Has Thrilled The Generations," with students charged with creating a drawing reminiscent of the 101-year-old park's heritage.

West Hartford, Conn., art teacher Rachel Melancon judged the chalk drawings along with Ron Gustafson, director of public relations at Quassy Amusement Park.



Elementary School Students Enjoy Day at Quassy When Positive Behavior Year Round Is Rewarded



MIDDLEBURY, Conn. – More than 1,000 elementary students in Waterbury Public Schools found out that good behavior in the classroom has its dividends. The youngsters were treated to rides, lunch, magic shows, games and a disc jockey at Quassy Amusement Park in honoring students in the school system's Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Program.

"Positive behavioral support programs work on the premise that students can be taught social and behavioral skills and those schools then recognize and reward good behavior," said Anne Marie Cullinan, assistant superintendent of Waterbury Public Schools, during the event.

Waterbury schools instituted the program in all of its buildings during the 2008-09 school year following extensive training of school teams in collaboration with the State Education Resource Center.

"Each school has its own program to improve school climate and parent engagement," Mrs. Cullinan added.

"Administrative and teaching staff in each school have developed a program that meets each individual school's needs."

Students attending the activities at Quassy were honored for achieving the PBS requirements in their schools.

Park employees also recognized students and their exceptional behavior during the day by handing out tokens for free midway games and red ribbons for soda and ice cream.

The trip was made possible through sponsorship from O&G, Police Activity League of Waterbury, City of Waterbury and Quassy Amusement Park.

Kennedy students have captured two more journalism awards,

bringing the total for The Eagle Flyer since 2004 to 35.

The awards are:

The 2009 New England Scholastic Press Association Journalism Award in Scholastic Editing and Publishing for

Superior Achievement

Newspapers, Class I (more than 1,000 students)

and

The 2009 New England Scholastic Press Association Journalism Award in Scholastic Editing and Publishing for

Advertisement/Layout

Mollie Corcoran, Junior, Editor-in-Chief

The awards were presented at Boston University's 61st annual New England Scholastic Press Association conference by Executive Director Helen Smith.

Student Award Winners (continued)



Students at MM Generali School held an annual ceremony to honor veterans and others buried at the East Farms Cemetery. In addition to reminding students about the real meaning of the Memorial Day holiday, the event pays homage to a number of Revolutionary War soldiers buried there, including two French soldiers who died on the march with Rochambeau.

Author David Greenberg worked with students at Maloney School during several workshops.



Rotella Kindergarten Supports Beardsley Zoo

Students in Ellen Lee's kindergarten class at Rotella School helped raise funds to support the Beardsley Zoo through an effort spearheaded by radio station KC101. By collecting coins from friends and family, the students managed to raise \$1500 in an effort to help save the zoo after it was threatened by funding cuts. One fourth grader, Victoria Barbour, won the individual prize for contributing the most money. She won family passes for the season as well as a behind the scenes tour of the zoo.

Rotella's school theme this year was "Character", and Mrs. Lee felt this would be a positive way to convey the school's character!

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

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

Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail: someone@example.com

See us on the web:
www.waterbury.k12.ct.us

Olympics of the Mind - 2009

DISTRICT WINNERS -

Teams:
3rd Grade = Maloney Magnet
5th Grade = Maloney Magnet

Individuals:
3rd Grade— (tie)
Trinity Flores (Regan), Emily McEvoy (Maloney)
Alternate - Joshua Early (Barnard)

5th Grade
Daniel Speer (Carrington)
Alternate - Brianna Gervickas (Maloney)

Division Winners

3rd Grade
East—
1—MM Generali
2—Rotella
3—Chase
North—
1—Regan
2—Kingsbury
3—W Wilson
West -
1—Maloney
2—Tinker
3—Hopeville

5th Grade
East -
1— Rotella
2— MM Generali
3— Chase
North
1— Regan
2— Kingsbury
3— Carrington
West
1— Maloney
2—Tinker
3—Driggs



Assistant Superintendent Anne Marie Cullinan was invited to testify at a Boston City Council's Committee on Education hearing regarding our success with our truancy clinic. Waterbury's Truancy Clinic was specifically cited in the order for the hearing, stating that Waterbury's program had "resulted in a dramatic truancy reduction." The City of Boston is considering implementing a similar program.

Our high school construction projects for Kennedy, Crosby, and Wilby received a Team Recognition Award from the Connecticut Building Congress in June.

The Waterbury Retired Teachers Association honored several former Waterbury educators during its annual "In Memoriam" Celebration:

Anthony M. Altieri
William J. Cavanaugh
Emilia (Amy) DeLucia
Margaret Derwin
William F. Doyle
Arthur Fisher
Dolores DeVito

Diane Gereski
Barbara Gervais
Margaret Haberman
Roberta Hurley
Patrick Marando, Jr.
Joseph B. McGurk
Frederick Meyers

Ruth Mary Phelan
Maurenn Shackley
Helen Shiel
Leonard Solomita
Irene Sweeney
James F. Walsh