

# Waterbury Public Schools News Update

Vol. 11, Issue 2

November / December 2009

## HOLIDAY SPIRIT



The North End Middle School Prevention Team sponsored a hot chocolate sale this year. Manny Rocha, franchise owner, and Jorge Flamengo, district manager, from Dunkin Donuts on New Haven Road in Naugatuck provided hot chocolate to support families in need at the school. Staff donated candy canes, marshmallows, and cups. The sale raised \$1,000 which allowed staff to purchase gift cards for 23 families. The participation by staff and students was overwhelming, and students really enjoyed this event. The Prevention Team appreciates everyone's generosity and hopes to sponsor this event next year.

## Holiday Greetings to Troops

North End Middle School students created an assortment of letters and holiday greetings for our U.S. military heroes. The activity took place during a monthly book club at the school and during classes that included many special education and handicapped students.

Mary Beth Mason, Media Specialist at North End Middle School, passed the letters and cards along to the soldiers through Holiday Mail for Heroes, an organization in Capital Heights, Maryland.





Students from Wilby, Crosby and Waterbury Arts Magnet School AMS are to be congratulated for their participation at the city's Inauguration Ceremony.

This year, the city departed from tradition and asked students from Crosby and Wilby High Schools to prepare the food. Not only did this offer the students a chance to showcase their skills and gain valuable experience, it also helped save the city money it might otherwise have spent on professional caterers. Guests at the event all commented on the high quality of the food.

Both the Waterbury Republican American and NBC30 News did stories on the culinary arts students.

In addition, students from the Waterbury Arts Magnet School greeted guests and provided assistance.

These students all worked very hard and did a wonderful job. They and their teachers are to be congratulated.

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Kingsbury School has been awarded an "America the Beautiful Grant" in partnership with the neighboring Southmayd Home. The school will be receiving a number of non-fiction books on trees and second graders will be completing their own tree guidebook by drawing and taking pictures of neighborhood trees and researching facts about them. They will also be writing in journals, highlighting trees from their own yards.

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[Greetings from the](#) Institute of International Education!

We are pleased to announce that the application is now available for the 2010 Toyota International Teacher Program to Costa Rica, a **fully-funded** professional development program for U.S. educators. Funded by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., and administered by the Institute of International Education, the program aims to advance environmental stewardship and global connectedness in U.S. schools and communities.

The program will take place **June 18 – July 3, 2010** and the deadline to apply is **January 6, 2010**. Please visit our website at [www.toyota4education.com](http://www.toyota4education.com) for application instructions, FAQs, and to apply online. Full-time classroom teachers and librarians of all subjects for grades 6 – 12 are eligible to apply!

## Staff Achievements / Notes

Jackie Gilmore, the Gold House Principal at North End Middle School, has been named Connecticut Association of Schools ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR. This is a well deserved for a hard-working administrator. The entire administrative staff at North End is very proud of what Jackie has done.

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David L. Snead, Superintendent of the Waterbury Public Schools, was among those honored as the "100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut" during the State NAACP's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention on Friday, November 6, at the MGM Grand at Foxwoods.

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Mary Nolan, Kennedy High School graduate class of 2000, is the latest artist whose work is on display at the new Crosby High School media center gallery space. She graduated from Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY with a major in Fine Art. She is a member of the Waterbury Arts and Culture Collaborative, the Greystone Arts League and the Waterbury and Watertown Art League. Her art will be on display in the media center until after our winter recess. Please stop by and see her vibrant exhibit.

The first artist to exhibit in the space this year was Eileen Curley, CHS Class of 2002.

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The store Big Lots opened up in the Mattatuck Plaza on Friday, November 13. As part of its opening, store officials presented a donation of \$2500 to its nearest school neighbor, Chase Elementary School.



## Rotella and WAMS Collaborate With Living Rhythms



On October 30th the Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School Dance Troupe (led by Diana Dane & Marcia Schultz troupe instructors) performed with the Waterbury Arts Magnet School 6th grades as a part of a residency program with Living Rhythms. All students had completed a residency program with Living Rhythms where the students learned African drumming and dancing. The collaborative activity allowed both schools to join together briefly and to celebrate the African music and dances learned.

Living Rhythms is from Winston-Salem North Carolina. The group has been working with Rotella for the past 7 years and with WAMS for the past 2 years. They also do a residency with Maloney Magnet School in the spring. Students learn the values of teamwork, cooperation, and respect while exploring the djembe drum and learning authentic West African dances and songs. This was the first time our schools collaborated with an arts event and it was very successful.

The Waterbury Public Schools Smaller Learning Communities Project applied for and received a supplementary grant from the US Department of Education for \$21,700 to collect longitudinal data on the SLC grant. This will help demonstrate the value of the SLC concept at the high school level.

Also beginning in January, all four high schools will begin to complete dual enrollment and articulation agreements with Naugatuck Valley Community College. These agreements will be developed in all of the content areas and some of the elective subjects as well. The district hopes to be finished with this initiative by July 1 2010.

## Veteran's Day Activities



After watching a video from Discovery Channel on veterans, Rotella students read poems and short essays to the veterans who visited. First grade students wore caps that they made, and veterans were treated to a continental breakfast.

(Left to Right)

Row 1-Alasha Pasqua, Gabriel Corales, Samantha Plourde, Fuka Asahi, Desren Taylor  
Row 2- Legend Johnson, Justin Fernandes, Jaybes Ramos

Row 3-Mrs. John Chiarello; Mr. James Lawber, Brass City Detachment Marine Corp League; Col. John Chiarello, Veteran's Memorial Committee; Mr. Samuel Beamon, Marine Corps League Commandant

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## Student Distributes US Constitution as Project

Early this school year, Wilby High School student Fatana Olomi approached Library Media Specialist Peggy Richard with an unusual request. She wanted to provide every student at the high school with a copy of the *Constitution of the United States*. It was a request that the veteran media specialist could not ignore. The pair worked together to create a Master Copy of the document and then began producing booklets with the help of other Wilby High School students and staff. Together, they worked on raising funds to buy paper or seek donations from local retailers.

Fatana explained that her parents immigrated to the United States with her older siblings from Afghanistan. The Constitution and what it represents means a great deal to Fatana and her family. According to Mr. Richard, she is a young lady with great enthusiasm and determination.



## Students / Staff Help Others In Need ----

Amy Cordon's 6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom won the WAMS Canned Food Drive contest for the Salvation Army by bringing in 428 food items! WAMS collected about 1450 items which were given to the Salvation Army.



Generali School's annual math-a-thon in honor of cancer survivor Kyla Coughlin raised an incredible \$5,065.11 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The school has just received word that Kyla is still cancer free on her third anniversary scan. Since all the grade levels made their goal, one teacher from each grade level and Generali Principal Kathy Stamp worked at McDonalds on Reidville Drive on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 from 5:00 to 7:00pm serving the students, families, and friends of Generali.



John West, Coordinator of the Inter Faith Ministry Food Bank, visited schools to accept contributions raised by students. Wallace Middle School students collected a "bus full" of food donations for those in need, while at Kingsbury School, students collected a cash donation of \$478.89.



Teacher Brenda Falcone helped arrange a visit from Santa for the students of Driggs School.

### Bridge to Success and Lights on After School

This fall, more than 7,500 communities across the nation participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Lights on Afterschool focusing on the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families, and communities. According to the After-school Alliance, "In America today- 1 in 4 youth- 14.3 million children- are alone and unsupervised after school. After school programs help keep kids safe, help working families and inspire learning. They provide opportunities to help young people develop into successful adults."

Just as Lights on Afterschool is dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs, a new initiative in Waterbury is doing just that called **Bridge to Success- Preparing Waterbury Youth for Life: A Birth to 21 Initiative**. The Bridge to Success Plan has 5 strategic areas: Family Engagement, Child Health and Development, Early Care and Educational Services, Positive Youth Development, and Workforce Development. Bridge to Success is a roadmap for action. It shows how schools, parents, business and the community can build Bridges and work together on behalf of our youth and children.

On Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, a group of individuals from the community joined together to form the Positive Youth Development Committee. The individuals from a wide range of agencies/organizations included: Catholic Charities, Family Services of Greater Waterbury, New Opportunities, Waterbury Youth Service Systems, Ices Inc., CPEP, Waterbury Public Schools, Girls Inc., Parents and Caregivers, Waterbury PAL, Waterbury Hospital, Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters, City of Waterbury Bureau of Recreation, and Greater Waterbury YMCA.

The common goal of the Positive Youth Development Committee is to assure that all Waterbury children and youth develop positive attitudes and behaviors, and are active members of the community as they move toward becoming independent adults. In community meetings, parents and other caregivers identified as their highest priority the goal of increasing the number of out-of-school-time opportunities so that all area youths, including those with special needs, can participate in safe, wholesome activities outside of school and home, to include supervised youth employment. The Positive Youth Development Committee will identify strengths and gaps in the community's resources, determine interim and long-term goals, and make recommendations about how to accomplish the Positive Youth Development goals.

After school and out of school time programs currently available to Waterbury's children and youth include programs in the following agencies: Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Waterbury, Connecticut Department of Developmental Services, Girls Inc., Greater Waterbury YMCA, Salvation Army, United Way of Greater Waterbury, Waterbury Bureau of Parks and Leisure Services, Waterbury ARC, Waterbury Policy Activity League, Waterbury Maeve's Dreamland Boundless Playground, Waterbury Public Schools, WOW/NRZ Community Learning Center, and Waterbury Youth Service Systems.

With the help of the community, we can build Bridges and assure there are enough after school activities for all youth, including those with special needs. For anyone interested in joining the committee and/or the efforts to accomplish the goals of Bridge to Success, please feel free to contact staff of Bridge to Success at 203-568-0575.

Nicole Porto  
Community Liaison,  
Waterbury PPB & Bridge to Success

## Athletic News

The Kennedy High School volleyball team won its first championship of any kind last week, the Naugatuck Valley League Copper Division title. The team accomplished this with a 3-0 victory over Crosby. Kennedy had a 16-1 record at that point in this season, with no losses in the Copper Division.

### **Congratulations to All the Middle School Student Athletes on an Outstanding Fall Season!!!!**

#### **City Champions-Fall 2009**

West Side Volleyball  
Wallace Soccer  
North End Girls Cross Country  
Wallace Boys Cross Country

#### **Student Athletes of the Month-October 2009**

West Side Soccer- Eric Bartollini  
Wallace Cross Country- Jayson Matos from the Boys team and Priscilla DiMichele from Girls  
Wallace Volleyball- October is Brittany Balek  
WS Cross Country- Patrick Hotchkiss, Jasmine Knight  
Wallace Soccer- Enea Alevica.  
NE Volleyball- Yomara Boden  
West Side Volleyball - Krhystal Ortiz  
NE Cross Country- Boys- Armando Torres  
Girls - Deana-Jo Alberto

#### **Monday Nov. 2, 2009 – Waterbury Cross Championship Results**

##### Boys

1.	Jayson Matos	13:45	Wallace -Gold Medal
2.	Armando Torres	13:57	North End-Silver medal
3.	Ezequiel Rodriguez	14:09	Wallace-Bronze Medal
4.	Ekow Dadzie	14:21	Wallace-Honorable mention
5.	Elias Torres	15:23	North End-Honorable Mention

##### Girls

1.	DJ Alberto	12:21	North End- Gold Medal
2.	Kateri Danay	13:12	North End- Silver Medal
3.	Shelby Williams	13:32	North End- Bronze medal
4.	Jannell Bond	13:35	North End-Honorable Mention
5.	Priscilla DiMichele	13:36	Wallace-Honorable Mention

#### **Reported by Dave Sylvester**

Athletic Director Waterbury Middle Schools  
Crosby High School



### Connecticut Historical Society

There are a wide variety of programs offered both at the Connecticut Historical Society as well as Outreach Program that can be brought to your classrooms or afterschool program. Programs are available for grades Pre-K - Grade 12. \*\*\* All programs align with the CT framework.

Connecticut Historical Society also provides workshops for educators. Resource Activity Packs (RAPs) are available to teachers. They were created as a joint program with Hartford's Public School Teachers. RAPs include Lesson Plans, Step by Step Instructions, Overheads, PDF's, Audio/Visuals, Books, Outfits, Artifacts and Board Games.

\*\*\* RAPs are free to borrow for 3-4 weeks.

## Passage of Legislation Establishing the Teacher Education And Mentoring (TEAM) Program

On October 2, 2009, the General Assembly passed Public Act No. 09-6, of the September special session, which included a provision establishing the Teacher Education And Mentoring (TEAM) Program. Pursuant to the Public Act, full implementation of the program will begin with the school year commencing July 1, 2010. You may access the bill through this link: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/ACT/PA/2009PA-00006-R00SB-02053SS3-PA.htm>. Sections 37-39 relate to TEAM.

The following information provides an overview of the program and addresses some questions about its components and requirements for new teachers:

### **2009-2010 School Year: Transition from BEST to TEAM**

During the 2009-2010 school year, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), in collaboration with Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs), teachers, districts, professional organizations, higher education and teacher bargaining unit representatives, will:

- develop the professional growth modules central to the design of TEAM;
- develop and deliver training for mentors and other district personnel who will support beginning teachers; and
- provide technical assistance in creating TEAM infrastructures.

Because the 2009-2010 school year will be a developmental year and beginning teachers will not begin participation in TEAM until next year, districts are strongly encouraged to continue mentorship of initially certified teachers during this year.

### **2010-2011 School Year: Implementation of TEAM**

All teachers holding initial or interim initial educator certificates who have not previously completed BEST requirements will be required to participate in TEAM beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. A participation timeline will be provided to TEAM district facilitators.

**Note regarding certification:** All beginning teachers, whose initial educator certificates have a lapse date prior to or during their scheduled timeline for TEAM participation, will be eligible for an extension of their certificates, as needed. Note that teachers are responsible for keeping their certificates current and should apply to extend their certificates prior to the certificate's expiration date.

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## **Student Contests / Programs Offered this Year From Quassy**

Quassy Amusement Park is pleased to announce its fourth annual photo essay contest with divisions for elementary, middle and high schools. Olympus Imaging America Inc. will provide digital cameras as first-place prizes in all three divisions. There are NO fees involved and photos must be taken at participating schools. Call Quassy for more information, entry form and rules.

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Quassy Amusement Park's newest educational program, "Fun With Physics," is an ideal tool for middle and elementary school students to broaden their understanding of the basic principles of physics and how they apply to the rides at the park. More importantly, the recently-completed booklet has been accredited by the **American Association of Physics Teachers**. The free pamphlet will be provided electronically prior to your school's visit. The program is designed for students to work individually or in teams as they go to various rides, making observations and calculations. Select a handful or more than a dozen projects - teachers can decide how much of the booklet to copy and use before arriving at the park! Call 203-758-2913 ext. 105 to schedule your "Fun With Physics" day at Quassy.

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Quassy will present a roller coaster model contest in the spring of 2010. Elementary, middle and high school teams will build and have their models judged at the park. For info and registration, contact [ron@quassy.com](mailto:ron@quassy.com).

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The walkways at Quassy Amusement Park will burst with color on Sunday, May 16 as the park hosts The Fourth Annual Art In The Park - A Walkway Chalk Art Competition For Students. Registration is under way for the 11 a.m. event with divisions for elementary, middle and high school teams. There is no fee to participate, but schools must pre-register with entry forms available on the Press Room page at [www.quassy.com](http://www.quassy.com). Up to five four-student teams per school may compete with teachers and chaperones acting as coaches. Teams must provide their own sidewalk chalk.

The theme for the 2010 competition is "Quassy – Where Smiles Are Magical."  
"Each year we have seen an increase in the number of student teams competing," noted Eric Anderson, a co-owner of the lakeside park. "And it's amazing to watch these one-of-a-kind works of art take shape during the course of the event."

Judging will take place at 1 p.m., giving students two hours to complete their project on a 4 by 6-foot plot of Quassy paved turf.

Winners will be announced at 2 p.m. with prizes awarded to first, second and third place teams in all three divisions.