

Waterbury Public Schools News Update

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October / November 2008

Crosby High School Off Probation with Completion of Media Center and Classroom Addition



Crosby Principal Barbara Carrington-Lawlor and Mayor Michael Jarjura reveal plaque during ceremony at the official Grand Opening of the new media center.

NEASC, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, has voted unanimously to remove Crosby High School from probation. In a letter to Principal Barbara Carrington-Lawlor, the director wrote that “the Commission was pleased to learn of the school’s progress to resolve its concerns related to the Standard on School Resources for learning and specifically com-

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CommPACT Schools Celebrate Community Day



Both West Side Middle School and Washington Elementary School conducted community events in October to celebrate their starts as CommPACT Schools.

- see page 6 for more information

Thought for Food Service Learning Program

Palace Theater is committed to bring an art and academic integrated program.

ShopRite *Partners in Caring*, a year-round community-based hunger-fighting initiative, has teamed up with the Palace Theater to create a service learning program for students of all ages. Student participants will organize a hunger awareness campaign and/or a can food drive to benefit the local food banks and organizations in need. The class/school will also qualify to win 400 tickets to Junie B. Jones, a ShopRite Education Series show! Curricular Integrations include mathematics, character development, social studies, technology, art, health, and community.

- ⇒ A Civic Project: Can Drive and/or Hunger Awareness Campaign
- ⇒ Partnership with ShopRite's *Partners in Caring* Program
- ⇒ From Mid-October through November 30th
- ⇒ State-Wide Initiative
- ⇒ Target Population: Elementary Schools and/or Classrooms

Schools who register by October 31st will have a chance to win up to 400 tickets to "Junie B. Jones" at the Palace Theater for May 22, 2009. Each school/classroom must submit an essay that includes:

A synopsis of the project.

Awareness of Hunger Issues: What did you learn?

What academics were included in your project?

How did this project impact your school?

What will you, as a school, do now about hunger issues?

The essays must be submitted to the Palace Theater by December 5th. The winner will be announced December 12th during the "Seasons of Miracles" show.

Schools will be given the necessary tools to create a service learning program for their students. For schools that may have children who cannot afford to bring in a can, they should be invited onto the marketing team.

CAPT Recognition

The following students received a recognition letter from Commissioner of Education McQuillan and a Certificate of Excellence from the Board of Education for performing on the advanced level of the Connecticut Academic Performance Test:

Mollie Corcoran
Michael DaSilva
Rachel Dziezynski
Simone Matusevice
Melissa Monteroso
Norbert Szmyt
Jessica Mahoney

Kennedy High School
Kennedy High School
Waterbury Arts Magnet School
Waterbury Arts Magnet School
Waterbury Arts Magnet School
Crosby High School
Wilby High School

DAYS MADE BETTER BY CONTEST— Two teachers from our district won an Office Max “Day Made Better” award. The two teachers each received a surprise package of supplies and other items worth \$1500 from Office Max. That included a new chair, a digital camera, and supplies for the classroom. The two teachers were Raquel Barbosa at Washington School and Margaret Perugini at Hopeville.

Detroit Public Schools Office of Health and Physical Education announces David Snead is one of two 2008 PSL Lifetime Award Recipients for Football.

This year’s honorees were Robert Dozier and David L. Snead, Ph.D. Mr. Dozier is a former longtime Mackenzie H.S. coach who coached Jerome Bettis, former Los Angeles Ram and Pittsburgh Steeler, and Gilbert Brown, former Green Bay Packer. Dr. David L. Snead, former superintendent of the Detroit Public Schools, is being noted for his coaching and teaching days, when he led Central H.S. to their only PSL Football Championship ever in 1972. Both men are products of Detroit Public Schools, with both being Cass Tech graduates.

Mr Dozier and Dr. Snead were honored at the PSL Football Championship, which was held at Renaissance H.S. on Saturday, October.25th.

Generali Students Collect Food for Food Pantry



Crosby Off Probation, continued from page 1

mended the school on the following:

- the completion of the new state-of-the-art media center which has become a hub of learning in the school
- the addition of a variety of electronic resources and a computer lab in the media center available to students and the professional staff
- the addition of several general classrooms, two science labs, a video studio in the art department and a large classroom for the ROTC program”



Kennedy High School has also received word that it is off NEASC's warning list, and Wilby High School was removed from the list of schools on probation last year.

All three high schools have been fully accredited but were asked to address specific issues to maintain that full accreditation.

Specifically, Crosby's final requirement was to address space issue needs, especially as regards the media center.



DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

GOALS 2008 – 2011

1. The Waterbury Public Schools will attain high academic achievement for all students in literacy.
2. The Waterbury Public Schools will attain high academic achievement for all students in numeracy.
3. The Waterbury Public Schools will provide a safe and secure teaching and learning environment.
4. The Waterbury Public Schools will ensure that parents are actively engaged in the educational process.

TIER ONE INDICATORS 2008 - 2011

To increase reading proficiency for all students by a minimum of 15% by the end of three years as measured by Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)

To increase mathematics proficiency for all students by a minimum of 15% by the end of three years as measured by Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)

To reduce the number of school suspensions by 15 % over three years as measured by district suspension data

To reduce truancy by 15 % over three years as measured by district attendance data

To increase the involvement of families in the educational process by 15% over three years as measured by strategic district surveys and participation in school and district meetings, workshops, and events.

TIER TWO INDICATORS 2008 – 2011

Create and implement a district-wide Professional Learning Community System to improve the achievement of all students in core subject areas particularly in literacy and numeracy

Provide additional prescriptive instructional support systems to address the needs of students identified as below proficient in literacy and numeracy

Implement a continuum of positive intervention strategies to address student behaviors

Improve meaningful family partnerships with the school by improving two-way communication among students, schools and families based on research strategies and data gathered from strategic district family surveys

Investigate and design the restructuring of schools to address the academic needs of all students

Fill all vacant positions with high quality teachers as early as possible and retain only those who demonstrate superior performance



West Side Boys Choir performed on stage while visitors had a chance to compete outside in a sidewalk chalk drawing competition.



Washington School's CommPACT kick-off was held on Wednesday, October 29, 2008. The event ran from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and began with a student-of-the-month ceremony. The evening was a family event filled with community organizations, arts and crafts, food, music, and "Fall Into Reading" sessions.



Mind Over Matter Tour Comes to Crosby

MIND OVER MATTER -

Poet and author Brandon Graham returned to his alma mater Crosby High School earlier this year to give a reading and speak to students as part of his Mind Over Matter tour with fellow author Daniel Thomas. Mr. Graham, a Crosby graduate, returned to the school on September 18 to be one of the first guests in the brand new media center. He spoke to students about his work, careers in the literary field and more. He was then scheduled to go on the following days to Wilby, Kennedy and Waterbury Arts Magnet Schools.

According to the press release accompanying his visit, the 100 city lecture and book signing that started in Connecticut and will end in Washington, DC in 2009, was created as a year-long effort to raise funds and awareness of the importance of literature, education, and using one's mind to overcome the matter of their circumstance. The tour was made possible by sponsors and private donors.

Brandon graduated from Wallace Middle School and Crosby High School and is now a Manhattan-based educator and writer. He is the author of two works: "A Love Supreme: Amputated Feelings and Prosthetic Apologies" and "Unite Me Up: A Poetic Explanation on Loneliness."

Brandon holds an undergraduate degree in English and Business and a Masters in Business. He is currently studying Creative Writing at Columbia University.

This is his second professional appearance at Crosby. His first was two years ago when he first published "A Love Supreme" which is a collection of selected poems and writings.

Wilby Celebrates 30 years

On October 30, 2008 from 3:30-5:30, Wilby High School hosted a reception in honor of its 30th Anniversary in the Laurel Hill Complex. Festivities included recognition of the school's new addition as well as a presentation of memorial bricks in the WHS Memorial Garden for the following deceased staff members: Leo Beland, Gloria Bogen, Lillian Brown, Jerry Ciarleglio, Jack Delaney, Mary Haegert, Karen Lawlor, Bob Letsky, Frank Lombardo, Louis Mazzaferro, Dominic Moschella, Fred O'Brien, Reggie O'Brien, Nick Porcaro, Stella Preslopsky, Mary Price, Herb Schulke, Rocco Sileo, Loretta Sweeney, Mary Terni, Pat Vitone, and Bill Walcott. In addition, the Wilby Sports Alumni Association presented plaques naming the football field in memory of Coach Fred O'Brien and the baseball field in honor of Coach John McKenna.

Coming Attractions -

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ASSET TRAINING—

The following are the latest dates for the 40 Developmental Assets trainings offered through the Waterbury Prevention Policy Board:

December 17, 2008-10:00 am-12:00 pm

January 15, 2009- 9:30am-12:00pm

January 29, 2009- 1:00pm-3:30pm

February 11, 2009-12:00pm-2:30pm

February 26, 2009-9:00am-11:30am

All 40 Developmental Assets trainings will be held at 95 North Main Street, 2nd Floor, at Waterbury Youth Services.

Come and learn about the 40 Developmental Assets, a positive youth development framework. It's a great training for staff, volunteers, and anyone and everyone who works with, has, and wants to make a positive difference in the lives of youth.

RSVP is required. Letters of Attendance can be provided upon request.

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