

# Waterbury Public Schools News Update

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February—March 2009

## BREAKING GROUND !

City, School Officials and Gilmartin School Students Work  
Together to Officially Begin Work on the NEW Gilmartin School!



City and school officials, members of the John G. Gilmartin family, and students from the current Gilmartin School were among the guests at the March 9, 2009 official Ground-Breaking Ceremony for the NEW Gilmartin School. Standing in front of the old school in a light drizzle, Mayor Michael Jarjura, Board of Education Commissioners, and Superintendent of School Dr. David Snead “dug in” with the help of students to officially begin construction. Then Board of Aldermen and more students took over and finally members of the Gilmartin family, Assistant Superintendents Ann Marie Cullinan and Dr. Paul Paul Sequiera and former Gilmartin teachers Genevieve Stuileckis and Rosemary Moore—and more students —finished the job as other students watched and cheered.

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## Short Stories From Our Schools



North End  
Middle School  
Honored Its  
Athletes of the Month  
Recently

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### Target Field Trip Grant Winners

Catherine Leogrande, Grade 7 Language Arts teacher at North End Middle School, received a Target Field Trip grant in the amount of \$800 which will be used to help pay for tickets to the Palace Theater to see a Holocaust presentation in April. Last year Mrs. Leogrande won the M. M. Generali Grant to introduce the Holocaust to 7th graders through literature. She also won a professional development grant from the University of Hartford based on her teaching of the Holocaust. She will be doing this unit again using the books and materials that grant allowed her to purchase. She has studied the Holocaust extensively, including a summer seminar in Poland and Israel.

Catherine Grasso, a second grade teacher at Tinker School, received a Target Field Trip grant in the amount of \$800 which will be used to help pay for up to 100 students to attend a Festival of Cultures at Green Meadows Farm in May. The festival features music, games, dance and stories representing many different cultures. The trip will enable students to gain exposure to the customs and social aspects of life celebrated by people of various backgrounds.



## Parents Honored for Involvement and Leadership



Mayor Michael Jarjura presented a Proclamation declaring February to be Parent Leadership Month here in Waterbury. Organizations mentioned in the Proclamation included the Parent Leadership Training Institute, Parents Supporting Educational Excellence, the Waterbury Prevention Policy Board, Together We Shine, Family Focus Partnership, the Family Resource Centers, the Discovery Collaborative, the School Readiness Board, Parent Involvement Committees, and Parent Teacher Associations and Organizations. Among those in attendance were Senator Joan Hartley, parents, community leaders and education department staff, including Assistant Superintendent Ann Marie Cullinan and Mary Ann Marold, who represented the Superintendent. Receiving the Proclamation on behalf of the various organizations and parents' groups was Trish Spofford (PLTI and ParentsSEE).

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### LIFESMARTS SUPER CHAMPIONS!

Crosby High School's LifeSmarts team has won its eighth consecutive state championship. This year's team consists of Emily Perriello (Captain) and Terri Alessio, Anthony Fabiano, and John Ryan. Teacher Donna Mancuso is the team advisor. The team will be advancing to the nationals to be held this year in St. Louis, Missouri during the week of April 24 – 28. The competition is sponsored by the National Consumer League. LifeSmarts asks questions related to consumer knowledge in such areas as personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities.

### Good Stuff: Free Online Resources From the Library of Congress

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, with millions of books, recordings, photographs, maps and manuscripts in its collections. The Library's primary site ([www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)) has made these resources available online for years. And now, the Library has launched two new sites: a personalized site ([www.myLOC.gov](http://www.myLOC.gov)) that presents items in compelling online exhibitions and a specific site for teachers ([www.loc.gov/teachers](http://www.loc.gov/teachers)) with lesson plans, interactive projects, and links to primary resources. Share this good stuff with your district's educators to make sure they're aware of these free resources to engage students in learning.



The tables were turned as Generali School Principal Kathy Stamp became a troublesome second grade student in Miss Jones' class and needed some intervention from "Principal for the Day" Jahquon Hammond (right) and his twin brother "Vice Principal for the Day" Dahquon Hammond (center). The students won a special raffle to learn more about what it takes to run an elementary school, including making daily announcements, observing classes, and dealing with students who like to doodle on assignment sheets.

Norbert Szymt, a junior at Crosby High School, has been selected as **one of the 30 Governor's Scholars** for 2009. Norbert was selected from a group of 135 applicants from all over the state. This selection designates Norbert as one of the top junior scholars in Connecticut. He will be honored at the Governor's Luncheon on 5/21/09 at the Aqua Turf. He is the first Governor's Scholar chosen from CHS! He is the son of Zbigneiw and Anna Szymt of 17 Dale Avenue. He is a member of the Crosby ACE Program, the Talented & Gifted Program, and Captain of the Robotics team.



Crosby Principal Barbara Carrington-Lawlor presents Norbert Szymt to the Board of Education during recent workshop meeting held at the school.



Sprague School honored Dr. Sandra Burke, a graduate of Sprague class of 1957, as part of its Black History Month celebrations. Dr. Burke is a Cardiovascular Physiologist, and she was recently inducted into the Waterbury Hall of Fame. She spoke to Sprague students about her years at Sprague, growing up in Waterbury, her educational background as well as her career.



Students in Mrs. Sarasin's class at Generali School finished lessons on China by meeting Mrs. Sarasin's daughter Olivia, learning to use chopsticks and showing off the hats they made. The students also made reports on China and learned how to write the Chinese numbers 1 through 10. They were celebrating the Chinese New Year.

DCF staff who have been partnering with Walsh School took the partnership one step further at a Community Team meeting a few months back and decided to organize and coordinate an office wide Book Drive for Walsh. These staff had participated in the DCF Read A Loud Day at the school and were motivated by their interaction with Walsh students, staff and the Librarian's plea to acquire Non Fiction Books for the school library. They coordinated an office wide competition, which resulted in the collection of nearly 200 books, mostly Non Fiction, to donate to the Walsh Library. Although thanks should be given to the entire DCF office for their generosity, three staff in particular were responsible for spearheading the event: Carla Perrella, Jennifer Carey and Velda Padgett, who took the lead and coordinated this worthwhile and successful activity. Special thanks also go to Marilyn Osorio, a manager in the DCF office, whose workgroup won the office contest and collected the most books.

- NEWS FROM WAMS—

- Mr. Bruce Post, one of WAMS Theater teachers, has just received an Artist Fellowship from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism for \$2500! This is a very prestigious award!

- Mr. Bruce Post and WAMS senior Cheyenne Barbosa have just returned from Indianapolis from the Bonderman Youth Playwriting Symposium where they participated as semi-finalists for the youth playwriting prize. Their collaboration on the musical play *Roleplay* drew the attention of several producers and publishers of youth plays. They are currently in negotiations for the rights to produce *Roleplay* at several theaters around the country. Bruce wrote the play and Cheyenne wrote the lyrics to the songs. *Roleplay* was originally produced at WAMS two years ago.

- WAMS has purchased its first set of djembe drums, handmade in Ghana; WAMS has had three guest artists this year teaching students across both middle and high school grades the art of African drumming. Several students will be using these drums as they participate in a "call and response" segment for Fortune's Bones, being produced by the Waterbury Symphony on May 8 and 9 at the Palace Theatre.

Seniors Kayla Borsari and Paige Carusello have been chosen as the CAS Arts Scholars for 209 in the areas of Dance and TV Production, respectively.



Kingsbury School News :

Above: Students learned about Garrett Morgan the inventor of the traffic light., then students created a traffic light out of graham crackers, marshmallow fluff, and M & M candies.

Below: Students made quilts as part of class discussions on the underground railroad. The quilts were a code to follow on the path to freedom. Classes read the story The Patchwork Path A Quilt Map to Freedom by Bettye Stroud



# Granville Academy Students From Waterbury Schools Visit MacDermid



## New Literacy Academy at Wendell Cross Makes Big Use of Small Group Instruction, Technology and Laser-Like Focus on Literacy



Wendell Cross School is piloting a new Literacy Academy this year to help students focus on achieving basic literacy skills that will help them throughout their academic careers. Through the use of such proven strategies as small group instruction and with assistance from newer technology including SmartBoards, students are practicing reading and writing skills each day in a new and more focused way. So far, students have responded well to the new program and have begun showing increasing achievement in their literacy skills.



## Ken Ludwig and Kennedy High School's K-Five Team To Represent Connecticut in Nationals



Kennedy High School's K-Five Team will be representing the State of Connecticut in a national Real World Design Governor's Challenge Competition in Washington, DC, in March. The K-Five team won the right to represent the state after competing against a team from Middletown earlier this year. Members of the team are: Klejton Dinkollari, Lefter Dinkollari, Michael Matic, William Betances, and Jordan DeAngelis. The advisor is teacher Ken Ludwig.

The challenge involved using engineering software to programs to design and test the performance of a new fuel efficient wing for an aircraft.

On Jan 9, 2009 the RWDC Teams were hosted at the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) by the National Center for Aerospace Leadership (NCAL). The students were greeted by the NCAL Director, Robert Mansfield, who discussed with them the fun that could be had when applying engineering skills to a real world problem. Each team was assigned a mentor from the NCAL program. Nasir Mannon and Cristina Cook, both Manufacturing Software Application Engineers, worked with the teams as they navigated the design software. The state finals were held on Feb 10th.

### MARCH FOR BABIES PLEA—

Take a break this spring and take a walk with us!

Crosby FBLA is sponsoring a team at the March of Dimes walk on Sunday, April 26th at Quassy Amusement Park in Middlebury. We are reaching out to the Crosby staff, students and beyond to help us gather donations and walk for this excellent cause.

The March of Dimes is a national organization that works to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

If anyone would like to make a donation or join our team, please visit our page at <http://www.marchforbabies.org/662445>.

Thank you!

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## Celebrate Earth Day — April 22, 2009

### **Project Presented By AT&T Real Yellow Pages** **Student Ideas On Recycling Telephone Directories, Other Paper Products Sought**

NEW HAVEN, Conn. - AT&T Real Yellow Pages wants to use student ideas and creative expression to help convince even more Connecticut residents to recycle telephone directories as well as any other paper products that can be recycled.

AT&T Real Yellow Pages is looking for creative expressions about the importance of properly recycling paper and will welcome essays, poems, artwork, musical performances, videos and more. Choose any way that you want to express your feelings about recycling as long as it can be mailed or e-mailed.

If your creative expression cannot be sent or if you want to have it for Earth Day celebrations, we will accept photos, videos or photocopies for the contest. Entries must be received by April 17, 2009.

If your entry is chosen, you will receive all-day passes to Quassy Amusement Park in Middlebury, Conn., for you and your friends. Winners will be selected from the following age categories: 5-8, 9-12, 13-17.

All entries become the property of AT&T and will be put to work telling the recycling story. Materials entered cannot be returned.

To enter, simply send your creative expression to: **Quassy Recycling Contest, Attn: Dave Rauch**, AT&T Advertising Solutions, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 545 Long Wharf Dr., New Haven, CT 06511. Entries may also be e-mailed to [J.Rauch@att.com](mailto:J.Rauch@att.com).

All entries must include the following information: Student's name, age, phone, full address, e-mail and school or youth group.

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## Your School Can Win Digital Cameras, Other Valuable Prizes In Photo Essay Contest!

Aspiring student photographers will have the opportunity to focus in on their classrooms as they click away in hopes of winning digital cameras for their school and having their work displayed.

Quassy Amusement Park in Middlebury, Conn., and Olympus Imaging America Inc. are teaming up to present the Third Annual Photo Essay Contest For Students with **divisions for elementary, middle and high schools**.

The theme of this year's essay is "Focus On School: What's Shaping Our Lives." There is NO fee to participate.

### Prizes For All Divisions

Olympus Imaging America Inc. will provide digital cameras to the first place entry in all three divisions. First place entries will also receive 20 Quassy Amusement Park passes that may be used for school fundraisers or student awards. Second place entries will receive 10 park passes and third place entries five park passes. Distinguished Excellence Awards will be presented in all three divisions, provided by Quassy Amusement Park.

The award-winning photo essays will be displayed at the park at the conclusion of the contest.

### Contest Rules

Photos must be shot by **student teams** (up to four students on a team) **or individual students** at their school. Film or digital cameras may be used. Up to 12 essays may be entered from each school (teams and individual).

Essays must consist of at least eight photos with prints not larger than 5 by 7 inches. Photos must be mounted on a single piece of poster board with the entry form, signed by a faculty member at the participating school, attached to the back. Essays may be dropped off at the park office or mailed to: Photo Essay Contest, Quassy Amusement Park, Route 64, PO Box 1107, Middlebury, CT 06762.

**(DEADLINE: All entries must be received by May 1, 2009. Finalists will be invited to the awards ceremony to be held at Quassy Amusement Park on May 30, 2009. Decision of judges will be final)**

Use the official entry form below. For questions, e-mail [ron@quassy.com](mailto:ron@quassy.com)

PHOTO ESSAY ENTRY FORM (Attach to back of photo essay)

Students' names (team entry) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name (single entry) \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone (to notify finalists) \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Division (elementary, middle or high school) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's signature \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, the teacher certifies that the photos entered in the contest were taken by the named student (s) and that the entry is being made in the appropriate division.

Your business tag line here.

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Waterbury, CT 06702

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## **Sponsored By Quassy Amusement Park** **Fourth Annual Mother's Day Essay Contest** **Set For Elementary, Middle School Students**

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. – Youngsters will have to opportunity to put into words why they believe they have the greatest mom of all.

The Fourth Annual Mother's Day Essay Contest for elementary and middle school students is being presented by Quassy Amusement Park as part of the landmark property's comprehensive educational package.

With the theme "Why My Mother Should Be Quassy's Mom Of The Year," students are encouraged to write essays of 250 words or less for the annual contest.

"The essay contest continues to extremely popular among school children," said George Frantzis II, a co-owner of the park. "The response is enormous, and that is encouraging as we put a lot of emphasis on our educational programs."

After reading all of the essays, the park selects a group from each grade level to be considered as finalists and those entries are read again to choose the winners.

"But all of the students who enter are really winners in our opinion because they took the time to compose an essay," Frantzis added.

### **April 1 Deadline**

Teachers must submit completed essays by April 1 to: Quassy Mother's Day Essay Contest, P.O. Box 887, Middlebury, CT 06762.

**Rules:** Each essay must be 250 words or less. The student's name, grade level, school and teacher's name must appear on the top of each essay. Essays may not be submitted by individuals.

Winners will be selected from each grade level and teachers must include contact information for the awards to be mailed. Winning students will be invited to the park on Mother's Day to enjoy the rides with their mother and treat her to a lunch. The winning essays will be displayed at Quassy Amusement Park that week.

### **About Quassy**

Quassy Amusement Park is celebrating its 101<sup>st</sup> season this year. Recognized as one of only 11 remaining "trolley parks" in the nation, Quassy has been family-owned for the past 72 years.

There are more than two-dozen rides and attractions in the park, plus "Saturation Station," a state-of-the-art interactive water play area. Quassy also has a beach, redemption arcade, games, and restaurant and hosts a variety of special events and entertainment.

For more information about the park's educational programs, tours and operating schedule visit [www.quassy.com](http://www.quassy.com) or call 1-800-FOR-PARK.

Quassy opens April 25.

