

Waterbury Public Schools News Update

Vol. 10, Issue 5

April May 2009

Students Enjoy Rock Cats as Reward For Good CMT Attendance



The 3rd Annual Waterbury Public Schools Day at the New Britain Rock Cats was held Wednesday, April 22 at Rock Cats Park in New Britain.

The Rock Cats Foundation, Durham School Services & Naugatuck Valley Savings and Loan teamed up again to provide free busing for all of our students in Grades 3-8, in the Waterbury Public School System as well as a great day of Baseball In Education (BIE) at an AA ballpark.

This has developed as an annual reward for students who demonstrate perfect attendance throughout the CMT testing process. This year over 4200 students attended. As in the past, our students' behavior and comportsment at this event have been nothing short of exemplary and a source of pride for our community.

SECOND TARGET FIELD TRIP AWARD GIVEN TO NICOLE MARTONE ,
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

Nicole Martone, an English teacher at Kennedy High School, received a \$800.00 Target Field Trip Grant recently which will be used for 50 Kennedy students to go to Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, MA on April 9th to see a student matinee performance of *Romeo and Juliet*. Last year, Nicole also won a \$1,000.00 Target Field Trip Grant that was used for 50 students to go to Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, MA on April 18th to see a student matinee performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Nicole joined two other Waterbury Public School recipients mentioned in the last newsletter.

Generation Next articles have been appearing each Monday in the Waterbury Republican American local section. Each week one outstanding local student is highlighted for his or her achievements in school or the community. Interestingly, the young lady who writes this column each week, Eboyne Jackson, is herself a graduate of Crosby High School.

Waterbury Youth Services has partnered with the Waterbury Fire Department to re-establish a network of "Safe Places". Youth friendly businesses and public locations with trained volunteers will display the Safe Place logo indicating their participation. The first of these Safe Places was dedicated last week at the Engine Six Fire House on Willow Street.

Join our youth mentoring program!

The Home-to-Home Foundation, a Waterbury based non-profit organization that works to enhance the quality of life of nursing home residents through volunteerism and extensive community involvement, is recruiting youth ages 12-18 to be part of its "Memorable Connections" program. Memorable Connections matches community youth up with trained mentors residing in nursing facilities. Youth friends visit their mentors on a weekly basis with a focus on eight of the developmental assets. This is a great intergenerational program that benefits both our local youth and nursing home residents! For details contact Jennifer Fiorillo at (203) 591-9061.

Save the Date

On **October 15-16, 2009**, with support of Champion Sponsor, **Webster Bank**, The Governor's Prevention Partnership in collaboration with state mentoring partnerships in the Northeast are making plans for a first ever **Northeast Regional Mentoring Conference**. The conference will be held at the Marriott Providence in Rhode Island.

Details on registration, workshop and guest speakers will be provided at a later date.

Driggs Students to Perform

The Driggs Elementary School Chorus of Waterbury will perform at the Fifth Annual School Music Festival at Quassy Amusement Park in Middlebury.

The event starts at 11 a.m. and will conclude around 5 p.m. at the Vacation Village Resorts Lakeside Theatre at the park. There is no admission fee to the festival with parking \$5.

(Quassy file photo / Driggs Elementary School Chorus)



Donation Given

Crosby High School's Class of 1956 made a donation of \$1,000 to the Crosby High School Media Center for the purchase of equipment such as a mobile book / equipment cart, work stations, book holders, media racks, and the like. Barbara Carrington-Lawlor, Principal, and Linda Panetta, Media Specialist, accepted the gift from Donald and Carolyn (Vuolo) Holley who represented their class reunion committee.

The class of 1956 has a reunion every five years, according to the Holleys, and years ago established the tradition of making a donation to its Alma Mater with any excess funds raised from those reunions. In the past they have purchased a video cam microscope for the Science Department, picture frames for portraits of past principals, and numerous volumes for the school library.

“Our class loves to get together and renew old friendships,” they explained, “and we are all very proud of the excellent education we received at Crosby High.”

Student Connections and Perceptions Related to President Obama

Waterbury Public School students were invited to participate in an unusual essay writing competition recently: to speak from their hearts about how the election of President Barack Obama may have impacted them, their families or the nation. The theme was “Student Connections and Perceptions Related to President Obama” and winning essay writers were invited to attend a brief ceremony in the lobby of the Chase Municipal Building recently, where the winning essays will be displayed for the next few weeks.

Students received certificates and enjoyed pizza afterwards. The winners were:

Barnard:

Alexis Makubiku-Tison, Grade 4

Brooklyn:

Deemichele Rosario, Grade 1
Jaydalee Medina, Grade 2

Bucks Hill:

Romeo Gonzalez, Grade 1

Bunker Hill:

Sonia C. Rosario, Grade 5

Carrington:

Danidsha Ayala, Kindergarten

Chase:

Geromy Rivera, Grade 2
Jessica Bylyku, Grade 3

Wendell Cross:

Noah Nohmy, Grade 3

Driggs:

Shaunya Thompson, Grade 3
Micaela Snow, Grade 4

Generali:

Yvette Thibeau, Grade 2



Dr. Snead congratulated the winners.

Gilmartin:

Wasalie Davis, Grade 2

Hopeville:

Jason Basant, Grade 1

Kingsbury:

Caltha Benitex, Grade 2

Maloney:

Alexa Spain, Grade 3

Regan:

Amaris Roman, Grade 4

Rotella:

Ahzia Cross, Grade 5

Sprague:

Natashia Johnson, Grade 5

Tinker:

Viola Flowers, Kindergarten,
Representing the class book

Walsh:

Emily Pabon, Grade 3

Woodrow Wilson:

Roshica Dehaney, Grade 5



Wallace Middle School:

- Molly Fitzgerald, Grade 7
- Kostika Kosova, Grade 7
- Selmon Rafey, Grade 8
- Jorna Sojati, Grade 8

Waterbury Arts Magnet Middle School:

- Tess Hudak, Grade 6
- Emily Hazelton, Grade 7
- Tajanik Jones, Grade 7
- Alexus Johnson, Grade 8
- Jillian Wipfler, Grade 8

West Side Middle School:

- Angelia Colella, Grade 7
- Kyra Perry, Grade 7

Crosby High School:

- Latoya Campbell, Grade 10

Waterbury Arts Magnet High School:

- Lissa Black, Grade 11
- Rachel Dziezynski, Grade 11
- Cannea Ferguson, Grade 11
- Simone Matusevica, Grade

11

Wilby High School:

- Brandon Reyes, Grade 10
- Anays Cruz, Grade 10
- Kristian Parker, Grade 11
- Kashawn Taylor, Grade 11

Art Work:

- Tyquell Gibson, Grade 2
- Brooklyn



Above: Mayor Michael Jarjura spoke.
Below: Crosby student Latoya Campbell was among those students selected to read her essay that day.



SHORT STORIES FROM OUR SCHOOLS



School Superintendent Dr. David L. Snead visited with students as part of a Guest Reader Day program at the Maloney Magnet School.

WAMS Receives Magnet Schools of America Award - Named Magnet School of Distinction

“I am very pleased to learn that the Waterbury Arts Magnet School has once again been selected to receive this distinguished national award from the Magnet Schools of America. This school is a shining example of what an arts magnet school should be: a warm, caring environment that draws together students of all backgrounds who share a love of the arts. It is a true achievement that this school has won honors from this group several years in a row.” -

David L. Snead, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools



Wilby Alum Doing Well as Editorial Assistant -

LaToya Smith, a 2002 graduate of Wilby High School, is presently an editorial assistant at Black Enterprise magazine. She has a major article on investing entitled “The Young and the Restless” in the May 2009 issue. She excelled academically and athletically at Wilby, then went on to graduate in 2008 Boston University with a Masters in print journalism. Her mother is an aide at Driggs and her brother Andre is currently a senior at Wilby. This is another example of a fine young Waterbury graduate excelling in the work world.

Principals Help Out in New Orleans ---



To help New Orleans complete its comeback from the ravages of Hurricane Katrina, Tinker School Principal Lauren Elias (left) and Victoria Reed, principal of Highland School in Wallingford (right), joined 100 other elementary and middle school principals from around the nation for the National Association of Elementary School Principals' (NAESP) inaugural Community Service Day. The principals rolled up their sleeves to prepare clean and safe learning environments, bringing hope to New Orleans communities by restoring schools that are still desperate for assistance three years after the storm.

The service day was a significant component of the NAESP convention that was held in New Orleans, which was themed "Transforming Learning Communities." "Principals are extremely compassionate and our members jumped at the chance to help schools rebuild," said NAESP Executive Director Gail Connelly. "This service project is in line with our mission to support principals in their commitment to leading learning communities and helping all children reach their highest potential."

NAESP's Community Service Day was made possible through the generous support of Landscape Structures, Lifetouch, and Welsh Products Inc, and Camp Restore arranged for the work sites.

The service day occurred on Thursday, April 2 as a part of NAESP's 88th Annual Convention & Exposition, which took place April 2-6 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The principals did landscaping at two school sites and a park: Ben Franklin Elementary, Eleanor McMain High School, and New Orleans City Park.

SHORT STORIES FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Duggan Ground- Breaking Marks Official Start of New School



Board of Education Commissioners, School Superintendent David I. Snead, and State Representative Larry Butler (left) were first to break ground at the site of the new Duggan School. Edith Bruno, a 1934 graduate of the original Duggan School, was also on hand to help out. She brought with her a neighbor, Eldwin Valerio, whose three children are looking forward to attending the new school when it opens. An unidentified neighborhood child also assisted.

Next up, Board of Aldermen took their turn at the shovels, then Assistant Superintendents Ann Marie Cullinan and Dr. Paul Sequiera.

Waterbury Autism Program Presents ... A Musical Evening With Tony DeBlois

Friday, May 15, 2009

7 pm

Kennedy High School

422 Highland Avenue

Waterbury, CT 06708

Tickets are \$10 and are available from all Waterbury Public Schools and from the Waterbury Police Chief's Office. Mr. deBlois is blind and autistic, yet also a talented pianist who plays over 8,000 songs. All proceeds will benefit the Waterbury Autism Program. Please make checks payable to MM Generali Student Activity Fund and mail to MM Generali School, c/o Cara O'Brien, 3196 East Main Street, Waterbury, CT 06705.

Fund-Raiser Planned
for May Will Assist
Second Grade
Teacher at Chase
School As Well As
Others Suffering From
Retinitis Pigmentosa

Pasta Dinner
Villa Rosa
Monday, May 18, 2009
6-9 pm
Food and Beverage
Entertainment, Raffles
Guest Speaker: Dr. J.F. Rizzo
\$20 Donation

March 2009

Dear Sir or Madam:

Tiffany DiPrimio is a second grade teacher at H.S. Chase Elementary School in Waterbury, CT. This amazing individual is about to complete her fifth successful year of teaching despite being limited by a physical disability.

Tiffany began her elementary education here at Chase. It was then that a routine eye examination revealed that Tiffany suffered from an unknown condition that had a degenerative effect on her eyesight. Through great perseverance Tiffany overcame her disability to complete her elementary, secondary and higher education. With a determined attitude she was able to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from Southern Connecticut State University, and subsequently a Master of Science degree from the University of Bridgeport.

Eventually, in 1998, Tiffany was diagnosed with an incurable disease called Retinitis Pigmentosa. This condition is in a group of hereditary eye diseases that causes progressive vision loss. The onset of this disease leads to severe change in both peripheral and night vision and later progresses to affect overall vision. Although some people with this disease are left with "pockets of vision" through which they may look, Tiffany is not among them; her vision is rapidly deteriorating.

Tiffany was recently given the hope of regaining her eyesight. In May of 2008, she was evaluated by Dr. J. F. Rizzo, Director of Neuro-ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary in Boston. Dr. Rizzo considers Tiffany to be an excellent candidate to benefit from a cutting edge procedure called a Retinal Prosthesis Implant, and is very optimistic about the chances of Tiffany's vision being restored. Now that all the preliminary work has been completed the only obstacle is funding for this procedure.

As friends and family, our goal is to raise money to help support this project. Our initial fundraiser will be held at the Pontelandolfo Club on Farmwood Road in Waterbury, on May 18, 2009 from 6:00-9:00pm. Dr. Rizzo will be the guest speaker, and he will be discussing the procedure that he will perform.

Those who know Tiffany understand what a vibrant, dedicated and determined young woman she is. She is really one of those rare individuals who absolutely lights up a room, and the children are the beneficiaries of such as contagious positive attitude. Tiffany's efforts are truly an example to all visually impaired and to those of us who struggle with our own trials each day.

We would like to thank you in advance for joining us in helping her to overcome her disability and to realize the dream of regaining her vision. Tiffany is an inspiration to us all. To get involved, please call 203-596-8006 or email support@seeingisbelievingfundraiser.org.

Yours truly,

Seeing Is Believing Fundraiser Committee

Lori Caldarella	Annette Cassullo	Jamie D'Agostino	Phyllis Gorman	Ceil Piccochi
Nicole Rinaldi	Karen Renna	Nancy Silva	Gina Turner	Amy Yost

Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Programs at Work



**Rosemarie
Carvalho has
received
national
recognition for
her Crosby
Knitters Club**

North End MS presented shirts and certificates to deserving students as part of its PBS program. Grade 8 students that have attended North End since Grade 6 and have NEVER had a discipline referral were given T-shirts. Those that entered NEMS after Grade 6 and have NEVER received a disciplinary referral received certificates. This was over 180 students. NEMS teachers have worked very hard to make PBS a big success at the school.





Bunker Hill School held a Student vs. Faculty Basketball game on Friday, April 3rd as parts of the school's PBS Reward (Positive Behavioral Support Program). Games were played in four sessions: 10:00am to 10:30am; 10:40am to 11:10am; 1:30pm to 2:00pm; 2:00pm to 2:30pm. Principal Brian Goggin reported students were very excited and had looked forward to the games for weeks. Everyone had fun watching, including staff!



Athletics Updates —

Kennedy High School has just completed a very successful winter sports season.

Some highlights:

BOYS SWIMMING: The boys swim team achieved its best record in 15 years, 8-7. Our diver, Alan Dickey, was the **STATE OPEN DIVING CHAMPION** for the second straight year. Joe Polaco and A.J.Dickey were named to the **All NVL team**. Also, the Western New England Swim Officials awarded the **Sportsmanship Award** to our swim team and coach Shea Moriarty.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Our girls basketball team has just completed its most successful season ever---they won the **NVL Championship** for the first time ever. They also won the **City Championship**. In the state tournament, they advanced to the quarterfinals, the first time they ever advanced that far. Named to the **All City team** were seniors Marybeth Willis and Amber Alberto. Named to the **All NVL team** was Amber Alberto, who also received the **Genua Award** as the top senior player in the NVL. This season she became Kennedy's all-time leading scorer. In addition, she was named to the New Haven Tap Off Club All County Team. Our coach, Jen Hanson, a teacher at Hopeville School, was named New Haven Tap Off Club's **Coach of the Year**; both will be honored at a banquet on Tuesday night, March 31, at Villa Bianca in Shelton.

BOYS BASKETBALL: The boys basketball team also had a very successful season, finishing 12-8 in the league, which put them into the state tournament for the fourth straight year. They lost a fantastic overtime game to eventual finalist Torrington. Named to the **All City team** was Sam Grimsley.

Spring Sports are just about to begin. Coaches report that tryout numbers are high and are looking forward to a competitive season.

INDOOR TRACK: This was Kennedy's first year competing in indoor track. Coach Bill Ferrare reports a very successful first season for both boys and girls, with 45 students participating. Our 4x200 relay team came in second in the NVL meet, while sprinter Ron Narraine finished third in the 55 yard dash. Competing in the winter track season is highly beneficial to city teams, and puts them on par with the other Naugatuck valley teams as far as being in condition sooner for the spring season. We are thankful to the Board for funding this team.

Reported by Dave Rossi, JFK Athletic Director

Kennedy's A.J. Dickey set a new state diving record of 520.90 to win the state Class M championship. Congratulations to this Kennedy senior.

Wilby High School hosted three games in the boys' state tournament. Spring sports practice started on March 23rd, and the school had a good turnout in most sports, with new coaches in Golf and Girls Tennis - both Waterbury teachers.

Crosby news:

Crosby High School played an exciting game against Windsor in the Class LL championship at Mohegan Sun Arena. Windsor squeaked out a win, 72 to 69, but our Bulldogs put on a great game and have every reason to be proud of themselves.

-Anthony Ireland will be honored by the New Haven Tap-off club for all-county on Tues night and will be honored by the CT coaches' assoc. for all-state at the Aqua Turf on Wed night.

-City-wide baseball jamboree will be held on Saturday 4/4, 10:00 at Buck's Hill Park involving Crosby, Wilby, Kennedy, and Sacred Heart.

-Baseball team will hold its annual fundraiser breakfast on Sunday 4/5 from 8:00 to 11:30 at the Waterbury Elks on W. Main St. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased at the door.

CIAC scholar athletes for this year are Teri Alessio and Tom McKenna. They will be honored with the scholar athletes in each high school at a banquet at the Aqua Turf in May.

Middle School athletics coach David Sylvester has done a wonderful job of placing all of the middle school athletics events on the district calendar. He will be updating these if any changes occur.

David Sylvester, Middle School Athletic Director, is piloting a new Student Athlete of the Month program for middle school students. He has requested the coaches to nominate one student for each sport per month, based on both sports and academic performance.

Coaches will have the opportunity to choose the student athlete that they believe deserves such recognition. It is an excellent opportunity to recognize our student athletes and reward them for their hard work in school as well as in their individual sport.

The student athlete should exemplify what the coach believes a student athlete should be in his or her sport as well as in the classroom. Some attributes coaches were asked to keep in mind are: students' dedication to the sport as well the classroom, their work ethic, their perseverance, commitment, and their ability to be a team player. Student athletes will receive a certificate as well as their names announced in a daily announcement.

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Your business tag line here.

Why not have **The Palace at Your Place?**

Some of the many programs offered this year were:

Ballroom Blitz (Grades: 5-12), **adaptable as an in-school or after-school program at your facility**, gives students the opportunity to acquire ball-

room

dance skills that increase physical fitness and artistic awareness, while reinforcing fundamental character skills, such as respect, trustworthiness and responsibility. This year, students attended *Pajama Game* at the **Palace**. Certified

ballroom instructors from Arthur Murray Hamden teach students the discipline of dance while highlighting dance history and cultural importance.

This year's culminating Dancesport Challenge will be held at the Palace on May 21 at 7:00 p.m. that encompasses lessons on presenting in a public forum, staying focused in an environment of competition, and good sportsmanship.

I Give My Word... (Language Arts, Social Studies and Theater Integrated Program Best For Grades: 7-12) is **adaptable as an in-school or after-school**

program at your facility. The **Palace Theater** is proud to announce that The Foundation-Jewish Communities of Western CT, Inc. has awarded the Palace a \$2000 grant to help support the theater's spring 2009 prejudice reduction and character development program *I Give My Word*. Participants will attend the ShopRite Education Series presentation of *The Last . . . The Very Last Butterfly*. Also, in a collaborative effort between the **Palace** and Shakesperience Productions, students will participate in workshops integrating academic curriculum, current events, and the creative processes of the stage with a collection of poems, narratives and drawings created by children who passed through the Terezin Concentration Camp. Students will create their own memoirs and poems and give their spoken word, as well as "their word" (i.e.: their pledge), to practice respect, responsibility, fairness, citizenship,

and trustworthiness to create positive change within their community during a culminating public event. This paradigm is designed to facilitate prejudice reduction and foster tolerance through literature, poetry, and theater, and will serve as a springboard for ongoing efforts in engendering an understanding and respect for others.

Dances with Words (Grades Pre-K - 10) is a **Waterbury Bureau of Recreation**

and Leisure Services after school program designed and hosted by the **Palace Theater**. Held at Wendell Cross Elementary School this year, the

program combines poetry with quality dance/movement training in dance genres such as ballet, tap, jazz and hip-hop foster student appreciation of dance as an art form, as a lifelong form of exercise, and as a means of telling a story. Participants concluded their fall semester by attending *Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy* at the **Palace Theater**.

New programs for 2009-2010 will be announced by the fall of 2009.