

Waterbury Schools News Update

Vol. 12, Issue 1

August - September 2010

New John G. Gilmartin School Opens



Greg Bolan, a grandson of Dr. Gilmartin, represented the family at the Dedication Ceremony.

For story and more photos, see page 6

Inside this issue:

Community Partners	2
Playground Dedicated	3
Middle School Fitness Centers Opened	4
Kingsbury Makes AYP	5
New School Named After Rev. Jonathan Reed	7
America's 100 Best (continued)	8
End Notes	10

Waterbury Named One of Nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People

Waterbury Named One of the Nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People By America's Promise Alliance and ING Competition Recognizes Communities Taking Action to Help Reduce Local Dropout Rates and Create Brighter Futures for Young People

Waterbury, Conn.—The efforts of Waterbury civic and community leaders were honored today when America's Promise Alliance (the Alliance), the nation's largest partnership organization dedicated to youth and children, announced the city had been named a winner of the Alliance's *100 Best Communities for Young People (100 Best)* competition presented by ING, a global financial services company and leading provider of retirement plans and programs for teachers. Its 2010 recognition marks the first win for Waterbury in the competition.

The *100 Best* designation recognizes those communities that make youth a priority by implementing programs that help keep children in school and prepare them for college and the 21st century workforce. The competition is open to all communities that make children and youth a priority, including small towns, large cities, counties and school districts. In addition to enhancing local educational opportunities, most winning communities have taken steps to facilitate improved access to health care for its young people, encourage youth civic engagement and supply developmental resources that create better places for young people to live and grow. The entire 2010 list of *100 Best Communities for Young People* and their accomplishments can be found at www.americaspromise.org/100Best.

- see page 8 for more information

Community Partners --- Helping Students Achieve



NEW BACKPACKS FOR STUDENTS

Goodwill Industries of Western Connecticut was pleased to provide the Brooklyn Elementary School student body with brand new backpacks and supplies to start off the 2010 school year. This opportunity was provided through Goodwill's "Random Acts of Goodwill" community outreach effort. Goodwill is committed to meeting the needs of our communities by providing essential supplies so that children can be successful in school.

Each backpack contained the following items:

1. Identification tag
2. Ruler
3. One subject notebook
4. Eraser and pencil sharpener
5. Two-pocket folder
6. Glue stick
7. 16 pack Crayola crayon pack
8. 12 pack Crayola colored pencils
9. 8 pack Crayola markers
10. Pencil Box
11. 12 pack No. 2 pencils
12. Child Identification Kit

Waterbury was recently awarded USF discounts for 2010-2011 for telephone service (approximately \$155,000).

Bucks Hill was thrilled to be asked by Shop Rite to run a food drive for the month of September, Hunger Awareness Month. Bucks Hill students served as "guest baggers" during the event.

Waterbury was also awarded a \$600,000 grant from the Improving Literacy through School Libraries Program, U.S. Dept. of Education. This is the third consecutive round of grant competition for this federal grant program in which Waterbury was selected to receive a grant. The first year the grant amount was \$300,000 and then First Lady Laura Bush and then Secretary of Education Elizabeth Spellings made the national grant award announcement from Driggs School. The second grant amount was \$500,000. The new grant amount is \$600,000. Together now Waterbury has been awarded \$ 1.4 million from this federal grant program.

ProxTalkers Purchased With Federal Stimulus Funds



Glenn Dobbs, co-founder of ProxTalker, demonstrates its use to Congressman Murphy.

Congressman Chris Murphy and Purchasing Director Rocco Orso presented the Waterbury Public Schools' purchase order for ProxTalker assistive communication devices to Waterbury-based ProxTalker representatives this month. The purchase is being funded with federal stimulus money. There was a large article about the ProxTalker in a recent Waterbury Republican American newspaper article. The device allows non-verbal or emerging verbal disabled students to "speak" using pre-programmed cards. The ProxTalker represents a mid-range device that allows for greater flexibility than a simple card system yet is less complicated than the more sophisticated computer systems currently available. It may be used by a wide range of students including the autistic. It may be programmed in different languages or to say words in common usage by the student's family.

New Playground Dedicated At Bucks Hill Annex PreSchool



After years of lobbying for a preschool-child friendly playground at the Bucks Hill Special Education Pre-School, retired Supervisor Mary Ann Daukas was thrilled to see the playground opened for use just before the start of school this year. In honor of Ms. Daukas' hard work and dedication to the students of the Bucks Hill Special Education PreSchool program, the new playground was named in her honor. It was built over the summer and is handicapped accessible, with slides, climbing equipment, painting stations and games.

The playground area also includes landscaping and an ornamental flagpole. One of the plantings was dedicated to Michael Richards, a former state director for the Institute of Professional Practice.

The playground and landscaping was paid for through federal stimulus funds.

Bucks Hill Pre-K at the Annex has received the highest education standard of excellence from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The evaluators found the preschool staff, program and facility to be of outstanding caliber and acknowledged the success of the City of Waterbury preschool program, conferring accreditation to Bucks Hill Pre-K @ the Annex in June 2010. Commendations were received in all 10 NAEYC early childhood program standards.

The Association commended the staff for excellence in teaching, promoting a strong home and school connection, and for continuing the mission and philosophy of preschool education.

Supervising Vice-Principal, Marisa Blakeslee, said, "The dedicated staff worked diligently, putting in extra hours, attending countless meetings and working to create the best possible learning environment for our youngest learners."

New Middle School Fitness Centers Opened

Thanks to a special grant, Waterbury middle school students will be getting fit while having fun this year. The school district is opening up new fitness centers in three middle schools. In addition to regular physical education classes, students will have an opportunity to use the state-of-the-art fitness center to begin what will hopefully become a lifetime of getting and staying fit.

Among the pieces of new equipment available for student use is a Trixter X-dream, an interactive fitness bike that allows students to experience the thrills of mountain biking without ever leaving school. The X-dream provides a real-life simulation through its gears, brakes, handlebars, pedals, cranks and seat sensors. Resistance increases and decreases to simulate the terrain.

These fitness centers featuring such state-of-the-art equipment as the X-dream are unique in Connecticut schools.



Kingsbury Makes AYP ----

We are pleased to report that Kingsbury School has made it off the list of schools in need of improvement this year, having made AYP two years in a row. Several other schools are on "hold" – having made AYP this year (schools need two years of achieving AYP to make it off the list). Those schools on hold are Bunker Hill, Woodrow Wilson, North End Middle School and West Side Middle School. Each of these schools had been on the list of schools in need of improvement for several years, so it is especially gratifying to see them make AYP through Safe Harbor this year.

Wendell Cross School and Rotella and Maloney Interdistrict Magnet Schools made AYP, and the Waterbury Arts Magnet School middle school made AYP through Safe Harbor.

Schools in need of improvement include:

- Tinker – Year 3 – whole school reading, sub-group reading and math
- Barnard – Year 2 – whole school reading and sub-group reading
- Brooklyn – Year 3 - whole school reading and sub-group reading
- Bucks Hill – Year 7 – whole school reading and math, sub-group reading and math
- Carrington - Year 7 - whole school reading, sub-group reading and math
- Driggs – Year 7 - whole school reading and math, sub-group reading and math
- Gilmartin – Year 1 - whole school reading and math, sub-group reading and math
- Chase – Year 7 - whole school reading and sub-group reading

- Generali – Year 1 - whole school reading and sub-group reading
- Wallace – Year 6 - whole school reading and math, sub-group reading and math
- Regan – Year 1 - whole school reading and sub-group reading
- Sprague – Year 5 - whole school reading and sub-group reading
- Walsh – Year 6 - whole school reading and math, sub-group reading and math
- Washington – Year 1 - whole school reading and sub-group reading
- Crosby, Kennedy and Wilby are in Year 7 - whole school reading and math, sub-group reading and math
- Waterbury Arts Magnet – high school only - Year 1 – sub-group math

Hopeville did not make AYP for whole school reading and sub-group reading, but it is not in need of improvement per the No Child Left behind guidelines.

Most elementary schools on the list of schools in need of improvement are there because of reading, both whole school and sub-group. This mirrors a trend noted across the state by Connecticut Department of Education officials.

In its press release, Commissioner McQuillan also pointed out that math has been an issue in the state's high schools. That is one reason the state has moved to develop a greater emphasis on math and science in the high schools as part of its reform package.

Commissioner McQuillan also stated, "We are working directly with 15 of Connecticut's

largest districts – identified under state accountability legislation – to help them turn around schools that have been struggling for years. It is very difficult to overcome the effects of poverty with limited school resources, but our work to employ effective strategies that help close the gaps in student performance is beginning to show results."

Many of the schools that did not make AYP this year in Waterbury already have detailed improvement plans in place. Sprague School, for example, has recently chosen to become a Literacy Academy School next year, following in the success of Wendell Cross School's Literacy Academy. Several schools showed tremendous progress, especially when looking at long-term progress, including Barnard (math, proficient), Bunker Hill (math, proficient), Generali (both math and science in proficient level), Kingsbury (math, proficient), Sprague (math, proficient), Washington (math, proficient), W. Wilson (math, proficient and goal, and reading, proficient) and Wendell Cross (reading, proficient and goal).

As Michael Casserly, Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools, a national organization representing the needs of urban school districts, has said, research in other urban districts shows that progress rarely continues in a continuous upward trajectory. Peaks and valleys are normal. He was quoted recently speaking about the Washington, DC test results, saying, "Our analysis of big city school reading and math state test scores shows that most urban school districts that have made significant academic improvements since 2006 have also shown periods where one or more grades declined before rising to—and sustaining—higher levels of achievement."

Gilmartin School Opening (continued)



Following the speaker's portion of the Dedication Ceremony, dignitaries and honored guests revealed a plaque in the school's main hallway.

L-R: David L. Snead, Ph.D., School Superintendent; Patrick J. Hayes, Jr., President of the Board of Education; Mary Bolan, Dr. Gilmartin's daughter; Greg Bolan, Dr. Gilmartin's grandson; Waterbury Mayor Michael Jarjura and Paul Pernerewski, Jr., President of the Board of Aldermen.



Excerpts From Dedication Speech - Dr. John G. Gilmartin School 9/19/10 Remarks Given By Greg Bolan

John Gregory Gilmartin was born to John and Anna (Shanahan) Gilmartin on July 14, 1890. He grew up not far from here, off Congress Ave, with two sisters, Anna and Mary. He came from humble beginnings; his father passed away when John was only 14. His mother raised chickens, did laundry and ironing, trying to make ends meet. As a young boy, he worked at the railroad tracks on South Main St., delivering buckets of water to the 100 construction workers there for 10 hours/day all summer in order to help support his mother and sisters. It instilled a determined effort to get an education.

John became a gifted scholar and athlete. He graduated from Barnard school's first graduating class, Crosby high school (1908), Holy Cross College (1912). He played baseball, tennis, golf, and other sports with a passion.

John spent one year at St. Jerome's College in Ontario, Canada, following graduation from Holy Cross. He taught Latin, Greek, and political economy there before returning to Waterbury. While in Canada, he played semi-pro baseball as a pitcher and coached football, baseball and basketball.

He became a teacher of math and history at Crosby in 1914. During that year, he was the first high school director of athletics in Waterbury. As a paid coach of baseball and football, he turned out many championship teams over the years. I believe this association with young boys and girls helped to give him a great understanding of the Waterbury school kids and helped to earn the great respect he enjoyed when visiting the various schools.

He went on to become a principal in 1917, and was in that position at 4 schools for 26 years. He established, taught and managed an evening course for Waterbury adults during the period of 1932-1945, helping thousands improve themselves in areas of vocabulary and math. An insightful manager, he created a social business club with other principals, who would meet monthly, often at his house, to discuss issues at their respective schools. He became asst. Superintendent in 1942, then Superintendent in 1945.

During his teaching tenure at Crosby, John met Irene Moriarty, also a teacher there, and they eventually married and had three children, Donald, Greg, and Mary.

He felt strongly about the teaching of Latin in schools, that most of the English language was derived from it. In fact, he stated that just by knowing 'duco' and 'mitte', one would have the basis for over 200 words.

In the beginning of his teaching career, he compiled material for a new spelling system he devised and this resulted in a 2-volume set published in 1926. Regarding his passion for words, he recognized that most students learned words by rote memory; the schools had a list of 16,000 words to be learned; he reduced that list to 3,000 **practical** words. He taught their pronunciation, meaning, and how they could be used in a sentence. The goal was to learn four new words each day. His secret: he was "woefully weak and limited in the field of vocabulary" when he began teaching. He was determined to remedy the situation, but found no books in the U.S. for vocabulary-building. My grandfather was a prolific author, writing 26 books in total on vocabulary, spelling, arithmetic and history. In 1929, Gilmartin's "Word Study" was published; it had more than 25 printings, 5 revisions and used by millions of students, and was followed by other vocabulary books.

To occupy his time during one of the earlier summer vacations, and to strengthen a weak link in elementary school program, John compiled 1,500 original examples of problem-solving and saw it published in 5 volumes, selling 250,000 copies. He discovered similar issues with arithmetic and developed what he called the 'mathematical trinity': Analyze the problem mentally, graphically, and put the results in writing; State the goal of the problem and facts given; Write down how the problem should be solved.



New North Main / Robinson Street School Named Jonathan Reed School

Waterbury Board of Education Commissioners unanimously and with great pleasure named the new North Main St. / Robinson St. School the Jonathan E. Reed School at their meeting of August 2, 2010. The Rev. Jonathan E. Reed, former pastor of the Grace Baptist Church, is still remembered very fondly in the local community for his caring concern for the children of Waterbury. He was a strong advocate for education, and he made a great impact on many. The school is currently still in a pre-construction phase.

Construction Continues on Duggan School



Gilmartin School Opening (continued)

His philosophy was to create teaching that was meaningful, without rote memorizing, and that focused on the fundamentals. Children – and teachers – were the priority when administering.

In 1940, he was awarded an honorary degree, PhD in Literature from Holy Cross. John G. Gilmartin spent his entire life in Waterbury, Ct. He was committed to this community and the people who lived here. He was passionate about the quality of education for every child. In 1919, he aggressively addressed the appalling state of the shortage of teachers, mostly due to insufficient compensation. My grandfather was an active member of St. Margaret's Parish his entire life. He went to the 6am mass every morning; he often served as the altar boy, especially on bad weather day. I know this because as a young altar boy at St. Margaret's, I got to serve with him.

Shortly before his death, Dr. Gilmartin was named to the Order of the Knights by Pope Paul VI. Established in 1831 by Pope Gregory XVI, this was awarded to those who have given unselfishly of their time and talents in the service of the church. Dr. Gilmartin passed away on 27 Nov, 1963. John Gilmartin was a native son, a man who went from water boy and sandlot pitcher to become a teacher, a scholar, an athlete, a coach, an author and a churchman. The Waterbury Republican reported in 1960 that Dr. Gilmartin witnessed "a monument of brick and stone, but one with a living heart" in the newly opened school. Here, his 'kiddies' will be a testimonial to his life's work". If Dr. John G. Gilmartin was here today, I think he might have shared the following thoughts: To the teachers, in an era when many developed but less

wealthy countries have math and language skills that surpass ours, I urge you to share your knowledge with your students and to teach them as though their future depends on it - because it does. To the students, in an era where the population continues to increase but challenging employment opportunities seem to be shrinking, I urge you to listen well, learn as much as you can absorb and study as though your future depends on it - because it does. And to the parents, in an era where many families have dual-income parents and distractions, be reminded that teachers can plant the seeds of knowledge, and students will hopefully take those seeds home, but it is the parents that are the final piece of a successful education. So I entreat you to encourage and support your child's learning process as though their future depends on it - because it does....

John G. Gilmartin died on November 28, 1963 after 46 years in the Waterbury school system. His funeral was held at St. Margaret's Church, of which he had been a communicant for almost as many years. He left an extraordinary legacy, one in which his family is most proud. On that note, today, we would like to congratulate Dr. Don Burzler as the Principal of this fine new school and extend to him best wishes for carrying on the great tradition established by the school's namesake.

*Greg Bolan,
representing the
Gilmartin family*

Waterbury Named One of Nation's 100 Best

“Through its innovative and far-reaching programs, Waterbury is taking bold and effective steps to help their young people graduate and lead healthy, productive lives,” said Marguerite W. Kondracke, America’s Promise Alliance president and CEO. “Waterbury serves as an example to inspire and educate other communities across the nation to tackle the challenges facing their city and children, and to implement initiatives that give them the essential resources they need to succeed in life.”

Waterbury was named one of the nation’s *100 Best* because of its far-reaching, comprehensive plan for youth development called “Bridge to Success—Preparing Waterbury Youth for Life: A Birth to 21 Initiative.” This birth-to-adulthood program is the first of its kind in Connecticut, and it brings community stakeholders from all sectors together to support Waterbury’s youth every step of the way to ensure they are successful in school, work and life.

“Bridge to Success” places a high priority on quality out-of-school time programs that are meaningful and engaging for the community’s youth, giving them safe places to spend time before and after school as well as on the weekends. By teaming up with school and community youth service providers, Waterbury has been able to aggressively pursue afterschool grants that have added up to more than \$9.6 million for out-of-school time programs over the past several years, nearly \$5.2 million just since 2007. Adequate affordable health care is a challenge for many Waterbury families. Another major component to the “Bridge to Success” Plan is child health and development, for which Waterbury has developed a tracking system of key indicators to help ensure students enter school healthy and ready to learn.

Mayor Michael Jarjura said, “I am so pleased that Waterbury has been selected

as one of the ‘100 Best Communities for Young People’ by the America’s Promise Alliance and ING! This kind of rare and very special acknowledgement is a very fitting celebration of the many Waterbury stakeholders that work together tirelessly for the benefit of Waterbury children and families. This is a very proud moment for Waterbury, on our journey toward achieving success for all Waterbury youth.”

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. David L. Snead commented, “Being named one of ‘America’s 100 Best Communities for Young People’ is very exciting for Waterbury. Waterbury Public Schools has enthusiastically embraced working collaboratively with multiple community-based organizations to prepare students to be successful in school and beyond. Through our joint efforts, we are working to increase the number of students who stay in school and graduate. This ‘100 Best Communities for Young People’ award reminds us of our accomplishments to date, and serves as another call to action to continue the good work for youth underway in the Waterbury community.”

On September 21, 2010, Waterbury and the other winners spanning 37 states were recognized at a ceremony in front of the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Each of the winning communities was formally recognized with a designation on a map of the U.S., illustrating the geographic and demographic diversity of the winning 100 communities. In addition to the *100 Best* distinction, Waterbury and the other top communities will receive two road signs identifying the city as one of

continued from Page 1

100 Best, as well as a trophy to be presented to local officials later this year.

Alliance Chair Alma Powell and President and CEO Marguerite W. Kondracke revealed the list of winners during the national celebration. They were joined by Rhonda Mims, president of the ING Foundation and senior vice president, ING’s Office of Corporate Responsibility and Multicultural Affairs and *Twilight’s* Kellan Lutz, who both share a passion for the development of young people.

“ING is committed to children’s education and to the advancement of education initiatives that prepare them for successful futures,” said Mims. “Our support for *100 Best* demonstrates our goal of honoring communities like Waterbury that produce real, measurable results for improving the lives of young people.”

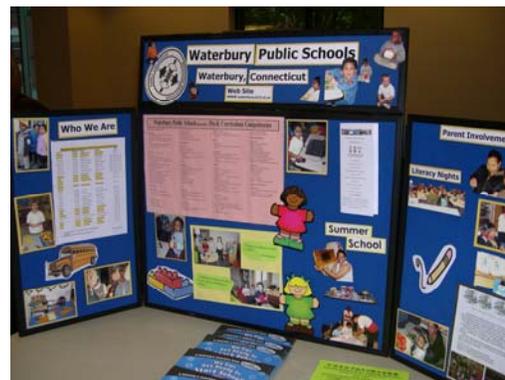
The competition is one element of the Alliance’s Grad Nation campaign, a 10-year initiative to mobilize all Americans to take action in their communities to end the high school dropout crisis and prepare young people for college and the 21st century workforce. More than 7,000 students drop out each school day in the U.S., resulting in 1.3 million young people a year. To help decrease these numbers, the Alliance is more committed than ever to recognizing communities – regardless of size, location or history – that are taking real action to help more young people stay in school and graduate on time.

“*100 Best* is an essential building block of an inspiring national movement that gives everyone a chance to ensure every young person graduates,” said Powell. “These winning communities refuse to let the challenges they face be the determining factor in the lives of their children and youth. Instead, they are helping to build an in-

Title I Meeting A Huge Success



This year's Annual Title I Meeting was a big success, with about 100 parents and students attending. Participants listened to information about Title I family involvement activities and had an opportunity to visit various stations set up around the room afterward.



Waterbury Named One of 100 Best (continued from page 8)

frastructure of assertive, successful and dynamic young people that are the future of this country.”

There will be a local celebration of Waterbury's designation as one of the 2010 *100 Best Communities for Young People* on October 20, 2010. More details will follow.

About 100 Best

First held in 2005, *100 Best* honors communities large and small, rural and urban, that are making progress to help young people achieve their potential, which includes earning a high school diploma, securing a good job, and playing an active, productive role in America's economic vitality. This year, more than 350 communities in 50 states registered online for the *100 Best* distinction at www.americaspromise.org/100best.

Being a *100 Best* community not only demonstrates commitment to local young people; the award fosters local pride, bolsters economic development and shines the spotlight on the people and

programs that are building better communities. The competition also facilitates the sharing of best practices among communities nationwide regarding education, access to health care, reading score improvement, youth service and pre-school enrollment, among many other areas.

About America's Promise Alliance

America's Promise Alliance is the nation's largest partnership organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth. Through the collective power of our partner network, we raise awareness, support communities and engage in nonpartisan advocacy to ensure that young people receive more of the fundamental resources they need to graduate high school prepared for college, work and life. Building on the legacy of our Founding Chairman General Colin Powell, the Alliance believes the success of our young people is grounded in the Five Promises—caring

adults; safe places; a healthy start; an effective education; and opportunities to help others. For more information about America's Promise Alliance, visit www.americaspromise.org.

About ING

ING is a global financial institution of Dutch origin offering banking, investments, life insurance, and retirement services to over 85 million residential, corporate and institutional clients in more than 40 countries. With a diverse workforce of about 115,000 people, ING is dedicated to setting the standard in helping our clients manage their financial future. In the U.S., the ING (NYSE: ING) family of companies offers a comprehensive array of financial services to retail and institutional clients, which includes life insurance, retirement plans, mutual funds, managed accounts, alternative investments, direct banking, institutional investment management, annuities, employee benefits, and financial plan-

ning. ING holds top-tier rankings in key U.S. markets and serves nearly 30 million customers across the nation.

ING's diversity management philosophy and commitment to workplace diversity, diversity marketing, corporate citizenship and supplier diversity fosters an inclusive environment for employees that supports a distinctive product and service experience for the financial services consumer. For more information, visit www.ing.com/us.

About the ING Foundation

The ING Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life in communities where ING operates and its employees and customers live. Through charitable giving and employee volunteerism, the foundation focuses on programs in the areas of financial literacy, children's education, diversity, and environmental sustainability.

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

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

Phone: 203 573-6633

Fax: 203 346-3508

E-mail:

nvaughan@waterbury.k12.ct.us

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

End Notes ---

The Public Access channels (16, 13, and 96) are now available on AT&T U-Verse. If you are a U-Verse subscriber, go to "menu", "government channel", then "Waterbury" using U-Verse. Waterbury Public Schools broadcast on Channel 16 (Comcast), the education access channel. Board of Education meetings are broadcast live on Ch 96, then rebroadcast once on Ch 96 (usually Wednesday) and again on Ch 16 (week following). Board of Education workshops are generally broadcast once (usually Wednesday) on Ch 96 the week of the workshop, the broadcast the following week on Ch 16.

The deadline for grant applications for the Margaret M. Generali Educational Grants this year is November 1, 2010. There will be at least four grants of \$1500 awarded to educators in Waterbury to help improve or expand the teaching of reading or language arts, pre-K through grade 12. The Foundation is in honor of Maggie Generali, former city principal, who passed away in 1999. This year there will be a special grant awarded in memory Dina Generali Kuiper, a cousin of Maggie's, who passed away last year. Since Dina was a former art educator, the grant will be awarded to a proposal which enhances art in the curriculum. The awards are available to any Waterbury public or non-public teacher, specialist or administrator. Individuals or teams of educators may apply for these grants by downloading an application at the Foundation's website; www.maggienerali.com or by writing the Foundation at Box 3111, Waterbury, CT 06705. Grant recipients will be announced in December.

The Waterbury School Readiness Program offers preschool education and care for 3 or 4 year olds.

- ◆ Many sites across the community;
- ◆ Planned learning activities;
- ◆ Safe and secure environments;
- ◆ Qualified teachers.
- ◆ Accept all children
- ◆ Free or low cost based on family income.

Call School Readiness Office at 203-573-6684 for more information.

The Waterbury Prevention Policy Board will be merged into the Bridge To Success Partnership as of October 1, 2010. The Bridge to Success Partnership is planning an event for the community on October 20 during which the results of the most recent youth survey will be discussed. It is expected that representatives of America's Promise will be on hand at the at time to formally honor Waterbury's designation as one of its 100 Best.

One new initiative this year was Waterbury's participation in Take Your Child to School Day. Superintendent Dr. David L. Snead recorded a call that was sent out to all parents and staff using the IRIS telephone messaging system. That call invited all parents to bring their children to school on the first day of school as one way to emphasize the importance of education.

Nancy Vaughan has been elected Northeast Region Vice President for the National School Public Relations Association. The region includes Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Eastern Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.