

Waterbury Public Schools News Update

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Fleece Tops OK For Students

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Students will now be able to wear fleece tops as an alternative to sweaters provided the fleece top does not have a hood attached and is in a V-neck, crewneck or zippered collar style and is an acceptable dress code color.

The decision to allow fleece that meets these criteria was made after consideration of the material's natural warmth and affordability. Fleece is often readily available at an inexpensive price in the dress code colors and it will help keep students warm on colder days.

Accreditation Granted for Crosby, WAMS

Both Crosby High School and Waterbury Arts Magnet School received the good news recently that both are fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges for the next ten years. In the case of Crosby High School, it was a continuance of accreditation that has been in place, but in the case of the Waterbury Arts Magnet School, it was the first time the school sought accreditation since its opening six years ago.

Kennedy High School received its full ten year re-accreditation last year, while Wilby High School will be preparing for its re-accreditation process next year.

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School Governance Councils

From state department of education documents:

School Governance Councils were created by the state's recent education reform law (Public Act 10-111) to enable parents, school staff, students (where appropriate) and community leaders to work together to improve student achievement in the state's lowest performing schools. School Governance Councils serve in an advisory capacity

and are charged with assisting the school administration in making programmatic and operational changes to improve the school's achievement.

School Governance Council Responsibilities:

School Governance Councils serve in an advisory capacity and shall assist the school administration in the areas listed below:

Partnership News

Waterbury Board of Education Receives Distinguished Champion For Youth Award From Bridge to Success Partnership / Waterbury Prevention Policy Board



Waterbury students represented the Waterbury Prevention Policy Board and the new Bridge to Success Partnership in presenting the award to the Waterbury Board of Education. Present to receive the award were Commissioners Neil O'Leary, Mary White and Ann Sweeney.

CEA Holds Focus Groups on Education

The CEA hosted two focus groups in Waterbury aimed at obtaining information on public perception and support of education. The first focus group consisted of community leaders, including Lynn Ward, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce,

The second focus group, for parents. In order to allow for a free and open discussion from the PUBLIC'S PERSPECTIVE, both focus groups are limited to invitation only and will not include education department staff. We will have a few staff there as observers. The CEA is planning on creating a series of radio advertisements on public education in Connecticut following these focus groups and others conducted in Bridgeport. Part of the discussion may center on CommPACT schools and other reform efforts in Connecticut.

United for Children and Families Day was held on December 8th from 9:00-3:00 PM at the State Capital to explore the challenges that face children and families and the ways to work together to confront those challenges in the coming legislative session. It was a great opportunity for parents, providers, and educators to work together on this important topic. Lunch was provided and participants were encouraged to invite their legislators for lunch, tour of the state capital, and breakout sessions.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT OUR STAFF

Kennedy High School teacher Lorraine Langlais and her daughter Amanda Langlais were recently featured in a newsletter put out to high schools throughout the state that offer University of Connecticut courses.

Kennedy High School currently offers seven UConn classes, enabling students to earn as much as 15 credits.

The newsletter, put out by UConn, featured Lorraine and Amanda because they both teach Human Development and Family Studies to high school students in their respective districts. Lorraine is a University of Connecticut alumnus who has taught school for 30 years and is now in her fifth year of teaching the course at Kennedy.. Her daughter Amanda teaches at Canaan High School.



Kingsbury School Receives Education Award From Waterbury Neighborhood Council -

Board of Education Commissioner John Theriault (left) and Education Department Liaison Mary Ann Marold (next) were on hand to congratulate Principal Pamela Baim (right) and SVP Dena Mortensen (second from right) at the awards dinner.

Several innovative programs were funded this year through the Margaret M. Generali Foundation:

- Marie McDermott - Who I Am Makes A Difference, North End Middle School
- Kathy McKeeman - ICAN, Identifying Countries and Nations, Barnard
- Sean Mosley - Shakespeare Residency Program, Wilby High School
- Maureen Bergin and Karen Sullivan - Making Home-School Connections, Bucks Hill
- Melissa Boutote - Raising Student Achievement, Carrington
- Amy Boisvert and Terri Miller - Study Island, Generali School
- Eileen McDonnell and Kathy Delaney - Soar to Success, Carrington
- Kristen Gwiazdoski - Learning Through Literature, Carrington
- Nancy Betkoski - Community and Service, Generali School

Receiving the Dina Generali Kieper Award was:
Michelle Brittingham - KNIT, Kids Need Interests, Too, Barnard



State Street Students Win 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place in Contest



Three students from State Street School placed first, second and third in the Special Education division of a statewide bus safety poster contest held recently. The three students who won in this poster contest sponsored by the Connecticut School Transportation Association were: Devonte Hughes, first place and a \$50 prize Angel Taber, second place and a \$30 prize Marley Peterkin, third place and a \$20 prize. This year's theme was Be Aware - Know the Danger Zone.

Rotella Students Visit Cedar Lane



Rotella Magnet School is a partner in the Home to Home Foundation, which provides support to area convalescent centers. Rotella's second grade students visited the Cedar Lane Nursing Home and the Cheshire House. The students recited a poem, sang and danced for the residents. After they entertained the clients, the students then put on a Halloween Costume Parade. The students were given treats from the clients prior to returning to Rotella.



CAPT Scholars Presented With Letters of Congratulations



Alexandra with Principal Elizabeth McGrath



Ina with Vice Principal Patricia Moore

The Superintendent has received letters of congratulation from State Education Commissioner Mark McQuillan for four students who received advanced level in all four categories of the CAPT. Dr. Snead and the Board of Education presented the letters from Commissioner McQuillan to the students at the Board's Regular Meeting on Monday, November 1, 2010, at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School. The students are:

Alexandra Bray Delgado – Waterbury Arts Magnet School

Ina Lico – Kennedy High School
Denisse Manzueta – Kennedy High School
Stephanie Median - Kenneday High School

Crosby Robotics Team Competes:

The Crosby High School Robotics Team competed in a regional Robotics competition at Auburn University in Alabama in November. Although the team did not win in this competition, the students who participated found the experience very worthwhile.

Crosby earned a place in the competition after doing well at one held here in Connecticut. There, the team won first place in the team exhibits and interview category.



State News Notes ----

The State Board of Education has proposed a change in the minimum age requirements for kindergarten students. This proposal would require all students to be age five by October 1 of the current school and not as of January 1 as is currently the case. The state legislature would still need to approve this in the coming legislative session.

United for Children and Families Day was held December 8th from 9:00-3:00 PM at the State Capital. The day is intended to help parents, the community and legislators explore the challenges that face children and families and to discover ways to work together to confront those challenges in the coming legislative session.

State Aid to Cities and Towns Includes the Following Aid to Waterbury:

Education Cost Sharing (ECS):
\$113,617,182

Public School Transportation:
\$1,349,914

Non-Public School Transportation:
\$445,533

Adult Education:
\$2,197,225

Total State Aid to Waterbury
(including the above-mentioned grants):
\$133,346,290

Total State Aid to All Cities and Towns:
\$759,735,260

Short Notes - National ----

According to CNN News, President Obama has signed a new child nutrition bill on December 13, 2010 that is meant to encourage children to eat healthier meals. The law provides the federal government with more authority to set standards for food sold in vending machines and elsewhere on school grounds. It also provides more funding for schools to subsidize free meals and help offset the cost of fresh fruits and vegetables.



A national AP Stanford poll on education, conducted in September, found that 68% of those polled believe parents deserve the blame for poor student achievement. Most of these respondents cited a lack of student discipline and low expectations as serious problems. Most of those polled felt their local schools were excellent or good but 67% also felt that the United States is falling behind other countries in terms of education.

Short Notes - District

The Waterbury Board of Education will consider requiring seat belts as part of its next school bus contract. The RFP (or request for proposal) that went out recently asked for bids both with and without seat belts. The Board will continue its review of the issue before awarding the bids, one for regular education and one for special education.

Proponents of adding seat belts say seat belts can save lives. Those who are opposed to adding the belts say school bus transportation is already much safer than other vehicles and they worry that students might use the belts as weapons. They also question if students would use the belts and how belt usage could be enforced on a bus.

Update on Jonathan Reed School: Demolition of nearby properties is proceeding.

Carrington School and Waterbury Career Academy construction is still in the design phase.

Wilby High School Science Lab Renovations - project expected to begin soon.

City officials are anticipating a widening gap between what the city collects in revenues and what it needs to spend over the next three years. The announcement came during a recent Board of Aldermen meeting, where Mayor Michael Jarjura said he plans to hold budget discussions not only with heads of departments this year but also local unions, looking for ways to narrow that anticipated shortage.



Contractors working on both the Duggan School and the Enlightenment School projects exceeded goals for minority, resident and female hiring, according to the Waterbury Development Corporation which conducted a review of the two school projects.

Common Core Standards Adopted By State Will Impact District Curriculum in Coming Years

On July 7, 2010, with a unanimous vote, the State Board of Education adopted new national academic standards, known as the Common Core State Standards (**CCSS**) in English language arts and mathematics ([Common Core State Standards](#)) that will establish what Connecticut's public school students should know and be able to do as they progress through Grades K-12.

The **CCSS** were designed to consist of fewer, clearer and higher-level standards; to be aligned with college and work expectations; to include rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher order thinking skills; to build upon the strengths and lessons of current state standards; to be internationally benchmarked so that all students will be prepared to succeed in our global economy; and to be based on evidence and research.

The English language arts standards require that students systematically develop literacy skills and understandings through reading, writing, speaking and listening. For Grades 6-12, there is also a set of standards for English language arts in the content areas. The mathematics standards are designed to focus on developing students' understanding of mathematical concepts and acquisition of fundamental reasoning habits, in addition to fluency skills.

The newly adopted national standards will provide guidance to local curriculum committees as they develop grade-by-grade and course level expectations and as they engage in secondary school reform as required by P.A. 10-111.

Students Give Back for the Holidays

A SAMPLE OF ACTIVITIES:

- Each year West Side Middle School students and staff work together to provide holiday care packages for school families.
- Students and staff collected toys and gently used and new clothing for those in need at Generali School. The students also raised almost \$1,000 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital earlier this year and McDonald's has given all students who participated in the St. Jude's Mathathon a free happy meal. The staff held a "Generali Night" at the local McDonald's, working behind the counter and helping to greet guests.
- Wallace Middle School Students collected more than 6,000 cans and boxes of food during a month long food drive. this year's collection was almost double what was collected last year the school.
- Students at Rotella collected hundreds of toys and for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots Program.
- Elizabeth Santoro and Lori Stroud of Wilby High School have an ongoing SOS (Support Our Troops) program at the school to collect items for care packages. Those care packages have been sent to troops stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia. --

Maloney Student Councils Helps Troops



Maloney student council held a collection for the troops. They collected 1135 items in just one week to send to the troops for the holiday's. Nancy Barros the mother of Julia Barros a third grader at Maloney School helped set up the collection by providing us with lists of specific items for Maloney families to send in for the collection. She also provided us information with two specific Navel Battalions to send the donations to. Nancy and husband Paul were a huge help along with Student Council members and myself in packing all 1135 item and shipped out 20 boxes of supplies to the troops. Nancy and her husband Paul have been married for 14 years in which 11 of those years he has served in the Navy Reserves Seabees as a Construction Mechanic. He has done 2 tours in Iraq in the past two years. Nancy has served as the Command Ombudsman for her husband's Battalion for almost 3 years. He was able to surprise his children with his return for the Holiday's. We appreciate them giving their time to help make this holiday collection such a success.

Governance Councils (continued from page 1)

- analyze school achievement data and school needs as they relate to the school's improvement plan;
- review the fiscal objectives of the school's draft budget and advise the principal before the budget is submitted to the superintendent;
- participate in the hiring process of the school principal or other administrators of the school by conducting interviews of candidates and reporting on such interviews to the superintendent of schools for the school district and the local and regional board of education;
- assist the principal in making programmatic and operational changes to improve the school's achievement;
- develop and approve a written school parent involvement policy that outlines the role of parents and guardians (Note: Schools that receive federal Title 1 funds are required to have a parent involvement policy developed jointly with, approved by, and distributed to parents. A school's Title 1 parent involvement policy can serve the purpose of the policy required under this section.); and
- work with school administrators in developing and approving a school compact for parents, legal guardians, and students that outlines the school's goals and academic focus identifying ways that parents and school personnel can build a partnership to improve student learning. (Note: Schools that receive federal Title 1 funds are required to have a school-parent compact, developed with parents. A school's Title 1 compact can serve the purpose of the compact required under this section.)

In addition to its required responsibilities, a council may:

- assist in developing and reviewing the school improvement plan and advise the principal before the report is submitted to the superintendent of schools;
- work with the principal to develop, conduct, and report the results of an annual survey of parents, guardians, and teachers on issues related to the school climate and conditions; and
- provide advice to the principal on any other major policy matters affecting the school, except on matters relating to collective bargaining agreements between the teachers and the board of education.

Athletic News From Around the District

The girls' basketball season got off to an unofficial start with a City Jamboree. The event was hosted at Crosby High School. This year's jamboree included six of seven city schools. Kaynor Tech's girls' team was unable to compete due to a schedule conflict. Holy Cross won the championship.

Holy Cross also won a close championship game over Wilby, 24 to 22, in the Boys Basketball Jamboree the next weekend.

GIRLS JAMBOREE RESULTS:

1st qtr: Holy Cross 19,
Crosby 7
2nd qtr: Chase Collegiate 13
Wilby 10
3rd qtr (semifinal):
Holy Cross 19
Sacred Heart 7
4th qtr (semifinal)
Chase Collegiate 10
Kennedy 4
5th qtr (consolation):
Kennedy 12
Crosby 6



6th qtr (consolation):
Wilby 22
Sacred Heart 15
Final Championship:
Holy Cross 28
Chase Collegiate 10

BOYS JAMBOREE RESULTS

1st qtr: Holy Cross 23,
Crosby 13
2nd qtr: Wilby 20
Chase Collegiate 8
3rd qtr (semifinal):
Holy Cross 17
Sacred Heart 11
4th qtr (semifinal)
Wilby 18
Kennedy 13
5th qtr (consolation):
Crosby 15
Kennedy 14
6th qtr (consolation):
Chase Collegiate 19
Sacred Heart 11
Final Championship:
Holy Cross 24
Wilby 22



Constitution Day at W. Wilson School

Students at Woodrow Wilson School learned more about the Constitution during a special visit by Attorney Anthony R. Minchella. Shown at left with Atty. Minchella is student Shaira Ortega.



School Governance Councils (continued from page 8)

In addition to School Governance Councils' responsibilities, it is also important to recognize the limits of their advisory function. The duties of School Governance Councils do not entail activities including, but not limited to:

- managing the school;
- supervising staff;
- entering into contracts or purchase agreements;
- discussing individual issues between teachers and students and/or parents;
- determining student eligibility for school admission; or
- determining class allocations or student assignments.

After being in place for three years, a council may vote to recommend that a school be reconstituted using one of the following models for reconstitution: (1) turnaround; (2) restart; (3) transformation; (4) CommPact school; (5) innovation school; and (6) any other model developed under federal law. However, a council cannot vote to reconstitute a school if it was already reconstituted for another purpose. The statute provides a process whereby the council's recommendation for reconstitution must be heard by the local board of education which must accept, modify or reject the proposal. In a case where the council and the local board of education cannot agree on reconstitution, the Commissioner of Education must decide. The State Board of Education cannot allow more than 25 schools per year to be reconstituted under this law.

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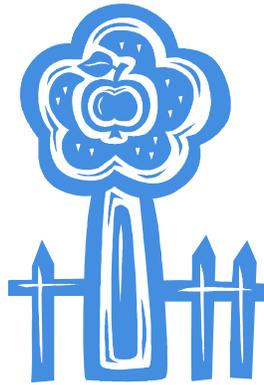
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Community Leader, Beloved Partner of Education Passes On



In memory of Hector Riollano, the Carrington 1st grade team planted a tree at the school on Wednesday, October 13th at 10:00am. "Hector worked tirelessly with our bilingual students, always making the time he spent with them seem special and as if they were the only student he came to see that day. We all appreciated the time and energy he gave to our students," staff said. .

Hector also made a difference to many parents of Carrington's bilingual program. He reached out to them through the school's monthly meetings with the kindergarten and 1st grade parents. These meetings and hands on workshops, which started several years ago, will continue on.



A Poem for Hector

We all need to be led by someone wiser;
We all need someone with a heart of compassion,
full of encouragement, and patience;
Someone who accepts us just as we are,
Someone who sees potential and
believes that the best in us, will shine through. . .
A teacher, a mentor, someone who no matter the challenge,
regardless of the opposition, not only guides academically,
but also instill moral and ethical values.
We all need someone to encourage us
to be the best we can be.

To so many Hector was that someone!