

# Waterbury Public Schools News Update

Vol. 12, Issue 4

April, May, June 2011

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## Rotella Principal Gina Calabrese is Magnet Schools of America National Principal of the Year



Rotella Principal Gina Calabrese poses with Governor Dannel Malloy and Senator Robert Kane (32nd District).

Rotella Magnet School Principal Gina Calabrese was named the 2011 National Principal of the Year by the Magnet School of America. According to the MSA web site, the Principal of the Year Award recognizes outstanding school leaders who have succeeded in providing innovative programs that promote equity, diversity and academic excellence in magnet schools throughout the nation.

Autumn McDonald, a fifth grader at Rotella, also won the poster contest this year.

In 2007 Rotella was awarded the Dr. Ronald P. Simpson Distinguished Merit Award by the Magnet Schools of America. This is the top award for magnet schools in the nation and is given to only one school each year from among those named Schools of Excellence. Joan Dooling, a fifth grade teacher at Rotella, was named the Magnet Schools of America Teacher of the Year last year at a ceremony in Tampa, Florida during MSA's annual national conference. Earlier last year, she had been named Region I Teacher of the Year by the same group.

## James Butler, WAMS, Named Waterbury Teacher of the Year



Waterbury Teacher of the Year James Butler with Principal Elizabeth McGrath.

**James Butler** exemplifies what great teaching looks like and his students leave with confidence and exceptional content knowledge, ready to meet the challenges of the world. Whether in the cafeteria, on bus duty or as co-advisor of the senior class, Mr. Butler possesses the innate ability, through compassion and reasoning, to have garnered the respect of colleagues and students in any situation. Jamie has been teaching for twelve years and is an outstanding Social Studies teacher and mentor. He develops and implements lessons that are steeped in authentic tasks by placing students in the moment that is being examined and by aligning connections to the curriculum of other disciplines (art, theater).

## Partners With The Community



Right: Principal Robin Henry thanks Cole Mascolo, who asked second graders at St. Tomas Aquinas School to help him collect books and other items for Wilson students.

### NEJ, Inc. Helps Renovate Wilson School Gym



Once again NEJ, Inc. has offered to help Woodrow Wilson School, this time by providing funds to install new bleachers and refinish the floor. NEJ, Inc. founder and president Edward Mascolo was on hand, along with staff and members of his family, to watch as students and staff competed against each other in a PBIS basketball game - all part of a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony for the renovated gym.

The Masters Golf Tournament is one of the most widely watched sporting event on television, and we are proud to announce that a Wilby High School student, Jasmine Wade, and her AP teacher, Jade Gopie, were the stars of some of the television commercials shown nationally during that event. The commercials were taped and sponsored by ExxonMobil, as part of their support for Project Opening Doors, which encourages high school students to take AP courses. If you did not get a chance to see these commercials, the company provided us with a link:

The link is: [mynmsistory.com](http://mynmsistory.com)

This was part of Exxon Mobil's support of the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI), which was launched in 2007 by top leaders in business, education, and science to reverse the United States' troubling decline in math and science education. The essence of the National Math and Science Initiative is finding proven programs that are producing real results in the lives of students and teachers and expanding them across the nation.



### WALLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL'S DRUM LINE AND BAND PERFORM AT NEW BRITAIN ROCK CATS GAME

(WATERBURY, Conn. - May 10, 2011) - Under the direction of music teacher Louis Pontecorvo, Wallace Middle School's band and drum line performed the "Star Spangled Banner" and other songs at the New Britain Rock Cats baseball game at New Britain Stadium on Thursday, May 5, 2011, in New Britain.

## Teacher of the Year (continued)

### 2011 Teacher of the Year Award Winners

Barnard	Frances Finkenzeller
Brooklyn	Carla Fidanza
Bucks Hill	Mary Wozniak
Bucks Hill Pre-K	Heidi Fay
Bunker Hill	Michael T. Labagh
Carrington	Pia Behlman
Chase	Julia Matthews
W. Cross	Johnna DiVito
Driggs	Brenda Falcone
Generali	Nikki Barbieri
Gilmartin	Teresa Morais
Kingsbury	Eric Feeney
Maloney	Domenica Zurlo
Regan	Marion Ciarlo
Rotella	Kelly Pinho
Sprague	Maureen Miller
Tinker	Jennifer Dimech
Walsh	Yvonne Brown
Washington	Allysa J. Lombardo
Wilson	Tara Schulte



North End  
Wallace  
West Side  
Crosby  
Kennedy  
Wilby  
Waterbury Arts Magnet  
Enlightenment / State St.

Maria N. Pesce  
Sharyn Ogrodnik  
Marla Valente  
Jennifer Stone  
David A. Peruta  
Raymond Byron  
James C. Butler  
Dana Coelho

## Retirees Honored by Board of Education

Educators retiring from the Waterbury Public Schools were honored at a reception before the Board of Education meeting on June 13. This year's retirees included:

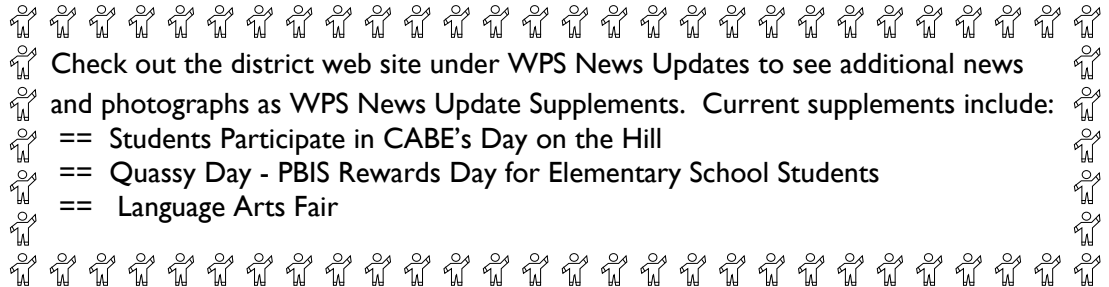
Orphine Barrett	Generali, Gr. 5
Marilyn Bartkus	Carrington, Gr. 1
Patricia Bostwick	Barnard, Speech
Frank Bunker	Wilby, Tech Ed
Concetta Campisi	Crosby, Foreign Lang.
Kathleen Cardino	Excel Program
Rossana Crudele	Wilby, Foreign Lang.
Deborah Dunn	Wilby, Special Ed.
Jorge Fontan	Carrington, ESL
Suzanne Franson	West Side, Social Studies
Janet Holmes	Bunker Hill, Library
Ellen Keating-Cleary	North End, Special Ed.
Anita Lavado	Crosby, Social Studies
Louise Mancini	WAMS, Psychologist
Charles Nappi	West Side, Principal
John Naugle	WAMS, Physics
Judith Nocera	State St., Special Ed.
John Orzechowski, Jr.	Generali, Speech
Linda Panetta	Crosby, Library
Michelle Pellet	Sprague, Kindergarten
Arthur Principe	various, music



Antoinette Rinaldi  
Dale Smith  
Carmelina Staffieri  
James Vicario  
Dianne Wallace  
Vivian Walsh

Driggs, Pre-K  
Regan, Gr. 4  
Kennedy, Special Ed.  
Wilby, Vice Principal  
West Side, Library  
Driggs

## Brief Notes From Around the District


 Check out the district web site under WPS News Updates to see additional news and photographs as WPS News Update Supplements. Current supplements include:  
 == Students Participate in CAFE's Day on the Hill  
 == Quassy Day - PBIS Rewards Day for Elementary School Students  
 == Language Arts Fair

### Winners from this year's Olympics of the Mind were:

Carrington School third graders and Kingsbury School fifth graders took home first place trophies in their respective divisions at the recent Olympics of the Mind competition in the Waterbury Public Schools. The annual event provides an opportunity for teams of third and fifth graders to demonstrate their knowledge on a broad range of subjects while competing for trophies and the honor of being the best. The final round of competition is broadcast live on WATR radio.

#### **THIRD GRADE:**

##### Round Two Third Grade Divisional Winners:

(1st, 2nd, 3rd):

North: Carrington, Kingsbury, Bucks Hill

West: Maloney, Tinker, Driggs

East: Rotella, Chase, Wendell Cross

##### Round Three District Winners:

Carrington

#### **FIFTH GRADE**

##### Round Two Fifth Grade Divisional Winners:

North: Kingsbury, Carrington, Regan

West: Tinker, Maloney, Hopeville

East: Rotella, Chase, Generali

##### Round Three District Winners:

Kingsbury

#### **Round One was a competition for individual students:**

##### Individual High Score

Third Grade: Braeden Gorman

Fifth Grade: Anna Lala

##### Individual High Score for Alternates:

Third Grade: Joseph Amato

Fifth Grade: Edalynn Torres



## Brief Notes (continued)



**PEACE POSTER CONTEST** - This year's annual Lions Club Peace Poster contest winners were: (L-R first row) Oneisha Clark, North End Middle School; Logan Bandellone, Waterbury Arts Magnet School; and Madenh Veliju, West Side Middle School, who was represented by art teacher Mark Daniels. The awards were given out during a luncheon by Lions Club members (L-R, back row) Walter Sherman, district governor; Lisa Martin, president, and Mike Granituk, poster contest chairmen for the Waterbury chapter.

Crosby High School's Lifesmarts Team once again was named Connecticut State Champions and earned the right to compete in Hollywood California against the rest of the nation. Teacher Donna Mancuso is the advisor for the team.



Kennedy High School's FIRST Robotics team competed at the FIRST Robotics Competition, Connecticut Regional on Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. The team worked several months to build a mini-bot, with the help and guidance of teachers and community mentors.

The Kennedy team won a \$1,000 award called "Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies." This particular award was co-sponsored by Aetna and FIRST Robotics. It promoted "healthy minds" through FIRST Robotics and "healthy bodies" through student submissions to Aetna. Kennedy students, lead by Andre Somerville, submitted items such as healthy recipes, healthy food pictures, and a health-themed comic strip supporting their "healthy bodies". Each item submitted was worth a certain point value, and the school team tied with one other team for 1st place. As a result, the original \$2000 award was split so that each team received \$1000.

Math Teacher Vincent Balsamo is the advisor for the team.

Kennedy's The Eagle Flyer has won three 2011 New England Scholastic Press Association awards for:

- \* Feature story; "One girl strives to find cure for cancer" by Alyssa Smith
- \* Feature photo; "Could Oceans Divide be Kennedy's best rock band?" by Katianna Seman
- \* Highest Achievement for Newspapers, Class I (with more than 1,000 students); The Eagle Flyer, Kennedy High School.

This brings the total of journalism awards to 44 since the newspaper was reinvented in 2004. The students are thrilled, and the best part is many are freshmen and sophomores who are getting more and more excited about reading and writing!

## Superintendent's Student Recognition Awards

Students from across the district were honored May 6 for their contributions to their school community and for their student leadership, as well as for their academic achievements. Two pre-school students received Bright Futures Awards, while 54 students, including one representing Waterbury Adult Education, received Certificates of Excellence. Each of the students had been identified by their schools as having demonstrated exemplary behavior and service to their schools and the community.

**The students who received certificates are:**

### BRIGHT FUTURES AWARDS

Bucks Hill Annex  
Alison Gonzales and Shayla Zhizhpan

### CERTIFICATES OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

#### Elementary Schools

Barnard	Gexiera Derisier
Brooklyn	Isaac Smyth
Buck's Hill	Wilson Rolon
Bunker Hill	Melina Kolonja
Carrington	Silvia Lopez
Chase	Alyssa Dotson
W. Cross	Marena Melendez
Driggs	Kashon Young
Generali	Sarah Glaser
Gilmartin	Jonathan Serrano
Gilmartin	Lilliano Pedro
Hopeville	Elias DeJesus
Kingsbury	Vod Vilfort
Maloney	Shynia Moore
Regan	Fatmir Kaliki
Rotella	Fuka Asahi
Sprague	Hennesis Estevez
Tinker	Rebekah Hedgeland-Merancy
Walsh	Ameika King
Washington	Lilliana Lopez
W. Wilson	Carly Rosa

#### Middle and High Schools

North End	Orlando DeJesus
North End	Joseph Paduano
North End	Joshua Adorno
Wallace	Sebastian Corrales
Wallace	Klea Kaso
Wallace	Deborah Vaichus
Wallace	Phalen Smith
Wallace	Dea Ballij
Wallace	Brielle Sanders
West Side	Tea Culani
West Side	John Albino



Following the event, Carrington School winner Silvia Lopez poses with her family and school staff.



West Side	Christian Tynan
West Side	Cesar Quintal
West Side	Mirna Hanna
West Side	Angelica Pollard-Knight
Waterbury Arts Magnet	Blessing Zenick
Waterbury Arts Magnet	Ryan Trochsler
Waterbury Arts Magnet	Ashley Stewart
Waterbury Arts Magnet	Max Tanguay-Colucci
Crosby	Aujanique Nichols
Crosby	Jorna Sojati
Crosby	Daniel Brito
Crosby	Dilan Mohammed
Kennedy	Keely Bergin
Kennedy	Victoria Heyde
Kennedy	Maria Alejandro
	Rodriquez
Kennedy	Arturo Pelegrin
Wilby	Brandon Ralph
Wilby	Samantha Cassell
Wilby	Francisco Garcia
Wilby	Reynaldo Morillo
Enlightenment	Angel Rodriguez
State St.	Dayshawn Smith

#### Adult Education

Waterbury Adult Education Tyrone Smith

## World Wide Connections ....



Photos from the WAMS student Council trip to Berlin, Warsaw, Auschwitz and Krakow: Students in front of murals on the Berlin Walls, waiting for the train to Poland at the Berlin station, looking out over the huge expanse of Auschwitz, reflecting on the painful memories and sites just seen.



On April 15th 12 students and 2 teachers from Waterbury Arts Magnet School (Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Quatrocchocci) traveled to Europe. The purpose of the trip was to travel to WWII and Cold War sites. The students received journals prior to departure and were encouraged to write their thoughts after each site. Beside the concentration camp, students visited Check Point Charlie, the Berlin Wall, specific historical sites such as the Brandenburg gate, the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw, the place of the uprising, a Jewish cemetery, the gates of Swindler's factory, the salt mines and two museums dealing with the cold war and the holocaust.



On Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> the Deputy of Education for the Province of Toulouse, France and representatives from the Center for the Toulouse-Connecticut Partnership visited Walsh School to discuss the Enhancing Literacy Through School Libraries Grant in which fifth grade teachers and students are telecommunicating with teachers and students in France (and China). During the visit, Walsh School students demonstrated how they research facts about Waterbury and Connecticut to share with their French peers, and visitors had an opportunity to "see" some of the French students online who have already posted greetings for their American counterparts.

All fifth graders are participating in the project this year, with Carrington School students matched with Chinese students. Carrington School Principal Kevin Brennan visited China recently and developed a connection with Chinese educators.

## Safe Routes to Schools / Health Initiative



Mark Fenton, a nationally recognized advocate for health initiatives, was the guest speaker at a Community Workshop at Gilmartin School, on April 29. Mr. Fenton, a recognized expert on public health issues and the need for community plans and initiatives around healthy living, was in town to promote a “safe routes to school” program and walking as a way to combat obesity.

Last year several members of the Waterbury Community attended a conference in Washington D.C. “Activate America”. The conference focused on the nation’s growing health crisis and how communities and school districts can participate in a national movement to support a healthier lifestyle for its citizens and students. The Healthy Kids / Healthy Communities strand focused on strategies to support the following goals/priorities:

- Childhood obesity crisis
- Healthy eating among children
- Physical Activity Standards for children
- School Vending
- Community Gardens
- Safe Routes To Schools

Upon its return, the members of this community group began planning ways to get Waterbury involved in the Healthy Kids / Healthy Communities initiative. Part of that initiative was to invite Mr. Fenton to visit Waterbury and to lead a community walk for health. Another part was to apply for funding to build new sidewalks in areas such as the neighborhood around Gilmartin School. Many students live within walking distance of Gilmartin School but do not walk in part because of the lack of sidewalks.





## Waterbury Students Care .....



### March 11, 2011 --- Earthquake and tsunami hits Japan.

*Waterbury's students and staff responded to the news with typical compassion. Schools immediately began raising funds to help those devastated by these natural disasters, and teachers used the event to spur discussions on earth science, Japanese culture, world history and more.*

Fifth grade students at Gilmartin School responded to news of the devastation in Japan by reading the story *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. In order to help the relief effort in Japan, they began collecting money to send to the Japanese Red Cross. The fifth grade classes also asked that all classes assist them by crafting paper cranes to hang in the school's lobby. The goal was to create 1,000 paper cranes to visually represent the effort. Teachers estimated that if each student made three cranes, they would meet the goal. The staff sent out a link to a website that has a video clip with step-by-step directions.

<http://www.informeddemocracy.com/sadako/craneFoldingVidQT.html>

Here is a website that includes a video clip of the story.

<http://www.informeddemocracy.com/sadako/contents.html>

Gilmartin 5th Grade teachers Roberta Pannone and Shernett Evans-Foster coordinated the effort..



story continues on page 10

## Waterbury Students Care (continued)

Student Peer Helper Groups at Bucks Hill School and the Kingsbury Student Peer Helpers and Student Council also ran fundraisers to raise money for the earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan. At Bucks Hill School, Peer Helpers organized the fundraising effort, and at Kingsbury, the Peer Helpers group teamed up with the Student Council students to carry out the "Coins For Japan" project. These student groups consist of 4th and 5th grade students who meet regularly throughout the school year to learn and practice leadership skills while planning and organizing various service projects throughout the school year.

Bucks Hill families also gave generously at the April Open House Night, and teachers, staff and students at both schools opened their hearts, wallets and piggy banks for a four week period as Peer Helpers collected and counted donations. At Kingsbury, separate coin drives were held by Ms. Dibella's fourth graders and Ms. Polletta's fifth graders, who then added their funds to the school's total.

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Maloney School students also worked hard to raise funds for Japanese relief efforts. In addition to collecting money, the school held a pasta dinner fundraiser, organized by a group of parents who were originally supposed to visit the country this summer with teachers Jessica Haxhi and Kazumi Yamashita. After the trip was cancelled, the parents decided to hold the fundraiser with 100% of any profits going to the Red Cross. A representative from the Red Cross came in to speak during the dinner. Parents and students worked together at the dinner, and teachers donated almost all of the food.

Students raised over \$3100 before the fundraiser dinner.

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For six years, Chase Elementary School has been donating to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's School and Youth program called "Pennies for Patients", which is a service learning program in which kids collect spare change from their homes to help those afflicted with blood cancers. The money raised supports patient's services to improve the quality of life of those living with these cancers and research to find a cure.

The whole school has had fun with collecting the Pennies for Patients for the sixth year. The teachers also used the pennies collected in their classes to teach how to add and multiply. All the students are motivated by a pizza party, but the true skill learned is giving and being grateful. Many students actually bring in their piggy banks and the collections from their parents work places. The increase in donation amounts has surprising increased every year, here at Chase in 2009 the school donated \$ 1,200, 2010 with the recession and unemployment the amount increased to \$1,600, and this year we celebrated the amount of \$2,615! This shows that Chase Elementary School students and families are motivated to help our community.



## Waterbury Students Care (continued)

Christine Turbitt, a Kingsbury School gym teacher, organized an April 29 Jump Rope for Heart event at Kingsbury. The children were asked to get sponsors to help raise money for the American Heart Association. Kingsbury School raised an amazing **\$3,460.92 !!**



Many other schools participated in the Jump Rope for Heart program. Bunker Hill School reported they raised almost \$2,000. Tinker School raised \$2,829 for the American Heart Association, beating last year's mark by over \$500.

Maloney School students participated in Heifer International's READ TO FEED program and raised \$4025.63 for families in the United States and around the world. The students got sponsors for their reading at home and kept track of their time reading. The money is then spent on animals and training to enable poor families to become self sufficient.

A representative from Heifer International came to the school to accept the money and say a few words. This was broadcast on closed circuit TV during morning announcements.

North End Middle School students raised over \$5,000 this past year for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Crosby had 90 students signed up to participate in Waterbury's Earth Day Cleanup this year. Crosby students have helped out every year for the last 7yrs with this year being the 8th year! While there were only three students that first year and more than 50 students the second year, the school's participation grew to three 3 bus loads (arranged by the city) that take anywhere from 80-120 students each year out to clean the streets of Waterbury! Science teacher Margaret Jackson helps coordinate this effort every year and provided information for this story.

### Brief News (continued)



On Wednesday, April 6th, 18 students from Wallace Middle School participated in the state-wide Science/Technology Education Invention Convention Day for the first time. The event was held at the State Capitol, with students from throughout the state participating. The students worked extremely hard on their project invention ideas and had an opportunity to showcase them to State Senators and Representatives throughout the day. The Wallace students also had an opportunity to meet and greet Governor Malloy following his address to the students.

On April 26, the Grade 7 Middle School Accelerated Academy students and the Focus students participated in a special program from Johns Hopkins University that allowed them to take the SAT Exam while in middle school. Preliminary results indicate that 37 students out of the 140 students who participated in the exam earned a sufficiently high score to enable them to participate in the summer session that offered as part of this special program. That is approximately 26% who have qualified from Waterbury.

Some of you may have noticed that the Channel 16 bulletin board has a new look, including a weather page feature, giving up-to-date information on weather conditions at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School using the free service WeatherBug. The system was updated recently with a new server and updated software.

## Brief News (continued)

Waterbury received a check for a little more than \$7,000 from Naugatuck Valley Community College that will be used, along with a previous check for \$3,000, to purchase 125 Public Speaking textbooks for a dual articulation class at all four high schools and the Enlightenment Program, at a total cost of \$10,218. Students taking this course in the English department during senior year will also earn 3 college credits in English from Naugatuck Valley Community College.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Halo Awards were presented recently. Winners from Waterbury schools include:

- Best Contemporary Play (Post 1965) - *Joe Turner Has Come and Gone* (WAMS)
- Best Incidental Music in a Play – *Servant of Two Masters* (WAMS)
- Fearless Award (Musical) – *42<sup>nd</sup> Street* (WAMS)
- Best Special Effects by a Student – Domenic DelCarmine for filming and editing of all scenes that occurred in other locations for *42nd Street* (WAMS)
- Artistic Directors Award – Timothy Floyd (WAMS)

Walsh School held another very successful Annual Community Day this year. This annual event continues to grow in popularity. This year's parade was led by the Berkley Knights, and Commissioner O'Leary joined in the march as well. The Fire Department provided a fire truck and smoke house which was parked in the PAL lot. Once again, Walsh School children modeled clothing from Acts 4 Ministries. Tom Chute from WATR radio served as Master of Ceremonies. There were 54 service agencies represented. Also, the school held a raffle and sent home over 100 bags of groceries, donated by the service agencies.



This year the event was open to families from surrounding schools. Attendees included ninety-four Walsh School parents, thirteen families from Wilson and four from Regan. In total, 692 lunches were served.



This year, the school also reached out to the deaf community by having a world renown Deaf actor perform along with interpreters from Northwestern Community College. Interpreters practiced their skills and received interpreter credits for attendance.

Bunker Hill was visited by Ronald McDonald on April 27. The presentation was called "It's Book Time with Ronald McDonald". The program incorporated music, magic, student-teacher interaction and games to encourage student's love of reading. Grades Pre-K through 2 attended.

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## Intake Center, Bilingual Education, Special Education and Other Offices Move Into One Jefferson Square



Most telephone numbers and fax numbers remain the same. Intake Center and Bilingual Education office is located on the first floor, along with WIC. Special Education offices are located on the fifth floor. School / Community Relations and Competitive Grants offices are located on the Garden Level.

## Waterbury Breaks Ground for New Rev. Jonathan Reed School



Members of Rev. Reed's family and friends were on hand for the April 26, 2011 ground-breaking.

## Community Invited to Look at Preliminary Plans for New Pre-K to 8th Grade Carrington School



Plans are still being finalized for the new Pre-K to 8th Grade Carrington School. The school is , scheduled to open for the 2013-2014 school year.