

# WATERBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWS UPDATE

Volume 9, Issue 2

January / February 2008

SCHOOL / COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## Connecticut Appellate Court on Tour: Judges Hear Cases at Waterbury's Wilby High School

The Connecticut Appellate Court traveled to Wilby High School in Waterbury on Wednesday, November 28, 2007, to hear arguments in two cases. The arguments took place in the main auditorium at Wilby.

The court's appearance at Wilby is part of an ongoing educational initiative of the Connecticut Judicial Branch to introduce students, educators, and the general public to the role and responsibilities of the court system. This program began over 20 years ago and this visit marks the fifth time that the judges have held arguments at a high school. Prior to the oral arguments, members of the Waterbury Bar Association will meet with the students to discuss the court system and provide an overview of the cases to be argued.



Before the event, Appellate Court Chief Judge Joseph P. Flynn said: "Judge William Lavery, Judge Thomas West, and I are very pleased to sit at Wilby because Waterbury is one of our most important judicial centers, and I believe this will give the students greater understanding of our legal process."

Waterbury Superintendent of Schools David L. Snead, Ph.D. commented: "This is a wonderful chance

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### Special points of interest:

- Bravo to Our Waterbury Staff will be found on page 3
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- Article Ideas? See page 12

## Partners In Education



The Sixth Graders at North End Middle School participated in the Math-a-thon and raised \$1200.00 for the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Their goal was \$500.00. The students really worked hard and enjoyed completing math problems for a good cause!

### “How the weather works”

Art Horn visited third graders at Maloney Magnet School on Friday, January 11 and gave a presentation on How the Weather Works:

During the 55 minute weather lesson, he explained how the sun warms the earth and how this impacts the movement of molecules in solids, liquids and gases; how the changing angle of the sun through the year makes the seasons, how the sun affects the water cycle and how water circulates through the Earth's crust, oceans and atmosphere. He showed students how living near water affects the weather. With beautiful, big bright images he illustrated how water causes erosion and forms rivers. He also explained such weather phenomenon as thunderstorms, hail, lightning, tornadoes as well as snow storms and hurricanes.

Mr. Horn has been a meteorologist who worked on television here in Connecticut for more than 25 years and has made educational presentations to students about the weather for the last 20 years.

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for students here in Waterbury to see what really goes on in a courtroom. We have a number of talented, highly gifted students who might be considering a career in law, and this will give them an opportunity to see what it takes to succeed on a higher level. They may have watched courtroom dramas on television, but this will show them the reality of an appellate court proceeding. This is the type of opportunity that could truly motivate our students to strive for a career in the law.”

Wilby Principal Robyn Apicella said, “Our students will get a better understanding of what it might be like to be a lawyer or a judge, and the importance of the appellate process. We especially welcome the opportunity to share this with students in other Waterbury high schools. Even though we have to limit the number of students who will be allowed to participate, we felt it was important to provide this experience for students throughout Waterbury.”

Waterbury attorney Maurice Mosley requested that the Appellate Court hold hearings at a Waterbury public school. His reasoning for the request: “Many students in Waterbury want to be lawyers. Seeing lawyers and judges at an Appellate Court session in their school helps the students to connect school with careers.”

The first case, **Maureen Murphy v. Lord Thompson Manor, Inc.**, will be heard at 9:30 a.m., and involves a tort issue: Whether the defendant's conduct was sufficiently unreasonable or egregious as to support a claim for negligent infliction of emotional distress and whether the damages

## Bravo To Our Best—News About Waterbury Staff

Several Waterbury school projects were funded recently by the Margaret M. Generali Foundation. The projects were:

- "Supplemental Intervention Reading Program" - Sarah LaChapelle, Kingsbury School
- "Rockin Around NYC" - Alyssa Lombardo, Washington School
- "Introduction to the Holocaust Through Literature" - Catherine Leogrande, North End Middle School
- "Exploration of World Culture, An Integrated Project" - Jennifer Kizis, Maloney Magnet
- "Poetry Shop" – Suzanne Dali\_Parker, Tinker School
- "Digging Up Literacy" – Dale O'Leary, Lisa Gabriel, and Alicia Schiavo, Washington School
- "Cultural Awareness Regarding Ethnicity" – Maureen McCasland, Barnard School
- "A Smart Way to Teach" – Kevin Egan, Tinker School
- "Books on the Bookshelf" – Andrea Lund-Teixeira, Driggs School
- "TumbleBook Library" – Terri Miller, Generali School



Court—continued from page 2

awarded were excessive. Arguments will last for approximately 40 minutes, to be followed by a 20-minute question-and-answer period, in which the judges do not participate.

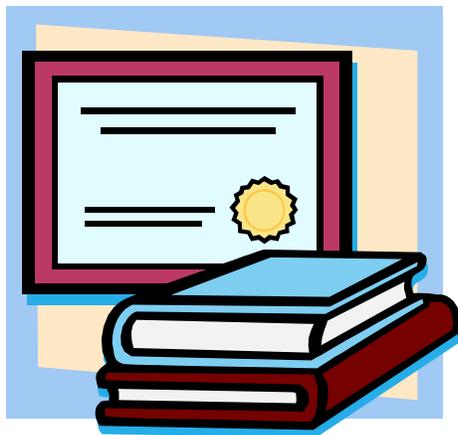
The second case, **Theresa Sokaitis v. Rose Bakaysa**, will be heard at 10:30 a.m., and involves wagering contracts: Whether an agreement to share winnings from lottery and casino games is unenforceable by law. A question-and-answer period will follow the arguments. Again, the judges will not participate in the question-and-answer period.



Wilby High School culinary students prepared breakfast for the judges, lawyers, court staff, and invited guests.



## BRIEF SCHOOL NOTES AND PICTURES



Sprague School had winners in the 2007 CHET College Savings Challenge - a first time creative writing and art contest designed to encourage students in grades K-6 to start thinking about their future.

They will be honored at an awards event in Hartford next week.

Winners:

Grade 1: Michael Matta - 3rd place

Josue Feliciano - Honorable Mention

Brittany Arroyo - 2nd place

Crystal McLellan - 3rd place

Grade 4: Noah Duarte - 2nd place

Michael Nieves - 3rd place

Melissa Soto - 1st place

Six students from Tinker School were selected to learn more about leading their classmates and serving as role models when they attended an elementary school-level student leadership training conference on January 10, 2008.

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual conference, sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools provided students with the opportunity to attend sessions in productive thinking, decision making, and problem solving with over 200 other students from around the state.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students selected by the staff at Tinker School were Jocelyn Jacovino from Nicola Buonocore's class, Ilea Blocker from Michele Valenti's class, Kristi Zisi and Kimberley Woodin from Nancy DeVlyder's class, and Samantha Decena and Luis Andrade from Christine DeSanto's class.

Photo from left to right:

Kristi Zisi, Luis Andrade, Samantha Decena, Ilea Blocker, Jocelyn Jacovino, and Kimberley Woodin.



## BRIEF SCHOOL NOTES AND PICTURES

On Saturday January 26th, WAMS theatre staff and students hosted the CT Educational Theatre Festival. It was a great event that included student participation in workshops and performances with presenters and judges from Connecticut's leading theatres. Four students received a Superior rating for their work in the Individual Event session. This rating qualifies them to attend and participate in the Individual Event sessions at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska in June!!!

Superior ratings went to --

Megan Puttre from Old Saybrook High School for her performance in Solo Musical Theatre.

From Waterbury Arts Magnet School Superior ratings were received by Caitlin Belforti for her performance in Monologues, Steve Valenzuela for his performance in Monologues, and Zack Heidorn for his performances in both Monologues and Solo Musical Theatre.

Again, congratulations for outstanding participation on the part of the WAMS theater department staff and students.

## NORTH END RAM RAISES THE B-A-A-R FOR ATTENDANCE, BEHAVIOR

This year, North End Middle School's mascot, the Ram, participated in the opening day assembly on Wednesday, August 29, to announce its message: If we are Respectful, if we have a good Attitude, if we are Motivated to learn, we will be Successful! RAMS RULE!

Students must be present in order to learn: The Data Team, a group of teachers and administrators at North End Middle School, is working to improve attendance by rewarding students just for showing up. Once a month, on an unpublicized date, an award will be given to one student in each grade. The catch? The student must be present in order to claim his or her reward. By satisfying their desire for external rewards, students with historically poor attendance may be motivated to attend school more often, and students with good attendance will have the extra benefit of being eligible for rewards.

Once students are in class, they must be willing to learn: To that end, the team has instituted an ongoing reward system for positive behavior. The first reward, which take place in early October, was a field day for every student not referred for disciplinary action during August and September. In addition, faculty will be provided with suggestions for rewards to give students when they show exceptional behavior. By receiving immediate rewards reinforced with long-term rewards, students will get the instant gratification they desire while learning that long-term rewards are worth the effort.

The NEMS Ram hopes that all students and faculty will get on the b-a-a-ndwagon and make this a b-a-a-nner year!

Submitted by Kathey Makowski



## BRIEF SCHOOL NOTES AND PICTURES

Last March, at a pep rally celebrating the kick off to the CMT's, Wendell Cross Principal Joseph Amato issued a challenge to his students: "Do good on the CMT's and I will kiss a pig. Make AYP and I will shave my beard and mustache for the first time in 26 years!" (since leaving the Marines). The students met his challenge and not only did they do good, they achieved AYP and Wendell Cross was one of only 8 schools in the state to come off the NCLB's "in need of improvement list"!



On September 6, Mr. Amato made good his promise and shaved in front of the entire school and then, clean shaven, he kissed a pig that was borrowed from Kelly Cronin's Farm on Wheels. (Mrs. Cronin is the Executive Director of Waterbury Youth Services). Assistant Superintendent Dr. Paul Sequiera also kissed the pig.



## BRIEF SCHOOL NOTES AND PICTURES

## ROTELLA HONORS VETERANS

On Friday, November 9, 2007 the Rotella Magnet School's Forever Wave Squad honored the Waterbury Veterans' Memorial Committee with a Veteran's Day Breakfast. Col. John Chiarella, Sam Beamon, Mary Kight, and John Sarlo spoke to an assembly of students about their service to our country prior to the breakfast.



Picture 9842- Front Row(L toR)- Alexander Matos, Suzana Amaral, Katie Keane, Tyler Manix, Nadia Soterion, Col. John Chiarella. Second row: Blessing Zenick, Ryan Hamel, Riley Mulhall, Mrs. Ann Chiarella. Third row: John Sarlo, Mrs. Mary Kight. Back: Sam Beamon



Kennedy High School's Advanced Placement English Literature seniors from left, Brion Nelson, Amir Mualem, Emilee Roethlein, Alexander Rubbo, Nicholas Moutinho, Anisa Barolli, Chaz Ollero, Daniela Montes, Alyssa Cook, Christina Shin, Joseph DaSilva, and Christine Biolo planted 30 mums donated by Shop Rite of Waterbury this fall. With the help of Mr. Sam Goodman and the Kennedy custodial staff, students beautified the front lawn of their Highland Avenue school.

Kennedy High School students in the Young Educators Society have been visiting students at Barnard school as mentors and Tutors. In December the students came to celebrate the holidays and sing songs with Mrs. McCaslands class. Their advisors are Mrs. Griffin and Mrs. Langlais.

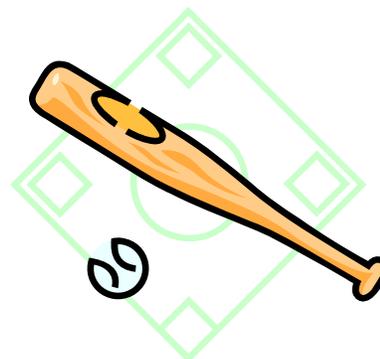


Kennedy High School students had an opportunity to get a close-up look at a military helicopter this fall. The helicopter—from the National Guard—landed on the field behind the school.

Kennedy High School students Christina Shin (left) and Daniela Montes spent Christmas Eve volunteering at Waterbury's Barnes and Noble bookstore. For the fifth consecutive year, Kennedy's SOAR students and Eagle Flyer newspaper staff members volunteered more than 60 hours of gift wrapping and spreading holiday cheer since Thanksgiving. Montes served as Student Coordinator along with senior Christine Biolo.



Generali School celebrated the Boston Red Sox participation in the World Series with a Boston Red Sox Day at the school. Students wore red and brought in items to remind them of their favorite team as they cheered the Sox on...



BRIEF SCHOOL NOTES AND PICTURES



Picture 100 1134- Author and Senior Vice Commandant, Mr. Samuel K. Beamon, reads aloud to first grade Rotella Magnet School students at the "Books Before Bedtime" Literacy Night held at Rotella on January 23, 2008.



*Barnard School celebrated **Read Across America Day** with special guest readers and the Bee from Home Town Buffet.*

Picture 100 1137- Waterbury Board of Education Commissioner, Mr. John Theriault reads aloud to Jasmine Roman and other third grade students at the "Books Before Bedtime" Literacy Night held at Rotella Magnet School on January 23, 2008.



Waterbury's Board of Aldermen Majority Leader Paul Pernerewski, Jr. read aloud to students at Hopeville School and then answered questions as part of the school's celebration of reading.



B.W. Tinker School held a school wide event on February 29th in celebration of Reading Across America. Guest readers included Bob Sagendorf, Paul Ciochetti, Pat Moran, local firemen, as well as more local dignitaries

## BRIEF SCHOOL NOTES AND PICTURES

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

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

### **April 1 Deadline**

Teachers must submit completed essays by April 1 to: Quassy Mother's Day Essay Contest, P.O. Box 1107, Middlebury, CT 06762.

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

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

Questions? Contact Ron Gustafson, director of public relations/educational programs, Quassy Amusement Park.

[ron@quassy.com](mailto:ron@quassy.com)

203-758-2913 ext. 109

### **Other 2008 Educational Programs at Quassy:**

- \* Art In The Park student art competition set for May 10
- \* 'Our School, Our Future' photo essay contest. Win digital cameras!
- \* Journalism workshop
- \* Photography workshop
- \* Physics tour - guided
- \* History tour - guided
- \* 'Wacky Science' interactive stage present

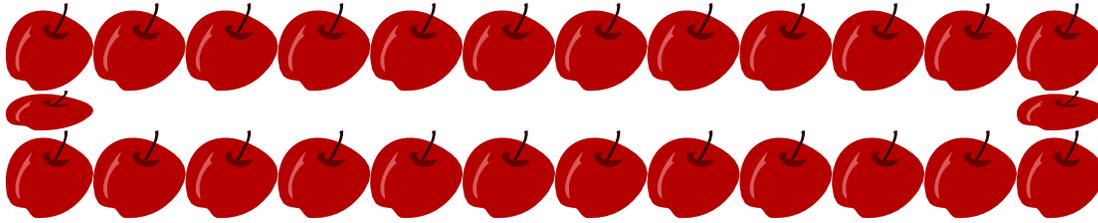
**Add education to your group visit by selecting from our free programs below.**

**"Wacky Science" - 30-minute interactive stage presentation guaranteed to entertain and educate! Recommended for ages 5-12.**

**"Commotion About Motion" Physics Tour - Learn how basic principles of physics apply to the amusement rides at Quassy Amusement Park. Worksheet included with the 45-minute tour. Recommended for grades 3-9.**

**"History Tour" - A behind-the-scenes look at one of America's oldest continually operating amusement parks. Worksheet included with the 45-minute tour. Recommended for students and adults.**

**Journalism and photography workshops also available in a classroom setting at the park. Call for details.**



**Attention all staff and parents:**  
**We are already beginning work on the next issue of the**  
**Waterbury Public Schools News Update -**  
**Please submit information for inclusion in this next issue**  
**as soon as possible—**

**Anticipated release date of March 2006**

**Thank you**

#### SCHOOL / COMMUNITY RELATIONS

If you have enjoyed reading this issue of the Waterbury Public Schools News Update and you would like to contribute an item for an upcoming issue, please contact:

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We especially need items on school activities and staff or student achievements. Items will also be placed in the Education Notebook, if appropriate. Thank you.

