

# BULLETIN

The Connecticut Association of Schools  
The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference



Affiliated with the National Association of Secondary School Principals ♦ Member National Federation of State High School Associations ♦ Member National Middle School Association

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## NBC30 AND CIAC TEAM UP TO PROMOTE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS IN CT

After weighing several options, CAS-CIAC has formed a "media partnership" with NBC30. Director of Development Bob Ford worked with Peter Gold, of Gold, Orluk & Associates, in negotiating the partnership agreement. As part of the agreement, the CIAC will receive considerable TV coverage, including one half-hour show previewing an upcoming championship and a full broadcast of a championship game.

Executive Director Mike Savage commented, "This is a prodigious public relations opportunity for the CIAC and its member schools. Our relationship with NBC30 will allow us to showcase the talent of Connecticut's student athletes and to raise the public's awareness of the importance of high school sports in the lives of students and in the cultures of our schools and communities. Our hope is that athletic programs throughout the state will reap tremendous benefits from the increased media exposure."

The CIAC-NBC30 media partnership brings an exciting opportunity for CIAC member schools. NBC30's InstaSports Program provides local schools with a

means of reporting high school sports results on-line and on-air. The InstaSports site—which can be accessed by clicking on the InstaSports icon at [www.nbc30.com](http://www.nbc30.com)—offers game results, team statistics, individual player stats, game schedules and directions, game cancellations, game highlights, rosters, and local weather conditions.

Participation in InstaSports is free to all schools. A school must register through the InstaSports website and, once enrolled, the NBC30 InstaSports Team will supply easy-to-use instructions on how to set up team rosters, game schedules and more. The school selects a student manager, parent, or coach to be an "InstaSports Reporter." A school should designate a "reporter" for each sport that it offers. InstaSports reporters are responsible for inputting their schools' game results and stats. All game results will be posted on the InstaSports website and some will air on NBC30. There are currently 72 CT high schools registered with InstaSports, 57 of which are active and regularly updating their sports scores. Sign up now!

## STERNBERG EXPLAINS 2001 CAPT

By Tom Galvin, Asst. Executive Director

At a meeting with high school administrators sponsored by the CAS Association of High School Principals (formerly the CAS High School Board of Control), State Department of Education Associate Commissioner Betty Sternberg discussed changes in the CAPT to be implemented in 2001.

Dr. Sternberg explained that, in response to requests from schools for more information, sub-scores will be added in math and science. Furthermore, to improve the assessment of student reading, a new test titled "Reading for Information" will also be added. This will be combined with the "Response to

*continued on page 4*



(l to r) High school principals Dr. Scott Brown, Lyme-Old Lyme HS, Dr. Thomas Abbruyese, Ancestor's Community HS & Dr. Ed Higgins, Branford HS, discuss changes in the CAPT with Associate Commissioner Sternberg.

## Schoolpop to sponsor Elementary Arts Festival!!!

- see story page 9 -



## CAS PROUDLY ANNOUNCES NEW CORPORATE PARTNERS

### Konica Provides New Copiers

Konica Business Technologies has become a new corporate partner and will equip the central office with two state-of-the-art digital copiers for a one-year-period. Mr. Richard Peterson, Vice President of Sales for Konica, said, "We are pleased to be able to offer our support. We have great respect for the role that student activities plays in the education of our young people."

Konica has for many years been a strong supporter of community activities. They currently support the United Way with more than \$100,000 in contributions.

Mike Savage, Executive Director of

CAS-CIAC, said "Our copier has long been the nucleus of our office operation. The new machines, which are technologically unsurpassed, will allow us to improve efficiency and productivity at no cost to the association. Our central office operation will be dramatically enhanced thanks to the generosity of Konica."

### CT Lighting Centers to Sponsor Leadership Conference

David Director, President of Connecticut Lighting Centers, has announced plans to sponsor the March 14, 2000 Middle Level Leadership Conference to be held at Quin-

nipiac College.

Connecticut Lighting Centers maintain large retail outlets in Hartford and Plainville. This family business was established in 1970 with six employees. The Director family is well known for its unparalleled customer service.

Tim Doyle, assistant executive director said, "We are honored to become associated with such a highly respected organization as Connecticut Lighting Centers."

The March 14 program will feature for the first time a school leadership award named in honor of Connecticut Lighting Centers founder, Arthur Director.

## connecticut news & notes

### Achievement Gap Persists

A comparison of educational outcomes from students in CT's ERG A (Darien, Wilton, etc.) and ERG I (New Haven, Windham, etc.) shows that students in our wealthiest districts, compared to students in our poorest districts, are:

- 2x more likely to enter kindergarten with formal preschool education
- 6x more likely to pass the CMT in 4th grade
- 7x more likely to pass the CMT in 6th grade
- 8x more likely to pass the CMT in 8th grade
- 12x more likely to pass the CAPT in 10th grade
- 21x more likely NOT to drop out of high school.

### FAMILY VIOLENCE IN CONNECTICUT

#### Cities with Highest Incidence

	1998 population	# of incidents per 1,000 persons
New London	25,263	14.7
Hartford	132,036	12.7
New Haven	124,269	11.9
Norwich	36,190	11.8
Waterbury	106,082	11.8
East Hartford	47,700	10.9
New Britain	70,948	10.9
Torrington	34,668	9.9
Meriden	57,009	9.7
Derby	11,929	9.6

#### Cities with Lowest Incidence

	1998 population	# of incidents per 1,000 persons
Middlebury	6,001	1.7
Wilton	16,320	1.6
Newtown	22,504	1.5
Simsbury	21,610	1.4
Darien	18,125	1.2
Ridgefield	21,666	1.0
New Canaan	17,921	.9
Fairfield	53,491	.9
Weston	8,778	.9
Granby	9,399	.5

Source: CT Department of Public Safety, 1998

■ Many Connecticut districts are staggering their school starting times to make up for a shortage of bus drivers. Due to low unemployment, most school districts in Connecticut are falling 10 percent short of the number of drivers needed, according to Robin Leeds, the director of the Connecticut School Transportation Association. Linda Coates, a risk manager for Dattco Inc., said the company is trying to attract people who are not in the job market, such as retirees and housewives. The shortage of bus drivers is not exclusive to Connecticut. About 20 percent more school bus drivers—some 85,000 people—are needed nationwide, according to the National Association of Pupil Transportation. (Source: *Education Week*, 12/8/99)

### CAS OFFERS WORKSHOPS ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT

**Workshop I:** February 14th, St. Joseph's School, New Haven / 2:30-4:30 p.m.

**Workshop II:** February 17th, St. Mary's School, Middletown / 2:30-4:30 p.m.

**Presenter:**

Dr. Howard Bennett, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Norwich

**Program:**

- What is sexual harassment?
- How to recognize sexual harassment.
- How to stop sexual harassment.
- What are the reporting requirements?
- What are the legal liabilities?

.2 CEUs will be awarded for each conference. Both conferences are sponsored by the Elementary Professional Studies Committee and are supported in part by a grant from the SDE Institute for Teaching and Learning. Contact [bc Carroll@cas.org](mailto:bc Carroll@cas.org) for more information.

### State Department Notes....

✓ At its January meeting, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to recommend to the state legislature that the name of the Regional Vocational Technical School System be changed to **Connecticut Technology High Schools**. Public Act 99-281 required the board to recommend a new name for the RVTSS to the General Assembly on or before February 1, 2000.

✓ At its December meeting, the board adopted Part II of its legislative proposals for the Year 2000 Session of the General Assembly. The legislative package included proposals that would:

- allow the department to retain \$500,000 of the amount appropriated for catastrophic special education costs and use these funds for the Regional Vocational-Technical School System to pay for services purchased for students requiring special education;
- eliminate the earnings cap for retired teachers in order to increase the pool of persons available to meet teacher shortages;
- provide that the Department continue to operate the Open Choice student attendance program in Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven, and require that New Britain, New London, Waterbury and Windham draft regional proposals for choice / magnet / interdistrict activities that reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation and best meet the needs of each region;
- make the programmatic and financial roles for providing special education in interdistrict magnet schools the same as they are in charter schools;
- eliminate the requirement that a governing council for charter schools include teachers;
- eliminate the establishment of new local charter schools;
- ensure that students' education records are forwarded to a new school district or charter school by the former school district or charter school within five days of receipt of the appropriate authorization; and
- establish timetables for dealing with the ratification of collective bargaining contracts.

✓ The SDE announces the following CAPT test coordinator workshops:

■ Tuesday, April 4, 2000	■ Wed., April 5, 2000	■ Thursday, April 6, 2000
Farmington Marriott	Farmington Marriott	Rocky Hill Marriott
8:00 a.m. Registration	8:00 a.m. Registration	8:00 a.m. Registration
8:30-12:00 p.m. workshop	8:30-11:30 a.m. workshop	8:30-11:30 a.m. workshop

The April 4th workshop will be specifically oriented toward new test coordinators and those from special education facilities. Experienced test coordinators should attend either the April 5th or April 6th workshops. For registration information contact Jeanne Gomez at (860)566-2996.

## national news & notes

■ Thousands more high school students than usual are waiting to find out if they have been accepted to Harvard, Brown, and Georgetown Universities, thanks to a change in those schools' early-admission policies allowing applicants to apply early to other schools. Previously, students applying early had to agree, if accepted, to enroll the following fall. The change has resulted in a surge of applications—62 percent more at Brown, located in Providence, R.I.; 30 percent more at Harvard in Cambridge, Mass.; and 44 percent more at Georgetown, located in Washington.

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■ Attitudes about drugs among teenagers are changing for the better, and teenage drug use is leveling off, according to a recent survey. The 1999 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, an annual survey by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, found that 40 percent of teenagers polled strongly agreed that "kids who really are cool don't use drugs," compared with 35 percent who said the same last year. The number of teenagers who strongly agreed with the statement that "in my school, marijuana users are popular" dropped significantly, from 17 percent last year to 10 percent this year. According to the survey, drug use among youths leveled off between 1998 and 1999, with some significant declines over the past two years as well. Marijuana use dropped to 33 percent in 1999, down from 36 percent two years ago. Past-year use of inhalants dropped to 11 percent this year, down from 15 percent two years ago. The study, which surveyed 6,529 teenagers ages 13 to 18, is available online at [www.drugfreeamerica.org/newscenter/pressreleases/pa\\_ts99\\_page1.html#](http://www.drugfreeamerica.org/newscenter/pressreleases/pa_ts99_page1.html#).

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■ The U.S. teenage birthrate reached a near-record low in 1998, falling 18 percent since 1991, according to a report by the National Center for Health Statistics. Young women ages 15 to 19 gave birth at a rate of 51.1 live births per 1,000, 2 percent lower than in 1997. African-American teenagers showed the steepest drop, recording the lowest rate since 1960, the first year such data were collected. Experts attribute the decline to a reduction in sexual activity and increased use of contraceptives, said a spokesman for the National Campaign To Prevent Teen Pregnancy. For 15- to 17-year-olds, the birthrate dropped 5 percent from 1991 to 1998, that cohort's lowest level in 40 years. The rate for girls ages 10 to 14 dropped to its lowest since 1969.

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■ At a time when many Americans believe the nation's public schools are failing, a new report uses nearly two decades of government data to show the system has actually made

**In a report from her study of teen girls on the island of Fiji, Harvard researcher Anne Becker provides a dramatic example of the link between media consumption and body image. Prior to the introduction of television on Fiji in 1995, "You've gained weight" was a compliment, as robust, rounded bodies were the norm for both men and women. Three years later, 15% of girls surveyed reported inducing vomiting as a means of weight control, compared to 3% in 1995. By 1998, 74% of Fijian girls reported feeling "too big or fat" and 62% reported dieting. They no longer wished to emulate their mothers or aunts, but looked to the female stars of their favorite TV shows, *Melrose Place*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, and *Xena: Warrior Princess*, as their role models. (Reprinted from *The JOURNAL of the New England League of Middle Schools*)**

gains since the early 1980s. Fewer students are dropping out. High school students are taking tougher courses. And SAT scores are improving, according to a report released this month by the Center on Education Policy and the American Youth Policy Forum, both based in Washington. The analysis, called "Good News About American Education," compares data from the early 1980s with statistics from the mid- to late-1990s to show that—contrary to popular perception—achievement in math and science is improving and more students are going on to college. The report does acknowledge that more work needs to be done in closing achievement gaps between whites and minorities, improving student performance in reading and writing, and preparing new teachers for the classroom. The analysis drew praise from U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley as dispelling the myth that no learning is taking place in public schools, but doing so without looking at education "through rose-colored glasses." To view the full report, visit [www.ctredpol.org/pubs/Good\\_News\\_final1.pdf](http://www.ctredpol.org/pubs/Good_News_final1.pdf).

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■ Head Start, the federal preschool program for low-income children, has received the highest score of any government agency or private company included on the American Customer Satisfaction Index—and even beat out Mercedes-Benz and BMW, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced recently. Head Start received an overall score of 87 for last year. On a scale of 100 for parent trust in the program, Head Start received a 94. And 89 percent of those surveyed said they were more satisfied with Head Start than they were two years ago.

### The Negative Aspects of Retention

Retention in grade has the unintended consequence of increasing the odds that a retained student will drop out of school — by 75% for those retained early (K-3) and by 90% for those retained in grades 4-6. Research on the impact on achievement of 49 educational innovations ranked "retention" last — one of only a few that produced negative results.

✘ Retained students are more likely to be economically and socially disadvantaged and to have parents who did not graduate from high school.

✘ African American and Hispanic students are held back more often than white students.

✘ Across all age groups, 2.6% of whites, 3.8% of Hispanic students and 5.5% of African American students are two or more years over the expected age for their grade.

✘ Suggested alternatives to retention: mixed-age classes that allow children to learn at their own rates and to help one another; smaller class size, especially in the primary years; extended-day and extended-year programs; access to early literacy programs; individualized teaching and tutoring; and home assistance programs that show parents how to help their children academically. (Source: FastFacts, *Phi Delta Kappa International*)

■ An all-boys private school in Tennessee says it plans to test its entire student body for illegal drugs next fall. All 875 students at Christian Brothers High School, a Roman Catholic school in Memphis, will be tested at least once during the school year and those who refuse will not be allowed to enroll. Parents will pay \$60 for the tests, which will use hair samples to determine use of marijuana, cocaine, and other substances. Students who test positive will be required to seek counseling. The students would then be tested once more in 100 days, and if they again tested positive, would be expelled.

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■ Even though the total number of juveniles in the nation is on the rise, juvenile violent crime is at its lowest level since 1987, and fell 30 percent from 1994 to 1998, according to the U.S. Department of Justice's office of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. "Juvenile Arrest 1998" presents an analysis of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports data, and notes an almost 50 percent drop in the murder-arrest rate for juveniles from 1993 to 1998. In addition, the arrest rate for weapons-law violations dropped 33 percent during that period.

...more national news & notes

■ The U.S. Department of Education, the Justice Department and the Department of Energy have published a handbook designed to help school and law enforcement officials access security needs and evaluate the type of security equipment most appropriate to make their schools safer. Titled The Appropriate and Effective Use of Securities Technologies in U.S. Schools, it provides administrators with information needed to develop strategies customized to their specific school safety needs. The guide includes information on technologies such as video surveillance, weapons detection, and building entry control. A copy of the report is on the web at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/178265.htm.

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■ A Florida legislator, concerned that the state is facing a shortage of teachers, has introduced a bill that would give career-switchers \$5,000 stipends to pursue teacher training and go to work in hard-to-staff schools. The bill would allocate \$13.5 million to allow 2,700 people to receive the stipends. The money would pay for them to take 15 credit hours of education classes, after which they could start teaching. The teachers would be required to become fully certified within two years. Concerns have been voiced by teachers' unions and others that the state's low-performing schools need highly qualified teachers rather than novices.

■ *Quality Counts 2000: Who Should Teach?*, the fourth annual edition of Education Week's 50-state report card on public education, focuses on state efforts to recruit, screen, and retain competent teachers. It includes results from an exhaustive national survey on how states recruit, test, and license beginning teachers. Quality Counts 2000 also includes findings from a 50- state salary analysis which examined the salary gap between teachers and other college graduates. For this year's report, *Education Week* also conducted a special analysis of the first federal study to follow college graduates into the workplace. The findings shed light on who enters teaching, who does not, and why people leave. The full report can be accessed at <http://www.edweek.org/sreports/qc00/>.

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■ The Clinton administration has mailed every public school in the nation a packet of guidelines outlining permissible forms of religious expression in public education. The guidelines stress that students may pray before meals and read Bibles or other religious documents in study halls, for example. In addition, the packet contains several publications from the Department of Education and from the First Amendment Center of the Freedom Forum. The full texts of all documents in the packet are available at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/religionandschools/guides.html>.

**CAPT, continued**

Literature" for the "reading" score. To improve reliability, the "Interdisciplinary" test will have two tasks, up from the prior one. This test will be combined with "Editing" to yield a "writing" score.

In order to provide the time for these improvements, a total of fifty minutes will be added to testing time.

The administrators in attendance at the workshop expressed concern over how seriously some students approach the test, especially the re-takes. Dr. Sternberg responded to those concerns by explaining that there are on-going discussions to encourage the state's colleges and universities to include CAPT in their admission criteria.

It was noted that one school system, Wallingford, exempts students who meet the standard on CAPT from a senior performance assessment. Early signs are that this is encouraging students to make greater efforts to take CAPT and meet the standards.

The program was hosted by Conard High School, A. Chuck Landroche, principal. The High School Association chair is Dr. Mike Buckley, principal of Avon High School.

■ The average American child spends appx. 28 hours a week watching television. In a year's time, American school children spend twice as much time watching TV as they spend in the classroom.  
■ Content analysis of television reveals that the average American child will witness 8,000 murders on TV by the time he or she is 12. They will see 20,000 commercials, 200,000 acts of violence, and 14,000 sex-related references per year before age 18. (Source: American Medical Association, 1996)

**10 Threats to America's Children in New Millennium**

- 1. Poverty
- 2. Abuse and Neglect at Home
- 3. Violent Crime
- 4. At-risk Behaviors (drugs, alcohol, unprotected sex, etc.)
- 5. Children Having Children
- 6. Inadequate Child Care
- 7. Lack of Health Care
- 8. Absent Parents
- 9. Inadequate Schools
- 10. Dangers in the Environment

(Source: *10 Critical Threats to America's Children: Warning Signs for the Next Millennium*, [www.nsba.org/highlights/ten\\_threats.htm](http://www.nsba.org/highlights/ten_threats.htm))

**Consultant Help Available for Schools...**

The National Executive Service Corps (NESC) is an organization of executives retired from public and private sector positions. They volunteer their services as consultants to educational agencies. Therefore, fees -- limited to minimal organizational costs -- are very reasonable.

The NESC consultants have particular expertise in strategic planning, human resources issues, resource allocation and compensation studies. Several educational institutions have used NESC services, including the Avon, Manchester and Windsor Locks public schools, CREC and Education Connection.

To request consultant assistance or to learn more about NESC, contact Roy or Nancy Normen at (860)644-9029, [NESCT@aol.com](mailto:NESCT@aol.com). Or you can visit the NESC web site at [www.help4nonprofits.org](http://www.help4nonprofits.org).

**CAS OFFICERS: 1999-2000**

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**THE BULLETIN**

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## legal news & notes

■ Disabled students who move from one state to another are not entitled under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to immediate reimbursement for private schooling even if they were awarded such funds in their previous home state, a federal appeals court has ruled. The decision by a unanimous three-judge panel in *Michael C. v. Radnor Township School District* means that a state is not required to implement any other state's "individualized education plan," or IEP, but instead can insist that the student go through the process of having a new IEP established in his new home state. "The IDEA recognizes that education is traditionally a state function," Senior U.S. Circuit Judge Max Rosenn wrote. "Accordingly it leaves the responsibility of providing a free appropriate public education, or FAPE, for students with disabilities to state and local educational authorities." The case involved a young student who lived with his father in Washington, D.C. and attended a small, private school for children with learning disabilities. His IEP designated a private school placement with no integration with non-disabled children. All expenses were paid by the local district. In August 1997, after moving to Pennsylvania, the father registered his son with the local school district and sought a similar private school placement. School officials immediately began an evaluation and offered to enroll the student in a special program at the high school as an interim placement. But his father rejected that plan and enrolled him at a nearby private school. The lawsuit focused on whether the father was entitled to reimbursement of the costs of private school under the "stay-put" provisions of IDEA. (Source: *The Legal Intelligencer*, 1/18/00)

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■ A federal appeals court has sided with a Missouri high school principal who disqualified a student whose campaign for junior class president included the distribution of condoms. The student won the election in the spring of 1997 but the principal disqualified him because he had failed to comply with a school rule that required prior approval from the principal or assistant principal before distributing any materials. The student and his father sued the district and the principal, alleging that his disqualification was a violation of the First Amendment because school officials objected to the content of his speech—the distribution of condoms attached to campaign stickers. A federal district court granted summary judgment to the school district, ruling that the student election was a school-sponsored activity and that the principal's actions were reasonably related to legitimate educational goals. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit affirmed (2-1) the district court's ruling. It rejected the student's argument that the school's prior-approval rule was applied selectively to him because administrators had allowed other candidates to distribute candy and chewing gum without such approval. "The distribution of condoms is qualitatively different from the handing out of candy or gum," said the opinion by Chief Judge Roger L. Wollman. "The one can be read to signify approval or encouragement of teenage sexual activity. The other constitutes the traditional bestowing of a de minimis gratuity not associated with any social or political message." "[The student's] distribution of the condoms carried with it the implied imprimatur of the school," Judge Wollman added.

## CT LAUDED IN NATIONAL STUDY

Each year, *Education Week* publishes a "report card" on public education in the 50 states. The report assesses and ranks each state using specific indicators from class size to teacher qualifications to per pupil expenditures. This year's report, *Quality Counts 2000*, gave both high marks and high praise to CT's schools. The following is an excerpt from the report.

*"By the numbers, the most dramatic story is Connecticut's. Only Connecticut and Colorado saw significant jumps during the 1990s on all the tests that have been given in the same grade multiple times. But Connecticut's 4th graders gained so much ground they became the first NAEP testing group to form their own statistical league at the top of the heap, according to the federal Education Department.*

*"That news was soon followed by the national assessment's first writing results, which revealed Connecticut as the only state where more than 40 percent of 8th graders scored "proficient" or better in writing. At 44 percent of students, Connecticut's proficient rating was well ahead of the performance of the next-highest state, Maine, where 32 percent of 8th graders demonstrated proficiency...*

*"Taken together, Texas and Connecticut provide strong evidence that sustained, statewide efforts to improve schools can produce dramatic results. Independent analyses of math improvements in Texas and reading improvements in Connecticut, commissioned by the National Education Goals Panel, both concluded that much of the improvement could be attributed to state education policies.*

*"Connecticut has concentrated a great deal of its efforts on raising teacher quality, while Texas has focused more on holding schools accountable for results. But when it comes to improving schools, they have both shown relentless consistency in pursuing their goals, implemented serious reforms for more than a decade, and put standards for students at the center of their efforts."*

CT'S REPORT CARD			
	1998	1999	2000
Standards and Accountability	B+	C+	B
Improving Teacher Quality	B+	A	B
School Climate	B-	B	B
Resources (funding)			
Adequacy	A-	B	B-
Allocation	C+	C	C
Equity	C	C	C
<p><b>Comment:</b> Comment: Connecticut continues to set the standard for improving teacher quality, and again earns the top grade in that category. Its effort to license teachers based on performance has resulted in the nation's first objective portfolio assessment of novice teachers. That investment in teachers may be one reason Connecticut's 4th graders now outperform students in every other state on the NAEP reading exam. Last year, the state also instituted a new accountability system to identify and deal with problems in low-performing schools. *NOTE: State grades for "improving teacher quality" declined this year because of changes to the indicators.</p>			

**NOTICE:** Public Act 99-81 requires local and regional boards of education to establish written policies concerning weighted grading for honors and advanced placement classes. The act requires that such policies provide notification to parents and students as to whether or not a grade in such classes is given added weight for purposes of calculating grade point average and determining class rank.

### CONNECTICUT ADMINISTRATORS PARTICIPATE IN ITALIAN STUDY MISSION

By Tom Galvin, Assistant Executive Director

Three Connecticut administrators participated in the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) Study Mission to Italy this past November: Rose Marie Cipriano, principal of Plainville High School, Dr. Cecilia Frenkel, assistant principal of New Britain High School, and Dr. Lawrence Nocera, assistant principal of Glastonbury High School. The mission provided participants with an opportunity to meet with Italian educators and visit Italian schools, sharing insights into the operations of schools and leadership practices in Italy and the United States. Larry Nocera delivered a paper to the Italian education delegation on the evolutionary role of the United States principal.

Rose Marie Cipriano reported

that the opportunity to work with Italian high school principals moving from a state structure to local autonomy was exciting. Plainville has plans in place to begin two week exchange programs between students at Plainville High and a school in the Tuscany region.

The participants attended all day leadership seminars with Italian educators at the Intercultura Headquarters in Colle Val d'Elsa, outside Florence. They also visited the Middle School of Colle, the Istituto Tecnico in Siena and a language school and technical school in Florence.

To round out their experience, the administrators were able to tour Rome, Florence, Siena and Pisa, meeting with Italian educators at each leg of their travels.

### Notice of Pesticide Applications at Schools and Day Care Centers:

Beginning July 1, 2000, Public Act 99-165 requires all schools (exception regional vo-ag schools) to employ certified pesticide applicators for any non-emergency pesticide use in school buildings or on school grounds. It also prohibits most public schools from using pesticides during school hours and activities, except in emergencies. The bill also requires most public schools without integrated pest management ("IPM") plans to do the following: (1) inform parents, guardians and staff of the school's pest management policy at the beginning of each school year; (2) establish a registry of parents, guardians and staff who want notice of pesticide use in advance; (3) provide such notice by mail at least 24 hours in advance, except in emergency situations; and, (4) maintain pesticide application records for five years after each application. The act establishes similar requirements for schools with IPM plans, except they can provide notice the day of a pesticide application, and by any method, rather than mail. Also, IPM schools do not have to identify the target pest in the notice and must provide staff with IPM educational information.

### STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

#### Administrative Staff

Earle Bidwell: [ebidwell@casciac.org](mailto:ebidwell@casciac.org)  
 Karen Borger: [kborger@casciac.org](mailto:kborger@casciac.org)  
 Bob Carroll: [bcarroll@casciac.org](mailto:bcarroll@casciac.org)  
 Tim Doyle: [tdoyle@casciac.org](mailto:tdoyle@casciac.org)  
 Tom Galvin: [tgavin@casciac.org](mailto:tgavin@casciac.org)  
 Bob Ford: [bford@casciac.org](mailto:bford@casciac.org)  
 Ann Malafronte: [amalafronte@casciac.org](mailto:amalafronte@casciac.org)  
 Tony Mosa: [tmosa@casciac.org](mailto:tmosa@casciac.org)  
 Mike Savage: [msavage@casciac.org](mailto:msavage@casciac.org)

#### Support Staff

Yolande Ahlberg: [ahlberg@casciac.org](mailto:ahlberg@casciac.org)  
 Janice Grecco: [jgrecco@casciac.org](mailto:jgrecco@casciac.org)  
 Tori Greene: [tgroene@casciac.org](mailto:tgroene@casciac.org)  
 Joanne McCoy: [jmccoy@casciac.org](mailto:jmccoy@casciac.org)  
 Joyce Smith: [jsmith@casciac.org](mailto:jsmith@casciac.org)  
 Judy Sylvester: [jsylvester@casciac.org](mailto:jsylvester@casciac.org)  
 Carmel Walsh: [cwalsh@casciac.org](mailto:cwalsh@casciac.org)  
 General Mailbox: [mail@casciac.org](mailto:mail@casciac.org)

### ROBERTA GUASPARI TO SPEAK AT ARTS RECOGNITION BANQUET

By Robert F. Carroll, Ed. D., Asst. Executive Director

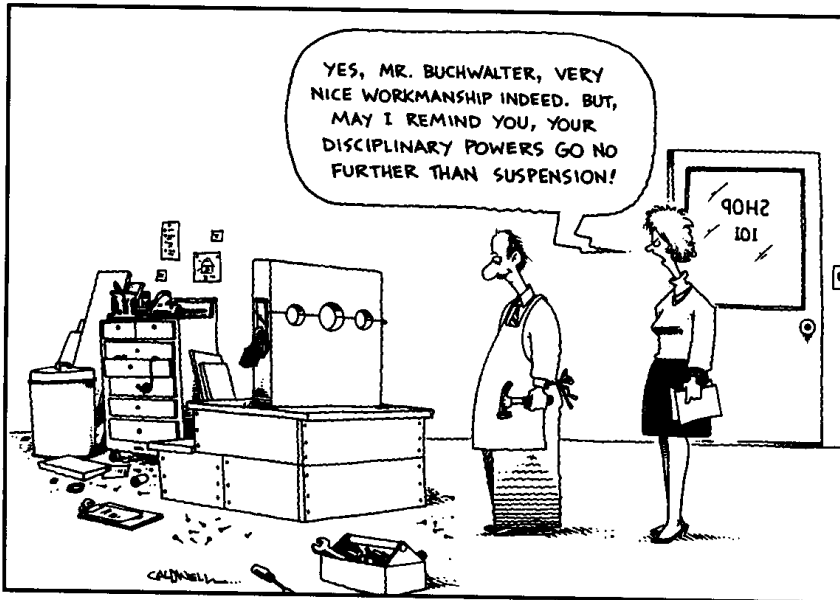
In keeping with the tradition of engaging nationally recognized personages in the Arts as guest speakers at the Annual High School Arts Awards Banquet, Roberta Guaspari, the East Harlem violin teacher who was recently portrayed in the hit movie 'Music of the Heart' by actress Meryl Streep, will be this year's keynote speaker.

The world now knows Roberta Guaspari, and what she stands for, because of Meryl Streep's portrayal of her. Guaspari hopes the movie of her work will convey what experts have argued for decades: violins and bows are as important as paper and pencils; music and art are as vital to a child's curriculum as reading and math. We associate music with entertainment, "Guaspari says. "We don't think of the focus, which is the discipline and attention that's needed. This is not about classical music but about a classical, formal education."

The inspirational Miramax film "Music of the Heart" is a unique opportunity for educators and students alike to experience the enthusiasm and joy that music can bring, while drawing encouragement from the true story of one woman who, against all odds, was determined to keep the values of music education alive for children, families and their communities.

This is CAS's fifth year of hosting this recognition banquet which honors Connecticut's outstanding high school visual and performing arts students. It is being held this year on April 4, 2000, at the Aqua Turf Club. Schools will be getting registration forms in the mail shortly.

This year's banquet, as with those preceding it, is sponsored by Westfield Shoppingtowns, a leading international shopping center developer with fifty-two super regional centers across the United States and Australia.



New "safe schools" legislation brings innovation to the classroom.

Reprinted with permission from: John Caldwell, Vanguard, May 1999, Vol.1, No. 4.

## CAS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPS MEET WITH LEGISLATORS

By Tom Galvin, Assistant Executive Director

Three members of the CAS Legislative Committee and two members of the central office staff met recently with the co-chairs of the Connecticut Legislature Education Committee. Dr. Larry Nocera, assistant principal of Glastonbury High School, Dr. Tom Reale, principal of Windsor High School and Judy Golden, principal of Oswegatchie Elementary School in Waterford, along with staff Tom Galvin and Mike Savage, had the opportunity to discuss legislative concerns with Senator Tom Gaffey and Representative Cameron Staples. CAS lobbyist attorney Marshall Collins and his associate Randy Collins also participated in the discussions.

The group discussed a number of issues of concern to Connecticut administrators, particularly the current administrative and teacher candidate shortage and the need for state support for alternative education programs for regular education students.

The issues raised were those that were cited by administrators on the annual CAS legislative survey. Other major issues raised in the survey which will be addressed by the Legislative Committee include: modification of the IDEA (federal) to eliminate the de facto dual-discipline system of regular education and special education students, funding for before and after school and summer school programs, increased funding for technology, and more initiatives for safe and drug free schools.

### A.P. CONFERENCE REMINDER

Brochures have been sent to all schools announcing the Assistant Principals' Conference scheduled for March 7, 2000 at the Hartford Marriott. The theme of the day is "Building School Community" and the program will begin with a presentation from a panel from East Hartford High School on: "Creating the Climate for Positive Change."

Other programs include: "Welcome to the Trenches," for new administrators, alternative programs in Enfield and North Haven, "Creating Safe Schools for Gay and Lesbian Students, "School Based Enterprises" in Hamden, a program on school climate and diversity by Dr. Penny Lisi of CCSU, a program on school climate by SDE Associate Commissioner Dr. Betty Sternberg and "Building Community Through an Advisory Program" by Branford High School faculty.

The keynote address "Re-establishing Respect in our Schools and Classrooms" will be delivered by nationally acclaimed speaker Larry Bell.

Please call CAS (1.203.250.1111) or visit the CAS website ([www.casciac.org](http://www.casciac.org)) for registration information.

## A Letter to the Teacher...

By Laura McFadden Yelsik

*In a letter she would like to send her child's teacher, a parent offers a gentle reminder to all teachers: being an "average" child shouldn't be a disadvantage.*

Dear Teacher,

My son is going to be in your classroom this year. I am his mother, and I would like to introduce him to you. I hope you can see in him the qualities that I see. Oh, they aren't the qualities you can give a grade to on his report card. So often my son feels that they are not the things that are important to his teachers.

He is a shy, quiet, honest, and polite young man. Not that he doesn't give me grey hairs now and then, but usually he is a good boy. At home he is a real worker at the things he likes to do. Give him a hammer and nails and he can spend many happy hours creating a house or designing a car. If I need anything fixed around the house, he is all smiles when he asks to fix it. If there is snow on the driveway, he is the first one to get out the shovel and clear the snow away. He loves artwork and loves to design racecars and fantastic outerspace vehicles. And he likes to cook. His scrambled eggs or chili can equal mine. He is a very responsible young man and I trust him as if he were beyond his years. He keeps a calm head in an emergency because he has a lot of good, common sense. I have a lot of faith in him

Unfortunately, he is also a child who is turned off by academics and school. He probably won't be on the honor roll or win any great academic awards. It is not that he is incapable of these achievements, but somewhere along his short academic career, he has been completely turned off by schoolwork. Maybe it was the teacher who ridiculed him when he didn't understand how to "borrow" in subtraction, or maybe it was one teacher's constant demand for perfection — always pointing out what he did wrong, forgetting to praise him for the things he did learn. There was the time he answered the science questions all right, but got an F on the paper because he didn't use cursive writing. Maybe I was too overzealous for education in his early years and pushed him too hard, too fast. I just don't know the answers.

In your eyes he will be another average student. But maybe if you get to know him as I do, you can discover the secret that will help him succeed in school.

Being "average" seems to be a disadvantage these days in school. So much emphasis is placed on programs for the gifted, learning disabled or hyperactive children, that as a parent, it seems to me the average students are left behind. Often teachers don't pay a lot of attention to the average child, because the average child doesn't demand the attention that discipline problems do. Because they are neither superachievers nor underachievers, so many of these children seem to fade in the classroom.

Please don't forget my child. A few kind words about a paper he really tried his best on or a request to help build the scenery for a class play would be a great start. Surely there are ways to incorporate his talents into classroom use. Praise him for the things he does successfully, no matter how small they may seem to you. I know that a few positive words will be a start toward helping him build a better self-image. In fact, just your special attention for a few minutes during the week might be all it takes to turn him on to school again.

I know that classrooms are crowded and hours are short, but I don't feel that I am asking too much. I just want you to remember the "average" child. I am not asking you to do this alone, either. Anytime you need my help, please call. I am always willing to do whatever I can toward the education of our children.

I wish you success in the coming school year. I have not meant to offend you. I am only asking that you take the time this year to look for the qualities and talents my child and others like him have, and to help them feel successful in school. Let their stars shine for a while!

Sincerely,  
An average mother

# middle school news

## Configuration of Public Schools in CT Which Contain Middle Grades

Grade Configuration	Enrollment	# of Schools	Range of Enrollment
6-8	68,537 (58%)	100 (47%)	59-1260
5-8	18,250 (16%)	29 (14%)	316-1215
7-8	17,024 (15%)	27 (13%)	323-1190
PK, K-8	6,767 (6%)*	37 (18%)	65-440
4-8	2,316 (2%)	4 (2%)	375-924
7-12	1,468 (1%)*	7 (3%)	140-337
7-9	767	2	
6	825	2	
5-7	703	1	
8-12	226*	1	
3-8	122*	1	

Statistics compiled by Dr. Richard Lappert, CT State Dept. of Education

\*estimated counts

## THREE CT MIDDLE SCHOOLS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS DIVERSITY AWARD

Congratulations to Berlin's McGee Middle School and New Britain's Slade and Roosevelt Middle Schools, winners of the Hartford Courant's prestigious Tapestry Award. In its second year, the Tapestry Award program recognizes local groups which have worked to promote and encourage diversity.

The middle schools were selected for the award for their innovative C.A.R.E.-a-Van (Caring Adolescents Reaching Everyone) project. The C.A.R.E.-a-Van is a traditional school bus that students have painted with images and messages promoting diversity. The bus will be driven around the country for 13 months, making stops at middle schools in 23 states, where students will repaint the bus with their own diversity-related designs and messages. Two amateur filmmakers will be driving the bus across country and documenting the journey.

Two Tapestry Award winners were selected from among 50 nominees by an independent panel of seven judges.



Photo by Jeff Sobiech

Left to right: Michelle Sorenson, asst. principal of McGee M.S., Geraldine Brown-Springer, principal of Slade M.S., Carol Janssen, principal of McGee, Vaughn Ramseur, principal of Roosevelt M.S., and Marty Petty, publisher of the Hartford Courant.

## Newsletter Notes...

### Importance of a Good Breakfast

A number of research studies show that students' performance in school can be affected by their nutritional habits, and in particular breakfast. The research has indicated especially significant relationships between breakfast and performance in school, among young adolescents. We urge parents to insist upon youngsters having a nutritious breakfast before coming to school.

Irving A. Robbins Middle School Parent Newsletter

### Adopt-A-Book

Each month, the Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School in Coventry publishes a list of books to be added to the library shelves, which can be "adopted" by students, parents or community members. Those wishing to participate fill out a form dedicating the book to a person or occasion and send it,, along with price of the book, to the school. A nameplate is created and placed in the front of the adopted book; thus, creating a long-lasting memorial or honorarium in the school.

### Locks of Love

In November one of the Climate Committee advisors, Mrs. Page, cut off 12 inches of her very long hair and donated it to "Locks of Love". They will use it and other donations to make a wig for a child with medical hair loss. CNHMS students donated spare change and sent along a check for \$120 along with Mrs. Page's hair.

CNHMS PTO News

## Add CAS to Your Mailing List

We would love to read and perhaps share your news. Many Connecticut middle schools publish newsletters and other publications for parents and students. They are often full of ideas and programs that would be of interest to your colleagues in other schools. Please add us to your mailing list both to keep us informed and so that some of your ideas and activities may be printed in the CAS Bulletin.

Mr. Earle G. Bidwell  
CAS Assistant Executive Director  
30 Realty Dr, Cheshire, CT 06410

## SDE Forum on Certification

Hilary Freedman, SDE Chief of the Bureau of Certification, recently met with the Middle Level and Center for Early Adolescent Educators Boards to discuss middle level certification issues. The change in regulations causing administrators the most difficulty is the requirement for subject specific endorsements. Ms. Freedman heard the concerns of teachers and administrators and expressed a willingness to work toward solutions that will maintain high standards and create more flexibility for middle school administrators. The middle level board will continue to work with Ms Freedman to this end.

## The 9th Annual Middle Level Student Leadership Conference

March 14, 2000 / 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Quinnipiac College, Hamden



## elementary school news

### PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

- The school readiness grant program enacted by the legislature in 1997 has resulted in 5,881 new preschool spaces in priority school districts.
- Head Start enrollment has increased 11% since 1996.
- In the past 3 years, the number of family resource centers has increased from 19 to 60; 39 Connecticut communities have at least one family resource center.
- Federal and state investment in preschool education increased from \$40,149,886 to \$88,822,957 from 1995-96 to 1998-99.

(Source: SDE Early Childhood Education: Promise, Progress and Problems—A School Readiness Update)

### CAS Presents...

Annual Environmental Conference  
for 5th and 6th graders

**"It's Cool to Care"**

March 23, 2000

Central Connecticut State University  
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

For further information, contact Bob Carroll,  
(203)250-1111, [bc Carroll@casciac.org](mailto:bc Carroll@casciac.org)

**Do elementary schools have a role to play in violence prevention?** Longitudinal studies have shown that young children who exhibit aggression are more likely than their peers to engage in violent and antisocial behavior as adolescents or as young adults. Reaching such children early with age-appropriate activities to promote empathy, impulse control, and anger management has yielded positive results. Experts in youth violence agree that prevention initiatives should begin in 1st grade or earlier. (Source: Phi Delta Kappa)



Holy Cross HS Principal Timothy McDonald honors CAS Vice President Tony Molinaro, principal of King St. Intermediate in Danbury, as CAS Elementary Principal of the Year at the State Board of Education meeting in December.

### Elementary Arts Recognition Awards Festival Sponsored by Schoolpop

By Robert F. Carroll, Ed. D., Assistant Executive Director

Schoolpop, the Internet-based company focused on raising funds for public, private & Catholic schools across the country, is sponsoring CAS' First Annual Elementary Arts Recognition Awards Festival. The event will be held at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington on March 29 and 30, 2000 (half of the state each evening) at 6:00 pm. The theme will be "Under the Big Top" with a variety of circus-type entertainers to amaze and astound the student-honorees, their parents and their school principals and teachers.

The objective of this program is to recognize students with outstanding ability in the performing or visual arts. Each elementary school principal can select two students at the highest elementary grade in the school to be recognized.

The menu for the festival will be child-oriented. Food stations will be located in various areas of the room serving hot dogs, hamburgers, pasta, pizza, popcorn, ice cream, cotton candy and soda. Walk-around circus entertainment will take place throughout the evening. A main feature will be Mr. Greenjeans of the famous Capt. Kangaroo TV series who will be doing balloon sculpting. Also on-hand will be walk-around magicians, an organ grinder complete with monkey, a juggler, a stilt walker, a unicyclist and 4-5 dress-up clowns painting children's faces. Circus music will fill the air.

The two students selected to represent their elementary school should have demonstrated outstanding ability in the performing or visual arts. Scholarship and leadership abilities can also be used as supporting considerations when principals make their choices. The students will be presented award certificates that evening by their school principal. All student-honorees will attend the banquet free-of-charge, courtesy of CAS and Schoolpop. Parents or guardians, principal or designee, classroom teacher and a teacher of the arts are also invited to attend at a nominal cost.

CAS expects that the vast majority of elementary schools will want to participate in Connecticut's first elementary arts festival. Four hundred elementary schools will be invited each evening, though only one hundred schools can be accommodated. Participating schools will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservation forms and additional information will be mailed to schools shortly.

CAS wants to take this opportunity to thank Schoolpop for recognizing the importance that the arts play in Connecticut schools and for making this first-ever recognition program possible. Visit Schoolpop at [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com)!

### A look at CAS elementary schools...

There are currently 494 elementary schools enrolled in CAS. Of those schools\*:

- ⇒ 40 schools have an enrollment of 500 students or more;
- ⇒ Urban Youth Elementary School in New Haven has the smallest enrollment with 60 students;
- ⇒ Jack Jackter Elementary School in Colchester has the largest enrollment with 995 students;
- ⇒ 18 schools offer French;
- ⇒ 65 Schools offer Spanish;
- ⇒ 10 schools offer both French and Spanish;
- ⇒ 218 offer psychological services;
- ⇒ 111 have a preschool program;
- ⇒ 113 have an ESL or bilingual education program;
- ⇒ 32 offer Unified Sports®;
- ⇒ 104 have an assistant principal;
- ⇒ 5 have two assistant principals;
- ⇒ Grade configurations:
  - 2 have kindergarten and grade 1 only
  - 9 have grades K-2
  - 17 have grades K-3
  - 28 have grades K-4
  - 95 have grades K-5
  - 42 have grades K-6
  - 0 have grades K-7
  - 121 have grades K-8

\* figures are based only on those schools which completed and submitted their Annual Reporting Form

## CIAC OFFERS SPORTS MED WORKSHOPS

The CIAC, in cooperation with Eastern Rehabilitation Network, is pleased to offer a three-part workshop series for athletic directors, coaches, athletic trainers, physical education teachers, and nurses. The workshops, which will address critical sports medicine issues as they relate to high school sports, will be presented by professional staff from Eastern Rehabilitation Network, Hartford Hospital.

All three workshops will be held at the CIAC office from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The registration cost is \$15 per person, or \$25 per school, for the whole series. Further information will be mailed to all member schools.

Any questions about the workshop series can be directed to Tony Mosa at (203)250-1111, [tmosa@casciac.org](mailto:tmosa@casciac.org).



- **Monday, February 21:** *Development and Administration of a Sports Medicine Program at the High School Level.* Topics addressed: needs assessment, facility assessment, liability, funding sources, recruiting/staffing, and public relations/promotional plans.
- **Monday, March 20:** *Action Plans for the Management of Athletic Injuries.* Topics addressed: staffing, communications, equipment, CPR/First Aid/AED, spine injuries, and cardiopulmonary emergencies.
- **Monday, April 24:** *Performance Based Strength and Conditioning Program Development for the High School Athlete.* Topics addressed: speed, power strength, and agility testing, sport specific testing, position specific testing, and strength and speed program implications.

## NATIONAL FEDERATION APPROVES NEW BAT RULE

KANSAS CITY, MO (January 7, 2000) — The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) will have a new bat rule for the 2001 high school baseball season.

At a meeting in San Francisco, the NFHS Board of Directors approved a rule calling for narrower, heavier and more wood-like bats. The maximum diameter of bats will be reduced from 2¾ inches to 2 inches, and the unit differential, namely the difference between bat length measured in inches and bat weight measured in ounces, will be reduced from five units to three units.

The board commended the work of the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee but chose to defer action on two other bat-related committee proposals. One deferred proposal would have imposed a more restrictive maximum exit ball speed than the one recently adopted by the NCAA. The other would have imposed a wood-like moment-of-inertia requirement. The board expressed interest in both proposals, but decided to return them to the rules committee for further assessment.

In addition to the new size and weight limitations, the NFHS Board of Directors anticipates that bats used in play after January 1, 2001, will comply with the new NCAA exit ball speed rule. In fact, the presence of a mark denoting compliance with the NCAA bat rule will be one assurance that a bat is compliant with the size and weight components of the new NFHS rule. Although bats meeting the new NFHS rule will not be required for another year, they are legal immediately. Student-athletes, parents and coaches wishing to utilize such bats this year are free to do so.

"The game of high school baseball is in good shape," said NFHS President Dick Durost. "Even so, we need to stay vigilant to ways in which technology is having an impact. The new rule will make the physical dimensions of non-wood bats more closely mirror those of wood bats. Further changes relating to bat weight distribution and exit ball speed may soon be in the offing."

## WANTED: WOMEN OFFICIALS

Ann Malafronte, Director of Unified Sports®

The C.I.A.C., in cooperation with several local basketball boards of officials, will be recruiting and training women to become basketball officials for next season. A grant from the NewFund, a New England Women's group, is funding the training for the six New England states.

"There is a remarkable shortage of women officials in most of the sports that we offer today," stated Ann Malafronte, C.I.A.C. official. "Young girls and women need role models in all aspects of sport, officiating, coaching, marketing, journalism, and administration. It has been the goal of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference for the last two years to increase public awareness in this area and to provide opportunities for young women to make inroads into sports in Connecticut at a more rapid rate than currently exists."

On Saturday, April 8, 2000 at four locations across the state, free training will be offered to women 18 years of age and above, to begin to introduce them to the world of basketball officiating. Glastonbury High School, Norwich Free Academy, Platt Regional Vocational Technical High School in Milford, and Vogel-Wetmore School in Torrington will be the sites for the 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. classroom and on-court instruction.

The training is open to any woman who has had some basketball experience. Whistles and rulebooks will be provided. Additional practice opportunities will follow with mentoring by current women officials. Interested candidates should call Ann Malafronte at (203) 250-1111 to register. Web site registration is also available at [www.casciac.org](http://www.casciac.org), under Womens' Sports.

Additional opportunities will be planned in other sports in the future.

Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity. The relationship between the soundness of the body and the activities of the mind is subtle and complex. Much is not yet understood. But we do know what the Greeks knew: that intelligence and skill can only function at the peak of their capacity when the body is healthy and strong; that hardy spirits and tough minds usually inhabit sound gods. —JFK

## ciac news

### CATASTROPHIC INJURIES IN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS: 1997-98

The National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research recently released its 16th annual report on the incidence of injury in high school and college sports. The report tracks injuries, both fatal and non-fatal, and direct and indirect. "Direct" injuries are those which result directly from participation in the skills of a sport. "Indirect" injuries are those caused by systemic failure as a result of exertion while participating in a sports activity or by a complication which was secondary to a non-fatal injury.

#### Fall Sports

For the 1997 football season, there were a

total of 29 high school direct catastrophic injuries -- an increase of six from 1996. Besides the direct fatalities, there were seven indirect fatalities at the high school level. Six were heart related, and one was heat related.

In addition to the fatalities, there were seven permanent paralysis cervical spine injuries and seven cerebral injuries that resulted in permanent disability in 1997 associated with high school football.

Serious football injuries with no permanent disability accounted for nine injuries in high school. High school athletes were associated with five cervical

spine fractures and four subdural hematoma injuries with full recovery.

Cross country was associated with one indirect fatality in 1997.

#### Winter Sports

High school winter sports were associated with nine direct catastrophic injuries for the 1997-98 season. Three injuries were related to basketball, one to ice hockey, one to swimming, and four to wrestling.

Eight indirect injuries were recorded during the 1997-98 school year; all the injuries were fatalities and all were asso-

*continued on page 13*

◇ Direct -- Resulting directly from participation in the skills of the sports

◇ Indirect -- Caused by systemic failure as a result of exertion while participating in a sport or by a complication which was secondary to a non-fatal injury

FALL SPORTS	# of Direct Catastrophic Injuries				# of Indirect Catastrophic Injuries			
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Serious	Total	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Serious	Total
<b>Cross Country</b>	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Field Hockey</b>	0	0	0	0				
<b>Football</b>	6	14	9	29	7	0	0	7
<b>Soccer</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Volleyball</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>WINTER SPORTS</b>								
<b>Basketball</b>	1	1	1	3	8	0	0	8
<b>Gymnastics</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Swimming</b>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Wrestling</b>	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	0
<b>SPRING SPORTS</b>								
<b>Baseball</b>	1	1	2	4	0	0	0	0
<b>Lacrosse</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Softball</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Tennis</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Track</b>	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0

(Source: 16th Annual Report of the National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research)

## ciac news

### 1999 Field Hockey Champs

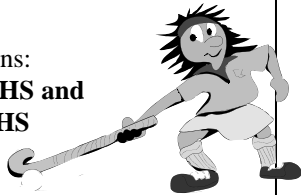
*The sport of field hockey was inadvertently omitted from the listing of fall tournament results which appeared in last month's issue of the BULLETIN. Our apologies to our field hockey champions and runners-up and to all of our field hockey fans.*

#### CLASS L-

Champion: **Stamford HS**  
 Runner-up: **Greenwich HS**

#### CLASS M-

Co- Champions:  
**Farmington HS and**  
**Pomperaug HS**



#### CLASS S-

Champion: **Canton Jr.-Sr. HS**  
 Runner-up: **Shepaug Valley HS**

### NCAA Update...

1. There has been an increase in the NCAA clearinghouse application fee — from \$18 to \$25.
2. Student-athletes diagnosed with learning disabilities who are accepted to college as "non- qualifiers" are now able to compete for a fourth year.
3. A waiver provision regarding the accommodation of championships schedules due to religious conflicts that had been in place for only one year has been rescinded by the Division I Board of Directors. The board approved a proposal which eliminates the opportunity for a sports committee to obtain a waiver of the religious-conflict rule if the school in question has a written policy pre-

### Girls Tennis Committee News:

- The last date to count for tournament play was changed to Tuesday, May 23.
  - Any play downs will be scheduled on Thursday, May 25 or Friday, May 26 (for extenuating circumstances) with permission from the tournament director
  - All rounds, except the finals will be played at the site of the higher ranked team. All courts must be made available, with a minimum of 4 courts. If the match cannot be played at the home site of the higher ranked team, the match will be scheduled at the lower ranked team, provided the above criteria is in place. If neither site is able to host the match, the match will be scheduled at a neutral site chosen by the meet director.
  - Teams having the same winning percentage will be ranked according to the following procedure: a. Total wins b. Head-to-head c. By lot
  - All rounds, except the finals will be played at the site of the higher ranked team. Finals are at Yale.
  - Dates: Sat., April 1 -- schedules due & request for change of division form due  
 Fri., May 19 - team entry due  
 Tues., May 23 - 7:00 p.m. - all telephone scores due  
 Wed., May 24 -- Pairings at 8:00 a.m. (rankings available on web and at CIAC) & individual entry form due  
 Thursday, May 25 -- 8:00 a.m. -- Individual tournament pairings
- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Tournament Dates: (Team)               | Tournament Dates: (Individual)    |
| Thursday, May 25 -- Qualifying matches | Sat., June 3 -- 11:00 a.m. - Yale |
| Tuesday, May 30 -- First Round         | Mon., June 5 -- 2:00 p.m. - Yale  |
| Wednesday, May 31 -- Quarter-finals    | Tues., June 6 -- 3:00 p.m. - Yale |
| Thursday, June 1 -- Semi-finals        |                                   |
| Friday, June 2 -- Finals               |                                   |

Note: All "SAT" players must be ready to compete at 1:00 p.m.

- A player or players not present to compete 10 minutes after the call will default.

cluding competition on a particular day for religious reasons. Previously, a sports committee could obtain such a waiver if it felt that a change would unduly disrupt the championship. [In summary, the new legislation requires that all schools with written religious policies be accommodated.]

4. The NCAA Division I Management Council adopted a proposal which specifies that a new championship may be established in a women's sport if the minimum number of

sponsoring institutions (40) exists for one academic year (rather than for two consecutive academic years). The proposal becomes effective August 1, 2000, and would permit the establishment of championships for women's ice hockey and water polo for the 2000-01 academic year.

*Information provided by Linda Wooster, Assistant Athletic Director at Quinnipiac College and consultant to the CIAC Board*

## SPORTS PARTICIPATION RATES

### Participation in NCAA Sponsored Sports

1997-98\* (all divisions)

**WOMEN** 135,110 (40%)

**MEN** 203,686  
(60%)

\* most recent year for which data is available

### Participation in National Federation Sponsored Sports

1998-99

**WOMEN** 2,652,796 (40%)

**MEN** 3,832,352  
(60%)

### Participation in CIAC Sponsored Sports 1998-99

**WOMEN** 34,248 (43%)

**MEN** 47,136  
(57%)

## Q Are cheerleading and/or drill team considered interscholastic sports under federal laws?

A The Office of Civil Rights will review, on a case-by-case basis, any information pertinent to a determination of whether an activity should be considered part of an institution's interscholastic or intercollegiate athletic program within the meaning of the Title IX regulation. Among factors OCR considers are: whether the activity is sponsored for the primary purpose of preparing for and engaging in athletic competition against other similar teams; whether the team prepares for and engages in competition in the same way as other teams in the interscholastic athletic program, e.g., whether it receives coaching, conducts try-outs, engages in regular practice sessions, and has regularly scheduled athletic competitions; and, whether selection for the team is based upon factors related primarily to athletic ability. In contrast, if the purpose of the team is primarily to support and promote other athletes, the OCR will not consider the team to be engaged in a sport.

## TWO STUDIES SHOW FURTHER EVIDENCE OF IMPORTANCE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

■ The evidence is compelling that participation in school sports is a protective factor against delinquency, gang membership, and other risk behaviors, particularly among low-income youth. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that students who spend no time in extracurricular activities are:

- ✦ 57% more likely to have dropped out of school by the time they would have been seniors;
- ✦ 49% more likely to have used drugs;
- ✦ 37% more likely to become teen parents;
- ✦ 35% more likely to have smoked cigarettes; and
- ✦ 27% more likely to have been arrested

than those who spend one to four hours per week in extracurricular activities. In addition, sports participants have better school attendance rates, and they are less likely to carry weapons or attempt suicide. *NASBE Policy Update, July 1999*

■ The results of a study conducted at the University of Colorado in the spring of 1997 reiterated the importance of activities in the development of high school students. The study found that students who participate in activities have significantly higher grade point averages and significantly lower absenteeism than students who are not involved in co-curricular activities. The study distinguished separate categories for gender and ethnic differences, but found that in each case, the students participating in activities performed better academically and attended class more frequently. These results were consistent with previous studies of the same nature, reinforcing the need to encourage high school students to get involved in co-curricular activities.

**95% of Fortune 500 executives participated in school athletics (only 47% were National Honor Society Members).** Fortune Magazine

### Injuries, *continued*

ciated with basketball. Five of the fatalities were heart related, one was listed as natural causes, one was related to asthma, and one was listed as unknown.

### Spring Sports

Seven direct catastrophic injuries in 1998 occurred in the high school spring sports season. Baseball was associated with four of the injuries, and track with three. One of the track injuries was associated with the pole vault and resulted in death. The two other track injuries involved participants being struck by a discus and a shot put. There were no indirect fatalities in high school spring sports during the 1997-98 school year.

### Female Catastrophic Injuries

For the 16 years of the report, there have been a total of 41 direct and 24 indirect catastrophic injuries to high school females. The 41 high school direct injuries included nine in gymnastics, 19 in cheerleading, two in swimming, two in basketball, four in track and two in softball, two in field hockey, and one in volleyball. The 24 high school indirect fatalities included 9 in basketball, 5 in swimming, 4 in track, 1 in soccer, 1 in cross country, one in volleyball, and three in cheerleading.

## A word about sportsmanship...or lack thereof

By Jack Roberts, Executive Director, Michigan State Athletic Association

Recent back-to-back "World Championships" -- first in a Women's World Cup soccer championship game shootout, then in an unprecedented come-from-behind Ryder Cup golf victory -- should have all red-blooded sports enthusiasts reveling in red, white and blue joy.

But to some, the victories don't feel as good as they should. They were not our best shining moments in terms of sportsmanship.

During the dramatic conclusion to the World Cup, the US goalkeeper violated the rule that limits the goalkeeper to moving laterally, not forward, until the ball is kicked. The US goalkeeper took two strides forward before the Chinese player kicked the ball. No call.

And worse, no apology. Even worse, it turns out the action was intentional, even rehearsed on the first penalty kick. The goalkeeper's response to the Los Angeles Times, "It is only cheating if you get caught."

And then there was this Ryder Cup match where spectators turned one of the few remaining sports with any civility

into a partisan debacle where nasty words and gestures were directed at players and the families of players.

And in keeping with the disgusting display of sportsmanship by spectators, the nearly victorious US Team stormed around and onto a putting green where a European waited to attempt a putt that could have reversed US fortunes.

Many in the media have noted that outrage from Europe -- where violence, destruction and death have often occurred at sporting events -- is disingenuous. But that dodges the issue: our behavior was terrible -- by some spectators throughout the three-day event and by our spectacular player at its conclusion.

It is a difficult chore we face in school sports to expect that players, coaches and spectators at our events will participate and observe with respect and decorum when they see the best of our athletes present the worst of our sportsmanship and so few people are outraged about it.

It is another hurdle for us to overcome in educational athletics.

## ALFRED STUDY SPARKS DEBATE

*Reprinted from the NCAA News, September 13, 1999*

Alfred University's study, "Initiation Rites and Athletics: A National Survey of NCAA Sports Teams," followed an incident last fall in which several Alfred freshman football players were hospitalized for alcohol poisoning.

The study, commissioned by Alfred University and released August 30, found that 79 percent of student-athletes have participated in initiations that crossed the line into hazing.

"As a university president, I find the results of our study on hazing to join athletics teams horrifying," said Alfred President Edward G. Coll Jr. "It's pervasive, it's dangerous and it is behavior that is forced upon student-athletes as the price of admission to a team".

The activities in which the 79 percent of respondents claimed to have participated were categorized by researchers as either "questionable" (humiliating or degrading but not dangerous or potentially illegal), "alcohol-related" or "unacceptable" (activities that carry a high probability of danger or injury or that are illegal).

The national study -- funded by an insurance company and conducted with the cooperation of the NCAA -- was launched after an Alfred President's Commission

conducted an investigation of the incident at Alfred.

"We brought in athletic directors from a number of schools in the (Alfred University) area, and it turned out that this was a much more widespread issue than we ever imagined," said Frank Elliott, retired president of Rider University and chair of the commission.

"The study is a wake-up call that alcohol and hazing are not entirely the problem of fraternities and sororities," said Hank Nuwer, a journalism professor at Anderson University and Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis and author of several books on hazing in fraternities, sororities and in high schools.

"I was surprised to see that recruits were given alcohol before they ever enrolled. I shouldn't have been surprised by that since there's something similar to recruiting -- called "rush" -- in fraternities and sororities."

Another surprise in the study was the number of student-athletes who found that they were expected to do something illegal as part of the initiation.

"One in five student-athletes said they were expected by their teammates to engage in potentially illegal activity as the 'price' of

acceptance on the team," Coll said.

More than half of the student-athletes reported consuming alcohol on recruitment visits or participating in a drinking contest as part of initiation onto a team.

"The great thing about this survey is that it doesn't point the blame," Nuwer said. "The anonymity of the survey lets you get information to address the problem. It can serve as a benchmark without pointing the blame. The study shows us where we have to go. All of us have to be educated."

Nuwer points to incidents in professional athletics as an indication of just how much education is needed.

"The Cleveland Browns' new coach announced that hazing wouldn't be allowed, and then he stood by while three of the players were taped to the goal posts. He said that didn't meet his definition of hazing," Nuwer said. "Sportswriters downplay or even poke fun at initiations. A few years ago, ESPN hired a new person and used their mock initiation as a commercial. As long as we're condoning it in sports, it's going to happen."

*For more information on the study, see [www.alfred.edu/news/html/hazing-study.html](http://www.alfred.edu/news/html/hazing-study.html).*

## HIGHLIGHTS: CIAC Board of Control Meetings

*November 18, 1999 and December 9, 1999*

- A member school was fined to the amount of \$500 for using an ineligible player in four boys soccer games, all of which were losses. The coach was aware of the academically ineligible player and reported the player under another name in the four contests. The coach in question has been relieved of his duties as soccer coach.
- A member school was fined \$250 for use of an ineligible player who was disqualified from a boys soccer game and failed to "sit out" the next contest. The game was forfeited to the opposing team.
- A member school forfeited eight games after it discovered that a member of its boys soccer team was ineligible due to the school's residency requirement. The result of the forfeitures removed the member school from tournament consideration. The student in question and the parents used deceptive means in gaining enrollment into the school. The school was not aware of the situation and immediately notified the CIAC when the violation was discovered.

- A member school forfeited 12 JV contests after discovering that a JV soccer player had falsified his residence and was ineligible to participate on the school's team.
- The board voted to appoint an independent investigator to look into a recruiting allegation brought by New Britain High School against Southington High School.
- The board approved a request from the Golf Committee to expand the tournament from 3 to 4 divisions in the 2000 season.
- The board approved language that clarifies "when an athlete declares eligibility." "Being considered a member of a school team but never having played in a contest, at any level, in that sport during the season will not count toward one of the three seasons of eligibility for that sport."
- A member school was fined \$100 for permitting an academically ineligible player to participate in a varsity football game. The game was forfeited to the opposing team.
- The board accepted with regret the resignation of Dr. Edward Goldstone as a mem-

ber of the CIAC Eligibility Committee. The board appointed Mr. Jay Voss, principal of Pomperaug High School, Southbury, to serve in his place.

- In the wake of the Hartford Football Officials Board's threat to strike unless Hartford agreed to use five-man crews, the Officials Committee has arranged to meet with an attorney to determine legality and "enforceability" of the football officials' contract (and possibly other sport officials' contracts).

- A sub-committee was appointed to study the CIAC fine policy with respect to violations that occur which have resulted from dishonest measures taken by persons attempting to circumvent rules, and which clearly demonstrate no school culpability.

- It was reported that the Connecticut Sports Medicine Committee has officially reaffirmed its position in support of the CIAC preseason pitching regulation and the CIAC preseason football equipment regulations as they presently stand.

## caad news

### C.A.A.D EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 5, 2000

#### Highlights:

- John Gauld made a presentation on the status of the website. Members expressed to Mr. Gauld their frustration over the delays in getting www.athleticdirector.com up and running and serving as a viable tool for the state's athletic directors.
- Fred Balsamo presented information that attempted to clarify how coaching certification - CEU's can be provided and by which groups i.e., school districts, sport specific conference/clinics, athletic directors.
- Anita Maizga from ERASE presented information on a program called Right Steps to Sports. The program is designed to train coaches, administrators, park & recreation personnel on how to be role models for today's youth and promote healthy lifestyles and choices. Facilitator training sessions will be offered. Contact Anita at (860) 568-4442 for additional information.
- The following national update was provided:
  - The NIAAA will have a new certification program effective 2000.
  - The National Federation is asking the NFL to continue the joint alliance.
  - The 2000 NIAAA Conference will be in San Diego, California.
- Members discussed the possibility of having retired athletic directors get involved with a mentoring program for new athletic directors.
- Officers agreed to create "job descriptions" for each office for distribution and information for future offices.
- Bob Broderick discussed the issue of attempting to develop standards for evaluating athletic programs. A committee has been formed to explore this issue and present prior to the state conference in March.
- Paul Maskery indicated CAAD currently has 177 members.

### WHAT'S COMPLIANCE, IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EYES?

The Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Education Department determines whether schools comply with Title IX by comparing the "benefits, opportunities and treatment afforded members of both sexes" in athletic programs.

To be in compliance, educational institutions do not necessarily have to offer identical programs for boys and girls, so long as the overall athletic programs for boys and girls are judged to be equal in overall effect.

OCR last year received 83 complaints under Title IX relating to sports programs at elementary and secondary schools, the most received in a single year since the agency began collecting data. No school has ever been targeted for administrative enforcement over a Title IX issue, which means, technically, no school ever has been found out of compliance with the law.

"When a complaint is filed, the first attempt is to try to get the complaint resolved as quickly as possible," says Mary Frances O'Shea, OCR's national coordinator for Title IX athletics. "The interest there is to get remedy if there is a problem, rather than have a long, drawn-out investigation that could go on for months." The following procedures are used when a complaint is filed about a Title IX issue:

- \* First, OCR allows the complainant and the school district to enter into an agreement through a process known as "early complaint resolution." OCR acts as a mediator or facilitator but does not participate in developing the terms of the agreement, other than to ensure they are legal. It also does not monitor the implementation of the agreement.
- \* If communication between the complainant and the school is already strained, OCR may participate in the actual development of the settlement agreement and the implementation of the agreement. It then will stay with the case until the school takes all the agreed-upon actions.

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## 16th Annual Athletic Directors Conference

March 23-24, 2000  
Holiday Inn, Cromwell

**State athletic directors are encouraged to submit their e-mail addresses to Paul M. Maskery, CAAD Executive Secretary, at CIAC, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410. We would like to create a CAAD e-mail database. Please provide them in written form.**

- \* If neither of the previous two procedures are successful, OCR would engage in a full investigation of the complaint. During this process, OCR still can choose to offer the parties an opportunity to engage in a settlement if they express a desire to do so.

If none of the three approaches succeed, the complaint is referred for administrative enforcement, the civil equivalent of taking a case to court.

-- By Meg Sommerfeld, Reprinted from *The School Administrator*, November 1999

### CT AD's ATTEND N.I.A.A.A. CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS

Approximately twenty-three CAAD Athletic Directors attended the N.I.A.A.A. Conference which was held in New Orleans this past December. President Pamela Goodpaster indicated that the State of Connecticut was well represented as members participated in a variety of activities which included Past President's Meeting; National Delegates Meetings and LTC courses.

A highlight of the convention was the honoring of Southington's long time baseball coach John Fontana. John received the N.I.A.A.A. Distinguished Service Award during the conferences annual luncheon.

