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CAS-CIAC is affiliated with:

- Association for Middle Level Education •
- National Association of Elementary School Principals •
- National Association of Secondary School Principals •
- National Federation of State High School Associations •

CAS NAMES 2013 ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR



CHRIS PALMIERI
2013 Middle School
Assistant Principal of the
Year



JULIO DUARTE
2013 High School
Assistant Principal of the
Year

The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) is pleased to announce the selection of the *2013 Assistant Principals of the Year*. Congratulations to these outstanding administrators!

- Christopher Palmieri, Assistant Principal DePaolo Middle School, Southington
- Julio Duarte, Assistant Principal Conard High School, West Hartford

The winners were chosen by the CAS Awards and Recognition Committee, a selection committee consisting of active and retired principals and assistant principals.

Read more about these outstanding administrators on page 6.

A picture worth 1,000 words...



Two-hundred members of the Center for Youth Leadership (CYL) participated in a silent vigil at Brien McMahon High School to honor the victims of the Newtown shootings. As students walked to buses at the end of the school day on December 17, they were greeted by signs that read, "This is a silent hallway for Newtown" and "The streets of heaven are filled with angels from Newtown." Beyond the signs, members of CYL held placards with the name and age of each victim. Think of school hallways at the end of the day - loud, happy, very loud. Well, you could hear a pin drop in the main hallway at Brien McMahon High on this special day. The Center for Youth Leadership (CYL), which is based at Brien McMahon HS in Norwalk, is the largest youth activism organization in Fairfield County, and one of the largest in Connecticut.

CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF EXPANDS

CAS is pleased to welcome two veteran educators to the central office staff. Mike Galluzzo, recently retired Farmington administrator, has joined the central office staff as a co-director of the CT Principals' Center and assistant executive director. J. Patrick Howley has joined CAS as a part-time assistant executive director.

Prior to his retirement in June, Mike Galluzzo had worked in public education for thirty-eight years, thirty two of which were spent in Farmington as a teacher, assistant principal, long-time principal of East Farms School and assistant superintendent. During his tenure as principal, East Farms was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and he was selected as National Distinguished Principal in 2004.



Mike Galluzzo



J. Patrick Howley

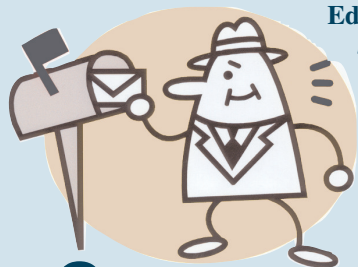
Mike has served CAS in numerous capacities since becoming active in 2000. He was a founding member of the Connecticut Principals' Center and served on the Elementary Board of Control and CAS Board

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LEGAL MAILBAG

By Attorney Thomas B. Mooney, Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut

Editor's Note: *Legal Mailbag is a regular feature in the CAS BULLETIN. We invite readers to submit short, law-related questions of practical concern to school administrators. Each month we will select questions and publish answers. While these answers cannot be considered formal legal advice, they may be of help to you and your colleagues. We may edit your questions, and we will not identify the authors. Please submit your questions to: <legalmailbag@casciac.org>*



Q. DEAR MAILBAG: Do we have to count time served in juvenile detention as part of an expulsion decision? For example, a student was found in possession of marijuana on school property in January. He was arrested for possession of marijuana with intent to sell, assault 3rd, interfering with police and breach of peace. He was suspended for 10 days, but before we could expel him, the student was placed in juvenile detention. He was released in July. We held the expulsion hearing on the first day this school year, and we expelled him for 180 days. Does his time served in corrections count toward that 180 days set forth in the expulsion decision?

- Counting the Days

A. DEAR COUNTING: The time in detention must be counted. The General Assembly recently addressed this issue in Public Act 11-115, An Act Concerning Juvenile Reentry and Education. It add new subsection I to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233d. The new law provides that, when a student commits an expellable offense, he/she may be expelled, but that the expulsion must run concurrently with the time served in a juvenile detention center. The law presents a challenge, because it further provides that if a student is released from juvenile detention and has not been expelled for that offense, the district "shall allow such student to return and may not expel the student for additional time for such offense." Given this provision and the practical problems, we recommend that during the detention period school officials notify the parents that an expulsion will be held when the student is available. Then, we believe, any expulsion when the student is released and is available for the hearing would be timely and appropriate. Any expulsion period, however, must run concurrently with the time in detention.

Q. DEAR MAILBAG: I was happy to read your response in the June 2012 Legal Mailbag column concerning the new state teacher evaluation guidelines required under Public Act 12-116, *An Act Concerning Education Reform*. Do I understand you correctly that we have until the 2014-2015 school year to implement a new evaluation program in accordance with these guidelines? Getting the new plan in place and getting both administrators and teachers appropriately trained will be a huge job. Thank goodness for small favors.

- Taking My Sweet Time

A. DEAR TIME: Not so fast. The position of the State Department of Education is that school districts will be required to implement evaluation programs under the new guidelines next year. To be sure, there is a pilot program during the current year, and the results of that pilot program will then be the subject of a study by the Neag School of Education. That study must be submitted to the state board of education by January 1, 2014, after which the State Board of Education must validate the new guidelines, as they may be revised through the pilot. Nonetheless, the statute does not specify that school districts may wait for the validated guidelines to implement a new evaluation program, and the Department is expecting implementation of the new plans next July. The bottom line here is that, while there are uncertainties and some changes are likely, school districts are expected to take good faith action to implement new evaluation programs in accordance with the new guidelines in 2013-2014 based on what is learned through the pilot in 2012-2013.

A. DEAR MAILBAG: Our junior class has petitioned the board of education to hold graduation exercises in a very popular venue. Indeed, it is so popular that one must reserve it more than a year in advance. While the board would be happy to approve this request, with all the weather-related problems in recent years, the board has asked me to guarantee that, no matter what happens, it will be OK to go ahead with graduation on the specified date. Is there any way I can do that?

- Sweating Up A Storm

Q. DEAR SWEATING: Indeed there is, although I am not sure that the board will want to meet the statutory condition. Specifically, Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16l permits a board of education to "establish for any school year a firm graduation date for students in grade twelve which is no earlier than the one hundred eighty-fifth day noted in the school calendar originally adopted by the board for that school year" We interpret this provision to mean that graduation can be scheduled no less than five days after the 180th day of school if those days are noted in the school calendar as potential "snow" days. We are not sure that the board would want to have graduation five days after the end of the school year if there are no snow days that year, but the board can be sure that it can hold graduation that date only if it pushes the date out that far. The only other certainty comes after April 1.

The statute goes on to provide that "a board on or after April first in any school year may establish such a firm graduation date for that school year which at the time of such establishment provides for at least one hundred eighty days of school." Thus, a firm graduation date may be set on or after April 1 even if subsequent events cause less than 180 school sessions to be held before the graduation ceremony. Interestingly, the commissioner of education has ruled that such graduating seniors must have the opportunity to return so that they can attend school for the full 180 days. Good luck with that.

A. DEAR MAILBAG: At my school, we have our teachers lead the Pledge of Allegiance every morning. As I was doing my rounds the other day, I was shocked to see that one of my third grade teachers had one of her students leading the pledge (imperfectly I might add), while she stood mute. I told her to report to my office at the end of the day, which she did. She explained that she did not think that our country had liberty and justice for all, and she said it would be hypocritical of her to say the pledge personally. I reminded her that she is a non-tenure teacher and that she should not take herself and her feelings so seriously. She seemed shaken by our conversation, but I was quite surprised that she just told me that she would think about it. May I write her a no-nonsense letter telling her that any future failure to say the Pledge personally will be considered insubordinate?

- King of the Castle

A. DEAR KING: Maybe you shouldn't take your own feelings so seriously. When the United States Supreme Court decided the seminal case of *Tinker vs. Des Moines Independent School District*, it famously stated in 1969 that it can't be argued that "either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate." To be sure, when teachers are doing their jobs, they do not have free speech rights. Here, however, the teacher had figured out a way to accommodate her personal views while still assuring that students could say the pledge without her. Thus, it appears that you picked a fight unnecessarily, and if you ever move not to renew this teacher, she may well argue that your decision was in retaliation for her exercise of free speech rights. How does "test case" sound to you?

ct news & notes

■ Earlier this month, the state department of education released the individual School Performance Index (or SPI) for all of the state's schools. The SPI is part of a new state accountability program that places every school in one of five tiers from the lowest-performing schools to the highest. The index is on a scale of 0 to 100. The state hopes to see all schools eventually score at 88 — a rating that indicates that most of the students scored at or above what has been called the "goal level" on the state's standardized test. The new system replaces the No Child Left Behind system linked to the percentage of students who scored at the proficient level on the Connecticut Mastery Test or the Connecticut Academic Performance Test. The data can be accessed at <https://state2.measinc.com/ct/micpi/>.

■ Connecticut is the sixth healthiest state in the nation, according to the United Health Foundation's America's Health Rankings. While the state ranks near the top, that ranking is lower than it was a year ago when it came in fourth. For the fourth consecutive year, Vermont achieved the number one healthiest state distinction. Connecticut's strengths include a low prevalence of smoking, a low incidence of infectious disease, a low rate of uninsured population and high immunization coverage while it's challenges are moderate high school graduation rate and moderate levels of air pollution. Specific highlights include:

- While Connecticut has one of the lowest smoking rates in the U.S., 475,000 adults still smoke.

- In the past 5 years the high school graduation rate declined from 80.7 percent to 75.4 percent of incoming ninth graders who graduate in 4 years.
- In the past 10 years, the percentage of children in poverty increased from 8.9 percent to 14.3 percent of persons under the age of 18.
- In the past 5 years, public health funding increased from \$57 to \$71 per person.
- In the past 5 years, the rate of preventable hospitalizations decreased from 67.3 to 60.4 discharges per 1,000 Medicare enrollees.
- In the past year, the infant mortality rate decreased from 6.3 to 5.8 deaths per 1,000 live births.

For more information, visit www.america'shealthrankings.com/2012/.

■ Connecticut is one of five states involved in a national initiative to lengthen the school day and the school year. The program, which is supported by the Ford Foundation and the National Center on Time & Learning, is expected to extend students' school year by hundreds of hours — one estimate is 300 hours or more — starting in the fall of 2013. Selected public schools in East Hartford, Meriden and New London will participate in the program.

DISTINGUISHED FRIEND OF EDUCATION AWARDS

Is there an extraordinary individual who has given his/her time, energy or expertise to your school? Has a local business provided services or resources which have resulted in positive experiences for your students? If so, please consider submitting a nomination for the *CAS Distinguished Friend of Education Awards*.

These awards, established in 1983, honor a person and an organization or corporation for outstanding service to education in Connecticut (for specific award criteria, visit <http://www.casciac.org/go?542>).

If you wish to nominate an individual or an organization/corporation for these prestigious awards, please complete the one-page nomination form on-line at www.casciac.org/nominate_dfe.shtml by **January 14, 2013**.

■ Interested in experiencing the Chinese education system first-hand? The CAS Principals' Center and the CSDE are again collaborating on a Connecticut-Shandong Principal and Teacher Shadowing Project. The aim of the project is to build partnerships between school leaders, promote mutual intercultural understanding, and create opportunities for professional development. Apply now for this enriching twelve-day field program in Beijing and Shandong Province. Visit www.casciac.org/go?543.



SAVE THE DATES

Elementary Celebration of the Arts

Feb 5-6, 2013 • 5:00 p.m. • Aqua Turf Club

(Snow date February 11th)

The goal of the Elementary Celebration of the Arts is to recognize students with outstanding artistic ability in the performing and visual arts who also exemplify outstanding leadership and citizenship skills. Two students from each elementary school in Connecticut will be recognized at this annual event.



Volunteer Recognition Banquet

March 12, 2013 • 5:00 p.m. • Aqua Turf Club

Say "Thank You" to the volunteers who make your school a special place

Every school in Connecticut is blessed with parents and other volunteers who contribute to the success of the school. This program is intended to give public recognition to those who have made major contributions to your school. Contributions may include volunteering, tutoring, organizing events, serving as PTO/PTA officers, coaching teams, supporting fundraising, etc. Further information will be sent out in January.

HIGH SCHOOL BOARD HOLDS FORUM ON EVALUATION, SECONDARY SCHOOL REFORM

By Janet Garagliano
Assistant Executive Director



High School Board Chair Dr. Beth Smith

On Monday, October 15, 2012, the High School Board of Control sponsored the first of a series of informational meetings for secondary principals. The guest speaker for this first event was Dr. Karissa Niehoff, executive director of CAS. She spoke to a highly engaged audience about a variety of topics related to policy changes that affect all principals (the new evaluation model for teachers and principals) as well as topics pertinent to secondary principals (secondary school reform.) Since Karissa is a member of the governor's committee tasked with a review of high school graduation requirements, she was able to share with us the progress of the committee.

From the individuals in attendance on the 15th, Karissa was able to recruit a small group of volunteers to share their thoughts with her on high school graduation requirements. Volunteer principals were given some materials to review and were asked to share their thoughts with and offer any input to Karissa. We thank Karissa for this opportunity to fold the principals' voices into the discussion.

We will update you with more information as the committee's work progresses. We have planned two more meetings such as the one on October 15th, so watch for announcements of future meetings. Our meetings start at 4:00 and end at 6:00 - with a light supper provided.

CAS AND CAPSS INVITE STUDENTS TO JOIN EDUCATION REFORM DEBATE

CAS and CAPSS are very excited to announce a special scholarship and an opportunity for students to have their voices heard in the education debate!

For the past year, educators have been deeply involved in developing a vision for and a plan to implement education transformation in Connecticut that ultimately puts students at the center. It is now time to invite the student voice to be a part of our discussions. We are introducing a contest entitled Student Voice in Education Reform for middle and high school students. Contestants are expected to create a video that will give their perspective on improving their learning experience.

Student videos must feature recommendation(s) for improving their experience in the classroom and enhancing their opportunity to learn and grow. Within the video, they must explain how or demonstrate why their recommendation(s) would improve their learning experience. The criteria for selection are: content, storytelling, creativity, and visual appeal.

The deadline for submission of videos is May 1. A panel comprised of superintendents, principals, teachers, and students will review the

New Staff Members, continued from page 1 of Directors. He chaired the Principals' Center Critical Issues Committee and mentored aspiring administrators in the UCAPP program. In 2009, he was awarded the CAS Citation, the association's highest honor.

Mike's expertise is in promoting practices and policies which support principal, school and district capacity development.

Pat Howley has a rich background in education and many professional connections statewide, nationally, and even internationally. Pat will be bringing his knowledge and skills in the area of individual growth and development to our Principals' Center programs.

Pat has been an educator for many years working in a variety of roles and organizations. He has been an elementary school teacher, a middle school counselor, a director of a high school gifted program, and a human resource specialist for the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. He has taught courses in human relations, teacher preparation, and counseling at Sacred Heart

videos and nominate finalists for the contest. The finalists will be posted on a special website and any video that is posted to the finalist website will receive a small prize in the form of a gift card. The public will participate in the selection of the scholarship winners. The students who created the top three videos will receive a scholarship and will be invited to a celebratory event that includes the showing of their video.

For contest guidelines and submission form, visit www.casciac.org/go?534.

University, Connecticut College, and Southern Connecticut State University.

In addition to his new role at CAS, Pat Howley is a part-time implementation coordinator for the Comer School Development Program out of Yale University, where he has worked for fifteen years.

Prior to joining the SDP, Pat was a consultant to schools and teacher organizations, and served as a trainer for the State of Connecticut's Cooperating Teacher and Beginning Educator Support and Training Program (BEST). He also served as an assessor for the State of Connecticut for beginning teachers.

Pat's main interest and training experiences have been focused on adult development. He has studied extensively a development process called the Enneagram, received certification in the use of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and Carol Pearson's The Pearson-Marr Archetype Indicator, and uses a Jungian archetypal model for understanding adult development.

CAS HOSTS ELEVENTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

On Thursday, October 25th, CAS hosted its eleventh annual celebration of educational leadership at Saint Clements Castle in Portland. The event was conceived twelve years ago following a resolution by the CAS Board of Directors to find ways to recognize and pay tribute to individual school leaders as well as to "celebrate" the profession of school administration. Six individuals from the ranks of Connecticut's school administrators were honored at this year's event:

- Sally Biggs, Principal
Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy
2012 Middle School Principal of the Year
- Dr. Miguel Cardona, Principal
Hanover School, Meriden
CT's 2012 National Distinguished Principal
- Vi Gibbons, Assistant Principal
Amity Middle School - Orange Campus
2012 Middle School Asst. Principal of the Year
- Bridgette Gordon-Hickey, Asst. Director
Reg. Multicultural Magnet Sch., New London
2012 Elem. School Asst. Principal of the Year
- Dr. Thomas McMorran, Head of School
Joel Barlow High School, Redding
2012 High School Principal of the Year
- Tiffany Violette Caouette, Asst. Principal
South Windsor High School
2012 High School Asst. Principal of the Year

More than two hundred forty educators, friends, and family members packed the Waterford Ballroom at Saint Clements to join in honoring CAS' 2012 Distinguished Administrators. Guests were greeted at the door with the mellifluous sounds of the Glastonbury High School Resident String Sextet featuring Giana DiNatale, Eric Donch,

Colby Johnson, Yerim Lee, Nikhil Menon, and Stacy Yoon.

Mike Rafferty, principal of Old Saybrook Middle School and chair of the committee which organized the event, warmly welcomed guests and introduced the evening's master of ceremonies, Mr. Scott Gray, 41-year veteran sports commentator for WTIC AM 1080. In his opening remarks, Mr. Gray praised the accomplishments of the six honorees. "Your exemplary work not only benefits the children you serve, but encourages those around you to consider school administration as a worthy career," said Mr. Gray. "In the midst of declining resources, accountability pressures and the myriad demands of your profession, you continue to bring innovation, inspiration and dignity to the work of educating our children."

Stefan Pryor, Connecticut Commissioner of Education, delivered articulate and inspiring remarks on behalf of the state department of education. He praised the honorees for giving their whole strength and soul to their profession. Quoting Woodrow Wilson, he stated, "Absolute identity with one's cause is the first and great condition of successful leadership."

CAS President Fran Kennedy, principal of Berlin High School, extended congratulatory remarks to the honorees, praising their successes in an ever-changing and ever-challenging role. Said Fran, "I want to express the association's collective gratitude to you for working so diligently and creatively and thereby serving as exemplars in our increasingly complex profession."

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Stefan Pryor, Connecticut Commissioner of Education



Master of Ceremonies Scott Gray



CAS President Fran Kennedy, Principal of Berlin High School



Old Saybrook Middle School Principal
Mike Rafferty



Pine Grove Elementary Principal Gail Dahling-Hench (l) and Bridgette Gordon Hickey



CAS Executive Director Karissa Niehoff (l) and
Vicenta Gibbons

2013 Assistant Principals of the Year, *continued from page 1*

Christopher Palmieri

Christopher Palmieri, assistant principal of DePaolo Middle School in Southington, has been selected as the 2013 CAS Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year. DMS Principal Frank Pepe, who nominated Palmieri for the award, describes him as a "a rarity of both knowledge and leadership who gives 100% all the time."

Palmieri, now in his eighth year as assistant principal at DePaolo, was chosen by the selection committee for his insistence on high standards and his uncompromising dedication to his students and school community. Says social studies teacher Debra Moreau, "Chris is extremely deserving of this award due to his commitment to maintaining a school climate that continuously fosters high expectations for students and teachers; but, most importantly, due to his devotion to every student in our school."

"I am very humbled and honored by this recognition," said Palmieri when he learned of his selection. "I would like to thank the entire staff at DePaolo Middle School. I believe this award is reflective of all of our work at DePaolo as well as in Southington. I love working with my middle school students and am privileged to work with such a dedicated and talented staff!"

During his tenure at DePaolo, Palmieri has been the driving force behind a number of successful initiatives which have improved the academic achievement of his students while at the same time enhancing their social and emotional welfare. He spearheaded a mentoring program which provides an additional support network for at-risk kids; he established a textbook center at the Southington Public Library so that students who forget to bring home their books have access to them after school hours; he created a combined drama program which involves students from both Southington middle schools, allowing them to form bonds before they attend high school together; and, he established DePaolo's "Homework Hotline" which he records daily for each of his school's nine academic teams allowing parents and students to check school assignments for accuracy from home.

The focus of Palmieri's efforts has been as much on producing well-rounded, responsible and caring citizens as on increased academic achievement. Selfless and civic-minded, Palmieri has established several afterschool

clubs and activities that promote increased student awareness of and sensitivity to the needs of the community and of one another. He oversees the DePaolo Leadership Program, the success of which he considers to be one of the proudest accomplishments of his educational career. The program, which involves more than half of the student body, teaches his students the values of community service, citizenship, responsibility and respect for others. He also worked with the other middle school in town to establish a Unified Sports Program which pairs individuals with and without intellectual disabilities on sports teams for athletic training and skill building. Palmieri also serves his district in his role as the secondary schools Safe School Climate Coordinator and coordinator of the Teacher of the Year Committee. Palmieri leads by example, always exhibiting the characteristics of honesty, respect, and kindness that he works to instill in his students on a daily basis. Says Pam Aldi, assistant principal at nearby John F. Kennedy Middle School, "Through his own efforts and actions, Chris encourages citizenship and volunteerism; he works hard to model a serious, genuine commitment to others."

Palmieri's efforts and influence extend far beyond the walls of DePaolo. A ubiquitous presence in the larger Southington community, he is actively involved in a number of town-wide groups and organizations. Through his close relationship with the Southington Police Department, the Calendar House Senior Center, Zion Lutheran Church, Southington Community Services, and the Southington Arts Council, he has collaborated on a number of programs that foster positive youth development and that have a direct, affirmative impact on his middle school students and their families. His position as a member of the Southington Town Council enables him to have professional relationships with many community stakeholders and to partner with them for the benefit of his students. Southington Superintendent Dr. Joseph Erardi, Jr. calls him a "one-of-a-kind leader" and an "icon in our schools and community."

Palmieri received a bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island and a master's degree and administrative certificate from Sacred Heart University (CT). He began his career in education in 1997 as a teacher at Southington's John F. Kennedy Middle School, becoming a team leader in 2001 and serving as the district Headstart and ESY program director during the summers of 2003-2005. In 2005, he was appointed assistant principal of DePaolo, the position he now holds.

Julio Duarte

Julio Duarte, assistant principal of Conard High School in West Hartford, has been named the 2013 CAS High School Assistant Principal of the Year. Though an assistant principal at Conard for just three-and-a-half years, Duarte has had a profound impact on the culture and climate of the school and community. A purposeful leader, he has been a catalyst for change in teaching, learning, and assessment; and his efforts have helped foster a student-centered, engaging, inclusive and academically rigorous learning community that challenges all students to higher levels of achievement. Roszena Haskins, principal at neighboring Sedgwick Middle School, calls him "an inspiration to students, families and colleagues" and praises his "relentless drive and genuine passion to do what is best for children and their families."

Reacting to the news of his award, Duarte remarked, "Although this is truly a tremendous individual honor, it really speaks to the wonderful work occurring at Conard. I have been blessed to be surrounded by supportive and innovative school leaders and teachers."

Duarte has distinguished himself as a selfless, industrious and reform-minded leader who cares deeply about the well-being of all members of the school community. Says science teacher John Guidry, "Julio is not in it for himself - he's in it for the students, the teachers, the parents and the staff. It's never about him; it's about equipping students for life and motivating those who serve them."

Since joining the Conard administration in 2009, Duarte is credited with developing a number of successful programs at Conard. He helped initiate a common duty period called Collaborative Course Team that allows teachers to meet during the school day to align student learning experiences and outcomes across disciplines; in collaboration with the school guidance department, he created a multi-faceted school counseling curriculum which has resulted in a marked increase in the percentage of students applying to college each year; he helped launch AP Boot Camp which has helped students acclimate to the rigors of AP courses and, thereby, has reduced the AP drop-out rate; and, he designed and led the implementation of the Academic Learning Lab (ALL), a successful transition program which supports at-risk ninth graders as they adjust to the social and academic challenges of high school.

Duarte has engaged in directed efforts to use technology to improve classroom management

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CAS RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

by Regina Birdsell, Assistant Executive Director

The Connecticut Association of Schools' *Recognition of Excellence in Education* celebration was held at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington on November 27, 2012. Over 550 guests were in attendance to honor deserving schools, programs and individuals.

Glastonbury's Naubuc School and East Lyme Middle School were recognized as the *CAS Elementary School of the Year* and the *CAS Middle School of the Year*, respectively (see related item page 9). Also recognized were the *CAS Outstanding First Year Principals*

and *Exemplary Educators* for 2012-2013 (see related items page 10 & 11).

Kevin Hogan, news bureau chief for WFSB, served as master of ceremonies for the event; and Dr. Karissa Niehoff, CAS Executive Director, delivered the welcoming remarks. In her comments she stated, "At CAS, we believe recognition of excellence is so important, not only to highlight outstanding individuals and school teams, but also to promote best practices and to encourage others to strive for excellence-to follow your example on their own path to excellence.

Congratulations again, for all that you have already accomplished, and for the great work, the excellence, that you are continuing to inspire!"

The culminating event of the evening was the presentation of the CAS Recognition of Excellence in Education Awards to teachers and staff from schools across the state. These individuals were selected for public recognition for the time and talents they have shared and for the commitment to excellence they have demonstrated.

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L to r: CAS Executive Director Karissa Niehoff; Exemplary Elementary Educator Deborah Beaudoin; and Elementary Board Chair Karen Fitzsimmons



L to r: CAS Executive Director Karissa Niehoff; Exemplary Middle Level Educator Autumn Baltimore; and Elementary Board Chair Karen Fitzsimmons



L to r: CAS Executive Director Karissa Niehoff; Exemplary High School Educator Jeanne Manfredi; and Elementary Board Chair Karen Fitzsimmons



L to r: Executive Director Karissa Niehoff; Outstanding First Year Principal Robert Nagashima; and High School Board Chair Beth Smith



L to r: Executive Director Karissa Niehoff; Outstanding First Year Principal Kristina Martineau; and High School Board Chair Beth Smith



L to r: Executive Director Karissa Niehoff; Outstanding First Year Principal Dominic Spera; and High School Board Chair Beth Smith

Recognition of Excellence, continued from page 7

The CAS Recognition of Excellence in Education celebration was made possible by the generosity of Horace Mann Insurance.



Naubuc Principal Michael Litke accepts
Elementary School of the Year Award



East Lyme M.S. Principal Judy DeLeeuw
accepts Middle School of the Year Award

Julio Duarte, continued from page 6 and instruction. He revived and led the school's technology committee, carefully assessing staff needs and designing attendant professional development to facilitate effective and meaningful integration of technology into the classroom. Furthermore, he led his staff in the implementation of PowerSchool, a web-based student information system, as a means to more effectively monitor and maximize student achievement. Notes Cummings, "Julio's constant awareness of students' experiences in class and his ability to identify and apply student learning data to craft solutions to both systemic and localized problems of practice will enable Conard to continue to grow and meet the challenges of 21st century teaching and learning."

A skilled instructional leader, Duarte is a valued source of guidance and professional support for his teachers, consistently promoting a culture of ongoing learning, cooperation and excellence. His success is tied to his collaborative approach to building leadership, which involves empowering his staff to be partners in the decision-making process and working side-by-side with them to develop and implement a vision for improved educational opportunities. States Conard principal Dr. Peter Cummings, who nominated Duarte for the award, "Julio is a student of best practices and a constant learner, continually expanding his knowledge

base about instruction and taking every opportunity to work shoulder to shoulder with teachers."

Duarte graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2001 with a bachelor of science degree in human development and family relations. He went on to earn a master's degree in school counseling from the University of Hartford as well as a sixth-year certification from Southern Connecticut State University. Duarte joined the West Hartford Public Schools in March of 2003 as an interim counselor at King Philip Middle School. Later that year, he was named counselor at Conard High School, a position he held until his appointment as assistant principal there in 2009. Duarte also served as head wrestling coach at Hall High School in West Hartford for 5 years and as the district's summer prep program coordinator for grades 6-8 for four years.

Duarte has been selected by CAS to represent Connecticut in the National Assistant Principal of the Year Program sponsored jointly by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and Virco, Inc. Duarte, along with assistant principals from each of the other fifty states, as well as the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity associations, will compete for the national honor.

A PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

A Lesson for Parents

By John Dodig, Principal
Staples High School, Westport



One of the most difficult things for some parents to accept, I have learned, is that young children eventually do grow up and leave the nest. It is the natural order of things. To help in the process, mother birds teach their young to flap their wings energetically while still cuddling them comfortably in the nest. At the appropriate moment in time, mother bird uses her beak to push her reluctant chick out of the nest knowing that it will fly and return on its own. Putting on your high school hat at Staples means that these young students need to be given opportunities to take responsibility for their lives. If they forget their homework or a cell phone, a call to mom or dad should not result in a first class delivery of that homework to the front desk in our main lobby.

I think I remember saying to a large audience of parents at a PTA Coffee last year that at some point in all of our lives, we have met someone who was taller, smarter, harder working, better looking, richer, etc. than us. If 100 high school valedictorians enter the freshman class at Harvard, by the end of senior year, one of those hundred will have a GPA that ranks her/him last in the class, and one will be valedictorian of that graduating class. They are all, still, very bright people. That hasn't changed. It is simply that some did a bit more than others.

Here is the point of this message. If your child gets a C- on a test, research paper, or other assignment, it is just a grade on that task. If that grade is lower than what the student and/or parents expected, the student should work with the teacher to find out where she/he fell short and then to work on skills to improve on the next assessment. If your child doesn't get chosen for a leading role in a play or become captain of the team, or make the varsity team, it simply means that someone else was better suited for those positions. It doesn't diminish the quality of your child. There is no need to meet with the teacher, coach or director. These inevitable events in life help to develop resiliency. "I didn't make it so I will work harder next time" or "I think I have finally hit my limit and I accept that. In what else can I become involved? What else interests me?" In my opinion, this kind of self-awareness makes us stronger, more confident adults in the end.

I hope my thoughts make some sense to you and will help you support your child in ways that will lead to a positive end at graduation one to four years from now. I know it is difficult. I know that our instinct as parents (I have a daughter) is to protect them from everything painful or disappointing. My suggestion is to save and use that instinct if you are with your child and she/he is talking on a cell phone and is about to step out into traffic. In that case, reach out, grab her, pull her back, hug her, and blame the headset.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

by Regina Birdsell, Assistant Executive Director



Naubuc Elementary School in Glastonbury has been named the *2012-2013 CAS Elementary School of the Year*. Naubuc is truly a collegial learning community that serves approximately 500 children from kindergarten through grade 5. The collective commitment to putting students first, looking at the "whole child," and doing whatever it takes to ensure that they are successful is worth celebrating and worthy of recognition.

When notified of the award, Naubuc Principal Michael Litke was ecstatic to hear they were selected. "We couldn't be more excited! Naubuc School is truly a special place, and we are greatly honored. Throughout the application process, it has been a privilege to highlight all that our staff and community do for our students and school. I believe they are truly a great example of all that is good in public education. We couldn't be more proud to represent Glastonbury and the Connecticut Association of Schools."

Chosen from among a number of Connecticut elementary schools, Naubuc School clearly distinguished itself as a consummate elementary school. Criteria considered throughout the evaluation process included an educational program conducive to the needs of all students; student opportunities that go beyond the typical school day; educational programs that are consistently reviewed and improved; an atmosphere that welcomes participation from all constituencies; an active role in the community; and strong parent-school involvement.

Naubuc Elementary demonstrated all of these qualities in various ways. In addition, the school's commitment to start each day with a morning meeting in each of its classrooms, the use of assessment to drive instruction, and the numerous opportunities for student involvement is a testament to the caring and high level of instruction provided by the dedicated faculty. When the school gathers as a community for school assemblies, they incorporate the importance of everyone being connected, feeling the pride in belonging to something special and bigger than themselves, and ending each assembly with the Naubuc teacher rock band, the Soaring Eagles, playing the school song as the student body sings along. The overwhelming show of support by the parents, staff and students, and their numerous references to the "Naubuc Family" confirms their theme: "A Circle of Community, Making a World of Difference."

Under the leadership of principal Michael Litke, the school has provided educational programs conducive to meeting the needs of all of its students. The school's sense of community, its outstanding programs, its level of academic achievement, and the overwhelming positive feeling one enjoys at Naubuc Elementary School has made it the choice for the *CAS Outstanding Elementary School of The Year Award*.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

By Norma Posocco, Retired Educator



East Lyme Middle School has been selected as the *2012-2013 CAS Middle Level School of the Year*. Chosen from among 150 eligible Connecticut middle schools, ELMS, as it is affectionately called, distinguished itself as a consummate middle school, employing exemplary practices as defined by the Association for Middle Level Education and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

In February of 2012, all CAS member middle schools were invited to apply for this recognition. After reading all applications, including detailed attention to curriculum, instructional practices, school climate and safety, community involvement, and student success, a CAS committee selected two schools as finalists. These schools were visited in May by a trained CAS committee made up of veteran principals, teachers, and the CAS Assistant Director for Middle Level Education.

During the site visits, interviews were held with faculty, administration, parents, and students. Classes were observed, and scores of documents were examined. At the conclusion of the visits, the committee deliberated over their findings and declared ELMS the recipient of the award, based on all of the evidence.

ELMS is a cutting edge school. That its students constantly score at or near the top in the Connecticut Mastery Test is a testament to the skills and dedication of the faculty, under the direction of Dr. Judy DeLeeuw, Principal. In fact, Representative Joe Courtney, speaking at the whole-school celebration in September, commented that, "To be here with a school that shows that everyone working together as a team can succeed, is just a great, inspiring example that all of us should follow every day." He also stressed the importance of the teaching staff at ELMS, describing the myriad of roles they play and encouraging students to thank them, a message that was echoed by several other speakers.

The level of differentiation for students at ELMS, both gifted and those with special needs, is impressive, and the advisory program entitled Connections fosters a real sense of belonging. Additionally, the interdisciplinary units are far-reaching and promote authentic learning. The eighth grade Capstone projects were referred to by one of the visiting committee members as "the equivalent research at the college level."

There is a culture at ELMS that promotes parent/faculty collaboration and involvement in curriculum and instruction, school improvement, and policy development. To quote one parent, "When there is a problem, (they) treat the entire family and not just the child." The show of support by the community and the knowledge of the parents about the programs at the school are very impressive.

ELMS is an extraordinary middle school in every respect. We at the Connecticut Association of Schools are very proud to be represented by ELMS as the *2012-2013 CAS Middle School of the Year*.

CAS EXEMPLARY EDUCATOR AWARDS

by Regina Birdsell, Assistant Executive Director

The CAS Exemplary Educator Awards recognize outstanding educators who have had a positive impact on their school and/or district. Nominees for these awards must have demonstrated excellence in education, involvement with students, staff and parents in and out of the classroom, and leadership in their profession.

Jeanne Manfredi, Spanish Teacher, at Lyme-Old Lyme High School, **Autumn Baltimore**, English Teacher at Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, and **Deborah Beaudoin**, Art Teacher at Canton Intermediate School have been selected from a competitive field of educators from across the state as the Connecticut Association of Schools' Exemplary Educators for 2012-2013.



Jeanne Manfredi
Jeanne Manfredi is the recipient of the CAS Exemplary High School Educator Award. In the words of Lyme-Old Lyme High School Principal

James Wygonik, "Jeanne Manfredi is an outstanding teacher who believes that all students can learn and should love learning. She skillfully combines rigor with an enjoyment for her subject."

In his letter of recommendation, Principal Wygonik wrote, "Under Ms. Manfredi's leadership, our Spanish Program has flourished. We now offer six UConn Early College Experience Credits. Ms. Manfredi is at the forefront of our school's technology initiatives. She has developed a protocol to track and organize research for the school's one-to-one student computer initiative. If there were an award that accurately described what Ms. Manfredi means to our students, our school, and our community, it is the CAS High School Exemplary Educator of the Year. Her impact on all three groups is immeasurable. To say that she is dedicated, works hard, and demands excellence sells her short. She is forward thinking, proactive, and innovative. Our school is one of the top high schools in the state, and Jean

Manfredi is a big reason why." Elizabeth P. Borden, PH.D., Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, cited in her recommendation "Jean Manfredi was born to teach, and equally important, to help others to teach. Jeanne has distinguished herself as a passionate advocate for educational excellence with an unwavering determination to tackle tough challenges and see them through to successful completion. She also distinguished herself as the first teacher in the school to become certified to teach UConn coursework through the Early College Experience Program and as one of the few Connecticut programs awarding six world language credits in addition to AP credit to eligible high school students during their junior and senior years. In the initial stages of iPod technology, Ms. Manfredi quickly recognized the benefits of using a mobile iPod cart to provide each student with easy access to real world audio clips including conversations, broadcasts, debates, editorials, music, poetry, and short stories. Ms. Manfredi just submitted and was awarded an iPad grant to purchase a full mobile cart of iPads to be used in a cross curricular effort to bring 21st century learning to the high school."

Marsha Folger, retired teacher, cites "Jeanne is as effective with academically challenged students as she is with AP students. Not only is Jeanne prepared and innovative, but she is always available to both students and their families and has an intuitive feel for teaching that cannot be learned from any textbook of pedagogy."

Autumn Baltimore
Autumn Baltimore, English Teacher at Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, is the recipient of the CAS Exemplary Middle Level Educator Award. She is an outstanding educator, a tireless worker, and a strong advocate for all children. She is the kind of teacher that any parent would want for his/her child.



Celebration, continued from page 5

Following the welcoming speeches, each of the six distinguished administrators was entertained with a short slideshow containing pictures and quotes from friends and colleagues. All honorees received a plaque; an engraved desk clock; a copy of "The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything," by Dr. Ken Robinson; and a proclamation from Governor Dannel Malloy lauding their dedication and tireless efforts in raising the standards of excellence in the state of Connecticut. Thanks to the generosity of Jostens, one of CAS' newest corporate partners, all honorees also received a custom-designed ring to commemorate their achievement.

By all accounts, the eleventh annual "celebration" was a rousing success! Many thanks to the members of the organizing committee - Mike Rafferty, Bob Hale and Gail Dahling-Hench - and to our official photographers, G&B Studios.



High School Asst. Principal of the Year Tiffany Violette Caouette



High School Principal of the Year Dr. Tom McMorran



CT's 2012 National Distinguished Principal Dr. Miguel Cardona



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CAS OUTSTANDING FIRST YEAR PRINCIPALS

by Regina Birdsell, Assistant Executive Director



The Connecticut Association of Schools is pleased to announce that **Robert Nagashima**, principal of Wakelee Elementary School in Wolcott, **Kristina Martineau**, principal of Valley Regional High School in Deep River, and **Dr. Nicholas Spera**, principal of Marine Science Magnet High School of Southeastern CT, have been selected as the recipients of the *William Cieslukowski Outstanding First-Year Principal Awards* for 2012-2013. These awards recognize first-year school principals from the high school, middle school and elementary school levels who have had a positive impact on their school and/or district and have demonstrated exemplary instructional and organizational leadership, a willingness to take risks, and the ability to overcome adversity.

Elementary award recipient Robert Nagashima (above left) was nominated for the *William Cieslukowski First Year Principal Award* by Joseph Macary, superintendent of schools in Wolcott. In his nomination, he cited Mr. Nagashima as an outstanding educational leader who is respected by his fellow administrators throughout the district. He has done an exemplary job as an instructional leader for the children and families of the Wakelee School community, and as such he has positively impacted the Wolcott Public Schools.

Mr. Robert Eberle, director of curriculum and professional development, stated that "Mr. Nagashima began his school year by empowering his faculty and staff to utilize the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support System to better meet the needs of all children. Students received monthly Developmental Guidance lessons that were presented by the school psychologist and Mr. Nagashima himself. As a result of these efforts, Mr. Nagashima firmly established a consistent and universal behavioral system rewarding positive behavioral traits that foster a culture of respect and kindness. The overwhelming success of these initiatives was clearly demonstrated by the significant reduction in

student discipline referrals and suspension rates when compared to previous years. Mr. Nagashima is a principal that believes that all children can learn and that his role as principal is to make a difference in the lives of our children." Mr. Nagashima has integrity, strong leadership qualities, and enjoys elevating his staff to better meet the needs of every child.

This year the selection committee has chosen two high school recipients: Valley Regional High School Principal, Kristina Martineau, and Marine Science Magnet High School Principal, Dr. Nicholas J. Spera

Kristina Martineau (above center) has provided excellence and consistency in leadership and vision for her school. In his nomination letter, Matthew Talmadge, associate principal, cited that "Kristina has an eye for recognizing potential in her staff and works to develop emerging talent within the building. She delegates responsibilities-curriculum, leadership, program evaluation-to not only increase her effectiveness as a manager but to empower staff as well."

Kristina's extensive knowledge of current practice and research, combined with her passion to make Valley Regional High School the best place it can be, made her the ideal nominee for this award. Ivan Neviasser, former superintendent of schools of region 4, commented "Kristina has the ability to see the big picture and impart that vision to others in a clear and understandable fashion. Her commitment to data-driven instructional practices aligned with the common core is a model that will be utilized by high schools across the state. She has brought Valley Regional High School to the forefront with their use of technology, rubrics, and performance based formative and summative assessments."

There were many reasons cited for Kristina's nomination including her poignant philosophy of teaching and learning. She is strong instructional leader whose ultimate answer to questions is

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INAUGURAL HEALTH & WELLNESS SUMMIT A BIG HIT

By Dave Maloney, Assistant Executive Director

"Amazing!" "Awesome!" "I can't wait to get back to my district and share what I learned today from the presenters." "This was a wonderful, comprehensive summit. The breakout sessions I attended suggested ways to integrate programs into our daily schedule." "I will apply what I learned about social and emotional wellness to help guide our student success plan development." "The presenters were amazing. They should come back next year!"

Similar comments resonated with other participants at the first annual "Health & Wellness Conference", sponsored by CAS and CTSDE on September 27th. Over 150 participants signed up for the summit to experience what CAS Assistant Executive Director Dave Maloney called, "unique, interactive, positive approaches to improving the social, emotional, and physical development of students. We were so very pleased with the turnout in our first attempt!"

The first summit was designed to help middle and high schools play an active role in this important area as well as designing student success plans that promote healthy lifestyles and lifelong wellness for all members of the school community. Unlike most professional development offerings, the summit specifically called for schools to bring faculty and student teams from grades 6 through 12! It was not coincidental that the implementation of student success plans, a new CT initiative for 2012-13, was designed for grades 6 through 12.

The key note speaker was Dr. Karissa Niehoff, CAS Executive Director, whose resume is filled with multiple experiences promoting health & wellness initiatives throughout her career. In her remarks Niehoff noted, "Ultimately, the dimensions of wellness all fall into two broader categories, being mental/emotional and physical. This is critical to note, as the mental or emotional component is often overlooked as the focus is typically on such main staples as physical fitness and chronic

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Exemplary Educators, *continued from page 10*

In her letter of recommendation, Catherine Horton, principal of the Middle Grades Academy at Sarah J. Rawson School, cites, "Autumn Baltimore has a natural ability to connect with her students and motivate them to exceed their own goals. Her expectations for all students are high, and she provides them with the needed skills to meet those expectations. Ms. Baltimore differentiates her instruction based on the needs of her students. She goes above and beyond expectations in creating and modifying materials to challenge or support students. Her students consistently make progress throughout the year due, in large part, to her refusal to give up and her exceptional and effective teaching practices. Ms. Baltimore regularly shares ideas and materials with her colleagues and is seen as a leader among the staff."

Elizabeth Gunn, Career Specialist at Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, in her letter of recommendation stated "Ms. Baltimore provides a student-centered classroom that includes peer consultation, differentiated instruction, student centers, cooperative learning, kinesthetic instructional strategies, flexibility, and creativity. Students integrate technology in many of their lessons such as word processing, Power Point, or video presentations. Ms. Baltimore will often act and dress the part of a character to reinforce a specific lesson. Ms. Baltimore's knowledge, enthusiasm, and wonderful personality are a perfect combination for student learning. Ms. Baltimore cares about every student and his/her academic success."

Principal Sally Biggs, in her letter of recommendation, cited, "Ms. Baltimore will give you 110% all the time. She is honest and reflective and most importantly puts her students first. Ms. Baltimore is truly dedicated to ensuring the academic success of each child! She is a creative, innovative, and exciting educator. Students in her classroom experience a wide range of instructional activities including: literature circles, cooperative learning groups, peer instruction, role playing, direct instruction, and collaborative discourse. In her role as team leader, she has successfully mentored new teachers and managed a variety of challenging situations. She strives for excellence and is a team player."



Deborah Beaudoin

Deborah Beaudoin, Art Teacher at Canton Intermediate School, is the recipient of the CAS Exemplary Elementary Educator Award. She is a world-class teacher. Her personal characteristics such as patience, consideration, caring, knowledge, perseverance, and good judgment have helped shape her to become one of the most respected teachers in the Canton Public School District.

Dr. Jordan Grossman, Assistant Superintendent of Canton Public Schools, in his letter of recommendation cited "She is uncompromising in her quest for quality educational opportunities for all of her students. She never loses sight of students and their needs. Ms. Beaudoin communicates clearly and effectively. She is articulate, tactful, and impressive. If one were to walk into her classroom, they would see that she incorporates all academic disciplines into her art instruction."

Superintendent of Canton Public Schools Kevin Case, in his letter of recommendation cited "Deborah uses an interdisciplinary approach to art history, aesthetics, art criticism, and art production. She maintains high expectations for all of her students continually challenging their creativity and encouraging them to strive to do their personal best. She is an engaged member of her school community that works collaboratively with all staff to provide the best educational opportunity for our students. She has earned the admiration and respect of her colleagues not only in her school, but across the school district."

Principal Kevin Hanlon, in his letter of recommendation, wrote, "Ms. Beaudoin is a stand-out, not only as an exceptional art teacher, but also as a caring and committed educator who is concerned and involved in the whole community. Her passion for her work with developing the whole child is evident and has most certainly been evident in the work she does every day. She embodies all that is expressed through our mission statement on a daily basis."

Roxy-Ann Austin, school secretary at Canton Intermediate School, writes "Her dedication and commitment to teaching children and her love of art is reflected through the exceptional work her students produce. Deb is intelligent, dynamic, caring, considerate, supportive, and patient. She uses good judgment in her personal and professional life and is truly driven to be and give her best. Her commitment to excellence can be found on a daily basis in her classroom instruction and in the products the students create. Deb produces an art show each May that could equal any professional art showing. Our school and entire district have benefited from Deb's talents, leadership, and genuine dedication to her students."

First Year Principals

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"how will this impact teaching and learning." All decisions are made with utmost regard to impact in the classroom. In addition, managerial decisions are well thought and purposeful. Maria Ehrhardt, vocational education teacher stated "Kristina takes the time to listen to staff before judgement is passed and decisions are made. She has a bent toward reflecting on how decisions will ultimately impact teaching and learning. I speak for the entire staff when I say this is appreciated."

Dr. Nicholas J. Spera, Principal of the Marine Science Magnet High School of Southeastern Connecticut in Groton, possesses unbridled passion for education and boundless energy each day from beginning to end. Annie Hanrahan, social studies teacher, in her recommendation stated "Dr. Spera relies on open and clear communication with the school community. He holds regular school-wide meetings for students and faculty to address concerns and issues as a group. His greatest asset is his ability to create and sustain a healthy school and climate. He is gifted when it comes to building community through relationships. He works to pollenate new relationships that can benefit our students. He is forging new and unique partnerships that will serve our school community for years to come."

Dr. Spera is a skilled and spirited leader. He was hired to open the new Marine Science Magnet High School of Southeastern Connecticut. "Throughout the many challenges that confronted a new school, students, parents, and teachers alike reported Spera gets things done. He also kept community spirits high with his town-hall style meetings affectionately termed "SPEP Talks." Dr. Spera has proven to be a strong instructional leader for his school. His regular discussions in faculty and PLC meetings address instructional practices that would yield the greatest results. His greatest asset was and is his ability to create and sustain a healthy school, culture, and climate. He has created a climate where all stakeholders and all faculty and staff are integral members of the school community. "He is the heart and soul of our school and we are grateful to him for leading the staff through the first and most exciting year and spending an equally exciting second year growing our family."

EAST HARTFORD M.S. RECEIVES THE 2012 ARTHUR DIRECTOR LEADERSHIP AWARD

By Stephanie Ford, Director of Marketing

A student leadership team at East Hartford Middle School was recently presented with the 2012 Arthur Director Student Leadership Award. This award is given annually to one Connecticut middle school for outstanding application of the themes of the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Middle Level Student Leadership Conference. The CAS 2012 conference, which was attended by over 600 students and advisors from throughout the state, focused on creating a school climate of acceptance and inclusion for all students. The title of the conference was "Making Acceptance Acceptable", and East Hartford Middle School clearly models this theme in numerous ways.

Upon receiving the award, Anthony M. Menard, Principal of East Hartford Middle School, shared his excitement, "We are honored and proud to be awarded the prestigious Arthur Director Leadership Award. Leadership is one of our core values at EHMS and to be recognized for outstanding student development is rewarding."

The student leadership team from EHMS has clearly made a commitment to build a greater climate of acceptance and respect in its school. They realized that the staff and administration can only do so much, say so much and react so much. As a result, they developed a program called "It's On Us". This program is aimed to address bullying with a focus on the students getting involved, stepping up and making bullying behaviors unacceptable in their school.

The challenge for these students then came with embedding their initiative within the student body. In their efforts,

they've held several school wide interventions which included a powerful presentation that they delivered at a school assembly, as well as a Promise Campaign where students pledge to treat each other respectfully and take action when they witness others being mean. The students want their school to be a place where the "Golden Rule" is embraced and kindness is the norm. In a time when Connecticut schools are being required to create positive school climate and anti-bullying programs, East Hartford Middle School is well on its way.

Over 50 middle schools participated in the CAS Leadership Conference this past year, and EHMS is the sole recipient of the Arthur Director Leadership award which included a plaque and grant to the school. This prestigious award was created by David Director to honor his father, Arthur Director. Arthur Director is the founder of the Connecticut Lighting Centers, corporate partners with CAS in sponsoring the annual Middle Level Student Leadership Conference. It is due to their generosity that all students in all middle schools, regardless of their circumstance, can attend the CAS leadership conference. CAS is proud of its association with the Director family and it is most fitting that the award is named for a man who symbolizes civic responsibility and philanthropic endeavors.

The 2013 CAS Middle Level Student Leadership Conference will take place on Thursday, January 10 at Wesleyan University in Middletown.



The Student Leadership team at EHMS is shown here at the recent award ceremony with (back row - left to right) David Director, owner of Connecticut Lighting Centers; Sharon Russell, Student Advisor at EHMS; Arthur Director, founder of Connecticut Lighting Centers and after whom the award is named; and Anthony M. Menard, Principal of EHMS.

GENO'S READING TEAM

By Dave Maloney, Assistant Executive Director



OUR PRE-GAME MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS

The Connecticut Association of Schools Elementary Division is pleased to partner with UCONN Coach Geno Auriemma and the UCONN Huskies to sponsor "Geno's Reading Team," an incentive program designed to improve one of the most important skills there is: reading. Once your school registers for the program, students will join the 2012-2013 UCONN Huskies in twenty minutes (or more) of daily reading for enjoyment! The CAS Elementary School Board has a suggested list of books that reflect the same themes that have made the UCONN players world class athletes! A reading journal will be posted online for students to use as they log in their minutes and thoughts while participating in the program. Periodically, you will be able to log in and view videos made by the UCONN Huskies as they read and describe their all-time favorite books! At the end of the program, we will provide a certificate of achievement for each participant!

OUR STARTING FIVE <Skills To Improve>

Reading Is Active and Disciplined. Our book list gives you a chance to choose what you'd like to read and when you'd like to read, and provides you with the discipline necessary to become a better reader...just like the UCONN Huskies!

Reading Builds Language Proficiency. Through daily reading you can practice and improve your vocabulary and ability to express yourself clearly and creatively...just like the UCONN Huskies!

Reading Builds Thinking Skills. Daily reading expands your ability to improve meaning, concentrate and think creatively...just like the UCONN Huskies!

Reading Helps You Process Information. Daily reading will improve your capacity to not only process lots of information, but compare its significance to what you already know...just like the UCONN Huskies!

Reading Is A Necessary Skill. Reading is important to all the subjects you study. Your improvement in reading will open the door to all other forms of learning. Daily practice in reading is crucial to becoming a better student...just like the UCONN Huskies!

To register, visit www.casciac.org/register.

2012 - 2013 SCHEDULE

Geno's Reading Team tips-off in January and ends March 29th. To view videos, visit <http://files.casciac.org/readingteam13/>.

Health and Wellness

Summit,

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disease risk factors. I would argue that the combination of social-emotional dimensions of wellness are THE most important as they underlie every other dimension. The state of our emotional wellness influences every single choice we make in the course of our daily activities in schools. We make decisions based on what we are feeling and thinking; and those thoughts and feelings are due in large part to the feedback we receive from others. We need to have healthy relationships with others; relationships based on trust, honesty, respect and love; social wellness is arguably the greatest influence on overall emotional wellness."

Dr. Neihoff supported her position with plenty of data and scientific research. Among the highlights she noted:

- People who maintain their social network and support systems do better under stress.
- Laughter really is good medicine; laughter causes immediate positive effects on heart rate and blood pressure; it even aids in digestion.
- Cholesterol levels go up when human companionship is lacking.
- 68.8% of adults are overweight or obese; 35.7% are obese.
- 31.8% of children and adolescents are overweight or obese; 16.9% are obese.
- The average young American now spends practically every waking minute - except for the time in school - using a smart phone, computer, television or other electronic device,



L to r: CAS Executive Director Karissa Niehoff, Miss Connecticut USA and lunch speaker Marie-Lynn Piscitelli and Assistant Executive Director Dave Maloney

according to a study from the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Each of the six breakout sessions stressed the acquisition of one or more of the core requirements of student success plans: social, emotional, and physical development skills. Students were scheduled into almost all of the breakout sessions that covered these skills with a variety of approaches. From teen dating violence to peer leadership to trends in drug use to name calling and bullying behaviors to designing personal goals for success, the summit covered a number of broad issues germane to grades 6 through 12.

Joining Maloney on the CAS/CTSDE Health & Wellness Committee were Steph Ford, Director of Marketing at CAS, and CTSDE officials Dr. Bonnie Edmondson, Consultant for Health Education, Jean Mee, EdD, Physical Education and School Health Education Consultant, and Donna Heins, Coordinated School Health Consultant.

Rosemary Ermini from Region #12 noted, "This

summit was awesome! It was such a positive experience for the student leaders to share and exchange ideas with their peers from so many schools. Furthermore, I was so impressed by the lessons I observed that I immediately requested presenter contact information so that I can bring them back to my school!"

In closing the day Maloney noted, "Health & wellness may seem like an intangible, amorphous concept, yet it affects everything that happens in our schools every day. Let today be our chance to foster positive changes to the everyday experience in school. Investing time in improving the health & wellness of schools is clearly worth the effort."

By all accounts, the first CAS/CTSDE Health and Wellness summit was a resounding success. Like all new initiatives, the committee will profit from what worked well and turn its planning attention to what needs to happen to make the second year even better. Mark your calendars for early October 2013 for summit #2!

CONNECTICUT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SAVE 48,000 LIVES

By Lou Pear, Assistant Executive Director



**American
Red Cross**

Through the partnership of the Connecticut Association of Schools and the American Red Cross of Connecticut 180 high schools collect 16,000 pints of blood each year. The American Red Cross is very appreciative of the students who run these blood drives, the advisors who take the extra time and effort to organize the drives and all of Connecticut's students who are donors.

One hundred thirty five students from twenty-five schools took part in the recent annual Red Cross High School Leadership Conference led by students from Simsbury High School. Paul Sullivan, president of the CT Chapter of the American Red Cross opened the conference with congratulatory remarks and encouraged all in attendance to continue student participation at their schools. He made a special point to commend their efforts as the participation rate for Connecticut high schools is a model which other states try to emulate.

At the 7th Annual Red Cross School Recognition Luncheon, several schools received the prestigious Dr. Robert Carroll Award of Excellence. Winners were recognized in the following categories: schools which drew the highest amount of donors, those that hosted three or four drives and those with the highest percentage of donors. The school which was recognized for saving the most lives was Howell Cheney Technical H.S. with 984 donors. Other top award-winning schools included H.C. Wilcox Tech, Vinal Tech, Masuk High School, E.C. Goodwin Tech, Norwich Tech, Windham Tech, Mark Sheehan High School, Lyman Hall High School, W.F. Kaynor Tech, Waterford High School, Wolcott High School, Nonnewaug High School and Bristol Eastern High School.

In addition to the fine work in which CAS schools are engaged, students from twenty high schools received college scholarships under the Bob's Hero Award Program. For the past three years, Bob Kaufman from Bob's Furniture has awarded students \$150,000 in scholarships. This year the first place school was Norwich Tech with five \$1000 scholarships; second place was Emmett O'Brien High School with three scholarships; and the third place schools were Eli Whitney and Salisbury High Schools. The Grand Prize Schools were Cheney Tech. and Parish High Schools. A total of 16 students received \$1000 scholarships each.

The work which our CAS schools have done and continue to do is very commendable. These schools and their student leaders are the key elements which make CAS member schools great. It is this exemplary work that makes us thankful to be affiliated with the Red Cross, our high school advisors and our CT student leaders.



SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Unity Week at Guilford High School

Adapted from an article by Lauren Lanzon published in the "Guilford Patch"

Guilford High School sponsored its annual Unity Week in October with its theme of "Unclique it and Ticket." In keeping with its focus on acceptance and anti-bullying, the week featured opportunities for students to take a stand against bullying, step out of their cliques, spread kindness, and make new friends through activities created, planned, and executed by Unity Club members. The "ticket" part of the theme was in recognition of students kind acts throughout the week.

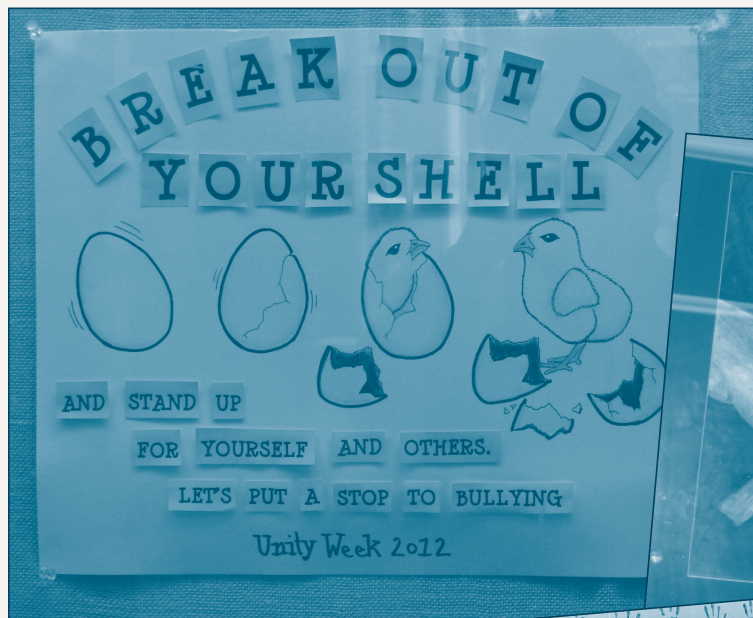
This year, the Unity Club, which organizes the event, decided to place an emphasis on the arts, such as literary, musical, and visual outlets, to convey the campaign's message. Events this year included a literary contest, art contest, mural painting, and spirit day themes. "The students were involved in every planning stage for this event," says GHS Principal Rick Misenti. "They were challenged to think about the one

thing they wanted to change about the culture and climate of the high school, and to find a way that would be simple, cost effective and wide spread."

"From there, they thought of their own way to fund-raise, designed a t-shirt, and created activities and events for the week." Misenti continued. "They took ownership in doing all of this, including researching materials, involving parents and businesses in our community, and informing the media. This truly will be a school community event." The club also elected to address the ever-growing issue of cyber-bullying in schools. To promote awareness about the issue, students were asked to turn off their cell phones at two separate times during the week as a way to acknowledge the harmful effects of these modern day bullying attacks.

The week concluded with a school-wide assembly which included an improvisation performance, speeches from faculty members, and a speech from Dr. Eric Arzubi, Policy Fellow at the Child Health and Development Center of CT.

"Unity Week has always been successful," said Misenti. This is a wonderful and powerful opportunity for this high school to have everyone pull in the same direction and bring about a substantial, sustaining, and positive change in our relationships with each other."



MANY THANKS AND DEJA VU ALL OVER AGAIN

By Dr. Dale Bernardoni

Last fall in this publication, schools in Connecticut were informed about the US-Africa Children's Fellowship (USACF) charitable organization. This agency collects from schools and libraries retired curriculum materials, gently used fiction and non-fiction books and reference materials, school supplies, and sports equipment. The donations are received by the USACF, stored in a container located on ACES property and then shipped to schools in rural parts of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Ghana.

I am very pleased to report that on September 22, 2012, the storage container filled with nearly 1,100 cartons of books and supplies had its contents transferred into a shipping container by thirty members of the North Branford football team. The shipping container was picked up and transported to New York where it was loaded onto a barge bound for Cape Town, South Africa. It arrived there a few weeks ago. The contents have been off loaded by the Equal Education partnership agency and are being distributed by overland transportation to rural schools and libraries.

On behalf of the USACF, Equal Education and most especially the schools, libraries and children that will receive the donated materials, I thank you. The following schools and organizations made donations for the first shipment.

Donor Schools

Chester Elementary School, Chester
East Hartford-Glastonbury Magnet School, East Hartford
Glastonbury High School, Glastonbury
Griswold Elementary School, Berlin
King-Robinson Magnet School, New Haven
Long River Middle School, Prospect
McKinley Elementary School, Fairfield
Memorial Elementary School, East Hampton
Pine Grove Elementary School, Avon
Valley Regional High School, Deep River
Veterans' Memorial School, Preston
Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School, Hamden
Winthrop Middle School, Deep River

Donor Organizations

Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES)
Cheshire Public Library
Chester Public Library
CT Association of Schools (CAS)
Kids Helping Kids
Read to Grow

This is an ongoing initiative. And so, once again an empty storage container sits on the ACES property waiting to be filled with donations from CT schools. Please consider contacting me if your school has curriculum materials, books or supplies that are not being used. Perhaps your school would consider holding a book drive to collect donations. I am available to present assemblies to your students so that they can see pictures and hear about African students who, without these donations, have no access to books and supplies. I am confident that together we can fill a second container and share our wealth with students in need in rural parts of south African countries.

Dale Bernardoni / 203-671-3052 / dbernardoni@comcast.net

STUDENT SUCCESS PLANS & ADVISORIES: THE PERFECT MARRIAGE

By Dave Maloney, CAS Assistant Director and Scott Brown, LEARN

Would you like to see student achievement dramatically improve and sustain itself over time? Would you like to see students take more responsibility for their own learning and behavior? Of course you would. Who wouldn't? Well, there is untapped power within every classroom, grade, school, and district that, until recently, has not been significantly tapped. Of all the reform initiatives simultaneously bombarding schools from national, state, and local fronts, who would have ever thought that the words "climate" and "connectedness" might be key answers to higher student performance.

But, it is true.

The Case For Connectedness

Breaking news . . . middle and high school student surveys report that when students feel a strong connection to their school, are treated fairly, and have multiple friendships, they are more likely to succeed.* That is precisely why we are so excited by Connecticut's investment to improve school climates and student achievement by implementing Student Advisories and Student Success Plans. **

We think it is a perfect marriage. Here's why.

Study after study has confirmed that when middle and high school students feel connected to each other and to a caring adult in the school setting they are less likely to engage in mean-spirited and negative behaviors. Furthermore, scores of research studies have also reported that young adolescents respond much better to efforts to improve academically when they feel connected to their school and perceive personal meaning in their academic program. Building positive school climates characterized by trustful relationships between students, teachers, administrators, and parents is clearly the precursor to improved school performance.

Student advisories and student success plans hold great promise as vehicles to provide school communities with the structure and practices to mentor students through the challenges of adolescence.

The Answers So Far

Here are ten strategies that teacher-advisors can implement to foster connection to school:

1. Give students more say in what they do at school and what they will learn.
2. Help get to know each other's strengths.
3. Promote cooperation over competition.
4. Involve students in planning, problem-solving, and identifying issues to improve.
5. Build a strong, trusting relationship with each and every advisee.
6. Convey excitement about learning; especially when your advisees do great things!
7. Involve all your advisees in the chores and responsibility of managing their advisory.
8. Try to integrate concepts of respect, fairness, and caring throughout the advisory program.
9. Show a genuine interest in academic, career, and physical development aspects of student success plans.
10. Meet your advisee's parents and family members whenever possible.

The Guide-On-The-Side for Student Success Plans

There are wonderful on-line programs that can assist student advisories in their development of Student Success Plans. While these plans should be student-driven, not teacher-driven, SSP activity works best embedded in a student advisory program because it shares a common fundamental purpose: To help students take ownership of their own learning. Student advisory is an ideal vehicle for

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National Harbor, MD
February 28–March 2, 2013

Register today at
www.nasspconference.org



National Association of Secondary School Principals

Student Success Plans, continued from page 16

student success planning because it:

- Provides students a personalized small group setting with a certified teacher who can know each student well and be an effective "guide-on-the-side"
- Provides the necessary continuity of close mentoring and support over time
- Ensures that the process of student self-assessment, self-reflection and ownership of learning occurs within a community of their peers
- Provides the student interaction and group dynamics that build individual student ownership and accountability

Having a student simply manage his/her Student Success Plan by interacting only with an on-line program while somewhat purposeful, will remain a solitary and sterile experience. But, having students share SMART goals, plans, progress reports, self-reflections, interest inventories, career explorations and the like in a small interactive student community under close teacher support will take students down the road of making powerful and personal meaning of their school experience. That leads to the executive skill-building, self-assessment skill, critical thinking and personal responsibility that enable students to own their own learning and connect purposefully to their personal futures.

We believe that the marriage of Student Advisories and Student Success Plans in the long run will improve student achievement across the board and also enrich the teacher-student relationship in the process.

* Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health

** Additional resources may be located at www.casciac.org under Student Success Plan Resources

UNIFIED ARTISTS EXHIBIT WORK AT LOB

Approximately 30 pieces of artwork from Unified artists across Connecticut were on display at the Legislative Office Building during the month of October. Students from fourteen middle and high schools around the state took part in the month-long exhibit.

Unified Art is designed to provide collaborative opportunities in the visual arts for school-aged children with and without intellectual disabilities. Participating students will be paired in two-person teams to create artwork which will be showcased in community settings. Mediums include but are not limited to drawing, painting, printmaking, fibers, ceramics, sculpture, photography, graphic design and digital media. The experience of engaging in Unified Art sessions will allow participants to develop artistically as well as socially.

The exhibit ran through October 31st. The following schools had students exhibiting work:

1. Bethel Middle School
2. Cheshire High School
3. Farmington/Avon High School
4. Hall High School, West Hartford
5. Guilford High School
6. Jonathan Law High School, Milford
7. Mystic M.S.
8. Norwich Free Academy
9. Rocky Hill H.S.
10. Trumbull H.S.
11. Stonington H.S.
12. Weston H.S.
13. Wethersfield H.S.
14. Wilton High School



Other schools participating in Unified Art program include Hillcrest Middle School, Pomperaug High School, Bunnell High School, Stratford High School, Southington High School, and Haddam-Killingworth Middle School.



Sports News & Notes

■ A healthy heart and lungs can contribute to better grades for middle school students, researchers announced at the American Psychological Association convention in August. For both boys and girls, healthy lungs and hearts were the only factor researchers studying 1,211 Texas middle school students found that consistently had an effect on boys' and girls' scores on reading and math tests. Researchers also looked at students' physical activity, self-esteem, social support, and body composition, but controlled for students' poverty level and their own perceptions about their academic ability. "This provides more evidence that schools need to re-examine any policies that have limited students' involvement in physical education classes," said study co-author Trent A. Petrie, a professor of psychology and director of the Center for Sport Psychology at the University of North Texas-Denton. (From *Healthy Lungs and Hearts Predict Better Math, Reading Scores*, by Nirvi Shah, edweek.org)

■ The 2012-13 high school ice hockey season is underway and the CIAC Ice Hockey Committee wants to remind coaches and athletic directors of the two rule changes printed below.

NFHS Rule 6-7-2 - Checking from Behind
NFHS Rule 6-7-2 for Checking from Behind has been given a more severe PENALTY for the 2012-13 school year. The rule, in and of itself, has not changed. It continues to indicate the following: "Hitting from behind into the boards or goal frame is a flagrant violation." The penalty for violation of this rule is now simply GAME DISQUALIFICATION. In previous years, officials were provided other options in the penalties they assessed.

In addition, a "Note" has now been added that reads as follows: "The rules committee reminds coaches and players that the responsibility in this rule remains with the player approaching an opponent along the boards. While players turning to draw penalties is a concern, the positive change in behavior the committee observed outweighs this issue. Any penalty in relation to this rule along the boards or into the goal frame must be a game disqualification."

NFHS Hockey Goalie Equipment Rule Change

The new NFHS goalie equipment rules regarding sizes go into effect with the start of the

2012-13 Ice Hockey season. These rule changes, found in NFHS Rule 3-3-2 and 3, have been identified in the NFHS Rule Book during the past three years. Each of the goalkeeper's leg pads shall not be wider than 11 inches (27.94 cm), nor longer than 38 inches (96.5 cm). The blocker glove must not exceed 8 inches (20.32 cm) in width at any point, nor shall it exceed 15 inches (38.1 cm) in length. The goalkeeper's catching glove shall have a maximum circumference of 45 inches (114.3 cm). The distance from the heel of the catching glove to the outside edge of the glove shall not exceed 18 inches (45.72 cm). The wrist cuff of the goalkeeper's catching glove shall not exceed 4 inches (10.16 cm) in height and 8 inches (20.32 cm) in width across the wrist.

Per NFHS Rule 3-3-4, if a team challenges the opposing team's goalkeeping equipment, under articles 2 and 3 of this section, no measurement is required and the officials should report the challenge to the state association.

It is imperative that the schools and coaches emphasize to their players on all levels the importance of following these rules for the safety of the participants and the integrity of the sport. Understand that any DQ for a violation of Rule 6-7-2 is considered a major and counts in the team totals for CIAC.

Regarding the goalie equipment, we don't anticipate any problems since, for the past 3 years, the sporting goods dealers have been selling the equipment that meets the 2012-13 rule specifications. The coaches are responsible for ensuring that the goalies and all other players are legally equipped and must attest to that fact when asked by the referee prior to each game. The officials are not required and will not measure the goalie equipment. If there is a challenge of the goalie equipment, the game continues and the officials will report the challenge, through the leadership of NIHOA, to the state associations. Again, because of the integrity of our coaches, this should be a non issue in Connecticut. Have a great season!!

■ The NCAA has been forced to relocate several championships from New Jersey because of a new state law now in effect allowing sports wagering on professional and collegiate games. The six championships, all scheduled in 2013, include the Division III Wrestling Championships, East Regionals, Division I Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Championships, Diving Regionals, Division I

Women's Basketball Championship, Trenton Regional, Division III Men's Volleyball Championship and the Division II and III Women's Lacrosse Championships. All six championships will be moved to new host sites and cities, to be determined at a later time. The NCAA championships sports wagering policy strictly prohibits the conducting of any championship session in a state with legal wagering that is based on single-game betting. Single-game betting is defined as wagering that involves either a money line or point spread wager. This policy is in place to ensure the integrity of the game, provide consistency in awarding NCAA championships and to address concerns for student-athlete well-being.

Don't Miss the Second CIAC Invitational Bowling Tournament



The first CIAC co-ed bowling tournament was held on Saturday, May 19 at Bradley Bowl in Windsor Locks. Eighteen teams from throughout Connecticut participated.

Date: Saturday, March 23, 2013

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Site: AMF Circle Lanes, East Haven, CT

Number on a team: Minimum of five, maximum of ten

Entries to the 2013 bowling tournament will be accepted starting on Monday, January 7, 2013. Entries will close on Thursday, March 14, 2013. The first 40 schools to send in their entries will be accepted for the competition. Cost is \$100.00 per school, includes all bowling related costs. Send checks payable to "CIAC" to Judy Sylvester at the CIAC office.

There is no "co-ed" requirement this year. Teams may have all boys, all girls or any mix thereof. Only one team per school. In the event we do not have 40 schools sign up, we will accept schools that have a second team. Call to

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... more ciac news

DONN FRIEDMAN NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

Donn Friedman, long-time Connecticut administrator and chair of the CIAC Girls' and Boys' Cross Country Committee and the Boys' Outdoor Track Committee, has been named executive director of the Council of New England Secondary School Principals' Associations (CNESSPA). The council, which is the governing body for all interscholastic sports competed at the New England high school level, is comprised of the six New England state athletic associations - the CIAC, the Maine Principals' Association (MPA), the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA), Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL), and the Vermont Principals' Association (VPA). At present, the council sponsors championships in thirteen separate boys' and girls' sports, including gymnastics, boys and girls cross country, wrestling, boys and girls indoor track, boys and girls outdoor track, boys and girls golf, boys and girls swimming, and spirit (cheerleading).

A 37-year veteran educator, Donn began his career in education as a Social Studies and Mathematics teacher at Platt High School in Meriden. There he also coached Cross Country and Track & Field. After fourteen and a half years in the classroom, Donn took on the role of assistant principal at Cheshire High School where he served for five years before relocating to Massachusetts as Principal of Falmouth High School. Upon returning to Connecticut in 1995, he



assumed the position of assistant principal at Lincoln Middle School in Meriden. In 2006, a year after being named the CAS Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year, Donn became the director of adult and continuing education for the Meriden Public Schools, a position he held until his retirement this past June.

Donn is eager to enrich the operation of CNESSPA through expanded communication with member state associations. Says Donn, "My goals are for CNESSPA to continue to provide meaningful and high quality events for the student-athletes in our New England region and to enhance the experiences of our student-athletes. Working with the six state associations, we can organize the standards and regulations that will foster the true spirit of sportsmanship and excellence. I am open to suggestions from administrators, coaches, parents, and athletes that will improve our activities, as well as adding or returning to championships in other sports. I look forward to meeting with sport committees or boards at any of the six state associations that would like me to attend their meetings."

JACKIE SULLIVAN RETIRES AS CHEER COMMITTEE CHAIR

Jackie Sullivan, pictured here with CAS Assistant Executive Director Dave Maloney, was honored for her contributions to the sport of cheerleading at the CIAC Cheerleading Championships in March of 2010.

Jackie Sullivan, a legend in world of high school cheerleading, has retired her position as longtime chair of the CIAC Cheerleading Committee. A member of the committee since 1992 and its chair since 1998, Jackie was an untiring advocate for the sport of cheerleading and was known for her unrelenting commitment to the young people of Connecticut.

Co-director of the cheerleading tournament for fourteen years, she continued to see to the ongoing expansion and improvement of post-season competition in a sport that now involves over 2,500 athletes statewide. Under her leadership, the tournament evolved into one of the CIAC's most exciting and competitive championships. In addition to her tireless work at the state level, Jackie also served on the National Federation of State High School Associations' Spirit Committee as a representative from New England. A certified judge for cheerleading, she has judged local, state, and New England Regional competitions for many years. Jackie recently retired from Norwich Free Academy after a long and distinguished career as a teacher, department chair, dean of students, house principal and interim head of school.

Bowling, continued from page 18

be placed on a "wait list" for that unlikely eventuality.

Bowling is still considered an activity, so there is no requirement that coaches have coaching certification or that team members have physical exams. Schools may wish to require either or both of the aforementioned.

A number of conferences have schools that are presently practicing bowling. Conferences may wish to consider having their own tournament or even hosting an inter-conference tournament.

More information will be sent in January; however, if you have any questions that are related to the bowling tournament, please contact Bob Lehr at 203-250-1111.

FALL 2012 CIAC SPORTS CHAMPIONS

GIRLS SOCCER

Champion

Runner-up

Class LL: Newtown	Glastonbury
Class L: Avon	Masuk
Class M: Northwest Catholic	St. Joseph
Class S: Immaculate	Portland

BOYS SOCCER

Champion

Runner-up

Class LL: Norwalk	Fairfield Prep
Class L: Farmington	Avon
Class M: Suffield	Bacon Academy
Class S: Bloomfield	Somers

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Champion

Runner-up

Class LL: Darien	Cheshire
Class L: Bristol Eastern	East Lyme
Class M: Ledyard	Woodland
Class S: Coventry	Holy Cross

FOOTBALL

Champion

Runner-up

Class LL: Xavier	NFA
Class L: Daniel Hand	Windsor
Class M: Hillhouse	Berlin
Class S: Ansonia	North Branford



Class LL football champ Xavier High School



Class S girls volleyball champ Coventry

GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY

Champion

Runner-up

Class L: Darien	Cheshire
Class M: Wilton	Guilford
Class S: Haddam-Killingworth	Stonington

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Champion

Runner-up

Open: New Milford	Xavier
Class LL: Danbury	New Milford
Class L: Darien	E.O. Smith
Class MM: Guilford	New Fairfield
Class M: Weston	Rocky Hill
Class SS: Haddam-Killingworth	Nonnewaug
Class S: Bolton	Capital Prep

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Champion

Runner-up

Open: Ridgefield	Avon
Class LL: Ridgefield	Glastonbury
Class L: Wilton	Darien
Class MM: Avon	Guilford
Class M: Tolland	Ellington
Class SS: Griswold	Plainfield
Class S: Immaculate	Thomaston

GIRLS SWIMMING

Champion

Runner-up

Open: Darien	New Canaan
Class LL: Greenwich	Cheshire
Class L: Darien	New Canaan
Class M: Branford	Brookfield
Class S: Luralton Hall	Weston



Class L field hockey champ Darien High School



Class LL boys soccer champ Norwalk H.S.



Class L girls soccer champ Avon High School

... more ciac news

A NEW GENERATION OF UNIFIED SPORTS

By Lou Pear, Director of Unified Sports®

You may be familiar with our wide array of Unified Sports tournaments, our enriching Youth Leadership Summit, and our Annual Michael's Cup Awards Banquet; however, Unified Sports is taking on some new and exciting endeavors. For the first time in six years, the Unified Sports video will be reproduced; Wilby High School's teams will be featured in a documentary; athletes and partners from Berlin High School took part in an instructional golf program at the First Tee facility at the TPC Golf Course in Cromwell; students from West Haven, Guilford, Rocky Hill, New London, Farmington and Avon participated in Unified Sports Summer Camps; and, the Unified Art Program is growing by leaps and bounds!

When the Unified Sports informational video was first produced, its focus was on elementary, middle and high school participation in a socially inclusive sports program. This has met our needs so far but an updated video will focus on the pre-k through grade 12 pathway. This video will highlight the Young Athlete Program for pre-school aged children, the Youth Summit and the Michael's Cup Award Recognition Banquet as well as the popular tournament events and the elementary level sports days. It is hoped that this new video will give new schools a clearer view of the extensive opportunities Unified Sports has to offer.

Beginning in December, Todd Drezner, a freelance movie producer from Brooklyn New York will be following the Wilby High School's basketball teams, coaches, administrators and parents in order to develop a Unified Sports documentary. The current Unified Sports program develops sportsmanship, compassion and friendship, but what are the real stories which go on behind the scenes? It is hoped that through this documentary stories will be revealed which will validate the benefits of a social inclusionary initiative. It will demonstrate the impact Unified Sports has on creating and support-

ing positive school climates and how students show gains in academic achievement. Most importantly, this documentary will search out those remarkable stories of triumph over hardship.

This fall has also been a first for Unified Golf. Several athletes and partners from Berlin High School took to the links at the River Highlands First Tee instructional golf course to learn and perfect their golfing skills under the direction of a golf professional. These athletes were assisted by varsity golfers from Berlin High over a four week period. During the last lesson, the athletes played a complete round of golf. As these students walked off the final green, they asked if they could do this again next year.

Another fairly new program this year was the expansion of the Camp Shriver summer camps. Several towns throughout the state worked with their Parks and Recreation Departments to offer Unified Sports Summer Camps. Each of these programs were a little different but were very well received. These summer camps included ROPES courses, field trips and a wide array of sport activities. Many of them concluded with a pizza party and the awarding of special certificates.

As the new year is well under way, the Unified Art Program has shown increased interest with several new middle and high schools coming on board. Most recently student art work has been displayed at the CT Legislative Building and at the Palace Theater in Waterbury. The CAS Arts committee will be investigating a way of bringing this inclusionary art program to our elementary schools. Stay tuned for further information.

We are very proud of these accomplishments and initiatives which could only occur with the willingness of our dedicated coaches and athletic directors. Thanks for all of your continued support.

caad news

WOODROW WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL RECEIVES CAAD SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Deb Petruzzello, AD, Woodrow Wilson Middle School

Editor's Note: At the September 5, 2012, CAAD Board of Control meeting, Woodrow Wilson Middle School was unanimously selected as this year's sportsmanship award recipient and received a 4' X 6" banner for display in their gymnasium. Congratulations to John Geary and the entire Woodrow Wilson Staff.

John Geary, the boys' basketball coach at Woodrow Wilson Middle School, had a special needs child on his team as an additional player – not taking the place of any child who tried out. A player on the team for two years, Tony has played in many varsity and JV games. He attends most practices with the team and participates in the drills. When he gets in the games, the opposing coaches and officials are notified and Tony is allowed to shoot and play with little opposition. Our coach has instructed his players to play the game as usual, but they give up scoring opportunities by passing the ball to Tony so he can shoot. After scoring, this young man high fives his coach, officials and opposing team members and coaches with true joy and a sense of accomplishment as “one of the team.” Coach Geary has taught his team acceptance and sportsmanship through these actions during practices and games as well as in the hallways/classrooms. The opposing team members and coaching staff also demonstrate these same qualities during games when Tony is on the court; and fans from both schools often cheer him on and clap for him when he makes a basket.

As an athletic faculty manager, I have written to the other athletic directors in the Central Connecticut Middle School League to compliment them, their coaches and their teams for their display of sportsmanship during our games. Thursday, January 19, 2012 was the epitome of Tony's basketball experience: playing against Dag Middle School (Wallingford), Tony got into the JV game with Wilson losing by eight points. As has been the practice, the Wilson boys passed the ball to Tony at every possession – ignoring their own desires to score and perhaps win the game. The opposing team also played soft defense against Tony allowing him to shoot – he even dribbled and shot! Tony ended up scoring ten points and shooting the winning basket as time ran out. In amazement during the game, I witnessed both teams and the crowd cheering and clapping for Tony; and, after time ran out, the Wilson team mobbed him, the crowd (parents and students) stood and cheered for him, while the opposing team congratulated Tony with handshakes, words and pats on the head. For that time, at least, differences were forgotten and the power of sport to bring out the best in athletes was demonstrated at the highest level.



29th Annual Athletic Directors Conference

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
March 21-22, 2013 / Sheraton Hartford South (formerly the Rocky Hill Marriott)
EARLY BIRD SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 21, 2013:

7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Donut Derby - Gift Redemption
9:00 - 11:00 a.m. CIAC Workshop - *Paul Hoey, Associate Executive Director*
12:00 - 1:15 p.m. Luncheon / CAAD General Meeting -
Brian Fell, CAAD President
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. General Session - *Jim Johnson, Coach*
3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Workshop Sessions
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Social Hour
6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Awards Banquet

Friday, March 22, 2013:

8:00 - 9:30 a.m. CAAD Annual Breakfast
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. CAAD Coaching Education Modules
By CAAD State Faculty
11:15 - 1:45 p.m. Buffet Luncheon and CAAD Closing Meeting

CEU'S WILL BE AWARDED EACH DAY

2013 C.A.A.D. AWARD RECIPIENTS

- ◆ *CAAD Distinguished Service Award* ◆
DAMIAN FRASSINELLI,
Stafford High School
- ◆ *NIAAA State Award of Merit* ◆
GREG SIMON
Newtown High School
- ◆ *Duncanson Meritorious Service Award* ◆
MICHAEL PITRUZZELLO
Middletown Public Schools
- ◆ *Past President Award* ◆
TRISH WITKIN
Glastonbury High School

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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Town _____ Zip Code _____
Telephone () _____

Payment enclosed is to cover:

Registration: CAAD Member -- \$100 _____
Non-member -- \$255.00 _____
Total Enclosed -- \$ _____

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Unisex sizes: S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Make checks payable to: **CAAD**

Return to: Judy Sylvester
30 Realty Drive
Cheshire, CT 06410

OR register online at: <http://www.caadinc.org/conference.html>

No one-day fees ◆ No refunds after March 12, 2013
Conference gift not guaranteed after March 1st

Hotel Registration

Group: Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
Telephone () _____

Arrival Date: _____

Departure Date: _____

Credit Card #: _____

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ American Express
Expiration date: _____

Check one: ☐ 2 Double Beds ☐ King Bed
\$108 per night plus 12% tax

Send this form along with check or credit card # to:

Hartford Sheraton South
100 Capital Boulevard
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Attn: Katie Gonzalez

OR register online at: <http://www.caadinc.org/conference.html>
Room Rate NOT guaranteed after March 12th

... more caad news

AROUND THE LEAGUES

By John Krot, Athletic Director, Killingly High School

A new feature to the CAS Bulletin will be a look at the various athletic conferences that work with the CIAC to provide another venue for regular athletic competition. There are 10 leagues or conferences which CIAC member high schools have joined. The name of these conferences are Berkshire League, Central Connecticut Conference (CCC), Constitution State Conference (CSC), Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC), Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference (FCIAC), North Central Connecticut Conference (NCCC), Naugatuck Valley League (NVL), Southern Connecticut Conference (SCC), Shoreline Conference, and the Southwest Conference (SWC).

Besides providing healthy athletic competition, the conferences go beyond this scope to enhance the student-athlete's experience. It will be the purpose of this feature to give the readers an inside look at how these conferences create very meaningful and educational opportunities for the student-athletes.

The name of this feature will be entitled "Around the Leagues". The first article will focus on the Southern Connecticut Conference (SCC) and their Captains Council program.

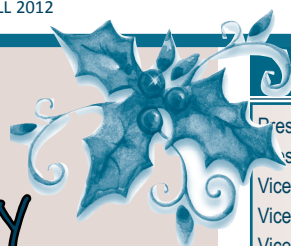
Three times a year before the start of each athletic season, the SCC partners up with Achieve Athletics to provide a program for the captains of the 22 member schools. This program presents guidelines of what it means to be a captain and the responsibility that comes with the position. This fall's Captain Council event was held at the Floyd Little Athletic Center on September 11.

The unique feature of the Captains Council is the role that Achieve Athletics plays in working with the SCC to sponsor these programs. Achieve Athletics is an innovative clothing brand that is united behind the principles - pride, determination, commitment, and sacrifice. Their slogan: Climb the Mountain encourages student-athletes to be leaders not followers, to set positive examples for their teammates, and to go the extra distance and never give up to reach their goals.

We salute the SCC and Achieve Athletics for offering this special program for our student-athletes.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



During the holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. We would like to express our thanks to all those who, as educators and friends, have enabled this association to play a continued role in the service of Connecticut public education. We wish you all a joyous and peaceful New Year!

- The Central Office Staff

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