



*The Connecticut Association
Of Schools
And*



*Welcome You
To The
Volunteer Recognition Banquet*

March 11, 2014

Cash Bar 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. - Program Begins at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome *Rick Watson, Principal of Griswold Middle School in Rocky Hill, and Chair of the CAS Volunteer Recognition Banquet Planning Committee*

Greeting *Francis Kennedy, Principal of Berlin High School in Berlin, and President of the Connecticut Association of Schools*

Greeting *Dave Mosher, Exclusive Agent for Horace Mann Insurance*

Music Provided By Kim Quinn

*Music Teacher at
Albert D. Griswold Middle School
Rocky Hill*

Distinguished Friends of Education Award

Established in 1983, the Distinguished Friends of Education Award honors a person, organization, or corporation for outstanding service to education in Connecticut.

Recognition and Presentation

Introduction *Steven LePage, Principal of Plainville High School, Plainville*

Presentation of Award *Donald Gates, Interim Principal
Coginchaug Regional High School, Durham*

Distinguished Friend of Education Award Recipient William Cahill, Jr.

Mr. William Cahill, Jr., was one of eight founding members of "The Benchwarmers," an athletic booster club started in 1967 to support Coginchaug Regional High School's athletic programs. For forty-seven years, Mr. Cahill has been an active, dedicated and hands-on member of The Benchwarmers, attending hundreds of meetings, coordinating annual Setback tournaments, selling program ads and manning concession stands at community and athletic events. Thanks to its tireless lead benefactor, who continues his fund-raising efforts to this day, the club has raised over ONE MILLION DOLLARS. The money, which has been used to fund scholarships, purchase sports equipment and improve athletic facilities, has had a direct and dramatic impact on Coginchaug athletes and, by extension, the greater Durham-Middlefield community.

*Presentation of
Award* *Paul Newton, Principal
Enrico Fermi High School, Enfield*

*Distinguished Friend of Education Award Recipient
Joseph Ravaleese*

Joseph Ravaleese, owner of The Country Diner in Enfield, has been a principal supporter of the Enfield Transitional Learning Academy since its inception over ten years ago. This program provides vocational and extended learning experiences for students with significant developmental disabilities, empowering them with essential skills that will allow them to be successful and contributing members of society. Mr. Ravaleese has employed countless ETLA students at his restaurant, providing each with a safe, structured and supportive work environment. At his own personal expense, he caters a graduation luncheon for Academy staff, students, and their families; and he presents each graduate with a personalized plaque. His generosity and kindness have served as a model to inspire other community businesses to reach out and support local school programs.

Dinner

*Introduction of
Keynote Speaker* *Rick Watson, Principal of Griswold Middle
School in Rocky Hill, and Chair of the CAS
Volunteer Recognition Banquet Planning
Committee*

Keynote Speaker *John Maziarz, Commercial Account Manager
Connecticut Natural Gas & Southern*

John Maziarz is a Commercial Sales and Account Manager at Connecticut Natural Gas and Southern Connecticut Gas with offices in Orange and Greenwich, Connecticut.

John has been a volunteer for Junior Achievement (JA) for over 30 years in the Hartford area and most recently in New Haven. John teaches the "JA in a Day" Program to elementary school classes, 10 to 12 per year, and was recently the keynote speaker at a JA fund raiser breakfast in New Haven.

John has been the vice president of the board of directors for Sheldon Oak Central (SOC) for 15 years. SOC is a non-profit housing development organization in Hartford that renovates and constructs housing units for low to middle income families.

John is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University and has attended numerous professional and sales training courses, including Dale Carnegie. John and his wife Mary Lou have eight adult children and 14 grandchildren. Six of their children are education professionals. Jason Maziarz is the principal of Myrtle H. Stevens Elementary School in Rocky Hill, and Michael Maziarz is the principal of Hartford Public High School. Their son John-Michael is the music director at the Environmental Sciences Magnet School in Hartford. John and Mary Lou live in Milford, Connecticut.

Award Recognition

*Dr. Karen Fitzsimmons
Principal of Louise Duffy Elementary School
in West Hartford and Chair of the CAS Elementary Board*

Concluding Remarks

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Connecticut State Teacher Retirement Workshops
Perfect Attendance Spells Success Program
Teacher Appreciation and Recognition Programs

Volunteer Recognition Program Committee

Committee Co-Chairs: *Dr. Karen Fitzsimmons, Principal*
Louise Duffy Elementary School
West Hartford
Rick Watson, Principal
Albert D. Griswold Middle School,
Rocky Hill

Earle Bidwell *Connecticut Association of Schools*

Regina Birdsell *Connecticut Association of Schools*

Laurie Boske *Brownstone Intermediate School, Portland*

Karen Fitzsimmons *Louise Duffy School, West Hartford*

Stephanie Ford *Connecticut Association of Schools*

Kent Hurlburt *Buttonball Lane School, Glastonbury*

Scott Jeffrey *Essex Elementary School, Centerbrook*

Steve LePage *Plainville High School, Plainville*

Norma Posocco *Retired Educator*

Christopher Sandford *Woodstock Academy, Woodstock*

Gina Vance *CAS Executive Coach*

Ansonia, Emmett O'Brien Technical High School

Honorees: Vicki Brai, Angela Kane, Cathy Marganski, Sarah Molnar, Kim Weidler

It is with pleasure that Emmett O'Brien recognizes these hard working parents and friends: Kim Weidler, Cathy Marganski, Sarah Molnar, Angela Kane and Vickie Brai. They have been an integral part of the school community by volunteering their time and efforts to support our sports programs and our school; whether it be our football program, cheerleading program, fundraising, Parent Faculty Organization, Grid Iron Club, and/or the School Governance Council. Their energy and enthusiasm is a tremendous help to our school, and they are role models to our students. On behalf of the students and faculty of the school, I thank all of our volunteers for all they have done and will continue to do for us. Thank you for making a difference!!

Ansonia, John G. Prendergast School

Honorees: Richard Breeden, Dora Olivera

John G. Prendergast School recognizes volunteers who have made significant contributions toward improvement. Dora Olivera and Richard Breeden have tirelessly volunteered their time and effort. Dora became a volunteer at Prendergast when her grandchildren, Nyasia and Jacob began school. She is always willing to help teachers and office staff. From making copies to distributing notices, Dora helps our school run smoothly. Always willing to go out of her way to help others, she is our "photographer" at many events. Rich began volunteering at Prendergast four years ago when his granddaughter, Viviana began kindergarten. Rich helps in our cafeteria with lunch.

He has become our "House Band" providing his musical talent at many events. He plays holiday songs during our Pancakes with Santa, and Halloween music at our Haunted Halls. Rich helps to entertain children, parents, and our staff. On behalf of Prendergast we extend our appreciation and congratulate them for their volunteer work.

Berlin, Emma Hart Willard School

Honorees: Gail Kulinski, Kara Simard, Debbie Tencza

Gail Kulinski is a model for the lasting positive effects a volunteer can have on a school community with always a positive approach to challenges and a great supporter of the staff with much positive energy.

Kara Simard is a positive leader and volunteer who encourage others to use their talents to support the school community. Always ready to step up and do the extras to help students and staff.

Debbie Tencza has been a faithful volunteer for many years. She has an excellent rapport with both students and teachers, and she is always willing to help with whatever is needed.

Berlin, Mary E. Griswold Elementary School

Honorees: Lucy Bantle, Karen Grega, Patricia Kozak

We are fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers at Mary E. Griswold Elementary School. This year we are recognizing three fabulous people: Mrs. Lucy Bantle, Mrs. Karen Grega, and Mrs. Patty Kozak. Each is a member of the Parents Club who have gone above and beyond to make Griswold the special school that it is. Because of their efforts, we have had Bingo Nights and Carnival Nights. We have raised funds through buying gift cards, and we have re-stocked many

books in the library. We have published thousands and thousands of books. We have supported students with their learning in their classrooms. We have experienced fabulous leadership. Our technology has grown tremendously. We have planted a butterfly garden surrounded by the love of our families who imprinted their names in bricks. While their children will be moving on to the middle school next year, their volunteer efforts will be felt for years to come. These three volunteers truly represent what it means to be part of the Griswold Family.

Bethany, Bethany Community School

Honorees: Ann Laubstein, Sandy Morgan

Ann Laubstein has tirelessly coordinated the Snowflake Shop for over five years becoming the chairperson in 2010. In this capacity, she organized volunteers and shopped for those special items that the students chose for their special purchases. The annual book fair is a huge responsibility requiring many hours of dedication, and Ann has been involved for six years and counting. Ann's dedication to the school brought her to the library two days a week for over four years. In addition, she also volunteers for numerous other school run programs.

Sandy Morgan has been an involved parent volunteer for over nine years. She has co-chaired the Snowflake Shop, which spans multiple days. Sandy has been a room parent for over nine years and has volunteered for numerous student attended school functions such as the annual book fair, Valentine's Day dance, picture day and the sixth grade committee.

Bloomfield, Carmen Arace Intermediate School

Honorees: Hector Colon, Patricia Davis, Michele Hanson, Linette Hill, Irene Pittman

We would like to formally acknowledge the volunteer efforts of our present and past PTO Board Members for their tireless work related to connecting parents and the community with our school, recognizing our teachers and supporting our students. Thank you to Linette Hill, Patricia Davis, Hector Colon and Michelle Hanson! Your loyalty and dedication to the children of Bloomfield is truly appreciated! Please enjoy this wonderful recognition in your honor. We also want to formally recognize the volunteer efforts of Fannie-Irene Pittman or "Mrs. Pittman" for a second year in a row. We continue to appreciate your long standing dedication to the students and teachers of Carmen Arace School. You are truly a member of the Arace Family.

Branford, Branford High School

Honoree: Paul Criscuolo

Paul Criscuolo, an Alumni of Branford High School, continues to serve our community with the same passion that he competed with as a Branford High School student athlete. His contributions include leadership and involvement with the National Football Foundation, Branford Sports Council, many local support groups and organizations. Paul is a Branford Hall of Fame Sports Figure.

Branford, Walsh Intermediate School

Honorees: Dominick Alberino, Susan Stackpole

Dominick Alberino has been a member of the Branford Community Mentoring Program since October, 2011. Dominick and his student play card games; war and blackjack are their favorites. Dominick also helps his student tackle homework that is challenging.

Susan Stackpole has been a dedicated and consistent member of the Branford Community Mentoring Program since September, 2010. Susan and her mentor enjoy baking and decorating cakes and cookies. Susan also brings in "the greatest crafts" to do with the student she mentors.

Branford, Mary T. Murphy School

Honorees: Judy Cotter, Ann Solomine

Judy Cotter has been helping the children and schools of the Branford Public Schools for many years. She has served as vice president of the PTA and helps to organize school-wide events. She is still involved in the Family Bingo Night, the ice cream socials and the Fall Festival. Her contribution to Mary T. Murphy School is greatly appreciated.

Ann Solomine has been a dedicated parent volunteer to Mary T. Murphy School for the past 11 years. She has served as a PTA president, organized the scholastic book fair, and is the school-wide photo coordinator. She is the editor and chief of the Mary T. Murphy year book.

Branford, Mary R. Tisko Elementary School

Honorees: Lynda Mollow, Meredith Morrissey

Lynda Mollow brings new and exciting ideas and programs to our school. She heads our school Health and Wellness Committee leading us all to a healthier lifestyle. She handles our book fair, Market Math, Fit Club and our third and fourth grade dance. She is the mom of two wonderful students here at Mary R. Tisko Elementary School. Thank you, Lynda, for all that you do.

Meredith Morrissey has also led the way in health and fitness for our students here at Mary Tisko. Meredith initiated the Tisko Youth Running Club for students, the Morning Moves Program, and she also organizes our Lending Library Program. She is the mom of a wonderful daughter here at Tisko. Always full of energy and creative ideas, we are so fortunate to have you Meredith.

Bristol, Edgewood Elementary School

Honorees: Amy Campisano, Dawn Costantiello

Edgewood PTA has been the driving force behind fostering a partnership between families and staff at Edgewood School. *Dawn Campisano*, as PTA President, has dedicated countless hours to communicating with families, organizing events, running meetings, and developing programs for all Edgewood students.

Amy Campisano, one of our PTA members, has spent years quietly making a tremendous difference in the lives of students, teachers, and families at Edgewood. Each year, Amy is our resident bulletin board decorator for her child's classroom teacher, runs the Edge Reporters Club which produces many newsletters written by students each year, and organizes our school-wide Super Silver Celebrations which

recognizes students with excellent behaviors for an extended period of time.

The commitment demonstrated by both Dawn and Amy has been priceless. Their dedication and passion for making a difference in the lives of others has not gone unnoticed. Edgewood School is a better place because of you!

Bristol, Ivy Drive School

Honorees: Debbie Houle, TJ Houle

The Houle family has also been great supporters of Ivy Drive School. TJ Houle has two daughters that attend our school. She has also helped out with their classes and attended field trips. Debbie Houle, grandmother to the girls is a great volunteer. Debbie helps with copying, journal signing, and many special activities. Debbie is always willing to lend a hand and always has a smile for students.

Burlington, Har-Bur Middle School

Honorees: Carissa Bentley, Patricia Markowich

Trish Markowich and Carissa Bentley work tirelessly in a meaningful partnership that supports the Har-Bur Middle School Mission to provide learning opportunities that support 21st Century preparedness. These two women work with promoting communication, organization of the PTA website, spearheading team-based as well as school-level fundraising activities, and strongly advocated for an artist-in-residency experience for our students. Additionally, Carissa and Trish provide the financial support to bring numerous assemblies to our school, finance yearbooks for our eighth grade students, and organize our bi-monthly meetings improving

communication among the members of the Har-Bur Community. Garbed in their florescent pink T-shirts at open house grade level meetings, Carissa and Trish knew that visibility was key to increasing awareness of the PTA's role for parents at Har-Bur. We want to thank Trish and Carissa for their vision and service.

Burlington, Lake Garda Elementary School

Honorees: Patricia Markowich, Christa Ronalter, Paula Shellito

Lake Garda Elementary School is fortunate to have an extremely active PTSA and a deep pool of parents who selflessly contribute their time to enrich our learning community. *Trish, Christa and Paula* are perfect representatives of the spirit of volunteerism at Lake Garda Elementary School. On any given day they can be seen working with a teacher or attending to even the tiniest details of an upcoming PTSA event. As a direct result of their tireless efforts, every classroom in our building is equipped with a Smart-Board and our cafeteria has a state-of-the art audio-video system. If you were to visit Lake Garda Elementary School, you will notice the beautiful gardens and landscaping on the campus. This is a direct result of the efforts of Christa and her family members. Seasonal decorations, potted plants, and beds of radiant flowers always greet visitors, staff, and students. It was through their countless hours of tending, weeding, and planting that our school has become such a beautiful place to visit.

Canton, Canton Middle School

Honorees: Kristina DiMartino, Peter Fortier, Rachel Galligan, Anne Hunger, Jim Klusek, Marianne Vacca

Kristina DiMartino took charge of the school's musical program and ticket sales for the past two years. Her efforts greatly contributed to the play's success.

Peter Fortier served as a member of the school's Quality Council for the past two years. His contribution resulted in improvements to the school's study skills work and the implementation of PBIS in the school.

Anne Hunter organized Canton Middle School's first Science Bowl Team to participate in statewide competition at UCONN.

Rachel Galligan has done an outstanding job organizing and making costumes for the play. She did an enormous amount of work creating dozens of 1950s costumes.

Jim Klusek volunteers his time and works tirelessly training students in lighting technology to make Canton Middle School's annual play a success.

Marianne Vacca has been an active member of the PTO for the past two years, and works extensively on fundraising, the annual Lobster Loop 5K Road Race, volunteered to help with the play, and provides help whenever the school needs parent support.

Centerbrook, Essex Elementary School

Honoree: Paul Marden

Essex Elementary School is fortunate to benefit from the "Readers Aloud" Program brought to the school by community volunteer, Paul Marden. Paul had participated in another such program out of state,

and saw the potential for his grandchildren's school when he moved to Essex. Mr. Marden solicited members of the Essex community to participate by pairing up each volunteer with one classroom (K-6). Each of our "readers" form close relationships with the teacher and students by visiting the classroom each week to read a single story or a chapter to their class. Our students benefit from this intergenerational experience as our readers share their love of literature, and students interact with readers to interpret story characters, plots, and themes. Our volunteer readers, most of whom are senior citizens, become part of the class "family" and continue their relationships with students year after year.

Chaplin, Chaplin Elementary School

Honorees: Rebecca Baker, Crystal Bennett, Shannon Joubert, Amy Ouimette, Katy Pearl, Jennifer Roberts, Heather Spalding, Barbara Walters, Colleen Whitehouse

Chaplin Elementary School is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers that make up the Chaplin Elementary School PTO. These volunteers work tirelessly to help provide our students and staff with opportunities that otherwise may not be possible. The Chaplin PTO supports field trips, visiting authors, school library, and teacher requests. This dedicated group helps to coordinate and support school and community events like the Chaplin Road Race, the Sixth-Grade Spaghetti Dinner, Silent Auction and Basket Raffle, the Craft Fair, and the Plant Sale. These events make Chaplin Elementary School the social hub of our small town. The Chaplin PTO certainly helps to create this sense of community with their efforts. This group of dedicated volunteers, along with the PTO teacher representatives,

continues to come through for our school, our students, our parents, and our staff. Our sincere appreciation goes out to all of these volunteers. We are incredibly fortunate that they are a part of our school community.

Cheshire, Cheshire High School

Honorees: Peg Anthony, Kathy Kirby

Peg Anthony is more than simply the parent representative for the nationally acclaimed Cheshire High School Best Buddies Chapter. She is a champion for the importance of breaking down stereotypes by bringing students of varying abilities together for friendship. It is almost impossible for one person to change the culture of a high school with 1600 students, but *Peg Anthony's* commitment makes that possible.

Kathy Kirby, our Cheshire High School PTO President, has been involved with PTO in the Cheshire Schools for the past 15 years! She models her belief that parents must be involved in supporting their children and the schools they attend. *Kathy* is incredibly well respected among the Cheshire community for her commitment and dedication to our students, and we could not be more appreciative of her efforts.

Clinton, Lewin G. Joel Jr. School

Honorees: Kristine Schmidt, Denise Tanner

We are extremely fortunate to have such talented and devoted volunteers at our school. Over the many years that *Kristine Schmidt* has volunteered, her contributions to Joel School have varied from treasurer to organizer. *Kristine* has a calming demeanor, always comes prepared to meetings, and is willing to share suggestions.

Denise Tanner has devoted countless hours of time to activities ranging from volunteering in our school to being our co-president of the Friends of Joel. As co-president of our Friends of Joel, Denise is always willing to go the extra mile and is comfortable in speaking at our parent meetings and rolling up her sleeves to assist with many family events such as Family Game Night or our Annual Ice Cream Social.

The administration and staff of Joel School are proud to be associated with volunteers of such a high caliber who exemplify the extreme caring qualities we look for in parent volunteers.

Colchester, Colchester Elementary School

Honorees: Patricia Dean, Amy Hurt

Patricia Dean, Colchester Elementary School's P.T.O. President, should be commended for her leadership and tireless efforts in raising funds that provide a variety of school-wide initiatives as well as teacher grants. Patricia has demonstrated that she cares greatly about our school. Without a doubt, she should be recognized for her dedication to serving the needs of Colchester Elementary School's students, parents, and staff.

Amy Hurt has volunteered many hours in our library media center over the past six years. As a volunteer, she is an innovative organizer who has a talent for finding better ways to shelve books, and when she finds books that need repair, she takes the time to fix them before the books go back on the shelf. Amy has also donated many books to the library that have made it to our top 10 list time and time again. Through her work, Amy has made an impact on enriching our student's library experience.

Danbury, Stadley Rough School

Honorees: Andrea Birch-Mohan, Ricardo Gonzalez, John Iommazzo, Ramesh Malayappan, Shyamala Malayappan, Adriana Mendoza, Anne Syme

The volunteers being recognized by Stadley Rough School have given countless hours of their time and talent to our school over the past years. All of our honorees have students in grade five and will be leaving us after this school year. We thank them wholeheartedly for all that they have done for our school. Their many contributions include the following: Coordinating and volunteering at numerous PTO events such as the Family Picnic, Ice Cream Social, Pasta Dinner, and Holiday Breakfast; serving on the School Governance Council or as a PTO officer; selling spiritwear; organizing fundraisers such as the Pie Fundraiser; helping to facilitate the Spelling Club and our school's participation in the Regional Spelling Bee at WESTCONN; and displaying a true spirit of generosity and commitment to making Stadley Rough School the best that it can be! For all of these contributions as well as the many, many others that our honorees have made, we thank and honor them!!

Deep River, John Winthrop Middle School

Honorees: Paulette Rider, Beth Whitcomb

Paulette Rider and Beth Whitcomb have served the elementary and middle school community for years, and there is no doubt they will continue this service at the high school in coming years. They currently co-chair the John Winthrop Middle School Parent Council and have served on numerous committees.

Beth Whitcomb has served as the Walkathon Committee chair and the Staff Appreciation Committee co-chair. She has been a member of the eighth grade dance, Cave Hill Picnic, and Ice Cream Social Committees. Beth has also supported our annual musical performances and track/cross country meets. Paulette Rider has served as a Walkathon and Staff Appreciation Committee volunteer, and regularly supports school programs as needed. She has extensive experience as an elementary PTO officer and volunteer.

Beth and Paulette make an outstanding team and are excellent leaders. Their willingness to volunteer and fun-loving manner are a special combination that make them exceptional people and outstanding volunteers. Thank you Beth and Paulette!

Derby, Bradley School

Honorees: Rosina Flynn, Anne Stankye

Rosnia Flynn and Anna Stankye volunteer countless hours at Bradley School in various capacities. They can be found working with students, assisting staff, making copies, and much more. They are wonderful role models for our students and are truly part of the Bradley Family. We appreciate their continued support of our students and staff.

East Berlin, Richard D. Hubbard School

Honorees: Doreen Letendre, Kristin Snyder

Doreen Letendre and Kristin Snyder represent the living and breathing definition of the term, "volunteer." They have selflessly served the Hubbard School community and their respective classroom communities in a variety of capacities, always willing to offer support to students, staff, and families. Both have donated their time as a room

parent and parent volunteer for a range of school/classroom activities that have enriched the educational experiences of our students. Doreen and Kristin are familiar faces at PTO meetings and school fundraisers, actively participating in whatever manner necessary. Whether it be Mrs. Letendre's volunteerism concerning the Grade Five Committee and District Parent Advisory Council, or Mrs. Snyder's contributing presence during classroom activities, field trips, grade level functions, and school events, both have made a positive difference in the lives of our students. Congratulations and thank you for all that you have done for Hubbard School!

East Granby, Allgrove School
Honoree: Beverly Janowetch

Beverly Janowetch has been volunteering for 17 years in the libraries of Allgrove and Seymour Schools. Beverly began volunteering when her grandchildren attended Allgrove School and has been supporting the library program ever since. Her many years of experience working as a paraprofessional in a resource room has made her a skilled volunteer who feels at ease in the elementary school setting. Beverly welcomes children and teachers as they come to the circulation desk to check out books. "Mrs. J", as the children call her, easily recommends a magazine or book because she has helped to get many of them ready for circulation. Each fall Beverly helps to open up the libraries and prepare the spaces for the arrival of the children. Mrs. J has also welcomed many new volunteers to the library and helped to train them. Beverly is a cheerful and wonderful support to both Allgrove and Seymour Schools. We are grateful for her contributions of time, tenderness, patience and dedication.

East Granby, East Granby High School

Honorees: Michael Gothers

Mike Gothers is a positive contributor to the success of our athletic program. Mike is a graduate of East Granby High School and can be seen at events supporting all the athletes in our community, not just his own kids. Being a former graduate and now a parent, Mike gives his purple blood, sweat, and tears to improving the experiences for our athletes. Mike is always there to ask what he can do to help. His efforts raising thousands of dollars with silent auctions, bottle drives, and communication with parents is instrumental in the ability for the baseball team travel to Vero Beach, Florida to practice during spring break.

East Granby, East Granby Middle School

Honorees: Theresa Farmer, Mark Orenstein

It is a pleasure to recognize East Granby Middle School PTO President, *Theresa Farmer!* Through her leadership, the PTO organizes, supports, and sponsors many programs and events that enhance educational experiences for our students and appreciation events for staff. She has the personality to engage and persuade parents to assist on a one-time basis or an ongoing endeavor. Theresa is well known in the school community, a positive voice for education, and a great person to represent East Granby Middle School.

Mark Orenstein retired last year but has volunteered his time to breathe new life into seven-year old laptops by creating a "thin" version of Windows 7 that provides Internet access, Google Mail, and the Google Drive. We have 90 laptops and netbooks that are now functional for student use. In this time of tight budgets, Mark Orenstein is working

hard to make full and meaningful use of the taxpayer dollars. Thank you Mark, for all your hard work and countless hours spent volunteering your time.

East Lyme, Lillie B. Haynes School

Honorees: Kate Bartlett, Holly Byrne, Melissa DeMatto, Dede Filiatrault, Diane Jones, Amy Napierala

PTA President, *Kate Bartlett*, has volunteered hundreds of hours organizing and implementing fundraisers which pay for enrichment/educational programs which benefit all our children.

For several years PTA Treasurer, *Holly Byrne*, has made certain we remain in the "black" via providing countless hours of her financial expertise.

Over the years, Book Fair Coordinator, *Melissa DeMatto*, has been responsible for our highly successful book fair.

Our K-2 Art Show Evening has been an extraordinary annual event because of the planning and oversight of *Dede Filiatrault*. Parents express the pride they feel when they view the beautiful displays of their childrens' artwork.

Diane Jones, grandmother of children in our school, unselfishly assists teachers twice each week to support student learning.

For the past five years, *Amy Napierala* has performed an incredibly significant role as our Yearbook Coordinator/Photographer. The quality of the Lillie B. Haynes School Yearbook that she has produced is second to none.

Eastford, Eastford Elementary School
Honorees: Holly Grube, Kenneth Grube

Holly Grube is the chairperson of the Middle School Fund-Raising Committee. Each year, she leads a small group of volunteers as they solicit donations for Eastford's Annual Goods and Services Auction. The auction raises enough money to ensure that all eighth graders have their trip to Washington completely funded. In addition to her fund-raising efforts, *Holly Grube* is a frequent volunteer at the school; she lends her support to education in numerous ways.

Kenneth Grube volunteers at many school events, and he is a great advocate for education in Eastford. Mr. Grube spends considerable time with middle school athletes. He assists the coaches during practices and events. Additionally, he helps behind the scenes by preparing fields and ensuring that students have what they need to practice for track and field events. *Kenneth Grube* also earns grant money that enhances the offerings of the physical education and athletic programs.

Fairfield, Jennings Elementary School
Honorees: Maria DiPierro, Vicki Ihlefeld

Jennings Elementary is proud to honor two of our many wonderful volunteers. As outgoing families, *Maria DiPierro and Vicki Ihlefeld* have dedicated almost 20 years combined to our school. Their generous donation of time, energy, and talent has enabled our school to benefit in a myriad of ways. Each has served on the PTA Executive Board and as a room parent for several years. They have also shown dedication and leadership by chairing several important activities. *Maria* was responsible for planning fabulous in-school enrichment programming,

writing and receiving matching grants, organizing our Reflections contest, teaching Mill River Science Lab, and currently is leading our grade five Moving Up Committee. Vicki has organized over 300 birthday books a year for multiple years, has lead our fan favorite "Tricky Tray" fundraisers, and currently is our BOE representative. Each one has made a difference in the lives of our staff, families, and most of all our students. We appreciate their steadfast support!

Fairfield, Notre Dame Catholic High School

Honorees: Mariann Cirisoli, Ray Cirisoli, Kim Wardlow

Ray and Mariann Cirisoli have been two of Notre Dame's biggest cheerleaders over the past ten years. They have always been willing to do whatever was necessary to help advance any aspect of Notre Dame forward - from admissions to athletics. The Cirisoli's have been very active through the Athletic Association, volunteering in the concession stand, and helping support and fund-raise for both the Football and Lacrosse Programs. Ray has also served as a volunteer lacrosse coach, and both Ray and Mariann volunteered to help with Notre Dame's annual Gala.

Kim Wardlow has volunteered countless hours to Notre Dame over the past five years. Whether assisting in the Notre Dame Advancement Office, serving on the Gala Committee, or working to support the Drama Club and their annual spring musical, Kim has always responded affirmatively to a request for help. Without question, Kim's largest contribution has come from her coordination of three Antique and Classic Car Shows, raising thousands of dollars for the Notre Dame Drama Program.

Glastonbury, Buttonball Lane School

Honorees: Jamie Clark, Laurie Duncan, Natalie Reilly

Jamie Clark presently serves as our PTO President. She has assisted in countless ways for our school, whether it be serving as one of our room representatives, Staff Appreciation Day chairperson, SCRIPS Captain, Junior Treasurer, or Junior President, she is committed to making a difference at our school.

Laurie Duncan has worked over the summer on automating Buttonball's registration process and her dedication all year long to managing our SCRIPS Program has had a tremendous impact on parent participation and involvement in our school.

Natalie Reilly is a shining example of a parent volunteer in the classrooms of her three children who attend Buttonball. She exemplifies professionalism and attention to detail in the many tasks asked of her, and always has a smile on her face!

These three volunteers represent the amazing school community we have at Buttonball and we SHINE because of people like them.

Glastonbury, Eastbury School

Honorees: Jennifer Anglim, Melinda Castanza

Jennifer Anglim and *Melinda Castanza* could very easily be mistaken for teachers at Eastbury School! Over the years, they have been in our building just about as much as the full-time staff. Between the two, they have done it all: room parent for many years, classroom volunteers, PTO committees like Field Day, Teacher Appreciation Week, and Bingo Night. Jennifer served on the district Full-Day Kindergarten Committee, as she was a former first grade teacher. Melinda has taught after school enrichment classes as well as

supporting the Chess Club and the MIT Scratch Programming Club. Together, they coordinate our school's Cultural Arts programs, bringing in presentations that promote diversity in talents, interests, and understanding the world outside of our school community. Eastbury School wishes to thank them for their commitment to children and the learning process while supporting a positive school community.

Glastonbury, Gideon Welles School

Honorees: Jennifer Bronzi, Joyce Flaherty, Laura Foyle, Antonella Naylor, Jennifer Stassen, Paolo Tierinni

The contributions of *Jennifer Bronzi, Joyce Flaherty, Laura Foyle, Antonella Naylor, Jennifer Stassen, and Paola Tierinni* to Gideon Welles School are immeasurable. These honorees volunteer spirit is reflected in the success of our student events, clubs activities program, and drama production. Students have benefitted through their oversight of our programs and coordination of events to connect them to our school in fun and exciting ways. As chair people of numerous events, they have raised thousands of dollars to support Gideon Welles School's programs and initiatives. Additionally, they have merged their efforts beyond our common district and school goals to provide students with technology for the 21st Century. Their support of our school and district affords students significant experiences and opportunities. They are people of impeccable character and judgment. Gideon Welles School is fortunate to reap the benefits of their dedication and hard work.

Glastonbury, Hebron Avenue School

Honorees: Jill Barry, Suzanne Caruso, Gina Silvester

Jill Barry has been a very active volunteer. She has volunteered in many classrooms, and has also served on our PTO Steering Committee. In addition to this, she has chaired and/or co-chaired our Teacher Appreciation events, our Welcome Back Bash, and is our current Networking Representative. We thank Jill for her time and efforts.

Suzanne Caruso has volunteered for many years. She frequently helps out in classrooms and brings special animal “visitors” to our building for the children to learn about! Mrs. Caruso has chaired and/or co-chaired our bingo night event, our book fair, community outreach, and the fifth-grade picnic. We thank her for her volunteer work and enthusiasm

Gina Silvester has been an active volunteer for many years. She has volunteered in classrooms frequently. Gina has done a lot of volunteer work for our library media center. This work is critical to the running of our library, and we thank her for her dedicated work throughout the years.

South Glastonbury, Hopewell School

Honorees: Karin Carlino, Heather Jackson, Somni Manto

Karin Carlino has two daughters here at Hopewell and has been part of the Hopewell community for seven years. Karin was on the committee that launched the after-school enrichment program in 2009, has served on the parent/staff Climate Survey Committee in 2010, works most book fairs and volunteers in classrooms.

Heather Jackson has had two sons attend Hopewell and started volunteering in the library in 2007. She has worked at Welles-Turner Library since 2008 and has been taking classes for a couple of years to earn a library technical assistant certification. Heather should be finishing her classes this spring.

Somni Manto has been volunteering at Hopewell since her oldest started Kindergarten in 2006. She has enjoyed being a room parent, taking field trips, volunteering in the book sale, photo day, funfair, hanging art for the art show, field day, movie and bingo night. Somni has also volunteered and chaired Hopewell banking, rocket readers, and co-chaired at the Hopewell Library.

Glastonbury, Naubuc School

Honorees: Teresa Pfalzgraf, Diane Szydlo, Laura Werner

Teresa Pfalzgraf has contributed greatly through the years to Naubuc School chairing countless PTO initiatives including our book fairs, adult social events and most recently as co-president of our PTO.

Diane Szydlo works tirelessly to contribute and support Naubuc. She is currently a third-grade room parent and has taken on the ongoing responsibility of running the school store each Friday.

Laura Werner has contributed as a room parent, volunteering in the classroom, and through chairing multiple initiatives including our popular Hobgoblin Event.

Together, these amazing volunteers have been tremendous advocates for the school, our students, and families. They are a big part of what makes Naubuc so special.

South Glastonbury, Nayaug Elementary School

Honorees: Tracy Furey, Juliet Murphy, Mike Rosenbush, Marnie Serksnas

Tracy Furey deserves a tremendous amount of gratitude for the many community-oriented events she initiated and led here at Nayaug. The most prominent activity has been our variety show where close to 50 students year-after-year have been able to perform and demonstrate their interests and talents. This is Tracy's final year as a Nayaug parent, and we will also miss her and forever appreciate her positive influence.

Juliet Murphy is an active parent volunteer presently serving as the vice president of the Nayaug PTO. She is a go-to person and always at the ready to do more. Our staff is most appreciative of the many luncheons she has planned to show parents' appreciation. In addition, Juliet has been instrumental in our book fairs.

Mike Rosenbush has been a tremendous asset to our budding Drama Club at Nayaug School. He works directly with our teachers to design sets and assist with overall production. In addition, Mike can be seen as The Grinch, Captain Hook, and other assorted characters. Our children love it when he shows up in costume, although they don't know that it is him.

Marnie Serksnas is presently the president of the Nayaug PTO and is committed in her work with the PTO and Nayaug community at large to create and coordinate a myriad of events and activities that directly support the children of Nayaug.

Glastonbury, Smith Middle School

Honorees: Keven DeYoung, Kim Malz, Meg McCabe, Antonella Naylor, Michele Scott, Julie Thompson

Antonella Naylor has participated in myriad creative fundraising efforts to support education. She is a member of the steering committee which brainstorms, plans and organizes fundraisers and events for the year; for two years she has spearheaded all data entry for a major school fundraiser; and she has taken on the role of chair of the Grade 8 Reception Photo Committee for the culminating event for all our 8th graders.

Keven DeYoung, Kim Matz, and Julie Thompson have taken on demanding roles, chairing various committees in order to ensure that our Grade 8 Reception and Art Show is a wonderful success. This parent-driven culminating event for 8th graders involves coordination, creativity, teamwork, much time and effort toward making a memorable night for our 8th graders and their families.

Michele Scott and Meg McCabe are PTSO representatives for Smith Middle School, keeping Smith apprised of parent issues and concerns. In that role, they also serve as members of the Steering Committee which brainstorms, plans and organizes fundraisers and events for the year. They are the force that brings the parent voice to the SMS administration.

Hartford, Environmental Sciences Magnet at Mary M. Hooker School

Honorees: Allison Arey, Omayra Diaz, Lauren Frisbee, Kim Janak, Julie Rego, Lynette Rodriguez, Victor Rodriguez, Nicole Sidwell

At the Environmental Sciences Magnet at Mary Hooker School, students and faculty are supported by an amazing group of parent volunteers. Their generous donation of time and talent has enabled the school to offer additional services and activities which include

enrichment, extracurricular activities, and academic support. Today we celebrate a special group of volunteers who have affected positive change at our school which includes the development of a new school store, increased library services and circulation, diversifying our enrichment classes, and providing classroom support. In addition, one of our parents continues to lead special activities for our community which includes our annual Haunted House Tour, Talent Show, and middle school dances. We are extremely fortunate to have the support, energy, and talent of these parent volunteers!

Harwinton, Harwinton Consolidated School

Honorees: Audra Cables

Harwinton Consolidated School is privileged have a large number of parents and community members that volunteer to support academic and extracurricular programs. Mrs. Audra Cables is serving as the Parent Teacher Association President during the 2013/2014 school year. Mrs. Cables tirelessly gives her time to work collaboratively with the parents, teachers, and administration to manage and administer a variety of PTA programs that positively impact the students and school. Finding volunteers to chair activities and events can present a challenge. Mrs. Cables has been able to build on her connections with other parents as well as create new relationships with parents who have recently become members of the Harwinton Consolidated School Community in order to ensure that all of the chairperson positions are filled. We are appreciative of her generosity and contributions to our school community!

Higganum, Burr District Elementary School

Honorees: Paula Bucko, Nick Hoynack, Sue Hoynack, Jackie McGrath

Thank you first to *Jackie McGrath* for her hours of work leading our PTO. She has streamlined the operations of the organization while maintaining the high quality of programming for our students and community.

Burr District Elementary School honors *Paula Bucko and Nick and Sue Hoynack* (Aunt Sue and Uncle Nick) as representatives of the amazing work of our classroom volunteers. Their efforts and the efforts of all of our parent volunteers help to improve the instruction for the children at Burr District Elementary School. The Hoynacks work with a couple of different classrooms reading stories and doing crafts. Mrs. Bucko has helped in our art room preparing for the art show.

Burr District Elementary is pleased to honor our tireless volunteers.

Higganum, Haddam Elementary School

Honorees: Martha Ceplenski, Theresa Malone, Yvette Minervino, Colleen Totman

Haddam Elementary School is proud to honor our hardworking parent volunteers. This year's honorees are: *Martha Ceplenski, Theresa Malone, Yvette Minervino, and Colleen Totman*. They have each been an integral part of our school for more than five years. Our honorees are dependable and willing to help at a moment's notice, never asking or expecting to be recognized. These volunteers have left a lasting legacy at Haddam Elementary School as they have volunteered to chair committees and/or helped in classrooms or the school library to support our students. It is clear that they want to make our school the best it can be for every child, not just their own. The entire Haddam

Elementary community extends our deepest appreciation for the work that these four honorees have done over the years. As they move on with their children to middle school, we will miss their talent and energy!

Killingworth, Killingworth Elementary School

Honorees: Jen Kamoen, Vanessa Lenart, Caryn Luneau, Dawn McGoey, Jen Savoy

The volunteers we are honoring this year make up the executive board/officers of the Killingworth Elementary School PTO. The main objective is to create and maintain a close relationship between the home and the school so that parents and teachers may participate together in the education of our children. The PTO supports the school through many different activities such as cultural arts programs, various scholarships, spring/fall clean ups, technology, fundraising and much more.

Lyme, Lyme Consolidated School

Honorees: Lisa Bakoledis, Karen Barretta, Michele Maskell

Lisa Bakoledis, Karen Barretta and Michele Maskell have been volunteering for and serving the PTO at Lyme Consolidated School over the past nine years. Karen and Michele have served in many different capacities. They both held the office of PTO president for two years, and they served on many committees. Lisa organized our wrapping-paper fundraiser for six years, and she also co-chaired our basket raffle. All three ladies have made significant contributions to the students and staff at Lyme Consolidated School. The staff at Lyme

Consolidated School would like to congratulate and thank Lisa, Karen and Michele for giving of their time to benefit our school!

Meriden, Israel Putnam Elementary School

Honorees: Jessica Kogut, David Lowell, Catherine Vega, Jessica Weske

The Israel Putnam School is recognizing David Lowell from the Spirit of Giving in Meriden and the Israel Putnam PTO for all their efforts on behalf of a family at our school whose two children were tragically killed in a car accident in November. The Spirit of Giving and the PTO worked together to raise funds to assist the family including sponsoring a pasta dinner in December which brought the community together to support this family. Our staff deeply appreciated all the hours these volunteers spent in service to others. Our own sense of community was reaffirmed, and the true meaning of giving was exemplified in their actions. They not only helped this family during this time of sorrow, but they provided comfort to the staff in knowing that we were surrounded by such wonderful people. Thank you to our volunteers, your kindness will always be remembered.

Middletown, Xavier High School

Honoree: Amy Brough

Amy Brough began working on our Home and School Committee's annual auction the year before her son, Tim, entered Xavier High School in preparation for taking over as chair the following year. Over the past four years, Amy has worked diligently organizing this event which is a major fundraiser for our school. Under her guidance, the committee had one of the most successful auctions in Xavier's history

last spring. Amy is dedicated, loyal, and extremely hard working. She has the ability to oversee the members of our Home and School Executive Committee as they work together to transform our school into a festive Mardi Gras atmosphere which is enjoyed by all who attend. In addition to being very organized and efficient, Amy is always very pleasant to work with. We will miss Amy next year, but know that those who have worked with her for the past four years have been well prepared to take over our auction duties! It is a pleasure to nominate Amy Brough for this honor.

Milford, Platt Technical High School

Honorees: Jan Buzelle, Paul Buzelle, Judith Tuckert

Paul and Jan Buzelle have been active members of Platt Technical High School's PFO since it first opened in the mid-1970s. They have supported their children, grandchildren, and the entire Platt community through extensive fundraisers each year for the school as well as each and every club and athletic team. Paul is at Platt every week and on some weeks, nearly every day. They both eat lunch on our restaurant a few times each week, and they can entertain anyone who joins them with the history of Platt Tech, regardless of the topic.

Judy Tucker has been president of the PFO for the past few years and remains this year as we transition our coordinated efforts with our Family Engagement Program even though her son graduated last year. She was integral in the planning of Platt's First Annual Fall Festival and Car Cruise, where we raised over \$4,000.00 for the PFO. We enjoyed over 150 classic and modified cars and numerous raffle prizes. Students honed their leadership skills with Platt Pride.

Monroe, Fawn Hollow School

Honorees: Matthew Benaroch, Amy Callinan, Lori Kostopoulos, Tanya Lennon, Mary Ellen Mysogland, Jennifer Nivison, Katie Rzasa, Elaina Wieser

We are so grateful for our Fawn Hollow volunteers. The parents and staff members attending tonight have repeatedly given their time and effort to better our students' elementary school experience. We thank those who are moving on to new schools or new commitments, and we look forward to working with you all again in the future.

Monroe, Masuk High School

Honorees: Patricia Ochsendorf, Paula Scott

Paula Scott has served as a dedicated member of the Masuk High School Parent Teacher Club and is currently the PTC president.

Patricia Ochsendorf has also long been a member of the Masuk Parent Teacher Club and has also been a co-chair of the Post Prom Committee.

Monroe, Monroe Elementary School

Honorees: Kim Barringer, Lisa Dutkowsky, Marcy Kelman, Lauren Moreno, Paula Pavlik, Julie Tobin

The volunteers honored from Monroe Elementary School have served us since their children entered our building in kindergarten. Monroe Elementary is a community-centered school, and each one of these parents has contributed to supporting our activities to ensure the children and their parents will have the programs available to them that continue our traditions.

Lisa Dutkowsky and Lauren Moreno served as the co-presidents of the P.T.O.; *Kim Barringer* the treasurer; *Marcy Kelman* the recording secretary; and *Julie Tobin* the parent's council representative. *Paula Pavlik* is both an active parent and teacher in our school. All of these parent volunteers have also taken on leadership roles at various activities, including the Pumpkin Fair, Pizza Bingo Night, Boys and Girls Night Out, our book fair, school store, and the year book.

New Fairfield, New Fairfield High School
Honorees: Ruby Parker, Janet Simons

Six years ago, *Dr. Ruby Parker* brought to New Fairfield a very different type of club—the Academic Decathlon. The goal of this national program is to prepare high school students of varying levels for the challenges of a rigorous academic competition. Dr. Parker and the talented students have achieved incredible success--four times winning states and moving on to nationals. None of this would have been accomplished without the devoted coaching of Dr. Parker. Her dedication, expertise, and generous spirit cannot be overstated. Ruby is truly the heart and soul of our team, and we cannot thank her enough for her contribution to our students.

Janet Simons spends countless hours supporting all of our running programs even though her last child graduated three years ago. She attends every practice and competition and records and compiles statistics on every athlete which is no small undertaking. Janet provides fantastic coverage of our cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track teams through the articles she writes and pictures she takes meeting weekly Monday night deadlines for our local paper. Her love for our kids is revealed in her work as she takes pains to

include each and every athlete in her descriptions. We are so fortunate to have Janet, and we cannot thank her enough.

North Haven, North Haven Middle School

Honorees: Dianne Aquaro, Julie Bossenberry, Meg Castelli, Susan Kissel, Kristin Paolillo, Lynette Shahrabi

This year North Haven Middle School is proud to honor a group of people who have been the heart and soul of the North Haven Middle School PTSA. Tonight we honor *Dianne Aquaro, Julie Bossenberry, Meg Castelli, Susan Kissel, Kristin Paolillo, and Lynette Shahrabi* for their tireless work in providing the students of North Haven Middle School with experiences which have enriched their middle school experience. They have raised countless funds which have enabled the school to bring in guest speakers, anti-bullying assemblies, on-line safety presentations, and numerous others. On behalf of the entire North Haven Middle School community, we thank these women for showing our students and staff the love, support, and dedication it takes to provide a quality educational experience throughout their middle school years. Thank you and enjoy this much-deserved recognition!

North Stonington, Wheeler High School

Honoree: Deb Karpinski

Deb Karpinski is a paraprofessional at Wheeler High School. Besides her daily responsibilities as a para, Deb is ALWAYS one to go above and beyond the call of duty. It isn't abnormal to find Deb at almost every home sporting event at Wheeler. If she's not cheering on our students, she is outside planting flowers and shrubs to make our school a better place to be. She is actively involved in planning

fundraisers for our classes and is always the first one to jump on board to help plan trips for our upperclassmen. Deb has organized countless trips for our seniors' annual visit to Disneyworld and is always the first to volunteer to help chaperone a dance or help decorate for a prom. There is no one I know here in North Stonington that appreciates her school and hometown more than Deb does. She is such a role model for our students in the value of hard work and positive attitude. Without hesitations, we at Wheeler nominate her for our Volunteer of the Year Award.

Oakville, John Trumbull Primary School

Honorees: Kimberly Calabrese, Lisa Pocesta

Kim Calabrese and Lisa Pocesta are very involved members of the John Trumbull Primary School PTO in Oakville. This is Kim's second year as president of the organization. Aside from overseeing all of the functions of the PTO, Kim has chaired a number of fundraisers and school wide events. She is a committed parent and volunteer who gives 100% to everything she does. Lisa served as the vice president of the PTO during the 2012-2013 school year. This year she serves as a member at large. In both roles, Lisa has worked tirelessly to support the school's PTO. She has chaired a number of events including an auction/comedy/dance fundraiser, the Membership Committee, a walkathon event, and has served as a room parent for two years. The John Trumbull Primary School PTO is fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers, who continually seek ways to make our school an even better place for staff, families and students!

Old Saybrook, Old Saybrook High School

Honoree: Sarah Lyons

Sarah Lyons is the proud parent of three sons in Old Saybrook. She is the epitome of volunteerism when it comes to supporting student activities and furthering educational and extra-curricular opportunities for kids. Sarah has held various volunteer leadership positions within our school community. She has served on the parent-teacher organizations at Old Saybrook Middle School and Goodwin School; she has been the Music Booster Club President; has served as a fundraising organizer for our Musical Playbill Group for the past three years; and is currently the co-chair of the committee in charge of our annual Safe Grad Event. Perhaps what stands out most about Sarah as a supporter of education in Old Saybrook is that she approaches each role with diligence and perseverance, as if it is her job! Her pleasant and easy-going demeanor make her a joy to work with, which results in her always being able to assemble a collaborative, high-level team that works extremely hard in the best interest of students!

Plainville, Plainville High School

Honoree: Christine Kuzia

Chris Kuzia is the dedicated parent and volunteer which every school and community hopes to have. She has served for many years and continues to serve tirelessly with multiple school and community groups, organizations, and committees. She has been a member of our Parent Advisory Committee, focus groups, search committees, Athletic Backers Club, and has been a vital leader of our Project Graduation Committee for ten years. Her roles in Project Graduation (which hosts an amazing drug and alcohol-free after graduation party) have

included chair and co-chair of multiple committees. Mrs. Kuzia is probably best known for her dedicated and talented choreography for the annual Mr. PHS Contest, which requires many hours rehearsal in planning a professional quality show, with profits all going to Project Graduation. She has also choreographed several musicals, teacher convocation performances, and community musicals. Mrs. Kuzia's dedication and commitment has made a powerful impact on Plainville!

Pomfret Center, Pomfret Community School

Honorees: Kate Bars, Maureen Lane, Elaine Nelson

Kate Bars for years has made numerous costumes and props for the first-grade talent show. This is a huge undertaking that is enjoyed by parents, students, and staff of Pomfret Community School.

Maureen Lane for years has planted seasonal flowers and decorates our planters by the main entrance to our school building. She has also planted numerous bulbs in our gardens around the school.

Both Kate and Maureen have taken on the menu planning and cooking for our Senior Holiday Dinner. The Senior Dinner is a huge success with the older citizens in our town.

Elaine Nelson has been the organizer for our Pomfret Community School's Cultural Arts Week for the past several years. This is a great program that allows our students to become more sensitive to and knowledgeable about the diversity in the world. Mrs. Nelson organizes volunteers to come in and read, make traditional crafts, and study artifacts of a foreign country.

These three volunteers are being recognized for their continued support and enthusiasm of programs at Pomfret Community School.

Portland, Brownstone Intermediate

Honorees: Jodie Doering, Jennifer Inglis

Brownstone Intermediate School is proud to *recognize Jodie Doering and Jennifer Inglis* tonight. They are currently serving as president and vice president of our school PTO. Jodie eagerly jumped into her role as PTO President at Brownstone after being a member of the PTO at her children's previous school. Jennifer has been a PTO parent for a number of years prior to taking on the role of vice president. Both women have brought increased energy to our school by seeking out and organizing new fund raising efforts. They have a wealth of connections with the parents in town, and have been instrumental in gaining funding for school field trips and celebrations. They communicate often with staff at our school, asking for ways in which the PTO can support our students' education. We are pleased to honor their dedication to the students of Brownstone!

Portland, Gildersleeve Elementary School

Honorees: Penny Petrone

Penny Petrone is being recognized for being our Read-Dog Program Volunteer. Penny services 18 students along with her dog, Merlin. Students attend a 15 minute reading session with Penny and Merlin to reinforce their reading skills. Penny and Merlin are very dedicated and caring volunteers making a positive impact for struggling readers.

Portland, Portland Middle School

Honorees: Donna Cote, Eileen Moynihan

Donna Cote PTO accepted the role of PTO president while juggling the demands of running an incredibly successful business. Donna brings a professional business-like approach to our meetings, especially when delegating responsibilities. She is strong, organized, and demanding, yet her approach is kind and understanding. Not only is Donna involved in our PTO, but she has three children competing in sports at multiple levels. She is a fan, a supporter, and an advocate for all!

Eileen Moynihan and her clones are everywhere! Eileen is a full-time teacher, our PTO vice president, a liaison to the entire district's PTOs, as well as being mom to four very active children! Eileen is tirelessly working behind the scenes to support all of the students and staff at Portland Middle School. She has engendered so much good will that when she asks for assistance, food, participation: (like E.F. Hutton, people listen and respond)! Portland Middle School is lucky to have such a dedicated and caring partner.

Rocky Hill, Albert D. Griswold Middle School

Honorees: Thomas Saunders, Alexa St. Germain

Tom Saunders has been a volunteer assistant coach for the cross country team for the last three seasons. Tom is a responsible young man who has dedicated his time to the athletes of our school. He consistently encourages our athletes to work hard and to become the best they can be.

Alexa St. Germain was a volunteer team manager for the girls' basketball team this past season. She helped set up our practices and scorebook and was a positive role model for her younger female peers.

She is responsible beyond her years and is very dedicated to helping our female basketball players improve their skills.

Rocky Hill, Myrtle H. Stevens Elementary School

Honorees: Leona Adamczyk, Joseph Leal, Jilani Scherer, Lucinda Stevens

The Myrtle H. Stevens School PTO has been, and continues to be, an incredibly supportive organization. *Leona, Joe, Jiliani, and Lucinda* are truly the heart of this group! At every turn, this PTO is consistently willing to put forth the time, the energy, and the resources to enhance our school's academic goals and strong sense of family and community. This PTO, in particular, does not simply raise and disseminate funds, but comes up with creative, innovative, and exciting activities that promote school pride and bring together our staff, parents, and students. Over the past few years, our PTO has sponsored a highly successful family fun night in October, provided an amazing welcome back luncheon for teachers, brought the Harlem Superstars to Rocky Hill, organized several dinner and a movie nights, created a Rocky Hill High School graduate scholarship fund, and helped to bring the One Book Program to Stevens. It is our PTO leadership that we can credit for helping to make Stevens School so special.

Rocky Hill, West Hill Elementary School

Honorees: Karen Backiel, Sue Creedon, Rikki Donovan, Jennifer Paragone

Karen Backiel has been co-chair of our highly successful fall book fair for the past three years. She also helps with our Spirit Night Raffle and Book Bingo.

Sue Creedon is the PTO sponsorship/membership coordinator. She plays an active role in collating all PTO memberships as well as creating the school directory. She co-chairs the Butter Braid Fundraiser and Labels for Education.

Rikki Donovan is the PTO vice-President as well as a Junior Great Books Coordinator. She has helped tremendously with events such as Spirit Night, bake sales, Spring Butter Braid Fundraiser, Muffins for Mom, Yoga, and distributing PBIS books on Fridays.

Jennifer Paragone started the Garden Club this year. At monthly meetings, children learn about topics such as honey bees, healthy eating, and wild birds. In addition, they're growing herbs and vegetables in two indoor greenhouses. Through this process they have learned about lighting, humidity, soil, starting seeds and temperature for germination.

Seymour, Bungay School

Honorees: Kristopher Boyle, Caitlin Iannucci, John Mercure, Katie Riordan

Bungay Elementary School takes great pleasure in recognizing our outstanding Coding Club volunteers. These volunteers are dedicated individuals who help to create a warm positive culture. Through their dedication, commitment and fine efforts, our school is a better place

where our main purpose is to improve student learning. Technology is radically changing every area of our society, from communication to government to how we do our jobs. By learning to program, kids can have a say in how software shapes their world. Plus, programming teaches important reasoning, logic, and communication skills. Our students love trying out new courses and earning the badges. It's an excellent challenge for any student and a fun learning experience for the teacher as well! Our Bungay School motto is *Children First* and that is exactly how we would describe our volunteers. We are very grateful for their dedication, their time, and their efforts in helping to make our school a great place to be!

Seymour, Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School

Honorees: George Bashura, Ed Bukoski, Irene Dziadik, Barbara Grudzias, Mike Kearney, Don Reidy, John Maiorino, Joan Wieler, George Wityak

Chatfield-LoPresti School is delighted and proud to recognize its senior mentors for their multiple years of contributing to improving literacy with our first graders. Every Tuesday, throughout the school year, our senior mentors spend an hour with our first graders reading to them, listening to them read, and helping our students improve their literacy skills. Many of our senior mentors are military veterans who have served in all branches of the service. They have spent a lifetime of giving to others and on each Veterans Day they attend our Veterans Day Assembly to present the colors. We are grateful for all of our senior mentors as they have become a part of our school community.

Somers, Mabelle B. Avery Middle School

Honorees: Renata Bowers, Paula LaJoie

Renata Bowers and Paula LaJoie have worked tirelessly over the last three years to create a positive experience and inspire kids to better grasp their own unique purpose and the purpose of others. Four years ago, these mothers, along with their sons, created Three Points on Purpose or 3-POP for Mable B. Avery Middle School. 3-POP is about helping students feel united, valued, and valuable; to give them the opportunity to feel at home in their new school and; to help them experience how it feels when, together - each doing a small part - they can make a positive difference in the world around them. This program begins with an August kick-off event and continues through the fall. Each year 3-POP offers the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, but it's each individual student's choice as to how or if to participate. Our students have raised \$1,800 for local veterans; \$1800 for a school devastated by a tornado; lined Main Street with flags; and raised \$4,390 for a local wounded veteran.

Trumbull, Frenchtown Elementary School

Honorees: Maggie Carroll, Donna DeLucia, Rose Samoskevich

Maggie Carroll has been a supportive PTA member and parent since her child entered kindergarten. She has been a library helper, chairperson for Democracy Day decorations, and a member of the Fifth-Grade Activities Committee.

Donna DeLucia has done it all. It will be very difficult to replace her. She has served in many of the elected PTA officer positions. She has been the Room Parents Coordinator and was past co-president chair of

this year's nominations committee. She attends our monthly Partnership Action Team meetings, and her insight is always useful.

Rosie Samoskevich, in her quiet gentle way, has been our Box Top Coordinator and a committee of one who collected thousands of dollars for technology. The monthly thank you lottery is a highlight for the children. Rosie serves as a PTA member on the District's Cultural Diversity Committee and has been a co-chair of our annual Multicultural Dinner for three years. She has also been a tireless library helper.

We couldn't do it without our volunteers.

Waterbury, B. W. Tinker Elementary School

Honorees: Michelle Bierce, Shannon Shove

Michelle Bierce and Shannon Shove serve as officers on the PTA executive board at B.W. Tinker School. They assist in all school functions as well as student of the month ceremonies, book fairs, open house, promotion day and are willing to jump into any project. Mrs. Bierce has been assisting with the school musical for the past four years and is always on hand to help with rehearsals, make costumes, and build sets. Mrs. Shove can always be found volunteering in the classrooms, helping in the office, and gives her time unselfishly to make the PTA a success. Mrs. Bierce has two children at Tinker, Eric and Victoria, and Mrs. Shove has a daughter, Summer. They both go above and beyond to make Tinker School a family friendly place.

Waterbury, Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School

Honoree: Terri Brooks

Terri Brooks has been an active volunteer at Rotella Magnet School for the entire seven years that her son Domenic has attended school here. Throughout the various school activities such as, Harvest Festival, book fairs, Holiday Shopping, Field Day, and being an active member of our School-Family-Community Team are all examples of her dedication. She is always available on a day-to-day basis and always goes the extra mile. We recognize and appreciate her dedicated efforts.

Waterbury, Washington Elementary School

Honorees: Maribel Acevdo, Cindy Castro, Wendy Lima, Vanessa Luis, Paula Mendoza, Norma Najera, Elizabeth Nazario, Lilliammelis Roche, Evelyn Salinas

These women are being recognized for their passionate commitment to their heritage which they unselfishly share with our school community. Each one of them has consistently answered the call to volunteer. By providing culinary experiences that are unique to their culture, we have had an opportunity to learn about diversity within the Latin American Community. Each woman has shared the importance of the dish within the community and provided a gastronomical experience for the school. With each event we learn a little more about their country, the customs, traditions, and culture. Foods ranging from esca peche (chicken gizzard, green banana and onion) taquito, tacos dorados y tamale verde, mangu (mashed green bananas with onions, eggs, salami or chicken) to lusciously sweet arroz con dulce have graced our tables. Washington School is literally and figuratively a melting pot.

West Hartford, Louise Duffy Elementary School

Honorees: Mark LaPointe, Pat Morander, Dave Therriault

Mark LaPointe, Pat Morander, and Dave Therriault are three of our many wonderful volunteers at Duffy. Although Dave and Pat do not have any children at Duffy, they still volunteer their time. Dave comes in every Thursday to listen to kindergarten students read a decodable book. Over the last five years, Pat has volunteered her time to laminate for the entire school. She comes in every Thursday with a large smile and leaves with the same smile.

Mark is a father of two beautiful girls, Olivia and Helen. He is on our Site Council Committee and Safe School Climate Committee. Recently, he was found behind the scenes helping students create props for the play, Grammar Island. When I first came to Duffy I found him spending many hours beautifying Duffy's landscape. Because of him, our grounds look inviting. Dave, Pat and Mark have helped create an educational environment that is exciting for all children. Their hard work makes the children's experiences at Duffy memorable!

West Hartford, Sedgwick Middle School

Honorees: Shelley Borg, Cyndi Brown, Anne Carroll, Amy Connors, Luke Giroux, Shelley Giroux, Tom Watson

This year's cadre of exemplary volunteers are the unsung heroes of Sedgwick Middle School. As partners in education, our volunteers have made substantial contributions to our school by serving as caring mentors, skillful tutors, energetic community liaisons, tireless building helpers, enthusiastic chaperons, and steadfast advocates for our children, families, and teachers. We value our partnership with our outstanding volunteers for their generous acts of kindness, voluntary service, and dedicated support of our school community. These collaborative partners can be found working in our classrooms with

children, serving as guest speakers, or bringing in resources to support the teaching and learning process. In any capacity, these helpful volunteers certainly enhance our school community by sharing their time and humanity. Their contributions to our school and to the field of education are appreciated and continue to make a positive difference.

Westbrook, Daisy Ingraham School

*Honorees: Adrienne Bransfield Dawn Hendrixson, Jodi Ouelette,
Allison Pluck*

This year, Daisy Ingraham School received a local grant to build a greenhouse and started a school garden project. Dawn Hendrixson has been our garden expert as we harvested our first huge crop of salad greens and plan ahead for January planting. Each grade level is being assigned certain plants to grow and care for. Teachers are weaving many lessons into their curriculum that involve the garden and encourage healthy eating habits. We also had our first annual 5K Trick or Trot Road Race in October that was another huge success as both a community event and a fund raiser. Runners came from all over Connecticut. Both projects took a great deal of work by these volunteers and the many others who were involved. We appreciate their efforts.

Westbrook, Westbrook Middle School

Honorees: Kelly Catlin, Mary Ann Clark, Melissa Ryan

Kelly Catlin is co-president of our PTO Board and volunteers for many activities and functions at the middle school. She works closely with a science teacher and volunteers to support our students in Science Club. Her expertise in science has been instrumental in providing enriching activities and guidance in our club. She traveled to China as part of a district cultural exchange.

Mary Ann Clark has volunteered at the middle school by attending all PTO and PAC (Principal's Advisory Committee) meetings. Her ideas, suggestions, and feedback have been invaluable in supporting our students and school. Most recently, she has become a member of the PTO Board. She has also volunteered for many school related activities and functions.

Melissa Ryan has been an active member of our PTO and PAC (Principal's Advisory Committee). She is currently secretary of the PTO Board. In addition, Melissa attends all BOE meetings and has been active on the district-wide Communications Committee.

Wolcott, Alcott Elementary School

Honorees: Dayna Paternostro, Casey Wrinn, Tracie Wrinn

If it's a fund raiser, there's *Dayna Paternostro*. Ms. Paternostro has been our fundraising coordinator for several years. She spends much of her free time in the fall and spring arranging, collecting, organizing, and distributing. Her meticulous record keeping and mind set creates successful and productive events.

'Build it and they will come' should be *Casey Wrinn's* hash tag. We have a themed sign for every PTO event; pumpkin, tree, duck, he and

his artistic partner make sure that the public knows we have something going on. Mr. Wrinn is available at all events to pitch in. He also shares his expertise with the students through Lego Club, always encouraging, always accepting.

Tracie Wrinn, the artistic partner, is always available to lend a hand, especially in the hatchery at the Duck Race. She is part of the setup, break down, and raffle committees. Mrs. Wrinn can also be found at the book fair, on field trips and as a classroom mom. Alcott is lucky to have such giving individuals.



G & B Photography, our exclusive photographer and sponsor for all CAS events will provide their photography services and pictures to CAS and all CAS-member schools at no charge. G & B will be photographing each award winner and providing the awardees with a custom titled photograph.

After this event, you will receive a package from G & B containing the pictures and instructions to go online and download additional images from this event. A press release will be sent to you separately from the CAS Office. Use the images for additional recognition in your local publications and on your website. Through CAS, G & B is investing in Connecticut's youth.

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The Connecticut Association of Schools

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The Connecticut Association of Schools is proud to celebrate the Annual CAS Volunteer Recognition Banquet which honors Elementary, Middle, and High School Volunteers. This exciting program publicly acknowledges the work of parents and other volunteers in our schools, and is consistent with the mission and beliefs of the Connecticut Association of Schools.

CAS realizes the important role that school volunteers play in helping our schools in a manner in which children learn best.

CAS wishes to thank all of the honorees for the contributions they have made in schools across the state, volunteering their time, talents and expertise. Congratulations to each of you being publicly recognized for your commitment and dedication to quality education in each of your communities.

Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff
Executive Director
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