



The Connecticut Association of Schools

And



Welcome You To The

***2017
Volunteer
Recognition Banquet***

***March 27, 2017
Aqua Turf Club
Plantsville, CT***

Connecticut Association of Schools

2017 Volunteer Recognition Banquet

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

Welcome ***Donna Schilke***, Assistant Executive Director
Connecticut Association of Schools

Greeting ***Rich Adinolfi***, Assistant Regional Vice President
Horace Mann

D I N N E R



Introduction of Keynote Speaker ***Jennifer Buckley***, Assistant Director of Student Activities
Kathleen Kennedy Connecticut Association of Schools

Introduction of Distinguished ***Donna Schilke***, Assistant Executive Director
Friends of Education Awards Connecticut Association of Schools

Presentation of CAS Volunteer Recognition Awards

Concluding Remarks

Keynote Speaker

Kathleen Kennedy, President Connecticut Parent Teacher Association



Kathleen Kennedy is the President of the Connecticut Parent Teacher Association. She has held this position for two years. A Connecticut native, Ms. Kennedy is a graduate of Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge and attended Southern Connecticut State University.

Her experience and expertise come from many years of community volunteering at the United Way of Milford, Hospice in Branford, the Town of Milford's 375th Anniversary Celebration, and spearheading "Folks on Spokes" annual event for Bridges. Among her many roles, she has coached soccer, worked within her church community, was a member of the Milford Prevention Council, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and active in the Foran High School Sports Booster Club.

Working her way through the ranks of the Connecticut Parent Teacher Association, Kathleen is a past Chair of their Strategic Leadership Plan, past Region-Three Director, past Vice-President of Outreach/Inclusivity and Membership.

Ms. Kennedy has been the recipient of Connecticut PTA Elaine Boulay Outstanding Service Award and the Distinguished Service Award. It is an honor to have her as our Keynote Speaker this evening.

Distinguished Friends of Education Awards

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

2017 Distinguished Friend of Education Award – Individual Category

Presentation Of Award **Mary Poisson**, Principal of Yalesville Elementary School, Wallingford

Chris Brint

Wallingford, Connecticut

Nominator: Mary Poisson, Principal, Yalesville Elementary School, Wallingford

Chris Brint, a contractor from Wallingford, Connecticut, has been an industrious and selfless volunteer at Yalesville Elementary School for more than ten years. A quintessential jack-of-all-trades, Chris has a hand in every school event, from the back-to-school picnic and Rock N’ Roll Relay to the annual craft fair and father-daughter dance. He spends countless hours preparing the building and grounds for the school’s opening each year and helps with bulletin boards, PTO fundraisers, literacy nights, and field days. His presence at the school is so ubiquitous and his contributions are so prodigious that new principal Mary Poisson assumed him to be an employee when she first started at Yalesville. But, it’s not just what Chris DOES that makes him special; it’s who he IS. His passion and boundless energy are invigorating and he consistently promotes good character, values, community participation, and social responsibility through the activities that he plans, organizes, and facilitates. A man who is never looking for credit for his contributions, Chris continues to donate his time and talents to Yalesville despite not having any children at the school - or at any of the schools in the Wallingford district!

Presentation Of Award **Lori Bennett**, Teacher, Wamogo Regional High School, Litchfield

Dr. Daniel Doyle

Bantam, Connecticut

Nominator: Jaime Rivera, Principal, Wamogo Regional High School, Litchfield

For more than 15 years, **Dr. Daniel Doyle**, local veterinarian and volunteer extraordinaire, has been providing veterinary services to Wamogo Regional High School’s agriculture program at no cost. He makes himself available for animal emergencies of all natures, coming to the school on a moment’s notice or even seeing patients from the school in his parking lot when he is inundated with patients at his practice. Dr. Doyle spends significant time in WRHS classrooms, sharing his real world experiences with students, helping them understand the process of euthanizing an animal, and working with animal science classes on vaccinations and vaccination protocols. Dr. Doyle also provides work placements for WRHS students and takes a genuine interest in preparing them for their future careers. Through his volunteer efforts and positive influence, Dr. Doyle has had a significant impact on the WRHS agriculture program. With the cost of veterinary care, his free services have made an enormous financial impact on the entire WHRS community.

2017 Distinguished Friend of Education Award – Corporate/Organization Category

Glastonbury Rotary Club

Glastonbury, Connecticut

**Presentation
Of Award** ***Azra Redzic and Dr. David Anderson*** of Sanchez Elementary School, Hartford

Glastonbury Rotary Club: Donna Finocchiaro, GRC Sanchez School Committee Chair
 William Dufford, GRC Member

Nominator(s): Azra Redzic, Principal, and, Dr. David Anderson, Dean of Students
 Maria Sanchez Elementary School, Hartford

Under the leadership of Donna Finocchiaro, the **Glastonbury Rotary Club (GRC)** has worked tirelessly to provide Sanchez students with meaningful educational, social and recreational opportunities that would otherwise be out of their reach. For the last three years, the GRC has been sponsoring a Sanchez School family-wide picnic for all students and family members. It is a unique way to unite the community early in the school year and build bonds between students, teachers, administrators, and families. The club covers 100% of the costs of the picnic. It also supports an annual field trip to a local farm where third graders discover the intricacies of running a farm, interact with animals, go on a hay ride, learn about cider production, and enjoy a host of other farm-related educational experiences. The expenses for this trip, including the cost of the bus, pumpkins for each child, apple cider, and other treats, are fully funded by the GRC. Through donations such as a baby grand piano for the auditorium and musical instruments for a fifth grade marching band, the club has helped to revitalize the music program at Sanchez and spark student interest in music and arts. The GRC has also made many significant monetary contributions which have subsidized critical purchases such as classroom supplies and school uniforms. Through GRC's donations, the school has been able to give out free uniforms to any family in need.

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2016 Distinguished Friends of Education Award*

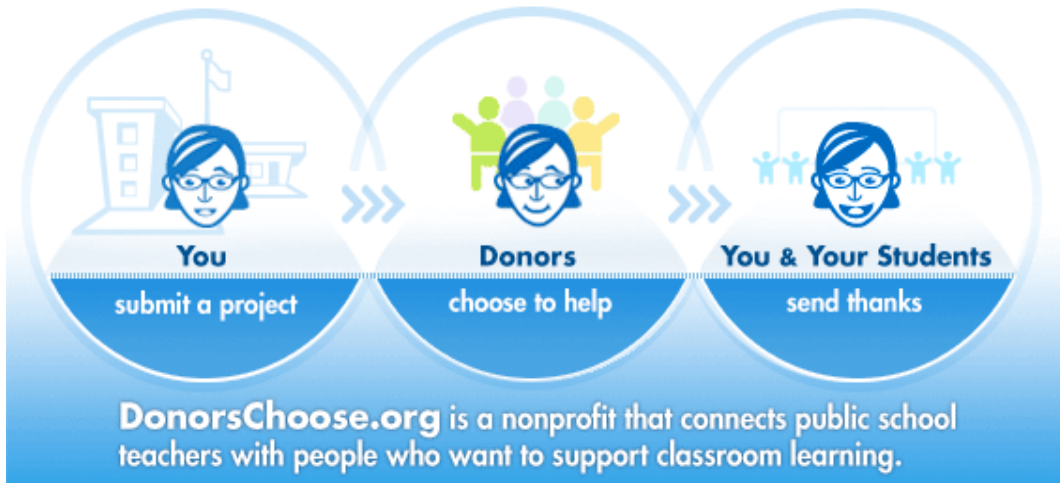


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Ansonia, Emmett O'Brien Technical High School

Recognizing: Kathy Radin, John Tomasella

We are honored to recognize the Kathy Radin, PFO Treasurer and John Tomasella, PFO President, who have provided numerous hours of their time, hard work, and dedication to Emmett O'Brien Technical High School. They are always willing to roll up their sleeves and work with other parents to organize activities that would benefit all of the students. They are an integral part of our school community. As parents and PFO officers, they attend many school functions and contribute in so many ways such as: coordinating informational events for parents on bullying/substance abuse, preparing the school's opening-day breakfast for the staff, they are parent liaisons on the School Governance Committee, they attend coffee with the principal, organize recognition activities for students, organize fundraising opportunities for students, and much more. Their hard work and commitment does not go unnoticed. We at Emmett O'Brien thank them for making a difference!!!

Berlin, Emma Hart Willard School

Recognizing: Jennifer DeGrandi, Heidi Michaud, Vicki Robertson

Willard Elementary School is honored to recognize Jen DeGrandi, Heidi Michaud, and Vickie Robertson for their contributions to our school. Each of these parents has gone above and beyond to support students and ensure they have positive and beneficial learning experiences while attending Willard. These parents have dedicated their time to supporting Willard's PTO, Fifth-Grade Committee, School-Climate Committee, and various fundraisers offered throughout the year. These parents have also supported school curriculum, cultural events, and grade level celebrations. Furthermore, these honorees have volunteered their time in supporting annual events such as our open house and classroom instructional lessons and activities. We know that we can count on each of these outstanding volunteers whenever we are in need! Thank you again for your ongoing support and all that you have done for our school.

Bethany, Amity Middle School

Recognizing: Kim Ahern, Donna Amendola

Kim Ahern and Donna Amendola have been the PTO co-presidents for the past two years and have actively assisted with a host of PTO board positions contributing extensive time and energy for the past several years. They have provided great leadership to the PTO which has contributed greatly to a variety of events that have supported students and staff, including the assistance in purchasing a baby grand piano for the school's music department and sponsoring wellness appreciation activities for all staff for the past several years.

Bethany, Bethany Community School

Recognizing: Brent Ciccarelli, Darlene Luciani

Brent Ciccarelli is a parent and Fire Captain. He coordinates a school-wide age appropriate programs on fire safety awareness and prevention along with many other activities. We are proud of the positive relationship and partnership that exists because of his efforts.

Darlene Luciani has volunteered in the school's Learning Commons since 2014. We are extremely grateful for her commitment and willingness to help, and her enthusiastic attitude has had a positive impact on the Bethany Community School students and school community.

Branford, Branford High School

Recognizing: Sam Pagano, Esther Rosenberg

Esther Rosenberg has been a student mentor since 2010. She has been mentoring her mentee for seven years. She is the happy, optimistic ball of fire that her mentee needs, and is the BFF that brightens her mentee's week. *Sam Pagano* has been a student mentor since 2009. His first mentee graduated, and he has been mentoring his second mentee since the student has been in middle school. He rarely misses a week.

Branford, Francis Walsh Intermediate School

Recognizing: Kent Jackson

Kent Jackson has been an avid supporter of a variety of programs that are offered to students at Walsh Intermediate School (WIS). Kent has volunteered as a PTA dad and has assisted in supervising school dances and assisting in the coaching the WIS cross-country team. His love of the sport has transcended all students on the team. He and his wife run the fundraiser bake sale and help to organize participation in championship events. Kent has lent a helping hand as a chaperone at Nature's Classroom, and he has supported the music and theatre programs at WIS volunteering his time to help out in any way that is needed. Kent has been a valuable asset as a parent whose children have been involved in a variety of activities and is one who takes an active role in supporting students and programs by generously volunteering his time.

Branford, John B. Sliney School

Recognizing: Allison Nerone, Christine O'Connor, Jody Rebhun, Cathy Tisko

Allison Nerone single handedly runs school-picture day. She is also responsible for a beautiful keepsake school yearbook. At school events, she always organizes a special photo booth. For our holiday parade, Allison handmade costumes. She is always at our PTA Meetings, and she is an advocate of others and always looks out for the best at Sliney.

Christine O'Connor and Jody Rebhun are dedicated and devoted to building community events that establish a strong sense of community at Sliney. Each one of them devotes countless hours. They have sponsored wonderful events such as our Fall Festival and Winter Wonderland. They are always willing to go above and beyond for Sliney.

Cathy Tisko goes above and beyond for Sliney. She volunteers as a room "grandparent." At the Winter Wonderland, Cathy oversaw all of the games. For the past seven years, she has given a tremendous amount to help with many of our school activities. She volunteers to help students read, work math centers, and helps out in the cafeteria.

Branford, M.R. Tisko Elementary School

Recognizing: Betsy Regan, Sloane Maymon

Betsy Regan and Sloane Maymon have served Mary R. Tisko since their children entered our school in Kindergarten. *Betsy Regan* has been a most welcome Library volunteer for many years. She has organized and chaperoned the Tisko after school Chess Club for several years, which has become a very popular club. Betsy is always available to help with a calm, positive, and cheerful manner. *Sloane Maymon* has been involved in many activities here at Tisko School. She has organized and carried out fund raisers, such as box top collections as well as others. She has been an enormous help to our art teacher over the years in preparing for our annual art show which involves displaying art from all students throughout the district at our town library.

Branford, Mary T. Murphy School

Recognizing: Toni Bunnell, Tiffany Gaudreau, Bill Howard, Jennifer McCulloch, Michelle Piazza

Toni Bunnell, Tiffany Gaudreau, Bill Howard, Jennifer McCulloch, and Michelle Piazza are exemplary volunteers whose consistent contributions to Murphy School deserve recognition. They have devoted many hours coordinating events at Murphy. They have shared their expertise and dedication for the enrichment our students. Activities and fundraisers that have been organized include: The Fall Festival, Bingo Night, Scholastic Book Fair, School Store, Yearbook, and Box Top collection. Their participation in the Mary T. Murphy PTA goes above and beyond benefiting the entire school community.

Bridgeport, John Winthrop Elementary School

Recognizing: Daniela Acevedo-Silva, Traci Audena, Ana Badolato Andrea Canuel, Evelyn Freeman, Katia Prado, Denise Pitter, Kaccy Seyal-Velazquez, Keshana Wiggins

The volunteers being recognized have been fantastic this school year. We lost our home-school coordinator because of budget cuts, and these women have stepped up to fulfill her duties. They were instrumental in backing our efforts to get new lockers, pave our playground, and refinish our gym floor. They have worked tirelessly to support our Student of the Month Program by canvassing businesses to provide incentives for our students. Without the assistance of these volunteers, we could not maintain the positive school environment that is now evident in our building. Every day that our volunteers give time to the school is utilized expressly for the benefits of students. These volunteers facilitate our Backpack Program and serve as the voice of our community for our non-English speaking parents. I cannot say enough about our Sacred Heart volunteers or thank them enough for their contributions to our students and school community.

Bristol, Edgewood Elementary School

Recognizing: Amy Kelley, Heather Messier

Scholastic Book Fair, yearbook pictures and design, and keeping us on budget, THAT'S *Amy Kelly*. Over the years that Amy's children have been with Edgewood, we have found her to be incredibly helpful, generous, and kind. She is an asset to our school, and we consider her to be a part of our Edgewood family. Kyle's mom makes each of our kids feel important and special, we're lucky to have her. We appreciate all that she has done to keep our children excited about learning.

Whether it is a pencil sale, box top championship or fall family night, we can expect to see *Heather Messier's* smiling face at Edgewood school. She is never too busy to help in any capacity. When she can't make it to the school for a project, she'll assign her husband to the task. That's how to delegate! Heather is the epitome of what we would like our children to aspire to be. We value her selfless dedication in helping Edgewood to continue to be a warm and inviting place for our students to grow.

Bristol, Ivy Drive School

Recognizing: Cathy Benlock, Pam Glazier, Jenny Scialdone, Karen Rodjenski

This year, Ivy Drive School will be honoring a few of our employees. Our school has a very dedicated staff, and many go above and beyond a normal school day. Cathy, Pam, Jenny, and Karen are perfect examples of how our staff does the extra that needs to be done for our students to be successful and for our staff to feel appreciated. Cathy, Pam, Jenny, and Karen make sure all student activities are set up and enjoyed by all. They take care of our assemblies, One-School-One-Book, Dr. Seuss Day, and enrichment programs. They also are our "crafting group" making a special treat for each staff member for holidays during the school year. Cathy and Pam provide a week of special treats and gifts for our Staff Appreciation Week. We value their commitment to making sure that every staff member knows how important they are. We greatly appreciate all they do to make Ivy Drive School a positive and caring community.

Burlington, Har-Bur Middle School

Recognizing: Andy Conklin, Cady Conklin

Starting in April of last year, Andy and Cady Conklin became lead facilitators of our garden project at the entrance of our middle school. They volunteered many hours in the initial clean up phase which lead to a design phase (including layout plans), and the eventual implementation (planting) phase. Our entry way has never looked better and has become a point of pride by staff and students alike. We, at Har-Bur Middle School, are so appreciative of the Conklins' efforts and look forward to helping revitalizing the gardens again this spring!

Clinton, Lewin G. Joel Jr. School

Recognizing: Amy Morrissey, Amy O'Donnell, Jennifer Slie

We are extremely fortunate to have such devoted volunteers. Jennifer Slie, Amy Morrissey, and Amy O'Donnell exemplify the extreme caring qualities we look for in our volunteers. Mrs. Slie serves as our

Friends of Joel (FOJ) Co-Vice President, Box Tops Coordinator, Sports-a-thon parent representative, Third Grade Celebration parent organizer, and Book Fair Co-Chair. Mrs. Morrissey serves as our FOJ Treasurer, Ice Cream Social Night Co-Chair, Sports-a-thon Parent Representative, and has served on our John Dombi Remembrance Committee. Mrs. O'Donnell is a quiet, behind the scenes parent; always willing to help with a smile on her face; extremely flexible; and has volunteered to assist many, many teachers at Joel with a myriad of tasks. The administration and staff of Joel school are proud to be associated with such a high caliber of volunteers and are thrilled to recognize them for all that they have done for our students and faculty.

Deep River, John Winthrop Middle School

Recognizing: Candace Konrad, Sarah Waterhouse

Candace Konrad and Sarah Waterhouse have been invaluable contributors to our Parent Council Committee. Their dedication to our students and willing efforts to tirelessly volunteer for programs has strengthened our educational community. Their support of our middle school is greatly appreciated.

East Berlin, Richard D. Hubbard School

Recognizing: Maureen DeLude, Anne Henriques

The Hubbard School Community is so fortunate to have these amazing volunteers enhancing the educational experiences of our children and supporting our school in countless capacities. Mrs. DeLude and Mrs. Henriques have selflessly offered their time and talents to enrich the academic and social arenas for our students and families. Their selfless commitment to the betterment of our school defines what is meant by parent partnership and volunteerism. Anne has served as a room parent, field-trip chaperone, and classroom volunteer. She has chaired PTO membership and PTO fundraising while co-leading the coordination of our pasta supper. Maureen has served as a publishing center and classroom volunteer, as well as, a field-trip chaperone. She has co-chaired family fun PTO events, led school box-top collections, and worked on the Grade Five Committee concerning the year book and fundraising events. Hubbard School is a better place because of volunteers like Mrs. DeLude and Mrs. Henriques.

East Hampton, Center School

Recognizing: Barbara Sargent

Center Elementary School is fortunate to benefit from the dedication and kindness of *Barbara Sargent*. She selflessly gives to our school community always thinking of others first and supporting our efforts in any way that she can! Barbara provides weekly support to our teachers preparing instructional materials and taking care of any items with which the teachers need assistance. Barbara also commits to helping in the front office by unloading supplies as they are delivered and routinely organizing the school's supply cabinet which is a hub of materials that assists our teachers and students. If she notices anything that needs to be done or could help another, she is the first to offer to help. When she visits Center School, her energy and positivity is impossible to ignore and brightens the day of all who encounter her. Most of all, Barbara is a champion of our schools! As a former para-educator in our district, she knows firsthand the hard work and commitment of our faculty.

East Hampton, Memorial Elementary School

Recognizing: Melissa Alford

This year Memorial School would like to recognize Melissa Alford for her invaluable contributions to both our school and PTO. Always willing to give her time, Melissa brings energy and enthusiasm to the school community and works tirelessly to promote parent partnership. On any given day, you can find Melissa assisting in a classroom, helping prepare an office mailing, bringing someone a treat, or organizing an event. Melissa's terrific event planning skills insured this year's first ever Memorial School Jog-a-Thon was a tremendous success. In addition to the time Melissa gives during the day at Memorial, she also serves as Treasurer of the East Hampton Elementary PTO where she exercises exemplary organizational skills to benefit our schools. We are fortunate to reap the benefits of

Melissa's dedication and diligence, and we are proud to honor her extraordinary commitment and volunteerism. Congratulations Melissa! We are thankful for your many talents and for all that you do!

Fairfield, Fairfield Ludlowe High School

Recognizing: Rachel Alcosser, Amy de Lannoy, Lynn Goddard, Laura Lawlor, Christine Vitale

We have some amazing PTA volunteers at Fairfield Ludlowe High School.

Rachel Alcosser and Amy de Lannoy have faithfully arranged special food events (who doesn't love food events?) for our surprised students and our teachers who feel so appreciated.

Laura Lawlor has organized so many insightful programs that impact both students and families.

Christine Vitale is a former president and has become the resident expert on all things PTA. She is a constant presence at all town meetings and school functions.

Lynn Goddard has maintained our *PTA Flash* to parents for many years, and she is so reliable in providing this important communication tool. As many of these women will have their youngest child graduate, we will miss their dedication, their hard work, and their willingness to step up for the students, teachers, and parents of Fairfield Ludlowe High School!

Glastonbury, Eastbury School

Recognizing: Suzanne Shen, Lisa Tuxbury

Suzanne Shen is the parent of three children who have gone through Eastbury School and has served our school well through her time and efforts. She has volunteered to help with the Art Show/Evening of Excellence, Teacher Appreciation Week, and fifth grade events over many years. She is currently a room parent and has been our lead parent volunteer helping coordinate our amazing Science Fair for the past several years. Suzanne shares that she has learned so much from our teachers and will cherish her great memories. Our school community appreciates all she has done, and we thank her for her service as her fifth grader leaves Eastbury after this school year.

Lisa Tuxbury has been a parent volunteer at Eastbury since 2004. She is a parent who has done it all: Field trips, room parent, math centers, Fun Fair, Field Day, Immigration Day, Teacher Appreciation Week, and the list goes on. She has helped our third, fourth, and fifth grade students show off their talents through her leadership as the Chairperson for the Talent Show for the past eight years. The Tuxbury family has had four children go through our school, with her youngest in fifth grade this year. Lisa's volunteer commitments have stretched to the secondary schools as well chaperoning field trips, PTO work, Junior Prom, and Safe Grad events. We are grateful for her partnership over the years.

Glastonbury, Gideon Welles School

Recognizing: Jill Barry, Laurie Boyd, Rebecca Butera, Lisa Desmarais, Erika Schwartz

The contributions of Jill Barry, Laurie Boyd, Rebecca Butera, Lisa Desmarais, Jen Lloyd, and Erika Schwartz to Gideon Welles School are immeasurable. These honorees' volunteer spirit is reflected through the wonderful student events, fundraising programs, and drama production they have supported. Students directly benefit from the tireless energy and effort they provide to our programs and events they coordinate to connect students to our school in fun and exciting ways. As chair people of numerous events, they have raised thousands of dollars for Gideon Welles School's programs and initiatives. Additionally, they have designed costumes, were production directors, run student activities, created school-wide programs, and volunteered at countless events. Their support of our school and district affords students significant experiences and opportunities. They are people of strong character and impeccable judgement. The Gideon Welles School community is fortunate to have them.

Glastonbury, Hebron Avenue School

Recognizing: Carrie Allegra, Tonia Branson, Sue Wadleigh

Carrie Allegra has provided outstanding support to our school throughout the years. She has been in a leadership role chairing our school picture day, working with our school store, and being a room mom for our classrooms to name a few. We are very fortunate to have her as a volunteer in our school.

Since *Tonia Branson's* first child entered our school in 2008, Tonia has come to the library on a regular basis to help shelve books and to help with special events like the presidential elections. Her library

expertise has been so helpful to our program. Her willingness to do any job that needs to be done has been greatly appreciated.

Sue Wadleigh is an active volunteer in our school. She has volunteered at many special events and is always willing to do anything to help support our school and classrooms. Sue takes a leadership role in running our school store, a project that many of our students look forward to each week! Our school greatly benefits from her volunteerism.

Glastonbury, Naubuc School

Recognizing: Christine Cardalico, Diane Szydlo, Alyssa Wirta

Christine Cardalico serves as the chairperson for the Art Show, the Art Show Breakfast, and Bingo Night. She also volunteers as room parent and helps with the holiday wrapping events weekly in school. She is always among the first tasks for help, and she is always one of the first to volunteer to help whenever the need arises.

Diane Szydlo has been volunteering weekly in our school store for years. She spends a lot of time searching for exciting new items that the kids will enjoy. She also organizes and does all the prep work for the holiday sale. She volunteers as a room parent every year, sometimes taking on two classes.

Alyssa Wirta is co-treasurer for our PTO and also oversees our spirit wear. She is always coming up with new ideas to help raise funds for the school including offering hot chocolate in Naubuc mugs, changing the design of the spirit wear, marketing, setting up, and selling spirit wear at all PTO events, and offering to help anywhere she is needed.

Glastonbury, Nayaug School

Recognizing: Mimi Azemi, Janet Cahow, Lisa Desmarais, Kristin Ossino

The Nayaug PTO and Executive Board gives countless hours to our school and provides endless support to our staff and students. The PTO organizes and facilitates a number of programs and events that enhance the curriculum and supports our positive learning community. Highlights include: Coordinating PTO room parents for every classroom, cultural arts programs, New Family Breakfast, Kindergarten Fun Night, Fall Festival, Operation Gratitude Candy Collection for our troops, Variety Show, Family Bingo Night, Read-a-Thon, Mulch Madness, Grade Five Yearbook...and the list goes on. Nayaug School would not be the remarkable place it is without the tremendous efforts by the Nayaug PTO. The contributions made by this volunteer group is worthy of this recognition. The staff and students of Nayaug THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts!

South Glastonbury, Hopewell School

Recognizing: Michele Anagnos, Sarah Blake, Nicole Marek

Michele Anagnos has volunteered on committees for various events as well as making donations to others. Most recently, Michele has served as a PTO board member and a PTSO liaison. She always offers her support and will step in whenever needed. Michele has made Hopewell one of her top priorities and we thank her.

Sarah Blake has served as the PTO president at Hopewell School for the past two years. She is innovative, creative, hard-working, and truly loves being a part of the Hopewell family. Sarah puts 100% into everything she does, and always has a smile on her face. Besides being the PTO President, she has led many committees for the PTO including Bingo, Fun Fair, and Teacher Appreciation Week.

Nicole Marek has served as PTO treasurer making countless trips to and from the bank handling all incoming and outgoing funds, acquiring licenses, and overseeing the PTO events. Nicole has brought new life to Hopewell's spirit wear and has a great sense of humor along with her optimism.

Granby, Kelly Lane Primary School

Recognizing: Judy Baum-Baron, Beth Cherubino, Nicole Marks, Christine Peaslee, Sara Pomponi, Amanda Webster

These award recipients are Granby's Elementary School PTO Board of Directors. We value their support with Granby's students, staff, and parents. They have put in countless hours of their time for fund raising and providing programs that help to enrich our students.

Guilford, Guilford Lakes Elementary School

Recognizing: Kathy Carney, Therese DeMatteo, Katie Doucet, Krysta Elam, Kim Mastriano-Guile, Nicole Schlagheck

The Parent Teacher Organization for our school far exceeds the norm with its support of the school and the students at Guilford Lakes Elementary School. The efforts of the PTO include funding for field trips and assemblies, school-wide after hours enrichment programs, and community outreach.

Hebron, Gilead Hill School

Recognizing: Christa Goodwin-Babka

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that we nominate Christa Goodwin-Babka for the Connecticut Association of Schools Volunteer Recognition Banquet. Over the course of the past four years, Christa has unselfishly served the students, parents, and staff of Gilead Hill School in Hebron. In over 20 years in education, I do not believe I have seen a more focused, committed, and flexible volunteer in any school. I first got to know Christa as a parent while her youngest attended our school. Christa was always involved in our school, whether assisting with a small group of students or helping to coordinate an activity for the class, and we were thrilled when we heard Christa was our new PTA President. It was in that role that Christa truly showed her commitment to our students and schools. Christa always found a way to innovate and motivate others for the betterment of the students, staff, and community. I can always count on her to give guidance and support whenever it is needed.

Hebron, Hebron Elementary School

Recognizing: Christine Mangiafico

Christine Mangiafico works tirelessly to compile our Hebron Elementary School yearbook each year. She spends countless hours taking thousands of pictures of school events and day to day happenings, and then creates the beautiful yearbooks that are keepsakes for our students. She not only designs and crafts the yearbooks, she facilitates the sales of them as well. Always trying to make each year's book better than the last, this year Christine added a student contest to create the front and back covers. Even though Christine does not currently have a child at our school, we are so thankful that she has continued making this invaluable contribution to our school community.

Higganum, Burr District Elementary School

Recognizing: Allison Behnke, Michelle Brown, Kara Sanderson, Danielle Tabaka

Burr District Elementary is pleased to honor four outstanding volunteers. Michelle Brown and Danielle Tabaka have been very active in our PTO, with *Danielle Tabaka* organizing cultural arts presentations for our students this year, and *Michelle Brown* serving on our executive board and helping to produce our school yearbook for several years. In addition, Michelle Brown has been an active member of our School Improvement Team. *Kara Sanderson* has helped to lead the creation of our school learning gardens, organizing both the adult planning meetings and the student garden club. *Allison Behnke* is a frequent volunteer in our classrooms, assisting children in their academics. These four women and the dozens of other volunteers at Burr Elementary School help in countless ways and enrich the lives of our students.

Higganum, Haddam Elementary School

Recognizing: Lisa Frasco, Stephanie Lundgren, Samantha Merwin, Kim Thomas

Haddam Elementary School is proud to honor our hardworking parent volunteers. This year's honorees are *Lisa Frasco, Stephanie Lundgren, Samantha Merwin, and Kim Thomas*. 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 and never ask or expect to be recognized. They have volunteered to chair committees and/or in classrooms 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 School community extends our deepest appreciation for the work that these three honorees have done over the years. As they move on with their children to middle school, we will miss their talent and energy!

Kensington, Mary E. Griswold Elementary School

Recognizing: Christine Fallon, Dina Palmese, Rosanna Zup

Griswold School is pleased to recognize three wonderful parents for all that they have done over the years. *Christine Fallon, Dina Palmese, and Rosanna Zup* have consistently gone above and beyond to support the staff and students. They have been on the Executive Board, have chaired Membership Committees, and worked tirelessly on the Fifth-Grade Committee. They were there for the inception of our *Holiday Extravaganza* and made it a resounding success! They have been classroom volunteers and have worked in the library. They have taken pictures, passed out pamphlets, and called families to come pick up fundraisers. They can be counted on to volunteer at the Carnival Night and at just about any other special event at the school. As they move on to the middle school, they do so knowing that they have made a difference in the lives of everyone at Griswold School!

Killingworth, Killingworth Elementary School

Recognizing: Joe Lenart, Christine Miller, Shannon Richwine

The three parent volunteers being recognized by Killingworth Elementary School this year have a combined 17 years of volunteer service to our school. They have been responsible for ten Beautification Days, nine Festival of the Arts & Science Days, and multiple hospitality events. Our school grounds have been raked, mulched, pruned, planted, and spruced up in both the spring and the fall under the dedicated leadership of Joe Lenart. Thank you for making Killingworth Elementary School a beautiful place to be, Joe. This will be Christine Miller's ninth year organizing our annual Festival of the Arts & Sciences. This day is filled with an outstanding variety of artistic and cultural events for the entire student body. Thank you, Christine, for giving our students this wonderful day. The warm reception that Shannon has given to our staff and visitors has been truly appreciated. Thank you, Shannon, for taking care of our teachers, staff, visitors and families.

Lyme, Lyme Consolidated School

Recognizing: Liza Sharp, Dottie Wells

Lyme Consolidated School would like to honor two very special volunteers, Liza Sharp and Dottie Wells. For the past six years, Liza has been chairperson of our cultural committee. With diligence and commitment, she provided cultural opportunities that truly expanded our curriculum. These cultural experiences brought more of the world to Lyme Consolidated School. Dottie has volunteered at Lyme School for the past ten years. She has been a room parent every single year in one of her child's rooms; and for many years, she served as chairperson for our book fair. Dottie also chaired our after school program, Curiosity Shop, for six years. She arranged and coordinated a group of volunteers who provided fun after school activities. Lastly, Dottie assisted many of our students in math by working with some of our struggling learners, as well as with our high achieving students. Lyme Consolidated School will miss the dedication and hard work from both of these ladies! Thank you for all that you have done.

Marlborough, Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall School

Recognizing: Kimberly DiSomma, Melissa Jordan, Jessica Roy, Jessica Winans, Karen Sawyer, Tracy Corey

Our fabulous PTO are fundraising wizards! They work tirelessly to build funds that they generously donate to our school in countless ways. From science explorations to a new and engaging early childhood playscape, our PTO provides opportunities that might not otherwise be available to our students. Their fundraising techniques typically provide fun-filled activities and events for both kids and adults. This past year, PTO activities included a Wolf Pack Hockey night, the annual movie night, Halloween Trunk or Treat, and the PTO Winter Benefit Bash/Trivia Night which provided parents in our community with a night out to socialize and raise funds for the school. An extremely kind gesture from the PTO is the yearly gift to each teacher of \$100 to spend on their classroom/special area. This generous donation is greatly appreciated by each and every staff member. Another staff favorite is the annual PTO sponsored conference dinner. No one goes away hungry. Thank you MES PTO!

Middletown, Xavier High School

Recognizing: Michael Ricciuti

Michael Ricciuti began working with Xavier High School's Robotics Program during the 2012-2013 school year as a teacher volunteer. Upon his retirement in June of 2013, Mike offered to continue volunteering and has since logged countless hours mentoring our young men as well as a great deal of time repairing equipment, purchasing and donating materials, and always going above and beyond with his time and talent. Xavier High School extends sincere gratitude for Mike's service, generosity, and his devotion to the mission of our school.

Monroe, Masuk High School

Recognizing: Suzanne Adams, Victor Ciancetta, Roseanne Ciancetta, Amy Cunninghame

Victor and Roseanne Ciancetta have been volunteers at Masuk since 2004. Both have been invaluable members of the Masuk All Sports Booster Club. Vic also served on Masuk's turf field committee, playing a role in finally bringing a multi-sport synthetic playing field to Masuk in 2016. Roseanne has given of her time to support the Masuk Parent Teacher Club, working the fashion show that raises the money for Masuk's annual post-prom and volunteering at the post-prom to ensure that all students have a safe place to celebrate after the prom. *Amy Cunninghame's* volunteerism at Masuk began nine years ago as a representative to the district's Parents' Council. Amy has taken on a number of initiatives through Masuk's PTC namely co-chair of post-prom and help with goody bag and graduation sign fundraisers. *Sue Adams* began her volunteer work in 2011. In addition to her work as PTC Treasurer, overseeing the funding for mini-grants for teachers, she also volunteers for all PTC fundraisers.

Monroe, Monroe Elementary School

Recognizing: Michelle Adams, Angela Cross, Michele Fagan, Melissa Hope

Michelle Adams was the Co-Vice President of the P.T.O. and a parent that seems to always be involved in just one more fundraiser. Michelle has volunteered at all of our student and family activities, always getting the job done, with a smile and without fanfare.

Angela Cross and Michele Fagan have volunteered at many of our P.T.O. activities including the Great Pumpkin Fair, Pizza Bingo Night, Celebration of Reading, Parent's Council, and Room Representative. In addition, Angela and Michele have been strong advocates of our school, supporting our efforts to enhance our programs for our students.

Melissa Hope was a Co-President of the P.T.O., and co-chaired the Great Pumpkin Fair, our annual major fundraiser for the school, Family Pizza Night, Bingo Night, Boys Night Out, as well as every other activity and event in our school. Melissa is ever-present, supporting our staff, students, and parents throughout the years in many ways.

New London, Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication

Recognizing: Nina Cabilin, Leo Duyan, Rochelle Duyan, Brandi Owney, Dana Parfitt

Nina Cabilin is always ready to support the improvement of our school. Nina is a planner, organizer, and a very instrumental part of the ISAAC Parent Action Team, and we appreciate the skill set she has to offer.

Rochelle and Leo Duyan spend an invaluable amount of time helping out anywhere and everywhere, including a very successful multicultural celebration dinner and basket raffle that occurred during the 2015-2016 school year. Rochelle and Leo can be seen often in classrooms, the office, school events, and even at the Capitol advocating for charter schools.

Brandi Owney is currently the ISAAC Parent Action Team President. In her role, she puts in an enormous amount of time. We value Brandi's leadership and the innovative ideas that she has brought to ISAAC this school year.

Dana Parfitt has supported ISAAC by taking part with the ISAAC Welcoming Walk-Through initiative as well as helping out in other areas such as the Scholastic Book Fair, school fundraisers, and music department productions. We value Dana's time at ISAAC and for advocating at the Capitol for charter schools.

North Haven, North Haven Middle School

Recognizing: Paul Januszewski, Katie Kenney, Susan Kissel, Michele O'Connell, Marie Rourke

North Haven Middle School would like to recognize our PTSA Executive Board as our outstanding volunteers for the 2016-17 school year. The time and energy these individuals put into the North Haven school community is evidenced by the educational field trips, the fundraising, and the many contributions they make to the students of NHMS. The students and staff of the middle school want Susan, Michele, Katie, Marie, and Paul to know that we appreciate them and the work they do to provide the many educational opportunities for our community of learners. We know they are busy with their children, their families, and their jobs, yet we see them sacrifice what little free time they have to help build a stronger and more cohesive school community. Thanks to each of you for your individual efforts as well as your unified work as a team. It is truly an honor to work with you, and we thank you for all you do.

Norwalk, Nathan Hale Middle School

Recognizing: Alison Aymerich, Amy Balchius, Kelly Boccanfusco, Diana Carpio, Jennifer Heatly-Balliett, Michele DiMasi, Rick McQuaid, Shonna Mitchell, Lisa Nuzzo, Juliana Smith, Marla Sterling, Wanda Weeks, Dan West

The Nathan Hale Middle School PTO is an incredible group of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that all students and staff have the resources they need to support our students. Our PTO has done some amazing work this year. Our teacher's lounge was renovated, making it more welcoming and inviting for staff. Our PTO also bought and installed a sign for our school that helps to enhance our entrance and share messages with our community. Our PTO has done a great job raising money through various fundraisers. We have been very fortunate to work with this amazing PTO which is led by our president Lisa Nuzzo and our vice president Shonna Mitchell. Thank you to all of you for your tireless efforts and for all that you do for our students, staff, parents, and school community. For those of you who will be leaving us (Alison Aymerich and Michele DiMasi), we wish you the best, and I thank you for a great three years. Thank you. Dr. Sackey, Ms. Bell-Johnson and the NHMS community.

Portland, Brownstone Intermediate

Recognizing: Luiza McDougall

The position of Box-Top Coordinator is not very glamorous but requires someone who has the ability to pay attention to details. Luiza is that person for Brownstone Intermediate! She has significantly increased our box-top income by organizing many contests, bringing more parent volunteers onto her team, and spending countless hours cutting, taping, and checking each box-top for expiration dates. Our latest contest will not only provide a prize to the homeroom with the highest total, but also reward the top students in each grade with a gift card. The money collected from our box-top program assists our students with field trip fees. Brownstone Intermediate School is proud to have chosen Luiza McDougall for this Volunteer Recognition Award!

Rocky Hill, Myrtle H. Stevens Elementary School

Recognizing: Lisa Howard, Melissa Incarvito, Jennifer Killoran, Caroline Shea

Lisa Howard, Melissa Incarvito, Jennifer Killoran, and Caroline Shea, serve as the Stevens School PTO Executive Board. Collectively, this group has volunteered hundreds of hours of their own time for our school. Through their efforts, our students have been provided with an amazing array of activities, assemblies, and events; and our staff has been provided with an incredible amount of resources and support. They make our school a better place. Stevens School is fortunate to have such dedicated and hardworking volunteers like Lisa, Melissa, Jen, and Caroline.

Seymour, Bungay School

Recognizing: Rebecca Bennett, Tammy Brower, Christopher Cummings, Kimberly Farmer, Jennifer Ferreira, Nicole Francisco, Maureen Hein, Caitlin Jurkowski, Gina Kindt, Mallory Knutson, Roxy Layton, Fran Marsala, Dina Mastroni, Amy Meyers, Sam Pollastro, Stefanie Slie, Corey Wootten, Nicole Yustin

PARENT WORKSHOPS Nicole Yustin, Stefanie Slie, Gina Kindt: Bungay School is committed to involving

parents, engaging parents, communicating with them regularly, and incorporating them into the learning process. The workshops, held during the school year, are held to support parents, to provide resources and strategies, and to improve student learning in the home. *BEFORE and AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS* Rebecca Bennett, Tammy Brower, Christopher Cummings, Kimberly Farmer, Jennifer Ferreira, Nicole Francisco, Maureen Hein, Caitlin Jurkowski, Gina Kindt, Mallory Knutson, Roxy Layton, Fran Marsala, Dina Mastroni, Amy Meyers, Sam Pollastro, Corey Wootten: Bungay Elementary School takes great pleasure in recognizing our outstanding mentors who assist us in establishing a positive school culture for students. Our volunteers, consisting of teachers, staff, and parents, help to support over 400 K-5 students who participate in one or more of our before and/or after school programs.

Shelton, Sunnyside Elementary School

Recognizing: Katie Dansereau, Mary Pagliaro, Lisa Robinson, Jennifer Roden

Sunnyside School is proud to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of these fantastic volunteers. They have given so many hours to the betterment of our school and community. Volunteers like these women are essential to our school and strengthen it in so many ways.

Lisa Robinson serves as treasurer of the PTO. She is always there to help at fundraisers and is the yearbook coordinator. *Jennifer Roden* is not only our corresponding secretary, but she plans our Junior Achievement Program every year. *Katie Dansereau and Mary Pagliaro* serve as our PTO co-vice-presidents. Acting as Raise Craze chairperson, Katie has worked diligently to bring service learning and fundraising opportunities to the students. Mary plans our school book fairs, and she has provided the school with the invaluable experience of learning about other cultures through developing an International Week at Sunnyside. Thank you to all of these amazing volunteers! You strengthen our Sunnyside family and are truly appreciated!

Trumbull, Frenchtown Elementary School

Recognizing: JC Cinelli, Kerry Dobson, Regina Essing, Komal Patwardhan

JC Cinelli has been the President of Frenchtown's Fathers' Club for several years. He is involved with our Super Bowl Breakfast, June Fair, Friday Night Movies, and Popsicle Day along with other Fathers' Club activities. Kerry Dobson is a past President of our PTA. She has been involved in our Birthday Board, Calendar and Calendar Birthdays, Give-Back Programs, School Supply Kits, Spirit Wear Sales, and serves on our Fifth Grade Committee. Regina Essing is our security guard, but is also a parent in our school. She has been involved with the Mother's Day Plant Sale, been a Room Mom, and serves on our Fifth Grade Committee. Komal Patwardhan is one of Cultural Diversity Chairs and works tirelessly on our annual Multi-Cultural Dinner. She is our PTA Secretary and is involved with i-volunteer and teaches about Diwali to her son's class each year. We would not accomplish all we do without the support of our PTA and Fathers' Club, and we thank them for all their help!

Trumbull, Tashua School

Recognizing: John Buehler, Jason Oberhand, Rob Sanderson, Scott Targowski

Tashua Elementary School would like to recognize members of the The Tashua Fathers' Club for their service to Tashua School. These men have supported our school through countless hours of volunteering, creating an avenue for fathers to volunteer, engage in special projects, and get involved in our school community. Under Rob and Jason's leadership, The Fathers' Club has organized wonderful annual events such as The Monster Mashua, Super Bowl Breakfast, Movie Night, and Dad's Night Out. In past years, they have raised funds to purchase new equipment for students. The ongoing effort of these men and their exceptional leadership has created and fostered a sense of camaraderie and fellowship within Tashua School, and we are extremely fortunate to have them in our Fathers' Club.

Wallingford, Yalesville Elementary School

Recognizing: Chris Brint, Donna Button, Dee Ferry

Donna Button has been an active member of the HYES PTO for many years. She is currently the PTO Co-President with Dee Ferry. Donna's efforts have provided students with many beneficial resources and learning experiences.

Chris Brint has been an active member of the HYES PTO for many years. Chris does not have children who attend the school, yet he collaborates with the PTO to assist with fundraising and activities that enhance the learning experiences of the Highland and Yalesville Schools.

Dee Ferry has been an active member of the HYES PTO for many years. She is currently the PTO Co-President. Mrs. Ferry's efforts have provided students with many beneficial resources and learning experiences.

Westbrook, Westbrook Middle School

Recognizing: Amy Callahan, Michael Donovan, Lea Engels, Amy Spagone, Loretta Zanzalari

The following award recipients are truly valued members of our school and parent community:

Amy Callahan is the lead teacher at our school and the team leader on her seventh grade team. She attends and volunteers at all PTO meetings and events. Amy also chaperones dances and plays in our Annual Student/Staff Basketball Game. Amy has also volunteered for our Principal's Advisory Committee, Grade Reform Committee, and our school and district Climate Committee.

Michael Donovan is a Spanish teacher at WMS who promotes a positive climate throughout the building. Mike regularly volunteers for dances, field trips, and all PTO functions.

Lea Engels is a parent who has been both treasurer and secretary on our Executive PTO Board. She has been instrumental in planning our Harlem Rockets Game against students and staff this year. Lea is always one of the first parents to attend and help at all PTO functions and fundraisers.

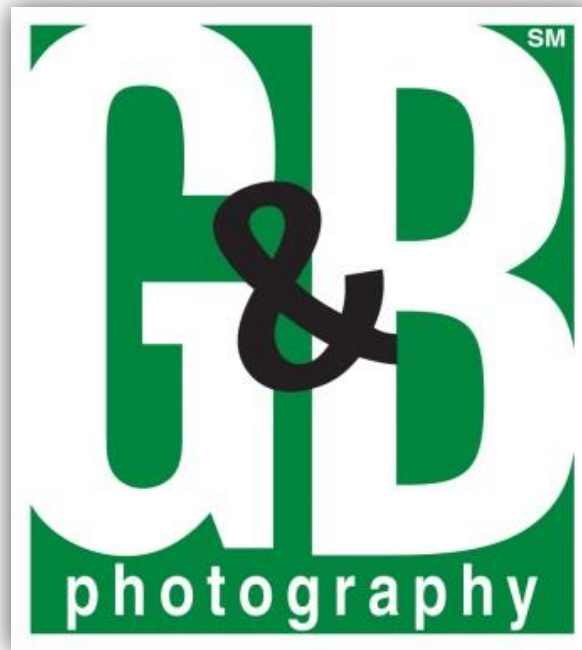
Amy Spagone is our school counselor, and has volunteered to be on our Climate Committee and district Wellness Committee. Amy chaperones dances and is the DJ for our Student/Staff basketball Game. This year, Amy has coordinated the Circle of Friends Club which allows opportunities for students to cultivate relationships through community activities.

Loretta Zanzalari is a parent who has volunteered for all PTO functions. Loretta has also volunteered for the Principal's Advisory and PTO Hospitality Committees.

Wolcott, Alcott Elementary School

Recognizing: Holly Leone

Holly Leone has selflessly volunteered her time and energy at Alcott School for the last eight years. She is always willing to give her time to not just her children, but all children at Alcott School. Holly has been a classroom volunteer, reading with students to improve their comprehension and fluency. She has volunteered as a room parent organizing classroom events and activities. Holly has been an active member of the Alcott PTO working on projects such as fundraising for the Alcott School Community Garden, Evening with the Stars, and the Alcott Duck Race. Most recently Holly has volunteered her time to work with the Alcott Student Council on their school store endeavor, in which she supervises members of the student council during school store hours each week. Holly is a valued member of the Alcott School community, and we are grateful for all she has done for our school community.



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.

Thank you G & B for your generosity



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
Connecticut Association of Schools