

# THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

## *The Sixty-First Annual Meeting*

*May 9, 2013*

2012-2013 Annual Report

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF CONTROL**

*Submitted by Karen Fitzsimmons, Chair*

The 2012-2013 school year continued to be a year with many programs and workshops for elementary schools in Connecticut. The goal and focus has been to work collaboratively with the Connecticut State Department of Education. This was accomplished by CAS, EASTCONN, SERC and the CSDE working together to sponsor workshops, conferences and discussion on teacher/principal evaluations and early childhood education.

#### **ELEMENTARY BOARD 2012-2013**

**The Elementary Board of Control** (Chaired by Karen Fitzsimmons, Principal, Memorial Elementary School, East Hampton; Assistant Chair: Dr. RoseAnne O'Brien Vojtek, Principal, Ivy Drive School, Bristol) A delegation from CAS attended the summer leadership conference in Washington, DC.

#### **ELEMENTARY COMMITTEES 2012-2013**

**Elementary Leadership Conference Committee:** Each year, CAS hosts leadership conferences to provide elementary students with opportunities to develop the skills needed to be effective leaders. These annual events engage students in a variety of activities designed to foster leadership skills such as conflict resolution, problem-solving, decision-making and communication. These conferences also include workshops for the parents of the student-leaders to assist them in fostering leadership skills in their child. The elementary student leadership conferences were held for the 20th consecutive year at Sacred Heart University, Asnuntuck, Three Rivers, and Naugatuck Community Colleges. In total, the four conferences enrolled more than 850 students, setting a new all-time high as SHU was added to the line-up for 2012. Co-Chairs Karen Brimecombe, Lauren Elias, Eileen Roxbee and Mary Giard coordinated the programs that featured teacher volunteers from across the state providing highly interactive leadership activities for students in grades four through six. Future student leadership initiatives and conferences will be aligned to the curricular modules of service, ethics, decision making, team building and communication that are part of the newly developed and approved leadership curriculum

**CAS Arts Committee:** (Chairs: Maureen Berescik, Bethel Middle School) The task of the committee is to give public recognition to the arts in general and to students and teachers who excel in the visual and performing arts. This was the thirteenth year that CAS sponsored the elementary arts festival where two elementary students from each school are recognized for excelling in either the visual or performing arts. Two evenings had to be devoted to the event because of the large number of schools participating.

**National Distinguished Principal Selection Committee:** (chaired by Andrienne Longobucco, Retired Principal) The seven member selection committee reviewed applications and portfolios and then visited the schools of three finalist before making their selection. Ms. Tracy Youngberg, principal of Carmen Arace Intermediate School in Bloomfield, was selected as Connecticut's 2013 NDP.

**Volunteer Recognition Committee:** (Co-chairs: Norma-Jean Posocco, Retired Educator; Rick Watson, Principal, Albert D. Griswold Middle School, Rocky Hill) This committee plans the Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet and, for the second year in a row, collaborated with the middle and high school levels. Each year this awards dinner grows as more schools feel a need to recognize volunteers. This year the program continued to be well attended by elementary, middle and high school educators and volunteers.

### **ELEMENTARY ACTIVITIES 2012-2013**

**The Annual Recognition of Excellence Celebration Banquet:** The event was held on November 27, 2012. This is the 19<sup>th</sup> year CAS has recognized exemplary school programs as well as the exemplary educator award winners. This year, the two schools recognized as the school of the year were Glastonbury's Naubuc School and East Lyme Middle School. Also recognized were the CAS Outstanding First Year Principals: elementary principal Robert Nagashima, Wolcott, and co-first year principals for high schools Dr. Dominic Spera, Groton; and Kristina Martineau, Deep River. Also recognized were the CAS Exemplary Educators from the high school, middle school and elementary school levels. Additionally, staff from 35 schools were honored for excellence in education.

**The Annual Celebration of the Arts Banquet:** The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Elementary Arts Banquets sponsored by Liberty Mutual was held on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Two students from each of the 180 elementary schools in attendance were honored at the Aqua Turf Club this past February. Over 1400 students, teachers, administrators and parents were treated to an interactive night of art activities. Members of the CAS staff and planning committee provided congratulatory remarks as did a member from the state department of education.

**Volunteer/Parent Recognition Banquet:** The program rewards the efforts of school volunteers across the state. Each honoree received a certificate and a booklet listing all the honorees and their accomplishments. Horace Mann Insurance sponsored this special event, presenting a carnation to every honoree. There were 625 in attendance representing elementary, middle and high schools across CT. The Distinguished Friend of Education Award was present to Mr. Kenneth Kitchings.

**Annual Recognition Awards:** Awards given by the elementary division annually are: National Distinguished Principals, Educator of the Year, School of the Year, William Cieslukowski First Year Principal Award, John Wallace Awards, and Thomas R. Flanagan Student Activity Memorial Grants.

**Kid's Marathon:** Working with the Rod Dixon Foundation in Los Angeles, CSAC put together our Connecticut version of KIDSMARATHON, an amazing life fitness program for students ages 7-12 that features an 8-10 week program of running with nutritional guidelines. Final celebrations are set for late spring at Cheshire, Litchfield, Danbury and Norwich as over 2,000 runners are set to complete their last mile of a marathon in front of cheering family and friends. The mantra of the program is "finishing is winning and winning is finishing".

**Marine Science Day –** The Long Island Sound Foundation in conjunction with CAS presents the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Marine Science Day for students in grades 4 through 8 on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 in five locations: Avery Point in Groton; CT River Museum in Essex; Sound School in New Haven; Sound Waters in Stamford; and New England Sailing School in Stonington. The purpose of this conference is to promote greater awareness of Long Island Sound and marine science.

**Unified Sports Program:** The Unified Sports programs sponsored by CAS/CIAC are divided into two categories. Students in pre-k through grade two participate in the Young Athlete Program and the students in grades 3-5 take part in the Elementary Sports Skill Developmental Program. The programs operate throughout the school year and closely follow the school calendar. All schools are invited to participate. The students engage in non-competitive athletic activities designed to develop skills in a variety of sports. Our Young Athlete program includes schools from Derby, Canton, Southington, Milford, Middletown, Clinton, Darien, Avon Waterbury, Colchester, Essex, Deep River, New Haven, Wethersfield, Westbrook, Wallingford and Stonington.

**Early Childhood:** CAS continues to work with CT ST Department of Education and several early childhood associations. The Age 3 to Grade 3 committee has co-sponsored an Age 3 to Grade 3 competitive institute and it selected 8 districts. Each district is working with a facilitator and attending meetings/training and using the self assessment, The Framework for Planning, Implementing and Evaluating Pre K – 3 Grade Approaches, designed by Dr. Kristie Kauerz. The institute runs from February to June incorporating 4 days of instructional workshops and 4 days of facilitator meetings. The Age 3 to Grade 3 team will evaluate the institute in hopes of replicating the program again in the fall. The CAS Early Childhood Committee again focused on looking at full day kindergarten. In April, administrators were invited to attend *Standards - Developing a Common Language and Understanding*. The purpose was to provide the early education community and the k-12 community with a common language and understanding of standards birth through grade 3.

**Legislation:** CAS, along with selected elementary principals, has been active with the legislature, testifying on bills affecting several areas including; entrance age for kindergarten children, schools collaborating with preschool agencies and families, and extending half day kindergarten to full day kindergarten, sequestration, and school safety. There are several bills on early childhood in the legislative hopper and CAS, with support from elementary principals, has been instrumental in speaking on these bills. CAS is also involved with teacher/principal evaluation.

