

Celebrations of the Fairfield Public Schools

Volume 1 * Issue 6 * June 2011

Superintendent's Message



Dear Faculty and Staff:

June is traditionally a time when I reflect on the year. At last Tuesday's Board of Education meeting I mentioned a number of tough issues that the Board of Education, working with school district staff, has resolved this year. Since many people were voting in the referendum and may have missed it (or don't want to watch it on FairTV), here is a brief list.

It's easy, sometimes, to dwell on the difficulties of the past year instead of the successes. While not all of these matters were resolved to everyone's satisfaction, the resolution of the issues allows the district to move forward on improving teaching and learning. These are in no particular order.

- Change in the middle school feeder pattern
- Breathalyzer policy passed
- Complete update of the student discipline policy
- Commissioned and received new enrollment projections based on different methodology
- Commissioned and received study on elementary capacity
- The Operational Audit - selected a firm, provided data, set up five days of site visits, reviewed the report, provided a written response to each point and incorporated some of it into the budget
- Approved an updated Long-Range Facilities Plan
- Agreed on common high school Academic Expectations and Grading Guidelines
- Revised all policies as recommended by the CABA Audit
- Budget was done in a new format with greater transparency and credibility
- A new elementary staffing model providing greater support to students in math and reading will be in place next year
- A new model for gifted education will be in place next year in elementary and middle schools
- Significant expansion of the pre-school program
- Amended Racial Imbalance Plan approved by the State
- Approval of the Sherman project (core upgrades)
- Approval of Fairfield Woods expansion so that it will be done in time for September 2011 occupancy
- Near completion of Stratfield project

- Settled several employment contracts within Board of Education guidelines
- Implemented the State's Healthy Food Certification initiative
- Provided a District Improvement Plan and began implementation by working with the entire administrative team on improving instruction and supervision throughout the year.

While this is not a complete list, it does show that many of the issues that had been unresolved one year ago (and some had been pending for quite some time) are now resolved in a positive manner.

Thanks to all for a great year!



Tara Hyder, Jennings Reading & Language Arts teacher, organized the *Jennings Annual Reading Incentive Program*. All students K-5 read a total of 157,000 minutes for the month of March!



Donna Spigarolo, Roger Ludlowe MS Special Education teacher, received the SEPTA *Randi Tarczali Friend of Education Award*.



Holland Hill - *Holland Hill Heroes*, the school community service organization, invited the school to



listen to the wind and hear the call for help from Japan's earthquake victims. Students helped put together quilted blankets for Japan's earthquake victims. Over seventy students and staff members participated in this special event. Students also ran a coin drive to cover the cost for shipping the blankets to Japan. They raised over \$300 in one week.

McKinley - Folk musicians Peter and Alice Amidon visited for two days as guest artists. They led an all-school performance, taught numerous class workshops and hosted an evening of Family Folk Dance.



North Stratfield - Students donated books for the Kiwanis Club's *Read To Grow* program.

Osborn Hill - The annual *Osborn Hill Field Day* was held at the end of May. Each class wore a different color t-shirt and participated in a variety of relay races under the supervision of the PE teachers, **Erik Marko** and **Sean Dolyak**.



Riverfield - The school held its annual *Family Math Night* for grades 2-5. Students, parents, teachers and volunteers had a great time estimating, completing surveys, solving puzzles and playing math games that support all strands of math.

Sherman - Sherman held their Annual *Special Person's Day*. The day began with a patriotic themed music program by the students. Visitors were treated to refreshments provided by the PTA. Families were also asked to take a moment to see the *Wall of Honor*, highlighting the members of the military, veterans and present.



Burr - **Vivian Petrecca**, won First Place in the *Annual Town-Wide Spelling Bee!*

Jennings - **Emma Fisher**, winner of several gift baskets at the Annual Ice Cream Social/Raffle, gave away one of her gift baskets so that another student could enjoy the pleasure of winning.

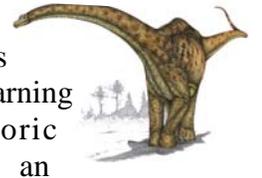


McKinley - Grade 5 students had a hand in creating one of the largest indoor collaborative art pieces in the world. The students recently painted images that will be

links between larger art works making up the *American Mural Project*.

Osborn Hill - The **Osborn Hill Student Council** members collected towels, soap, forks, cereal, salad dressing, Jell-O and cake mix to donate to *Operation Hope*.

Stratfield - Kindergarten students engaged in a wonderful interactive learning experience involving prehistoric creatures. They took part in an archeological dig finding dinosaur treasures that they could take home.



Fairfield Woods MS - **Natalie Pippolo** won first prize in the *Women's History Month Essay Contest* for her essay about Caroline Maria Hewins, the first chief librarian at the Hartford Public Library.

Roger Ludlowe MS - The *RLMS Chamber Orchestra* played at the Capitol in Hartford at the end of May.



After the performance, the students were led on a tour by State Rep. Kim Fawcett. Later that day, the orchestra stopped by the Central Office and played for the staff.

Tomlinson MS - **Erin Rigney** submitted her *Earth Day Celebration* entry, Slipsavers, earth-friendly water bottle tags designed to identify the bottle's owner and that grow wildflowers when planted. Erin's invention has received considerable recognition. The Slipsavers are on sale in some Westport and Stamford stores.



Fairfield Ludlowe HS - **Dan Adajian**, **Kareem Mishalani** and **Alexander Yokokawa** were selected to perform at the Rotary Student Recognition luncheon. **Lynda Smith** is their instructor.

Fairfield Warde HS - **Tim Viet** recently took first place in the Statewide *COLT Poetry Contest* for upper level Latin students. Tim memorized and recited a famous speech from Vergil's Aeneid.



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!