

Celebrations of the Fairfield Public Schools

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Superintendent's Message



Dear Faculty and Staff:

As we enter the holiday season, it is fitting that we issue Celebrations. We have much to be grateful for in the Fairfield Public Schools, as evidenced by the accomplishments of our students and staff described in this publication.

I am grateful to the professionalism with which every staff member has conducted business during one of the most unusual starts to a school year. In August we experienced an earthquake; then we experienced Hurricane Irene that delayed the start to the school year until after Labor Day; and then we had the Halloween snowstorm. Through this "series of unfortunate events" it has been you, our staff, who have kept the focus on teaching and learning.

I am also grateful for the collaboration occurring across the school district. As schools are working on a new process to develop school improvement plans, collaborative efforts within each school have never been stronger. In addition, schools across the district are sharing with each other how to improve student learning.

I am very proud of our school system; the accomplishments in this newsletter are proof of that. If we are to improve our system, we will need to learn from one another in a collaborative fashion so that the collective wisdom in the school system grows every year.

Have a great Thanksgiving.



Eileen Fenn, FWHS English teacher, was accepted into the *National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar Southeast Asia: At the Crossroads of World War II* organized by the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Eileen also received a scholarship from the *English Speaking Union* to attend Oxford University's Creative Writing Seminar School over the summer.

Wayne Uccellini, Osborn Hill Cafeteria Manager, participated in the *Fairfield Iron Chef* competition along with the chefs from *Cinch* and *Whole Foods Market*. The winning recipe will be featured on the December FPS lunch menu!



McKinley - The **McKinley PTA** sponsored its *Sixth Annual World's Fair*. Twenty-four countries were represented with family displays. The World's Fair provided educational opportunities as students visited the country displays to learn facts about the countries represented, created multi-cultural art projects, attended on-going cultural performances and enjoyed international foods. Over 600 people attended the fair; and over 100 students, parents and staff volunteers helped to make this event a success.

North Stratfield - The school has become a member of NASA's *Space Place Community Partner Program*. North Stratfield library now one of 400 libraries, museums, and planetariums across the country to host a permanent wall display of NASA materials, changing monthly. This is a great



way for North Stratfield to encourage interest in astronomy and science.

Riverfield - The Fairfield Fire Department visited Riverfield School with the *Fire Trailer*. They had a simulation of a smoke-filled room and taught the students what to do in the event of a fire.

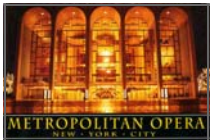
Sherman - *Sherman School's Second Walk-A-Thon* was held on Friday, September 23. The school raised \$25,000!



Fairfield Ludlowe HS - A whole school assembly was held on the football field on September 10th to memorialize the 9/11 tragedy. This event was facilitated by **Kevin Cotellese, Fran Kondziela** and **Lynda Smith**. Students **Steve Autore, Emma Sweet** and **Sara Wiant** presented readings. The choral group *Close Harmony* gave a vocal performance and student **Kareem Mishalani** played the violin.



Holland Hill - **Grade 5 students** participated in a field trip to the *Metropolitan Opera* to see the final dress rehearsal of *The Barber of Seville*. Holland Hill is one of the few Connecticut schools that is a part of the *Metropolitan Opera-Lincoln Center Program*. They have been taking part in this program for over 15 years. The students were accompanied by Music teacher, **Jon Noyes** and Grade 5 teachers; **Marie Sacco, Pat Tyler** and **Mark Rudolph**.



Jennings - All **Grade 5** students participated in making goody bags full of crayons, markers, stickers, etc., for the pediatric floor at *Bridgeport Hospital*.

Sherman - The **Sherman** Landscaping Committee held a *Fall Courtyard Cleanup*. The following students participated along with their families in the clean-up: **Ian Bentley, Linc Lamastro, Gracie McEldowney** and **Drew Rogers**.



Tomlinson MS - In early October students raised \$25,000 in a PTA-sponsored Walkatho. All students and staff participated in the walk, and the afternoon ended with games and prizes. The purpose was to involve stu-

dents in fundraising efforts, partner with several local merchants, and enjoy a spirited, healthy day for all!

Fairfield Ludlowe HS - Housemaster **John Antonello** chaperoned the *FLHS Challenge Team* to its first match. Team members include: **Amanda Brenner, Derek Chu, Karen Chu, Greg Convertito** and **Olivia Morrison**. Results will be released after the challenge airs.



Happy Thanksgiving!

