

Celebrations of the Fairfield Public Schools

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Superintendent's Message



I am pleased to share news from around the school district with you.

Board of Education Officers

The Board of Education held its organizational meeting on November 23 and elected John Mitola as Chairman, succeeding Sue Brand who had served as Chairman for the past year. Pam Iacono was re-elected to serve as vice chairman, and Stacy Zahn was re-elected to serve as secretary. Officers serve for one year.

Operational Audit

Many of you participated in some phase of the Operational Audit being conducted by Prismatic, Inc. In addition to a staff survey, Prismatic conducted several on-site interviews with staff members. Prismatic is now assimilating all of its data in preparation for issuing a final report with its recommendations. The report will be brought forward in a public presentation at the Board of Education meeting on December 14. The contents of the report will not be known until that evening. The recommendations are not binding on the Board of Education or the administration. The report will be subject to review and discussion before any decisions are made regarding implementation.

Facilities Planning

The Board of Education is in the process of reviewing its Long Range Facilities Plan while advocating for funding of projects scheduled for this year. The Fairfield Woods Middle School project is in the final phases of approval so that construction can begin. On November 16, the Town Planning & Zoning (TP&Z) Commission held a public hearing on the project. TP&Z approval is required for the project to commence. A decision is expected at the December 14 TP&Z meeting.

The Sherman project received funding from the town for an architect. A firm has been selected and is now in the early stages of design. This project is in the hands of the Special Projects Standing Building Committee. Board of Education member Pam Iacono serves on this committee. Once the architect completes a design and cost estimate, the project will go to the town bodies for funding.

Two other projects are currently going through the review process with the town. The replacement of the Fairfield Ludlowe High School windows is in the hands of the Town Facilities Commission, which has set up a sub-committee to review the project and recommend a funding amount to the town. The replacement of the Fairfield Warde High School roof is also with a sub-committee of the TFC. Both projects have been heard by the Board of Selectmen but have yet to go to the Board of Finance or the Representative Town Meeting for funding.

Enrollment Projections

A new firm, MGT of America, is preparing short and long-term enrollment projections for the district and by school. These projections are nearly complete and will be presented at the December 14 Board of Education meeting.



A group of staff members at **Fairfield Woods Middle School** encouraged students and staff to wear pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month. Optional donations were encouraged, and \$275 was donated to the Norma Pfreim Breast Care Center in Fairfield.

Fairfield Warde HS - Ellen Thomas, Counseling Center Secretary, recently received the HomeGrown Spirit Award from RYASAP for her "significant and often unsung" service to the community.



Students in grades 1-5 at **Burr** read a total of 3,496 books in the Governor's Reading Challenge this summer!

Grade 5 students at **Holland Hill** traveled to the Metropolitan Opera to see the final dress rehearsal of *Così fan tutte*. Holland Hill is one of the few Connecticut schools fortunate enough to be part of the Metropolitan Opera-Lincoln Center Program and have been taking part in this program for over 15 years. Special thanks to music teacher Jon Noyes and the 5th grade teachers Marie Sacco, Pat Tyler, and Mark Rudolf for making this experience happen.

Under the direction of art teacher Kathy Reddy, third grade students at **McKinley** created a scarecrow for Beardsley Zoo's 3rd Annual Scarecrow Competition. Their scarecrow won first place and is on display at the zoo.

Mill Hill students participated in the first annual Read-a-thon, sponsored by the PTA. Students collected pledges for minutes read, and the money raised will go toward future PTA sponsored programs. Students raised more than \$18,000! The day also coincided with *Read for the Record*, in which students took turns logging on to the *Read for the Record* website to set a world record for the number of people reading the same book, **Snowy Day** by Ezra Jack Keats, on the same day. Every click to **Snowy Day** contributed to book donations being sent to children in need.

North Stratfield held their second annual Walk to School Day. PE Teacher, Patti Kassay, organized this event along with support from the PTA, especially the Wellness Committee. Many teachers supported the event by walking to school with students and their parents.

Osborn Hill launched GenerationOn, a global youth service movement igniting the power of kids to change the world through service. GenerationOn is a newly-created youth service division of the Points of Light Institute and one of the largest youth volunteer action organizations in the nation. The following team from Osborn Hill was instrumental in the launch of this program: David Hudspeth (IIT), Elizabeth Lukas (SLP), Pam Williams (Grade 4 teacher), Colleen Morello (LAC), Paraskevi Rountos (Literacy Coach), Ann Marie Soto (Kindergarten teacher) and Alan Lipman (Principal).

Fourth and fifth grade students and parents recently attended **Riverfield's** Nutmeg Book Club and discussed eight different books. Five years ago there were less than five boys in the club, and this year more than half of the club members are boys. This year for the first time there were many dads at the meeting reading with their children.

Riverfield, Holland Hill, Dwight and **McKinley** are participating in the Elementary Cross Country Team. Students recently ran a challenging, hilly 1-mile course around the campus of Dwight Elementary School. A large crowd cheered all 137 runners on and helped celebrate at the finish line. Unexpected rain prompted last minute changes to the course (to avoid the muddy field and track), and the varying terrain was a hit with all runners.



Tomlinson Middle School - Students raised \$27,000 in the first annual PTA sponsored Walk-a-thon. Students who received a pledge of \$5 or more received a tee-shirt designed by Tomlinson art teacher David Ward. Students enjoyed an all school walk, tug-of-war competition between homerooms, raffles, prizes and music provided by STAR 99 Radio.



Jennings - Nicholas Genova earned his first Dan Black Belt in Tai Kwon Do.

Sherman - John Salerno from Mrs. Crossland's Grade 2 class brought two bags of fruit to the local homeless shelter and donated \$20 from his own money to the Builders Beyond Borders Organization which builds homes for homeless families around the world.

Fairfield Ludlowe HS - A Scholars Reception was held for students and their parents. Students received citations for having distinguished themselves in one or more of the following: National Merit Commended Students, National Merit Semifinalists, National Hispanic Scholars, AP Scholars and AP Scholars with Honors. Honorees included: **Christopher Amicucci, Alexandra Ball, Allison Benko, Sarah Bruhl, Siri Carr, Brian Christian, Luke Clifford, Sean Coyle, Kevin Cryan, Karalyn Donahue, Evan Flatto, Kelly Gerson, George He, Samuel Kottler, William Lederer, Bomsol Lee, Hayley Lynch, Kaitlin Maciejewski, Robert O'Donovan, Taylor Peterson, Allison Reich, Scott Sacci, Mary Santella, James Thomson** and **Sophia Tomeo**.

