

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.

Sherman Elementary School Project

On September 27 the Representative Town Meeting approved \$50,000 for architect's fees to begin the design of the core upgrades and renovations at Sherman Elementary School. This project is scheduled to include an expansion of the cafeteria and its serving lines, bathroom upgrades, security enhancements, improved fresh air circulation, among other things. The construction cost of this project is estimated at \$1.6 million and will be managed by the Special Projects Standing Building Committee. Work is scheduled for summer of 2011.

Long Range Facilities Planning

With the Sherman project on track, the Board of Education has turned its attention to updating its Long-Range Facilities Plan. On August 30 the Board of Finance convened a joint planning meeting with the Board of Selectmen, representatives from the Board of Education and the Representative Town Meeting. The First Selectman outlined his vision for the Town's Long-Range Facilities Plan, including an estimate for the Board of Education. The Board's Facilities sub-committee is taking that information and developing its recommended Long-Range Facilities Plan for consideration by the full Board of Education.

Operational Audit

The firm of Prismatic, Inc. continues its work on the operational audit of the Fairfield Public Schools. Many thanks to those of you who met with the on-site team during the week of October 11 through 14. The audit report will be presented to the public at the December 14, 2010 Board of Education meeting. The report will contain commendations as well as recommendations. The Board will consider all of the recommendations but is not required to implement them. Once we receive the report, I will prepare a response to each recommendation in the report for the Board's consideration.

New Website

With a redesign and a new name, the Fairfield Public Schools' website has officially launched. When you have a chance, check out the new site www.fairfieldschools.org. It continues to be a work in progress. Some people have asked if this means that our email addresses will be changing. For the time being, the email addresses remain the same. It is possible that next summer we will change our email addresses to mirror the web address, but that change is more complicated than altering the district's domain name.



Tara Hyder, Jennings Reading & Language Arts Consultant, was selected as a recipient of the *Brian Fagan Grant*. This grant recognizes outstanding teachers who demonstrate leadership and are currently enrolled in an academic program for administration certification.

Shirley Okerblom, Central Office, received an award for managing the *FPS Giving Campaign* from the *Community Health Charities*. This is a well-deserved honor for the years of hard work Shirley has put in supporting not only *Community Health Charities* but the entire *Giving Campaign*.

Keith Smolinski, Roger Ludlowe MS science teacher, is one of five grand prize winners in a contest run by *Walden University* where he earned his doctorate degree. His winning video demonstrates the use of music and science. He uses catchy music to help students learn biology, memorize science vocabulary and perform well on tests. He will receive \$5,000 in prize money, plus \$2,500 to be donated to a charity of his choice. Keith has chosen the *American Diabetes Association*.



The **Early Childhood Center** recently held their first *ECC Colors for Caring Collection*. On the last Thursday of each month, students and staff are encouraged to wear clothing of a designated color. September was red. The ECC selects a different charity each month, and families are given the opportunity to make a donation, as the family budget allows. In September, toiletries were brought in for *Operation Hope*. The ECC motto is “never too young to help others!”

The **Fairfield Warde HS Faculty** project, *Casual Dress Days for Charity*, that occurs on payday Fridays, has raised over \$1,200 for *Operation Hope*.

The **Holland Hill Cross Country Team** started again this year under the guidance of PE teacher, Anthony Gelsi. The team is made up of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders who volunteer their mornings on Tuesday and Thursday to log in as many miles as possible. The goal is to promote healthy choices and activities.

McKinley - This year over 300 students are participating in the following after-school activities: Wakeman Boys and Girls Club, Reading Club, Homework Club, Mentoring, Quilting, Drama, Ballet, Cross Country and Student Council.

Osborn Hill - Classes participated in a reading celebration with Osborn Hill Librarian **Denise Rehder** and were visited by *Storm*, the mascot for the Sound Tigers.

Riverfield has a beautiful new brick walkway in front of the school. Families and staff have been given the opportunity to purchase a personalized brick to make the walkway even more special.

Stratfield - The entire **Stratfield** community is excited to have the first phase of their school renovation and construction project completed. The new classrooms and newly renovated classrooms are now beautiful learning environments.



Dwight - Kelly Repaci earned two sportsmanship awards in the *Fairfield United Travel Soccer League*. The first award was for displaying sportsmanship during a game, and the second was for playing with sportsmanship during a tournament.



Jeremy Page also earned a sportsmanship award in the *Fairfield United Travel Soccer League*. Jeremy earned the award for playing goalie in a tournament when his teammate was hurt and unable to play.

Sherman - Finula Milici's poem, *Starry Night*, was published in the August 2010 issue of Highlight's Magazine.

Roger Ludlowe MS - Meghan Podolsky won third place for a personal narrative she wrote and submitted to the *Trumbull Arts Commission*.

Alternative High School - A pasta dinner fundraiser sponsored by the Student Council and organized by **Traevawn Russell**, Student Council President, was held recently to raise money for student activities.

Fairfield Ludlowe HS - Rachel Finlaw's portrait of "Elsa" was chosen by the *President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities* to be included in a special year-long exhibition in Washington, D.C. A ceremony took place at the Department of Education Building. Rachel, her family and **Michele Hermsen**, FLHS photography teacher, attended this prestigious event. The Honorary Chairman of this committee is First Lady, Michelle Obama.



Fairfield Ludlowe High School students **Christopher Amicucci, Alexandra Ball, Allison Benko, Sarah Bruhl, Luke Clifford, Evan Flatto, Bomsol Lee, Hayley Lynch, Taylor Peterson** and **James Thompson** achieved *Commended* status based on their 2009 PSAT/NMSQT scores in the *National Merit Scholarship Program*.

Fairfield Warde HS - Alex Beyer recently performed *Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1* with the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra to rave reviews. Alex will be appearing with the *Bridgeport Youth Symphony* later this year.

