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CONNECTIONS

With the West Hartford Public Schools

Clear Paths. Bright Futures. No Limits.



CONNECTIONS

With the West Hartford Public Schools
Connections is a districtwide publication presented to you by the Office of the Superintendent, West Hartford Public Schools, 50 South Main St., West Hartford, Connecticut 06107 Phone (860)561-6651



Emergency Closing Information

The superintendent of schools determines the necessity for the delayed opening or emergency closing of school due to weather conditions or other emergencies. Please follow these guidelines for information on school closings:

- Announcements regarding delays or closings are made over local radio and television stations. This information also may be accessed by calling the West Hartford Source Line after 6 a.m. at 860-233-2334, or by visiting our website at www.whps.org for closings, cancellations, and additional information.
- In the event of an early dismissal from school due to inclement weather or other circumstances, parents/guardians will be notified by the principal via the Connect-ED Rapid Notification System. This allow parents to be notified by phone within minutes.
- Please be sure to discuss with your children what the plan is for your family if schools are closed early. On days when schools are closed early, all afternoon and evening activities will be cancelled as well.



Distribution Of *Connections*

An on-line version of *Connections* With the West Hartford Public Schools is now available at <http://www.whps.org/connections.pdf>. If you do not wish to have a copy of *Connections* mailed to your home, please email connectionsout@whps.org with your name, address, child's name and school. Thank you.

A Message from the Superintendent

To the students and families of West Hartford Public Schools:

I am excited to welcome you back for what I believe will be a tremendous 2014-2015 school year. For those of you who have just moved to our town or who may be sending their first child to kindergarten, I thank you for choosing West Hartford Public Schools. We have much of which to be proud, and I trust that you will consider it the best decision you have made for your child thus far in his or her young life.

As your new superintendent, I am committed to leading a school system that is always asking the question, "What more can we do for your child?" As the father of two West Hartford students myself, I recognize the faith you are placing in us to

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oversee the education of your child. I am committed to excellence for all of our students, and we have the staff to make that happen. As you may know, many of our principals have recently retired, and I am thankful for their many years of dedicated service. During the hiring process to fill these positions, we sought out one key trait: the unequivocal belief in the possibilities of every child. We believe we have a group of professional leaders who are committed to seeing that every child learns, every day. We are eager for you to meet them.

I have spent my career here in West Hartford as a history teacher, coach, principal, and an assistant superintendent. I am indebted to this town for what it has meant to me and my family, and I believe that we have a school system that can and should be the envy of every town in Connecticut and a beacon for the rest of the country. I truly believe West Hartford Public Schools embody the great hope that when a committed citizenry comes together, children of different religious, economic, racial, and linguistic backgrounds can - and will - achieve greatness.

I look forward to seeing you at our school events and activities, and I welcome your input as we continue to ask the question, "What more can we do for your child?" Best of luck for a productive and happy 2014-15 school year.

Tom Moore

An Update on the Charter Oak Construction Project



The construction drawings for the new Charter Oak International Academy were completed this summer, continuing the brisk pace of the school's design process.

Early in 2015, we plan to break ground on the new construction, with a school opening planned for September of 2016. Please visit whps.org for continuing updates on the design and construction process.

1st Issue

14-15

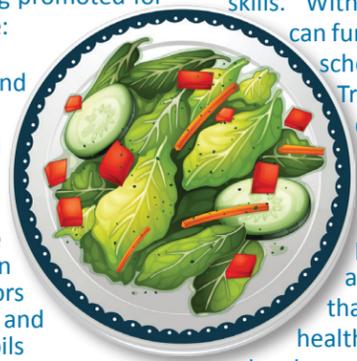
A Look Inside:

- *New Administrators Join Team*
- *Teacher of the Year Announced*
- *A Farewell to Departing Faculty and Staff*
- *A Change in Menu*
- *Emergency Closings*

Why It's Cool to Eat in School this Fall

West Hartford Nutrition Services (www.whps.org/lunch) and Growing Great Schools (www.growinggreatschools.org) have created a partnership to promote healthy eating at school with their *It's Cool to Eat in School* campaign for the 2014-2015 school year. Some of the changes being promoted for the upcoming year include:

- Whole-muscle chicken and clean-label beef
- Weekly salad bars at all 11 elementary schools
- Packaged snacks at elementary schools free of high fructose corn syrup, artificial flavors and colors, trans-fat, and partially hydrogenated oils
- More fresh fruit and vegetable options
- All bread and grain products made from whole-grain ingredients
- Ingredient lists and labels for all products served at school posted online at www.whps.org/lunch
- An international recipe contest



- Daily breakfast at Braeburn, Bugbee, Charter Oak, Smith, Webster Hill, Whiting Lane (new program to start in the fall) and Wolcott

Partner chefs from Growing Great Schools will continue to hold training sessions with Nutrition Services staff to enhance culinary skills. "With help from the community we can further transform our children's school food experience," said Trish Molloy, a registered dietitian, certified dietitian-nutritionist and director of West Hartford Nutrition Services. "As more students purchase meals we will be able to implement programs that provide students with even healthier and tastier breakfast, lunch, snack and drink options."

A tip for parents: read over the monthly menu and go to www.growinggreatschools.org to sign up for a daily "Tasty Text" that will remind you what is being offered for lunch. You also may choose to receive weekly menus by email. 

New Administrators Enhance a Quality Leadership Team

Eleven new administrators joined the West Hartford Public Schools Leadership Team this spring and summer.

- **Timothy Kessler**, science teacher at Hall High, will be the Science Department supervisor for Sedgwick and Conard. Tim has a bachelor's in Geology and Geophysics and a master's in Education from the University of Connecticut, and a sixth year certificate from Central Connecticut State University, where he is completing his doctorate.
- **Chad Ellis**, Social Studies teacher at Hall High, will be the Social Studies Department supervisor for King Philip Middle School. Chad received a bachelor's degree in History, a master's in Curriculum and Instruction, and a sixth year and Ph.D. in Educational Administration from UConn.
- **Stacy Kellogg-Shove**, psychologist at Charter Oak International Academy and Hall High, will be a Pupil Services supervisor. She received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Harvard, her master's in Clinical Psychology and in

School Psychology from the University of Hartford, and her sixth year certificate from CCSU. She was the 2013 Connecticut Association of School Psychologists' Psychologist of the Year.

- **Ed D'Addio**, school counselor at King Philip Middle School, will be halftime department supervisor for the middle schools. He received a bachelor's degree in Political Science from CCSU, master's in Teaching from Quinnipiac, a master's in School Counseling from the University of Hartford, and a sixth year certificate in Educational Leadership at CCSU.

- **John Guidry** is Hall High School's assistant principal. He received a bachelor's degree in Engineering from Texas A&M, a law degree from Duke University, and an administrative certificate from Southern Connecticut State University. He received his teaching credential from the ARC Program.

- **Steven Cook** is principal of Bristow Middle School. He has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Albany, a master's from the University of



Kristi Laverty
Principal
Duffy School



Ryan Cleary
Principal
Morley School



Andrew Clapsaddle
Principal
Sedgwick Middle



Steven Cook
Principal
Bristow Middle

New Hampshire in Counselor Education, and a sixth year certificate in Educational Leadership from UConn.

- **Andrew Clapsaddle** is principal of Sedgwick Middle School. Andrew served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and has a bachelor's degree from Towson University and a master's of Education Administration from California State University, San Marcos.

- **Kimberlee Henry** is Hall High School assistant principal. She has a bachelor's degree in Sociology and master's in Education, specializing in urban education and literacy, from Simmons College. She is pursuing a doctorate at Central Connecticut State University.

- **Kristi Laverty** is principal of Duffy School. Kristi was the 2010 Connecticut Teacher of the Year. She received her bachelor's degree from Assumption College with a

major in history and political science, her master's from St. Joseph College with a major in early childhood special education, and completed the requirements for a degree in educational leadership and administration at Walden University. Kristi is a graduate of our Leadership Academy.

- **Ryan Cleary** is principal of Morley School. He has his bachelor's degree from Skidmore College in elementary education, a master's from St. Joseph College in curriculum and instruction and a sixth year certificate in educational leadership from UConn, and is a graduate of our Leadership Academy.

- **Marc Kotler** is King Philip Middle School assistant principal. Marc completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Hartford, 30 hours of casework social work at the University of Connecticut, and master's and administrative certificate at American International College.

Congratulations to Recent Retirees

This year we have had 23 teachers, administrators and staff members retire from West Hartford Public Schools, many with more than 35 years in West Hartford. These committed and dedicated professionals will be missed.

Caryn Falvey, Principal, Norfeldt Elementary School
Betsy Jahne, Teacher, Smith STEM School
Judie Goldenthal, Teacher, Norfeldt Elementary School
David Downes, Director, Continuing and Summer Education
Donna Namnoum, Assistant Principal, Hall High School
Hannah Shapiro, Teacher, Duffy Elementary School
Ellen Stokoe, Principal, Morley Elementary School
Barbara Molyneaux, Teacher, Smith STEM School
Dominic Mobilia, Teacher, Aiken Elementary School
Jim Solomon, Teacher, Hall High School
Martha Rosenthal, Teacher, Morley Elementary School
Monica Rockefeller, Teacher, Morley Elementary School

Barbara Carpenter, Teacher, Webster Hill Elementary School
Alison Quinion, Teacher, King Philip Middle School
Jim Leary, Teacher, Sedgwick Middle School
Marie Callahan, Teacher, Conard High School
Ann Taylor, Teacher, Hall High School
Karen Geitz, Teacher, Conard High School
Richard Fritz, Science Department Supervisor
Karen Fitzsimmons, Principal, Duffy Elementary School
Emma Fichera, Teacher, Conard High School
Merri Nathan, Teacher, King Philip Middle School
Patricia Roy, Teacher, Sedgwick Middle School

Teacher of the Year



Brittney Zieller has been selected to represent West Hartford Public Schools as the 2014-15 Teacher of the Year. Brittney has been teaching fourth grade at Norfeldt since 2010. She received her bachelor's degree in Science in Elementary Education from Central Connecticut State University, is a fellow in the Central Connecticut Writing Project (2013) and is a volunteer on many committees, such as Teacher Liaison for Norfeldt PTO, Central Connecticut Writing Project, and Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs.

