

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 emergency closing or delayed opening of school due to weather conditions or other emergencies.
- Announcements regarding such closings are made over local radio stations WTIC96.5 FM and WTIC 1080 AM by 6 a.m.
- Notice is also made via television on WVIT channel 30, WFSB channel 3, and WTNH channel 8
- You may also call the West Hartford Source Line after 6:00 a.m. at 860-233-2334
- Additional information is available on the WHPS website at www.whps.org. Click on "Communications and Cancellations"

In the event of early dismissal:

- Parents will be notified by the principal via the Connect-ED Rapid Notification Service which we began two years ago. This allows all parents to be notified by phone within minutes.
- Be sure to discuss ahead of time with your children what the plan is for your family if schools are closed early.
- 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.

New Administrators Enhance a Quality

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most recently the principal of James Moran Middle School in Wallingford. She has also served as assistant principal of CREC's Two Rivers Magnet Middle School where she effectively implemented Scientific Research-Based Interventions (SRBI). She began her career as a high school teacher in Windsor. Ms. Wright received her B.A in American Studies from Trinity College, her M.A.T. from Brown University and completed her 6th year leadership requirements at the University of Connecticut. Her collaborative style, rapport with students, and responsiveness will serve the Conard community well. Joy is thrilled to be coming to West Hartford to work where she resides with her family.



Mission
To inspire and prepare all students to realize their potential and enhance our global community

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With the West Hartford Public Schools

First Issue

12-13

A Look Inside:

- New Administrators Enhance a Quality Leadership Team
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Shery Bober Is Teacher Of The Year

The teacher of the year for 2012-2013 was announced at the WHEA/WHAA dinner on May 17. She is Shery Bober, French teacher at Norfeldt Elementary School. Shery created the French curriculum for Norfeldt when it first became a magnet school, and has organized and taught a before-school French Club for first and second graders. In addition, she has been instrumental in creating French Fairy Tales Theater. Shery is a vital member of the Norfeldt community and is deeply respected by students and colleagues. A caring and collaborative educator, she promotes the recognition and respect of all staff members. Shery is an incredibly energetic and creative teacher who uses song, rhyme and movement to engage even the most reluctant of learners.

Shery's many honors include the Jane Graveen Award, the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (CT COLT) statewide annual award for excellence in foreign language instruction in elementary schools; she has been a presenter at CT COLT and a guest speaker at the UConn Language Teachers Mentoring Program and at the Connecticut Department of Education French Praxis II Review Board.

The teacher of the year process is rigorous and begins with nominations from other teachers. Nominees submit a resume, essay and recommendations. Finalists then have a lesson videotaped and the final three are formally interviewed by the teacher of the year committee before a decision is made.



Connecticut Council of
Language Teachers

Bienvenue *Bonjour* *Bonjour*

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Common Core State Standards

On July 7, 2010, the Connecticut State Board of Education unanimously adopted the new national academic standards known as the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts/Literacy and mathematics. These standards establish what Connecticut public school students should know, be able to do and understand as they progress through grades K-12. In West Hartford, the implementation of the standards has begun.

The Common Core State Standards Overview

The Common Core State Standards are designed to:

- comprise fewer, clearer and higher level standards
- align with college and career expectations
- include rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher-order thinking skills
- build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards
- be internationally benchmarked so that all students will be prepared to succeed in our global economy
- be based on evidence and research

English Language Arts/Literacy

The English Language Arts/Literacy standards require that students systematically develop literacy skills and understanding through reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. For grades 6-12, there are additional standards in literacy for science, social studies and technical subjects.

The full text of the standards is available at www.corestandards.org

Mathematics Standards

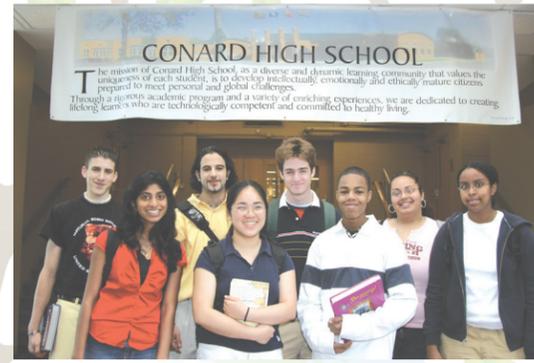
The mathematics standards are grounded in the Standards for Mathematical Practice. They are derived from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics process standards and the National Research Council proficiencies.

What is the Plan for 2012-2013?

During the 2011-2012 school year, teams of teachers and curriculum leaders began careful analysis of the Common Core State Standards and the process of curriculum

revision for English language arts/literacy and mathematics. We will begin to implement these standards during the 2012-13 school year. English language arts will have new curriculum units in grades K, 2 and 4 and elementary mathematics will have new curriculum units in grades 1, 3 and 5. The following year, new units will be provided in the remaining grades so that over two years, the curriculum in literacy and mathematics will change across grades K-5. New units in language arts and mathematics will be implemented

across the middle schools and into the 9th and 10th grade curricula. In addition, our local assessment calendar has been streamlined and will reflect these changes. We anticipate that these curriculum units will continue to be revised throughout the school year and beyond. Curriculum and Staff Improvement (CSI) time has been dedicated to teachers learning about these standards and monitoring the implementation of the units throughout the school year.



Welcome to the 2012-2013 School Year!

Our Commitment to Welcoming You

We believe that a safe, respectful, positive learning environment is a key element in ensuring high achievement for all of our students. As a part of this environment, we strive to create an atmosphere where our visitors are welcomed with courtesy and respect as we share our schools with you. We value the contributions of our families and larger school community in making us successful.

During your visit, you can expect us to:

- Treat all of our visitors with respect and dignity, regardless of their culture, race, ethnicity, or gender
- Be courteous and respectful during all communications
- Maintain all stakeholders' confidentiality and privacy
- Make every effort to locate a staff member who can assist the visitor, if the visitor speaks a language other than English
- Greet visitors promptly upon their entry into the office, assist them, or direct them to the proper person who can help them

When you call us at one of our schools, you can expect that we will:

- Greet callers, identify ourselves by name and location, and ask how we may help them
- Ensure that all information that we provide is accurate, even if this requires a call back
- Provide the voice mail of any staff member who is out of the office, and return calls within two business days

Congratulations to Recent Retirees

This year 15 teachers and administrators retired from the West Hartford Public Schools, many of whom had more than 35 years' experience in West Hartford. These committed and dedicated professionals will be missed. They are:

Bill Altomare
Wendy Baker
Sue Curnias
Pat Drago
Kathleen LaBombard
Peter Letizia
Susan Lincoln
Cynthia McLane
Marilynn Palmer
Kathleen Price
Linda Putterman
Joyce St. Germaine
Benjamin Skaught
Ellen Spratlin
Mayrita Trojanowski

Teacher, Norfeldt, 26 years teaching in WHPS
Teacher, Norfeldt, 19 years teaching in WHPS
Teacher, Hall, 39 years teaching in WHPS
Department Supervisor, 34 years in WHPS
Teacher, Sedgwick, 33 years teaching in WHPS
Teacher, Sedgwick, 37 years teaching in WHPS
Teacher, Norfeldt, 14 years teaching in WHPS
Teacher, Webster Hill, Norfeldt, 11 years teaching in WHPS
Teacher, Duffy, 24 years teaching in WHPS
Teacher, Sedgwick, 5 years teaching in WHPS
Teacher, King Philip, 12 years teaching in WHPS
Teacher, Bristow, 37 years teaching in WHPS
Principal, Sedgwick, 19 years in WHPS
Teacher, Wolcott, 22 years teaching in WHPS
Teacher, King Philip, 25 years teaching in WHPS

New Administrators Enhance a Quality Leadership Team Members

Effective leadership in the West Hartford Public Schools is crucial for effective teaching and learning in the classroom. Two new administrators, instructional leaders who understand the mission of the West Hartford Public Schools, joined the district's leadership team this summer. They are Kerry Jones, director of elementary education, and Joy Wright, assistant principal at Conard High School.

• **Kerry Jones** was selected from a large pool of highly qualified applicants. Ms. Jones spent nine years as an elementary teacher and BEST* cooperating teacher at our own Wolcott School. She went on to become the master mentor for grades 5 and 6, a gifted and talented resource teacher, and the BEST district facilitator at West Woods School in Farmington.

She was an assistant principal in Bristol and most recently principal of Squadron Line School in Simsbury. She received her A.B. from Dartmouth College, Ed.M. from Harvard University with a concentration in reading and language, and a 6th year Educational Leadership certificate from the University of Hartford. Kerry brings short- and long-term vision, passion, a "can-do" attitude and collaborative style. She is returning home to West Hartford where she started her career and resides with her family.



Joy Wright

• **Joy Wright** was selected from a pool of over 150 applicants. She was (continued on back pg.)