

The SUNFLOWER

A Newsletter from Braeburn Elementary School

45 Braeburn Road, West Hartford CT 06107
Phone: (860) 561-2200 Fax: (860) 521-8416

Nov. 3, 2016

Jeffrey F. Sousa
Principal



A Message from the Principal...

Now that we are in our third month of the school year and initial assessment screenings are complete, your child's teacher has a more complete picture of your child's overall learning profile. She or he knows your child's academic and social strengths, challenge areas, learning preferences, apprehensions, and areas of confidence that are exhibited at school. For that reason, I feel that the timing of mid-November (15th-18th) parent-teacher conferences is just right. When you meet for your conference, you can expect your child's teacher to share the most relevant learning traits and habits your child has demonstrated so far as well as discussing the plan to enable your child to reach end-of-year targets. I encourage you to prepare questions in advance to help you gain as much information as you need to support your child's learning at school and at home. It may also be enlightening to ask your child what *he or she* predicts the teacher will talk about. That simple question has led to some very interesting conversations in *my* home. **For all new families, report cards will be distributed individually during the parent conference and students will be dismissed at 1:30pm on 11/15, 11/17 and 11/18 and 2:00pm on 11/16.**

November is full of happenings within our community. Here a few highlights with more details on the pages to follow:

On Veterans Day, November 11th, Veterans with a direct tie to our students will be visiting our classrooms and will engage our students with various activities as we honor women and men who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Our guests are usually parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins or neighbors of our students. To make the event more personal for our students, as well as our Veteran guests, we invite our Veteran guests to go into classrooms to speak with one to two classes at a time. The guests are encouraged to bring in authentic artifacts to share with our students such as uniforms, medals they may have been awarded, photos of themselves in uniform, etc. We are proud to honor our Veterans and to teach children about their service.

Our Thanksgiving assembly for students will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 23rd from 9:00-10:00am.

Did someone say jugglers? The Airborne Jugglers will be visiting Braeburn to bring their very special talent during the week of Oct. 31st - Nov. 4th. I look forward to watching in amazement as our students participate and perform as jugglers. For me it provides a reminder to reflect on the many "things" we are trying to juggle daily.

Thank you to the Cultural Council for an amazing Abe Lincoln performance. Students participated and raved about Mr. Lou Del Bianco who played our 6th president.

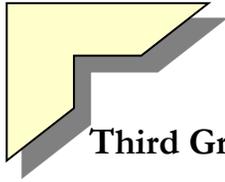
Our Positive Behavior Assembly has recently placed a school wide focus on synergy where we "value other people's strengths and learn from them". Students are working hard to listen to others, take into consideration their point of view and then work together to find solutions. PAWS Pride Passes may come home as a recognition from a staff member to acknowledge students' choice of safe, respectful and responsible behavior as well.

Thank you to all of the teachers, mentors and parent volunteers who continue to help our students reach for their goals, help them when they falter, guide them to get back on track and to persevere when obstacles seem to pop up. Our children benefit from your precious time, efforts, words of encouragement and so many positive opportunities.

As always, if I may be of service to you please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Sousa



CURRICULUM CORNER

Third Grade Artist in Residence

During the last two weeks of October our third grade students had the opportunity to participate in a six day architecture and interior design project related to the planning and design of a child's bedroom for their home. Each student was asked to design a bedroom for themselves. The children created scaled drawings and a model of the room to demonstrate where the doors and windows would be placed, what furniture would be in the room, and what other equipment they decided to include in the room. They also were able to express their own personalities by adding other components to their rooms such as posters, computer, mirrors, bookshelves, artwork etc.

Students then drew their room in plan view (similar to blueprints) and elevation. They also analyzed various activities that they do in their rooms (sleep, homework, play, etc.) and included that information in their plan. These drawings were then used to determine perimeter and area as well as cost estimating problems.

In addition, students learned about the team of people who plan, design, and construct buildings. They learned about structural and mechanical engineering and about using sustainable materials when building their rooms. The models of the rooms created are displayed outside of the Library Media Center for all to see. Please feel free to stop in to see their work!

This real world problem solving experience was obtained through the Architect Resource Center, Inc. based in New Haven, CT, and was completely funded by our very generous PTB. Thanks to their generosity, our students were able to engage in critical thinking and problem solving skills through an authentic learning experience. These are the types of activities that they are being asked to complete through the common core units of study in math. The hands on element to this project really brought learning to life for our students!

(Continued)

It is our hope to be able to expand this project to other grade levels in a developmentally appropriate manner.

Thank you Parents and Teachers of Braeburn!

Ellen Cercone
Curriculum Specialist



ELC Lottery Applications

The Early Learning Center at Whiting Lane School and Aiken Elementary School is now accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year. The program is family centered and has half day sessions that meet four days a week. A lottery will be conducted in January.

To be considered for the program, children must be three years old by September 1, 2017, toilet-trained by the start of the school year and exhibit age-appropriate language, social and play skills. All applicants must participate in a play-based screening prior to being considered for the lottery selection.

If you are interested, please contact Pam Macca at (860) 233-1455. The application process will close on November 30, 2016.

Early Dismissal Schedule for Parent/Teacher Conference Week

Tues. Nov. 15 1:30 p.m.

Wed. Nov. 16 2:00 p.m.

Thurs. Nov. 17 1:30 p.m.

Fri. Nov. 18 1:30 p.m.

**Please plan to pick up your
children at school or meet them
on time at their bus stops.**

Thank you.

Parent Teacher Conferences

As you know, parent-teacher conferences will be held during the week of November 15th. You will receive your child's report card during your conference and will have an opportunity to view some samples of your child's class work. The main purpose of these conferences is to discuss your child's academic and social progress in school and to strengthen the home-school partnership.

Parents are an important piece in this process. No one knows your child the way that you do, and your insights into your child's personality and work habits are necessary to assist teachers in helping students learn.

In an article about parent-teacher conferences written by the National Education Association, there are several things that parents can do in order to prepare for a successful conference:

- ◆ Come to the conference on time and plan not to run over the allotted conference time (teachers see parents back to back in 30 minute conferences).
- ◆ Talk to your children prior to the conference. Find out what they like best about school and what they may be having difficulty with.
- ◆ Ask your child if there is anything that they want you to talk about with their teacher.
- ◆ If you have questions about the school's policies or procedures, class policies or procedures, your child's academic or social progress, or what you can do to help with your child's learning, write them down and bring them with you to the meeting. The conference time tends to move quickly and you want to be sure to have all of your questions answered.

While at the conference, be sure to ask your most important questions first, just in case time runs out before you have a chance to discuss all of your questions. Be sure to ask the teacher for specific suggestions on ways to help your child do better in school. If the teacher says something that you don't quite understand, ask for clarification.

Here are some good questions to ask during the conference:

- ◆ How well does my child get along with the other students in class?
- ◆ Is my child working up to his/her ability?
- ◆ Does my child participate in class discussions or activities?
- ◆ How does my child handle taking tests?
- ◆ What can I do at home to support the learning that takes place in the classroom?

When the conference is over, discuss what was said with your child. Let them know how proud you are of their hard work and what you will do to help them at home if improvement in a specific area is needed. Stay in regular contact with the teacher to discuss your child's progress throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing all of you that week! If you have any further questions about the curriculum prior to or after conferences, please feel free to contact me at 561-2200.

Ellen Cercone
Curriculum Specialist

BRAEBURN CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Thurs, Nov 3	9:00 am-3:00 pm 10:00 am-2:45 pm 3:30-7:00 pm	Gr. 3 Architect in Residence Officer Ursini Safety Visit Paul Cryan-Photographer, Library
Fri, Nov 4	3:30-7:00 pm	Fitness Friday Paul Cryan-Photographer, Library
Tues, Nov 8		Election Day-No School
Fri, Nov 11	10:00-11:00 am	Veterans Day Special Guests
<i>Mon, Nov 14-Wed, Dec 14 Student Council Food Drive</i>		
Tues, Nov 15	9:00 am-1:15 pm	Officer Ursini Safety Visit
Wed, Nov 16		Gr. 3 Folktale Presenter
<i>Tues, Nov 15-Fri, Nov 18 Parent Teacher Conferences: Tues, Thurs, Fri 1:30 Dismissal</i>		
Wed, Nov 16	11:30 am-12:15 pm	Officer Ursini Safety Visit
Thurs, Nov 17	6:30-7:30 pm	PTB Meeting, Cafeteria
Tues, Nov 22		DEAR Day
Wed, Nov 23	9:00-10:00 am	Thanksgiving Assembly
<i>Thurs, Nov 24-Fri, Nov 25 Thanksgiving Recess</i>		
<i>Mon, Nov 28-Fri, Dec 2 Book Fair</i>		
Mon, Nov 28	11:00 am-6:30 pm	Book Fair Family Night
Tues, Nov 29	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Officer Ursini Safety Visit
Thurs, Dec 1	8:30 am-6:30 pm	Book Fair Family Night
Tues, Dec 6	7:45 am	Student Council Meeting, Library
Wed, Dec 7		Family Night; Non-electronic activities encouraged
Thurs, Dec 8	6:30-7:30 pm	PTB Meeting, Cafeteria
Fri, Dec 9	9:00-11:00 am 1:00-3:00 pm	Fitness Friday Picture Re-take Day Choir to St. Mary's Home
Wed, Dec 14	9:30-10:30 am 7:00-8:00 pm	Winter Concert for Students Winter Concert for Families
Tues, Dec 20	9:00 am-2:45 pm	Gr. 4 High Touch-High Tech
Sun, Dec 25		Christmas Day
<i>Sun,, Dec 25-Sun, Jan 1 Chanukah</i>		
<i>Mon, Dec 26-Mon, Jan 2 Holiday Recess-No School</i>		



Dear Parents,

As you know, students will be attending school on Veterans Day. In order to provide our students with an understanding of what this holiday represents, we are hoping to have veterans who have a connection to the Braeburn community visit our classrooms to speak with students about the special role that veterans hold in our community. This has been a wonderful experience in the past and a tradition that we hope to be able to continue.

We are hoping that our veteran parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, or friends of Braeburn students and their families would be willing to come in to speak to a classroom on Friday, November 11, 2016. We would provide the veteran guest with a list of questions that the children have created prior to the visit. The veteran is welcome to share some information with the students about the type of service that they were a part of, pictures of themselves in uniform and/or medals or honors that they have earned during their service to our country. The classroom visit would take place between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Immediately following the presentations the veterans will be invited to attend a small reception in their honor. Student council members will be the hosts of the reception, as would the student who has invited the guest to honor us with their presence on this very special day.

To assist us in our planning, please complete the bottom portion of this letter and return to school no later than, Friday, November 4, 2016. We will send a confirmation letter to each Veteran prior to his/her visit that includes a list of questions that the students generated to help them to prepare for this special day.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this special project! We look forward to this exciting event and to helping our students learn about the many courageous men and women who have served their country.

Sincerely Yours,

Jeffrey Sousa, Principal
Ellen Cercone, Curriculum Specialist

Name of Veteran Guest _____

Name of Student Who Has Invited the Guest _____

Student's Classroom Teacher _____

Phone Number or E-Mail Address to Confirm Attendance _____

Your Mission... Should you choose to accept...

ATTEND THE BOOK FAIR

Each year, the library hosts its BIGGEST fundraiser of the year... the Book Fair. The Scholastic Book Fair provides easy access to the latest children's books AND money to support the library. This year, our goal is to raise \$1500 to turn this drab, sad room



into this ENCHANTED FOREST...



Our former computer lab will be transformed into an enchanted reading space for all students to enjoy. We need your help! Please visit the Book Fair and support the library. All the profits will help pay for our mural.

Students will have an opportunity to browse the wonderful books from Scholastic Publication and create a wish list of items they find interesting. The Book Fair will run from November 28 - December 2 just in time for the holidays. Be sure to stop in and check out the new and exciting books! This is a great time for parents and children to browse or purchase books. With your support this year we will have another wonderful addition to our library space... an enchanted forest!

Book Fair Schedule

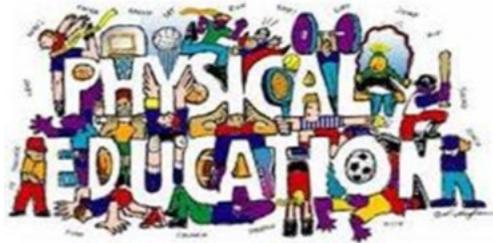
November 28: 11:00-6:30

November 29: 8:30-4:00

November 30: 8:30-2:00

December 1: 8:30-6:30

December 2: 8:30-12:00



ROLE MODELS FOR A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

The Town wide Cross Country Run was held Wednesday, October 19 at Charter Oak with 20 students representing Braeburn. Third graders ran $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and 4th & 5th graders completed one mile. Congratulations to all participants for improving their aerobic endurance, trying for their personal best, and being **great ROLE MODELS for leading a healthy and active lifestyle!**

Standout performances in fourth grade included a 5th Place finish by George M., 5th Place Courtney M., 8th Alex D., 9th Emily K. and 15th Olivia B.

In 5th grade, William L. finished 2nd, Aidan P. 6th, Alex P. 7th, Quinn M. 9th, Emily O. 3rd, Maddy S. 4th, Kate M. 5th and Lilliana S. 6th.

Braeburn Results:

3rd grade (1/2 mile) – Riley O. 4:29 and Meagan M. 5:20.

4th grade (1 mile) – George M. 6:47, Courtney M. 7:09, Alex D. 7:15, Emily K. 7:21, Olivia B. 8:40, Nate G. 9:59 and Jonathan M. 11:15.

5th grade (1 mile) – William L. 6:09, Aidan P. 6:33, Alex P. 6:35, Quinn M. 6:54, Emily O. 6:56, Maddy S. 7:05, Kate M. 7:35, Lilliana S. 7:40, Finn H. 7:53, Evan W. 8:23, Owen B. 10:11 and Andy S. 10:16.



Safety Reminder

Take extra care in the mornings and afternoons dropping off and picking up children at school and in neighborhoods. Snowbanks limit visibility and often constrict roads and walkways. Leave a little extra time to make sure that all of our students are safe.

Also, please limit idling on school property to help the environment. As it gets colder, our diesel buses will be idling more often in our bus loops as this is necessary to keep them running and is under strict guidelines with the transportation and busing company.



Recess Policy

The recess policy dictates that all students will go outside for recess if the temperature is 20 degrees or higher. Students should be appropriately dressed to spend time outdoors during recess. Warm clothes, gloves, hats, and boots are required during winter months.

Children well enough to come to school should be well enough to be outside during recess. Exceptions for medical reasons, with a doctor's note, may be granted on an individual basis.

In the event of inclement or severely cold weather, outdoor recess will be cancelled.

EMERGENCY PLANNING WITH YOUR FAMILY

It is vital that parents speak with their children so that they know what to do in the event of an early closing. Everyone should have a plan in place *before* there is a need for one. A possible snow storm is well publicized in advance and should initiate a detailed conversation about your family's plan.

For Bus Students:

Parents who may not be home at the early dismissal time should make sure that their child knows the order of the 3 to 5 possible neighborhood homes they should go to if necessary. If you choose to, show your child where an extra house key is kept. Tell your child to call you (home and cell) upon their safe arrival.

Do not plan to call the school to pull your student from a bus line due to bad weather. **Plan ahead and send a note in with your child** if bad weather is expected and you do not want them to ride the bus.

For Pick up Students:

Children who usually get picked up will wait in the normal pick up areas.

Do not plan to call the school to let your child know that it may be someone other than you picking up. **Plan ahead and send a note in with your child** if bad weather is expected and a change has been made as to who is picking up.

For WHEE Students:

- If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, WHEE is also cancelled.
- If school is delayed, WHEE is also delayed by the same amount of time.
- If school is closed early due to inclement weather, WHEE will not be in session.
- If afternoon activities only are cancelled, WHEE will not be open.
- WHEE Telephone Number: 860-561-4088

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please use the following sources for information about **snow days, delayed openings, early closings and cancellation of afternoon activities only:**

TV Stations: Channel 3, 5, 6, 8, 30

Radio Stations: FM Radio: WTIC 96.5, WRCH 100.5;

AM Radio: WTIC 1080

WHPS website: whps.org

DELAYED OPENING:

- All before school activities (band, orchestra, choir) are cancelled.
- Buses will be delayed for the same amount of time that school is delayed.
- WHEE is also delayed by the same amount of time that school is delayed.

EARLY CLOSING:

Early closing dismissal time is 1:00 pm

Our ConnectEd system will call and email all contacts you provided on your Emergency Contact Form.

If the weather forecast indicates that weather conditions may warrant an early closing, parents should remain alert and arrange to have someone at home to meet children.

- Plan ahead and send a note in the morning with your student outlining your early dismissal plan.
- Do **not** plan to call the office or email teachers with a dismissal plan during the day of a bad weather event.
- Tell your child the 3 to 5 possible homes they should go to, in a specific order if you will not be home.
- If you choose to, show your child where an extra house key is kept.
- Tell your child to call you (home and cell) upon their safe arrival.

All children will be sent home or must be picked up.

Walkers will walk and bus students will board buses.

WHEE is not in session when there is an early closing.

WHEN AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES ONLY ARE CANCELLED:

WHEE will not be open.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

We send all children home except if an emergency arises where children absolutely cannot be dismissed. In such an unusual instance, children will be kept safely at school.

“Notes to School”

Our “Notes to School” pads have changed! We hope the *new* design will be helpful to you.

All families received a note pad in the First Day Packet. **It is important that you send in a “Note to School” for any day your child’s *regular dismissal plan changes*.**

Dismissal plans should be arranged *in advance* so that students *arrive* to school with a “Note to School” should they need one. Changes to dismissal plans after the school day has begun are discouraged, short of changes required for emergency situations.

Playdates, etc. arranged *after* the school day begins would require parents to meet their children as usual and see them off to their playdate.

Do not plan to email your child’s teacher to arrange a change in a dismissal after the school day has begun, as many times teachers may only be able check their email before and after school.

In an emergency situation, please contact the school office.

Thank you.



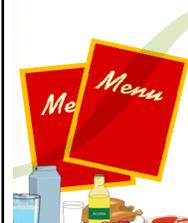
**Next Edition of
The Sunflower will be
Date Reminder Version:
Thursday, November 17, 2016**

Security Protocol for Visitors

For the safety of our students, all visitors to Braeburn School must:

- Use the front entrance
- Ring the bell and **stay** by the bell/camera so we can see you and speak to you; do not ring the bell and walk immediately to the door
- When stating your reason for entry into the school, please state your name and child’s name
- Remove any hoods, hats and/or sunglasses
- **Do not hold the door open for another visitor** as all visitors must ring the bell and be identified
- **Do not let another visitor hold the door open for you;** remind them that all visitors must ring the bell and be identified
- Be patient as it is not possible to respond immediately each time the bell is rung
- Don’t take security procedures personally as their only purpose is safety
- Report directly to the front office
- Sign into our visitor notebook
- Wear a visitor sticker

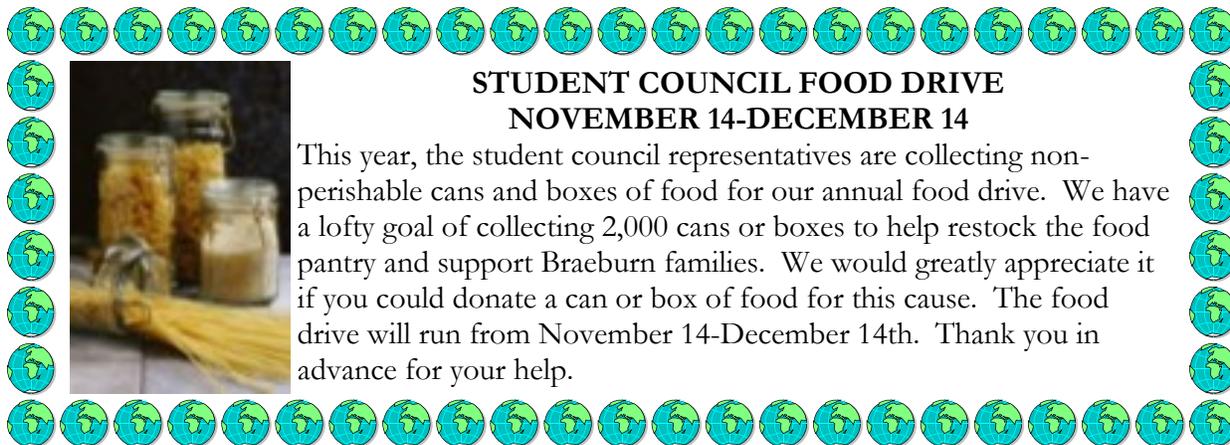
We appreciate your cooperation



Monthly Lunch Menu

Please visit the WHPS website for our monthly lunch menu at:

<http://www.whps.org/page.cfm?p=2084>



**STUDENT COUNCIL FOOD DRIVE
NOVEMBER 14-DECEMBER 14**

This year, the student council representatives are collecting non-perishable cans and boxes of food for our annual food drive. We have a lofty goal of collecting 2,000 cans or boxes to help restock the food pantry and support Braeburn families. We would greatly appreciate it if you could donate a can or box of food for this cause. The food drive will run from November 14-December 14th. Thank you in advance for your help.

THE SUNFLOWER PUBLICATION AND SUBMISSION DATES

The Sunflower is published twice per month on a Thursday. The first issue of the month will be a full version that includes messages from the principal and other staff members, pertinent information on relevant and timely topics and dates and descriptions of upcoming events.

The second issue each month will be an abbreviated or “light” version with important reminders and dates to remember.

The deadline for the submission of articles to The Sunflower is the Monday before publication dates and can be sent to Susan Piazza at susan_piazza@whps.org

Publication Date

Submission Deadline

November

Nov 17 – Sunflower Light No submission

December

Dec 8 Dec 5
Dec 22 – Sunflower Light No submission

January

Jan 12 Jan 9
Jan 26 – Sunflower Light No submission

February

Feb 9 Feb 6
Feb 23 – Sunflower Light No submission

March

Mar 9 Mar 6
Mar 23 – Sunflower Light No submission

April

Apr 6 Apr 3
April 27 - Sunflower Light No submission

May

May 11 May 8
May 25 - Sunflower Light No submission

June

Jun 8 Jun 5

TRAIN SHOW IN WEST HARTFORD NOVEMBER 12, 2016

CONARD HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

**110 BEECHWOOD ROAD, WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107
(EXIT 41 OFF ROUTE 84)**

FEATURING

MODEL RAILROADERS



**DISPLAYS & DEMONSTRATIONS
SNACK & BAKE SALE**

SATURDAY ONLY: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Admission: Adults \$ 5.00

Students \$ 3.00

Seniors \$ 3.00

CHILDREN UNDER 10 FREE

SPONSORED BY: WEST HARTFORD TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION



SAVE A PLACE FOR US!
Special Events
At E.C.C.

OUTDOOR
Family Flea Market

Saturday, Oct. 15

Rain date 10 /16

9:00AM - 3:00PM

BROWSERS: No charge

SELLERS: \$20 (1) table

\$35 (2) tables

Bubble-ology

Unlock the Mystery of Bubbles!

Saturday, November 19

11:00AM - 12:30PM

Age 4-11 with an adult

Tickets \$5 #372223A

SANTA & ME AT ECC

Sing & Dance with Holiday Characters

Light snack & more!

Ages 1.5 - 6

Sat., Dec. 10

10-11:30A

TICKETS \$8

Children must be accompanied
with paying adult. Program #372104A



ANIMAL
EMBASSY

Come and meet new animal friends!

Thursday, December 29

1:00-2:00PM

Tickets \$5 #372104B

Age 5-12 with an adult

ELMWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

1106 NEW BRITAIN AVE

WH, CT 06110 860-561-8160

www.westhartfordct.gov

WEST HARTFORD
COMMUNITY
THEATER
HELPING EVERY STAR SHINE!

Proudly presents...



Music by Alan Menkin Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice
Book by Linda Wolverton

Fri, Nov. 11 Sat, Nov. 12

Sun, Nov. 13

Fri, Nov. 18 Sat, Nov. 19

Sun, Nov. 20

7:00 pm

1:30 pm

Hall High School
975 Main St
West Hartford, CT

To purchase tickets visit:
www.westhartfordtheater.org
or call 860-992-9428



WEST HARTFORD FESTIVAL OF TREES



HOLIDAY STROLL 2016

First Church, West Hartford
12 South Main Street

Auditorium in rear, off parking lot
Thursday, December 1st
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Becker's
Jewelry
Tree!

Cat's
Limited

Come view Holiday trees decorated
by local businesses, organizations, and families
and get a chance to win one!*

Enjoy live holiday music

Lego
Tree

\$5 Suggested Donation to enter

Pokemon
Tree

***Bid on Trees:**

\$10 sheet of 10 raffle tickets or
\$20 sheet of 25

Proceeds to benefit local community outreach programs that include:
Gifts of Love, Interval House, Foodshare, Habitat for Humanity, Covenant to Care for
Children, Freshplace, My Sister's Place, South Park Inn, Bridge Family Center

Growing
Great
Schools

Cookies
&
Hot Cocoa!


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