Upcoming Events:

April

- FRIDAY, APRIL 1ST - TOUR DAY - 8TH GRADE MUSIC FESTIVAL PERFORMERS

- SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND - WEST HARTFORD’S COOKIN’— 6:30-9:00 PM TOWN HALL

- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6TH - FESTIVAL CONCERT @ 7:30PM MORTENSEN HALL, DOWNTOWN HARTFORD (8TH GRADE)

- THURSDAY, APRIL 7TH - CONARD PRINCIPALS BREAKFAST 8:30-9:30AM @ SMS (MPR) FOR 8TH GRADE PARENTS

THE LION KING JR.– SEDGWICK AUDITORIUM

- THURSDAY, APRIL 28TH— 7:00PM
- FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH- 7:00PM
- SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH— 7:00PM
- SUNDAY, MAY 1st—2:00PM

Congratulations to the ESOL April Student of the Month:

Karanveer S. - Team Columbia

Team Brown congratulates our students of the month for January and February!

The following students celebrated earlier this month with a pizza lunch: Bianca G., Samuel H., Madeline J., Jayanth K., Ella K., Angel M., Grace O., Juliet P., Izabella R., Brianna S., Allison S., and Rushil Y.

Sedgwick Drama Club Presents:
The Lion King Jr.

Ticket $12.50 for adults $10 students/seniors

Sneak peek dress rehearsal Wednesday April 27th only $5 “Remember your Pride”

Tickets on Sale Friday March 4th available at: https://ticketpeak.com/res/sedgwickdrama
Join Sedgwick’s Celebrity Chef, Andrew Clapsaddle

at

**West Hartford’s Cookin’ 2016**

*Saturday, April 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 6:30-9pm*

The Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools is proud to have Sedgwick’s own **Andrew Clapsaddle** as a Celebrity Chef for our annual **West Hartford’s Cookin’** event on Saturday, April 2\textsuperscript{nd} in the Town Hall.

**West Hartford’s Cookin’** is the Foundation’s annual fundraiser and all money raised support grants awarded to teachers to implement their creative and innovative ideas that enhance West Hartford students’ education.

All are invited to join Andrew and other celebrity chefs as they delight you with their signature dishes while you enjoy an evening of food sampling and fun with live and silent auctions.

For more information and ticket purchases, please go to [http://fwhps.org/](http://fwhps.org/)
Grade 5 to 6 Transition — Welcome to all future Sedgwick Families

Sedgwick continues to plan a series of activities to welcome fifth graders and their families to Sedgwick.

* Sedgwick-bound fifth graders will visit Sedgwick in the spring (April and May) during the school day. They will meet staff members and tour the school in small groups.

* Fifth grade teachers will share information with school counselors in the spring.

* Questions? Concerns? Please call your child’s future counselor using the following student assignment breakdown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main number: (860)570-6500</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A – D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E – L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M – Q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R – Z</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade 8 to 9 Transition

Thursday, April 7th at 8:30 a.m. Sedgwick will hold an 8th to 9th grade Principal’s Breakfast in the Multipurpose Room (MPR). Parents are invited to meet with Mr. Julio Duarte (Principal of Conard) and Mr. Tor Fiske (School Counseling Department Supervisor). Current Conard students will be in attendance to discuss the middle school/high school transition, student life at Conard and engage in a question and answer session.

Eighth grade students will participate in the “Day in the Life” event at Conard High School during the school day. Depending on students’ team, they will visit Conard either on May 16th, 17th or 19th. The visit to Conard will consist of a tour, panel discussions, and question and answer sessions with teachers, current 9th graders, coaches, club advisors, school counselors and administrators.

In May, Sedgwick counselors will meet with Conard counselors to finalize the transition process.
It's a three-peat! For the third year in a row, a Sedgwick team has won the National Championship of the Kid's Lit Quiz. The 7th-grade team of Helena B., Maura F., Maddie L., and Talia M. placed first in the Kids' Lit Quiz at CCSU. The four girls will represent the U.S. at the World Final of the Kids' Lit Quiz in New Zealand in August. Once they reach New Zealand, all expenses are covered, but the team will need to raise money for airfare by holding several fundraisers and seeking sponsorships. All inquiries can be directed to their coach, Sedgwick English teacher, Liz Natale.

The Sedgwick team of 8th graders: Colin S. and Trisha B. and 7th graders: Braden F. and Ryan L. placed second.

It was a West Hartford sweep, as a team from King Phillip took third.

To help this team reach their fundraising goal to travel to New Zealand, a fundraiser is being held in the library ... check out the info on the next page.
Friday Night Library Hangout!

6th and 7th Graders Only!
Sedgwick Library
April 8, 2016
6-10 p.m.

$5.00
Pizza, drinks, and snacks will be provided!

Come hang out at the library on a Friday night!

Win Prizes  Video Games
Board Games  Surf the Web
Play Minecraft  Hang out
Read
Watch Movies  Make Crafts

Proceeds will benefit the Kids’ Lit Quiz Team who are traveling to the World Finals in New Zealand this summer!

Friday Night Library Hangout
Permission Slip

Student Name: _______________________________________________________________
Contact Number: __________________________________________________________________

Return to the library along with $5.00

_______________  Paid
Congratulations to the entire team of Sedgwick History Day

Idlira I. - 1st Place Historical Paper
The Exchange of Slave Codes during the Underground Railroad

Sophie J. - 3rd Place Individual Exhibit
The Archeological Strides of Roy Chaman

Nina S. - 3rd Place Individual Website
Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merrit: Encounters with Hmong Refugees

Also competing were:

Abel A.
Lewis and Clark Encounter Sacajawea

Katie S.
CT Witch Trials
SEDGWICK FAMILY FITNESS NIGHT

6th and 7th graders

6:00-7:30  GYMS A&B

DATES:   March 31 and April 7

Students must be accompanied by an adult

An adult must participate

Any Questions: Email Sedgwick Physical Education Teachers, Mr. Pfeffer or Mr. Garneau
World Language Update

7th Grade French: Seventh grade language classes are wrapping up their food and dining chapters. Ask your child to tell you how American foods and eating habits differ from that of other countries!

8th Grade French: Your students spent some time learning vocabulary that would be useful when exploring a Francophone city. We are now exploring the city of Paris using Google Maps and the vocabulary we learned. They each were able to research an area of Paris (known as an arrondissement). They needed to find maps, points of interest, banks, monuments & museums among other items. They could use the Google Map feature where they “walk” around to see what was in their assigned area. They spent lots of time in class discovering. Along the way they were able to virtually visit some of the most famous places in Paris as well as some of the most off the beaten path places. They were also able to see typical homes, cars and cafés in the background.

8th Grade Spanish: Your students were temporarily in the party planning business. They needed to invent a new holiday and tell us all about it including: the purpose, the intended audience, the typical food, the typical decorations, and, of course, the date. This was the concluding project to our Chapter 9 unit where we learned about holidays and traditions in Spanish speaking countries. We are now embarking on a unit that focuses on travel, preparing to travel and what to do upon arrival at your destination. We are hoping this will give our students the desire to want to visit one of the many places we have talked about all year.
The 2016 Middle School Unified Sports Basketball tournament was held on Monday March 14 at Smith Middle School. Participating schools included East Hartford Middle, Clark Lane Middle, Illing Middle, Woodrow Wilson Middle, Nathan Hale-Ray Middle, Pulaski Middle, Brownstone Intermediate, Stafford Middle, Sage Park Middle and the combined team from Sedgwick/ King Philip/Bristow Middle Schools.

The day included registration and warm-up, opening ceremonies with bagpipes, competition among the various teams and award ceremonies.

The following Sedgwick students participated in this year’s tournament: Brian B., Christina C., Maddy D., Hunter M., Cynthia N., Briana R., Peter S., Quinn S., and Ella T.

West Hartford practiced Sunday evenings in the Sedgwick gym during the months of January, February and early March under the direction of Coaches Garneau, Bowie, Baldwin and Gustafson. High school students from Hall and Conard helped with practice stations and refereeing duties. During the early fall months, soccer is also offered in the schools.

**Unified Theater News**

Congratulations are in order going out to the very talented group of individuals that are proud to call themselves the “2016 Unified Theater Student Leadership Team”!

Scene Director: Amanda S., Choreographer: Coco H., Assistant Choreographer: Shanell S., Co-Producers: Ruby E. and Madeleine L., Assistant Producer: Ella T., Co-Inclusion Specialists: Chloe S. and Mason M., Stage Crew Set Design Director: Ben H., Stage Crew Technical Director: Kaitlyn P.

The team has met several times to become acquainted with their new roles and responsibilities and to hear first hand some tried and true wisdom from last year’s leaders. They will continue to brainstorm and meet throughout the spring months with theme and dance music determined before summer’s start. Come fall 2016, registration and practices will promptly begin. The show debuts the week before Thanksgiving!
Sedgwick Students Participate in Regionals

Back in the fall, students from the Northern districts in Connecticut prepared to audition to be in a musical ensemble in the Northern Region Middle School Music Festival. Sedgwick had 60 students audition in front of music professionals from around the state and receive valuable experience and informative feedback. After their January audition, any students who scored high enough, were accepted to either the Concert Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Treble Choir, or Mixed Chorus. We had 28 total students involved in all five ensembles! These students then had a little over a month to learn a multitude of songs for their performance at Central Connecticut State University. When they get to the festival, they rehearse on a Friday for about 4 hours. They come back the next day, rehearse for about 4 more hours, then have their performance. The conductors they get to lead these ensembles are seasoned professionals who along with sharing their vast experience and leadership with the students, also inspire them and provide life-long memories.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our musicians to apply their skills in real-world situations. They have to face the fear of auditioning in front of strangers, prepare the music in a short amount of time, and then as an independent musician, join other students from around neighboring districts.

The concerts were well received and seeing the excitement in the students’ faces afterwards, says it all. Congratulations to all the students who auditioned and to those who were accepted into the festival.

Listed below is a list of all the students who auditioned.

**Band**
Harrison A.
Christina C.
Benjamin C.
Jonathan G.***
Ryan L.***
David M.***
Shirah M.
Jonathan M.***
Jack M.
Katie O.***
Ray P.
Sara R.***
Colin S.
Madeleine S.***
Brianna S.

**Orchestra**
Rachael B.
Angela C.
Nina D.
Matthew H.***
Christopher H.***
Emma K.***
Samantha K.***
Elizabeth L.***
Hannah M.
Talia M.***
Max M.***
Daniel M.***
Tejal N.
Sarah O.***
Juliet P.***

**Jazz Band**
Isabelle B.
Julia K.***
Ryan L.
David M.
Colin S.***

**Choir**
Brook A.
Marlena B.

Romy R.
Benjamin R.
Arianna R.
Amanda S.
Margaret S.***
Patricia B.***
Emre B.***
Erika C.
Isabella D.***
Bella D.
Eloise M.
Weronika M.***
Elise R.***
Alexandra S.***
Nicholas U.***
Luke Y.***
South Sudan Comes to Sedgwick Middle School

By sixth grade students: Maddy D., Laila T., Nona F., Natalie G., Taaliah O., Katie P., and Tia T.

How can a country come to a middle school? It all started when the students at Sedgwick Middle School learned about the differences between the developing countries and the developed countries in social studies class. Once they had knowledge about demographic statistics around the world they were able to examine images and videos of what those statistics “look like” in the real world. Then, the real world became more personal when they started reading “A Long Walk To Water”, an inspiring novel that tells the story what life can be like in one developing country, South Sudan. This experience prepared students for a visit from two former Lost Boys, who talked about their lives living in South Sudan, being refugees and migrating to America. The lessons learned have changed the lives of the students, so much so that they want to now change the lives of others and have started collecting funds that will pay for wells to be dug in South Sudan.

When 6th grade students first came to Mr. Kay’s social studies class they were introduced to the saying, “Where you live affects how you live.” Today they can talk about demographic statistics like access to water, sanitation, fertility rate, life expectancy, and income per capita as they describe life in different regions of the world. They can also discuss the impact of geography and effects of government or war on people. Finally, they are able to analyze how cultural differences influence the lives of people depending on where they live. How is it possible that eleven and twelve year old kids are able to understand such complex topics? By studying vocabulary, using it in debates, making claims about the world and backing it up with evidence, taking part in simulations, and analyzing video clips or images, students sound like little adults as they tackle mature issues that usually grown ups deal with. They truly better understand that “where you live affects how you live.”

The real world is a hard place and sometimes you need to lose yourself in a book to get away from it, but in Long Walk to Water, the reader gets lost in a world where sadly everything is real. Once students had enough background information about the world, they were ready to read this short but powerful book. A Long Walk to Water has two different characters. The first is an eleven-year-old boy named Salva who lives in the year of 1985. He becomes a Lost Boy and goes on an unforgettable journey after escaping from war in South Sudan. He comes across challenges that made children leave the room with their mouths agape. The second character, Nya, is a young girl who walks hours and hours a day to get water in the same country, where she is unable to get an education. Learning about the real life stories of two children living in what seemed like a completely different world made students want to throw their book across the room in disbelief. Some students even weeped. This book is incredible and left students on the edge of their seats. The sixth grade children at Sedgwick Middle School’s reaction was monumental, marvelous and one they will never forget! In fact, it left students wanting to learn more, so when they heard that two real life former Lost Boys would be visiting their school, they were overjoyed.

On February 19, 2016, two speakers that were former Lost Boys from Sudan came to Sedgwick Middle School. Abraham Deng actually walked with Salva on part of his journey, while the other speaker, Dut Tong, is the father of a seventh grader here at Sedgwick! The two speakers talked about South Sudan and what life was like. South Sudan is very different in ways the students did not think possible. For instance, in the village of one of the speakers is from they don’t even have a well that gives them clean water. In the assembly, students were able to ask questions about topic ranging from what South Sudanese life is like, the challenges of being a refugee, to the challenges of settling in America. The informative and powerful answers opened students eyes inspiring them to take on the Iron Giraffe Challenge.

What is the Iron Giraffe challenge? The Iron Giraffe challenge is a contest to help raise money to build wells in South Sudan. Salva Dut, the main character in A Long Walk to Water grew up to become the founder of Water For South Sudan, an organization that drills wells in South Sudan. Drilling a well costs $15,000, but today drills are breaking down. In a way this is a good thing because it means that they have used the drills so much, but it is also a bad thing because it means they may have trouble drilling wells in the future. So they need help raising money so they can buy new drills. He has challenged schools around the country to raise money to build wells so that the people in South Sudan can get clean water. This can help South Sudan because we are helping to provide clean water to the people who live there. When wells are built, markets, clinics, and finally schools are set up nearby. Sedgwick Middle School is trying to make a difference and change people’s lives.

To help raise the money to be donated to The Iron Giraffe Challenge for South Sudan students at Sedgwick are planning several fundraisers to help. They are hoping to have a 6th grade party, a bake sale, and a car wash during the springtime. They will also be sending out forms to buy t-shirts. With all these fundraisers, South Sudan will have better access to water in no time! If you would like to support the cause go to https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/waterforsouthsudan. You will see a box under “Donations for school and organization fundraisers” where you can type in “on behalf of Sedgwick Middle School.” Sedgwick is making these donations in honor of the guest speakers: Dut Tong and Abraham Deng. If you would like to order a t-shirt email Stephen_Kay@whps.org. Together, the goal is to raise at least $5,000.

The question of “How can a country come to a middle school?” makes sense now. With a lot of background knowledge about the real world combined with an AMAZING book called A Long Walk to Water, Sedgwick students were ready to hear two former Lost Boys tell their eye-opening stories. Students now look at the world differently than they did just six months ago and want to make a difference. With the help of the Iron Giraffe challenge this is exactly what they plan to do... One drop at a time.
News from the PTO

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Read-A-Thon that took place on Thursday, March 24th! The PTO would like to express its thanks for all of the funds raised.

If you haven’t turned in your Read-A-Thon envelopes, there is still time to do so. Thank you again for helping the PTO reach our goal!

Save the Date:

Our Next PTO meeting takes place on

Monday, May 2nd at 7:00pm in the Multi-Purpose Room.

All are welcome to attend!!!

News from the Nurse’s Office

NEED A FORM? NEED INFORMATION?
Check out the Sedgwick Nurse Blog at http://blog.whps.org/sedgwicknurse/

This is where you can download medical forms, get information on what is happening in the health room and find general information on Middle School health.


6TH GRADE PARENTS

All 6th grade students must have a physical exam performed after July 1, 2013 and up to date vaccinations in order to enter 7th grade. The State of CT required vaccinations for 7th grade are:

- Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis: (Tdap vaccine)
- Meningitis: (Menactra Vaccine)
- Chickenpox: (Varicella vaccine #2)

If you are unsure if your child has already met these requirements, please contact the health room and we can let you know.

Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have concerns regarding your child’s health.

Lisamarie Vitelli, RN            Carrie Anderson, RN
860-929-5310 (direct line)      860-929-5309 (direct line)
860-929-5315 (fax)              860-929-5315 (fax)
lisamarie_vitelli@whps.org       carolyn_anderson@whps.org
Play Ball!!!!

Step up to the Plate 7th and 8th Graders!!!
Baseball Game Announcers Wanted!
Join Little League’s “The Press Boxers”!

Who: 7th and 8th grade baseball fans who have aged out of Little League but would like to volunteer and be involved.

What: Commit to 1 or 2 games a week.

Where: Games at the West Hartford Little League UConn Fields

When: Various week night and Sunday games

Why: Why not? Join the Press Boxers to learn how to be an announcer, possibly keep stats and help make the Little League experience exceptional for all players!

Informational meeting to be scheduled! Contact WHLL Press Boxers if you are interested in learning more. Email: whllpressboxers@yahoo.com

Invite a friend!
Kahoot! Harry Potter Trivia Competition

Grades 6-12: Test your Harry Potter knowledge against some of the biggest fans in West Hartford and sample snacks like butter beer and Bertie Bott’s Beans.

We are playing with Kahoot!, so please bring your own device* to participate.

Sign up online or by calling the teen department at 860-561-6996.

This event is sponsored by the 2015-2016 Teen Advisory Board.

Saturday April 9, 2016
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
Noah Webster Library Meeting Room

*Any phone, tablet or laptop with internet connection will work.

YA Debut Authors Visit

Saturday April 23, 2016
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM
Noah Webster Library Meeting Room

Come to the NWL Meeting Room from 1-2PM to meet CT and New England YA debut authors:

Carrie Firestone (The Loose Ends List, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)
Karen Fortunati (The Weight of Zero, Delacorte/Randome House)
Jennifer Mason-Black (Devil and the Bluebird, Amulet Books)
Shannon Parker (The Girl Who Fell, Simon & Schuster)
Rebecca Podos (The Mystery of Hollow Places, Balzer & Bray 2016)

They will be talking about their novels, creative writing and publishing journeys. Copies of books that have already been published will be available for purchase and signing.

Questions? Contact the teen department at 860-561-6996.