
ROCKY HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

MAY 15, 2008

Good News Grams



District-Wide

Author and humorist Jerry Pallotta visited K-5 students in four shows at West Hill and Stevens Schools. Pallotta, an outstanding presenter, brought out his personal experience, engaged the children in the writing and decision-making process and shared that he always carries a pen in his pocket wherever he goes. Teacher and PTO support for this event was outstanding.

Rocky Hill High School

Sandra Guze, RHHS art teacher. In celebration of Youth Art Month, Rocky Hill High School and Griswold Middle School presented an exhibit of student artwork at Cora J. Belden Library during April. This exceptional showcase of artwork included a wide range of media including drawing, watercolor, ceramics, photography, digitally created artworks, and more.

Deb Wolfe, Family Consumer Science: The UConn Individual and Family Development (HDFS 190) students presented their research projects at UConn. Congratulations to Kelsey Hale and Jon McKenna whose presentation won the top award in their category. Jon and Kelsey's presentation is titled: "Climatic and Cultural Effects on Cognitive Development". The category was the effects of society or media on Life Span Development. Christina Whitaker and Katie Matthews presented Art Stage Development, which was in the Early Childhood Education category. Approximately 100 projects from 27 high schools were presented and a total of 6 prizes were awarded. Congratulations also to Nicole Bortolan, Andrew Hodge, Katie Matthews and Christina Whitaker who also presented projects.

GMS

Rebekah Harding, music and band teacher, reports two events coming up. First, 13 students from GMS will attend the Inter-District Composition Clinic being held at the University of Hartford. They will have the opportunity to create and edit their own songs. Then, the GMS Jazz band will be performing with the RHHS Jazz band at a pasta supper, at St. James Parish Hall. This acts as a recruitment tool for our GMS students to become interested in the high school music program.

Mrs. Aurigemmas's junior intensive writing class presented a PowerPoint slideshow on their heritage. Students discussed either the country they or their parents came from. The presentations included historical facts, famous people, cultural, tradition and the arts and pictures from all the countries presented. The students also brought guests and served food specific to the country they studied for all to enjoy.

Jason Maziarz, 7th grade team leader, reports that the 7th grade staff is making the final preparations for their exciting and educational trip to the Museum of Natural History in New York City. The trip will include a complete tour of the museum, an IMAX presentation, and a space show. There are several exhibits that directly connect to the GMS curriculum and many more that will provide an overall enriching experience for all of the kids.

Gail Thibodeau, reading consultant reports some exciting news! The GMS spelling bee champ, sixth grader *Pamela Aderhold*, competed in the regional spelling bee at Southern Connecticut State University. She came in 3rd!!! Her winning word for the school bee was "obsequious". The word she missed at the regional bee was "tokamak", a word I believe we would have all missed as well. The GMS community is very proud of Pamela!



GMS (continued)

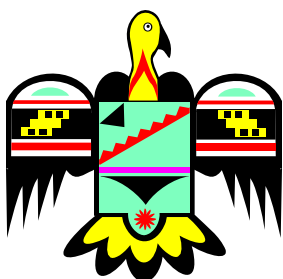
Steve Patarini reports: The GMS Announcers Club will be having a special guest speaker meeting with Mike Hydeck, a morning news anchor for WFSB Channel 3 News. Mike will be telling our students about his career in broadcasting. Mr. Hydeck and Channel 3 Meteorologist Darren Sweeney were speakers at the GMS Career Day in February. Channel 3 recently moved to Rocky Hill from Hartford and presents a great resource for our students here in the community. Thanks to the WFSB on air talent for their time!

Marissa Violette, Special Education teacher reports that the 6th grade burgundy team is continuing to enrich their curriculum with newspapers at different points of the year. Students will be introduced and continue to work with newspapers in their four academic subjects.

West Hill

Cori DiMaggio reported that there was a successful blood drive to support Kaitlin Dillon who had a bone marrow transplant. Samantha Brady and Analicia Ortiz, raised \$31.75 for Kaitlin and her family over April vacation by selling lemonade! In addition, a Pasta Dinner held in her name recently raised \$14,286.90 for Kaitlin and her family! The Student Council collected 146 coats for the Coat drive which will be given to the Family Life Center in Hartford.

Merle Cohen, social worker, will focus on conflict with third graders as part of character education. Two fifth grade students, *Natalie Fulco and Vishnu Gotteparthy* were honored for this prestigious award at the Aqua Turf for the arts festival.



Jillian Johnson, third grade teacher reports: "During Social Studies, students have been studying Native American tribes in small literature circle groups. Each group is responsible for mastering knowledge of their particular tribe and presenting it to the class in a creative way.

Our students have worked very hard holding book discussions and learning about a different culture and important piece of history! We are proud of their hard work during this busy time of the school year!"

Stevens/Moser Schools

Lori Cebelius, second grade teacher says, "The second graders at both Stevens and Moser Schools enjoyed hands on science from High Touch-High Tech. The visiting scientist taught us all about solids, liquids and gases. We investigated the properties of matter and charted the results of our experiments. We built a model of a CO2 molecule. Our favorite part was testing the effects of temperature on a liquid mixture to make ice cream (which we all sampled of course!). Our visiting scientist made science fun and exciting."

Fifth grade teacher, **Kristen Spain** reports that she has 15 students who are to be published by Creative Communication for their outstanding essays. Ms. Spain has entered this contest in previous years but has never had so many winners!

In **Sandra Phair's** second grade class, *Brianna Place* won the state-wide Zaner-Bloser handwriting contest. They are waiting to hear if she won the national contest!



"When every physical and mental resources is focused, one's power to solve a problem multiplies tremendously."

Norman Vincent Peale

