



Tuttle Talk

Naugatuck Board of Education

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Information for Naugatuck Residents from the Board of Education

Naugatuck School District

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Middle School Recognition Ceremonies

Hillside Middle School and City Hill Middle School held eighth grade recognition ceremonies on June 22 and June 23 respectively. One hundred fifty-seven students from Hillside crossed the high school stage to receive their achievement awards from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Cronin. City Hill held its ceremony in the high school gym in front of the friends and relatives of the 275 eighth graders. Again Dr. Cronin presented each of them with their achievement certificates.

Part of the ceremony in both middle schools is the presentation of the Josephine A. Maher Scholarships. Ms. Maher began a lifetime vocation as a teacher and a principal in Naugatuck from 1878 to 1934. In 1928, on the celebration of her golden anniversary, Ms. Maher was given a purse from the donations of hundreds of former students and members of the community. The gift was intended as a cushion toward her retirement, but instead, she placed the money into a fund for elementary students entering high school in recognition of their academic achievement.

The twelve students recognized for their academic standing from Hillside are the following: **Michelina Cioffi, Michael DePaola, Samuel Dowling, Heather Ford, Shannon Foster, Amariliz Jurado, Rachel Keeler, Katrina Orsini, Anthony Sendra, Julia Shea, Timothy Tousignant, and Jennifer Young.**

City Hill honored the following twelve students: **Holly Anderson, Samantha Bisson, Debora DaSilva, James Flynn, Lindsay Gerrish, Rabia Hamid, Dana Kaelin, Mark Lee, Megan McLaughlin, Alexis Moody, Jay Rollinson, and Kristin Zavodzancik.**



Halo Awards

The Halo Awards are the high school version of the Tony Awards. Naugatuck's high school drama, *The Crucible*, won in all the categories for which it was nominated. Best Supporting Actress was a tie between Janel Buccieri and Shannon Baldino; Best Actor went to Brian Dann, and *The Crucible* won as the best play. Congratulations to the entire cast and crew!

NHS Graduates of Note

We continue to receive word of Naugatuck High School graduates who have made great achievements. **Latisha Wood** (2000) appeared on several episodes of The Discovery Channel's "Orange County Choppers" series. She also painted the graphics for many of their custom-made motorcycles. **Anlise Kowcheris Donofrio** (1986) was recently appointed the district's Coordinator of Pupil Services. From the same class, **Roberta Garceau O'Dwyer** is practicing dentistry in Connecticut. During his freshman year, **Robert Hughes** (2004) proposed and implemented a marching band at the University of New Haven. Many of our teachers and staff members are Naugatuck graduates. That students graduate and choose to return to their hometown to teach is a positive reflection of the community of Naugatuck.

Message from the Board of Education Chair

It is hard to believe that another school year begins soon, and with it many changes will have taken place in our school district. As many of you know, the Board of Education had to reduce its requested budget again this year. We have repeatedly done this over the years while at the same time trying to maintain quality education for our students.

Unfortunately, we had to reduce our teaching staff again — this year by eight positions. These cuts impact students in the elementary, intermediate, and middle schools. In the last three years, we have reduced our teaching staff by twenty-five teachers. Ten of these were due to the reconfiguration of our schools and the consolidation of classrooms, and the rest were the result of budget reductions. The reductions that occurred have caused our classroom sizes to increase above the classroom levels established by the Board of Education. In spite of this, everything will be done to continue the educational levels we currently have in place.

Other areas that were affected by budget reductions are administrators, busing, contracted services, facilities, supplies, and technology. The BOE continually reviews areas of potential cost savings and with our district administrators tries to reduce any area possible, while attempting to improve our students' educational experience. Choices are always made with the children's best interests first.

One of the areas that we will continue to discuss with our community and its leadership is the partnership we are striving to achieve. A strong educational system in a community has a positive effect on the entire population. As shown by the support of the bonding for upgrades to our school district's facilities, when we work together we can continue to improve our system. In addition, parental involvement between our children and the schools is extremely important.

Our future and our children's future depend on it. Thank you for your support.



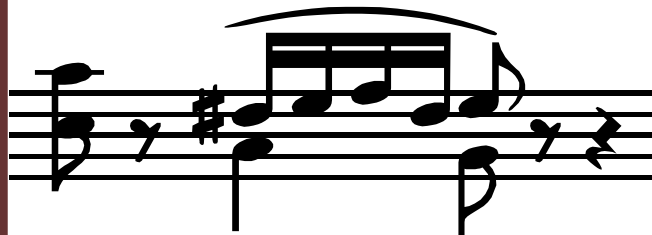
Culinary Competition

In March culinary students from the high school competed in food service, garde manger, dining room service, and cake production at Manchester Community College. Medals were presented to **Jim O'Brien, Jim Stevens, Keith Levesque, Mike Rollinson, Dave Schumacher, Jon Longo, Diana DeCrescenzo, Kristen Boisvert, Chris Pinto, Corbi Crowther, and Paul Leone**. Many of these students were also awarded college scholarships. In May **Paul Leone, Aaron Armiento, and Jim Stevens** won medals and scholarships at a competition held at the CT Culinary Institute where the three of them will attend school in the fall.

Young Educators Society

The future teachers' convention of the Young Educators Society (YES) was held in March at Eastern Connecticut State University. **Andrew Parzyck** and **Brett Betkoski** presented a workshop to twenty-six of their peers entitled "Ice Breakers in the Classroom." It was designed to help quell the jitters when speaking before a group or to new people. **Sophia Marques** and **Kethlyn Westphal** presented the workshop, "You and Me, Same? Different? Same?", about sharing cultural differences.

That day Naugatuck High School's chapter of YES took first place for their display board and for their banner. They took third place for their illustration and theme design. **Sarah Hughes**, from Cross Street's middle school chapter of YES, took second place for impromptu speaking.



The Naugatuck High School Winter Guard and Percussion Ensemble competed in April at the Musical Arts Conference (MAC) Winter Championships at Trumbull High School under the direction of **Mr. Bob Kogut**.

The Winter Guard placed fourth out of nine groups. Fourteen of the twenty-one members are freshman, so it appears they have a great future ahead of them.

In that same championship event, the Winter Percussion Ensemble placed first in the concert open class competition and first overall. This is the fourth consecutive MAC title for this group.

Later that month, the Winter Percussion Ensemble attended the Winter Guard International Championships in Dayton, Ohio. The Percussion Ensemble was the first Connecticut program to make it into the final round and is now ranked fourth in the country.

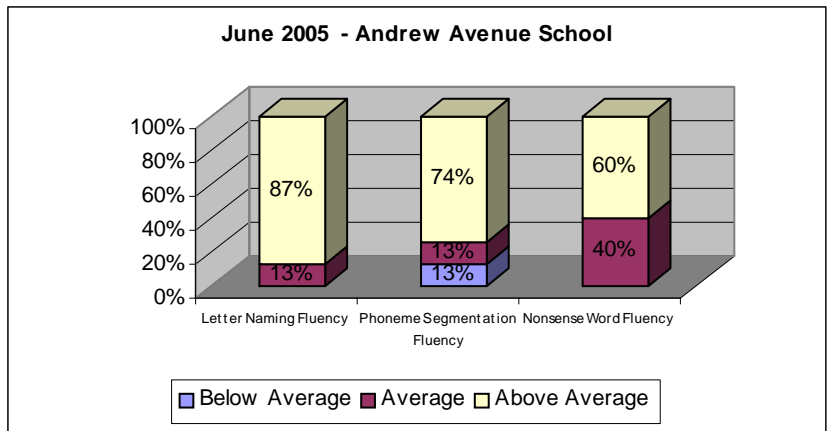
Congratulations!

Through funding from the Early Reading Success Grant, Andrew Avenue offered a full-day kindergarten program this year. Participation in the program was determined through the administration of a standardized assessment of early literacy development and several assessments that measure readiness skills such as the identification of colors, numbers, and shapes. In addition, academic performance factors such as lack of pre-school experience, single parent home, age, economic need, and being an English Language Learner were considered. After administration of these assessments, sixteen students were selected to participate in the program.

The end-of-year data collected on the fifteen students (one moved) support the research that tells us that a full-day, developmentally appropriate kindergarten program is very effective in improving early literacy skills.

All fifteen students scored at or above district goal on the six district kindergarten assessments. They also scored in the average to above average range on the end-of-the-year early literacy assessment. On only one subtest did two students score below average range (see chart).

Andrew Avenue has to apply for this grant every year, and the funding will not be known until the fall.



New Elementary Report Cards

In the past several years, many changes have been made to the elementary curriculum in all instructional areas, but most importantly in language arts and mathematics. As a result of these changes in curriculum and instruction, there was no longer a good match between what was taught and what was reported on the report card. During the 2004-2005 school year, the Director of Instruction, elementary principals, and a committee of teachers representing all elementary schools and grade levels collected information, sent out surveys, and revised the report cards' content and format.

Effective with the 2005-2006 school year, K-4 students will receive only three report cards in December, March, and June with parent conferences in December and March. The report cards provide specific information on student achievement in each academic area as well as a section dedicated to social development and work habits. The change from four to three report cards represents a shift to allow students sufficient time to develop skills and understandings that are measured against state standards for each grade level.

The new format provides information for parents on how well their child is learning specific skills and/or developing certain understandings. This breakdown is more meaningful than a single grade for the entire subject. The new grading code cannot be compared to a numerical average or a letter grade. Parents of children in grades K-4 will receive a parent guide to the report cards in the fall as well as have an opportunity to discuss the new report cards at their child's school at Open House.

Salem Artists Awarded



Two Salem students, **Jake Morrissey** and **Jacqueline Peralta**, were selected as winners in a poster contest sponsored by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Their posters illustrated solutions how to keep our environment clean. There was an award ceremony in May at the University of Hartford to honor them and present them with certificates of recognition. **Mrs. Lisa Vaccaro**, Salem's art teacher, was in attendance as well.



Janyce Yoshizawa Excellence Award

The Janyce Yoshizawa Excellence in Classroom Teaching Award is presented in recognition of outstanding classroom teaching. This award is sponsored by Pi Lambda Theta, which is an honor society in the field of education. The award honors a teacher for accomplishments while teaching in grades K-6. The award consists of a cash payment of \$1000.

One of our elementary teachers, **Kathy Mucha**, is the recipient of this year's award. Kathy is a third grade teacher at Andrew Avenue School. Last year another Andrew Avenue teacher, **Karen Tarsi**, received the award.

We are proud that for two years in a row Naugatuck teachers have received this prestigious honor. You make us proud!

Kindergarten Exemptions

Children turning five by January 1, 2006, are required by law to be registered for kindergarten. Parents and guardians are obligated to assure that children attend school starting at age five unless they personally appear at Tuttle House to sign an option form exercising their right not to have their child attend school for one year.

We Will Remember You

Whoever cares to learn will always find a teacher.

Every spring the Naugatuck Public Schools say goodbye to colleagues who have chosen to begin a new chapter in their lives—retirement. We wish them health and happiness and thank them for their many years of dedicated service to the students of Naugatuck. You will be missed: **Ron Aliciene, June Blake, Richard Collette, Robert Crispino, Mary Darmody, Holly Dorso, Katharine Gabrielson, Mary Eileen Gallette, Gloria Gombar, Claire McKirryher, Elaine McLaughlin, Patricia Pfurr, Karen Streeter, Paul Syvertsen, and Nichol Yanarella.**

Welcome New Certified Staff

The following certified personnel have been hired for the 2005-2006 school year. Welcome to the Naugatuck Public Schools! Andrew Avenue: **Melissa Butler** special education; Maple Hill: **Cristina Lobaton** speech and language; Prospect Street and Western: **Nicholas Mercier** music; Hop Brook: **Mary Halloran** special education; City Hill: **Melissa Boyington** health and PE, **Kostoula Aldi** language arts; Hillside: **James Stockman** math; Naugatuck High School: **Jennifer Brennan** English, **Katelyn Giulino** health, **Ruth Keefe** math teacher and department head, **Beth Anne Lancaster** biology, **Terry McManamy** chemistry, **Timothy Reilly** marketing/business, **Anthony Sorge** English, and **Chandra Tramontozzi** social worker. **Christina Magnuson** was appointed as the Dean of Student Affairs at the high school to replace Mr. Aliciene who retired this year.

Superintendent's Corner

Here's to New Beginnings

Robert D. Cronin, Ph.D.

One of the best things about school is that every year we are able to begin anew. We start each September with a clean slate. We take the lessons from the past and hopefully use them to make the new school year even better than the last. Each of us has the power to make this our best school year yet.

Our students need a strong, solid education, and we are fortunate in Naugatuck to have schools filled with teachers and administrators eager to offer just that. In order to help them, however, we have to form partnerships; partnerships between students and the adults who work with them daily, partnerships between home and school, and partnerships between the schools and the community. By working together, we will accomplish much more than by trying to do it alone.

As we begin another school year, let's work hard, put our best efforts into our work, and try to help at least one other person along the way. If we were to do that, our school system will be known for its outstanding administrators, its excellent teachers, for its high standards, hard working students, and for the respect people show one another. It could not get much better than that!

A new school year is filled with opportunities. Let's try to make this one we will remember long after the final bell in June 2006.

Dr. Cronin's office hours are the third Wednesday of the month from 6:00-8:00 PM at Tuttle House. Please call the Superintendent's office to set up an appointment if you would like to meet with him (720-5265).

Class of 2005

Based on a May survey of graduating seniors, this year's class has 74% of its members planning to attend a two or four-year college or university in the fall. This shows a 2% increase over last year's graduates. Five percent of the students will enter a vocational/technical program; four percent will join the military, and 17% are undecided or will enter the work force.