


West Hartford Public Schools
Office of the Superintendent
50 South Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
PERMIT #751



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

Construction Update: *(continued from page 3)*



The current video system was installed ten years ago and is limited to exterior cameras at the five secondary schools. The new system being installed adds HD quality cameras to the five secondary schools to improve exterior coverage. This system implements interior coverage of public areas in the schools including hallways, cafeterias, auditoriums, and gyms. In the past, we had no video security system at the elementary schools and this project adds both exterior and interior cameras at the eleven elementary schools. The elementary cameras are limited to the public areas and the entrances. These systems are a key component in our School Security and Safety Plans for individual schools and our district as a whole. We will continue to work closely with the West Hartford Police Department to ensure that all of our students and schools remain safe and secure.

Clearing Paths and Advancing Diversity... Together



The Equity and Diversity Council (EDC) welcomes parents and community partners to become involved in efforts to foster an inclusive and equitable educational community that values diversity.

The EDC will meet monthly on Tuesdays in Room 400 of Town Hall at 3:45 pm on the dates listed below:

September 13	February 28
October 25	March 21
November 22	April 25
December 13	May 23
January 24	

If you would like to become involved or have input please contact Roszena Haskins, Director of Diversity Advancement at 860-561-6900 or roszena_haskins@whps.org. For more information, please visit the EDC webpage under 'Offices' on the whps.org website.

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.



Message from Tom Moore

The long summer is ending and I am so happy to be welcoming you back to our West Hartford Public Schools for the 2016-2017 school year. I hope that your children will be starting this year with hope, excitement, and a fresh outlook on a new year. Whether five year olds nervous about where to put their lunches, or seniors wondering about plans for next year, we know that the start of school brings trepidation and nervousness. Our teachers and staff are here to help them and we will do everything in our power to make them feel welcome and at home.

As a parent and teacher myself, the end of summer brings mixed emotions. I realize that, as a Dad with two high school students, the clock is ticking on my family life, as I have known it. I have spent much of the summer trying to carve out family time from my own kids' busy lives, when it used to be me saying I couldn't get away. I feel, as many of you do, that time is just moving so fast, and that I want to save just a little more family time.

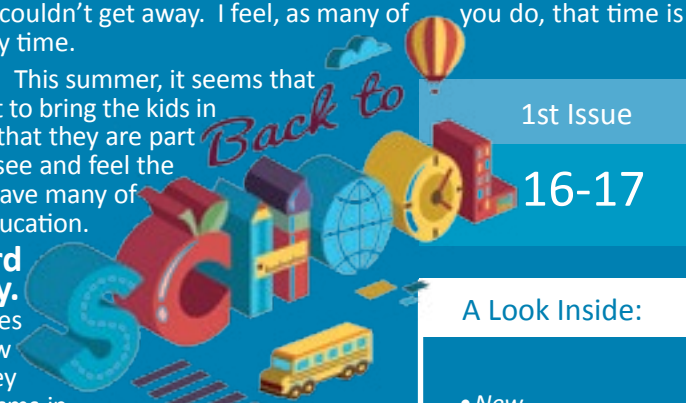
As a teacher, however, I have always wanted to get "my kids" back. This summer, it seems that there has been so much bad news and so much tragedy, that I want to bring the kids in and let them know that things will be o.k., that they are safe, and that they are part of a community that loves them. It strikes me even more, when I see and feel the discord, when I hear the fears of so many for our future, that we have many of the answers right here in West Hartford, and the chief answer is education.

I believe with all my heart, that West Hartford can be an example for our state and our country.

We have students who every day speak seventy different languages at home. Our students come from different backgrounds, follow different creeds, and are in different economic conditions but they study and play together... and it works! We are putting mechanisms in place like the EDC to help address and confront issues we face. We may not be perfect, but we are trying.

It is important that we, as adults, model the behavior that we seek to impart to our children. We need to show them that good friends can sometimes have wildly different political views. We need to be living examples that we can disagree without being disagreeable. I hope that you believe, just as I do, in the thought attributed to Voltaire from the eighteenth century, "I wholly disapprove of what you say – and will defend to the death your right to say it." If we can strive to live up to this maxim, our great town can only continue to grow and prosper.

I am more inspired than ever to lead this district. The world needs our children to be passionate problem solvers who will bring hope to the world. I believe that as we clear paths for our kids, we create brighter futures for everyone. I look forward to your partnership, your help, and your commitment to making West Hartford Public Schools the best school district in the country.



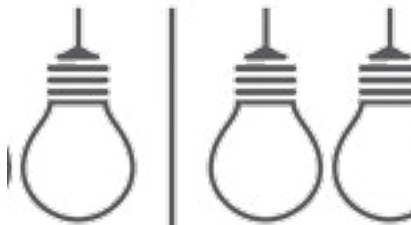
1st Issue

16-17

A Look Inside:

- *New Administrators*
- *Construction Update*
- *Teacher of the Year*
- *Advancing Diversity Together*

New Administrators Enhance a Quality Leadership Team



Jeffrey Sousa
Principal/Braeburn



Shannon Mlodzinski
Principal/Aiken



Kelly Brouse
Principal/Bugbee



Jason Siegal
Director of Athletics



Gretchen Nelson
Director of Pupil Serv.



Eileen Eustis
Conard Asst. Principal



Lindsay Tringali
Conard Asst. Principal



Kimberly Ambrose
Hall Asst. Principal



Irene Garneau
Dept. Supt.
Early Childhood



Meghan Zingle
Dept. Supt.
World Language



Emily Daigle
Dept. Supt.
Pupil Services

Effective leadership in schools is crucial for effective teaching and learning in classrooms. Our new administrators have the leadership qualities that are inherent in West Hartford's current Leadership Team. They are instructional leaders who focus on helping teachers educate all of our students. These new leaders understand the West Hartford Public Schools Mission and will inspire a shared vision in each of their respective schools or departments.

We are pleased to announce the appointments of three new principals: Mr. Jeffrey Sousa, Braeburn Elementary School, Mrs. Shannon Mlodzinski, Aiken Elementary School, and Ms. Kelly Brouse, Bugbee Elementary School. All three greatly impressed their interview committees and are eager to begin this year at their respective schools.

Jason Siegal is the new Director of Athletics for West Hartford. He will oversee sports scheduling and athletic facilities as well as our coaches and student athletes.

Dr. Gretchen Nelson replaces Glenn McGrath as Director of Pupil Services. Dr. Nelson spent most of her career working with students and their families in the area of special education and will bring this experience and expertise to our system.

Three new department supervisors begin this year: Irene Garneau, supervisor of Early Childhood Education, Megan Zingle, supervisor of World Languages, and Emily Daigle, supervisor of Pupil Services. These three come with extensive experience and excitement.

Finally, we would like to introduce three new assistant principals at our high schools. Eileen Eustis and Lindsey Tringali begin at Conard while Kimberly Ambrose starts at Hall.

Teacher Of The Year



Stephen O'Brien has been selected to represent West Hartford Public Schools as the 2016-17 Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year process is rigorous and begins with nominations from other teachers. Nominees then submit a resume, essay and recommendations. Finalists then have a lesson videotaped and are formally interviewed by the Teacher of the Year committee.



Construction Update:



The new **Charter Oak International Academy** is on schedule to open for the new school year and provide amazing opportunities for the students and the community. Finishing touches are being completed on the auditorium and gymnasium, and teachers are set to move into their new classrooms on August 15. The solar panels are also being installed to complete the school's energy efficient profile. Parking at COIA will be limited while the demolition and removal of the old building continue.



Security:

West Hartford Public Schools was awarded funding through the CT School Security Comprehensive Grant Program to upgrade our exterior and interior door access and our school security programs. Our schools are now accessed through electronic access controls. We have also begun replacing all of the interior classroom doors and fitting them with locks that secure from inside the classroom.

(continued on back page)