

# *The* SUNFLOWER

*A Newsletter from Braeburn Elementary School*

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

June 7, 2018

Jeffrey F. Sousa  
Principal

## A Message from the Principal...

Dear Braeburn Families,

We have reached another educational milestone for your child(ren) with the conclusion of a wonderful school year. These successes and achievements are attributed to our educators, parents and students working together. Thank you!

The end of the year is also a time to reflect and analyze our current school year and look forward to next year. I am excited to share that 177 of you took the time to respond to the parent survey and I believe that the high rate of satisfaction expressed by many parents is a testament of our effective work together. I want to personally thank each and every one of you that responded. We are ranked the highest in comparison to all parent responses. My staff and I will continue to analyze the results of the survey in an effort to identify school improvement goals and the steps necessary to achieve them. I am pleased that over 95% of those of you who responded to the survey indicated that you felt positive about Braeburn's school climate either all or most of the time; however, I want to express my sincere desire to continue to work the remaining 5% of you who appear to be less satisfied. Because the survey was anonymous, I cannot effectively address the dissatisfaction of these parents without knowing more. If you are among them, please accept my invitation to meet with me at some point this summer when we can focus together on your concerns without interruption. While I cannot guarantee your satisfaction, I do promise that I will listen carefully and attempt to find a resolution. Please call or email me to set up an appointment.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you and your children this year and I look forward to taking the next steps in our partnership. I appreciate the tremendous support that we have received from parents during this year here at Braeburn and I thank you for the continued privilege to serve you and your children. Thank you for your involvement in our important work of building a great school. If you are interested, I am asking for volunteers to assist with building gardening beds this summer for a community project that we will begin next year in partnership with Healing Hands. Please contact Mary Ellen if you are willing to help.

Additionally, class placement letters will be mailed on Friday, August 10th. Also, mark your calendars for **Open House Monday, August 27, 2018 2:00-3:00** and **Curriculum Night September 20, 2018: Grades 3-5 (6:00-6:45), Specials (6:30-7:15), Grades K-2 (7:00-7:45).**

Have a wonderful summer filled with great memories, health and fun!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey F. Sousa

A special thanks to Mrs. Kramer who has taken endless photos of our students, staff, and Braeburn families! Our "e-Bulletin Board" in the lobby is engaging to view and brings a smile to our hearts!



## CURRICULUM CORNER

### Summer Learning Experiences

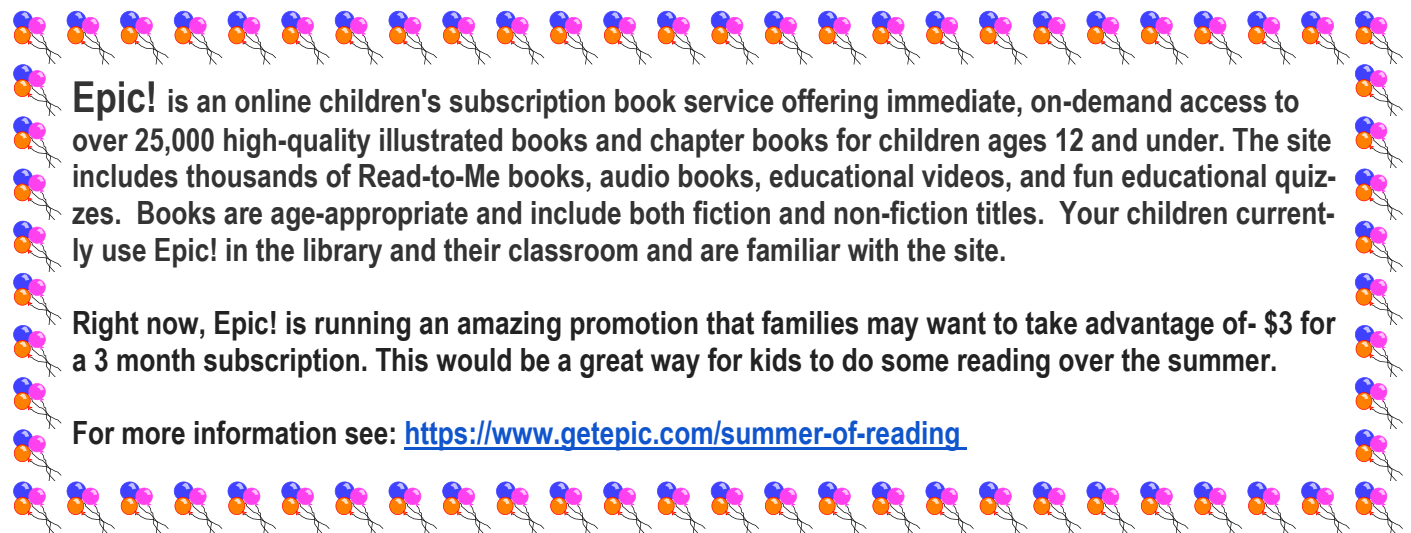
Learning never takes a vacation! Included in this edition of our newsletter is information about the Summer Math Challenge, Summer Reading Challenge and a reasonably priced optional subscription to **Epic!**

One of the best things that you can do for your child this summer is to encourage him/her to read! Research shows that many students suffer from summer reading loss when they return to school each fall. Researcher B. Heynes reports that “the single summer activity that is most strongly and consistently related to summer learning is reading.” Summer is the perfect time to interest children in books! The public library offers a multitude of reading materials for children. Children should be encouraged to read not only books, but magazines, newspapers, maps, comic books – the possibilities are endless! Other research reports that reading four to five books during the summer is potentially enough to prevent a decline in reading achievement from spring to fall. This is an easy as well as inexpensive way to keep your child up to date with his/her school progress! Don’t forget to have your child record the books that he/she reads this summer on the Governor’s Reading Challenge form that will be sent home with your child in the coming days. These forms will be collected during the first week of school and the number of students who spent time reading during the summer will be reported to the Governor’s office. Let’s have Braeburn students at 100% participation this year!

Finally, let your child have fun this summer! Spending time outdoors, traveling, hiking, and trips to the park or the beach are all activities that build background knowledge for your child. Children with extensive background knowledge have an easier time making connections to the texts that they are required to read in school since they have had the experiences that the characters in a story may encounter. Expensive vacations are not the only experiences that build background knowledge! Children learn new things every day just by being careful observers of things that are in and around their own neighborhoods. A trip to the park with a friend can lead to a variety of details to write about upon returning to school, as is having an outdoor barbeque or catching fireflies in a glass jar on a warm summer evening. Getting children to create a picture in their mind prior to writing helps them to add detail to their writing. Reading and enjoying the great outdoors are two of the most important things that you can encourage your child to do this summer!

Have a wonderful summer! I look forward to our continued partnership in the fall!

***Ellen Cercone***  
***Curriculum Specialist***



**Epic!** is an online children's subscription book service offering immediate, on-demand access to over 25,000 high-quality illustrated books and chapter books for children ages 12 and under. The site includes thousands of Read-to-Me books, audio books, educational videos, and fun educational quizzes. Books are age-appropriate and include both fiction and non-fiction titles. Your children currently use Epic! in the library and their classroom and are familiar with the site.

Right now, Epic! is running an amazing promotion that families may want to take advantage of- \$3 for a 3 month subscription. This would be a great way for kids to do some reading over the summer.

For more information see: <https://www.getepic.com/summer-of-reading>

## BRAEBURN CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Wed., Jun 7-9	10:15-1:30 pm	5th Gr. Experiential Science— Electricity & Magnetism 2nd Grade to Roaring Brook Nature Center
Thu., Jun 8	9:30 am	TOTS—Grade 3-5
Mon., Jun 11, 14		5th Gr. Science Optics
Tue., Jun 12	1:00-2:30 pm	5th Gr. Cheenulka Pocknet Presentation
Fri., Jun 15	9:00-2:30 pm	Effie's, Continuation Fern Park
Mon., Jun 18	9:30-1:30 pm	JCC Swim & Tennis Club
Wed., Jun 20	9:00-10:30 am	End of Year Assembly/ Last Day of School (2:00 Dismissal)

HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL SUMMER!!!

*We would like to send a special thank you to the following parents for helping with our wonderful Memorial Day Celebration~*

*Rittlinger Family for the donuts!*

*Andrea Sweeney, Kristen Dolan, Jessica Egan, Jessica Fehl, Megan Bacon, Katy Purviance, Mia Sardilli, Sabine Weiler, Anke Simmons, and Kirsti O'Keefe for the set up and decorations,*

*Mrs. Lavoie and Mrs. Bissell for the lovely reception in the library!*

### **BOOKS N' BLANKETS**

We're celebrating our  
newest addition,  
our Little Free Library

June 8, 2018 (during school)

Students should bring a towel or small blanket to sit on  
and a book to read!

We will sit outside and read, make bookmarks and play a  
library game. Our Little Free Library will then be open for  
business!





June 9 10 am - 6 pm

June 10 Noon - 6 pm

[www.celebratewesthartford.com](http://www.celebratewesthartford.com)



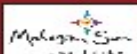
# 2018 Celebrate! WEST HARTFORD

Town Hall Common  
50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT

- ◆ Arts & Crafts Show
- ◆ Carnival Rides & Games
- ◆ Free Petting Zoo
- ◆ Great Food
- ◆ Live Music
- ◆ New! Community Bike Ride
- ◆ 5K Road Race
- ◆ Kids Fun Run
- ◆ Free Horse-drawn Trolley ride
- ◆ Performances in Blue Back Square



Free Admission/Rain or Shine



BEST OF  
HARTFORD  
MAGAZINE  
2018  
WINNER

Sunday, June 10

## ***Celebrate! West Hartford***



# **2018 ROAD RACES**

## **31st Annual 5K & Kids Fun Run**

West Hartford Town Hall • 50 South Main St., West Hartford, CT

Register online at [www.CelebrateWestHartford.com](http://www.CelebrateWestHartford.com)

**Report to  
Town Hall  
on  
Race Day!**

- \* Free Race Shirt to first 600 5K registrants
- \* Refueling buffet by Whole Foods Market

- \* 1st, 2nd, 3rd awards in all divisions
- \* Raffle Prizes
- \* 5K Run: \$25 (\$30 after June 1)
- \* Kids Fun Run: \$5

*Help kids get active! Race proceeds subsidize scholarships for youth swimming lessons and camps!*

Thank you, Sponsors:

**FLEET FEET**  
*Sports*

**ALL WASTE**

**Bank of America**

**JD Construction**

**Simsbury Bank**  
Bank this way



**MATHNASIUM**  
The Math Learning Center

**West Hartford Windows**

**WEST HARTFORD**





## *A Great Year End Gift For Teachers*

The Foundation for the West Hartford Public Schools' *Teacher Thank-You Gift* program is a great way to acknowledge wonderful and talented teachers.

Make a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation of \$10 or more per teacher. Teachers receive a special card indicating a gift has been made in their honor. These gifts support our Teacher Grant program investing funds back in our schools for various educational programs.

The Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to raising money from the community to invest in our schools. For more information, visit our website at [www.fwhps.org](http://www.fwhps.org), call 860-561-8755 or email us at [fwhps@westhartfordct.gov](mailto:fwhps@westhartfordct.gov).



### Teacher Gift Order Form

Enclosed is my total gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

For more students, feel free to provide information on the back side of form.

☐ Send certificate to me **OR** ☐ Send to my teacher

Please make checks (\$10 minimum per teacher) payable to Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools and send to 50 S. Main St., Room 420, W. Hartford, CT 06107. Contributions are tax-deductible. **Deadline: 6/12/2018**



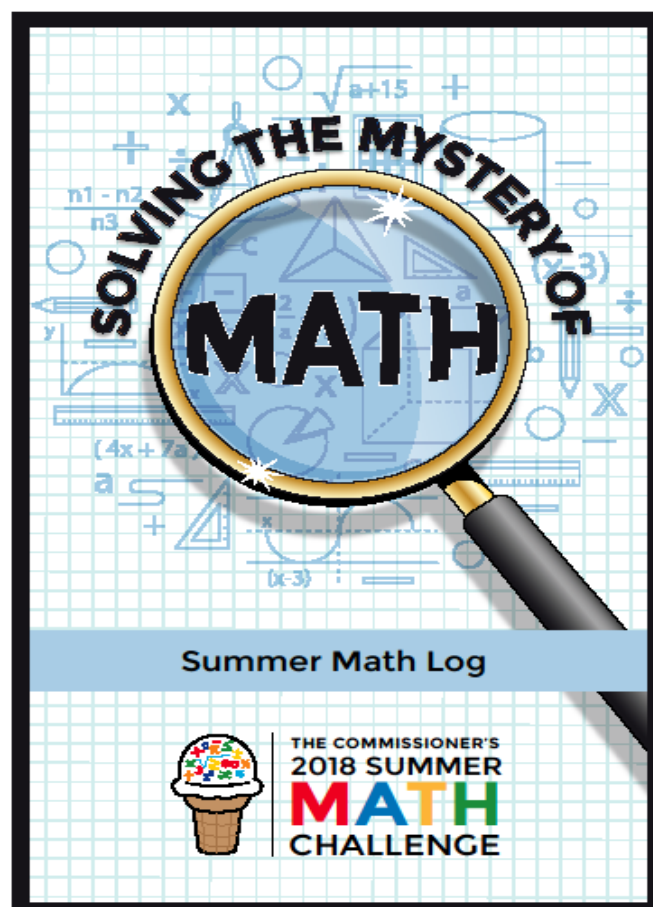




THE COMMISSIONER'S  
2018 SUMMER  
**MATH**  
CHALLENGE

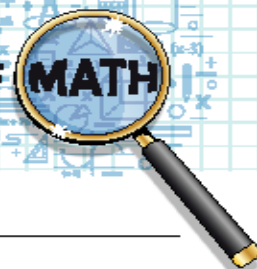
Students and Families:

To learn more, ask your teacher or principal to contact the Connecticut State Department of Education at 860-713-6557 or [www.ct.gov/sde](http://www.ct.gov/sde).



THE COMMISSIONER'S  
2018 SUMMER  
**MATH**  
CHALLENGE

## SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF MATH



How did you review math this summer? (Please check one)

☐ Khan Academy – Total time practiced: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ MetaMetrics – Total number of badges earned: \_\_\_\_\_

I learned about the following topics: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite math topic was \_\_\_\_\_

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I liked this topic because \_\_\_\_\_

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# West Hartford Back-to-School Program



**Kindergarten – Grade 12**

West Hartford Social Services offers a **NEW** backpack and assistance with school supplies for the 2018-2019 school year!

Servicios Social de West Hartford ofrece una **NUEVA** mochila y asistencia para efectos escolares para el año escolar 2018-2019!

Town Hall, 50 South Main Street  
Social Services Office, Room 306

Program registration runs from June 4<sup>th</sup> - August 31<sup>st</sup>  
Call 860-561-7561 for more information

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Town Hall, 50 South Main Street,  
Oficina de Servicios Sociales, oficina 306  
Registración comienza desde Junio 4 - Agosto 31  
Llame al 860-561-7561 para más información.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES ON REVERSE/ GUIAS DE INGRESOS EN EL REVERSO



Sponsored by:





ConnectiCare



**DUATHLON**

Farmington River Trail  
APRIL 14 — Age 8-15  
run/bike/run

**SPLASH & DASH**

Winding Trails  
JUNE 23 — Age 4-14  
swim and run

**TRIATHLON**

Mansfield Middle School  
AUGUST 25 — Age 4-14  
swim/bike/run

**KIDS WHO TRI SUCCEED  
SPLASH & DASH**

**WINDING TRAILS  
June 23rd**

**Register now at**

[www.kidswhotrisucceed.com](http://www.kidswhotrisucceed.com)

Age 4-6: 25 yd swim / 0.5 mile run

Age 7-8: 50 yd swim / 1.0 mile run

Age 9-11: 75 yd swim / 1.5 mile run

Age 12-14: 200 yd swim / 2.0 mile run

**T-shirts, swim caps, medals, refreshments and lots of fun!**

No one does summer quite like the Mandell JCC. We offer camps and programs of all varieties: from Camp Shalom, our sprawling day camp along the Farmington River; to our standing ovation-worthy Theater Camp; there's our game-play centric Sports Jams specialty camps, as well as the beautiful family summer oasis, The Swim & Tennis Club. There is something for everyone this summer at the Mandell JCC!

Flexible hours. Payment plans. Before and After Care.  
Contact the Member Services Center,  
860-236-4571, or [mandelljcc.org/camps](mailto:mandelljcc.org/camps) to register.

**Register for all JCC Camps Online!**

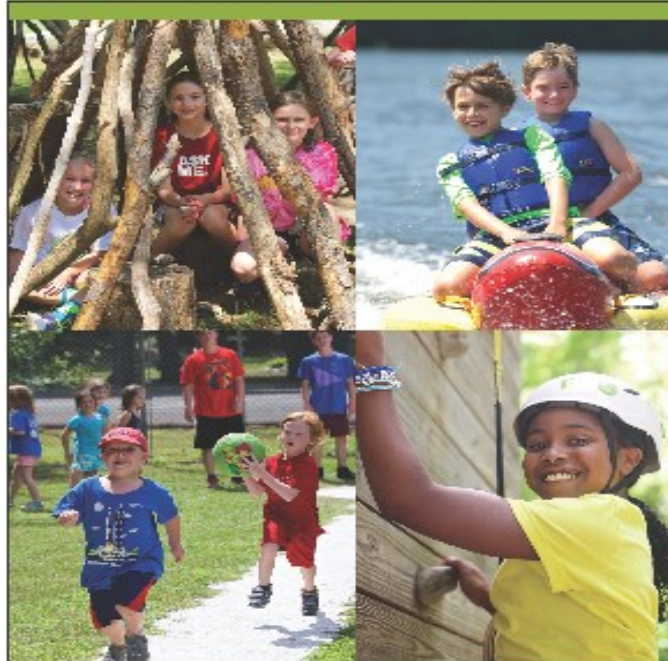
Visit [mandelljcc.org/camps](http://mandelljcc.org/camps) to sign up today.



[www.mandelljcc.org](http://www.mandelljcc.org)

Zachs Campus | 885 Bloomfield Ave.  
West Hartford, CT 06117

**SUMMER  
DISCOUNTS  
AVAILABLE  
IF REGISTERED  
BY MAY 15.**



The fresh air, the woods, the water, s'mores by the campfire, making friends and building confidence — that's what Camp Shalom is all about. Located on 75 wooded acres along the Farmington River, Camp Shalom is the perfect place for your children to swim, boat, canoe, water-ski, tube, kayak and paddleboard, under the watchful eyes of Red Cross-certified instructors. Their fun-filled days also include fishing, hiking, sports, the arts and so much more.

For more information, dates, pricing, and for our Camp Shalom brochure, visit [www.mandelljcc.org/campshalom](http://www.mandelljcc.org/campshalom) or contact Karen Wyckoff, 860-231-6317, [kwycckoff@mandelljcc.org](mailto:kwycckoff@mandelljcc.org). Summer Phone: 860-688-2267.



Director: Thai Tran, 860-231-6410, [ttran@mandelljcc.org](mailto:ttran@mandelljcc.org)  
Co-Director: Sam Lewis-Schoenberg, 860-693-2378, [sam@mandelljcc.org](mailto:sam@mandelljcc.org)  
Recreation & Wellness Director: Bonnie Hittleman-Lewis, 860-231-6361, [blewis@mandelljcc.org](mailto:blewis@mandelljcc.org)

**FULL DAY**

\*Grade as of Fall 2018



**ANDREW PINNOCK  
FOOTBALL JAM**  
Grades 2-8\*  
July 9-13



**DURELLE BROWN  
BASKETBALL JAM**  
Grades 1-9\*  
July 23-27 | July 30-August 3

**HALF DAY  
FULL DAY**



**SPORT-A-PALOOZA JAM**  
Grades 1-8\*  
Jun 12-15\*\* | Jun 18-22  
Jun 25-29 | Jul 2-6\*\* | Jul 9-13 Jul  
16-20 | Jul 23-27 | Jul 30-Aug 3  
Aug 6-10 | Aug 13-17 | Aug 20-24



**TENNIS JAM** Grades 1-8\*  
Jun 12-15\*\* | Jun 18-22  
Jun 25-29 | Jul 2-6\*\* | Jul 9-13 Jul  
16-20 | Jul 23-27 | Jul 30-Aug 3  
Aug 6-10 | Aug 13-17 | Aug 20-24  
\*\*No camp July 4. Pro-rated for 4 days.



**KARATE JAM**  
Grades 1-6\*  
June 18-22  
August 20-24



**DANCE JAM**  
Grades 1-6\*  
July 23-27



**IMAGINATION JAM**  
Grades 1-5\*  
June 18-22



**GOLF JAM** Grades 2-8\*  
July 9-13 | August 6-10  
(No Before Care Option)



**ZEKE SEGURO  
SOCCER JAM**  
Grades 1-8\*  
July 16-20



**CHEERLEADING JAM**  
Grades 1-7\*  
July 16-20 | August 6-10



**LACROSSE JAM**  
Grades 1-6\*  
July 23-July 27



**BASEBALL JAM**  
Grades 2-7\*  
August 6-10



**SHARKS COMPETITIVE  
SWIM JAM\***  
Grades 3-9\*  
August 13-17

Sports Jams Camps can be pro-rated for the week of June 18





**Channel3KidsCamp.org**



Established 1910

# Summer **CAMP** 2018 OPPORTUNITIES

## Join us for summer fun at Channel 3 Kids Camp!

Channel 3 Kids Camp provides exceptional summer day and overnight camp experiences to children from throughout Connecticut. Affordable fun with quality programming. Sessions run weekly for 10 sessions.

- Day camp for ages 3-5 \$300 per week.
- Day camp for ages 6-13 \$275 per week.
- Overnight camp weeks for ages 8-13 is based on household income.

Channel 3 Kids Camp has a rich, 108 year history of providing high quality recreational and educational care for children. Located on 150 wooded acres in Andover/Coventry CT, our inclusive camp activities are designed for children ages 3-13. Children are closely supervised. Staff to child ratio is 1:6. Transportation is provided for overnight camp.

### Camp activities include:

Swimming Lessons • Performing Arts • Visual Media Arts  
Nature Education • Arts and Crafts • Woodworking  
Games • Hiking • Special Guests • High/Low Ropes  
Archery • Zip Line • Athletics • Rock Climbing  
Theme Days • And MORE!

**VISIT** Channel3KidsCamp.org to learn more  
or to register. Don't wait! Weeks fill fast!

73 Times Farm Road, Andover, CT 06043 | 860-742-2267 | Channel3KidsCamp.org



Don't wait!  
Register online  
today!



**UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD**

**CONNECTICUT'S  
PREMIER  
SUMMER CAMP**

  
**the SUMMER PLACE**  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD  
PROUD PARTNERS WITH WATKINSON SCHOOL

**ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY!**

» Three 2-week sessions offered «  
*June 25-Aug. 3*

» FREE bus service «  
*Convenient stops throughout West Hartford*

» 70+ enrichment programs «

» Campers design their own schedules «

REGISTER TODAY AT [summerplaceprograms.com](http://summerplaceprograms.com)

» Enter promo code WHPS18 to receive \$100 off your registration «

CALL or 860.768.4432 WITH QUESTIONS





FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## WEST HARTFORD YMCA

### SAY HELLO TO SUMMER ADVENTURES!

at St. Thomas Seminary—467 Bloomfield Ave, Bloomfield  
Financial assistance available!

#### 2018 SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMP

Ages: Grades K-10th

Date: June 25th-August 24th

Time: 7am-6pm, AM & PM care is included in fees

Fees: \$240/week or \$175/3 days



### BE EXTRAORDINARY ALL SUMMER LONG!

at Wolcott Elementary School—71 Wolcott Road, West Hartford  
Financial assistance available!

#### 2018 SUMMER LEARNING CAMP

Ages: Age 4-Grade 8 (entering grades 1-4 will take part in BELL Power Scholars Academy first 5 weeks)

Date: June 25th-August 24th

Time: 7am-6pm, AM & PM care is included in fees

Fees: \$240/week or \$175/3 days

#### 2018 BELL Power Scholars Academy

Ages: Entering Grades 1-4th

Date: June 25th-July 27th

Time: 7am-6pm, AM & PM care is included in fees

Fees: \$240/week

Hop the gap over summer learning loss with literacy, math, art, recreational activities and STEM enrichment with certified teachers every day! Field trips every Friday!



WEST HARTFORD YMCA 12 N Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107

860.521.5830 | westhartfordYMCA.org | Like us on Facebook @West Hartford YMCA

# Free Summer Meals

## Comidas de Verano Gratis



Children and teens ages 18 and under are welcome  
Lunch served Monday - Friday 12:00PM - 1:00PM

**Faxon Library**  
**1073 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford, CT**  
**860-561-8202**

**June 25th - August 17th, 2018**

*Meals & Administration provided by West Hartford Public Schools*







# WESTFIELD ACADEMY

Creating Global Citizens and Lifelong Learners

**DEBATE** **MODEL UNITED NATIONS** **LEADERSHIP**

We are 2017's #1 Public Policy World Champion!  
Connecticut's Debate and Model UN  
**SUMMER CAMP**



Welcoming  
Ages  
8-18



Overnight  
Lodging  
Available



Distinguished  
Community  
Speakers



Beginner to  
Advanced  
Levels



Perfect for  
Introverts to  
Extroverts

Special Program for Highly Advanced Debate Students Led by Yale Debate Coach

"POWERFUL and TRANSFORMATIVE."

-Local Principal

"THIS CAMP IS OUTSTANDING!"

-Parent

"THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR AMAZING STAFF FOR A  
TRULY WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE!"

-Camper

**DAY Camp in West Hartford**

WEEK 1: June 18-22

WEEK 2: June 25-29

WEEK 3: July 2-6

**CHOOSE 1, 2, 3, 4  
or all 5 weeks!**

**OVERNIGHT camp in the  
Rocky Mountains, CO.**

WEEK 4: July 22-28

WEEK 5: July 29-Aug. 4

**\*\* Ask about our overnight camp in beautiful Estes Park,  
Colorado!! \*\***

Hebrew High School, 300 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford 06117  
[www.WestfieldAcademy.net](http://www.WestfieldAcademy.net) 860-940-0813

# SPRING ALERT

Does your child know what this sign means?



Spring is here, and our kids are outdoors playing on lawns. While this is a healthy activity for children, parents need to be aware that many lawns are treated with potentially harmful chemical pesticides. Please make your children aware of the meaning of the yellow pesticide application warning flags and tell them to stay off lawns where they are displayed.

The unique behavior of children as well as their developing physiology make them more vulnerable to these chemicals than adults, and studies have shown that even small exposures to pesticides at critical periods of development may cause acute or long term health problems, including asthma, neurological and endocrine problems and certain cancers.

Many commonly used lawn pesticides can remain on the grass long after the warning signs have been removed. Pesticides can be inhaled, absorbed through the skin, or inadvertently ingested when children put unwashed hands in their mouths. They can also be tracked indoors on shoes, where they do not break down quickly, and can remain an exposure risk for months.

*"As a pediatrician I urge all parents to reduce pesticide use as much as possible, especially lawn services. Children's health is more important than a few weeds."*

**Philip J. Landrigan, M.D.**  
Director, Children's Environmental Health Center  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



To limit your family's exposure, stop using lawn pesticides and keep children away from treated areas in parks, playgrounds or on neighbor's lawns. Even commonly used consumer "weed and feed" products contain harmful pesticides. If a neighbor is spraying their yard, close your windows and bring moveable items inside, especially children's toys and animal food dishes.

Today, homeowners have many more safe lawn care solutions available to them as natural lawn care is the fastest growing segment of the green industry.

For more information on lawn pesticides  
please visit our website  
[www.grassrootsinfo.org](http://www.grassrootsinfo.org)

## Update on Privacy Law - Public Act 16-189

We believe that it is vital for all students in West Hartford Public Schools to be able to efficiently and effectively use digital tools that empower them in all phases of the learning process, including research, problem solving, content creation, communication, and collaboration. We also believe that we must be committed at all times to protecting students' privacy and providing them with a powerful and safe educational experience. To that end, the West Hartford Public Schools follow the legal requirements of Public Act 16-189 to promote the safety and security of all students and staff. In compliance with Connecticut State Law, we update online programs used within the district that house student data. The programs may be used district-wide, in a very small number of classrooms, or with individual students. The list will be updated each time the district enters into a new contract where student data is housed. For more information on the specifics of Public Act 16-189 and updates of vendor agreements, visit [www.whps.org/pa189](http://www.whps.org/pa189).

**Jared W. Morin, Ed.M.**

**Director of Technology Services**