



DANBURY DIGEST

District News & Highlights

COMMUNITY RESOURCE PROGRAMS

Did you know that every Danbury elementary and middle school has an after school program. The Extended Learning Programs are taking on-going registration for its before and after school programs. For more information see the DPS website at http://www.danbury.k12.ct.us/ELP/EL/Extended_Learning_Program.html or call 203-797-4733 for more information.

The Danbury Public Schools Family Literacy Center will be having a **Touch a Truck and Fall Hayride** on Sunday October 28, 2012 from 10 am to 3 pm at Danbury High School at 43 Clapboard Ridge Rd., Danbury. There will be all types of trucks and equipment. We will have a food truck, sand art, hay rides and many activities for children. The cost is \$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family and benefits the Family Literacy Center. Please call 203-797-4734 for more information.

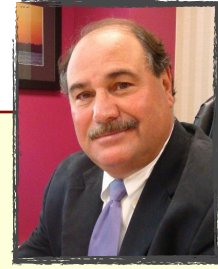
Parents Supporting Educational Excellence-a 12 week course for parents, grandparents and people who care for children. Begins Saturday February 23rd (morning retreat) followed by 12 Tuesday nights. Families eat together at 5:15 at Ellsworth school, then parents go to class while the children are cared for at the Danbury Family Literacy Center. While there is no charge for the program, pre-registration is required. Call 203-797-4734 or go to www.danbury.k12.ct.us for registration form.

Raising Readers Parent Club-The Raising Readers Parent Club Program is a nationally recognized family literacy program for parents. The Parent Reading Club provides opportunities for parents to practice storytelling, reading aloud, and writing with their children in a nurturing environment. Parents take home quality children's books after each session to continue family learning. Program runs on Thursday nights from 6:30-7:30 pm and is free. Sign up by calling 203-797-4734.

"Mind in the Making" Parents Group- Book Club in Spanish for parents. Child care provided. Tuesday mornings October 2nd, 16th and 30th and November 6th and 20th from 9:00-11:00 am. Call Angelina at 203-681-0825 to register, or email at angelasol@gmail.com The Parent's Group is co-sponsored by the Danbury Promise for Children Partnership and The Danbury Public Schools.

Car Seat Safety Check: Sat. Oct 20th 10-11:30 Danbury Family Literacy Center, 49 Osborne St. Danbury. FREE to all Danbury families.

Resources for Danbury's families in English, Spanish and Portuguese are available at <http://www.danburychildrenfirst.org/Pages/home.html>



Superintendent's Message

Welcome Parents and Students!

So as it is with every new school year there, are new things to learn. Whether you are a board member, teacher, or student, there is something intangibly exciting and refreshing about the start of a new year.

The Faculty and Staff of the Danbury school system are excited to host their annual Meet Your Teacher nights, and parent conferences this Fall. These are wonderful opportunities for our learning community to share with parents the exciting and rigorous educational experiences we have prepared for each child. We invite you to meet your child's teacher, explore our learning spaces, and receive information on the curriculum. There will be opportunities to participate and learn about the important role that each school's PTO plays in the development of your child's education.

The possibilities are endless, so I encourage you to clear your calendars and come out to support your child and their school. We need you as partners.

Wishing you all a great year!



CITY WIDE PTO

On behalf of the City-Wide PTO board we would like to welcome back all of the students, teachers, and staff for a new and exciting school year. We would also like to thank the parents of all of our individual PTO's and PTO boards for the continued support for the children in our district. Please join us for a City-Wide PTO meeting. Our meetings are on the every first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Beaver Brook Administrative Offices. You can also access our website at www.citywidepto.com. We look forward to a great school year !

Thank you, City Wide PTO Officers

- Ralph Pietrafesa, Co-President
- Nancy Troll, Co-President
- Terri McCarthy, Secretary
- Kim Council, Treasurer

HATTERS TV & DHS STUDENTS HIGHLIGHT DISTRICT EVENTS

Danbury High School Video Production Classes are in full swing and the students are around Danbury learning how to work as a team to produce videos highlighting Danbury events and successes. The classes have the goal of doubling the amount of events that they covered last year and have more live video productions broadcast right from DHS. You can see their work and watch events happening in the Danbury Public Schools on Comcast's local educational access channel, **Channel 97** (this is a recent change in the Comcast's channel line up). To see whats happening in Danbury, watch Comcast Channel 97 on Wednesdays and Fridays. Some events will be available on the district website as well. For comments or suggestions about Danbury's productions shown on the educational access channel please email: Mr. Miller at milles@danbury.k12.ct.us

SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCES AUDIO MESSAGES



Dr. Pascarella has initiated an audio message on the district's website. The first audio message is available by accessing the link on the main page of our website, located under Welcome Message - "Superintendent's Message, September 2012". Dr. Sal plans to post audio messages throughout the year to update staff and parents on events happening throughout the district, as well as news about district initiatives.

Click here for the direct link to Dr. Pascarella's message:
<http://www.danbury.k12.ct.us/sal.mov>

Board of Education Meetings

- September 12 and 24
- October 10 and 24
- November 14 and 28
- December 5 - Annual
- January 9 and 23
- February 13 and 27
- March 13 and 27
- April 10 and 24
- May 8 and 22
- June 12 and 26

Board of Education Members

- Eileen W. Alberts
- Shirley Chilian
- Gladys Cooper,
Chairperson
- Gary Falkenthal
- Annrose Fluskey-Lattin
- Richard Hawley,
Secretary
- Richard Jannelli
- Kathleen Molinaro,
Vice Chairperson
- Sandy Steichen
- Robert Taborsak
- Phyllis Tranzillo
Vice Chairperson



EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Annual Danbury College and Vocational Fair, sponsored by the Danbury Public Schools Guidance Department, will be held on October 15th at the Danbury Fair Mall from 5:00pm to 8:30pm. The fair is NEACAC approved and is one of the largest and most comprehensive in New England. Each year the guidance department proudly raises scholarship money sponsoring this fair. Last year, over \$6000 in scholarship money was raised for Danbury High School Students.

The guidance department encourages students of all grade levels to participate. Finding the right school may be one of the most important steps high school students make in determining their future. The guidance department stresses that this fair is not only for college bound students but, for students looking for an alternative post-high school training as well. The earlier the student begins the process the more prepared the student will be by the time they reach senior year. The Danbury College and Vocational Fair is a good opportunity to expand your knowledge about colleges and/or careers in general. Younger students should begin collecting information from a variety of schools to gain a better understanding of what colleges and alternative institutions expect from them in order to build a strong transcript and resume. The representatives from the various institutions have vast knowledge, experience and backgrounds. They will be pleased to answer questions of parents and students regarding their institutions. By the time a student reaches their junior year, they should be developing a list of potential schools that would offer them the ability to pursue their long term goals. The fair will give an opportunity for these students to meet with representatives from these schools as well as other schools they may not have considered. Connections students make at the fair may be a valuable resource in their final decisions. Seniors will be meeting with their selected schools in order to make a personal connection or to find an additional selection.

Over 265 participants from a wide range of two-year and four-year Universities, nursing, business, vocational, trade and technical schools participated in the 2011 school year. Information regarding specialized licensing and certificate programs were also available along with the military branches, financial aid resources and College Board and ACT testing corporation. The fair is free to students, parents and anyone else interested in higher education. It serves as a valuable resource to those in the community and surrounding areas.

A list of participants who will be at the Danbury College and Vocational Fair is listed on the Danbury High School Web Site under "College Fair". Please continue to check the site as it is updated regularly. Students can also find a checklist entitled "Tips for Attending a College Fair" on the same website.

Danbury High School Guidance Counselors, including Spanish speaking ones, will be on hand the night of the fair to assist students and parents. Danbury High School looks forward to seeing you at the fair.

Calendar

Monday Oct 8:

Columbus Day Schools & offices closed

Thursday Oct 11:

PD - Early dismissal all schools

Tuesday Oct 23:

PD - Early dismissal all schools

Nov 5, 7, 8, 9:

Parent/Teacher conferences

Early dismissal - Elem and Middle only

Tuesday Nov 6:

PD -All schools closed

Monday Nov 12:

Veterans Day Schools & offices closed

Nov 21 - 23:

Thanksgiving Recess

Schools & offices closed

Tuesday Dec 11:

PD - Early dismissal all schools

Friday Dec 21:

PD - Early dismissal all schools

Dec 24 - 31:

Holiday Recess

Schools closed

Dec 24 & 25:

Holiday Recess

Offices closed

Dec 31:

New Years Eve

Offices closed

Monday Jan 1:

New Years Day Schools & offices closed

Tuesday Jan 15:

PD - Early dismissal all schools

(DHS exams & early dismissal)

Monday Jan 21:

Martin Luther King Day

Schools & offices closed

Tuesday Jan 29:

PD - Early dismissal all schools



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Kristy Zaleta was selected to receive the Connecticut Science Teachers Association "Excellence In Middle School Science Teaching Award" for 2011-2012.

This award is bestowed on a teacher who has not only demonstrated excellence in classroom science teaching, but who has also contributed professionally in support of colleagues, demonstrated dedication to personal and professional growth, and has been a productive participant in extra curricular activities and community projects. Her dedication to both her students and colleagues has not gone unnoticed. Kristy was recognized at the Board of Education meeting on September 12th. Congratulations to Kristy!

The State of Connecticut has adopted our Curriculum as "The MODEL Curriculum for the State of Connecticut Personal Finance Course in Connecticut". This will be going on the State of Connecticut Web Site. The first Units are going to be followed throughout the year. Congratulations to **Susan Schullery, business teacher at DHS**, for this amazing accomplishment!

Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut, Inc., presented the Outstanding Class Award 2012 **Mrs. Reuther's 3rd Grade Class King Street Primary School, and parent JA Volunteer, Mariane Ceballo**. This award was a result of the students tremendous fund raising efforts to organize a benefit in honor of Mackenzie Newsome, a Danbury 3 year old who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. The students were honored at a celebratory breakfast. Great job King Street Primary School!

South Street School had 142 students attend the Principal's Picnic, a celebration at held at Rogers Park to recognize those students who completed and returned their summer reading. The number of participants this year was double that

ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION NEWS & EVENTS

Adult Education – Register for **ABE, CDP and GED** programs. The next registration is November 28th and 29th, for classes that run December 3rd - February 28th.

ESL/English Classes are offered at no cost. The next registration session is January 8th and 9th for classes that run January 14th - April/May.

Visit our website, <https://sites.google.com/a/danbury.k12.ct.us/werace> or call 203-797-4731 with any questions.

Continuing Education – Exciting general interest evening classes, and a wide variety of on-line courses offered to anyone 16 years old and older. Courses are offered in Fall and Spring. Fall brochures available on line <http://www.danbury.k12.ct.us/assets/announcements/CEBrochure.pdf> or at City Hall, Danbury Public Library and Union Saving Bank.



New this fall, we are offering SAT Preparation and Drivers Education courses for High School students.

We also offer many exciting online courses through Ed2Go.

Fall evening classes begin in October, and include Zumba, Yoga, Financial Planning, Cooking, Dancing and many more. On line courses offered through Ed2Go for any topic you'd like to learn more about. Contact us at continuingeducation@danbury.k12.ct.us or by voicemail at 203-731-8290.