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Run/Walk this Saturday



New London Public Schools
134 Williams Street
New London, CT, 06320
USA

Dispatches from NLPS

Togolese Ambassador to the U.S. visits NLHS

By Julianne Hanckel



*Ambassador Limbiye E. Kadangha Bariki (right) and
Zato Kadambaya talk with students on Wednesday.*

**Ambassador talks government,
religion and etiquette with students**
Speaking in French, Ambassador Bariki
was able to capture the attention of his
ninth-grade student audience
Wednesday morning at New London
High School.

Students in World History classes
prepared for his visit by reading an
article the day before so they were able
to ask detailed questions about what life
is like for women in Africa, which
religions are practiced, and how
Ambassador Bariki works to connect
the United States and his home country
of Togo.

Ambassador Bariki stated that because
there is such an extreme lack of
technology in the entire country, Africa
is falling behind. He said that children
there would like to go to school but that
there aren't any schools for them to

attend. Students seemed to be interested
in this aspect because many of them see
going to school as a completely normal
activity although children their age in
other countries don't have that
privilege. Ambassador Bariki also
encouraged them to become future
government leaders, saying that
although Africa is rich in resources, its
people live in extreme poverty. He
asked students how they would help
solve that problem if they were in
government and some said they would
work to bring fresh water and
technology to the country. We
appreciate your visit, Ambassador
Bariki.

Halloween on the Waterfront at City Pier a Thrilling Event



Fifth graders at Nathan Hale Magnet
Elementary School for Performing and
Visual Arts stepped on stage Friday
night for their first performance
representing the district's arts magnet
theme. Their dance routine – which
they nailed in less than two weeks –
drew eruptions of cheers from the
crowd. Under the direction of Gwen
Martins, students who have never
danced before got into the groove with
Michael Jackson's *Thriller* and clearly
enjoyed it. Click [here](#) to watch a video

District Math Committee works to align NLPS math curriculum with Common Core State Standards



Starting on left, from front to back:
Don Boushee, Jacob Andrews
Kim Bennett, Laury LaMarche, Haydee Ayala, Dr. Nicki Newton, Dr. Maureen Ruby, Chief Academic Officer Katherine Ericson, Robin Harpell and Mike Podeszwa. Not pictured are Ernie Covino and Jessica Cruz.

Submitted by Dr. Maureen Ruby

The District Mathematics Committee is comprised of teachers, instructional coaches, and the high school Mathematics Department Chair and represents all grade levels and all schools within the district. To date, the Committee has engaged in work with Dr. Nicki Newton, collaborating on the development of K-5 Common Core State Standards aligned yearlong curriculum and unit maps for mathematics. The committee's work with Dr. Nicki is designed to build capacity within the district with the responsibility for writing of curriculum unit maps being gradually released to New London faculty. Additionally, the committee has provided valuable feedback regarding the mathematics benchmark assessments, which were developed by Dr. Nicki and are being piloted K-5. This work will also be

extended beyond grade 5 as the year progresses. The DMC has identified key areas for focus for work to be done, including topics for professional learning, development of a mathematics assessment calendar for benchmarking and progress monitoring, and raising awareness about the importance of mathematical understanding and the culture of mathematics in our schools. Members of the committee have shared positive feedback regarding the opportunities presented for educators, students, and the district as a result of this committee's convening.

STMHS ON Q105.5 FM

As recruitment efforts ramp up for the magnet high school, radio ads featuring our students will begin to air. Listen out for our students and the great job they did promoting STMHS!

Board of Education Recognitions...

Student of the Month

Xavion Quito was recognized as the Student of the Month for Winthrop. To see why Xavion was chosen as October's Student of the Month, click [here](#).

CHET Scholarship Winners and PEP Grant Winners

On Thursday, the Board recognized 15 New London High School seniors who are each recipients of \$2,500 in college scholarships from the Connecticut Higher Education Trust. New London High School had the highest number of students in Connecticut apply for the scholarship, which they were notified of earlier this month.



Board members also recognized the district's physical education and athletic staff who were awarded a district-wide Physical Education Program (PEP) grant in late September. The \$687,000 PEP grant will be used to launch Project Fit Kids – a new physical education program taking place in each of the district's schools. At the end of the project's first year, PEP will evaluate the district's performance and potentially award the remaining \$157,104 of the grant. Project Fit Kids will improve the district's Physical Education curriculum; increase teachers' knowledge of evidence-based practices for improving students' fitness and nutrition outcomes; increase the amount of time students are active; improve students' fitness levels and eating habits in addition to increasing the percentage of students with a healthy BMI.



Winthrop's Fall Festival draws superheroes, goblins and more!

When Winthrop Elementary Magnet School gets into a festive mood, no one can be stopped!

School staff made fantastic use of

technology with Halloween-themed music and spooky pictures displayed on widescreen televisions which were strategically placed in the hallway; there were spider webs galore and even a haunted garden that students and their families could walk through as part of the Trick-or-Treat Route.

Students from Connecticut College also helped distribute candy during the event and were a great help, so we are thankful to them for participating.

Along with the haunted walk through the garden, the gymnasium was the school's most popular area with games and activities for the students.

Games and activities included bowling, graveyard match, beanbag toss, mummy-wrap and more!



Photo Credits: Julianne Hanckel



Board of Education Approves District's Fourth Magnet Theme

Last Thursday, the Board of Education approved Leadership & Public Service as the district's fourth magnet school theme. Their vote rounds out our offerings of STEM, Performing and Visual Arts, Dual Language and Leadership & Public Service.

In order to continue implementation of the Leadership & Public Service theme, a planning committee will be formed and will work with school administration and building architects to create educational specs, which have to be submitted to the state this summer. Additional information will be forthcoming on the development of our final theme!



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Where Angels Play 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, Nov. 2, 2013, at Ocean Beach Park

Proceeds to Benefit "On Sandy Ground: Where Angels Play"

Register as a team representing New London Public Schools or as an individual

Please check your e-mail for detailed "how-to" registration information from Valerie Tamano