

# School News & Notes

## The First Day of School *By Lori Frasco*

It's the first day of school for many children entering into kindergarten and the parents are more nervous than the children. For the children, being nervous is expected because they are entering into a new activity and away from familiar people and surroundings.

Why are the parents so nervous? We have gone to orientation, met the teachers, talked to the principal, read all the paperwork given from the school and probably took our children to the school to show them where they will be attending kindergarten. Name tags are given with the child's name and what bus they are supposed to ride. School officials are on the bus and at the school waiting for the children. With these precautions, why are the parents nervous?

The reason the parents are nervous is, this is the first time in their child's life that they will be with people the family doesn't know well. We have all had our children under the supervision of family and close friends, but this will be the first time that someone is either just an acquaintance of an unfamiliar person who will be responsible for our children.

No longer will the safety of our children be with us or someone close to us. We have all read or heard of the horror stories about what happens when the wrong person is responsible for a child. The saving grace is this happens on very rare occasions. Moreover, is there something else that is at work here? Is it also possible that each parent must address that their child is no longer a baby and is becoming more independent. Going to school may be the first task in a series of events that lead to a child becoming an adult.

Last year, I watched my son walk onto the bus and I had to think that I shouldn't worry or feel sad. He is starting to grow up and will be back in a couple of hours. There will be a day in the future when I will watch him leave and know that he's not coming back in a couple of hours because he will be going to live independently.

## Summer is a Good Time for Learning

While the students they serve have had time off, the employees of the nutrition program at Region 16 have been busy this summer. Joan Howard, JoLynn LaChance, Barbara Walsh, Lori Modenese, Joanne Daveluy, Brenda Richard, JoAnn D'Occhio, Kim Petracca, Ann Marie Burr, Theresa Copperthite and Karen Knapik all recently attended the annual summer training conference in Rocky Hill, sponsored by the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT).

Approximately 200 of Connecticut's school nutrition professionals took part in workshops and presentations on June 27 and 28. A number of important current topics related to school meals and healthy eating for children were covered over the two-day conference. Workshops were held on increasing consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, marketing and public relations, and implementing school wellness policies. The keynote presenter was syndicated TV chef personality Jon Ashton from Orlando, Florida.

## Community School News

*By Joseph Nuzzo, Principal*

We are busy at Community School preparing for the 2006-2007 school year.

We have added some new members to our teaching staff and are very excited to welcome them to our Community School family. Two new fourth grade teachers have been hired to fill the positions left vacant with Mr. Polletta's move to Laurel Ledge as a fifth grade teacher, and Mrs. Hart's move to the fifth grade to take Mrs. Powell's position in light of her retirement.

Ms. Ann Marie Christie comes to Region 16 with a very impressive background. She has seven years teaching experience as a fourth grade teacher; five in the Stamford Public School System, one in Ohio and one in New York. She has conducted National Conferences, is a BEST mentor, and has a variety of teaching practices. She comes to us highly recommended and motivated.

Mr. Robert MacMillen comes to us with training from the New Haven School System. He has a solid background in reading, is very creative in his approach to teaching, and is eager to be a part of the Community School team.

We are thrilled to have these two people as positive influences in our school.

The posting of classroom rosters will take place on Friday, August 11 at 3 p.m. The lists will be posted on the front door of Community School. Parents are asked not to call the school to request teacher changes, as all class lists are final.

School begins on Monday, August 28 and students will be

dismissed at 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, August 29 is another half-day session; however, the rest of the week will consist of full school days.

The kick-off assembly for the PTO Fundraiser is on August 31. This is the PTO's major fundraising event for the year. The proceeds raised from it enable the PTO to provide many exciting programs for our students. Everyone is encouraged to support the PTO and their efforts put forth organizing this fundraiser as they begin working hard for all of the students of Region 16. I would also encourage all of our parents to become involved in this very worthwhile group of people; you can really make a difference in the lives of our children and our community.

Meet the Teachers night is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12 at 7 p.m. We look forward to seeing our returning parents and meeting our new ones. The evening starts in the school gymnasium with an overview of Community School, in addition to the introduction of teachers and support staff. Visitors will then proceed to your child's classroom for an individual orientation provided by his/her teacher. You are asked to make every effort to attend this evening, where parents will also have the opportunity to sign up for teacher conferences, which are scheduled for October.

If you have any questions before the school year begins, please call the school at 758-6674. You can also log onto [www.region16ct.org](http://www.region16ct.org) and click on the Community School page.

## Algonquin School News

*By Lynn Patterson, Principal*

How's your summer vacation going? I hope you're having tons of fun, getting great exercise, and of course, reading, writing, and practicing your math facts. Have fun with all you've learned.

Well, we've been very busy getting ready for our next school year. We have four new staff members at Algonquin School, including Mrs. E. Guerra, Grade 3; Mrs. D. Pannone, Grade 3; Mrs. K. Berube, Literacy Support; and Ms. M. Alfes, Special Ed Resource.

I know you'll join us in welcoming our newest Algonquin teammates. We're most excited about the expertise they bring to our learning community.

Our Class Lists (Teacher Assignments) will be posted in Algonquin's lobby windows on Friday, August 11 at 4 p.m. I know how excited everyone is. Please remember, all Class Lists are final. Once gain, we will post a voluntary supply list as well. Algonquin and its staff greatly appreciate the support you've always shown us.

We hope all our entering kindergarten students and families will be able to attend our K Tour on Tuesday, August 22 from 9 to 10 a.m. At this time, you'll be able to board a school bus and listen to our bus drivers who will explain bus safety. You can also see your kindergarten classroom and tour Algonquin School's main building. We'll congregate in the parking lot and then begin our activities at 9 a.m. I can't wait to see everyone again.

In case you haven't heard, Algonquin School is proud to announce that Region 16's Teacher of the Year is once again one of our own, Mrs. D. Morck (Kindergarten and Readiness K teacher). We have an excellent staff and it's truly rewarding and satisfying to see that others agree.

Remember our first day of school is Monday, August 28. The first two days will be single session days. This means that just for these two days, the schedule will be AM PSLC & K - 8:55 to 10:30 a.m.; PM PSLC & K - 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.; Grades 1 through 3 - 8:55 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Please make sure your kindergarten students have an adult waiting for them at their drop-off spot, as the bus will not leave a kindergarten student if there's no adult there to receive them. Students in grades 1 through 3 will be left at their drop-off sites, according to Region 16 school policy.

Continue to enjoy your summer fun as we eagerly await your arrival. I can't wait to see how many books we've read over the summer. Will we break last year's numbers? I hope so. See you soon.

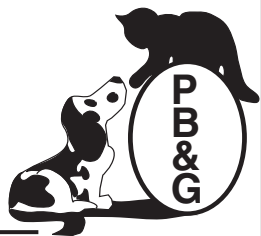
## Victoria Flormann Attends Leadership Conference in Tennessee

Victoria "Tori" Flormann of Prospect had the unique opportunity to attend the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. The trip followed her first place finish in the category of Policies and Procedures at the State Conference last April. As one of 6,000 participants from all over the United States, Europe and the Islands, this trip was truly an extraordinary experience for Victoria and her family. Victoria is a freshman at Woodland Regional High School and was the only attendee from the regional high school, representing the whole State of Connecticut in her subject area. Victoria is shown here at the convention site.



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