

## **2009-2010 Challenge and Enrichment Program Awards & Honors**

### **Future Problem Solvers**

Two Future Problem Solving (FPS) teams qualified to represent Coventry at the 27th Annual Connecticut Future Problem Solving Program State Conference held in March at E. O. Smith High School. The eighth grade team includes Kaitlyn Sabin, Patrick Dolan, Emma Gould, and Bram Kyer. The sixth grade team includes Peter Thompson, Evan Faulkner, Rachel Dumais, and Jack Galey. These students are coached by Challenge and Enrichment teacher Carla Kennedy. To qualify for competition, students researched and analyzed issues connected to orphaned children. Students then used Dr. E. Paul Torrance's Creative Problem Solving process to solve related problems set in the future. During the FPS State Conference, top students from around Connecticut were presented with a future scene related to food distribution. At the awards ceremony on Saturday evening, trophies were presented to the first, second, and third place teams and individuals. The first place State Champion team in each division was invited to the International Future Problem Solving Conference at the University of Wisconsin in June.

### **Future Problem Solvers Connecticut Competition**

Students descended upon E.O. Smith High School the weekend of March 26 for the Future Problem Solvers' annual Connecticut competition. Teams worked together during the course of the year practicing on a series of five topics and were chosen to participate in the State conference based upon their work. Qualifying teams arrived at the state conference and were assigned a topic under the subject of "Food Distribution". Working with students from other schools across the state, students worked to brainstorm eight challenges with eight solutions, write and apply their criteria, and write up an action plan all within two hours. Taking first place in the Zippy Junior Division was the team of Grade 6 students John Willett and Charles Riordan.

Teams also worked up a skit based upon their solutions, which they acted out on the second day of the competition. It was a way for the students to express themselves, other than through writing. Winning first place in the Intermediate Skit Competition was an eighth grade team consisting of Kaitlyn Sabin, Emma Gould, Patrick Dolan, and Bram Kyer. Taking second place in the Junior Skit Competition was Grade 6 students John Willett and Charles Riordan.

Aside from the team competition and skit performances, scenario writing requires students to write on a topic looking twenty years into the future so their creative skills are put to the test. There were 59 writing scenarios submitted in total this year, and the state champions in each division received an invitation to compete at the International Conference at the University of Wisconsin. The State Champion in the Junior Division was Grade 6 student John Willett.

### **FOX 61 and CW20 Student News**

Grade 8 students Emma Gould and Kaitlyn Sabin won second place in the middle school division for their story entitled, "Yellow Ribbons". The story highlighted Special Education teacher, Christopher Ekstrom, who was deployed to Afghanistan and upon his return he was welcomed to Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School by hundreds of student-made yellow ribbons hung inside and outside of the school. This award comes with a \$1,500 grant to be used for video production equipment for the Challenge and Enrichment Program. Over the past twenty-three years Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School students have been the recipients of over thirty-five FOX61 and CW20 News student awards.

### **Veterans Day Celebration**

Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School held an assembly on November 5 in the Veterans Auditorium to honor all veterans and those who served our country. The featured speaker and honoree was Major Christopher Ekstrom who has served in the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan for many tours. Major Ekstrom is currently a teacher at the G. H. Robertson Intermediate School and had previously taught at Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School. All veterans and their families were cordially invited to attend this very special event.

### **Community Problem Solvers Speaks at General Assembly**

The Community Problem Solvers Group was selected to speak to the General Assembly in Hartford on April 22 regarding the importance of environmental issues. Grade 8 student Kaitlyn Sabin spoke on behalf of CNHMS. Other students attending the Youth Forum were: Bram Kyer, Emma Gould, Rebecca Pranger, Patrick Dolan, Brooke Vaillancourt, Kevin Huppert, Leah Strycharz, and Carol Wilk.

### **Community Problem Solvers Team, the "Green Team", Fun Night**

The Community Problem Solvers Team, the "Green Team", hosted a family fun night on December 10 entitled, "Go Green Night!" This exciting event featured activities informing people on how to live "green" by saving energy. There were many engaging activities, including how to make paper out of recycled materials, and how to construct a household draft-blocker.

In addition, on November 30, the "Green Team", was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. The funding was used to support the "Go Green Night!" Students on this team include Brooke Vaillancourt, Kaitlyn Sabin, Emma Gould, Daniel Bullock, Bram Kyer, Rebecca Pranger, and Leah Strycharz.

**Stock Market Game**

More than 1,000 Connecticut students participated in the spring 2010 Stock Market Game, Newspaper in Education program, sponsored by the Hartford Courant. Student teams start with an imaginary \$100,000 to buy or sell stocks. Grade 7 students Cameron Ennis and Andrew Dimock placed first in the Grade 7-8 middle school division. The program ran for ten weeks and ended on April 30.

**“Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” Essay Contest**

The Connecticut Dept. of Veterans’ Affairs announced that March 30, 2010 was designed by Governor Rell as Connecticut’s “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”. To commemorate this day, an essay contest was conducted for students in Grade 6 through 8 on why March 30, 2010 should be designated as “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”. Grade 6 student Rachael Dumais was the winner of this essay contest. A ceremony was held at the 612 Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Coventry.