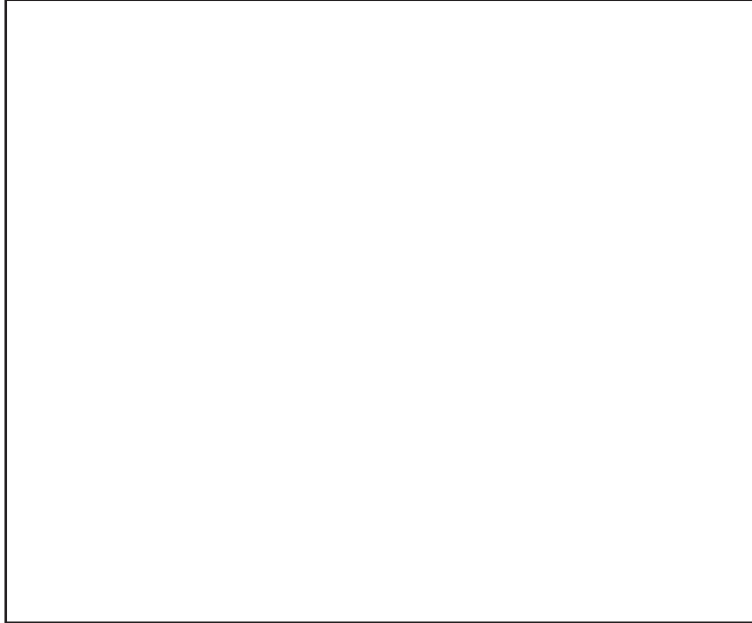


Farmington Public Schools

Community Newsletter

November
2007

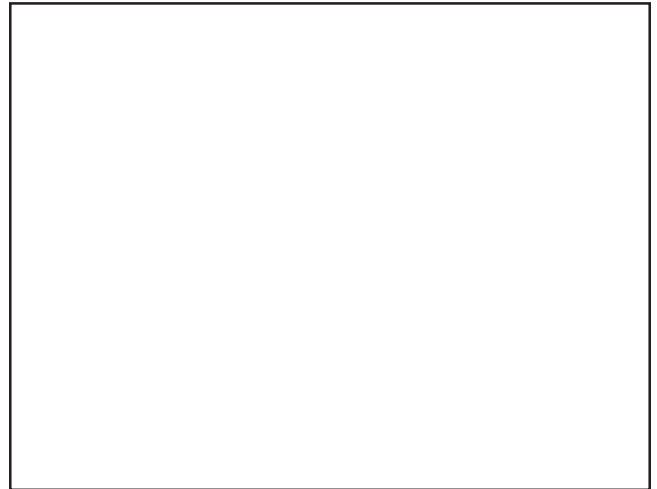


Achievement

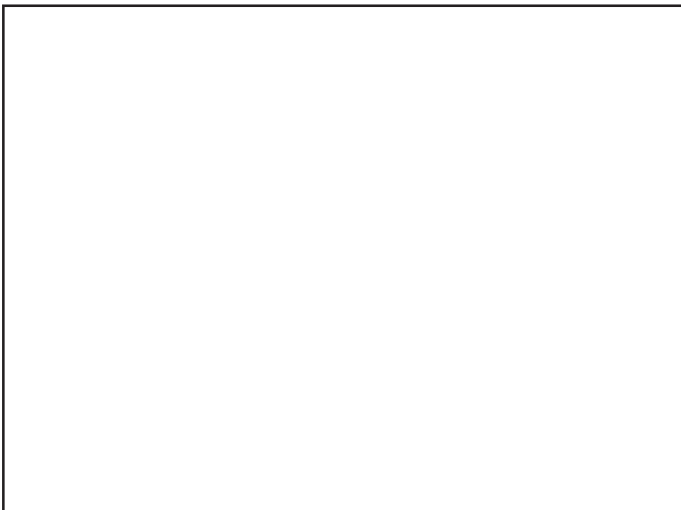
Farmington Schools

Did You Know...?

- The Farmington Public Schools welcomed 4,166 students back to school this year.
- 152 Farmington students—or 39% of the FHS students who took Advanced Placement exams—earned awards for outstanding performance.
- IAR Middle School provides a comprehensive counseling program to meet the academic, career, personal, and social needs of all 7th and 8th graders. Contact IAR's Counseling Department at (860) 677-4363.



Community



Creativity



Discovery

Board of Education · Mary Grace Reed, Chair · Betsy Kaplan, Vice Chair · Brian Collins ·
Tad Diesel · Kenneth Koos · Melanie Meehan · Nancy Nickerson · Tory Stempf · Patty Stoddard

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert M. Villanova

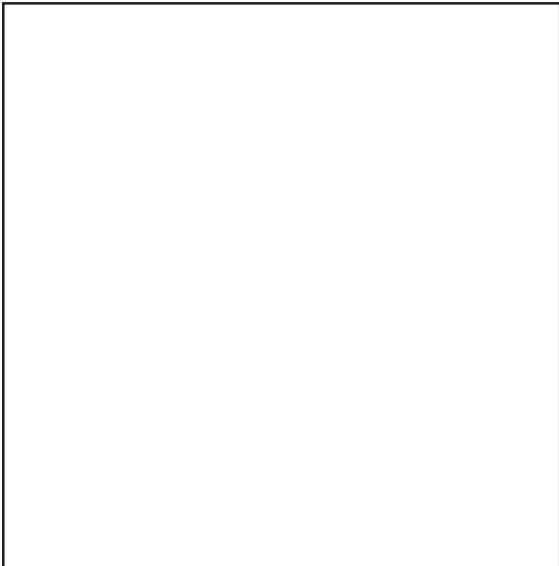
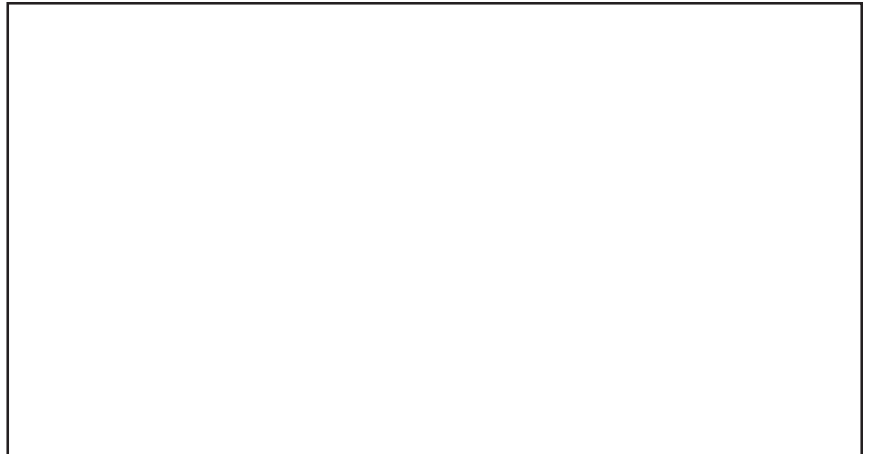
News From Our Schools

For the Love of Reading

...enriching lives for years to come...

• Union School's *Links for Kids*

Parents and students can visit Union School's *Links for Kids* Website to read online e-books and find tools for research. Visit the National Weather Service, Carnegie Hall, and the National Gallery. Have you ever wondered about earthworms? For young scientists, there's an especially intriguing site called *WormWorld*—that answers all their questions about nature's curious and valuable recyclers. <http://portal.fpsct.org/union/library/LinksForKids.htm>



• Reading Recovery Program

Reading Recovery helps first grade readers make accelerated progress by giving them individual instruction each day for 20 weeks. Highly trained teachers develop lessons tailored to each student's needs. Children delight in taking books home to practice reading to their families. This internationally recognized reading intervention program has helped hundreds of Farmington children develop a love for reading that will enrich their lives for years to come. Contact Kim Wynne, Townwide Literacy Director at (203) 673-8268 for information.

EXCL Program A Family Resource

Farmington's Extended Care and Learning (EXCL) has enrolled 329 students who are able to stay at their own schools for before- and after-school activities. This program, at five schools, is an important resource for Farmington families.

• **EXCL Kids Give Back**—Beginning in December, each school's EXCL Program will "adopt" a local non-profit organization to help and to learn about. West Woods' EXCL students will sponsor a drive to support the "Wish List" of the CT Humane Society's pet shelter.

• **Lights On Afterschool Day**, a popular family and school event, celebrated the importance of after school programs to families and their communities throughout the nation.

Early Intervention & Prevention

The Preschool Screening Program offers parents of preschoolers a chance to discuss their child's growth and development with a team of experts. The team meets every 6 weeks by appointment at Irving Robbins School.

Future screening dates are

- December 7, 2007
- February 1, 2008
- March 7, 2008
- April 4, 2008.

For more information...contact the Department of Special Services at (860) 677-1791



News From Our Schools

At a Glance

Average SAT results for the Class of 2007 were among the strongest in all previous years. Critical reading average was up 1 point from 2006, while math average was up 6 points.

- Farmington ranked second in Connecticut for participation in Advanced Placement test-taking. Overall, 76% scored high enough to earn college credit for their course work.

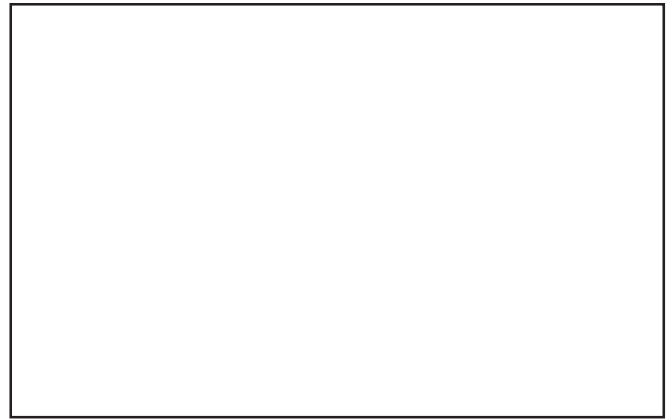
- In the FHS Class of 2007, 96% of the graduates advanced to higher education.

School to Career Program Aspiring Engineers Learn the Ropes

Three student interns—**Anthony Fouad**, **Jonathan Krell**, and **Roger Fong**— worked in the town’s civil engineering department with Town Engineer **Russ Arnold** last summer. The students each worked for 60 hours, earning credit for learning new computer-aided drafting skills, updating the town’s GIS system, and making field inspections.



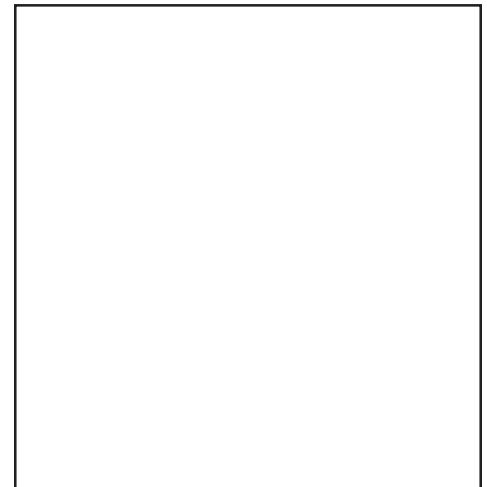
Thanking Our Veterans



West District School's Veterans Day ceremony

Welcome New Principals

Dr. Diane Cloud, a 30-year veteran teacher and a graduate of both Howard and Harvard Universities, has been appointed principal at Noah Wallace School. Farmington also welcomes back a familiar, well-respected administrator—**Dr. Timothy Breslin**—a former high school principal in Newtown, Litchfield, as well as Farmington.

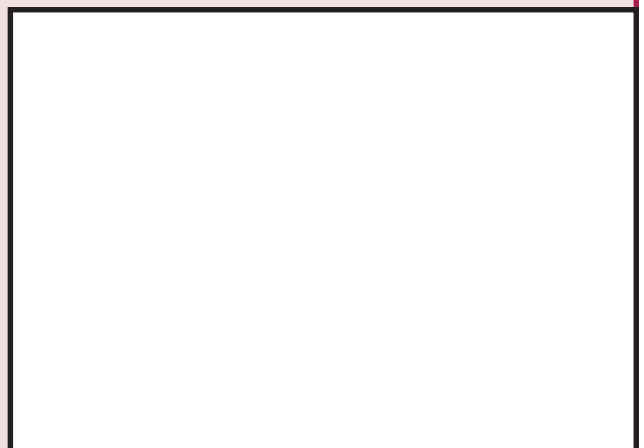


Teacher of the Year

Ms. Diana Petro, first grade teacher at Noah Wallace School, has been selected Farmington’s Teacher of the Year and became a semi-finalist for Connecticut’s Teacher of the Year. A leader in her field and a mentor to new teachers, Ms. Petro has been teaching in Farmington for 35 years. The State Department of Education will honor Ms. Petro at the statewide Teacher of the Year ceremony.

“...I love having twenty new challenges each year and the renewed belief that I can make a difference....”

Ms. Diana Petro



Community Partnerships

Supporting the Swim Team: Miss Porter's & FHS

Thanks to a Town/Gown partnership with Miss Porter's School, the FHS Swim Team is practicing and competing at a state-of-the-art swim facility. According to FHS Athletics Director **Jack Phelan** and Coach **Scott Ferrigno**, the team now has 8 lanes for practice, parents can watch comfortably at competitions, and the whole team (61 girls) can fit on deck for the first time.

"...Miss Porter's School has been wonderful. They have welcomed the FHS Swim Team with open arms...."

Jack Phelan, FHS Athletics Director

Thanks to all!

Playground Open for Action!

Farmington's Boundless Playground—offering barrier-free fun for all Farmington children—opened in September with a ceremony featuring many friends and supporters, thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of local businesses, civic organizations, parents, state and town officials, local foundations, and the Farmington Board of Education. Special recognition goes to four parent leaders of the project: **Maureen Bittner, Chris Galske, Chris McCluskey, and Marybeth Petersen.**

...learning together through play...

Come Back to School

The Farmington Public Schools are offering free passes to all Farmington residents, age 60+, to school events—to athletic events, concerts, theater productions, and more. So come back to school! [Sign up for your personal pass](#) by contacting the Superintendent of Schools at (860) 673-8268 or apply online at www.fpsct.org.

You may wish to attend the **Noah Wallace School's Festival of Lights** on December 13 and the **FHS Winter Concerts** on December 18/19. In January, Noah Wallace School offers its **Winter Concert** on January 23; the **University of Maryland Choir** performs at FHS on February 13 at 10:30 am.

Visit the school district's Website to check the calendar and stay current on upcoming school events. For your convenience, you may also sign up to receive school publications sent directly to you by e-mail.

FYI....

- ◆ The Farmington Board of Education will conduct a survey to assess community perceptions and attitudes toward its educational program this spring. This survey of randomly selected households is part of the school district's self-evaluation and improvement process.
- ◆ More than 700 FHS scholar-athletes participate in the school's inter-scholastic athletic programs.
- ◆ See the FHS 9:05 News report about FHS students helping Habitat for Humanity. It's streamed online at <http://www.fpsct.org/page.cfm?p=19>

Student Achievement

FHS Scholars

FHS seniors **Joseph C. Bobman, Chelsea Downs Fox, Ryan J. Helfrich, Matthew I. Jorgensen, Eric H. Morrissey, and Kevin F. Zhang**, have qualified as semi-finalists in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship program. These students advance for consideration as finalists in the national competition.

Sixteen FHS students have been named Commended Students in the program. They are **Christopher Baker, Mallory Contois, Emily Demicco, Justin Ferraro, Amy Johnson, Rafid Kasir, Samantha Kime, Garrett Marks, Sepanta Mohseni, Kristen Reeve, Kayla Rexer, Elizabeth Ryan, Erik Santoro, David Sawicki, Benjamin Williams, Nan Zhu.**

FHS Grads: Where Are They Now?

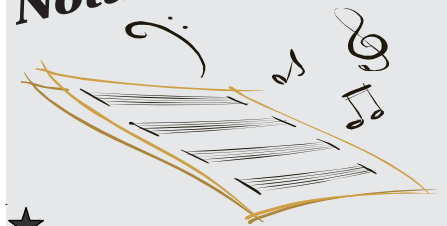
Corina Scagliola (FHS 2001)—U.S. Air Force Senior Airman—was featured in a news article when she was stationed at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey. The Air Force News Agency's article, describing her daily responsibilities, was titled *Cargo Loaders Help Save Lives*. Her next tour of duty will be in Portugal at Lajes Air Base in the Azores.

Michael Gladis (FHS 1995) appeared in the 2007 AMC dramatic series *Mad Men*. Following his graduation from the State University of New York New Paltz, Mr. Gladis appeared on stage in New York, on film in *K-19: The Widowmaker*, and on television in *Third Watch* and *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*.

Tyson Belanger (FHS 1994) graduated from Yale University and served 3 tours in Iraq as a Marine infantry officer. He now studies international relations as a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Harvard University.

Kendra Hennig (FHS 2001) is Director of Volunteer Development for Washington, D.C.-based AYUDA, an education and advocacy organization helping children with diabetes. She taught bilingual education in Harlem while completing her Master's Degree in English and says that, "With the help of AYUDA, I found my niche in the world."

Notable...



★ *The FHS String Quartet performed for a Foundation for Mental Health fundraiser and the FHS Jazz Combo entertained at the Unionville Festival.*

★ Save the dates:

December 5—Amahl and the Night Visitors

December 18-19—FHS Winter Concerts

March 18—FHS Orchestra Concert

March 27—FHS Choral Concert

Choices for Farmington's Students

Helping All Students to Succeed

Because each student is unique with different skills, interests, and educational needs, the Farmington Public Schools have established formal relationships with many excellent educational resources within the region. Farmington students are eligible to enroll in:

- √ Bristol Technical Education Center
- √ E.C. Goodwin Technical School
- √ Three Interdistrict Magnet Schools managed by the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)
- √ Seven Hartford Magnet Schools
- √ Carl M. Small Regional Vocational Agriculture Center at Southington High School

Learn more www.fpsct.org

For Your Information

Save the Dates

The Board of Education invites you

The Farmington Board of Education meets twice a month at 7:30 pm and always welcomes the public. Check the place and time for regular meetings and for school budget meetings below.

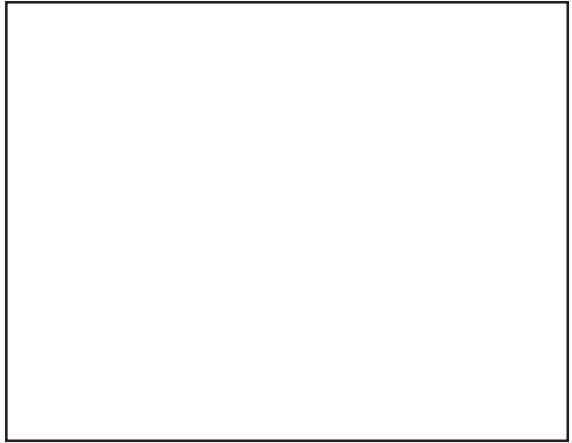
Board of Education Meetings

- **Monday, December 10** (*East Farms Elementary School*)
- **Monday, January 14** (*FHS Library*)
- **Monday, January 28** (*Union Elementary School*)
- **Monday, February 11** (*FHS—Regular Meeting and Budget Workshop*)
- **Monday, March 10** (*Noah Wallace Elementary School*)
- **Monday, March 24** (*FHS*)

Budget Meetings

- **Saturday, February 9** (*FHS—Special Budget Workshop, 8:15 am-1 pm*)
- **Tuesday, February 12** (*FHS*)
- **Wednesday, February 13** (*FHS—if needed*)

Visit www.fpsct.org to register for news, updates and events to be e-mailed automatically to you.



Villanova Named Connecticut's 2008 Superintendent of the Year

Farmington's Superintendent of Schools **Robert M. Villanova** was named Connecticut's 2007-2008 Superintendent of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents. Nominated by the Farmington Board of Education for exceptional leadership of the Farmington schools for the past 14 years, Dr. Villanova will now be included—with other distinguished state award winners—in the national recognition program for the National Superintendent of the Year Award.

Farmington Public Schools
1 Monteith Drive
Farmington, CT 06032

Inside...

- √ National Merit Recognition
- √ Superintendent Wins State Award
- √ Meet Our New Principals
- √ FHS Grads: Where Are They Now...?
- √ Community Partnerships

Name
Address

Visit our website www.fpsct.org for more information about Farmington's schools.