Student and Staff Achievements
May 2021

Stamford LGBTQ+ Gallery
Academy of Information Technology & Engineering (AITE) Junior Samantha Samuel and Northeast Elementary School Teacher Jeff Bianco planned and launched the Stamford Public Schools LGBTQ+ Gallery. This online gallery features creative works of poetry and graphic designs, as well as paintings and drawings created by students, teachers, families, community members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community. It allows them to tell their stories or share their unique experiences. The gallery was launched on the Day of Silence, Friday, April 23, 2021. The Triangle Community Center in Norwalk will feature the work submitted to this gallery in their upcoming virtual Pride events this summer. Going forward, submissions will be solicited during Pride Month in June, Ally Week in September, National Coming Out Day on October 11, No Name Calling Week in January, and once again for the Day of Silence in April.

Heroic Action
Westhill High School Security Guard Keith Rosedom went above the call of duty when he jumped into action to stop a car from rolling over a visitor at the Westhill campus. A visitor exited his car and the car began rolling backward, while the visitor was walking away. The visitor attempted, but was unable, to stop the car. As a result, the visitor fell to the ground and was dragged underneath the car. Keith, who was monitoring that area of the campus, saw what was happening and immediately jumped into action. Keith was able to stop the car with the help of a student. The visitor was able to get out from underneath the car and avoid further injury.

COLT 2021 Virtual Poetry Contest
Cloonan students Nicole Bierzowiec, Ashley Cando Velasco, Aya Homsi and Michael Interlandi each earned first place in the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (COLT) 2021 Virtual Poetry Contest. The Poetry Contest is an annual event for students who are in grades 7 to 12 whose teachers are members of CT COLT. Nicole placed first in Polish; Ashley placed first in Spanish; Aya placed first in Arabic; and Michael placed first in Italian. World Languages Teacher Karen Murano worked with them to prepare for this competition. They practiced every Friday night for five weeks leading up to the competition.
2020-2021 CAS-CIAC Scholar-Athletes

The CAS-CIAC Scholar-Athlete Program annually recognizes two seniors – one boy and one girl – from each high school, who have exemplary academic and athletic careers. The following students were also selected for their integrity, self-discipline and courage:

**Stamford High School (SHS) Senior Jonathan Hoch** is captain of the SHS baseball team and an honors student. Jonathan was also a 2019 FCIAC Spring Scholar-Athlete and is a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. Jonathan will be attending the University of Notre Dame.

**Academy of Information Technology & Engineering Senior Carlee Reid** represents SHS in three varsity sports, Cross Country, Indoor Track and Outdoor Track. Carlee was a winner of the Altice USA Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest and is a College Board 2020-2021 National African American Scholar. Carlee will be attending the University of Pennsylvania.

**Westhill High School (WHS) Senior Samantha Fischer** has played both soccer and lacrosse each of her four years. She was captain of the varsity soccer team for the 2020 season. She is a member of both the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society and was the winner of the University of Michigan junior book award in 2020. She is also one of WHS’s two FCIAC Fall 2020 Exemplary Scholar-Athletes. Sammy will be attending the University of Michigan.

**WHS Senior Stephen Magnifico** played four years of soccer, serving as team captain for both his junior and senior seasons. This year he added varsity volleyball to his resume. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the Italian National Honor Society and is a UNICO scholarship recipient. Stephen will be attending the University of Connecticut.

**Chartwells Director of Dining Services Recognition**

SPS would like to recognize and thank **Chartwells Director of Dining Services Dawn McGinn** for her commitment to SPS students over the past three years, but especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dawn has worked in food service industry for 35 years. She has made providing healthy meals for students her priority. Thanks to her quick thinking, tireless efforts and dedication of her staff, SPS did not miss one day of serving meals for our students. Dawn will be deeply missed. Her legacy will live on in the positive impact her work has had on our school breakfast and lunch program, our staff, and students for many years to come. We wish her success in her future endeavors.