



THE C.E.S.

Connection

NEWSLETTER



PODCAST



Impact
Agility
Relevance

January
2025

CONTENTS



Happy New Year!

We're excited to kick off 2025 with this month's edition, packed with updates, recaps, and information to keep you connected to all things C.E.S.

Take a look back at the highlights from December, including our Legislative Breakfast and everything that happened across our programs, from Merit Academy and Oakview School to the Regional Center for the Arts and Six to Six Magnet School. Don't miss RCA's recap of their December shows and a preview of upcoming performances for January. Over at RCEL, our Tidbit Corner has the latest on their exciting updates as we prepare for the new year.

Looking ahead, PDS has a lineup of engaging workshops this month. Be sure to check out our professional development opportunities and mark your calendars for upcoming events.

Don't forget to shop the C.E.S. Emporium for new year swag and apparel. If you're looking for ways to get involved, consider joining our Social Justice and Equity Advisory Team.

WorkspaceCT is buzzing with upcoming events, and for those who love to celebrate, we've included a list of January's National Days to bring a little extra joy to the start of the year.

Here's to another great month at C.E.S.!



2024 RECAP

COOPERATIVE
EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES

COOPERATIVE
EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES

COOPERATIVE
EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES

COOPERATIVE
EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES



We have changed messaging systems!

On December 5, 2024 at 5:00pm a test message was sent out via email, text and phone call.

If you received this message there is no action needed.

If you did not receive this please reach out to your program secretary to have your information fixed.

We want to ensure that all members are well-informed and connected with our new system.

Your cooperation in updating your details is greatly appreciated. This change is part of our ongoing efforts to improve communication and provide you with the most efficient service possible. Thank you for your attention and support in making this transition smooth for everyone involved.

Annual SFCSA Legislative Breakfast

CENTRAL OFFICE



Watch this video to get
a look into who
attended and what
everyone had to say
about the SFCSA
Legislative Breakfast!



Best
tasting
winners!

Best
overall
winners!

Best
Presentation
winners!



MERIT ACADEMY
K-12 THERAPEUTIC DAY PROGRAM AT
COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES



**Merit
Academy
High
School
Cookie
Bake off!**

PAGE 5

Six to Six 16th Annual Winter Ballroom Dance Competition!

SIX TO SIX MAGNET SCHOOL



And the results are in...

**Charles Little and Liam Lagase
won best male dancer!**

**Leah Sorenson and Briana Rivera
won best female dancer!**

**Red Team won the Salsa Showcase!
Blue Team won overall!**

REGIONAL CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING

Celebrating the Holiday Season Together



The holiday season is a special time in our school community, filled with opportunities to come together and celebrate the joy of learning. At our school, we believe that each child's family is their first and most important teacher. This partnership fosters a strong connection between home and school, ensuring that your child feels supported, valued, and ready to thrive.

Family involvement is at the heart of our high-quality program. Families and teachers create a seamless transition from home to school, building a foundation of trust and collaboration.

This holiday season, our classrooms invited families to join in activities that celebrate. The children also celebrated with different Spirit Days to sprinkle in a little bit of fun before Winter Break.

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is ready to kick off 2025 with health, happiness, and prosperity.





OAKVIEW SCHOOLS

Oakview Transition Program's Holiday Pop-up Market!



The Oakview Transition Program had a Holiday Pop-Up December 17 and 19 at 40 Oakview Drive! The students created keychains, ornaments, and candy creations to raise money for their Annual Walk for Wishes to benefit Make-a-Wish! The students even offered gift wrapping for your purchases! OTP raised over \$340 for Make-A-Wish!



OTP's Annual Walk for Wishes will be held on May 16, 2025 - Save the Date!

In 2024 RCA held 19 performances!

But! There are still two coming up!

Musical Theater Showcase January 8 at 7:00pm



RCA's Got Talent February 7 at 7:30pm



REGIONAL CENTER FOR THE ARTS

RCA 2024 Wrapped -

RCA's Got Talent February 9
Head Over Heels April 5 and 6
Metamorphoses April 26 and 27
Music Department Concert May 1 and 2
Zombies, Zombies, Zombies May 3
Dance Dept 24 May 15 and 16
Film Festival May 17
Musical Theatre Showcase May 22
Radio Plays May 23
Arranging/Composition Concert April 10
Night of Theatre Scenes May 4
Senior Showcase May 29
Scary Stories - Boo! October 30
Chicago! November 15 and 16
The Miracle Worker December 6 and 7
Musical Department Concert December 9 and 10
Twelve Angry Jurors December 13 and 14
A Christmas Carol December 18
Dance Demos December 19



PAGE 9



**Santa, Mrs.
Claus and
some elf's
stopped by
Oakview
Middle/High
School!**

PAGE 10

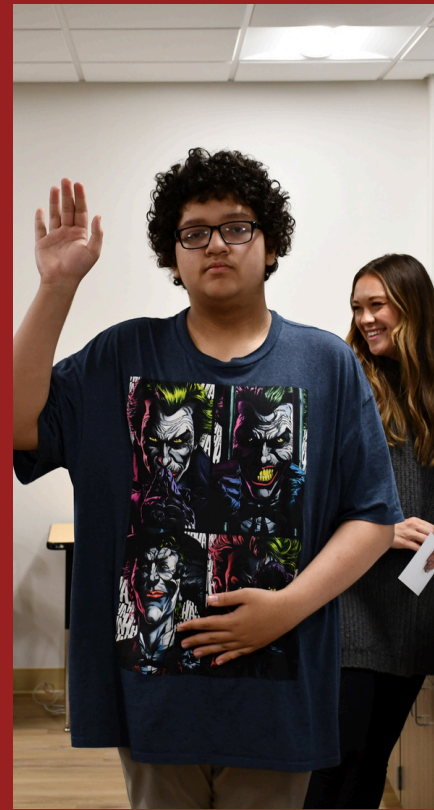
OAKVIEW MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL





Oakview Middle/High School Holiday Market! OAKVIEW SCHOOLS

The Oakview Middle/High School students were hard at work making all kinds of Holiday goodies! The OMHS Students made pillows, snow globes and ornaments! A great job to all the students and staff who made some amazing holiday gifts!



REGIONAL CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING

There is never a dull moment at The Regional Center for Early Learning! They had a jam-packed December!

Gingerbread Houses with Room 1!



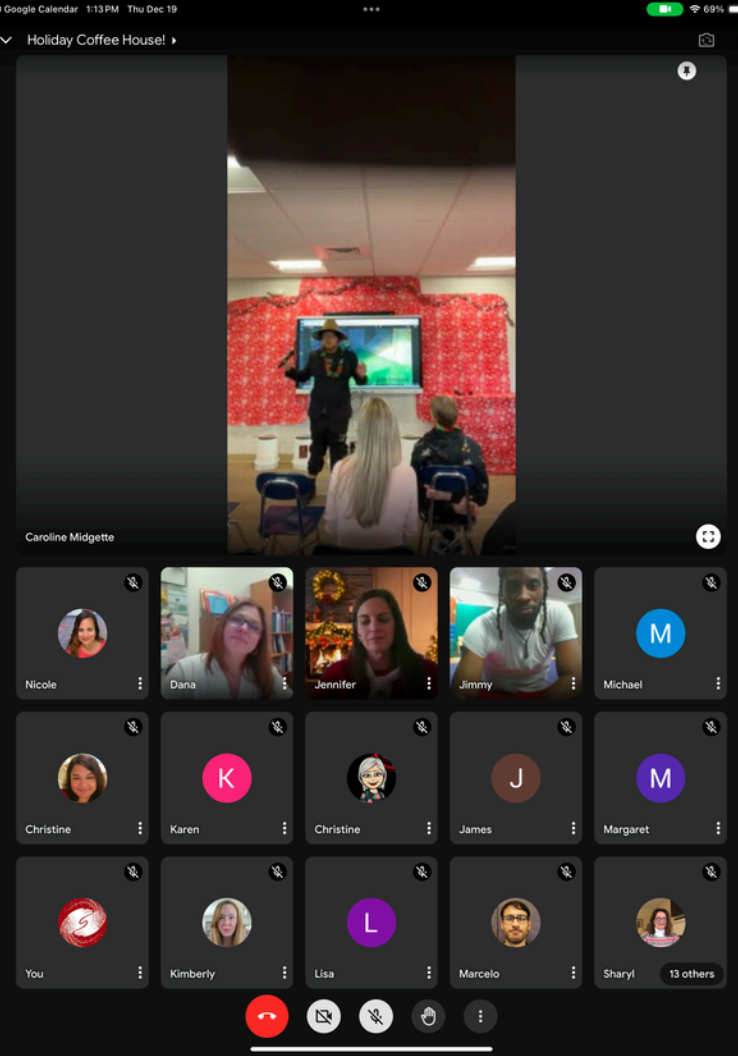
Holiday Craft Night with Families from Room 3!



Spirit Week with Room 2!



A big thank you to all the RCEL teachers for sending in these photos of all of the fun festivities!



Oakview School's first ever Virtual Coffee House!

Oakview Schools had their first ever virtual coffee house on December 19th! The kids got to show off their musical chops in a fabulous performance! And it was all made possible by Oakview Schools Music Teacher Caroline Midgette!



AESA Annual Conference!



CENTRAL OFFICE

Congratulations to
Chris LaBelle, Associate Executive
Director, Dr. Luke Forshaw, Director of
Professional Development Services
and Lynda Swift, HR Generalist for
presenting at the AESA Annual
Conference in Orlando Florida on Stay
Interviews!

PDS has done everything this year! Leading sessions about STEM, Early Childhood, Literacy, Leadership and arts councils and supporting educators all across CT!



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



**PDS has
conducted
over 100
PD's over
2024!**

Term - one Student Achievement Awards Assembly!

PAGE 16

SIX TO SIX MAGNET SCHOOL

Congratulations to all of the winners of the Term-one Student Achievement Awards held on December 6, 2024!



Students were recognized for their outstanding achievements in academics, arts, and athletics. Teachers and staff celebrated the hard work and dedication of each student, highlighting their unique contributions and talents. Parents and guardians beamed with pride as their children walked up to receive their well-deserved accolades. It was an inspiring event that underscored the school's commitment to nurturing a well-rounded education and fostering a supportive and encouraging learning environment.

Teacher of the Year!



Watch Amanda Waring, CES Teacher of the Year, in an inspiring speech she wrote for the Inspiring New Ideas Conference!



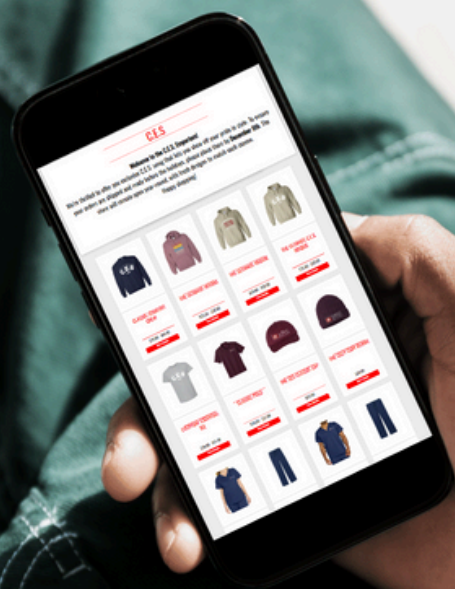
Shop the CES Emporium!

Show your CES pride
with exclusive merch
from the CES Emporium!

From stylish apparel to
must-have accessories,
there's something for
everyone.

☀️ Shop now:
[CES Emporium](#)

Don't miss out—grab
your gear today and rep
CES in style!





Join the Social Justice & Equity Advisory Team!



Be a part of meaningful change at CES! Our team has already:

- ✓ Developed the CES Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy
- ✓ Recommended improvements to exit interviews and bereavement policies
- ✓ Tackled updates to the sick leave policy

Now, we need you! Help shape the future and ensure every voice is heard.

Your voice matters—join us today!

 **Ready to make an impact?**

[Sign Up Here](#)

Upcoming Events at WorkspaceCT!

For more information or to explore more events, click here: [WorkspaceCT Events](#).



**CT Italian Teachers Association -
Pasta & Cannoli Making Night
Thursday, January 09 | Bethel**

**If you are an Italian Teacher in CT,
come join the fun!**

RSVP: [Pasta & Cannoli](#)



**Whodunnit Murder
Mystery Show
Thursday, February 13 | Bethel**

**In the New England Town of Old
Darienwich someone has been
murdered! Join this interactive
improvised murder mystery to
help find the killer. Meet the
characters, help interrogate the
suspects, identify clues and
more.**

 RSVP: [Murder Mystery](#)



**Save
The
Date!**

**Two roads diverged, and we chose the one leading
to an unforgettable evening**

**CES FOUNDATION
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

FOUNDATION

**MARCH 29, 2025
SIX O'CLOCK PM**

**TWO ROADS
BREWING COMPANY**



January National Days



National Clean Off Your Desk Day | Second Monday

This day is an opportunity to begin your new year with a clean and organized workspace. Whether your desk is in a private or shared office, cubicle, home or a make-shift desk on the counter, having your workspace uncluttered and organized will help you work more efficiently. A clean workspace improves productivity and inspires us, too. It often gives us a sense of serenity.



National Vision Board Day | Second Saturday

Vision board parties began in 2010 between a group of friends as a way for people to get together in a fun environment to set goals, cast a vision and dream out loud in a tangible way. They then mount on their completed vision boards on their walls where they would see them every day. Seeing their hopes and dreams helps set in motion these visions and ideas to become a reality.



National Hat Day | January 15

Hang on to your hats—it's time for some fun! National Hat Day is January 15th, and we're celebrating with a challenge. Here's how to join:

1. Answer the question below.
2. Send your answer on January 15 by 4pm, a photo of yourself wearing your favorite hat, and the story behind it to CESConnection@cestrumbull.org.

Question: What's the funniest or most memorable moment you've had while wearing a hat?

The Prize: A special edition C.E.S. hat!

How the Winner is Chosen:

All entries submitted by the deadline will be entered into a random draw to determine the winner. The more creative your hat story and photo, the better your chances of being featured in our next newsletter!

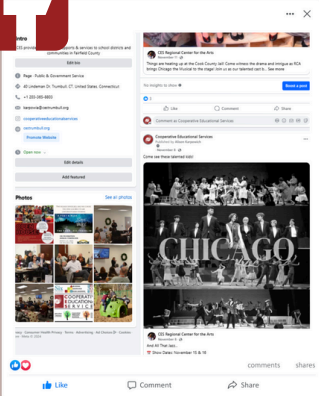
Good luck—and may the best hat win!



National Fun At Work Day | Last Friday

Fight the workday doldrums during National Fun At Work Day on the last Friday in January! National Day Calendar makes it so easy to do when everyone around the workplace has a birthday for one example. Just head over to [Search here!](#) and enter any date for the current week (January 28 for example) to discover National Days to celebrate at work.

Stay Connected With Us!



[@cooperativeeducationalservices](#)

[@pdsatces](#)

[@SixtoSixMagnetSchool](#)

[@CESRegionalCenterfortheArts](#)

[@CESFoundation](#)



[@cooperativeeducationalservices](#)

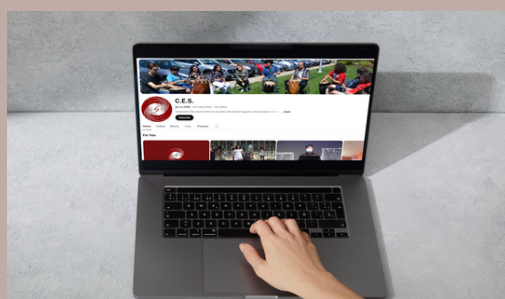
[@regionalcenterforthearts](#)

[@the_adventures_of_rise](#)

[@pdsatces](#)



[@cooperativeeducationalservices](#)



New podcasts every month!



[@c.e.s.5536](#)

Don't miss a beat—join our online community! Follow us on social media for the latest updates, behind-the-scenes moments, event highlights, and so much more. Let's make your feed a little brighter!