

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL) Recognizes Lauren Sweeney as a Southern New England Rosen School Librarian of the Month for April 2026.

Norwalk, CT – The Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL) is pleased to announce that Lauren Sweeney, School Library Media Specialist at Naramake Elementary School in Norwalk, Connecticut, has been selected as a Southern New England Rosen School Librarian of the Month.

Sponsored by Rosen Publishing, this award recognizes outstanding school librarians whose lessons, programs, collaborations, and innovative practices empower student learning and demonstrate the transformative role of school libraries in K–12 education.

The Southern New England Rosen School Librarian of the Month program, a partnership among school library associations in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, highlights best practices from across the region and celebrates the vital contributions of school librarians. Award recipients are featured through association websites, social media, newsletters, and professional networks, helping to build an idea bank of innovative school library programs and instructional practices.

Sweeney was recognized for a fifth-grade lesson that combines artificial intelligence, digital literacy, and descriptive writing to help students understand the power of clear communication. Using Canva's Magic Media AI tool, students experimented with crafting and revising prompts to generate images, discovering how specific word choices directly affect outcomes. Through peer feedback, reflection, and revision, students strengthened their writing skills while developing a deeper understanding of artificial intelligence and responsible technology use. Designed in collaboration with classroom teachers and district digital learning coaches, the lesson successfully connected emerging technology with core literacy instruction in a meaningful and developmentally appropriate way.

As part of the award, Sweeney will receive a collection of books donated by Rosen Publishing for the Naramake Elementary School library. In addition, a letter of recognition will be sent to her principal, and she will receive a digital signature badge acknowledging this honor.

For more information about the Southern New England Rosen School Librarian of the Month Award and the Connecticut Association of School Librarians, please visit the CASL website at <https://casl.wildapricot.org/>.

About CASL

The Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL) is a professional organization dedicated to promoting excellence in school library media programs and school libraries throughout Connecticut. CASL advocates for strong school library programs that meet the needs of the entire school community and provide a foundation for lifelong learning. Through

professional learning opportunities, advocacy, awards, and grants, CASL supports innovative educational practices that foster student achievement, inquiry, creativity, and engagement.

About Rosen Publishing

Founded in 1950, Rosen Publishing Group provides engaging print and digital resources that support curriculum and inspire learning. Rosen is recognized for its wide range of educational books, databases, and interactive e-books that help students explore topics across the curriculum while developing literacy and research skills.