

October, 2016

In This Issue: <u>School and District Highlights</u> <u>Awards and Recognition</u> <u>CREC Schools Family Engagement Series</u> <u>First Day of School Pictures</u> <u>School Calendar</u> <u>CREC Contacts</u> <u>Fitness for the Heart, Body, and Mind</u>

A Message from the Superintendent of CREC Schools

Dear CREC Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and settled into the 2016-2017 school year. We have embarked on what promises to be yet another great year!

Each year, we are committed to improving the ways in which we connect, motivate, and empower our students. For the 2016-2017 school year, we will continue our focus on the **CREC Magnet Schools Essential Skills for Deeper Learning Framework**. The Essential Skills Framework outlines key twenty-first century skills each child needs to be successful and inspires educators to think differently about student learning. Across all content areas, you will see a greater emphasis on *critical thinking* and *problem solving* as we work to build the Essential Skills and to provide opportunities for engaged, active learning.

In this newsletter, you will find a contact list for each of CREC's schools, pictures from the first day of school, and highlights from some of the many great events and projects that are already occurring across the



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district. You will also meet the 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year and Manager of the Year. The "Fitness for the Heart, Body, and Mind" section includes resources that you can use to keep your child healthy.

Lastly, thank you for trusting CREC Magnet Schools to educate your child. I look forward to the year ahead and to sharing in your child's learning experiences with you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns regarding your child's education.

Sincerely,

Dina Crowl

Dina Crowl Superintendent of CREC Schools

SCHOOL AND DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS



CREC Metropolitan Learning Center Students Visit Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands

Twenty-one students from the CREC Metropolitan Learning Center for Global and International Studies traveled to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands this summer to study the area's culture and ecosystem and to visit with children who live in area orphanages.

"The CREC Metropolitan Learning Center for Global and International Studies is a school of opportunity," said Tania Thibault, a counselor at the school and the trip's organizer. "I am originally from Ecuador. I wanted to share a little bit of me with the students."

Students left Bloomfield June 22 for John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. From there, they flew to Quito,

Ecuador. They later traveled to the Galapagos Islands, spending a total of 11 days abroad.

In Ecuador, the students visited Colegio Mejia. Like the CREC Metropolitan Learning Center for Global and International Studies, Colegio Mejia is an International Baccalaureate school. In addition to learning about the lives of the students in Ecuador, the visit gave CREC students a chance to practice their Spanish.

During their trip, the group also delivered 25 suitcases worth of donations to two orphanages and visited with the children there, taking photos and playing games with them. The suitcases were filled with school supplies, backpacks, clothes, shoes, and other items.

Visiting the orphanages was a life-changing experience for Abigail Bray, a 2016 graduate of the CREC Metropolitan Learning Center for Global and International Studies who will attend UConn this fall. The children were amazing, happy, and smiling, and Bray said CREC students were treated like celebrities while in Ecuador, especially because they were able to take pictures using their smartphones-a luxury Americans take for granted.

The trip was an opportunity to get to know the people you help, added Alee Brown, who will enter her senior year at the school. It was nice to meet face-to-face rather than just sign a check, she said.

The group's final stop was the Galapagos Islands, where they explored a diverse ecological system, learning about issues of environmental management and preservation and seeing marine iguanas, sharks, and sea lions.

CREC's Metropolitan Learning Center for Global and International Studies serves students in grades six through 12 and offers a curriculum that emphasizes cross-cultural awareness and knowledge of the global dynamic, raises awareness of the state of the planet, and fosters an understanding of the consequences of human choice. International travel is one of many opportunities students receive at the school.



Getting a Head Start at CREC Montessori Magnet School

This year, school started early for children entering preschool 3 at CREC's Montessori Magnet School.

About 20 children and their families participated in a new, free summer program called the Children's House Summer Program. The program was held once a week for four weeks, helping to make the transition from home to school a little easier.

Participants in the Children's House Summer

Program live in Hartford, New Britain, East Hampton, South Windsor, Tolland, and West Hartford, and the program helped orient them to the classroom. The children learned important CREC Montessori Magnet School preliminary lessons, including how to serve themselves snacks independently, carry materials in the classroom, and unroll a rug, "It was magical to see the students immediately engage with the classroom materials," said Vivian Novo-MacDonald, assistant principal of CREC Montessori Magnet School. "They were focused and joyful as they worked with our wonderful primary teachers. Families were able to see how lessons are given in the Montessori classroom and said they felt at ease and looked forward to the beginning of the school year."

The Children's House Summer Program was run by teachers Laurie Campiformio and Lyndsey Russell and paraprofessional Rosa Pardo-Figuero. The educators volunteered to take on this task and already see a difference in the children who participated in the program. They say those students are more comfortable in their surroundings than the other preschool students.

For more CREC news click here.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Meet CREC's Award Winners





Teacher of the Year Sarah Worley

School: CREC Discovery Academy

Position: Second Grade Classroom Teacher

Number of years of experience in education: This year is my eleventh year of teaching.

Best teaching tip:

It is important to believe in the endless possibilities of each student in the classroom. There are always areas to grow as a teacher and a student.

Favorite teaching moment:

My favorite teaching moment is seeing the giant smile on a student's face after they've traveled a long road of perseverance, finally achieving the goal that they were hoping.

Over summer vacation:

I relaxed with my family, spent time swimming, and traveled to Maryland and New York for my son's baseball tournaments.

Click **here** to view the CREC Teacher of the Year video.

Manager of the Year Tim Barber

School: CREC University of Hartford Magnet School

Position: Principal

Number of years of experience in education:

This is my 16th year. I taught 4th grade at P.S. 49 in the South Bronx and at Jumoke Academy in Hartford. This is my 9th year at UHMS.

Best management tip:

Listen to your students, staff, and parents. They all know more than you and together you can do great things.

Favorite education moment:

It is impossible to name one, but my favorite time of the day when teaching was reading aloud to my students and listening to their deep conversations.

Over summer vacation:

We had our third son, Valentino. We spent the summer together as a family at home and spent a week in Eastham on Cape Cod.

Click **here** to view the CREC Manager of the Year video.

CREC Schools Family Engagement Series

Click the flyer image to register!

CREC FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SERIES Connect • Motivate • Empower

A Fall & Winter Series



Dinner and childcare will be provided. To register for a workshop, visit crec.org/parents/engagement. For more information, contact familyengagement@crec.org.



First Day of School Pictures



CREC Magnet Schools District Calendar 2016-2017

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School Name and Address	Principal	Main Phone Number	Grades	Theme
CREC Academy of	Paul	P: 860-243-0857	Grades 6 to	Science,
Aerospace and Engineering	Brenton	F: 286-2842	12	technology,

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		CREC Schools Newsl	etter	
and CREC Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics and Science 1101 Kennedy Road, Windsor, CT 06095				engineering, and mathematics
CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering Elementary School 525 Broad Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067	Gayle Hills	P: 860-529-1652 F: 860-529-1743	Pre-K3 to Grade 5	Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
CREC Discovery Academy 176 Cumberland Avenue, Wethersfield, CT 06109	Kurt Stanco	P: 860-296-2090 F: 860-296-2087	Pre-K3 to Grade 5	Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
Glastonbury-East Hartford Magnet School 95 Oak Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033	Ryan Donlon	P: 860-633-4455 F: 860-657-8427	Pre-K3 to Grade 5	Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
CREC Ana Grace Academy of the Arts Elementary School 20 Security Drive, Avon, CT 06001	Patricia Phelan	P: 860-677-0380 F: 860-677-0408	Pre-K3 to Grade 5	Arts education
CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Middle School 75 Van Dyke Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106	Bo Ryan	P: 860-724-0685 F: 860-240-6502	Grades 6 to 8	Arts education
CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts High School 15 Vernon Street, Hartford, CT 06106 160-172 Huyshope Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106	Nicholas Chanese	P: 860-757-6300 F: 860-724-0626	Grades 9 to 12	Arts education
CREC International Magnet School for Global Citizenship 625 Chapel Road, South Windsor, CT 06074	Nguyet Tinh	P: 860-291-6001 F: 860-289-0383	Pre-K3 to Grade 5	International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme
CREC Medical Professions Academy 600 Slater Road, New Britain, CT 06053	Jonathan Shubert	P: 860-223-0726 F: 860-223-0742	PreK3, PreK4, and Grades 6 to 12	Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
CREC Metropolitan Learning Center for Global and International Studies 1551 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002	Sasha Douglas	P: 860-242-7834 F: 860-242-0732	Grades 6 to 12	Global and International Studies
CREC Montessori Magnet School 1460 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06106	Dr. Antonio Napoleone	P: 860-757-6100 F: 860-757-6144	PreK3 to Grade 5	Montessori education
CREC Museum Academy Preschool and Kindergarten: 206 West Newberry Bloomfield, CT 06002	Shandra Brown	P:860-231-7800 F: 860-231-7236	PreK3 to Grade 5	Museum studies and Inquiry-based Iearning

Grades 1 to 5: 10 Targeting Center, Windsor, CT 06095				
CREC Public Safety Academy 1617 King Street, Enfield, CT 06082	Jeff Larson	P: 860-253-0274 F: 860-253-0406	Grades 6 to 12	Public safety and services
CREC Reggio Magnet School of the Arts 59 Waterville Road, Avon, CT 06001	Josie Di Pietro Smith	P: 860-674-8549 F: 860-674-9004	PreK3 to Grade 5	Reggio Emilia focus
CREC Two Rivers Magnet Middle School 337 East River Drive, East Hartford, Ct 06108	Jull Wnuk	P: 860-290-5320 F: 860-509-3609	Grades 6 to 8	Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with a focus on environmental science
CREC Two Rivers Magnet High School, Grades 9 and 10: 15 Van Dyke Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106 Grades 11 and 12: 15 Vernon Street, Hartford, CT 06106	Bob McCain	P: 860-757-6327 F: 860-244-9064	Grades 9 to 12	Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with a focus on environmental science
CREC University of Hartford Magnet School 196 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117	Tim Barber	P: 860-236-2899 F: 860-236-2062	PreK3 to Grade 5	Multiple Intelligences

Fitness for the Heart, Body, and Mind

Eating a healthy breakfast helps kids start their day on the right foot! **Kidshealth.org** recommends the following about eating a good breakfast and maintaining a healthy weight:

Try these practical suggestions to ensure that - even in a rush - your kids get a good breakfast before they're out the door:

- Stock your kitchen with healthy breakfast options (include protein and whole grains to decrease mid morning hunger pangs)
- Prepare as much as you can the night before (gets dishes and utensils ready, cut up fruit, etc.)
- Get everyone up 10 minutes earlier
- Let kids help plan and prepare breakfast
- Have grab-and-go alternatives (fresh fruit; individual boxes or baggies of whole-grain, low-sugar cereal; yogurt or smoothies; trail mix) on days when there is little or no time to eat



Helping your child maintain a healthy weight sets him/her up for a greater likelihood of good health throughout his/her lifetime.

Here are some tips to help kids maintain a healthy weight:

- Encourage kids to be **active every day**. Experts recommend that kids get 60 minutes or more of physical activity daily.
- Offer fruits and vegetables at meals and snacks and encourage your child to eat five or more servings a day.
- Serve appropriate portion sizes.
- Limit sugar-sweetened beverages and offer low-fat milk or water instead.
- Limit screen time (time spent watching TV, playing video games, using a smartphone, computer, or other device) to less than 2 hours a day.
- Set a good example by eating healthy, being physically active, and limiting the time you spend in front of a screen.

Cited from: http://kidshealth.org/







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September, 2016 Issue

To view past issues of this newsletter, visit the CREC Parent Portal.

Capitol Region Education Council, 111 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

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