



ENGAGED LEARNING IN THE FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 5, 2023

Farmington High School

Open Choice Liaison of the Year Award

Farmington High School faculty member, Chris Loomis, was named Open Choice Liaison of the Year for 2022-23 at their recent Liaison Breakfast. One of his colleagues is quoted as saying: *“Chris Loomis is a dedicated advocate for our students. He is a “waterer” for the beautiful students we have in and out of the Choice program. With his affirming and kind soul he encourages students to embrace their identity and become change agents as Farmington students and more importantly as Global citizens. Our Social Justice Council wouldn’t be where it is today without his dedication and support. He is a true gem and asset to our learning community.”* Congratulations to Chris on this outstanding recognition.

2023 National Merit Scholarship Finalists Named

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has announced that FHS seniors, **Sophia Cho, Akshaj Ganta, Hudson Hu, Eileen Jianing Peng** and **Alan Wang** have qualified as finalists in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship program. Identified as a result of their outstanding performance on the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test and selected from a group of 16,000 semifinalists, they are now being considered for a Merit Scholarship award.

Farmington High School – Twenty Farmington High School (FHS) Students to Receive 2023 National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Aspirations in Computing Awards

Twenty (20) FHS students were selected from more than 3,300 applicants from the United States and Canada. According to the NCWIT, the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing (AiC) honors 9th-12th grade women, genderqueer, and non-binary students for their computing-related achievements and interests, and encourages them to pursue their passions. Award recipients are selected based on their aptitude and aspirations in technology and computing, as demonstrated by their computing experience, computing-related activities, leadership experience, tenacity in the face of barriers to access, and plans for post-secondary education. Four (4) FHS students were recognized at the National levels as Honorable Mentions. *All awardees will be honored at an AiC Award Celebration on Monday May 22 at the Travelers Claims University in Windsor, CT.*

1. Sayada Arouna	CT Winner & National Honorable Mention
2. Sophia Cho	CT Winner & National Honorable Mention
3. Doorva Garg	CT Winner & National Honorable Mention
4. Jingjin Shi	CT Winner & National Honorable Mention
5. Sophia Ave-Lallemant	CT Winner
6. Sreenidi Bala	CT Winner
7. Sneha Balur	CT Honorable Mention
8. Sydney Bigelow	CT Honorable Mention
9. Shesh Budhabhatti	CT Honorable Mention
10. Mackenzie Campbell	CT Honorable Mention
11. Olivia Ceres-Barber	CT Winner
12. Zeeva Haviland	CT Winner
13. Ananya Jayaram	CT Honorable Mention
14. Rhea Kallely	CT Honorable Mention
15. Ananya Krishnamurthy	CT Honorable Mention
16. Himani Kumar	CT Honorable Mention
17. Karen Pan	CT Honorable Mention
18. Alison Rodriguez	CT Honorable Mention
19. Sia Sharma	CT Honorable Mention
20. Ria Verma	CT Honorable Mention

Each recipient will receive:

- Recognition and prizes
- Induction into a community of over 15,000 technical womxn
- Access to resources, scholarships and internship opportunities

“Encouraging young women’s interest in technology careers is critical: our workforce needs their creativity and their innovation,” said Lucy Sanders, CEO and Co-founder of NCWIT.

The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) is a non-profit community of more than 1,240 universities, companies, non-profits, and government organizations nationwide working to increase women’s participation in computing and technology. NCWIT equips change leaders with resources for taking action in recruiting, retaining, and advancing women from K–12 and higher education through industry and entrepreneurial careers. Find out more at www.ncwit.org.

Farmington High School is proud to have the most students honored in the state for the 10th time. FHS endeavors to offer a growing number of computing courses as part of its curriculum, recognizing their value to students’ future success. This year’s awardees were endorsed by the FHS Science Department’s faculty member, Timothy Barron (Computer Science teacher).

Irving A. Robbins Middle School

Investigating Local History: Project Paideia

Should the State of Connecticut exonerate the victims of the Hartford Witchcraft Trials? What are the modern-day implications of the Connecticut whaling industry? Was Sarah Porter a feminist? These are some of the questions our 8th grade students have been wondering as they have embarked on Project Paideia. An institution in Farmington Public Schools, students have been doing Project Paideia for the last 45 years. As the project evolves to continue to promote disciplined thinking, empowered learning, and civic-minded contributions to our community, students continue to research and study the fascinating local history of the greater Hartford area. Each year, students have the opportunity to interview local experts, share their learning with the larger school and caretaker community, and celebrate their accomplishments by exploring each other's projects and voting for their favorites. Our Celebration of Learning culminates in the pie-ing of their social studies teachers, Mr. Belisle, Mr. Casarella, Ms. Wolf and I.A.R. librarian, Ms. Olsen.



Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with Guest Readers!

On May 25, secondary students from across FHS and IAR traveled to the elementary schools to serve as guest readers in our K-4 classrooms. At Irving Robbins, 30 students walked across the street to East Farms to read and celebrate books that center Asian American and Pacific Islander characters, authorship, and stories. I.A.R. civic-minded contributors kept remarking how reflective,

inquisitive, and thoughtful our East Farms friends were as they listened to our read-alouds. We had a fantastic time! Thank you to East Farms for having us!



West Woods Upper Elementary School

During the months of April and May, fifth grade students developed their abilities to be civic-minded Contributors. Students began their social studies curriculum learning about Farmington's local history regarding the Underground Railroad and Amistad. To frame the unit, students investigated three questions: How did enslaved people in the United States rise up and fight for their freedom, what role did Farmington citizens play in this quest for freedom, and how have the contributions of African-Americans helped to shape American culture?

To support student understanding, fifth graders participated in a field trip to the Farmington Historical Society where they learned about a number of important and influential Farmington residents who worked together to support the freed Amistad captives. In addition, students engaged with actors and learned about the courage and cleverness of the people who collaborated on the Underground Railroad.

As civic minded contributors, 5th graders culminated the unit by reflecting upon how they as members of their CREW, their team, their larger West Woods community, and their local community could contribute to the betterment of our society.



Union School

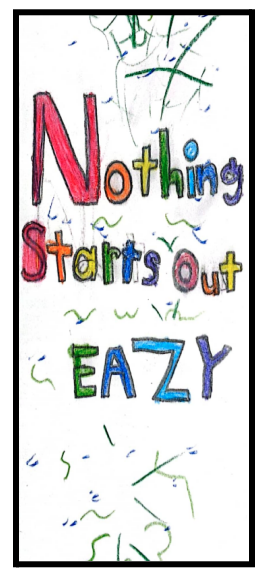
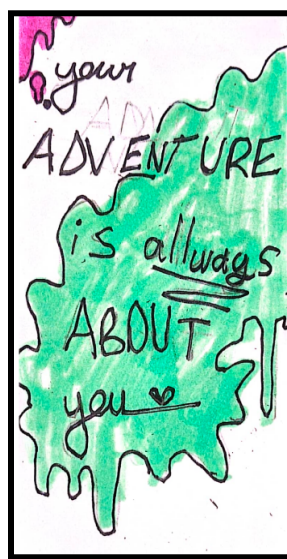
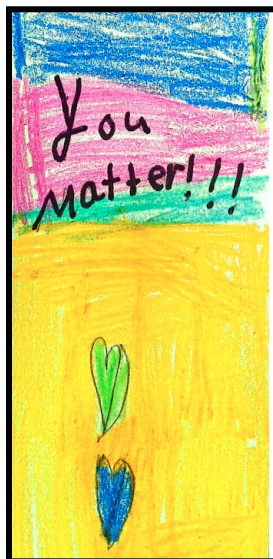
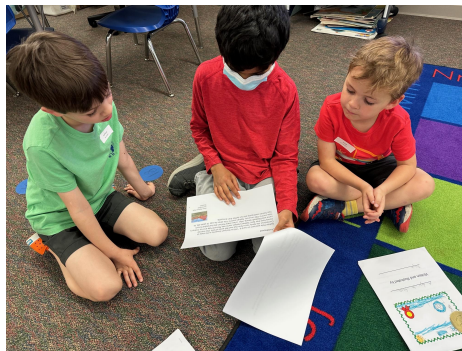
A Visit from the Space Foundation- On Tuesday, May 9th, Union School hosted a visit from the Space Foundation. The day started with a whole school assembly led by former astronaut Duane "Digger" Carey. Carey shared information about what it is like to travel to space and pilot a spaceship. The day also included a STEM themed hands on activity led by Space Foundation educators for grades 2, 3, and 4. Kindergarten and first grade classrooms had a special visit and Q & A session with Digger. This fun-filled day was funded by the Petit Family Foundation.



East Farms

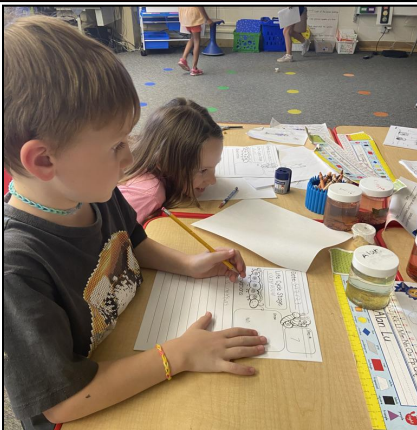
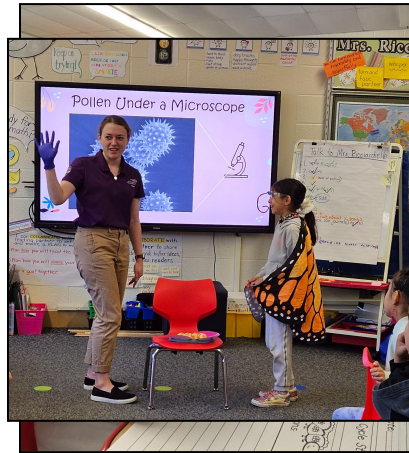
On Friday, May 12, 2023, East Farms hosted its annual YARC day ~ Young Authors and Readers Celebration. Farmington's Vision of the Global Citizen came to life throughout the day as we celebrated our growth and achievements in literacy by sharing a published piece of writing with our PACK groups. We were also treated by the PTO to presentations from two amazing Connecticut authors, **Renata Bowers and Susan Hood**, whose work and ethics align with our core beliefs. Students and faculty alike were inspired by their messages of being yourself, supporting others, and following your dreams. One student said, "Author Bowers thinks like me; sometimes I need to wait for the idea to come to me." Another said, "Miss Renata is the first author who helped me in my own life."

East Farms students will be continuing to spread the positive messages inspired by these authors by creating bookmarks with encouraging words on them. The bookmarks will be collected and then randomly distributed to all students, faculty, and staff to spread joy.



West District Elementary School

As part of our unit of study about pollination and life cycles, second grade students have learned to make scientific observations of the Painted Lady butterfly's life cycle. We welcomed the CT Science Center to our classrooms to test different materials to learn what properties make good pollinators. Students used this knowledge to determine which animals make "good" pollinators. Along with the CT Science Center, the Rotary Club partnered with the American Honey Queen Program to bring Allison Hager, the 2023 American Honey Princess to classrooms to share the importance of honeybees to Connecticut and their roles as pollinators, along with the magical benefits of honey. During this visit, students also had an opportunity to work with Rotary Club volunteers to plant a seed, decorate a flower pot, and bring it home to grow. In the remaining few weeks, students will engage in a research project about a specific pollinator to present to the class. These engaging experiences help to develop *civic-minded students who understand the interdependent systems and their impact on people and their environment.*



Noah Wallace School

On Thursday, May 25, Noah Wallace hosted our annual Student Art Show. Kinga Fernandes, Noah Wallace's new art teacher, displayed at least one piece of art created by each child in kindergarten through grade four in the hallways of Noah Wallace. Families and students participated in a scavenger hunt which allowed them to explore the many different forms of art produced by the students. We are so proud of our Noah Wallace artists.

