



January 16, 2014

Welcome and Happy New Year to prospective Rowayton School families!

We hope you had an enjoyable holiday break with your family. Our 2013-2014 Rowayton School year is off to a fantastic start as our enrollment continues to grow with many new families joining the school and eagerly taking on leadership roles. If you are a new family to the town of Rowayton, you will soon witness our deeply devoted parent community and the wonderful, parent-driven enrichment and extracurricular opportunities.

Not only are Rowayton School parents active in our children's school, but they also are passionate about their involvement. Members of the PTA come together to enhance our children's education by helping our proud Principal, Ms. Sara Reilly and our dedicated staff and teachers. For example, our PTA has successfully funded a Smartboard for every classroom in every grade. And through the pursuit of grants, Rowayton School has just acquired a state-of-the-art new reading assessment technology called Wireless Generation.

The Norwalk Public Schools implemented a new math curriculum in 2011 to meet the more rigorous standards that will be mandated nationwide in 2014. This new standard is called the Common Core and will impact all standardized testing throughout the curriculum in 46 states. Rowayton School is ahead of the curve in this shift and Rowayton School teachers have been selected as models for how to successfully roll out the new programs.

In addition, our school renovation is underway! Soon our kids will have a new sun-flooded art room, a bigger gymnasium/assembly hall, an expanded music room and four new classrooms!

It is clear that while we are building a strong educational foundation for our children with a new rigorous and challenging curriculum (GO MATH and the Common Core Standards), we are also proving a strong SCHOOL community and a solid TOWN community which can persevere, even in challenging times. As many of you know, the Rowayton School student body comes from diverse neighborhoods inclusive of Harbor View, Village Creek, South Norwalk, Wilson Point, and Rowayton. Our parents are also from diverse backgrounds; some work full time,

some work part time, some are teachers in the school, and others are full-time caregivers. This is at the heart of what makes our school so unique.

We hope to see you in the fall as we continue to watch our children grow both physically and academically in a loving, challenging school environment. As our children, teachers and staff proudly sing our school spirit song on a daily basis, we will leave you with: *Hail Rowayton!*

The Rowayton School PTA



Rowayton Elementary School FAQs

The following is a number of common questions asked by new parents.

How many students attend Rowayton Elementary School?

Approximately 450 students attend our school. We currently have four classes each of K-2 grades and three classes each of 3-5 grades. There are also two special education classes.

What is the student / teacher ratio at Rowayton School?

The ratio varies by grade and year, however, in kindergarten, with a dedicated Teacher's Assistant in each class, the average ratio is 9:1 students per teacher. The average ratio for the rest of the school is 21:1.

What are the school day hours?

The first bell rings at 9:05 and our school day is from 9:20-3:25pm.

I am a working parent. Is there an option to extend the length of time my child is at school?

Yes, for a fee, we have a few options. After the Bell before and after school program is available for your child from 7:00 am to the start of school at 9:05 am and then from the close of school at 3:20 pm to 5:45 pm.

There is also an opportunity to add enrichment programs such as Rowayton School Academy in the morning from 8:05-9:05 am. Various programs such as Chess Club, Math Enrichment, Grammar Games, Acting Workshops, and language classes are offered at this time.

The After the Bell program also offers enrichment in the afternoon including various crafts, gym games, baking, Science Adventures, Zumbatonics, camp games, board games, nature photography, and homework time.

Does your school have a strings program?

Yes, starting in third grade, all students have an opportunity to learn the viola, violin, bass or cello. This program takes place during school hours. Students will participate in assemblies and concerts arranged by the instrumental instructor.

What does your school do for music or theater?

Each year, our music teacher Ms. Kemeny produces various grade-specific musicals. The entire school watches these performances during school hours.

Acting workshops are also offered at various times during our Rowayton School Academy before school program.

How does Rowayton School supplement the curriculum for academically accelerated or highly creative children?

Rowayton Elementary School offers both an Artistically Talented and Academically Talented program starting in third grade. Each child is assessed at the end of second grade and those who qualify are invited in the program for the fall. This program allows students to expand their abilities with enhanced learning and additional projects. Both programs take place during school hours.

Can my child learn a second language?

Yes. As part of our Rowayton School Academy, our morning academic enrichment program, LinguaKids offers a beginner and intermediate Mandarin (all ages), beginner and intermediate Spanish (all ages), and a beginner French for (4th and 5th graders only) for a fee.

Rowayton Elementary School is the only school in the Norwalk Public School District to offer an academically enriched morning program.

What if my child needs additional academic support?

As a part of the Norwalk Public Schools, special education services are available at our school for students with IEPs. In addition, the English Language Arts Support Team provides academic support within every classroom. In special cases, when early intervention is needed, children are pulled out of the classroom to work individually with the English Language Arts Support Team.

What other special services are available for my child to use, if needed?

Rowayton School has a school psychologist available three days a week as a resource for parents and staff.

A Social Worker is also assigned to Rowayton School full time as a resource for the entire school family. The Social Worker works with children, parents and staff on any personal or social problems affecting learning.

An Outreach Worker works within the community to foster more parental participation and conducts home visits at the request of the principal.

A Speech Pathologist is also available to provide language and speech services for students with IEPs.

English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers work with ESL children who speak another language other than English at home.



What can Rowayton Elementary School Offer Your Child?

The following programs were created with the intention to give our children the best education possible and provide as many opportunities for them to learn and grow academically.

Available Programs:

Rowayton School Academy Before School Program

8:05 am – 9:05 am Daily

For a fee, Rowayton School Academy, our morning academic enrichment program offers extra learning for your child. Various programs such as Chess Club, Math Enrichment, Grammar Games, Acting Workshops, and language classes are offered at this time.

Rowayton Elementary School is the only school in the Norwalk Public School District to offer an academically enriched morning program.

After The Bell Program

7:00 am to 9:05 am and 3:20 pm to 5:45 pm Daily

For a fee, the After the Bell before and after school program is available from 7:00 am to the start of school at 9:05 am and then from the close of school at 3:20 pm to 5:45 pm.

Learning to Look

A parent-run art program teaches students how to appreciate art. Each grade learns specifics regarding types of art, artists and art history. Starting in Kindergarten, each class receives six parent-led art sessions, which introduce new artists, art periods and art concepts, followed by time for students to create similar art masterpieces of their own. All six sessions are held during school hours. To sum it all up, all fifth graders go on a Field Trip to the Metropolitan of Art in New York City to view many of the artworks in person.

Garden of Life

Built as a memorial to Eliza Oliver, a Rowayton schoolteacher, the Garden of Life gives Rowayton School students an opportunity to appreciate horticulture, “Farm to Table” concepts and nature. Parents and teachers work together to integrate the garden successfully into the curriculum throughout the year.

Available Programs Continued:

Odyssey of The Mind

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational competition that challenges students to solve critical thinking dilemmas. A team (or teams) representing Rowayton Elementary School apply their creativity to solve problems. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and international level.

Rowayton Rambler Newspaper Club

Students in 4th and 5th grade participate in a newspaper to cover news, politics, Op Eds and reviews alongside students from Roton Middle School, and Brien McMahon High Schools.

Kids Care Club

To promote social responsibility, students create drives to help those less fortunate, including the Kids Care Halloween Drive, Thanksgiving Food Drive, the Holiday Gift Drive and the Kids Care Heifer Read to Feed Project.

Rowayton Elementary School Annual Events:

There are also additional PTA-run events and clubs throughout the year including:

- Kindergarten Ice Cream Social
- Volunteer & Welcome Coffee
- Parent Open House/Curriculum Night
- Picture Day
- Family Photo Opportunity
- Walkathon
- Sound Tigers Game
- Halloween Parade
- Garden of Life Harvest
- Parent Night / Fall Fundraiser
- Staff Appreciation Night/Dinner
- Veterans Day Assembly
- All School Enrichment Assemblies
- Book Fair
- Chorus & Orchestra Concerts
- School Wide Science Fair
- Movie Night
- Heritage Dinner
- Bingo Night
- Very Important Persons Day
- Carnival
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Environmental Green Team
- Kindergarten Open House /Visitation
- ArtLink
- Field Days
- 5th Grade Graduation & Party
- Kindergarten Graduation
- Awards Ceremonies



The Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

Why are the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Important?

- They are a first step toward making sure our children get the best possible education;
- Every grade has clear academic expectations;
- Parents, teachers, and students will work together to reach high standards;
- Our students will be prepared to compete not only with their peers here at home, but also with students around the world, maintaining America's competitive edge.

What standards are included in the Common Core?

- English-language arts and mathematics were the subjects chosen for the Common Core since they teach skills upon which all other subjects depend;
- English-language arts standards address literacy across disciplines, including science, social studies, and technical subjects;

How are the CCSS different from previous standards used in our schools?

- The CCSS have been evaluated to make sure that they are rigorous;
- Use of the CCSS requires students to use higher order thinking skills such as analyzing and problem solving ;
- Students will be required to use strong communication skills, which will help them to prepare for higher education and the world of work.

The Common Core Standards are more rigorous than previous Connecticut State standards.



Committed to the success of every child

Do the CCSS address learning needs of all students?

- The CCSS address the learning needs of K—12 students, including those who are identified as English Language Learners and those with learning disabilities;
- Alternative assessments based on the CCSS are being developed for two groups of students:
 - Students with limited English proficiency
 - Students with the most severe cognitive disabilities.

How are the CCSS being implemented?

- The standards clearly lay out what students should learn, but allow schools and teachers to decide how to best help students reach their academic goals.
- The standards offer an opportunity for states to work together to dramatically improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of state assessments.
- Districts will develop richer, more authentic assessments so that they can measure what students know; teachers will use these assessments to improve teaching and learning.
- The CCSS will allow states the opportunity to share their best ideas, practices and resources as they prepare teachers to successfully implement these new, more rigorous standards.

The Common Core State Standards address the learning needs of ALL students K-12 including English Language Learners and those identified with learning disabilities.

Looking for more information?

<http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>

<http://www.pta.org>

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2618&q=322592>

<http://portal.norwalkps.org/curriculum/ccss/Pages/default.aspx>

What are the Common Core State Standards?

- The CCSS are a set of consistent, high quality academic benchmarks , (K-12) that clearly define the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each school year;
- These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education so that they graduate from high school able to succeed in college and enter a career;
- The standards were created through a state-led initiative and have been adopted by more than 45 states;
- States adopted the Common Core in their entirety; they added only a limited number of additional standards in English-language arts and mathematics.

The standards are:

- Aligned with college and workforce expectations;
- Clear, understandable, and consistent;
- Rigorous in content and the application of knowledge through higher-order thinking skills;
- Built on the strengths that were already part of previous state standards;
- Informed by standards in other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and
- Evidence-based

The English-Language Arts Standards

- Students will read a wide variety of literature including classic and contemporary works. By reading challenging informational texts, in a range of subjects, students will build knowledge, gain insights, and broaden their perspectives.
- The standards require all students to study a variety of literary genre, including classic myths and stories from around the world, documents that form the foundation for the United States government, and works of literature that were the first of their kind in different fields of study.
- States and local districts will decide how to teach their own local information.

Students will read challenging texts.

They will read much more non-fiction than they do now.

Children will learn to read informational texts in all the subjects they study in school, including science, social studies and technology.

Getting to the Core...



The Mathematics Standards

- Students will study fewer topics in greater depth;
- The standards stress both procedural skills, and conceptual understanding to make sure students are learning and absorbing the critical information they need to succeed at higher levels of mathematics; they will be able to answer how and why questions when they solve mathematical problems;
- The K-5 standards provide students with a solid foundation in whole numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, and decimals, which helps young students successfully understand and use more demanding math concepts and procedures. They will move into practical applications of these core math principles.
- Middle School students will be prepared to carry out hands-on learning in geometry, algebra, probability and statistics, studying algebra in grade 8.
- Rigorous high school standards prepare students to apply mathematics to novel situations, the way college students and employees regularly do.
- High school standards emphasize mathematical modeling – the use of mathematics and statistics to analyze real life scenarios; students will improve mathematical decision-making skills.

Writing

Students will be expected to use writing skills in a variety of formats:

- Starting in the earliest grades, they will learn to state their opinions using logical arguments, accurate information and good evidence;
- Based on independent research, students will produce both short focused projects (such as those commonly required in the workplace) and longer term in-depth pieces;
- Across the grade levels, the CCSS contains exemplars of student writing to help establish adequate performance levels in writing arguments and informational/explanatory texts.

Speaking and Listening

- The standards require that students present and evaluate increasingly complex information, ideas and evidence through listening and speaking as well as through various media platforms.
- Vocabulary and conventions are treated in their own strand not because skills in these areas should be handled in isolation, but because their use extends across reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Technology

- Skills related to media use (both critical analysis and production of media), are integrated throughout the standards.

Assessment

- CCSS assessments are focused on developing richer, more authentic measures of student learning. They are focused on providing more precise information for teachers to use to improve learning.



Rowayton Elementary School's Vision Statement

- Our vision statement centers on the understanding of four principles. We believe that an organization grounded in these values will grow with the needs of our students and all who work with them.
- ***Life Long Learning***- To be a life long learner, there must be a continual openness to new information and the evaluation of evidence.
- ***Good Character***- When developing good character, there must be a balance of the pillars of character (respect, responsibility, caring, citizenship, tolerance, perseverance, trustworthiness and leadership).
- ***Collaboration***- In order to work together, we will communicate with each other and be responsive to diverse ideas that emanate from the school, home and greater community.
- ***Goal Achievement***- All members of the Rowayton School Family must desire to be successful with a set of high standards.

Rowayton Elementary School's Mission Statement

Our mission is to educate all members of our diverse community to achieve their fullest potential in a safe, nurturing and mutually respectful environment which fosters responsibility and life-long learning.

- Instruction- interactive, critical thinking , evidenced based research methods, differentiation, resources, integrated technology- Reading 3D
- Academics- the importance of educating the whole child, continuous student feedback, P. B.S.I. specialized programs for accelerated learners, rising learners and early intervention, SPED , transition to the Common Core, SBAC
- Test Scores- Highlighted content areas/years where Rowayton's CMT results exceeded one or more of our neighboring districts (New Canaan, Darien and Westport).
- Facilities- Renovation – Completion , 2015
- School-Wide Safety
- Our School/Community Partnerships- Students, faculty, parent involvement, Rowayton Academy, After The Bell
- School Governance Council
- Accountability- Administrator and Teacher Evaluation Process

CMT Results for White Subgroup Only - Selected Districts Versus Rowayton

		Total Mathematics				Total Reading				Total Writing			
		Number Tested	Average Scale Score	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	Average Scale Score	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	Average Scale Score	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
2012 CMT	Gr 3 Darien	326	287.1	85.9	97.9	327	265.8	79.8	92.7	331	276.9	81.9	96.7
	Gr 3 New Canaan	300	306.3	96.3	99.3	298	282.1	89.9	95.6	302	293.9	90.7	96.4
	Gr 3 Westport	392	292.8	89.3	99	390	272	84.6	92.8	394	276.1	82.7	93.9
	Gr 3 Rowayton	50	292.7	82	96	52	266.3	84.6	88.5	52	265.3	76.9	92.3
	Gr 4 Darien	337	296.2	90.5	97	336	277.8	83	93.2	341	283.8	87.1	96.8
	Gr 4 New Canaan	282	309.3	95.4	99.3	282	292.7	93.3	97.5	284	296.8	93	98.6
	Gr 4 Westport	364	299.9	92.6	98.4	362	277.2	85.1	94.5	366	276.6	85.5	94.8
	Gr 4 Rowayton	34	293.9	94.1	97.1	34	293.7	91.2	94.1	34	270.1	91.2	94.1
	Gr 5 Darien	335	298.4	92.8	97.3	334	267.1	87.1	93.7	334	275.3	87.7	98.8
	Gr 5 New Canaan	266	296.6	89.5	97	265	276.4	88.7	96.6	268	289.2	88.8	98.1
	Gr 5 Westport	400	316.1	95.3	98	400	275.7	91.3	95.5	404	279.5	90.1	98.8
	Gr 5 Rowayton	34	300.6	91.2	97.1	34	273.7	91.2	94.1	34	265.3	82.4	100

2011 CMT		Total Mathematics				Total Reading				Total Writing			
		Number Tested	Average Scale Score	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	Average Scale Score	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	Average Scale Score	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
Gr 3	Darien	340	283.3	82.4	95.3	340	263.1	82.1	95	343	281.1	83.1	94.5
Gr 3	New Canaan	270	291.9	90.4	98.1	270	277.9	91.5	96.3	273	299.2	89.7	96
Gr 3	Westport	373	284.8	85.5	95.7	371	259.6	78.7	90.3	376	271.1	77.1	93.9
Gr 3	Rowayton	41	279.2	90.2	95.1	41	267.9	85.4	95.1	41	256.2	73.2	90.2
Gr 4	Darien	336	291.5	92.3	97.9	336	279.6	86.6	94	338	279.2	87.3	96.4
Gr 4	New Canaan	271	306.3	91.1	98.5	271	296.9	93	95.9	276	287.4	88.4	97.8
Gr 4	Westport	394	307.2	93.1	98	394	280.8	87.1	93.9	400	278.3	90.3	96.5
Gr 4	Rowayton	28	291.4	92.9	96.4	28	275.5	89.3	96.4	28	267.9	82.1	100
Gr 5	Darien	354	296.6	93.2	97.7	354	268.2	86.7	94.4	358	278	87.4	97.8
Gr 5	New Canaan	274	293.9	89.1	96	275	272.4	86.5	93.8	277	290.3	88.4	96.8
Gr 5	Westport	407	307.1	92.6	97.5	407	271.3	85.3	94.1	408	270.6	84.3	97.3
Gr 5	Rowayton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	256.4	72.7	90.9

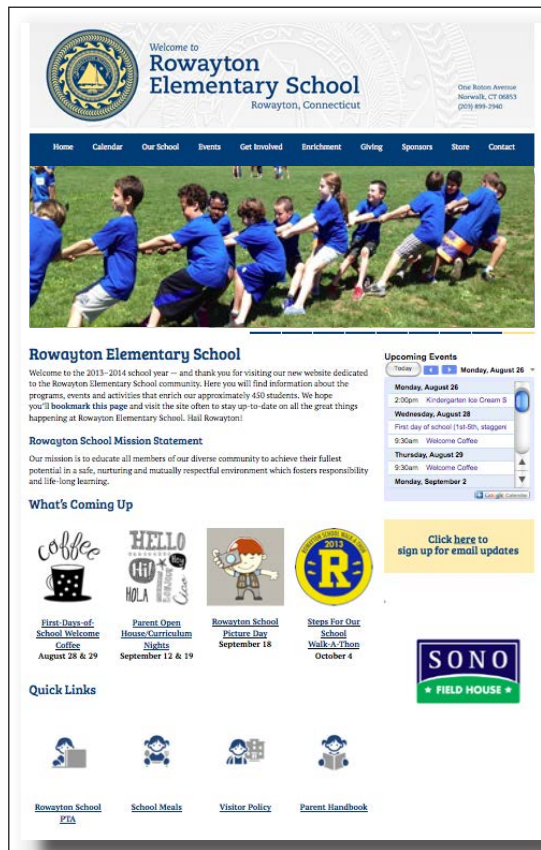
2010 CMT		Total Mathematics				Total Reading				Total Writing			
		Number Tested	Average Scale Score	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	Average Scale Score	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	Average Scale Score	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
Gr 3	Darien	337	286.5	83.7	96.1	336	262.9	81.8	89.6	339	276.3	82.3	94.1
Gr 3	New Canaan	267	292.9	88.8	96.6	265	277.8	91.7	97.4	268	283.5	83.2	94
Gr 3	Westport	381	287.6	87.7	96.1	380	263	78.7	91.6	385	273.1	78.4	93
Gr 3	Rowayton	39	279.5	87.2	94.9	39	264.7	87.2	89.7	39	266.8	82.1	97.4
Gr 4	Darien	367	291.8	90.2	97	367	276.6	84.2	91.3	368	278.4	88.6	97.6
Gr 4	New Canaan	296	303.3	92.9	98	296	286.4	90.9	94.9	300	283.8	87.3	96.7
Gr 4	Westport	419	299.9	91.2	98.3	417	276.2	82	90.4	422	275.9	84.1	95.7
Gr 4	Rowayton	39	292.8	89.7	100	39	281.8	74.4	94.9	40	282.5	92.5	97.5
Gr 5	Darien	334	298.6	92.5	98.5	334	271.8	90.4	94.9	338	282.2	89.3	99.1
Gr 5	New Canaan	294	295	91.8	98.6	294	275.3	91.5	95.6	297	293.9	94.6	98
Gr 5	Westport	376	308.9	95.5	98.7	372	272	91.1	98.1	379	274.7	86.8	97.4
Gr 5	Rowayton	40	307.2	95	97.5	40	266.3	87.5	92.5	40	272.1	87.5	92.5



New Rowayton School Website

www.rowaytonpta.org

The PTA is excited to announce the launch of a new website dedicated to the Rowayton School community.



Here are just a few of the things you'll find:

- A calendar of school events.
- Details about our enrichment programs and activities.
- Important school documents, such as medical forms.
- Links to handy information, like the school lunch menu, parent handbook and visitor policy.
- Detailed descriptions of all our fundraisers and events.
- Volunteer opportunities, PTA information, ways to support our school...
- And much more!

Please go to www.rowaytonpta.org, bookmark the page and visit the site often to stay up-to-date on all the exciting things happening at Rowayton Elementary School!

For more information, and to submit content for the website, please email Vanessa Breese
Email Address: vanessabreese@yahoo.com

On occasion, the website committee will post images that feature Rowayton School students. If you WOULD NOT like your child to appear on the website, please send an email to rowaytonschoolpta@gmail.com.

The Hour online

Rowayton Elementary Walk-A-Thon raises nearly \$20,000 for new computer lab

By MATT COYNE Hour Staff Writer | Posted: Friday, October 12, 2012 7:15 pm



NORWALK -- The rain held off just long enough for Rowayton Elementary School to celebrate the success of its Walk-A-Thon.

The Walk-A-Thon, canceled Tuesday because of the weather, helped raise \$19,916.94 for a new computer lab at the school. The Rowayton PTA hoped to raise \$15,000 for a new computer lab, but with nearly all the school's children participating, the goal was blown away.

"We're very excited, we did very well," said Principal Sara Reilly as students walked around the soccer field behind the school. "I give the most credit to the kids, because they were hyper vigilant about getting on the phone and calling grandma. The children really wanted to do it for the school.

"(Parents and students) knew how important it was to support them in the classroom with technology as we move to the Common Core."

Reilly said the money would go toward equipping the school for the transition to the Common Core State Standards. The Common Core will be fully implemented in the 2014-15 school year, and the testing portion of the standards will require some kind of internet-capable device, be it a tablet or a computer.

"We always need support," she said. "It's a tough economy, tough budget times. We don't look at it as a challenge, we look at it as an opportunity."

Tammy Malkin's second-grade class raised the most money for the event and had 100 percent participation. She said every student did their best to contribute, some even pledging money from their own savings.

"Everyone brought in some money. Some kids brought in dollars, some brought in quarters, some brought in checks," Malkin said. "This is the biggest fundraiser I've had since I've been here.

"This school year the teachers have more kids per class. To have that much community and enthusiasm is really great. It just builds excitement. It's really cool."



www.rowaytonpta.org

ROWAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOSTS 2nd ANNUAL WALKATHON ON OCTOBER 4, 2013

ROWAYTON, September XX, 2013 – The Rowayton Elementary School PTA announces the second annual Walkathon scheduled to take place on Friday, October 4th from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m at Rowayton Elementary School, 1 Roton Avenue. The rain date for the Walkathon is Monday, October 7th. The goal is to exceed last year's impressive fundraising amount of \$20,000.

"We are so proud that 92% of what we raised in our first year went directly back to the school. In addition, nearly 80% of the students participated in the fundraising. With this money, we were able to purchase 30 new HP laptop computers, support material for the new computer lab and the latest online resources for the teachers, including Brain Pop and Brain Pop Jr.," said Michele Casey, parent volunteer and chairwoman for the Rowayton Elementary School Walkathon.

The money raised from this years Walkathon will be used to purchase additional tablets for the school in order to help Rowayton Elementary School transition to the Common Core State Standards, which will be fully implemented in the 2014-2015 school year. The testing portion of the standards requires an internet-capable device and the tablet offers an affordable solution.

In a joint statement, co-presidents of the Rowayton PTA, Jody Sattler and Gina Legnani said, "The Rowayton PTA strives to create events that foster a real sense of community and generate excitement for a cause. In this case, teachers, staff and students from all six grades are invited to attend and participate in the one mile walk to show their support for the school."

To learn more and register, please visit http://www.rowaytonpta.org/?page_id=651.

About Rowayton PTA

The Rowayton School PTA is a member based organization that is part of the National Parent Teacher Association. We are a non profit 501 c3 organization. Our goals include promoting the enrichment of all the children at the school by fundraising, providing special events such as the Heritage Dinner, Special Person's Day and Bingo Night and by being a communication liaison between teacher, administration and parents. Some of our fundraising efforts have funded Smartboards in every classroom, a new computer lab, leveled reading libraries, professional development and many other teaching tools and materials for our staff.

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For more information:

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ROWAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PTA Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Membership Level(s): _____ Total Amount (\$): _____

Teacher's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- DO NOT list my name for recognition (signature): _____
- I do not wish to receive any goods or services associated with my donation (i.e. event tickets, school gear, etc.) (signature) _____

Company Matching: ___ YES ___ NO

Company Name: _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO THE **ROWAYTON PTA** AND SEND IT TO 1 ROTON AVE ROWAYTON CT 06853,
OR SEND TO SCHOOL VIA YOUR CHILD'S FOLDER.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ROWAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION FEDERAL ID: #06-0994158

Questions? Please contact Marla Majewski at marlamajewski@yahoo.com.

ROWAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OUR SCHOOL – UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Looking for a way to support your child's school? Join the PTA and help us build for the future! Your membership helps us provide enrichment programs for our students, purchase new technology, provide professional development for our teachers and so much more!

Membership levels and Benefits 2013-2014

Basic Membership (Requested for all families, \$5.50 of this is sent to the CT State PTA)			\$10
PTA Membership	Rowayton School Directory		
PTA Membership Plus			\$25
PTA Membership	Rowayton Student Directory		
Rowayton School Decal	School-wide Recognition		
Hammer It In			\$100
PTA Membership	Rowayton School Umbrella	Rowayton School Decal	
School-wide Recognition	Rowayton Student Directory		
Build the Walls			\$250
PTA Membership	2 Bingo cards	Rowayton Beach Towel	
Rowayton School Directory	School-wide Recognition	Rowayton School Decal	
2 Friday carnival bracelets	Rowayton School Umbrella		
Dig It Deeper			\$500
PTA Membership	2 Saturday carnival bracelets	Rowayton Beach Towel	
2 Raffle Tickets for Carnival	2 Bingo cards	Rowayton School Directory	
Rowayton School Drawstring backpack	School-wide Recognition	Rowayton School Decal	
	Rowayton School Umbrella		
Lay a Foundation			\$1000
PTA Membership	2 Saturday Carnival bracelets	Rowayton Beach Towel	
\$200 Ride Sponsor at Rowayton Carnival	Rowayton School	Rowayton School Umbrella	
2 Tickets to Fall Fundraiser	Drawstring backpack	Rowayton Tie-Dye T-Shirt	
5 Raffle Tickets for Carnival	4 Bingo cards	Rowayton School Directory	
2 Friday Carnival bracelets	School-wide Recognition	Rowayton School Decal	
Build It Bigger			\$2000
PTA Membership	2 Friday Carnival Bracelets	6 Raffle Tickets for Carnival	
\$200 Family Sponsor at Fall Fundraiser	2 Saturday Carnival Bracelets	8 Bingo Cards	
\$200 Ride Sponsor at Rowayton Carnival	Rowayton Tie-Dye T-Shirt	Rowayton School Umbrella	
2 Tickets to Fall Fundraiser	School-wide Recognition	Rowayton Beach Towel	
	Rowayton School Drawstring backpack	Rowayton School Directory	
		Rowayton School Decal	

The Rowayton PTA welcomes all levels of membership.
We are a tax exempt organization Federal ID#: 06-0994158

CLICK HERE FOR THE SCHOOL CALENDAR



Rowayton School E-Reporter

December 19, 2013

www.rowaytonpta.org

Important Dates

Strings Concert	Tonight 7pm
December 13th	Learning Express Shopping Event
December 23rd - January 1st	NO SCHOOL - Holiday Break
January 24th	Kindergarten Open House, 10:30am

SCHOOL NEWS

New Rowayton Academy class schedule!

The next set of Rowayton Academy classes is now available. The classes will start in January and there are some new offerings. Please [click here](#) to view the classes and start signing up today!

Rowayton School Holiday Gift Giving Program

After the success of last year's gift giving program we are once again asking you to consider donating the gift of an after school program for a Rowayton student. We have a wonderful after school program that provides homework help from Rowayton School teachers and fun enrichment activities. There are students in our school who wish to participate in the after school program but cannot because their families are unable to afford the monthly costs. Please look for the flyer coming home in your child's folder or follow [this link](#) to print out the form.

The new Rowayton Rambler is now available! This newspaper consists of submissions by 4th - 8th grade students at Rowayton Elementary School and Roton Middle School. Click here <http://rowaytonrambler.com/> to see the online version of the paper, past subscriptions and the Brien McMahon High School editorial blog. Paper copies were distributed on Wednesday in the folders for the oldest and only students in a family.

Got Jeans?

Join Rowayton elementary school's "Rejuvenate Reading Project" and Dosomething.org to collect used jeans for children, teens and adults in homeless shelters. Bring your used/unwanted jeans (all sizes and styles) to school and place them into the labeled bins in select spots around the school and near the office. Also, Ask family and friends in your community for used jeans. The schools that collect the most jeans will win a grant of 4K, 5K or even 10k. This grant could help fund our school's "library rejuvenation" needs. So let's come together and collect as many jeans as we can to support our school while helping families in need! Donations are being accepted from now until February 14th, 2014.

Science Fair Committee Update

Keep your eyes open in January for the announcement of the Rowayton School Science Fair 2014 date! Students will have more time to complete their projects this year after the holiday break as the date is moving out of January into Feb or March. Use the holiday break to start thinking about your project for this year!

Rowayton School Open House

Please spread the word to Nursery School friends and neighbors who are interested in attending Rowayton School in the future. All are welcome to join us on Friday, January 24th, 2014 at 10:30am at Rowayton School. Speakers will include: Superintendent, Dr. Manuel Rivera, Sara Reilly, PTA representatives, Teachers & Students. Current Rowayton School parents are also welcome to attend and learn more about our school. All look forward to answering questions and sharing the qualities that make Rowayton School so very unique!

COMMUNITY NEWS

It's time to register for Spring baseball!

Rowayton Little League Registration is now open for the 2014 spring season. Please go today to rowaytonlittleleague.com and register your child for baseball or softball. There is a new Little League rule this year and *all students who attend Rowayton school are eligible to play with Rowayton Little League*. You no longer have to live in 06853. If you have any questions, please contact Jody Sattler at jodysatt@me.com. [Click here](#) for more information.

To submit items for the weekly eblast, contact Christina Vahle at camarini@yahoo.com

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Our mailing address is:

Rowayton PTA
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Rowayton, CT 06853

The MailChimp logo is displayed in a white, cursive font within a grey rectangular box.

RowayTONrambler.com

News, Politics, Op-Eds and Reviews By The Students of Rowayton Elementary,
Roton Middle and Brien McMahon High Schools

*** 2013 HOLIDAY ISSUE 2013 ***

Nelson Mandela Dies

By Schuyler Luthy, 8th Grade

On December 5th, Nelson Mandela died, following a long struggle with a lung illness. He was 95. Mandela was one of the world's most influential people. His activism and struggle to oppose apartheid in South Africa, resulted in his spending 27 years of his life in prison. Yet his struggle for peace and equality for all people will be his lasting legacy. His death, although not unexpected has still shocked and saddened the world, South African or not.

Nelson Mandela was born with the name of Rolihlahla Mandela on July 18th, 1918. He was born in the Transkei region of South Africa. Mandela's father Henry was a chief of the Tembu



people and his mother was named Nosekeni Fanny. The Mandelas were related to the Tembu royal family. When Nelson was nine, his father died. He went to live with Jongintaba Dalindyebo. When he began school, his teacher was the one who gave him the name Nelson. He went to a mission school and then moved onto college. At college, he studied law at Fort Hare University, but he left in 1939. **Story Continues on Page 3.**

Norwalker Arrested in Russia for Protest Against Oil Drilling

By Jackson Fiscina, 5th Grade

On September 19th, 2013 Captain Peter Willcox, a Norwalk Native, and 29 other crewmembers of the *Arctic Sunrise* were protesting at an oil rig in the Pechora Sea off of the northern coast of Russia. Three crew members tried to scale the side of a Russian oil rig and board the platform. They did this because they are a part of an organization called Greenpeace, the largest independent direct-action environmental organization in the world. One of their major goals is to stop global warming. On the same day, the Russian Coast Guard flew helicopters above the *Arctic Sunrise*, jumped aboard the ship, arrested the crew and seized the ship. **Story continues on Page 4.**



ObamaCare Computer Glitches Challenge Americans By Derek Jordan, 5th Grade

People in the United States have had problems signing up for health insurance and have complained about the computer glitches on the HealthCare.gov website, launched on October 1, 2013. In 2009, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law, which will provide health insurance for all Americans. The law goes into effect in 2014. Those who are not enrolled in an insurance plan will have to pay a fine. As this story went to print, 29,000 people had signed up in the first two days of December; about that same number that had been able to sign on during the whole month of October. Government officials are still unclear how many people have been able to navigate the healthcare.gov website and sign up for health insurance, even though Health and Human Services Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, said that Americans would be able to purchase Health Insurance the day it was rolled out. According to White House officials, the Obama Administration's goal was to have 500,000 people enrolled by now.

The HealthCare.gov website has been having problems for many reasons. The main reason was that there was not enough system testing of the website before it was launched. As a result, many buttons on the website failed, making it difficult for people to register, and prohibiting Americans from getting insurance. **Story continues on Page 3.**



Reporter, Jackson Fiscina, speaks with U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal at the candlelight vigil, for Norwalk native, Peter Willcox, at Village Creek..

ELECTION 2013: Christie Wins Big in New Jersey— Looks to 2016

By Charlotte Hussey, 7th Grade

Chris Christie is the Republican Governor of New Jersey and possibly a future candidate in the 2016 presidential election. This past November, Christie easily won re-election, taking 60% of the votes.

Christie was born in New Jersey in 1962. He studied politics at the University of Delaware, where he met his future wife, Mary Pat Forester. After college, he returned to study law at Seton Hall University and soon after was admitted to the New Jersey Bar.

After building up a big reputation through many political jobs Christie won the 2009 election for Governor of New Jersey. He easily won the primary, and soon after the general election. Christie has a reputation for moving legislation forward. **Story continues on Page 2.**

Remembering JFK

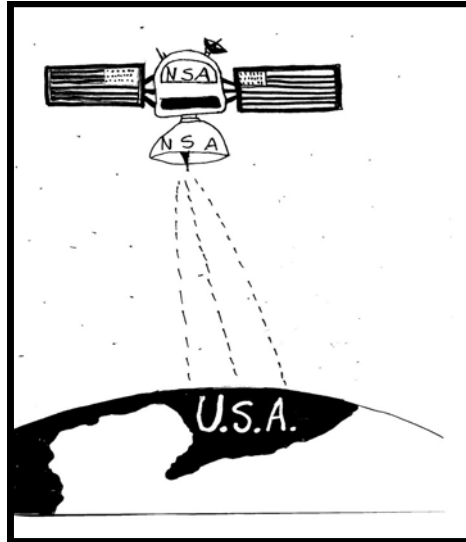
By Willem LeComte, 7th Grade

November 22nd marked the 50th Anniversary of the assassination, of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Tragedy struck on that day when Kennedy was shot and killed in Dallas, Texas by Lee Harvey Oswald. Americans will never know who gave the official order to kill JFK, but countless conspiracy theories, books and articles have been written on the topic. Those who remember that day can tell you exactly what they were doing the moment Kennedy was shot. Fifty years later, the nation still mourns. **Story Continues on Page 2.**

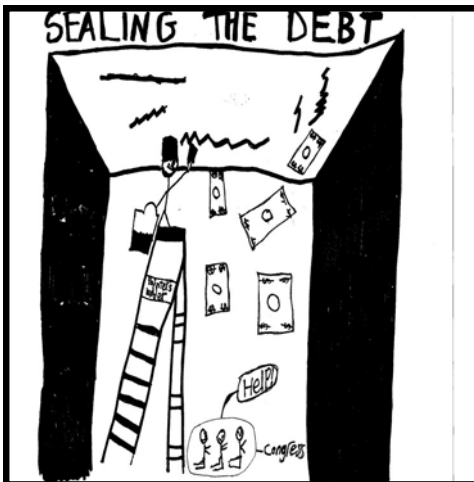
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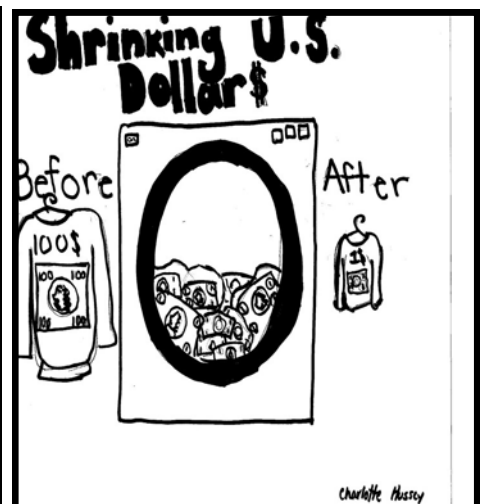
National Security Agency



U.S. Debt Ceiling



The Cost of Healthcare



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