



# Congrats Grads



## Cable Connections CABLE ACADEMIC & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER PARENT NEWSLETTER ACADEMIC YEAR END & SUMMER 2015

Give Me An A!

Welcome Family & Friends!

**CABLE**  
ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

**Graduation & Achievement Day Celebration**

Tuesday, June 23, 2015  
11:00 a.m.  
in the  
Campus Courtyard  
Sweetman Auditorium

**Achievement**

For the third consecutive year, The Honorable Nancy Wyman, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Connecticut, gave the commencement address at Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center's Graduation and Achievement Day Celebration. The event was held Tuesday, June 23rd at 11:00 a.m. in the campus courtyard and approximately



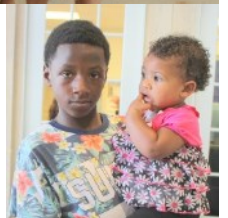
250 CJR students, friends, family, school district representatives and staff members attended. **Thirteen students** from CJR's day education and residential programs **were presented with their earned high school diplomas** by Mr. Cook. Two of our guys, Evan & Zak,

received Academic Certificates of Completion and are continuing their education.

- ♦ **Brandon B. Torrington**
- ♦ **Tim C. Bristol**
- ♦ **Justin D. Watertown**
- ♦ **Jake L. Region 12**
- ♦ **Brent M. Ansonia**
- ♦ **Will N. Torrington**
- ♦ **Zach N. New Milford**
- ♦ **Nick P. Norwich**
- ♦ **Anthony P. Torrington**
- ♦ **Niko P. Naugatuck**
- ♦ **Axel R. Region 10**
- ♦ **Tyler S. Brookfield**
- ♦ **Austin W. Torrington**

In addition, Mrs. Calabro presented 8th grade diplomas to four boys.

- ♦ **Nykeem H. Danbury**
- ♦ **William H. West Haven**
- ♦ **Michael L. Ansonia**
- ♦ **Omar R. Bristol**



Achievement awards were numerous (approximately 115!) and given to students across all classes for accomplishments in the classroom and school community. The ceremony was followed by refreshments and congratulatory lauds and conversations.

(cont. page 8)





# History ☆☆☆☆

# English

# S. T. E. M.

Science <> Technology <>

Engineering <> Mathematics <>

## Pilot Program

During the fourth marking period and summer session, students enrolled in the academic classes at the Connecticut Junior Republic have participated in interdisciplinary units of study. Students researched and developed their own business plans in History and English classes during the fourth quarter. Utilizing Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Publisher, students created an advanced business portfolio. As for the summer, many of our students have taken part



in a pilot program combining History and English with STEM. These courses, taught in a cohort setting, allow team building exercises and units that are integrated under overarching goals. The current focus of the class centers on survival during natural disasters. Project-based learning has the students participating in a survival simulation, writing about their experiences, and testing technology behind disaster-proof structures. Thus far, the pilot program has been a success, as students have enjoyed the increased interaction and overlapping themes. We look forward to implementing the pilot program into the first quarter of the 2015-2016 school year.

-Mr. Dickau, English

-Mr. Hall, History

-Mr. LaBranche, STEM



123 North Main Street  
Town, CT 06000

Phone: (860) 555-1234  
gamershaven@email.com

## Gamer's Haven

## Therapeutic Respite Assessment Center

The TRAC boys are enjoying the summer program this year. They all have a chance to try out several different vocational classes which they would not have time for during the regular school year.

We are concentrating on the geography of the United States and brushing up on our reading comprehension and math skills. The map work has been challenging! The boys are enjoying PE classes

with Mr. Mulhall. They report some serious team building in basketball, and competition in flag football.

Several boys have had the opportunity to experience the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Program this summer with Mr. LaBranche and Mr. Fellows.



So far, they have made solar powered vehicles and are working on more projects involving foil, cardboard and lots of duct tape! This class has been a big hit with everyone who tries it and we hope we can continue to offer it in the fall.

The boys working on the farm have been busy with haying, new baby piglets, and putting in a lot of extra hours to help manage all of the chores. The garden is coming along great and the boys have been involved with planting, weeding, and harvesting the crops. Soon they'll enjoy tasting all of the vegetables they have helped to produce.

In the cottage, the boys all participate in Boys Council, Target, and Health groups. They have enjoyed trips to Six Flags, Phazer Ball, Mini Golf, Go Carts, and of course the movies. Lots of swimming and fishing both on campus and off - Jason reigns as the champion fisherman!

-Mrs. Gagne, TRAC Academics

**James K. Obst**, Director of Education and Student Services

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding your son's education, always feel free to contact me at 860-567-9423 ext. 211 or at [jobst@cjrjyouth.org](mailto:jobst@cjrjyouth.org)

or CJR's Director of School Operations, Chris Cook, at 860-567-9423 ext.269 or at [ccook@cjrjyouth.org](mailto:ccook@cjrjyouth.org)

or CJR's Director of Special Education, Jan Calabro, at 860-567-9423 ext.289 or at [jcalabro@cjrjyouth.org](mailto:jcalabro@cjrjyouth.org)

## Cable Academic and Vocational Education Center (CAVEC)

at the Connecticut Junior Republic  
provides academic, vocational and  
related educational services.



# AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

Where did the school year go? As we dive deep into our summer program we look forward to the new school year that lays on the horizon, but look back briefly but fondly on the year that was, and the all the accomplishments that were earned by so many.

Q4 saw a flurry of activity in agricultural science and a significant uptick in expectations and productivity. Ag students participated in the Northwest Conservation District's Annual Plant and Tree Sale preparation. This is an annual community service project for our guys. They enjoy helping out whenever possible. All animal species finished delivering their young, culminating with four pig litters being born right at the end of the school year.

Many happy and healthy babies at the farm drew an unprecedented number of visitors to get a good dose of cute and friendly to brighten their day. Many awesome lessons are learned during the gestation period of farm animals and each student did an excellent job.

Preparations were made with the equipment so that we were ready to go for the upcoming hay and lawn care season. Lessons in tractor driving were given to advanced Ag students, while other students strived to reach that goal. Work was done in our gardens to prepare them to receive all the growing plants in our greenhouse.

Data was analyzed regarding our maple production and indicators say that by all accounts, after a slow start the production was solid. All our stewardship in our maple woods seems to be paying off.

We were fortunate to have Mrs. Leonard and Mr. Clark join some of our larger classes as teaching assistants this quarter. They were both integral parts of our curriculum implementation. We certainly appreciated their shared talents, and everyone enjoyed the time spent together. The boys love to show what they do and what they learn to others who don't make it to the farm that often.

The school year ended with a wonderful class night for our seniors and a fantastic achievement ceremony on the last day. Will N., Chris B.,

Jon G., Tim C., and Omar R., received awards as the agricultural sciences top students for 2014-2015. The class in general had an impressive amount of high achieving students this year who worked very hard to reach their personal goals. Ag Science is not an easy A, yet several young men achieved that level. I am pleased to report that senior Will N. was accepted to the State University of New York at Cobleskill. He will be attending this fall, enrolled in the Animal Science program. Congrats to Will.

The summer program has been very busy. To date, 3500 hay bales have been made, over 600 fall decoration plants have been planted, and countless hours have been logged on lawn mowers and string trimmers.

Three entries are being prepared for an October purebred sale called Cow Power. An Angus cow with her heifer calf and a yearling heifer have been sheared and groomed for pictures which will go in ads and an official sale catalogue. Runway models have nothing on these ladies.

The crew has worked hard this summer. They have dealt well with the elements and have learned what production looks like and how to accomplish it. They have improved their problem solving skills and use them daily as there are many issues to address on a farm which you can't predict. I am absolutely pleased with their perseverance, hard work, and their ability to stay positive and move forward. It has been a pleasure to share time with your sons this summer.

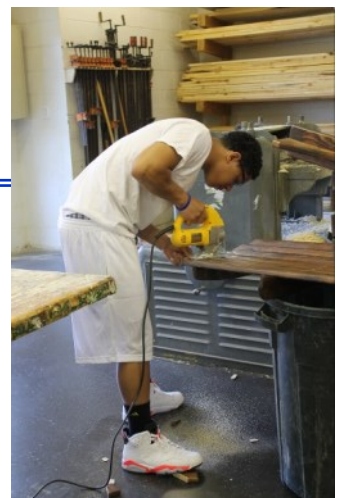
As I close, I invite you to come see the animals or stop by and see us at the farm stand in the fall. But, by all means, come and see what our students do first hand in agricultural science. Our young men are proud of what they do and would enjoy giving you a tour. Until next time, No Farms No Food. -Mr. Elwell, Agricultural Science

## Wood Technology



- Mr. Sawoska,  
Wood Technology

The Wood Technology shop had a very productive fourth quarter. As the year was winding down, the young men in shop were busy finishing their projects while looking forward to the summer break. The three recipients of awards in Wood Technology were Andrew G., Ben S., and Kyle S.. As the summer session begins, my senior class has left and a new crop of young men have entered the shop. I look forward to getting to know them and hope we all can learn from each other.





## CULINARY ARTS

The Culinary Arts classes at CJR have been hard at work on another Farm to Table unit during the summer months. Working in tandem with our Vo-Ag and Plant Science classes, the students have been monitoring herb gardens, picking fresh produce, and using their skills/knowledge in order to prepare meals and snacks using our very own homegrown ingredients. The students have recently made steak and veggie kabobs, flatbreads, and salads this summer session. Over the course of the summer they

will continue with these themes as well as production and service methods to better prepare themselves for the workforce.

- Mr. Malahan,  
Culinary Arts



## Resource Room

We had a good end to the year in room 105.

We accomplished a lot of assignments while having fun.

In Upper Middle School, we mastered the Pythagorean Theorem and we built Egyptian pyramids out of sugar cubes. In Life Skills, we ended the year working on Health and ways to make better decisions that promote healthier lifestyles.

This summer, we are reading short stories. We are reading Old Bragwynn the Pirate. We will be painting airplanes handmade of styrofoam and paper materials and testing them in the next two weeks. We have also been able to spend a period or two fishing at the pond.

- Ms. Olinger,  
Resource &  
Academics  
Teacher



## Exploratory & Plant Science

with the vegetable gardens on the farm. We are just starting to pick our early summer crops and providing our kitchen and culinary classes with our wonderful produce. This gives the students a strong understanding of what it takes to grow and prepare fresh produce and enjoy the entire process "from farm to table."

Our fish farm program is going exceptionally well with two successful breedings of our White Nile tilapia. Students take great pride with these fish on a daily basis.

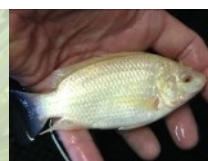
The bird box program is showing a strong population of Eastern Bluebirds and tree swallows. The students check the boxes weekly and see the baby birds progress. Since the brown bat population is low, for the past few years due to a disease that has

taken most of the population, the birds are a stronghold with eating insects around campus.

Lawn Care is another weekly upkeep project on the farm. Students are learning mower and grass trimmer techniques and also how to service them when needed.

Our mum and flowering cabbage crop has been planted and being cared for by the students. This year's numbers are up from a 200 pot count to 260 total and will be sold at our farm stand this fall.

Until next time, - Mr. Budny, Exploratory & Plant Science



Hello from Plant Science & Exploratory!  
As the summer progresses, the students are working very hard





## Creative & Applied Arts

community projects. Annually, a local soup kitchen hosts a fundraiser to support *FISH*, which is a non-profit organization that serves Northwestern CT by providing food, shelter, and hope. At this event, guests purchase a hand-made ceramic bowl to participate in a soup tasting. The art students at CJR are making the bowls for this fundraiser, which will be taking place in October. In addition to this project, the art students are creating drawings of antique cars for CJR's annual calendar. The majority of the drawings are developed from photos that were



taken at our annual car show. The students are enthusiastic about participating in the two community projects. Stay tuned...

-Mrs. Rinaldi, Creative Arts



## Exciting Haps in the Library!

The CJR Library is in a state of flux right now due to exciting changes! We have approximately 1000 volumes on the shelves thus far. I am rearranging the books to accommodate new titles. That is a good problem to have. The graphic novel section continues to grow, as does the number of students checking them out. This summer I will be concentrating on the nonfiction section. If there is any subject you might be interested in, or any title you would like to read, let me know. I can order it for you. Don't overlook the biographies. We have many interesting people to read about!

The other wonderful news is that we have all new computers in the computer lab and two new computers in the library! Gone are the days of waiting ten minutes to boot up. Thank you to Mr. LaBranche for setting them all up. I look forward to working with students using our new technology.

The library will continue to expand and grow its collection of great books and new technologies. Come visit and find a good book to read. Remember, "If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book." - J.K. Rowling

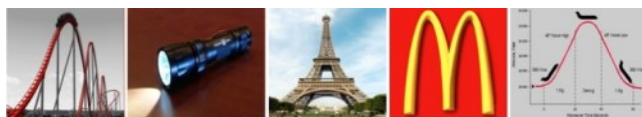
- Mrs. Whiteside, Librarian



## GRAPHIC ARTS

This year, our Graphic Arts classes are mixing it up a bit. Normally, we would begin production of the CJR calendar in September, but we have moved up the time table and are beginning prepress work during our summer program. All students will take part in photographically shooting negatives from black & white original artwork and documents as well as hand developing the film.

My veteran students will learn how to strip up a negative on a masking sheet, using our light table. There will be many other experiences involved in classes this summer, while we try to complete the calendars by mid-October. I don't want to give away why we are starting early this year, but I will hint our "Cars for Kids" car show is also in mid-October. ~ Mr. Clark, Graphic Arts

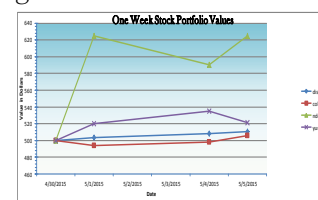


During the fourth quarter we saw our students put a good deal of effort into

## Mathematics

finishing up their units for the year. Some students even chose to get a jump start on their units of study for next year. Students overall did excellent work right up until the last day on units such as basic statistics, properties of parabolas, and working with square roots, demonstrating great work ethic and good character. Earlier this term all students participated in a project in which they mock invested \$1000 into four different stocks. There was a great deal of excitement and energy around the project and we may have helped create a few future major investors.

- Mr. LaBranche, Mathematics





## CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE & DRAFTING

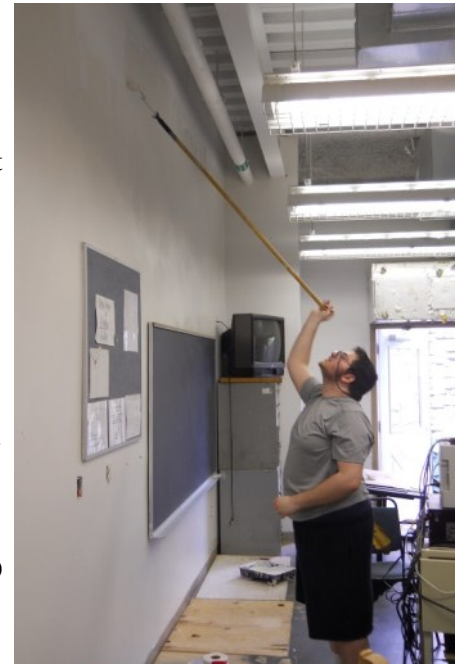
The end of the school year always comes fast. Many students I have had in class graduated this past June. I would like to congratulate them once again and wish them luck in the future. They graduated before our project house was totally complete, but left it in competent, albeit a little younger hands. This will give new students a chance to finish some of the smaller tasks that can take so much time to accomplish. Once the house is complete, students will go back and troubleshoot any problems in the house (including any holes that were 'accidentally' knocked into the drywall). When everything is complete, we will have a little housewarming party. Then, everyone's favorite time approaches: demolition!

This summer, four new computers were installed in the drafting classroom. Consequently, our classes will also be busy transforming the classroom into a new space.



Drafting and design will be a large part of summer school. New students will learn about the basic tools, ideas and how to navigate in a few different CAD programs. This way, they will all be ready to go, once the regular school year starts in SEPTTTTT?

- Mr. Ouellette, Construction Maintenance & Drafting



## Power Mechanics

The fourth quarter introduced polishing of headlamp assemblies and a helmet visor using a compound polish, a buffer and some elbow grease.

(Editor's Note: Thanks to the guys who tuned up the small engine lawn mower.)

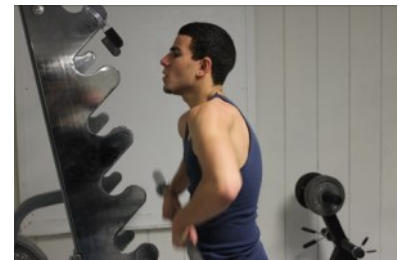
The summer into fall auto program has the auto shop preparing a surprise vehicle for the annual CJR Car Show in October. Students are learning techniques in auto body, fabrication, suspension, and mechanical and electrical systems repair in order to achieve our goal of transforming a station wagon into a panel truck. Hope to see you there!!!



- Mr. Drost,  
Power  
Mechanics

## Physical Education

Our last quarter has flown by and a lot of my students have really shown such improvement and growth in my Physical Education classes. The boys engaged in many different activities and team sports during our last quarter and going into summer school. A few of these activities included: golf, football, basketball, weight training and kickball to name a few.



The sportsmanship that has been demonstrated and the development and growth of the majority of our boys has made me very proud as an educator here at CJR. There has been a lot of leadership demonstrated by numerous students in our school, not only in my class, but throughout our entire school.

I am very proud of all of our June graduates and our August students who will be receiving their high school diplomas. A lot of hard work has gone into this process and staying focused and positive is key in accomplishing any goal that you set your mind to. I am truly looking forward to summer school and seeing all of our students continue to improve and grow themselves in a positive way. Keep it up boys.

- Mr. Mulhall,  
Physical Education







## Boys Intermediate Residential Program

The end of the year activities at The Cable Academic and Vocational Center at The Connecticut Junior Republic were a proper finale to a most positive and productive school year! Our graduation ceremonies were enjoyed by all, particularly the recent graduates! Many of the young men in the B.I.R.P. (Boys' Intermediate Residential Program) received academic and vocational awards.

After a very successful school year, the twenty-nine day summer school program began on July seventh. Prior to this, our residential students spent time during their break hiking, gardening, playing sports and enjoying the great outdoors! They even took in a Mets game! Currently, each of the boys is working on academic pursuits which will enable some of them to graduate in August and others in November of 2015, at the end of the first marking period. They are also engaged in the Vocational Program classes including Physical Education, Art, Wood Shop, Auto Shop, Culinary, Construction and Vocational Agriculture.

We also have three young men in the STEM Program which is composed of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. They are totally enjoying their experience in this class, while creating and testing their ideas with hands on projects and experiments.

We are looking forward to the successful completion of this year's summer school program and our break before school resumes on September first. The 2015-2016 school year promises to be another thriving academic year!

- Ms. Christine P. Silano, Academics



## SCIENCE

We finished the last quarter of school studying **Complex Animals**. We identified the major traits of **Jointed-Leg** and **Spiny-Skinned Animals**. We enjoyed comparing the traits of jawless fish, cartilage fish, and bony fish. Students were excited to learn that the fish they catch in our own CJR pond are bony fish.

Many fish that you eat, such as perch, bass, flounder, and trout, are in this group and can be seen in the supermarket. We studied a second class of jointed-leg animals including, spiders, scorpions, ticks, and harvestmen. Another name for harvestmen? The one and only daddy longlegs.

**Bio Tip:** Deer ticks carry bacteria that cause Lyme disease. A tick picks up bacteria when it bites a mouse and sucks blood containing the bacteria. Then, when the tick bites a human, the bacteria are transferred.

Our labs included observations and careful recordings of which class of jointed-leg animals each of the organisms belonged to. Students were "scientists" developing observational and recording skills.



### Health- Exercise, Rest, and Recreation

We discovered the importance of fitness and the benefits of regular exercise. Students realized that physical fitness can be a lot of fun, while giving us physical and psychological benefits. We learned that cardiovascular disorders are at least partly related to choices that a person makes- choices about such things as nutrition, exercise, and smoking.

Our labs included watching simulated heart related scenarios. These were exciting to watch and learn from.

### Summer School

For the summer, the younger students are focusing on the reading of TRASH, by Andy Mulligan. This book is about three "dumpsite boys" making a living by picking through mountains of garbage in a Third World country. The author writes a powerful story about

poverty and the kind of hope and determination that can transcend it.

The older students are working on an **Independent Book-Reading Project**. After choosing a book, they need to complete a Project proposal, Vocabulary list, Prepare a Book Talk and complete a Final Project to present to their class. They are doing an excellent job.

Our math students are maintaining their math skills over the summer by practicing a mixed review each day. This includes word problems, graphing, area & perimeter, decimal numbers, as well as multiplication and division.

- Ms. Stevens & Ms. Pepen, Science & Academics







## Welcome New Students!

Ryan A., New Fairfield . Stafford A., Waterbury  
 Jason B., New Haven . Tyree C., New London . Nicholas C., Ansonia  
 William C., Newtown . Michael F., Stamford  
 Robert H., Waterbury . Nykeem H., Danbury  
 William H., West Haven . Hayden H., New London  
 Alex L., Waterbury . Michael L., Ansonia . Cole L., Bristol  
 Allik M., Waterbury . Andrei N., Shelton  
 Brandon N., Independent . Jordan P., Stonington  
 Lane R., Ansonia . Cody R., Coventry . Braxton W., Waterbury

## Welcome New Staff

Mrs. Brittany Maziarz, *Instructional Assistant*  
 Ms. Anastasia Palella, *Instructional Assistant*  
 Mrs. Holly Palmisano, *Assistant to School Directors*  
 Ms. Diane Sisson, *School Social Worker*

# CABLE

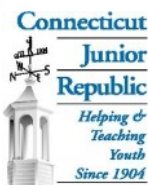
**ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER**

550 Goshen Road • P.O. Box 161 • Litchfield, CT 06759  
 Phone: 860.567.9423 • Fax: 860.567.2670

*Accredited by New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)*

## Mission Statement

To provide all students with a supportive educational environment which nurtures their ability to maximize their individual potential and strengthen their social and academic experiences, now and throughout their lifetimes.



## COMMUNITY AWARD

**Will N.**

Goes to the student who through leadership has done the most to make the school community a positive one.

## MICHAELS AWARD

**Will N.**

Goes to the student who shows most interest in making the school successful for all students – not just himself.

## BURGUM AWARD

**Brandon B. & Anthony P.**

Goes to the student who has done the most to help new students begin their experience with CJR on a positive note.

## ORNE AWARD

**Brent M. & Axel R.**

Goes to the student who displayed the best sportsmanship.

## BULEY AWARD

**Axel R.**

Goes to the student who best exhibits the principle of the school motto: "GROWTH THROUGH WORK"

## RUBIN AWARD

**Justin D.**

Goes to the student who has shown the most marked traits of kindness and consideration for other students.

## NICHOLS AWARD

**Will N.**

Goes to the student who has put forth the most effort during the school year to improve his school performance, both in academic and vocational classes.

## CLARK AWARD

**Will N.**

Goes to the student who the faculty and staff vote as the OUTSTANDING STUDENT of the current year.

## ROBERT ARTHUR STOWE

**Will N., Zach N. & Tyler S.**

Goes to the student who excels in the vocational education program.

## INDEPENDENT LIVING

**Niko P. & Austin W.**

Goes to the most improved student and to the student who is best prepared to live independently.

## PRINCIPAL'S RECOGNITION

**Justin D. & Axel R.**

Goes to the student that best demonstrates the following characteristics: honesty, integrity, loyalty, trustworthiness, and respect.