

## Student and Staff Achievements January 2018

### **Cloonan Named a “School of Distinction” by College For Every Student**

College For Every Student (CFES), a global leader in helping underserved students become college and career ready, recently named **Cloonan Middle School** a "School of Distinction" for the eighth year in a row. Cloonan is among 33 schools in eight states and Ireland to earn the award. A School of Distinction is recognized for having exemplary programs that incorporate the three CFES core practices: Mentoring, Leadership through Service, and Pathways to College & Career. These schools provide intensive exposure to the three practices for targeted students, who are known as CFES Scholars, and also create a culture that promotes college and career readiness for all students.

### **Connecticut Ballet Production of *The Nutcracker***

The Connecticut Ballet’s Production of *The Nutcracker* last month featured more than 85 local children chosen by audition and four guest stars from American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet. **Turn of River Middle School** student **Sarah Barry** was selected for the role of Clara, the child at the center of the E.T.A. Hoffman story on which the ballet is based. Sarah first started dancing at the age of four and is a dancer at Connecticut Ballet Center, official school of Connecticut Ballet.

### **SHS Black Knight Recognition**

Several weeks ago a potential catastrophe was averted when three **Stamford High School (SHS)** Black Knights, **Music Teacher George Beratis** along with **Seniors Lea Marcinczyk** and **Alex Forgione**, acted quickly and thoughtfully to come to the aid of a student who was involved in an accident in the school parking lot. Mr. Beratis, serving as a first responder, acted calmly and quickly in calling 911, notifying the office and directing students immediately after the accident. The students administered first aid to their friend and classmate.

### **Altice USA Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest**

**Academy of Information Technology & Engineering (AITE)** Sophomore **Larry Bello-Castillo** was named First Runner-Up in the Altice USA Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest. He won an I-pad mini for his essay, “A Day With My Parents.” He was the only winner selected from the state of Connecticut. Altice USA partnered with leading Spanish Language Channels to bring the contest to high school and middle school students in the Optimum and Suddenlink service areas. All students were required to write a 500-word essay on the topic: “Choose a Latino with whom you would choose to spend a day with, and why.”

### **“If Kids Could Cure” Contest**

**Toquam Elementary School** Fifth Grader **Brian Chen** was recently selected from among 8,000 entries across the country as a runner-up in the Scholastic-organized and Pfizer-sponsored, “If Kids Could Cure,” contest. The contest was created to inspire kids to think about problems they dream of solving in order to make the world a better place. Each competitor was required to explain a problem, and design and explain its solution. Brian, a student in **Leigh Ann Mobarik’s** class, designed a device that students could wear and activate if they felt bullied. The device would automatically alert a pre-selected group of contacts of the incident. Brian received a backpack of science supplies and books. The school received a \$5,000 grant for its science program and books for Mobarik’s classroom.

### **Long Island Sound and Its Watershed, “What it Means to Me”**

Three **Cloonan Middle School** students, **Diana Gavyrlchuk**, **Amalie Harper** and **Andrea Tropea**, under the direction of Art Teacher **Tammy Friedman**, were recently recognized in the Long Island Sound and Its Watershed, “What It Means to Me” calendar competition. Students were asked to design art in a variety of mediums including paint, oil pastel, markers, and colored pencils with the theme “What It Means to Me.” Diana’s artwork was chosen for the June 2018 page of the calendar. Artwork submitted by Amalie and Andrea were selected as Honorable Mentions. All attended an awards ceremony in Hartford last year.