

Staff News

January 2012 - Edition 7 #70



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What We Believe

Beliefs:

Everyone wants a positive experience. Developing relationships is the first priority and makes resolving any issues easier. Y people are good people who want to do the right thing. The value fairness, good sportsmanship and try to role models of the Y values. A carrot is always better than a stick and prevention beats cure every time. No one has fun if safety is compromised. We always start by saying, "how can we make this work in a win, win manner?". We work



Our New Look!

to catch people doing things right. Creating a culture and a common set of values is far better than rules and regula-

tions. We work to follow the Platinum rule. We want to engage the fans/spectators in the event.

Thanks a Bunch!

A fruit basket of thanks goes out to 2 groups of people. The Dress Code Committee, made up of Elena Baggio, Cindy Erickson, Drew Schoenster, and Linda Simpson, helped to organized and finalize all the efforts in our new dress code policies. Also, much thanks has to go out to Linda and Elena for collecting all of the sizes and ordering the shirts and pants. If you have any specific questions about the dress code guidelines - *see page 6* - please speak to your supervisor or a member of the committee. A second basket of fruit thank you goes to Anne Cullinan and Kim Murphy for coordinating with all staff to complete the Redwoods Institute on-line trainings. The required trainings are instrumental to us in having a better understanding of our role as staff. Thank you again to everyone involved!

If you have any photos or ideas for an article for *Staff News...*

Contact

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Or

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ONLINE TRAINING

January 2, 2012 Open House



Caught In The Act - December

WHO?

WHY?

Lynda Rushka & Elena Baggio	For setting up a successful “polar Express” trip from Cannondale to Danbury and back complete with Santa & Jingle Bells. The children returned to the Y for the movie and hot cocoa.
Geoff Malyszka	For volunteering to be Santa for the Polar Express. He arrived at the Danbury train station and surprised all the children with candy canes.
Renee Malyszka	For being Santa’s helper.
Diana LeVander	For helping to organize the Giving Tree.
Karen Strickland, Renee Malyszka, Elena Baggio, Geoff Malyszka, Gloria Bass, Gina Ruiz-Peinado, Anne Cullinan, Aaron Britton, Zack Block, Victoria Baggio, Keith Murphy, & Kerrigan Murphy	For all of their help in pulling off a very successful Breakfast with Santa.
Tom Jagelka	For thinking of Nursery School when a Dr. Seuss photo board became available. He not only transported it, he also set it up in the lobby.
Michelle Wishna, Anne Cullinan, & Karen Strickland	For helping to create a partnership with the Wilton Mom’s Club in securing rooms, e-mails, gym time, and press releases.
Gloria Bass & Regina MacKay	For setting up a special meeting with a new student’s mother so that a successful start to the year could be ensured for the student in a safe environment to suit the child’s needs.
Cindy Delfino	For all of the special crafts and activities you have done with the Kindergarteners to maintain that special bond you have with them.
Arthur Bass	For volunteering many times at the Y at Friends & Buddies setting up and cleaning up.
Zack Block	For volunteering to be Santa for a day.
Dalia Kempler	For doing an amazing job on her classroom while Nancy was away.
All Nursery School Teachers	For all their hard work completing the student evaluations.
Anne Cullinan	For helping to put together and monitor all the new Redwoods trainings.
Aaron Britton	For helping Kim to keep up with the Facebook and Twitter posts.
Carrie Caldarone	For stopping in after hours to pick up a gift certificate.
Linda Simpson & Elena Baggio	For the countless hours spent on all of the new purple shirts and pants.
Andrea DiBari	For helping out with the interview & hiring process in Kids Club.
Renee Malyszka, Aaron Britton Geoff Malyszka, Laura Koellmer	For helping with a recent visit from the State of Connecticut Health Department.
Charisse Drogalis	For helping to reverse a charge on a credit card and changing it to a new one.
Sarah Hagan	For your help in securing swim time for a holiday recreational family swim time for Nursery School.
Anne Cullinan & Linda Simpson	For helping the Nursery School Office print for the past few weeks.
Mario Granata, Noel Soto, Maryann Genuario, & Samantha Neumann	For opening the building at 8:00am on New Year’s Day.
Joanna Rodriguez-Seiffer	For teaching the 8:15am Extreme Cardio Fitness Class on New Year’s Day.
Liz Wilson, Mark Wilson, Katherine Murphy Iccopani, & Julie Roth	For protecting our swimming environment as Lifeguards on new Year’s Day.
Karen Strickland & Michelle Wishna	For all of their work to develop our 2012 Membership Campaign.

Caught In The Act - December

WHO?

Linda Simpson, Cindy Erickson
Drew Schoenster, & Elena Baggio

WHY?

For their work developing the updated Dress Code and ordering and distributing all of the shirts and pants.

Tom Jagelka

For all of his due diligence regarding our new Gymnastics Training Center located at 644 Danbury Road that we will be opening in mid-to-late January.

Kim Murphy & Anne Cullinan

For setting up and communicating the new on-line trainings from the Redwoods.

If you would like to nominate someone for a Caught in the Act, please fill out the sheet in the Copy Room and place it in Aaron's mailbox. There is a mailbox with the sheets in there. If it is easier, you may e-mail your nominations as well to one of the members of the Recognition Committee:

Kim Murphy

kmurphy@wiltonymca.org

Tom Jagelka

tjagelka@wiltonymca.org

Aaron Britton

abrittonnc@wiltonymca.org

Todd Stevens

tstevens@wiltonymca.org

Drew Schoenster

aschoenster@wiltonymca.org

Charisse Drogalis

cdrogalis@wiltonymca.org

Fred Heibeck

fheibeck@wiltonymca.org

Gloria Bass

gbass@wiltonymca.org



Congratulations Ed!
Our new Aquatics Coordinator!

Employee of the Month - December

Christina Korsupsin - Kindergarten Enrichment Teacher

Christina has been with the Wilton Family Y since this fall working in Kids Club and volunteering in Kindergarten Enrichment for a school internship. Christina has been the perfect employee because she consistently goes above and beyond every day. She has worked very hard with the Kindergarten Enrichment children and continues to grow each day. Christina has been such a help that she has volunteered an additional 20 hours per week helping out - all of it unpaid. She really deserves this honor of Employee of the Month.



Wilton Y Staff In Action



Wilton Y Dress Code

Effective January 1, 2012

TOPS:

Women: Purple polo, ¾ sleeve, long sleeve, short sleeve, fleece or grey fleece with new logo.

Men: Purple polo, long sleeve, short sleeve, fleece or grey fleece with new logo.

White, gray or black long sleeve shirt can be worn under any short sleeve shirt, no thermals. If you wear a grey fleece and decide to take it off during the day, you must have a purple shirt on.

Lifeguards: Red or white shirt lifeguarding shirt or sweatshirts.

Wahoo's & Gymnastics: Purple shirts are preferred during training and classes. If you do not have on a purple shirt, you must have on a staff shirt. Team shirts worn to meets.

Fitness: Purple long or short sleeve shirt.

Camp: Camp shirt

BOTTOMS:

Khaki, black or grey pants can be worn. NO JEANS AT ANYTIME.

Fitness, Aquatics, Gymnastics: black track pants.

Shorts can be worn between bubble down and bubble up. No jean shorts. Athletic shorts can be worn while teaching classes in the gym.

Work appropriate shoes and sneakers i.e. no flashy colors.

Name tags must be worn at all times.

Safety Committee Info

Meeting Minutes 12/8/11

1. Locker Room cleanliness needs to improve - especially in afternoon and evenings.
2. Locker Room walkthrough checklists must be completed by lifeguards.
3. Supervision of school age swimmers after class/practice must improve - guidelines needed for swimmers and parents.
4. All children must be marked as swimmers or non-swimmers in pools.
5. All full-time staff to finish Redwoods Trainings by 12/31/11. Part-time staff to complete soon thereafter.
6. Sauna door to be replaced.
7. Boxes in copy room not to be stacked too high for danger of falling.
8. Wire down by Tire Playground still hanging extremely low.
9. Employee lot light's timers to be corrected.
10. Drainage off of building at Activity Center Playground to be corrected.

Wilton Y Safety Committee

Kim Murphy - co-chair

Anne Cullinan - co-chair

Michelle Wishna

Randy Erlenbach

Bob McDowell

Noel Soto

Renee Malyszka

Rafael Marquez

Tori Landon

Fred Heibeck

Diana Levander

Aaron Britton

Lifeguard of the Month

Melissa Simeone is our Guard of the Month. For someone who isn't working full time at the moment, she seems to be here more often than I am and I think that that warrants a vote of confidence. She does everything. Early Morning, lessons, late nights, weekends. She is always enthusiastic and I can count on her to do the right thing and be prepared. It may sound like a lackluster argument, but how do you describe someone who makes herself an integral part of our programming and scheduling whenever she is here. Congratulations!



Bob's Blog



Happy New Year to All!

I hope that all of you experienced an excellent Holiday Season! I know that some of you would have preferred some snow over the holidays I was very happy that our town was spared, especially after what we experienced last year.

Our 2011 year end finish was strong, especially with our Camp Early Bird Enrollment Campaign. Thanks to Aaron Britton's leadership our effort through today has secured 1220 camper weeks versus 876 during our 2010 effort. Can't wait until Camp begins.

We also finished the year with some membership growth which is carrying over into the new year with our Membership Recruitment Campaign. We have already seen 38 families sign up for our 2-week free trial membership offer. Our hope is to triple that number by the end of January. Great work by Karen Strickland and Michelle Wishna for developing and executing this very important Membership Campaign. Also, don't forget to tell a member that if they get a friend to join, they themselves could earn up to \$100 in Y credit to the Y. Our January 1 Member Appreciation day and January 2 Open House also went very well so we are off to a good start this year.

This morning I just signed the lease for our new Y Gymnastics Training Center that will be located at 644 Danbury Road. We are targeting the week of January 23, 2012 as the start-up week. Thanks to Tom Jagelka and Anne Cullinan for their continued efforts to make this essential Program Expansion become a reality. Stay tuned for more details as our official opening date will be announced soon.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for adhering to our updated dress code. Our purple shirts and NO JEANS policy is creating a buzz throughout our staff and membership. Everyone looks great. Thanks again.

- Bob

Mission: The Wilton Family Y is a charitable organization dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles and positive values by offering a broad range of health enhancing, recreational, and social programs affordable and accessible to all people in our community. Financial assistance available for qualifying individuals and families. It is the policy of the YMCA to adhere to the Equal Employment Opportunity Act for all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, veteran's status or handicap.

Department Update Page #1



NURSERY SCHOOL & KID'S CLUB

The month of December was a busy one in the Nursery School Department. We had several gingerbread men visit us then run away.....never to be seen again.

We learned about hibernation and celebrated all holidays this month has to offer. Our 4's had a festival of lights event. All three classes got together and visited centers that each focused on a different holiday. Children were able to do crafts, play games and do fun activities. It was really nice to have several parents in to run the different centers. We are very grateful. Our 4's were also about to take a train ride "polar express" from Cannondale to Danbury and back a had a surprise visit from Santa (Geoff). Thank you very much Geoff. The children and staff really appreciated it. We also want to thank Zack Block for being Santa for our 2's and 3's.

Andrea finally completed the interview process and we hired two new staff. Please join us in welcoming Jodie and Mei to our team. - **Kim & Renee**



MEMBERSHIP

We are very busy with the New Year Incentives for Membership. We have so many people coming in to try the Y on us for two weeks. The parking lot has never been more crowded. People are very excited to try our classes. Hopefully we get many new members... Happy New Year! - **Michelle & Charisse**



HEATH & FITNESS

The Wilton YMCA and the Stamford Hospital are delighted to be able to provide The Mobile Wellness Center Program which provides breast cancer screening mammography services for our female employees, members and the public. The date of February 1, 2012 is confirmed. We encourage staff members and members of the Y to schedule their appointment for that day. Remember to be ready to give all contact information and insurance information when they call 203-276-2602 to book their appointment. Once the appointment is made they will receive a reminder call to collect any outstanding information and confirm their appointment. Stamford Hospital will directly bill their insurance for the services. For patient safety purposes, please bring license and insurance cards with you when they board the coach. - **Maryann & Fred**



OUTREACH

Happy New Year! Let's hope 2012 can be a benchmark year for the Wilton Y. I have been working on Special Olympics trying to get staff in place for the next leg of the events. With everyone's busy schedule finding volunteers can be a challenge. We will host Incredible Friday Family Fun again in this next session. - **Gloria**

Department Update Page #2



SPECIAL EVENTS & ARTS AND HUMANITIES

We held our annual Breakfast with Santa this month. We always look forward to this fun event. All proceeds to benefit the Melissa McFadden Scholarship Fund. A Wilton High School student will receive a scholarship in Melissa's name for their work with children who have special needs and who are going to study that field in college. Thank you to all our volunteers and to the McFadden family for all your help. - **Kim & Renee**



SPORTS

The Winter Session has started with some great numbers in our classes. Thank you to Andrew Sell, Kevin Sell and Dillon Coyle for making our Youth Sports Open House on January 2nd a huge success! - **Anne**



KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT

Kindergarten Enrichment had a great end to 2011 celebrating the holidays and the New Year! We are still registering for this current school year as well as the 2012-2013 school year. Let your friends know they can register now! - **Elena**



GYMNASTICS

The gymnastics team has a month full of meets in January. We have a meet every weekend this month. We have around 12 new level 4's competing for the very first time. We are eagerly waiting for the new facility to open up so we can start practicing there. - **Anne, Tom, & Diana**

Camp Gordyland

Camp Gordyland had its greatest Early Bird Registration in its history. Last Fall we registered 137 Campers coming for 726 weeks. This Fall we registered 239 Campers coming for 1215 weeks. Wow! We are off to a great start and Camp is now 1/3 full. Let's keep 'em coming in! - **Aaron & Renee**

Department Update Page #3

Neighborhood Club

This month we have a local artist coming in to do interactive group murals with the children that will become the new artwork in the computer lab. We are welcoming 5 new children to the afterschool program in January. Neighborhood Club threw its second annual staff party to say thank you to our hardworking and dedicated staff members. The event was catered by Simply Delicious and held free of charge at the Trackside Teen Center. In the new year our children are enjoying their new toys and games purchased through our recent Yankee Candle fundraiser. - *Laura & Geoff*



MAINTENANCE

No news to report at this time.



DEVELOPMENT

Y fundraising had a successful year in 2011, with our two major special events hitting goal and a good response to our Year End Campaign for Annual Appeal. We had 413 total donors in 2011, a gain of over 100 vs. last year, which includes many non members who expressed their appreciation to the Y for opening to the community after the two storms. Assuming a couple of major pledges come in over the next few weeks, our Annual Appeal total will be \$200,961. That is just about the same amount we awarded in financial assistance during 2011 to 380 people. Our Financial Development Committee will start planning our fundraising for 2012 when we meet this month, and we are looking forward to another strong year of special events and Annual Giving. We appreciate all the help and support we get from the staff for all our efforts – we couldn't do it without you. - *Karen & Cindy*



AQUATICS

Congratulations to Ed Danielsen on his recent promotion to Aquatic Coordinator! Ed has been with us for a number of years and has helped the Y and this department in so many different ways. His promotion is most deserving. Also Congratulations to Melissa Simeone for being awarded Guard of the Month for her much needed assistance this past month. She did early mornings, late nights, weekends and came in to substitute teach. Thank you Melissa! - *Sarah & Drew*



WILTON Y WAHOOS

No news to report at this time.

Staff Superlatives 2011

Here are the Winners!

Staff Superlatives Final Voting Page

1. Best Office Chair	Geoff Malyszka
2. Most Likely to Never Take a Day Off	Rafael Marquez
3. Messiest Handwriting	Mark Newcombe
4. Drinks the Most Coffee Award	Laura Koellmer
5. Best Celebrity Look-a-like & Who	Todd Stevens - Mr. Incredible
6. Most Likely to Be Hugged by a Member	Janet Bassett
7. Most Likely to be the Cause of a Pond Drill	Aaron Britton
8. Nicest Shoes	Karen Strickland
9. Knows the Most Members Names	Charisse Drogalis
10. Most Likely to Have Computer Problems	Elena Baggio & Drew Schoenster (tie)
11. Spends Least Amount of Time at Their Desk	Tom Jagelka
12. Spends the Most Time on the Lifeguard Chair	Ed Danielsen
13. Parks the Farthest Away from the Building	Bekki Bergeron
14. Most Likely to Quote a Movie in Conversation	Geoff Malyszka
15. Most Likely to Eat Lunch in the Lobby	Ed Danielsen
16. Most Likely to be Heard Laughing	Renee Malyszka
17. Most Likely to Be Seen Working Out	Warren Nesteruk
18. Best Dressed	Kim Murphy
19. Most Helpful	Karen Strickland
20. Has the Best Ideas Award	Renee Malyszka
21. Works in the Most Departments	Ken Simeone
22. Most Likely to Order Take-Out	Brian Alexander
23. Nicest Fingernails	Renee Malyszka
24. Most Likely to Lose their Clipboard at Camp	Geoff Malyszka
25. Most Likely to be on a Reality TV Show	Elena Baggio