

# The Celentano Sentinel

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## Celentano gets a Boost!

BY HEAVEN-LEE FAILEY,  
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BAUCOM-LEGGETT  
CELENTANO SENTINEL STAFF  
EDITED BY ARIELA MARTIN

You might not know it, but you are part of Boost!

“This is Celentano’s first year as a Boost! School,” says Deede Dixon, Boost! service corps member who works at Celentano Museum Academy. She says the Boost! initiative works to help the school connect with programs in New Haven, including after school programs like this school newspaper, the Celentano Sentinel. “Students choose the programs they want to do. Students are really enjoying the programs.”

Boost! is a partnership between the United Way of Greater New Haven, the City of New Haven, and the New Haven Public Schools. Boost! started last school year, but Celentano only-joined this year.

Celentano is one of 11 schools in New Haven that

are part of Boost! Ms. Dixon says it is making a difference by supporting “more after school classes and services to help students during the day and after school.” The idea behind Boost! is to help schools run more smoothly by coordinating the outside programs that can help students.

Those programs include Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Connecticut, Foundation for the Arts and Trauma, 21st Century After School Programming, Girl Scouts, Body Workers (zumba), Little Scientists, Young Audiences (this includes photography, theatre, tile mosaic), Gear Up!, and Coop Center for Creativity (this newspaper). The CAPA/Shubert Theatre and Pilobolus Dance Company also ran a 10-day program together.

Ms. Dixon says Boost! plans to expand to five to 10 additional schools each year until all 47 New Haven Public Schools are



The band, Celentano Sentinel, and basketball get help from Boost!

SEE PAGE 2

## Voters turned out for Obama

BY DIOR HOBSON,  
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CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS,  
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CELENTANO SENTINEL STAFF  
EDITED BY  
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XAVIER SOTTILE, CARLY HAFNER

Last month Barack Obama was inaugurated for a second term after being re-elected President of the United States in November. The race felt very close and leading up to Election Day many people had nervous goosebumps.

Some wanted to re-elect President Obama because they thought he was a compassionate leader, but polls showed a tight race. Right before Election Day, surveys showed Mitt Romney with 49 percent and President Obama with 48 percent of expected votes.

Despite the predictions of a close election, The Celentano Sentinel Fall Survey showed that 76 percent of students expected President Obama to pull out a win. Students were happy and relieved with the result.

SEE PAGE 5

## Amazing new teachers

BY JULIUS BROWN,  
SEAN DESHIELDS III,  
CHRISTIAN VAZQUEZ  
CELENTANO SENTINEL STAFF  
EDITED BY MS. FRAN HOLZBAR,  
CHAITANYA SINGHANIA

Celentano Museum Academy has new teachers this year – and they are amazing!

The new teachers may have come from different places, but they have one thing in common: what they like best about our school are the students and teachers. We interviewed five new teachers who have come to Celentano this year and discovered that they have many talents – and have had some interesting experiences.

Did you know that art teacher Mr. John Sykes used to design

album covers for famous musicians like Bon Jovi and John Cougar Mellencamp? That school counselor Ms. Collette Urbano has gone sky diving in New Zealand, or that fourth grade teacher Mrs. Megan Festa used to work at...Disneyworld? Would you guess that second grader teacher Ms. Nicole Jacob had a pet frog in college or that Mr. Matt Karkos, fifth grade teacher, likes to listen to music and play Madden?

We were so happy to have talked with the new teachers. Next time you spot them in the hall make sure to say “hi.”

Check out what we learned about them:

SEE PAGE 3

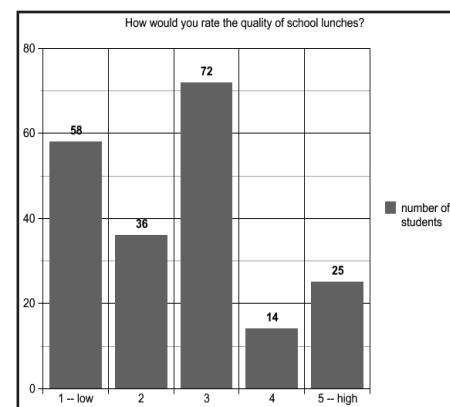
## New lunch rule: More fruits & veggies

BY KRISTINA ALGARIN, KENNETH MYERS, TYRESE TERRELONGE, ALEX TERRELONGE, KNYAIR KEYS  
CELENTANO SENTINEL STAFF  
EDITED BY SOPHIE MENDELSON

Salad, carrots, oranges, broccoli, tomatoes, bananas. Are you eating foods like these at lunch now?

This school year there are new rules to try to get kids to eat healthier. “The USDA, which decides what we have to serve in school, decided to update its guidelines,” says Sarah Maver, Wellness Dietitian for the New Haven Public Schools. She says lunches must have more fruits and vegetables and fewer grains.

Dr. Kathryn Henderson, Director of School and Community Initiatives



at the Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity at Yale, says there is also no more chocolate milk in New Haven school lunches. There are also more salad bars, and now you must take a fruit or vegetable.

“This year if you try to take a lunch without any fruits and vegetables, the lunch lady would call you back.

SEE PAGE 6



INSIDE THE NEWS

MAYOR DESTEFANO WILL NOT RUN AGAIN: WHY?

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FACING THE BULLY PROBLEM SEE PAGE 9

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SENTINEL TASTE TEST: VEGGIES ARE YUMMY!

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# SCHOOL NEWS

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## Boost! brings support, fun activities to Celentano

**BOOST!** FROM PAGE 1

Boost! schools.

“Students face many challenges in their outside-of-school lives, which can interfere with their ability to learn,” says Ms. Dixon. Boost! tries to help students with these issues by coordinating support for students.

According to Boost’s information packet, the big goals are to “close the achievement gap between New Haven students and the rest of the state,” cut the high school dropout rate in half and make sure students are academically and financially prepared for college.

Kimberly Daniley, sixth grade teacher and coordinator of the 21st Century afterschool program, says she is “excited that Celentano has been chosen to be a Boost! school” and says it will help students “achieve their full academic potential.” Ms. Daniley says school leaders “appreci-



MS. DEEDE DIXON OF BOOST! AND MS. KIMBERLY DANILEY

ate the support, exposure and opportunities that our community partners provide.”

Students may not realize they are in a Boost! school, but they are enjoying the benefits. Alexia Etheridge, grade 5, is part of the afterschool basketball program on Tuesdays and Thursdays. “It’s a great sport that I like to play with my friends,” she says. “Basketball is fun!” says Machrise Numbi, grade 3.

Ranique Gordon, also in grade 5, said the basketball program has been important to her. “It’s changed me a

lot because now I know how to play.”

Celentano Sentinel reporters also spoke with students in band. Tyanna Brown, a fourth grader, says that, “band is musical play. We play and practice instruments and get to march in parades, like the Columbus Day Parade, St. Patrick’s Day Parade, and Memorial Day Parade.”

BOOST! IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER NEW HAVEN, THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN, AND THE NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. IT STARTED LAST YEAR, BUT CELENTANO JUST JOINED THIS SCHOOL YEAR

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## from worlds of Disney, pop music (and more!) to Celentano

### Mr. John Sykes

**Teaches:** Art

**Has worked:** In graphic design for 20 years

**Years teaching:** First year

**From:** Meriden, CT

**Biggest goal:** For students to learn to appreciate art as an academic subject

**Leisure Activity:** Likes to paint



### Ms. Collette Urbano

**Role:** School Counselor

**Has worked:** High School for Math, Science, and Engineering at City College in NYC

**Years teaching:** First

**From:** New Haven and Woodbridge, CT

**Biggest goal:** Help children become confident and skilled at conflict resolution

**Leisure Activity:** Spending time with family and trying new things



### Mrs. Megan Festa

**Teaches:** Fourth grade

**Has worked:** At Walt Disney World

**Years teaching:** Nine years in Orlando, Florida

**From:** North Branford, CT

**Biggest goal:** For my students to be excited about reading

**Leisure Activity:** Spending time with son, Joshua



### Ms. Nicole Jacob

**Teaches:** Second grade

**Has worked:** As a substitute at Microsociety Magnet School in New Haven

**Years teaching:** First year

**From:** Danbury, CT

**Biggest goal:** Help students reach personal goals

**Leisure Activity:** Likes to go to her parent's house



### Mr. Matt Karkos

**Teaches:** Fifth grade

**Has worked:** As a substitute teacher in New York

**Years teaching:** Two

**From:** Upstate New York

**Biggest goal:** To help students become confident independent learners and thinkers

**Leisure Activity:** Exercise and listen to music



#### DID YOU KNOW:

MR. SYKES  
DESIGNED ALBUM  
COVERS FOR  
BON JOVI AND  
JOHN COUGAR  
MELLENCAMP?

MS. URBANO HAS  
GONE SKY DIVING?

MRS. FESTA USED  
TO WORK AT  
DISNEYWORLD?

MS. JACOB HAD A  
PET FROG  
IN COLLEGE?

MR. KARKOS LIKES  
TO PLAY MADDEN?



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Mayor DeStefano will not run again

BY KENNETH CHANCIO AND ALBERT ONIVOGUI  
CELENTANO SENTINEL STAFF  
EDITED BY XAVIER SOTTILE

The New Haven Mayor, John DeStefano, Jr., has announced that he has decided not to run for mayor in the next election. Mayor DeStefano, who is now 57, originally became mayor in 1994.

In 2006, he ran to be Connecticut's governor. However, he lost to Republican M. Jodi Rell. Nearly 20 years after first being elected, he is widely viewed as an important man in New Haven and the longest-serving mayor of the city.

Why isn't he running for mayor again?

In an e-mail to the Celentano Sentinel, Mayor DeStefano said, "I love this city and I love being Mayor. But I recognize there is an end game for us all."

Among things he is most proud of Mayor DeStefano included improving school buildings and supporting reform (see sidebar).

Some sources report that he would face fellow Democrats Gary A. Holder-Winfield and Alderman Justin Elicker. Many people were shocked by Mayor DeStefano's announcement. Some people say

that he is the best mayor in New Haven history.

Others appreciated the Mayor's announcement.

"He did a good job while he was running for Mayor, but now we need a change," said one teacher.

Another teacher, Ms. Ramona Brock, however, did not expect the news. Was she surprised? "Yes, I was," she said.

### The Mayor Answers Celentano Reporters

**Q: Why did you decide not to run for re-election again?**

**A:** I love this city and I love being Mayor. But I recognize there is an end game for us all. I will retire at the end of the year and look to take on some new challenges. I feel very, very comfortable with this decision.

We have come a long, long way in making New Haven a better place and our city is now in a much better position than it was 20 years ago when I first took office. At that time, many downtown businesses and employers were moving out of the city and filing for bankruptcy. Now, our downtown is one of the most heavily residential in the Northeast region; with thriving local and national businesses and the development of a bio-medical economic sector for the city and region.

Our city's schools, once crumbling, leaking and antiquated structures now provide a comfortable, safe and welcoming environment for learning.

New Haven school children now have



Mayor John DeStefano talks with Celentano Sentinel reporters during the newspaper publication party in Feb. 2012

SEE PAGE 5

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Why Obama won big in New Haven

ELECTION FROM PAGE 1

“I’m glad that Obama won the election because Mitt Romney would have gotten rid of PBS kids,” says Juan Ayala, grade 7, who worried that Romney would cut funding for the beloved children’s television learning channel.

The big story of the election was not just who won, but who voted.

African Americans voted at a higher rate than any other racial group in the last election cycle, according to a December report by the Pew Research Center. The report showed blacks were 12 percent of those who could vote, but made up 13 percent of all voters in this election.

Official New Haven election results showed that among registered voters in the two districts that vote at Celentano Museum Academy, 61 percent and 74 percent turned out to vote. Those were not the only high rates of turnout. In Newhallville, 62 percent of registered voters cast ballots. In Fair Haven Heights voter turnout ranged from 64 to 69 percent at the polls.

According to the Celentano Sentinel survey, 72 percent said that their parents voted in the presidential election. Ms. Creola Smith, math coach

at Celentano Museum Academy, said the high turnout “reflects citizen’s frustration and the vision they choose to live under for the next four years.”

Jaime Myers-McPhail, organizer/administrator for the Connecticut Center for a New Economy, says “a major factor” in the high turnout was community and labor groups working to get people to register and to vote.

Plus, he says, “people across the country have woken up to the fact that inequality is rising. Wages are stagnating, unions and working people are under attack. I think a lot of people also began to talk more publicly about the fact that people of color are disproportionately likely to bear the brunt of these inhumane trends.”

In New Haven, he says aldermen did grassroots organizing in their communities. “This is why we saw such a surge in voter turnout in neighborhoods such as Newhallville.”

The election results also sent a signal about the Republican Party. “The Republican Party continued to appeal to who they always appeal to—wealthy, white men,” says sixth grade teacher Mr. Eugene Foreman. “They forgot about the rest of the country.”

Ms. Sharon Johnson, band director,

agrees. She believes people turned out to vote because “people do not want to live in the 1940s. Sure, it was great for some, but not for some women and certainly not for men, women, and

### HOW DID NEWHALLVILLE VOTE?

OBAMA/BIDEN	3,048
ROMNEY/RYAN	41
OTHER	3

children of color.”

Rep. Gary Holder-Winfield, who represents part of New Haven, responded to questions from Celentano Sentinel reporters by e-mail. He says Mr. Obama won re-election because “Mitt Romney didn’t speak to people’s self interests. Mitt Romney played into the stereotype of the disconnected rich guy and could not connect with enough of the constituency to win.”

Rep. Holder-Winfield says he voted for President Obama because “he pushed the Affordable Care Act and the Lilly Ledbetter Act” to give workers more rights in fighting for equal pay. In the next four years, he wants to see more focus on people with less



Rep. Gary Holder-Winfield, who met with Sentinel reporters at the Capitol last spring, says, Mitt Romney didn’t speak to people’s self-interests and “played into the stereotype of the disconnected rich guy.”

money.

“I am hopeful that we will move beyond conversations about the rich and the middle class and broaden the conversation to be more reflective of reality – returning to discussions about the rich, middle class, working class and poor,” he says. “When our conversations shift, so will our possibilities.”

**76 PERCENT OF CELENTANO STUDENTS SURVEYED EXPECTED PRESIDENT OBAMA TO WIN RE-ELECTION**

DESTEFANO FROM PAGE 4

37 new schools that are safe, modern structures that are conducive to learning. Equally important is what is happening in these buildings: our nationally acclaimed School Change initiative is producing early results. The four-year graduation rate for New Haven Public Schools is now at 70.5% and our student achievement rate is twice that of the state average. New Haven Promise is helping families in our city by covering college tuition costs. These students aren’t just starting college, they are staying in college. Of the first cohort of Promise scholars who began college last year, 85% have entered their sophomore year.

New Haven can be viewed as a “laboratory for change” in that we’ve taken a proactive role addressing social issues--often long before these issues are addressed nationally. In this sense, the policies we have instituted on issues such as civil unions, a living wage, re-entry work and resident ID cards have informed and shaped the national dialogue and policy creation on these issues.

I look forward to continuing to work hard for New Haven for the remainder of my term, over the next year. Our city has a strong civic fiber and I expect more great things for New Haven in the future.

**Q: What are the top three things you accomplished as Mayor?**

**A:** While there are many things I am proud of, these are among the top:

1. Improving the schools (both the physical buildings and the education New Haven students receive in those buildings)
2. Working to create a welcoming and inclusive civic culture in New Haven. An example would be the Elm City ID card.
3. Working to develop a new economic base for our city after the decline in manufacturing that New Haven--as many other cities--experienced in the second half of the 20th Century.



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# FOOD & HEALTH

## School lunches getting healthier



**Sarah Maver, Wellness Dietitian for New Haven Public Schools, says healthy food can taste good**



**Celentano Sentinel reporters and editor/Yale student Sophie Mendelson (right) interview Ms. Sarah Maver (center) about school lunches**



**Dr. Kathryn Henderson of the Rudd Center at Yale says chocolate milk is no longer part of school lunch**

**SCHOOL LUNCHES FROM PAGE 1**

It's a new rule," says Dr. Henderson.

Not all kids like the new rules. Some throw the healthy food in the trash. The Celentano Sentinel Fall Survey showed that 47 percent of students say they throw away the fruits and vegetables on their lunch trays.

The survey also showed that many students did not rate the school lunches highly. On a scale of 1 to 5, only 19 percent of students said the lunches were a "4" or a "5," but 46 percent of students rated them at "1" or "2."

Albert Onivogui, grade 6, says that he doesn't like school lunches. "The taste is disgusting," he says. Giovanni Delva Darden, grade 3, agrees. Jaquan Miller, grade 6, thinks the problem is that, "the preparation is bad."

Syntysh Kabongo, grade 5, believes the sandwiches taste "spoiled," and Alexia Etheridge, grade 5, says that "the food is very dry."

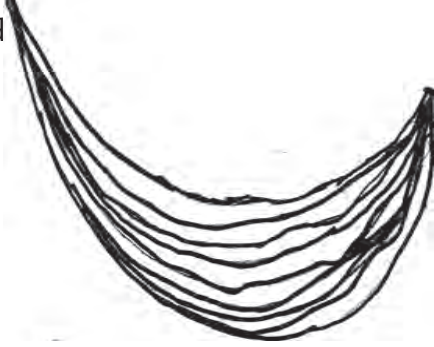
Not everyone dislikes school lunches. "I think they're tasty," says Machris Numdi, grade 3.

The question is: How can you get

kids to eat healthier foods?

School lunch is one way. Michelle Obama has also been working hard to get people to eat more fruits and vegetables. One problem is that some are not used to eating fruits and vegetables or don't think they taste good.

Dr. Henderson says you can get kids



ALEX TERRELONGE

something on it like salad dressing. She says it also works to serve vegetables when kids are most hungry.

"We try to put them out first – kind of like an appetizer," she says.

It's also important to insist kids take fruits and vegetables – even if some might throw them away, says Ms. Maver.

She says studies show that if you put it on a student's tray they are more likely to eat it, "even if they

think they don't want it."

Kids might complain about healthy food, but Ms. Maver says some people like the healthier lunches. The Celentano Survey found that 74 percent of students said that healthy foods do taste good.

Kids also like food that isn't healthy. Our survey showed that about 70 percent of students said they eat chips for snack. When Ms. Maver asks what foods students want for lunch, she says, that "overwhelmingly, they ask for unhealthy food – chicken, burgers, hot dogs, soda."

It is possible, she says, to make healthy foods, like vegetable pizza, that kids do like. "Of all the surveys I've



TYRESE TERRELONGE

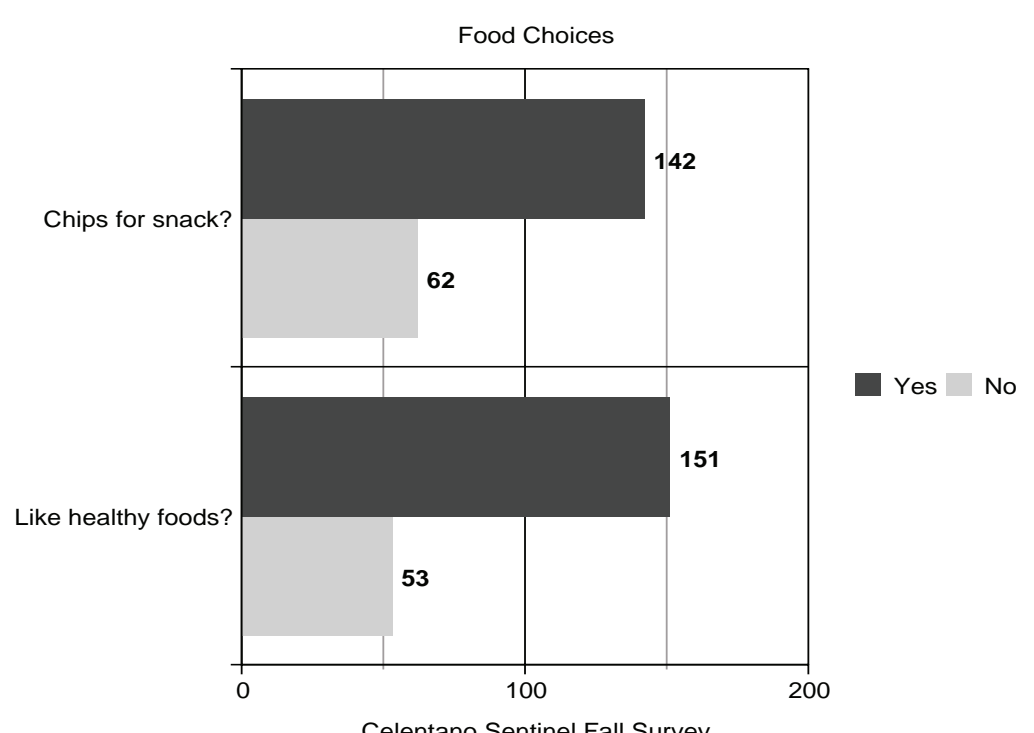
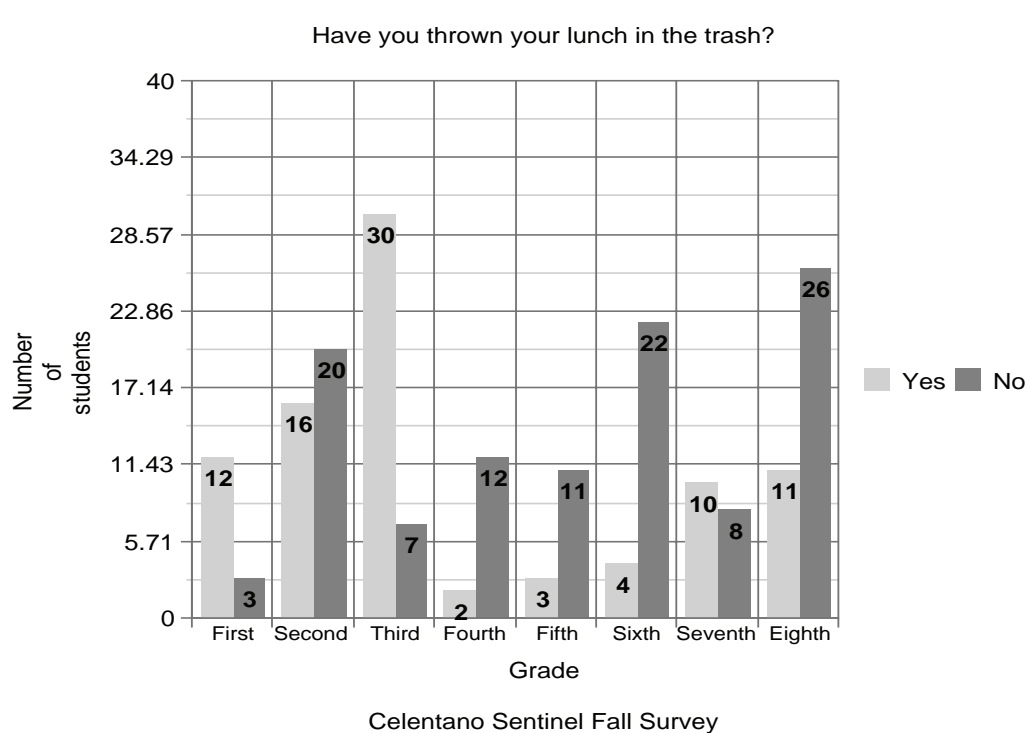


ALEX TERRELONGE

BECAUSE OF NEW RULES, THIS YEAR IF YOU TRY TO TAKE A SCHOOL LUNCH WITHOUT FRUITS OR VEGETABLES, YOU WILL GET CALLED BACK, SAYS DR. KATHRYN HENDERSON OF THE RUDD CENTER AT YALE

**DO YOU THROW HEALTHY LUNCH IN THE TRASH?**

**CAN YOU EAT CHIPS AND STILL LIKE HEALTHY FOODS?**





# FOOD & HEALTH

## Surprise! Veggies are super snacks!

BY THE CELENTANO SENTINAL STAFF

When you're hungry for a bite, you might be tempted by chips or snack foods, but why not try something really healthy? Like vegetables?

Celentano Sentinel reporters held a taste test earlier this month during which they sampled fresh vegetables, including carrots, celery, bell peppers, and broccoli.

"We would definitely recommend this snack. It was delicious!" wrote Christian Vazquez, Angel Conner and Julius Brown. What was so yummy? Broccoli.

Iyanna Baucom-Leggett and Heaven-Lee Failey found the broccoli so tasty

that they wondered, "does everyone like this, too?"

Our taste testers considered each fresh vegetable and rated it on a scale from 1 to 5 on crunchiness, appearance, flavor, overall, plus how it tasted with Italian dressing dip and with honey-mustard dressing dip.

The highest-rated fresh veggie snack was broccoli, followed by carrots, celery, and bell peppers. We also sampled a variety of veggie chips made from green beans, squash, carrots and sweet potatoes that were extremely popular with our reporters.

Leilani Ayala on the carrot: "It looks good and it's good for you. And it tastes sweet."



ALEX TERRELONGE

### HOW THEY RATED

1. Broccoli 110 pts
2. Carrots 107 pts
3. Celery 104 pts
4. Peppers 86 pts



Celentano Sentinel reporters sample carrots, celery, bell peppers, and broccoli

## Feeling out of sorts? Could be the flu

BY LEILANI AYALA AND ANISSA KOGER  
CELENTANO SENTINAL STAFF  
EDITED BY TRAVIS REGINAL



Celentano Nurse Jennifer Caron

There is something lurking in the hallways and classrooms of Celentano Museum Academy – something even more rampant and disgusting than cooties. Gasp! What could it be?

Fifth grader Amia Lott remarked that, "You can die from it!" The culprit is the Influenza A or H3N2 virus. Or "the flu" for short.

The flu is really not as deadly as Amia describes, but it has definitely taken a toll on students here. Celentano school nurse Jennifer Caron said she "saw 35 students in one day with fever, headaches, coughing."

The flu has waged war at Celentano so all must do what takes to prevent it from spreading any more. Elizabeth Carrena, Director of Nursing at the Cornell Scott Hill-Health Center recommends the flu vaccine as "the most effective and first step in protecting yourself against the flu viruses."

Yes, the vaccine involves a needle, but the benefits outweigh the costs. Ms. Carrena says Hill Health Center offers the shots for \$20, and Anna Mariotti, Director of Communications for the Mayor's office, says the state last month announced free shots for children ages five through 18.

How bad is the flu this year? William Gerrish, spokesman for the state Department of Public Health, says the flu has come earlier. Flu seasons "normally peak in February or March," he says, adding that "there is more flu activity this season than the previous two seasons."

The last time H3N2 virus hit was in 2007-2008. Mr. Gerrish says the most flu cases have been in Fairfield, Hartford, and New Haven counties.

The high-risk groups for getting the flu are children six months to 18

years old. The worst thing about getting the flu, says fifth grader Ranique Gordon, is that "you can't go to school."

"The flu can be passed before you even know you are sick," says Nurse Caron. She said you can spread the flu one day before and five to seven days after you get sick. Sometimes she says children come to school even if they have vomited the day before, had a fever, "or maybe just don't feel good."

She says sometimes kids don't tell their parents they feel sick but then come to see her when they get to school. Nurse Caron says children need to be free from vomiting and diarrhea for 24 hours before coming to school. "Rule of thumb: if you are sick, stay home!" she says.



DIOR HOBSON

### Puzzled by flu? We've got answers!

**Q: How can someone tell if they have the flu and not just a bad cold?**

**A:** Great question! Flu symptoms include fatigue, fever over 100 degrees, muscle weakness, chills unrelated to the environment. Also a cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache and upset stomach -- Nurse Elizabeth Carrena, Cornell Scott Hill-Health Center

**Q: How is the flu transmitted?**

**A:** Droplets are made when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. They can land in mouths and noses of nearby people. (This is why hand-washing matters!) -- Nurse Jennifer Caron, Celentano Museum Academy



# FEATURES

## Are YOU trying hard in school?

BY AMINAH FIELDS  
AND TAMIA HOUSLEY  
CELENTANO SENTINEL STAFF

EDITED BY MOLLY LYNCH

Do you like getting A's? Practice makes perfect. You have to work for it!

We asked kids about trying hard, and why they do it. "I try hard to make my mom proud, and to let her have a good life," said Jamaal Nelson, grade 5. Jamaal has always been a hard worker. He says he has tried hard since he was three years old.

Jamaal says his mother helps him with work. "She always encourages me, and tells me, 'Don't give up, and keep trying.' She wants me to have a good education so I can do the things I want when I grow up," he says.

Trying hard is really important for doing well in school. Dr. Mark Brackett, Deputy Director of the Health, Emotion and Behavior Laboratory at Yale, says that, "being smart is really great, but putting in the effort is most important."

Trying hard is not always easy to do. The Celentano Sentinel Fall Survey showed that 18 percent of students say that they don't try their hardest.

Sometimes kids say they are overwhelmed by tough subjects, especially reading and math. Even 5th grader Jayvon Edwards, who said he worked really hard on the CMT's, admits to his mistakes.

"There was an easy test and I fell asleep and woke up and there were five minutes left," he says.

There is always room for improvement! The best way to be better at trying hard is to set goals.

"Having goals inspires us to try harder. If you can identify your goal or your dream, then you can decide what your plan is for getting there, and you can work on that plan," says Dr. Brackett.

Kids try hard at different things because they have different goals. Some of the activities that kids try hard in are school, sports, and friends.

The Sentinel Survey found that half of Celentano students surveyed say they try hardest at school. One-third put their greatest effort into sports. And 17 percent said they work hardest on friendships.

One interesting thing the survey showed is that girls and boys have different priorities: 62 percent of

girls say they try hardest in school while only 39 percent of boys say school is what they focus on most.

Trying hard is important, but many kids say it is hard to stay focused for the whole day. Only 64 percent of kids surveyed say they pay attention all day long. Sometimes kids go to the nurse as a break.

"As far as kids coming in and needing a break – well, that happens every day," says school nurse Jennifer Caron.

"Some kids just need a walk or someone to give them a high five." She says it's okay if kids are not always up for trying hard at school-work.

She tells them, "be honest and tell me you need a break. I need a break, I am a grown-up so I can only imagine what you may need," she says she tells students.

Teachers say they can tell when students are not at their most focused.

"My students seem to slack off in the afternoon," says Ms. Fran Holzbar, who teaches kindergarten. "At the beginning of the year I have actually had some fall asleep at their desk. They are still used to naps in pre-K."

Fourth grade teacher Ms. Kaitlyn Walker says she can tell students are not trying hard when they ask for help "the second they get a sheet to do before they even read the directions."

She can tell when students try hard because they have tried to solve a problem – "there is shown work or they keep erasing – before they ask me."

Ms. Linda Malkin, who teaches science, appreciates when students "work through their frustration rather than giving up." She tries to have work that is "challenging enough to be interesting but not so frustrating that it encourages a sense of defeat."

Mrs. Megan Festa, a fourth grade teacher, wants the kids to get A's on their report cards. For her, this means getting everyone to be involved.

She says she, "plans for cooperative learning activities at their level in math" and in reading "chooses books of interest to students so they

are more engaged in reading."

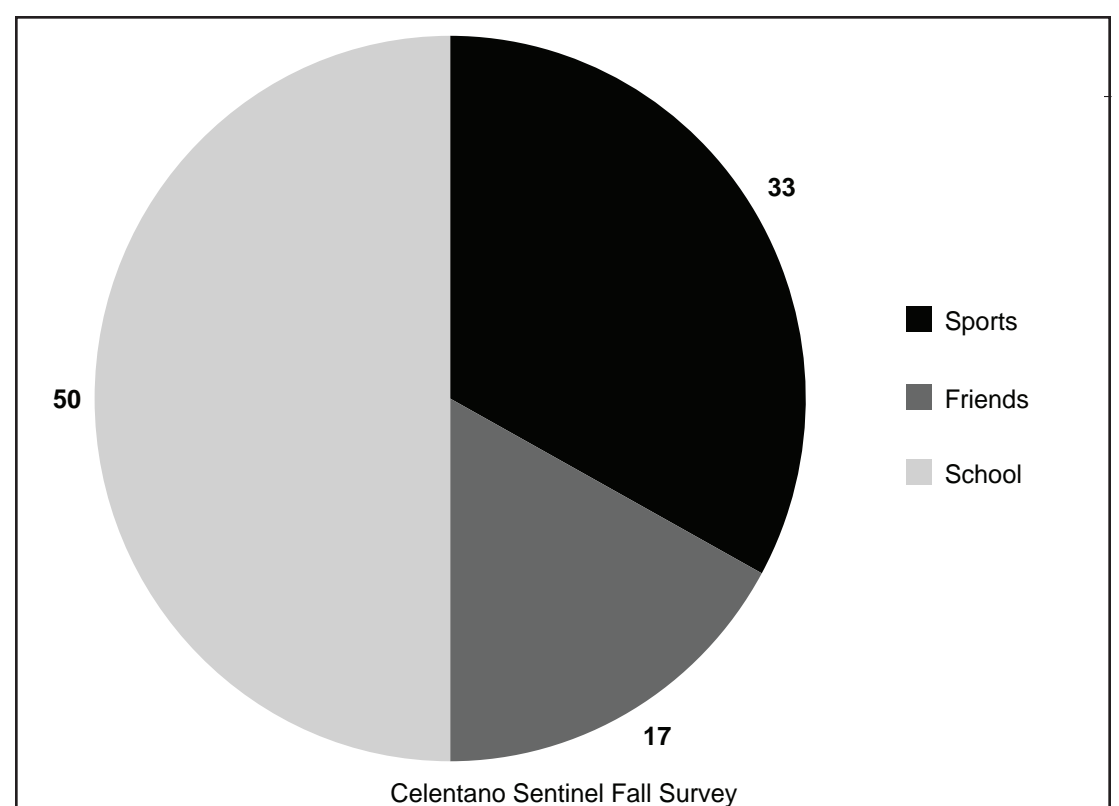
In the long run, though, trying hard is very important, and hard work pays off.

When we asked Dr. Brackett if kids should try hard even if something is hard for them, he said, "Nothing is easy. If it's easy, then it's probably not worth it."

A+  
effort

"Nothing is easy. If it's easy, then it's probably not worth it," says Dr. Marc Brackett of Yale

### IN WHICH AREA DO YOU TRY THE HARDEST?



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# FEATURES

## It's no joke: Bullying is serious

BY CAME'A T. WHITE, LEILANI S. AYALA, KYLA SHIPMAN Q., ANISSA L. KOGER-CURTIS, TYANA C. DUPREE  
CELENTANO SENTINAL STAFF

EDITED BY ERVIN SIMMONS, ALEXIS COLE, AND LAKSHMI VARANASI

The word was yelled out loud -- "Snitch!" -- as one student slowly approached another, and in an instant, the second grader we interviewed felt the nervous and upset feeling of being picked on at school.

Every day kids are bullied. Some are picked on because of their shoes, clothes, hair, or glasses -- or even because they are smart!

Unfortunately, bullying is very common in school. The Celentano Sentinel Fall Survey showed that 136 out of 203 students, or 67 percent, of those surveyed said they know students who have been picked on. Furthermore, 29 percent said they have bullied a classmate themselves.

Students we interviewed said that bullying was a problem. The Sentinel survey also found that 36 percent of students have stayed home from school because they were afraid of being bullied.

One second grader said she had been called names such as "snitch" and "punk," which made her very upset. She thinks name-calling should stop.

Bullying worries parents and can even make them decide to remove students from a school or certain activities. One student said her par-

ent pulled her out of Girl Scouts because she was being bullied.

Why do some students bully others?

Marc Brackett, Deputy Director of the Health, Emotion and Behavior Laboratory at Yale, and Robin Stern, a psychoanalyst and author who consults with the Yale laboratory, shared with Celentano Sentinel reporters some reasons they believe students bully.

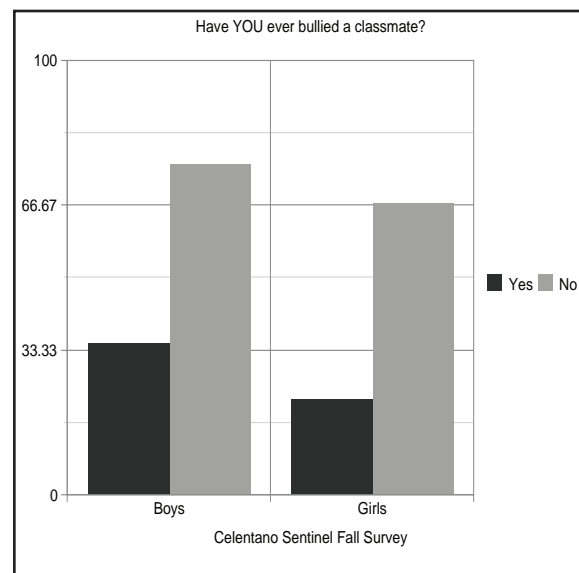
They said students sometimes bully because they may think it's cool to be mean. Some students may have been bullied and bully others because they want to see what it feels like.

Dr. Brackett said most people bully when they are feeling unpleasant. He brought a poster of a "mood meter" and said they try to teach kids to be more aware of their feelings and teach kids how to take care of their emotions.

"It's a lot easier for people to criticize than to be nice," he said. "It takes more energy, but we need to change people's minds."

Students had many ideas about why kids bully each other. One student said, "I think people just want to talk and make people cry." One eighth grader said that, "people get picked on because of how they are dressed or how their body looks."

The Celentano Sentinel survey results found many reasons. A third grader said that, "bullies want to show off." One fifth grader said bullies picked on people "because they don't have name



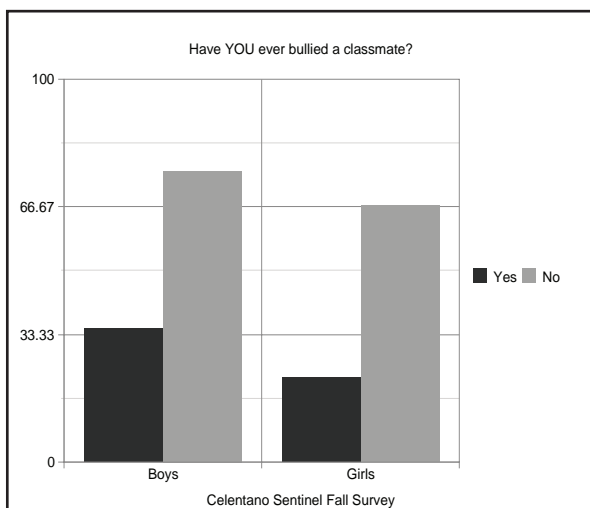
brands." Sixth graders said people were picked on because of their weight and "because they are not popular." An eighth grader wrote that people get bullied when "they're not doing what everyone else is doing (peer pressure)."

What do people who bully have to say for themselves?

One student admitted to bullying, but said, "Yes, I have bullied someone, but I was defending myself."

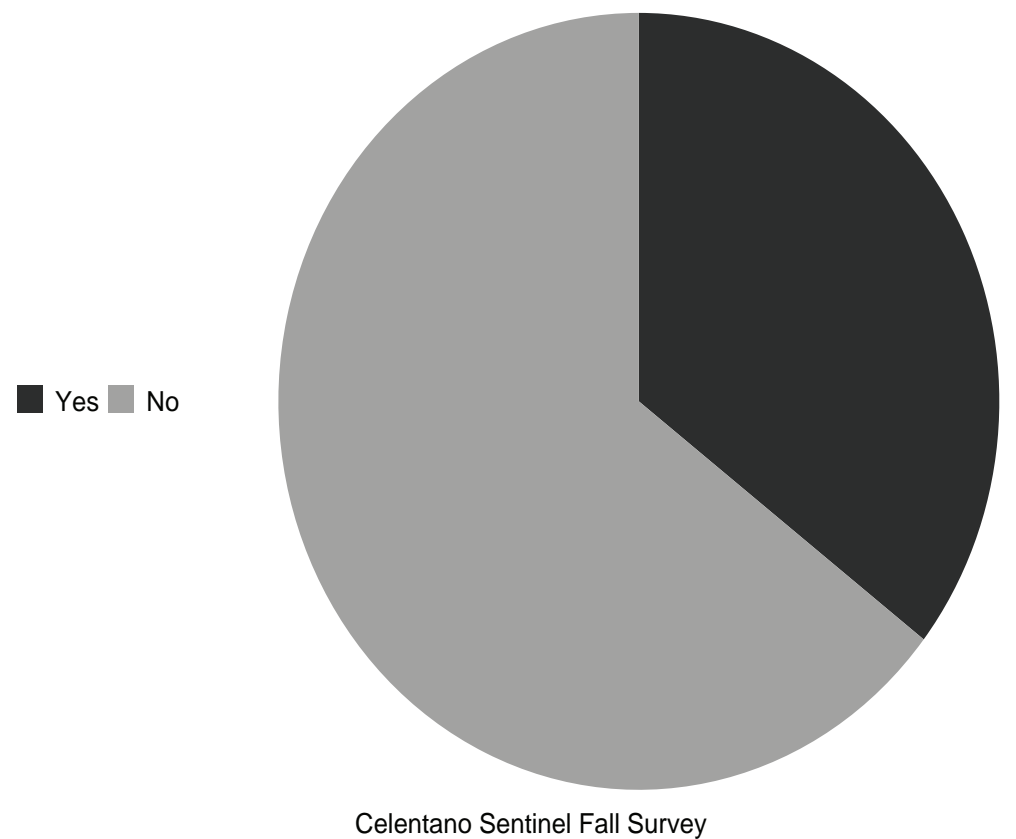
While it is important to stand up for yourself, bullying others is not the right way. As Dr. Brackett says, "It is never okay for people to make others feel poorly. You never have to put up with people's bad behavior."

Students had many ideas about why kids bully each other. One student said, "I think people just want to talk and make people cry." One 8th grader said that, "people get picked on because of how they are dressed or how their body looks."



Dr. Marc Brackett of Yale's Health, Emotion, and Behavior Laboratory met with Celentano Sentinel reporters and discussed why people bully and what you can do

### Have You Skipped School Because You Were Afraid of Being Bullied?



Celentano Sentinel Fall Survey



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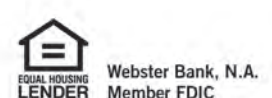


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# FEATURES

## What would make the world a better place? Celentano students answer with big ideas

“I think if Justin Bieber came to Connecticut it will change the world because I am his biggest fan -- #1!”

—**Precious, Grade 2**

“It would be good to do things right and not leave the water running.”

—**Angel, Grade 2**

“I would like to have no scary movies because then I would not be scared.”

—**Cortez, Grade 2**

“I think no fighting and be peaceful.”

—**Savien, Grade 2**

“I wish it was always sunny.”—**Jean, Grade 2**

“I wish cops would stop people from riding dirt bikes.”

—**Ronald, Grade 2**

“The world would be a better place if it was more peaceful.”

—**Rosie Salyer, Grade 2**

“One thing that would make the world better is if we have better drivers on the road. People who drive are careless – they speed on highways, they drink and drive, and they text while driving.”

—**Kyla Shipman, Grade 3**

“One thing that would make the world better is more confidence because people get bullied everyday. Another thing is respect because you should respect people and seek respect.”

—**Maboi Onivogui, Grade 3**

“I would help homeless people get a home, and I would give people shoes who don’t have some.”

—**Tashana Wright, Grade 3**

“One thing that would make the world a better place is if nobody had to pay for anything and everything is free so homeless people could find a house for \$0.”

—**Tony Likala Lombo, Grade 3**

“I would help homeless kids who have no food or clothes so they would at least eat and be warm so when it snows they won’t get sick.”

—**Davonte, Grade 3**

“It would be better to have better homes and no drugs and no people shooting.”

—**Tariq Johnson, Grade 4**

“One thing that would be better for the world is more jobs and more schools that would pay for

their money on foolishness.”

—**Esmerlee Grant, Grade 5**

“It would make the world better to stop bullying. This would make everyone happy. When people are bullied they are sad. Then they want to bully people because they are sad.”

—**Elena Brennan, Grade 5**

“One thing that would make the world a better place is non-violence. People think it’s OK to fight with people they barely know. And sometimes people fight for no reason; they pick fights.”

—**Iasia Langley, Grade 5**

“I would get rid of shooting and gang banging.”

—**Justin Twitty, Grade 6**

“I think maybe more police should be around New Haven than at Yale. I also think the guns should be off the streets but the ones that are legal should stay. They should only give guns to those who have a clean record.”

—**Haliyah Austin, Grade 6**

“One way to make the world a better place is getting rid of drugs because too many people get addicted everyday.”

—**Shamonte Caldwell, Grade 8**

“One thing that would make the world better is to make all social networks for adults and guns only for police.”

—**Hannah James, Grade 8**

“Having no money would make the world better. I say this because then money would not be a problem.”

—**Michael Onivogui, Grade 8**

“One thing that would make the world better is to cut down on the amount of crime we have nowadays. I say this because lots of people are getting mugged, raped, and even worse and they have to carry on for the rest of their lives.”

—**Kiara Mauriello, Grade 8**



college if you are good in school.”

—**Tyanna Brown, Grade 4**

“One thing that would make the world a better place is no gun violence. I say this because of Sandy Hook Elementary.”

—**Taryn Mallory, Grade 4**

“One thing that can make the world better is gun control. Guns are out of control around the world. Everyone should just allow the police to use their guns. Everyone should not waste

## Need help with tough problems? Ask Aminah and Tamia

BY AMINAH FIELDS  
AND TAMIA HOUSELEY  
CELENTANO SENTINEL  
ADVICE COLUMNISTS

EDITED BY LAKSHMI VARANASI

These are real questions posed to columnists Aminah Fields and Tamia Housley.

**Q:** This girl keeps bothering me. What should I do about it?

**A:** A few ideas are to ask her nicely to stop, to ignore her, or to tell a teacher about the problem. Never bother her back or call her names.

**Q:** How can I get better grades in math class?

**A:** Pay attention in class. Don’t be afraid to ask questions when you are confused. Do your homework. Review and study what you learned in class.

**Q:** I don’t get to see my dad often and I miss him. What should I do

about it?

**A:** That is difficult. Try to find ways not to think about it and find ways to be busy. Realize there are so many other people who love you. Ask your mom if there is a way to contact him or see him. For some people it helps to look at pictures of them with their Dads, but other people prefer to remove all of their pictures.

**Q:** If you see someone who is

homeless, how does it make you feel and what should you do about it?

**A:** Realize that it can make you feel sad to see someone who does not have enough food. You should feel grateful for everything you have. You may want to help them get to a shelter, or give them food. You may want to send a nice card to a homeless shelter.



# ARTS & BOOKS

## From letters to books: Sesame Street's "Maria" writes her first

Author Sonia Manzano talks with Celentano Sentinel reporters about writing, TV, and growing up Latina

BY KRISTINA ALGARIN, YAIRA ROMAN-TORRES, IYANNA BAUCOM-LEGGETT, AND HEAVEN-LEE FAILEY  
CELENTANO SENTINEL STAFF  
EDITED BY ARIELA MARTIN

**Q** How did you come to work on Sesame Street and what was the best part of your role as Maria?

**A** At the time I was cast on Sesame Street I was in a show called Godspell. I didn't realize Sesame Street would last as long as it has, and that I would continue to be a part of it. The best part of being Maria was that she was one of the first Latin characters on television.

**Q** Why did you decide to write a book?

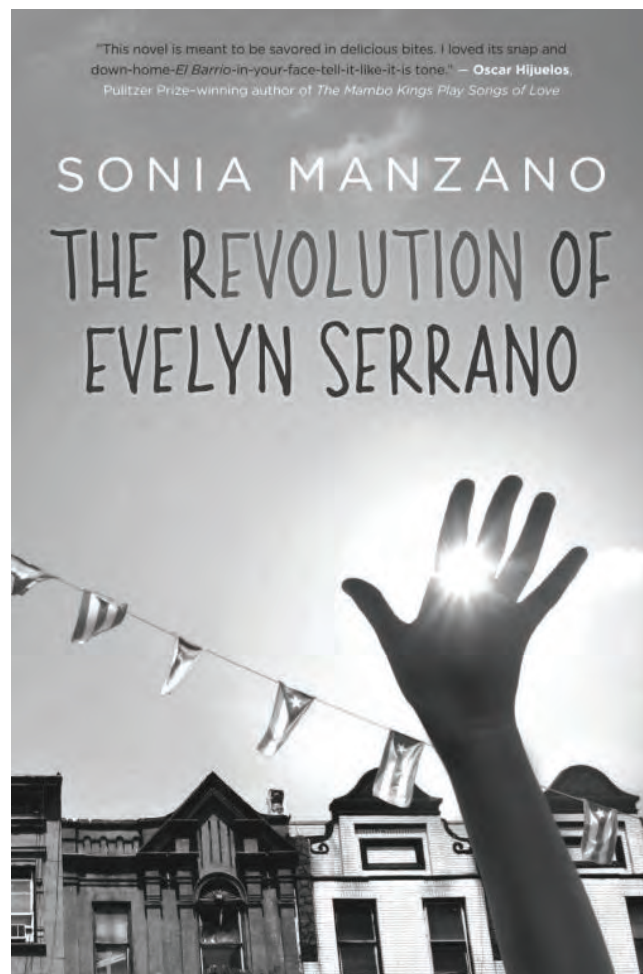
**A** After writing for Sesame Street for 15 years I decided to try writing for an older audience.

**Q** You have a lot of dialogue in your book. How is writing a book similar to writing for television?

**A** I guess I put a lot of dialogue in *The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano* because of my theatrical background. Obviously a book is a much longer piece of work than a TV script.

**Q** What were your two biggest memories growing up?

**A** Seeing the movie *West Side Story* when I was in the fourth grade made a big impression on me. That and seeing singer/actress Barbra Streisand on TV because at that time, nobody else looked like her on television.



*The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano* is a 2013 Pura Belpré Honor Book



Sonia Manzano/James Kriegsmann photo

**Q** When you were younger did you think more about being an author, an actress -- or something else?

**A** My biggest dream was being a secretary and having my own apartment in Manhattan! I didn't realize I was creative until I was accepted into the High School of Performing Arts.

**Q** Are your influences as an activist and writer about activism 'rubbing off' on your daughter in a way, that someday, she may become an activist herself?

**A** Being an activist now is very different from being an activist in 1969. When we care about our communities we are activists. Many people, including my daughter, care for others.

**Q** What barriers or obstacles did you face as a child? Are the challenges similar or different for your daughter?

**A** We were very poor and struggled with my father's drinking. My daughter certainly doesn't have to deal with any issues like that.

**Q** What is the biggest change you notice in being a Latina in the U.S. today, as opposed to when you were a girl?

**A** As a Latina I don't feel invisible like I did when I was a girl. Latinos in America are more noticed, recognized and respected now.

## LIVE from Celentano: José Oyola!



New Haven musician José Oyola performs songs from his new album "Give, Give, Give. Take, Take, Take" for Celentano Sentinel reporters

BY CELENTANO SENTINEL STAFF

José Oyola, New Haven singer and songwriter, stopped by Celentano Museum Academy earlier this month to play for Celentano Sentinel reporters.

Mr. Oyola's album, "Give, Give Give. Take, Take, Take" was released this month. He is 25 years old and learned to play guitar from his grandfather.

His songs are both silly and serious and include a sad one. He has a special song that he plays in Spanish, "La Peligrosa."

Reporters listened to Mr. Oyola and asked him questions about his music and his experience as a musician. They took notes and offered reviews/comments on his work.

Cameá White says she liked

"when he sang the Spanish song."

Yaira Roman liked the way his music "flows" and likes both the serious and the silly songs.

"I like that the songs are about his life," she says.

Leilani Ayala finds Mr. Oyola "has good musical talent" and was excited by his visit.

"Jose is like a rock star because he sings like one," she says. "He has a good voice and loves to play."

Tyana Dupree "liked the way he played the guitar" and "the way he expressed his feelings."

She also liked the photo of himself as a seven-year-old that is on the cover of his new album.

Kristina Algarin liked that he was "loud enough for people to

hear" and that his songs "are about life"

Kenneth Myers had a long list of things he liked about Mr. Oyola, including his vocals, his guitar, the songs, his shoes, his clothes, the pick he used, the funny song, the sad song and, well, he says, "I like all his songs."

That can only be a good thing for the success of Mr. Oyola's album.



New Haven musician José Oyola's new album was released earlier this month.



# ARTS & BOOKS

## What's it like to be a ballerina?

BY HEAVEN-LEE FAILEY, YAIRA ROMAN, IYANNA BAUCOM-LEGGETT  
CELENTANO SENTINEL STAFF  
EDITED BY ARIELA MARTIN



New Haven Ballet Nutcracker (left)



Celentano students at the performance (right)

Celentano students in grades 1-3 attended The Nutcracker at the Shubert Theatre on December 6. We interviewed high school dancers who performed in the show to hear what it is like to be a ballerina.

The Dancers:

**Isabelle Firine**, 11th grade, Amity HS. Roles: mouse, snowflake, flower, Demi-Flower. Years danced Nutcracker: 9

**Kristin Crowley**, 10th grade, Vinal Technical HS. Roles: flower, snowflake, and a sugar plum attendant. Started dancing at age 2, fifth year in Nutcracker.

**Julia Antinozzi**, 11th grade, Amity HS. Roles: snow and flower corps and Spanish lead. Has performed in the Nutcracker 11 times.

Celentano Museum Academy (CMA) reporters: **When did you start?**

**IF:** I first began dancing at three. I

watched my sisters take classes at New Haven Ballet and started as soon as I could.

**JA:** I've been dancing for as long as I can remember. When I was 4 or 5 I came to New Haven Ballet.

**CMA: What is it like on stage?**

**IF:** You get an insane energy burst that is incredible. It is one of the best feelings I ever experienced.

**JA:** You're so nervous right before you go on, but once you're out there you just feel invincible.

**KC:** Before I get on, I'm super nervous, but the second I step on stage I forget about everything. The whole world seems to stop for those minutes that I'm dancing. It's the most amazing feeling in the world.

**CMA: How many hours a week do you practice?**

**IF:** I dance about 8-9 hours a week. During rehearsals I dance about 11

hours a week.

**CMA: What is your favorite kind of dance?**

**IF:** I love every kind of dance. I love hip-hop, modern, jazz, etc. Ballet is my absolute favorite style though.

**KC:** I love ballet! It's a beautiful genre, and it's so exciting. I love pointe because it's amazing that it is possible to dance on the very tips of your toes.

**CMA: Who is your role model?**

**KC:** My idol is a dancer who graduated from high school last year and danced at New Haven Ballet named Schuyler Kennedy. She is the most beautiful dancer and it's just so inspirational to watch her. Little kids and older girls look up to her because she is beautiful inside and out. However, this summer she got into a tragic accident, and has been unable to dance. She

was supposed to attend college on a dance scholarship, but couldn't go. She is an inspiration because she is back on her feet and determined to dance again. She shows that in even the roughest of times and situations, there is hope. She didn't let her accident stop her from reaching her goals.

**CMA: Will you keep dancing?**

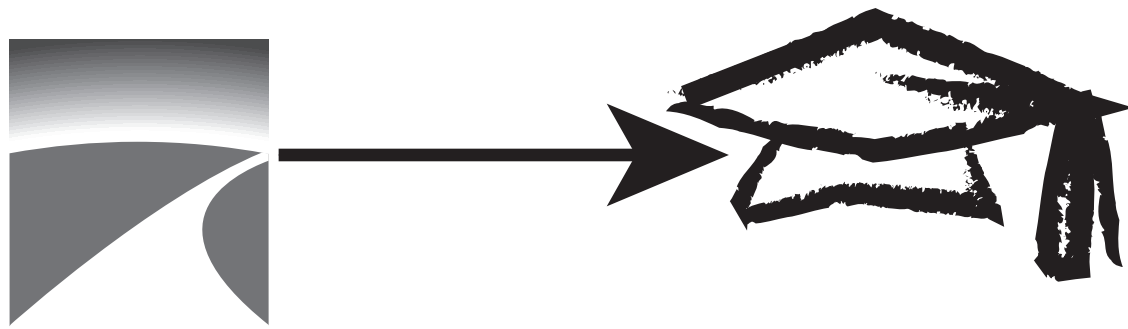
**IF:** I recently decided that I want to continue to dance in college.

**JA:** I absolutely plan on continuing dancing. Hopefully I'll be able to do it in college and it would be great if I could do it for a career.

**KC:** I would love to continue being a dancer, but I wouldn't depend on it for a career. When I go to college, I plan on majoring in architecture, but I would still love to dance as a hobby.

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# EDITORIALS & OPINION

## A letter from the Principal

### Dear Celentano Family,

I am excited about the publication of another edition of The Celentano Sentinel!!!

Congratulations to the entire Sentinel staff for a job well done! Your hard work, dedication, and commitment is truly commendable and I am proud of each and every one of you. Please note that you have exceeded my expectations as you continue to reach higher heights and deeper depths of learning.

The Sentinel provides a vehicle for our students' thoughts and ideas to be heard by all stakeholders. The articles were written by our students in grades 2 - 8 and edited with the help of students from the Cooperative Arts & Humanities High School in New Haven and from Yale, and Laura Pappano, a nationally known journalist and author, as a part of the New Haven Student Journalism Project and the Boost! initiative.

I would like to take a moment to call upon all students in grades 2 -8 to become a Celentano Sentinel reporter! It is my goal to have all of you become critical thinkers and improve your writing skills as you venture into the world of journalism. Although our staff is large we have room for more students. All children enrolled in our 21st Century After School Program are eligible to write for the Sentinel. So, parents please encourage your child to be a writer for The Celentano Sentinel and once again I would like to congratulate all of the reporters for a job well done!

Sincerely,

Keisha D. R. Hannans, Principal



## Obama bangs are a hit!

Michelle Obama debuted her new hairstyle just in time for her husband, President Barack Obama's second inauguration ceremony in Washington DC.

Mrs. Obama braved the cold to show off her stylish new look on January 21st. Her previous style was a side part with light curls, now replaced by bangs and straight hair. As usual, social media, Americans, and the world have been abuzz about her new look.

Mrs. Obama is well known for her sense of style. She often wears clothes by young American designers. Now, her bangs are making a fashion statement. Bangs are nothing new, but lately, they seem to be coming back into style for young girls and for women. We had different opinions about her hair. Aminah Fields said, "I like the new hairstyle more because it's more stylish." Ms. Fran Holzbar said, "Michelle looks younger and sassy."

One of us, Iyanna Baucom-Leggett, is neutral about the change. "She had nice hair before and has nice hair now. Before, she had the same hairstyle as her kids. Maybe now they'll get bangs too." To many people, the change is more than just a new hairstyle. It represents the future, and Mrs. Obama has taken the fashionable lead.

—**Iyanna Baucom-Leggett and Heaven-Lee Failey**, editorial writers

## Better grades start now

It's February. The school year is far from over. It's hard to stay focused during winter, but we have to because we have to learn and go to college.

When we lose focus, we can try to catch up or ask a teacher or friend to help us with our work. It may be hard, but report cards are coming and you want to get your grades up.

Here are five ways to improve your schoolwork:

1. Do your homework and classwork.
2. No fighting.
3. No bullying.
4. No bad behavior in class or in school.
5. No talking while the teacher is talking.

If you do all these things, you will get A+ everywhere.

—**Albert Onivogui**, editorial writer

## The Celentano Sentinel

The Celentano Museum School  
400 Canner Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Design by Angie Hurlbut, AH Design, New Haven, CT  
Editorial and opinion writers: Jaavon Brown, Tecumseh Collins, Iyana Baucom-Leggett, Heaven-Lee Failey, Gerrel Norman, Albert Onivogui

## Time to lower the voting age?

Should kids be allowed to vote?

This has been a frequently asked question of the 21st Century. Kids have complained that they did not have the right to vote.

In the early 1900's kids were not educated enough to vote. Things have changed.

Kids today are smarter thanks to new educational advances. Today kids have iPods, smartphones, and computers that let them be more informed about the latest news and information.

Many kids today know more about the election than adults do. Those in grades 8-12 study the election in their classes. That gives them knowledge they can use to make choices.

The Celentano Sentinel Fall Survey showed that 66 percent of students think that kids should be able to vote.

I don't agree completely. Here's why.

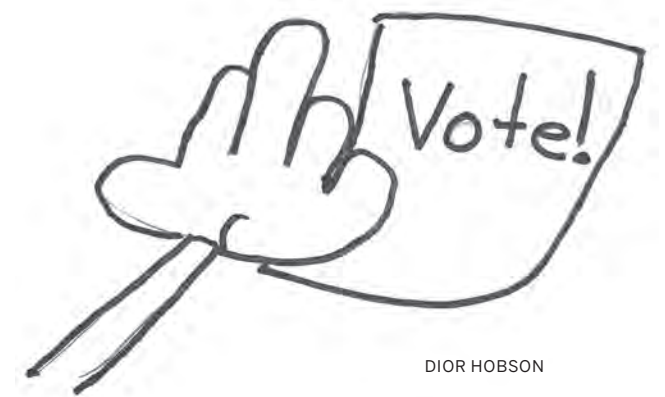
If kids did get the right to vote, would they just vote the way their mom or dad votes? Younger kids are likely to do that because they want to be like them. Teens, on the other hand, might not because they have more individuality.

Also, in some places, juries are picked from lists of registered voters. If kids vote, will they be in the jury? I think kids are not intelligent enough to decide a man's fate. They might make the wrong decision and send an innocent person to prison.

But is voting as serious as being on a jury? I think it's not. There may be some kids who should get the right to vote. What would be the age group? Obviously toddlers can't vote, but what about pre-teens and teens?

My suggestion would be age 13. At 13, most kids start eighth grade. They study about and take many quizzes on the election. Therefore, I think they have the knowledge to be informed voters.

—**Gerrel Norman**, *Celentano Sentinel* Opinion



DIOR HOBSON

## Thank you!

The *Celentano Sentinel* would like to thank the following for their help and support:

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# OPINION

## Fallout from gun culture: FEAR

The last Saturday of November, 2012, my mother woke me up around 8:30 p.m. She went to go lock the doors and looked outside and saw a man lying in the street. Police, firefighters, and an ambulance came and found he was shot in the groin and a bullet grazed his head.

This had a big impact on me. I didn't want to go to sleep or walk by my front door at night, especially that first night. Seeing guns makes me scared. You don't know what impact it may have; it could hit someone.

There is a debate about gun control, but I see it as a debate about guns and about people, especially children.

The debate matters to kids because a lot of people have kids, and they love their kids. Kids are being shot by guns. People are being shot by guns. What if it were your mommy, daddy, brother, or sister? You would probably start being depressed.

So many people are getting killed in this country by guns that soon more people will be killed by guns than by car accidents. There are 875 million guns in the world and 75 percent of them belong to civilians, according to Gunpolicy.org at the Sydney School of Public Health at The University of Sydney in Australia. The rate of gun ownership in the U.S. is the highest in the world.

President Obama has made some proposals about banning some types of guns and limiting ammunition. Many people may fight him in trying to pass more serious gun laws, but I think we need to. There are legislative proposals for a School Safety Program and to spend more money on mental health.

We have too many guns. We should have fewer. We live in a violent society. We need to come up with a solution. We all know that once somebody's life is gone, you can't bring it back. But worrying about being shot or finding out that someone is shot on your street is like having a gun pointed at you.

—Jaavon Brown, *Celentano Sentinel Opinion*

## Push back against bullying in school

If someone wears shoes from Goodwill, they may become the target of a joke. Some might think it's funny. But really, it's not. It's called bullying.

Bullying can happen in an instant, but its effects can last a long time. It can distract students from doing well in school, make you feel bad in front of people, and have serious effects on a student's life.

It can even make students nervous about being in school. The Celentano Sentinel Fall Survey showed that 36 percent of students surveyed said they had skipped school because they were afraid of being bullied.

Dr. Marc Brackett, Deputy Director of the Health, Emotion and Behavior Laboratory at Yale, and Robin Stern, a psychoanalyst, met with Sentinel reporters. They say bullying can make it hard to learn.

"If you feel scared to be in school, it's going to effect how your brain works," he said. "If all your brain is doing is worrying about your safety, then your brain can't be relaxed enough to learn in a classroom."

Bullying can happen because people don't think before they speak. For example, people might get teased about their shoes, but the reality may be that they can't afford the newest Jordans. Having that pointed out in public can hurt.

Every year it seems like bullying gets worse – and that bothers me. If we do not do something, it can evolve to effect the whole school environment. Kids by themselves should not be the ones in charge of putting a stop to it. I believe teachers, family, and the whole community should take a stand and put an end to bullying. We should have the right to be protected from the harm bullying can do.

It is even scary for the person who is not the target. Bullying can be scary for everybody. If you see someone getting picked on, take that person by the shoulders and walk away. Little things like this can decrease bullying over time. In the end, though, adults need to be involved and we all need to be more aware.

—Tecumseh Collins, *Celentano Sentinel Opinion*

### ATTENTION: New Haven Parents



**SAVE THE DATE**  
Saturday, April 6, 2013

### PARENT UNIVERSITY

Join hundreds of other New Haven Public School parents for a day of FREE workshops and college fair.

**Gateway Community College**  
**20 Church Street**  
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FOR INFORMATION:

**203-497-7055**

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**parentuniversitynewhaven@gmail.com**



### Boost! Congratulates the Staff of the Celentano Sentinel

Boost! is a partnership between United Way of Greater New Haven, the City of New Haven and the New Haven Public Schools and is part of the New Haven School Change Initiative. We work with schools, teachers, support staff and parents to make sure that students get the support they need to succeed in school and in life.

Augusta Lewis Troup School • Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet School • Celentano Museum Academy • Clinton Avenue School • Hill Regional Career High School • John S. Martinez School • Metropolitan Business Academy • Strong School • Truman School • Wexler-Grant Community School • High School in the Community • Find out more [boostnewhaven.org](http://boostnewhaven.org)





# when the world is closer to free, it's a beautiful sound.

On November 20, 2012, a group of performers along with cancer survivors and caregivers from Smilow Cancer Hospital staged a flash mob event at Union Station in New Haven. It was a celebration of the progress we've made in bringing the world closer to free. For many participants, it was also a celebration of personal triumph. Seeing so many cancer survivors living their lives fully and freely reminds us how far we've come in advancing cancer treatment. When people come together, cancer can be overcome. And **the world is closer to free.**



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