



Edited by Judy Taylor

# Good News

## Holyoke Public School Students Qualified to Receive John and Abigail Adams Scholarship

The following students, of the Holyoke Public School District, qualified to receive the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship for the 2009-2010 school year -

Holyoke High: Allison Bigelow, Mariah Bouchard, Emily Brady, Bronwyn Callahan, Christopher Camus, Daniel Cavanaugh, Nicholas Chapdelaine, Samantha Colon, Adrian Cruz, Antonio Diaz, Thomas Diaz, Kyle Duquette, Genesis Estrada, Kevin Garcia, Conor Gates, Jillian Greaney, Aubrey Halket, Hannah Harazmus, Thomas Hebert, Jaime Hoppock, Katelyn Kelly, Sean Kelly, Stephanie Konstantinidis, Indira Lalchandani, Patrick Laramee, Kerry Leahy, Megan Leary, Michael Lebiedz, Chelsea Markham, Kimberly Martinez, Yadiane Montanez, David Morin, Kevin Morton, Courtney Neil, Patrick O'Neil, Francisco Ortiz-Pagan, Timothy Paradis, Brian Parenteau, Vianca Ramos, Cynthia Rivera, Jeffrey Rivera, Cynthia Rodriguez, Ferdinand Santiago, Wilfredo Semidey, Jessica Sweeney, Kaila Tallman, Johnathan Taylor, Kevin Tierney  
Dean Technical High School: Emmanuel Morales, Steven Lopez, Edward Maldonado, Dominick Boucher

These students are recognized for their high academic achievement on MCAS tests. Students who qualify for the Adams Scholarship are entitled to four years of free tuition at a University of Massachusetts campus or any participating Massachusetts state or community college. [Click here](#) to read more about this scholarship.

## Holyoke High Student, Patrick O'Neill, Selected National Merit Scholar

Congratulations to Patrick O'Neill, recognized for outstanding academic promise as a Commended Student in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. [Click here](#) to read more about this program.

## Congratulations Mr. Dupont!

Mr. Dupont has been selected by the School Committee as the District's next superintendent. Having provided twenty five years of service to the city of Holyoke, Mr. Dupont has most recently been the principal at Holyoke High School for the past five years. He has served the district as a teacher, principal of the John J. Lynch Middle School and William J. Dean Technical High School, and Operations Director for the District.

## **Congratulations to Sarah Platanitis, Holyoke High School Teacher**

Sarah Platanitis was one of 35 journalism educators chosen from across the United States to participate in the prestigious Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri-Columbia in July. The American Society of Newspaper Editors held the institute to give educators insight into the future of journalism and the opportunity to network with other journalism professionals. Alongside Nancy Freeman, Missouri's journalism teacher of the year, Platanitis served as an advisor for teaching media literacy strategies.

In October, Platanitis will speak about the role of new media in the classroom at the 2009 Media Literacy Conference held at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA.



## Felicitations to Dr. Carballo - Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

The Western Massachusetts Hispanic Foundation presented Dr. Carballo with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The

Foundation was developed eight years ago to help Latino students in Western Massachusetts achieve higher education. Dr. Carballo, one of the "founding fathers" of the organization, was presented with the award on May 8th at the Foundation's first Gala Event to raise scholarship funds. At this event, \$500 scholarships were awarded in Dr. Carballo's name to two Holyoke High School seniors - Amos Santos and Jovani Villegas.



Dr. Eduardo B. Carballo



Amos Santos

Jovani Villegas

## Hats off to Holyoke Public Schools Rising Stars

Congratulations to the forty one students that were named Rising Stars this year to celebrate their dedication to scholarship, leadership, and citizenship ([click here](#) for listing of students). Students were honored at a ceremony at the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round and at a banquet at Dean Technical High School. They received prizes, including a savings bond and a trophy. One of the requirements to be a Rising Star is to participate in community service. This year's Rising Stars volunteered at local churches, tutoring programs, Special Olympics, Wistariahurst, the Holyoke Children's Museum, Nuestras Raices, and Holyoke Hospital.

For more information about the Rising Stars Program, [click here](#) to read The Republican article by Jeanette Deforge.

## Way to Go Jacob Colon! Scholastic Read 180 All Star Award Recipient

Hard work and dedication pays off for Jacob Colon, 8th grade student at the E.N. White School. He is one of nine Read 180 All Star Award recipients (over 400 were nominated). This award is presented to recognize the outstanding achievements of students who overcome reading challenges in their pursuit of success in school. Mary Hamel states in her Nominating Educator Form that Jacob "continues to demonstrate his determination to achieve his goals in reading, school, and life every day". [Click here](#) to read more about Jacob in Ms. Hamel's Nominating Educator Form. [Click here](#) to read how the Read180 Program has positively impacted Jacob's life in his essay "How Read 180 Changed Me". We're proud of you Jacob! Congratulations to you and your teachers. For more about the Scholastic Read 180 All Star Award [click here](#).

## Governor Deval Patrick Visits

Governor Deval Patrick travelled to the William J. Dean Technical High School on April 9, 2009. He toured the school and met with students from Holyoke High and Dean to announce that \$163 million additional Title I funds from the American Recover and Reinvestment Act will go to many high poverty school districts in the state.



Left: Superintendent Dr. Eduardo B. Carballo greets Paul Reville, Secretary of Education, and Governor Deval Patrick in front of Dean

Right: Students spent their time listening and asking questions related to various topics including: funding for higher education, the drop out age, gas tax, MCAS, summer employment opportunities, support during the economic crisis, and incentives for greener schools



## Congratulations Nathalie Ortiz –



Natalie received the Massachusetts Vocational Association Student of the Year. Great job Natalie!

## Kudos to *The Herald*

Holyoke High School's student newspaper, *The Herald*, recently won awards at the Scholastic Press Forum, hosted by American International College in March 2009. Lorena Avendano received first place for Best Sports Feature with her article interviewing the USA Men's Olympic Volleyball Coach. Tiffany Webb received third place for Best Photograph. Finally, *The Herald* placed fourth for Best Overall Newspaper. [Click here to read more.](#)

## Well Done! Erin K. Hebert and Marissa A. Bernard - "Kids in Print," two of *The Republican's* annual art and writing contests winners

Facing hardship was the theme for this year's annual Republican art and writing contest "Kids in Print". Holyoke Public Schools is proud to announce that both winners are from Margaret M. Miller's seventh grade class at the Lt. Clayre P. Sullivan School. Erin Hebert's article *Connected despite time difference* compares her life to that of Harriet N. Michaels. Marissa Bernard, a student in Margaret Miller's class, explains the rationing process in her *Rationing was part of the sacrifice* article. Congratulations on a job well done! [Click here](#) for photos and to read *Kids in Print, The Republican*, March 11, 2009.



Erin and Marssa display their articles.

## Congratulations Chloe Mann -Will McDonough/Boston Globe Essay Contest Winner!



Out of approximately 2000 entries statewide, Chloe Mann, Sullivan School eighth grader, has been named a winner in the Will McDonough/Boston Globe essay contest). She was honored at a ceremony and dinner at the TD Bank North Garden on March 23rd. We are so thrilled for her and our other essay contest winners, seventh graders Erin Hebert and Marisa Bernard (Republican essay contest). [Click to read Chloe's essay.](#)

Sean McDonough, Chloe Mann, and Erin McDonough are pictured above at the TD Bank North Garden

## Holyoke High School Hockey Team - Division IIIA State Hockey Title

Congratulations to the Purple Knights Hockey Team as they win the Division IIIA state championship at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield against Oakmont.



Team photo at the Mass Mutual Center

## **Congratulations 2009 Grinspoon Award Winners for Excellence in Teaching**

The Grinspoon Awards for Excellence in Teaching were presented on Friday, February 26, 2009 to seven Holyoke Public Schools teachers. Teachers honored include Kathleen O'Neill, Mary L. McAndrew, Catherine M. Hourihan, Luis D. Martinez, Christine Sullivan, Susan E. Tawrel, and Lori McKenna (First year teacher). Congratulations teachers! Click [here for teacher profiles and photos](http://www/hps.holyoke.ma.us/grispoon.html#profiles).

## **The CONNECTIONS After School Program, - recipient of the 2008 William S. White 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program of Distinction Award**

The William S. White award has traditionally been awarded to an individual who has dedicated his/her work, time, and effort in the service of children, schools, and communities. This year, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) program, the Mott Foundation has opted to recognize 21st CCLC programs that have demonstrated a commitment to providing quality programming that exemplifies the goals of the 21st CCLC grant and has demonstrated an ability to sustain and grow the program over a number of years.

Our application was read by a panel of nationally recognized afterschool stakeholders and was judged to be outstanding in these areas.

[Click here to read more.](#)