

Stamford Public Schools Student and Staff Achievements January 2010

- **K.T. Murphy Elementary School** students wrote and illustrated a book entitled, *Demetrio's Short Tail, A Terrapin Story*. The book, published in English and Spanish with support from GE Money, is the culminating activity for the SoundWaters' Cove Rangers after school program. The Cove Rangers program focuses on science and conservation stewardship and is led by Dione Clinkenbeard. *Demetrio's Short Tail* is the second book in the SoundWaters series and has been distributed to local libraries, schools, community centers, and outreach organizations. Student authors and illustrators include **Schneidy Scutte, William Mises, Denver Dorsanvil, Jorge Baigorria, Domenica Brito, Daniela Cruz, Christopher Ortega, Angel Achundio, Ivan Andrade, Robert Andrade, and Christian Forte**

- **Jalen Holmes**, a senior at **Stamford High School**, is the recent recipient of the NAACP's Geri Anderson award for his outstanding academic achievements and leadership in the Stamford community. Jalen is quarterback for the SHS football team and is a mentor to younger students who are naturally drawn to him for advice. He has won awards from Lead America and the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship as well as recognition from the State Treasurer's office and the Office of the State Attorney General. Jalen's mom describes him as someone who has big aspirations and who also works very hard. Jalen hopes to eventually play football for UConn and become an entrepreneur, using his knowledge of health and fitness.

- **Lisa Occhino**, a senior at **Westhill High School**, will release her first pop album next month, *Discovery*. Lisa began writing songs at age 12. She fuses elements of jazz, rock, classical, Latin, and pop genres into her music. To celebrate this accomplishment, Lisa plans to donate 20% of her physical CD sales to the Stamford Young Artists Philharmonic Outreach music program. Lisa is in the top 4% of her class at Westhill, is involved in the Westhill Chamber Singers, concert choir, gospel choir, jazz band, concert band, marching band, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and the Northstar Playmakers dramas and musicals. Lisa was also invited to perform in the near future at New York's legendary Bitter End.

- Three **Scofield Magnet** students emerged as top scorers in the 8th Annual Stamford Middle School Math Competition last month. The competition is a varsity event designed to prepare students for the Southwest Connecticut Chapter MATHCOUNTS competition at Fairfield University next month. Last month's competition included warm-up exercises, a written team round, a written individual round, and an oral exhibition. The top student winners were **Viraj Attre**, grade 6, who won "Stamford Top Grade-6 Mathlete"; **Casey Zhu**, grade 7, who "Stamford Top Grade-7 Mathlete; and **Jonathan Xu**, grade 8, who won the overall "Stamford Top Mathlete for 2009-2010". Jonathan achieved "American Mathematics Competitions Distinguished Honor Roll" status on the AMC-8 contest that took place at Scofield last fall. His AMC-8 score of 21 points ranks among the top five of more than 2,000 Connecticut students who participated in this contest and among the top 1% of the more than 150,000 students worldwide. Only three Connecticut students (and only 1400 worldwide) achieved a higher score than Jonathan on this contest.