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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grant from HSBC Bank provides materials

### **Wilton Library kicks off Nutmeg Readers party Feb. 7**

Wilton, CT – Students in grades 4 – 6 are welcomed into the WINRs Circle kick off party for the 2010 Nutmeg Award nominees on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 4 – 4:45 p.m. at Wilton Library. The Wilton Intermediate Nutmeg Readers (WINRs) Circle is the library’s newest reading program for intermediate readers; it encourages children to read books with literary merit, provides an atmosphere for lively discussion, nurtures the development of analytical and listening skills and promotes respect for the opinions of others. The Nutmeg Awards are a 15-year old Connecticut-based initiative in which ten books are selected by a group of Connecticut library professionals each year. Student readers are given a voice in the program by voting for their favorite nominee in January and the winner is announced the following month.

Wilton Library’s WINRs Circle is made possible by a generous grant from HSBC Bank USA, N.A. With the bank’s participation, the library is able to have multiple copies of the ten nominated books, sponsor author appearances during the year, hold member meetings each month and give each child a participation kit. According to Maureen Tucker, Children’s assistant and Nutmeg program coordinator for the library, “We are thrilled to have the sponsorship of HSBC Bank. This is such an important program for our intermediate readers and with this funding we can expand the program further than we’ve ever done before.” Deborah Hadden, manager of the HSBC branch in Wilton noted, “HSBC has a long-standing tradition of supporting the communities we serve. We are pleased to support a remarkable program that encourages a lifelong love of literature and reading in young children for such a winning institution as Wilton Library.”

Beginning Feb. 7, the WINRs Circle will meet for monthly Saturday meetings in which the children will be introduced to a different Nutmeg-nominated book while playing games and enjoying pizza donated by Wilton Pizza. Students who register for the WINRs Circle will

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receive a participation kit including a binder, journal, book light and bookmark to use throughout the course of the program. Each month participants will get together in a relaxed, congenial environment to have fun, discuss the books and have snacks. In January 2010, each Circle member will vote for a book he or she feels is worthy of the Nutmeg Award, giving the children a say in the process.

There is no program fee for the WINRs Circle, however registration is required. Children are encouraged to register with friends or meet new ones in the Circle. To register for the program, visit the library's website at [www.wiltonlibrary.org/events](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org/events) or call (203) 762-3950.

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