

Canterbury Public Schools  
Office of the Superintendent  
Lois C. Knapton, Ed.D.

*2 Teach is*  
*+2 Touch Lives*  
*4 Ever*

*Hello from the Canterbury Public Schools team!*

With my first year as School Superintendent under my belt, I realize every day how blessed I am to be an educator. I love teaching, whether I am teaching myself a new lesson, a new recipe, or learning how to raft down the river, or maybe I am facilitating opinionated conversations, or working hard to bring communities of people together. There is so much to teach and to learn. Everything is a lesson and we are all teachers. We are so lucky as educators because every year, in August, we get to start all over again. Clean slate, new classes, new faces, seeing parents with mixed emotions: anxiety, happiness, relief, and sadness; watching the children run off the school bus, skipping and giggling, as they see their friend from last year or purposefully approaching that shy student from last year, just to welcome them back and say Hi. Those mixed emotions are shared among the teachers, as they bustle in the halls, reading through their class lists, making bulletin boards, and preparing for that first impression from the kids. This is sprinkled with a feeling of anxiety to meet the kids and try to remember all their names as quickly as possible.

Additionally, I want to publically thank all those voters who turned out to pass the budget on the first try. I give thanks to say the BOE chair, Walt Petruniw, and the BOE finance chair, Ray Sulich, and First Selectman, Roy Piper; we all worked together to put forward a fiscally responsible budget and we will do that again, continuing to look for cost saving wherever possible. In that light, be looking for the CES Solar panels to be completed by December, with a ground mounted system, fully fenced in for safety.

Another coming attraction is our new three- year strategic plan. A group of 11 stakeholders worked diligently over the past 6 months, on this plan. It will be unveiled at the September 23 BOE meeting. Be sure to watch for the completed plan to be posted on our website by the end of September.

Balance is critical in life. All administrators were able to get some short, well needed rest and relaxation, but the majority of the summer, has been spent in preparation to accept and teach

our most precious resource, your children. You have entrusted your Canterbury students to us and we are so grateful for that.

Our administration has been preparing all summer for school; attending summer professional Development and working together in a leadership retreat in anticipation of opening our schools on the right foot while working together as a PreK- 8 District. This year, we have a new administrator joining us, Sarah Cary . She is our new Principal at CES. She comes to us from Griswold Pubic Schools administration. Her early years in education were spent as an Elementary school librarian and Sarah loves the Arts. What a great combination to bring to our very own CES.

(Insert picture of Sarah)

### **CES Happenings as reported by Principal Sarah Cary:**

Open House will be held on, Tuesday, August 26 during the following hours:

- grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> 5:30 -6:30 p.m.
- PreK – K 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Come join us.

We have had a busy summer and we have many new faces here in the building, including a new school psychologist, Miss Ruberto, and a technology teacher, Mrs. Giuliano. Mrs. Merendina comes to CES from BMS to teach Grade 4. Mrs. Pisowloski will be teaching Grade 2 and our music teacher Mrs. May will be here full-time this year! Mrs. Sweeney will be a para-educator in our reading program. We have a new bus coordinator for the district, Ms. Wickiser. Mrs. Vallandingham will be teaching Pre-kindergarten full-time. We welcome all of our new and returning staff.

I am a new face as well, joining our team as principal. It is an honor to have been selected to serve here. I began my educational career as an elementary school librarian in a small community school much like the school I attended as a child in Vermont and similar to CES. For the past eight years, I have worked as an administrator at the middle and high school levels. I love children and I am looking forward to meeting all of our students and families. Thank you, Town of Canterbury, for your warm welcome.

## **BMS Happenings as reported by BMS Principal Brain Tedeschi**

Back to School Open House will be held on Thursday, September 4 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The 2014-2015 school year is kicking off with staff reporting to school on August 25-26 for Convocation and professional development, and students returning to school on August 27. Our staff will be working to institute a Data Driven Decision Making process that will inform us on how best to instruct our students. We will also continue work incorporating the Connecticut Core Standards.

Our custodial staff has worked hard to clean and prepare DHBMS for opening day. Despite the heat and humidity, our classrooms and hallways are ready for the upcoming buzz of activity.

Constitution Day will be recognized by all students on September 17th. The United States Government is an essential part of the Social Studies Curriculum, and will serve as a common theme to the day's learning activities.

Grade level assemblies/meetings will be held throughout the first week of school to formally welcome students back to school and review various procedures and processes. We take pride in creating a culture of high expectations for our students for learning, and for maintaining a safe school climate. As always, our message to students is, "be active upstanders" and not "passive bystanders". Also, many of our students will be recognized for their participation in the governor's summer reading challenge.

This year, all DHBMS boys and girls soccer games will be played at Blackwell Field on 194 Wauregan Road. Manship Park is undergoing renovations and will not be ready for use until Spring of 2015.

## **Special Education Happenings as reported by Jodi Davie, Director of Pupil Personnel**

The summer of 2014 has flown by for the administration, staff and students who have been working diligently over the last several weeks. Summer school programming concluded on August 7 at both the Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School and at Canterbury Elementary School. We also had some students enjoy their summers at Camp Quinebaug in Danielson which provided a learning experience for students with disabilities.

The Pupil Services Office is very excited about the upcoming year and all the hope that it brings. We will continue to provide stellar services to our entire population with ongoing support and collaboration with their families! We are committed to making the 2014-2015 school year the best yet!