

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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To: Canterbury Board of Education

From: Mr. Ryan Earley

Subject: BMS Administrator's Report

Date: November 3, 2018

As the year progresses, students and staff are delving deeper into curricular areas and programs. We have welcomed three new students to Baldwin as they have relocated from various areas of the country. Student enrollment is at Grade 5: 47; Grade 6: 44; Grade 7: 39; and Grade 8: 53. It is always a great opportunity for our school to be able to welcome new families to the school community.

Science Lab Safety: Mrs. Shafer and Ms. Merendina attended the Connecticut Middle School Science Safety Prudent Practices and Regulations workshop. There were many follow up steps that will need to be addressed in the future regarding science lab safety. Last year the school purchased a chemical safety cabinet and future issues will be: goggle storage and sterilization, wall mounted standard operating procedures posters, updated signage, updating MSDS sheets, ventilation systems (separate), classroom safety modifications, venting for chemical closet, additional training for all who work in the lab, and more. The next step is for Mrs. Shafer to attend a chemical hygiene officer training and updated information will be shared in December's report.

Connecticut Invention Convention: Mr. Simkowski attended the Connecticut Invention Convention conference and brought back a myriad of information that he intends to use as he will be implementing this program in his classroom (technology). The way the CIC works is:

- Each Fall, teachers register their schools with CIC which provides them access to CIC's online curriculum, teacher training, coaching, and support.
- Teachers from schools who are new to the program are requested to attend local teacher training sessions which help them to understand the core tenets of the program.
- In the Fall and/or Winter months, teachers present the program, which naturally highlights the NGSS science and engineering practices through the process of invention and innovation, to their students.
- Teachers conduct "local" invention conventions at their schools or take part in district-wide conventions. Through the school's judging process, student inventors are identified and registered to move on to participate at the Connecticut Invention Convention Annual State Final event, scheduled at the end of April/beginning of May.
- At the Connecticut Invention Convention Annual State Final event, inventors are given the opportunity to present their inventions to their peers and industry judges for awards and recognition.

This type of creative thinking and problem solving complements the science curriculum and allows for all students to be owners of their own learning.

National Red Ribbon Week: Ms. Zuckerman coordinated the annual recognition of Red Ribbon Week. This nationally recognized program seeks to inform students on substance abuse. There were theme days for students to dress according to the motto for the day. Monday: Put a cap on drugs; Tuesday: Give drugs the boot; Wednesday: We are PAWSitively drug free; Thursday: Let us team up against drugs; and Friday: Say BOO to drugs. Additionally there was a poetry contest and the winner was Grade 8 student Gray Barbeau (prize was a BMS sweatshirt).

Rosetta Stone World Language Pilot Program: At this time all 25 pilot licenses are utilized as students and teachers are participating in the program. Languages being studied voluntarily are Korean, Russian, Portuguese, Greek, Italian, French, Japanese, and Spanish. Mr. Earley participated in virtual training on the administrative components of the program and all students have successfully logged in.

Annual High School Visits: Students in Grade 8 have been visiting local high schools and those high schools have visited BMS to provide on-site presentations. October 1-Ellis Technical High School; October 10-Griswold High School; October 16-Woodstock Academy; October 25-Norwich Free Academy; and October 30-Norwich Technical High School. This is a very in depth process for all involved and allows students a different perspective on their choices for next year.

Grade 7 Teambuilding at Alton Jones Campus of the University of Rhode Island: The Grade 7 teachers and students participated in a day of teambuilding and low ropes courses in nearby West Greenwich, Rhode Island at their Environmental Education Center. This is seen as the highlight of the 7th grade year as the students are able to enjoy the autumn weather and truly get to know each other in a more mature manner. (<https://web.uri.edu/alton-jones-camp>)

Annual Emergency Operations Planning Meeting: The annual EOP meeting yielded the scheduling of an actual off site evacuation drill for the middle school on November 9. This drill will leave the entire site unoccupied (some staff will remain for communication purposes) and test the middle school's accountability plans, and put to test the planning for relocation, accountability, materials available, and reunification process.

Dream It. Do It. Field Trip to Southbury, CT: 25 students participated in the CT Annual Dream It. Do It. Conference for students. Each school is limited to 25 participants and Ms. Zuckerman and Mr. Simkowski led the students over 2 hours to Southbury to participate. The program is licensed and led by the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology Inc. (CCAT) and financed by the Department of Economic and Community Development's Manufacturing Innovation Fund, *Connecticut. Dream It. Do It.* is part of The Manufacturing Institute's nationwide manufacturing career awareness campaign to attract the creative, skilled young people needed to grow the industry. "With a state-of-the-art workforce, Connecticut manufacturers are bringing technological innovation to the market, increasing productivity and growing market share, sales revenue, and profitability," Governor Dannel P. Malloy said in an official proclamation recognizing the importance of the more than 4,000 Connecticut manufacturing companies to the state's economy and to highlight industry career opportunities statewide. During Manufacturing Month, nearly 400 middle and high school students will participate in two signature *Connecticut. Dream It. Do It.* events —*Manufacturing Mania* and *Making It Real: Girls & Manufacturing Summit*. More than 200 middle school boys and girls will join in *Manufacturing Mania* activities on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at the Heritage Hotel & Conference Center on 522 Heritage Road, Southbury, CT. The program included

displays from manufacturers and higher education institutions, demonstrations, hands-on workshops, team-based competitions, and guest speakers. (www.ccat.us)

Grade 5 Field Trip to Pomfret for 3C's: The Grade 5 students visited the Community Cultural Committee of Northeastern Connecticut to see DOKTOR KABOOM. So much science, so little time. . . Doktor Kaboom is having trouble picking his favorite science demonstrations, so he's bringing them all! Unfortunately there are way too many to do them all in one show. The solution: The Wheel of Science! Doktor Kaboom has built a great big spinning wheel and labeled it with everything from optical illusions to chemical reactions to a homemade hovercraft, and more! At least a dozen fantastic demonstrations ready to go. Wherever the wheel stops, that's what's next! Will we turn a water bottle into a rocket or catapult bananas across the stage? Electrocute a pickle or create artificial gravity? Who knows? No two shows will be the same. So, step right up, and let's spin that wheel! *Curriculum Connections:* Scientific Method, Mathematical Practices, Physical Science, and all manners of Science: Matter, Energy, Motion, the Universe, Atmosphere, and a lot more! *Character Education:* Self-Awareness, Responsible Decision Making, Preventing Injuries. (<http://www.thethreecs.org>)

Horns for Kids: Horns For Kids, Inc. is a non-profit corporation based in Hamden, CT. Their principal goal is to facilitate and encourage the performance of music by children in their school, and as a lifelong activity. Horns For Kids accepts donations of new and gently-used instruments, has them refurbished if necessary, and awards clean, playable instruments to deserving school music programs throughout Connecticut. To date, we have applied for and received 6 instruments that include flute, clarinet, trombone, electric guitar, and a drum set. The total of the instruments awarded is \$4400 for Canterbury to date. These donations are done once annually. Thanks to Mr. Beit for being proactive in making music a priority at BMS. (<http://www.hornsforkids.org>)