

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Report of Canterbury Elementary School for December 2018

Climate

-For special recognition at the BOE meeting, CES Technology Teacher, Mrs. Giuliano and some 4th graders will present the letters they wrote to veterans in honor of Veteran's Day.

-Parent/teacher conferences were heavily attended in November. Over 90% of the families met with teachers and we conducted 260 conferences during the two conference days. Our PTO provided a great meal for our faculty on our long night.

-Our third assembly is on Thursday, December 20th. In November, we gave accolades to students for kindness. This month, we will honor students with accolades for honesty.

-Led by our social worker, Mrs. Musumeci, we are participating in a boot drive and reaching out to families in need during the holiday season. Our staff is active in giving to these programs.

-Our winter concert will feature our 3rd and 4th grade chorus and will be on Thursday, December 13th at 6:00 pm. You are cordially invited to join us!

-Our nurse, Mrs. Turner, worked with the Lion's Club to provide an opportunity for our PK and K students to be screened for vision difficulties.

-The PTO Gingerbread Run is planned for Sunday, December 16th. There will be runs for different age levels and abilities. Fun activities for families will be available in the cafeteria.

Curriculum

-In response to her request, we submitted to Dr. Knapton a proposal for curriculum materials which focus on updating the curriculum in LA and aligning with the middle school, providing remedial materials for math, health needs, and improving non-fiction classroom libraries.

-Instructional rounds continue at CES with the district-wide focus on questioning techniques. Mrs. Danna will work with our faculty this month to follow up on her October presentation to the district. Rounds with teachers begin in January and will continue through the spring.

-Dr. Knapton will join our faculty meeting to present a program called "Doug Dragster" which is curriculum that assists students in making choices. It is based in the Glasser philosophy.

-Our Math curriculum committee began to study "math talks"; a instructional strategy to encourage students to talk about their thinking and to describe orally, using math terms, what they did to solve a certain math problem.

-Our two LA curriculum committees (PK-2 and 3-4) are discussing the needs of our students and how that matches to our current curriculum. We are examining phonics materials and discussing the NWEA progress monitoring tools that focus on early literacy skills.

-Our 3rd Science Kid's Club meets tomorrow afternoon. We continue to draw about 100 students each month.

-Our PK and K teachers and staff are continuing to conduct our self-study and developing our assessment items for the required portfolios. There are three portfolios; a program portfolio that describes the program, and 2 grade level portfolios (Grades PK and K).

-We received a \$5,000 grant from the CT Foundation for the Arts. Story telling sessions for PK and K will begin in January. The faculty will be presented with professional development on read alouds and story telling in the spring, which is another facet of this grant.

-Our new report card was used and given to families this trimester. It was a successful launch!

Technology

-Our teachers are using our chrome books to augment student small group work in their classroom and to facilitate large group study. We updated our color printer in the technology lab to support printing from chrome books.

-In January, we will study the excel program to assist us in our review of winter session NWEA data and our progress towards student academic goals. The students will take the math and reading MAP tests next month.

Respectfully submitted December 6, 2018 by Sarah Cary

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Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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To: Canterbury Board of Education
From: Mr. Ryan Earley
Subject: BMS Administrator's Report
Date: December 4, 2018

Student enrollment has stayed stable during the past month. Student enrollment is at Grade 5: 47; Grade 6: 44; Grade 7: 39; and Grade 8: 53. As the year progresses, students and staff are delving deeper into curricular areas and programs. Technology and Science classes have been meeting together to introduce components and thought processes related to the Connecticut Invention Convention. Teachers have wrapped up internal assessments and it is now a time in which those grades can be compared to the district assessment in the Fall NWEA testing. The revamped Bulldog Block will have more student centered options after the holiday break as the Unified Arts team seeks to support Tier 2 students needs and content meeting time for teachers in a viable manner for students.

Halloween Trunk or Treat: On the evening of October 31st, the Grade 5/6 teachers Mrs. Messier, Mrs. Farland, and Ms. Huband joined Mr. Earley in costume to decorate trunks and give out treats to the children of Canterbury. It was a greatly attended event that truly showed the support from each agency in the community. It was a highlight to share in this holiday with children and their families.



New England Air Museum Field Trip: The Grade 8 students visited the New England Air Museum Windsor Locks. Thanks to the coordination by Mrs. Shafer, this is becoming a staple field trip for 8th grade students. Mrs. Shafer and Ms. Merendina are also reaching out to parents and students by utilizing a BMS Science Instagram account that can be accessed with the name "merendinashafer". This is a great way to take the stories of lab experiments and put them into a visual and video context for parents.



Halloween Dance: On the Friday following Halloween, Mr. Beit coordinated a great event with help from the students to transform the cafeteria into a haunted lair. Parents helped chaperone along with Ms. Huband, Mrs. Rizer, and Mr. Brophy. Parents donated sweet treats and drinks for the students to enjoy while they “monster mashed” all evening. This is becoming a true social highlight for the first trimester for students in Grade 6-8.

NWEA Partners Meeting: Mr. Earley attended the regional NWEA MAP Partners Meeting in Hamden where there new components of MAP were introduced along with district problem solving and success story sharing. The other aspects of the workshop focused on Data Growth, and the backend of the software with file sharing etc. (www.nwea.org) Based on the professional dialogue, there will be some minor tweaks to the test administration schedule and current data analysis that is underway is RIT analysis based on birthdate and a comparison between earned classroom grade and achievement level.

First Off-Site Evacuation: The EOP committee with the urging from Dr. Knapton to conduct off-site evacuation drills. The drill occurred on Friday November 9 with all adults and students relocating to the designated off-site location at the Canterbury Town Hall. This drill allowed administration to survey needs in terms of materials, processes, attendance accountability, staffing locations and needs, and to visualize and time how a true relocation would seem. Students and parents were notified beforehand with a letter from the superintendent and info posted online.

Fall Fest and Pep Rally: The first pep rally of the year was held in concert with the 4th Annual Fall Fest on Friday November 9. Students were brought into the gym and fall sports teams were introduced and seasons were recapped. Students performed their individual and group talents, and then the Mile Run was held for the whole school to watch and support. Following those events, students were able to enjoy the autumn with football, soccer, four square, popcorn and drinks (thanks to the PTO), rock painting, board games and reading, and simply taking a moment to enjoy the social aspects of middle school as the first trimester comes to an end.

Parent Teacher Conferences: The first trimester came to an end with report cards being distributed and parents taking the time to come in and meet with their teachers. As Baldwin reconfigured teaching teams last year, we have been trying to balance the transition of “parents historically meeting with all of their teachers at once” with the current model with parents being able to meet with at least two of their child’s teachers and they are divided by content (ELA, Reading, and Social Studies as one group and Science and Math as the other). It is a recognized flaw in the system and the school is looking to change the process for the March conferences to see how an alternative plan meets parent needs and wants.

Lion's Club Eye Screening: On the morning of November 20, local Lion's Club members supported their Eye Screening Program and students at BMS had the option for a second year to be screened. This community service is a great partnership and serves our children well. (www.lionsclub.org)

Woodstock Music Festival: Members of the 8th grade class in chorus and band attended the Woodstock Music Festival on November 16th in the evening. This is a great way for our students to meet and interact with other local schools all focused on their performance of music.

Winter Athletics: Girls basketball, boys basketball, and cheer are in full swing with games starting the second week of December. Schedules and info are posted on the school website.

Classroom Grading Policy Review: Currently there is an internal review of the in class grading and assessment policies and procedures. The Term 1 report cards and parent conferences has lent itself to the dialogue topic of "my child's grade" is correlated to "standardized testing, NWEA MAP & SBAC" in what ways? The school has been curriculum mapping (intended and actual) in the past and will use current assessment analysis to form a bridge among current classroom grading policy and a more standardized model and then evaluate the strengths and weaknesses for students, teachers, and parents.

John Halligan "Ryan's Story" Parent Evening and Student Program: On the evening of January 17th (Thursday), John Halligan will be in Canterbury to present "Ryan's Story" to parents and then to all students on the morning of January 18th (Friday, which is an early release day). "Ryan's Story" is a bullying awareness program focused on the life and experiences of Ryan, who committed suicide at the age of 13 after being cyberbullied and his father, John, who is a leading advocate for bullying awareness and prevention. Thanks to Ms. Diana Zuckerman for coordinating this program to help with bullying awareness in Canterbury.

December 2018 - BOE update - Pupil Services - jf

No new students with special needs moved in or out of the district since the last BOE report.

Vision of Pupil Services (draft): Support and enhance curriculum, instruction and assessment resulting in all students with special needs, prek to age 21, achieving success academically, socially and emotionally at their cognitive level.

Fiscal:

2019-2020 budget was developed based on existing students and anticipated needs / contingency. Out of district placements and transportation continue to exceed budgeted amounts for 2018-2019. Looking forward to working with our Director of Finance and Operations regarding immediate and longer range planning.

Programming/Placements: Pupil services/special education is an integrated part of general education at our Canterbury schools and receiving high schools. The following is the enrollment of students with special needs at each grade level. Male to female student ratio is 3 to 1.

P3	prek	k	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	8	6	1	3	5	4	4	9	6	10	5	7	4	8

Next year programming: Programming options are being discussed across all grades with an emphasis on Canterbury Elementary School, given the wide variety and complexity of student needs. New England Center for Children has submitted proposals for possible models of service delivery. NECC Partner Classroom was ended this year for budgetary reasons - this resulted in a tremendous strain on staff resources, an out of district placement and limited behavioral support. Overall budgetary savings was negligible. My recommendation is to consider developing in house programming/staffing versus contracting out. This would require philosophy adjustments and recruitment/training of existing and new staff.

Parent group: I met with the CPAC parent consultant for our pilot CPAC programming. We will be developing an advisory council with at least 7 people (half will need to be parents of students with special needs). A parent survey is being developed and sent to all parents of students with special needs. One positive outcome of the pilot program will be more training opportunities for parents and staff. (for example: basic student rights, foundations of behavior management)

Board of Education: Policy needs to be created regarding "exclusionary time-outs" per the state of CT by January of 2019. We don't have a policy on file as of yet.

Such policy shall include, but need not be limited to, a requirement that:

- (1) Exclusionary time outs are not to be used as a form of discipline.
- (2) At least one school employee remains with the student, or be immediately available to the student such that the student and school employee are able to communicate verbally, throughout the exclusionary time out.
- (3) The space used for an exclusionary time out is clean, safe, sanitary, and appropriate for the purpose of calming such student or deescalating such student's behavior.

(4) The exclusionary time-out period terminates as soon as possible.

(5) If such student is a child requiring special education, as defined in Section 10-76a or a child being evaluated for special education, pursuant to Section 10-76d and awaiting a determination, and the interventions or strategies are unsuccessful in addressing such student's problematic behavior, such student's planning and placement team (PPT) shall convene as soon as is practicable to determine alternative interventions or strategies.