

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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To: Canterbury Board of Education
From: Mr. Ryan Earley
Subject: BMS Administrator's Report
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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.