

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

♦ 67 Kitt Road, Canterbury, CT 06331 ♦ Phone: 860-546-6744 ♦ Fax: 860-546-6742

Report of Canterbury Elementary School for April 2019

Climate

-The PTO and CES are collaborating to bring at least one family fun night a month to our school community. This month we will have "Smile for Spring", which we began last year. A basket raffle, crafts, bake sale, and opportunity for family portraits will be a part of this event on April 27th.

-Kid's Lab continues to run monthly and our most recent topic was geoscience. Attendance continues to exceed 100 students per event. At the end of March, Mrs. Williamson and I submitted a grant to Pfizer for funds for next year.

-Our March assembly featured one of our students playing the harp, a mime performance, songs, and accolades for responsibility.

-We are working this spring to bring a rain garden to CES. One of our parents has volunteered to facilitate this project.

Curriculum

-Our LA curriculum committee met this month and discussed the new reading program for Grades 3 and 4 called "Journeys". This is the program that the middle school has implemented so that the reading program will be consistent across these middle grades. We plan to schedule the professional development for our teachers this spring.

-Our Math Curriculum committee also met this month and we discussed vertical articulation. We continue to map the skills that our students are developing through successive grade levels. We are identifying areas of focus from our latest data.

-Instructional rounds continue at CES with the district-wide focus on purposeful questioning techniques. At our professional development next week, we will meet in cross grade level team with the focus on questioning techniques in the curricular area of Mathematics.

-A team of three including myself, our social worker, and our Director of Pupil Services attended a Connecticut State Department Training on the topic of Restorative Practices. This two-day training was relevant and informative. As a group, we recognize the need to increase our instruction in the social emotional

domain for all of our students. We hope to bring the knowledge we gained back to our staff. These trainings are free from the state.

-Much interest exists in the building for continued professional development. Our first grade team recently attended training in phonics instruction. We are planning to have a small group to attend EASTCONN's daylong conference on childhood trauma next month. Two faculty members are interested in the summer program in "Math Recovery".

-For our NAEYC reaccreditation, we have our window for our visit which is from April 1, 2019 to October 1, 2019. We will receive notice of which two weeks we can expect our visit. Three portfolios are required; a program portfolio that shows all facets of operation and leadership and 2 grade level portfolios (Grades PK and K).

-Story telling sessions for PK and K began in January and will continue throughout the spring! The faculty will be presented with professional development on read alouds and story telling next week at our faculty meeting, which is another part of this grant. The CT Storytellers and I are working on finding grant support to continue this program into next school year.

-We began our PK screening today to meet our child find obligation. We conduct two days of screening in which the children are observed, developmental screenings are conducted, and a family interview occurs. We continue to see a great interest in our PK program. Parents gave us positive feedback today about how good the school feels and how happy they are to have the chance to have PK here.

-Our K registration is at the end of the month of April and parents are currently making appointments to meet with our K teachers.

Respectfully submitted April 4, 2019 by Sarah Cary

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

◆ 45 Westminister Road, Canterbury, CT 06331 ◆ Phone: 860-546-9421 ◆ Fax: 860-546-6289

To: Canterbury Board of Education
From: Mr. Ryan Earley
Subject: BMS Administrator's Report
Date: April 4, 2019

Student enrollment has declined slightly during the past month with a population decline of 1 student from our smallest class- grade 7. Student enrollment is at Grade 5: 46; Grade 6: 43; Grade 7: 38; and Grade 8: 52. The school is truly prepared for the warmer weather months and a clear sign of that is the spring sports season is underway.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Testing Administration: Students in grade 8 participated in the national assessment that serves as the basis of the Nation's Report Card. NAEP is given to a representative sample of students across the country. Results are reported for groups of students with similar characteristics (e.g., gender, race and ethnicity, school location), not individual students. National results are available for all subjects assessed by NAEP. State and selected urban district results are available for mathematics, reading, and (in some assessment years) science and writing. Students were notified of this assessment early in the school year and were given opportunity to opt-out as desired by parents. Testing took place on February the morning of February 6, 2019. (<https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>).

BMS National Junior Honor Society Visits and Delivers to Canterbury Cares Food Pantry: On the morning of February 11, 2019; Mrs. Kim Waters and members of the NJHS concluded their winter food drive and took the donated items and delivered them to the food pantry. This gave the members a real connection to where the donated items end up and the role a local agency has on the community.

Canterbury Education Foundation Grant Requests: Recently the teachers at BMS have submitted various grant requests to the CEF and many were approved and will help support the innovation occurring at BMS and will have direct impacting our students. A special education resource room requested more active and ergonomic seating to allow students to achieve "active sitting" environment. Math teachers requested geometric shape kits to allow for students to put together and see varied ways of determining surface area in a manipulative manner. The family consumer science department requested an in class tower garden in which to demonstrate and allow students to see the various aspects of fruit and vegetable growth and then utilization in the classroom cooking lessons. Grade 5 and 6 Reading and Science teachers requested the novel The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind for each student as they will be conducting a thematic unit among the disciplines. The tech department requested an additional 3 dimensional printer as one of the devices in use is in need of major repair. At time of this printing, all requests were granted except the 3-d printer as the CEF requested additional information. Approximately \$2,000 has been shared with the school to support the other projects listed. A great thanks to the teachers for pushing innovation and to the CEF for the monetary support.

Spring 2019 Coaching Assignments: As the spring season approached, the school solidified the coaching staff for spring sports. Track will have a boys coach (Tim Simkowski) and a girls coach (Sue Coombs) based on numbers and appropriate athlete supervision and management. Softball will have a veteran coach return (Jerry Renaud) and also a newcomer to the program but not to coaching (Jon Stringer). Baseball welcomes a new head coach (Don Hanks) and our athletic director as assistant (Jim Molkenhain). I look forward to a great season for all student athletes. All schedules are posted on the school athletic website.

Trimester #2 Ends, Report Cards, Parent Teacher Conferences: On February 27, 2019 the second trimester came to an end. All grades were input and report cards were distributed on Wednesday March 6, 2019 in advance of the Spring Parent Teacher Conferences. A great turnout from parents was present for the conferencing which is a testament to the great school-home connection there is in Canterbury.

March Faculty Meeting: During the faculty meeting, teachers reviewed and evaluated the student accountability and discipline referral data and refocused their efforts on the role of the “anchoring adult” as to serve as a tier 2 behavioral support model. Faculty also prepared for the Why Canterbury? project as the end of the year is near.

Why Canterbury? Update: Students had grade level assemblies to review and address the various components of the project. This is a project where:

- Grade 5 students would interview a family member in Canterbury
- Grade 6 students would interview a senior citizen in Canterbury
- Grade 7 students would interview a business owner in Canterbury
- Grade 8 students would interview an employee of the town.

The vision is to have a community event and expo that spotlights the families, seasoned Canterburians, businesses and employees of the town. Students would present their findings and learnings to the gymnasium filled with townspeople. This event would be followed by a cordial meet and greet for all involved and a special recognition to take place. On the morning of April 2, 2019; invited guest speakers will be at BMS to answer questions and help students understand the importance of Canterbury and all that it has to offer.

Trimester #2 Honors Awards: On the afternoon of March 19, 2019 students were awarded with Honors and High Honors awards certificates. All students are eligible to earn honor roll distinctions. There are two categories: High Honors: student who earns grades of 90% or higher in all subjects and Honors: student who earns 80% or higher in all subjects.

Canterbury Invention Convention: During the past several months, Mr. Tim Simkowski has been coaching and supporting students who voluntarily have been inventing and bringing their ideas to creation. On the evening of March 22, 2019 students presented their ideas and inventions to a judging committee. The committee made its decisions and the results are below. The students will head to the State Invention Convention on May 4, 2019 at UCONN in Storrs.

Best Overall Invention: Steevenson Mady (Mailbox Light)

Best Invention Process: Gray Barbeau (Prunus Persica Pitter)

Most Practical Invention: Chloe Woodworth (Fidget Pencil)

Most Original Invention: Teagan Klewin (Magic Mirror)

Most Effective Invention: Rae Coombs (Book Mate)

Why Canterbury? Work Day: On the morning of April 2, 2019 members of the community joined with BMS students and presented on their role in the community and then fielded questions from students. The following agencies were represented: Land Use office, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Town Library, Ed's Garage, Canterbury Fire Dept., and the Hartford Courant. This will be the first of many work days for students as they prepare for the end of the year Why Canterbury? Expo.

Spring Portraits: On the morning of April 4, 2019, Charleen's Portrait Studio is back at BMS for Spring Picture Day. Charleen's has been active at BMS with our recent grade 8 graduation portraits and also working directly with the students in the yearbook club.

Grade 6 Visits the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History: On Friday April 5, 2019, the grade 6 students loaded up on a coach bus and headed to New Haven for a day filled with exhibits and artifacts. A great day was had by all and pictures of the day will be posted on the BMS Science Instagram.

After School Programming: The Baldwin Middle School is entering its' tenth week offering after school programming 2x per week to support students with homework and also offering activities in the gym and workout room. The current roster has 44 students attending at least one day per week.

National Junior Honor Society Induction: On the evening of April 2, 2019, the Happie K. Tracy Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society inducted 15 members (8th: 3 and 7th: 12) to join the organization. Students are selected first for scholarship. All candidates must have maintained an 85% average for six quarters in all core subjects. Those who qualify are then voted upon by a faculty committee for qualities of citizenship, service, leadership, and character. All students selected must strongly demonstrate excellence in all five qualities.

Grade 8 Recognition Ceremony: The date has been set for the Class of 2019 Recognition Ceremony. The evening of June 7 (Friday, last day of school, half day of instruction) at 6:00pm has been scheduled as the culminating event for the Class of 2019. Parents have been notified and invitations are forthcoming.

Submitted April 2, 2019 RDE

April 2019 - BOE update - Pupil Services - JF

Each and every student is a general education student first regardless of their special needs

Budget: Student specific changes in placements including move -ins and move-outs will be shared with the Superintendent as not to identify the student during the BOE meetings.

PPTs are ongoing with students placed in out of district settings to make sure the Least Restrictive Environment is being selected.

Next year programming: Ms. Cary and Mr. Ferranti have met and will continue to meet with Dr. Ravit Stein from Eastconn to strengthen our multi-tiered frameworks for social emotional learning and behavioral supports. An initial proposal for a “WINN - What I Need Now” classroom has been drafted by Mr. Ferranti.

Parent group: The Special Education PAC has launched a Facebook page for sharing of information relating to the education and support of students with special needs. Next meeting is April 25, 6-730 at BMS.

Professional Development: Ms. Carey, Mr. Ferranti and Ms. Musumeci participated in a 2-day Restorative Practices professional development given by the CDSE. Mr. Ferranti continues to participate in a 7-day Enhancing Instructional Programs for Special Education Administration given by SERC. Mr. Ferranti is participating in CREC’s newly formed Social Emotional Learning Council.

De Escalation/Restraint/Seclusion: The NECC training in CALM has been implemented district wide for several years. However we are in need of greater de-escalation techniques in addition to conducting safe restraints. Mr. Ferranti will be gathering information about Safety Care and other deescalation programming to replace CALM. Eastconn is using Safety Care and may be the most appropriate method for our population.

High School transitions: High school transition meetings are ongoing. Please note that one of our receiving high schools has not determined if there will be additional slots for children with special needs.

Pupil Services strategic plan: The profile of students in Canterbury has changed over the last three years with increasing academic and social/emotional and behavioral needs in the younger grades. The Pupil Services Department will be developing a draft strategic plan with the input of staff and parents regarding how we want Pupil Services to evolve over the next few years. The outcome of implementing a strategic plan is very simple: ***have all students with special needs perform at or above their cognitive level academically, socially and emotionally.***

Vision of Pupil Services: 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.