

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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Staffing:

Work continues in the search to find a new math teacher. I am hopeful that I will have a strong candidate to bring before the BOE before the end of the school year.

Behavioral Focus

A team of teachers will be working to visit model schools and create a plan for Baldwin's schoolwide behavioral approach. This team will be focused on PBIS, restorative practices, and building more student-ownership for behavior. The team will be comprised of:

- Glenn Blonshine
- Bern Messier
- Kaitlyn Shafer
- Beth O'Connor
- Mariah Rae
- Diana Zuckerman
- Judy Guillot
- Garrett Dukette

Community Service

- As a meaningful alternative to consequences that are disconnected from behavior, I am focused on using community service opportunities within the building as a means for repairing the harm done and for fostering student give-backs for the larger community

Student Leadership

- NJHS will be running a Yankee Candle fundraiser that will enable them to pay for and attend upcoming leadership conferences
- NJHS members will be re-opening the school store, and have shared plans with me regarding the time, function, and services that will be provided

Assessment

Due to technical limitations, NWEA testing has been pushed back. Testing will get underway on February 10, with the goal of wrapping up before the long President's Day weekend.

For Your Learning

As BOE members, if you are interested in learning more about restorative practices, please check out the attached article:

Restorative Practices:

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/summer14/vol71/num09/The-Power-of-the-Circle.aspx>

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Report of Canterbury Elementary School for February 2020

Climate

School-wide Assembly: On January 30th, we had a school-wide assembly and honored students with Teacher Accolades for Respect.

Cityscape: On January 24th, we built skyscrapers, forts and sculptures from recycled materials. PTO provided snacks to us as we built. It was a great Family Fun Night! It is our 3rd Annual Cityscape.

Nurse Stimson and Mr. Verdone: We welcome to new staff to CES in January. Mrs. Stimson in our new nurse. She has been busy meeting all the children and orienting herself to our school. Mr. Verdone joins us from Griswold Public Schools as Occupational Therapy Assistant, working with Mrs. LaVasseur. Mrs. Lee, our former OT Assistant, retired in January.

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) met last week and we discussed the resource fair scheduled for Thursday, March 5th at the CES Cafeteria.

Parent/teacher conferences will be held in early March for the 2nd Trimester on March 5 (late night for both schools) and March 6. These days are half days for students.

Curriculum

Professional Development: We have another half day this week for the staff to work on their learning. We will gather in March to share what we have learned, how we plan to continue developing, and to provide resources for each other.

Attention and Focus Presentation: Mrs. Musumeci and Ms. Rae presented to our faculty regarding attention. They presented how school feels to a student with difficulty attending and provided resources and strategies to staff. Staff feedback was positive about this presentation.

PDEC: The PDEC team met in January and discussed calendar recommendations and current professional development. We are looking forward to the staff presentations in March.

NAEYC: We have been in contact with our assessor and have completed the most recent work regarding the site visit. We will be notified of our 2-week window four days

before it starts. We are well prepared for our visit. Thanks to the teachers and Mrs. Frizzell, our new Readiness Liaison.

Curriculum Development: Our teachers continue to work with Mrs. Danna to develop units using a common format. We worked on mathematics in the fall and are currently focused on units in Reading and Language Arts.

NWEA MAP Testing: We will be testing in early March and look forward to the growth our students have made.

Safety Committee: The CES Safety Committee met in January and worked on defining our standard operation procedure for a Shelter in Place. A Shelter in Place is like a Lockdown in most ways, but in a shelter in place, activity as usual continues in the classroom. We practiced a Shelter in Place drill in late January.

Safety Audit: We were visited by the security staff from Woodstock Academy to review our safety procedure and our building. It was a productive meeting and we look forward to their feedback.

Grants

Connecticut Storytellers: We learned that we can extend the grant to Grade 1 due to the generous support of an anonymous donor. Each classroom in Grades PK, K and 1 will receive 10 performances from a storyteller before the end of the school year. Thank you to the CT Storytellers!

Disney: We will receive \$2,000 from Disney for our school library in March. This grant is given to schools how have family members who work for Disney. Thank you to the Zurell family for thinking of us!

Environmental Grant: Mrs. Kathleen Hart is developing and submitting a grant that would allow us to collaborate with the CT Audubon Society to provide hands-on experiences in nature for our Grade 3 and 4 students. One focus would be on birds and monitoring trees and leaf development. This grant was submitted in January.

Laptops: We continue to be supported by parent Mr. Joseph and Electric Boat with hardware donations. We are currently waiting on 20 laptop donations.

Pfizer: A \$2,000 grant from Pfizer is funding our Kid's Lab monthly program. January's Lab was presented by Audobon regarding the animals in our nature world. Over 100 students attended, with many parent and teacher volunteers. Thanks to Teachers Ms. Wernicki, Mrs. Pisowloski, Ms. Aforismo, and Mr. Kolodziej for their dedicated support to this after school program.