

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

45 Westminster Road, Canterbury, CT 06331 Phone: 860•546•9421 Fax: 860•546•6289

To: Canterbury Board of Education

From: Mr. Neil Rinaldi

Subject: November Monthly Report

Date: December 4, 2019

Parent-teacher conferences: The first trimester came to an end with report cards being distributed and parents having the opportunity to meet with their student's teachers. There was a very good parent turnout.

Fire drill: The second fire drill of the year was held in November. Plans are being developed to conduct our second lockdown drill in December before the winter break.

Bulldog Block for Intervention: We are currently planning intervention resource time for students based on data analysis from the Fall MAP assessment in math and reading. The plan will provide targeted intervention sessions dedicated to reteaching, practicing and mastering the identified skills. Math and reading topics will alternate days to maximize the availability of all resources.

Winter athletics: The Basketball season began on Monday, 12/3 with 16 Girls and 18 Boys participating. Twenty four girls are participating in the cheer squad that began practicing for competition as well as cheering for some home basketball games.

Gym Upgrades: The Canterbury Athletic Association and the Baldwin Booster Club are funding a total replacement of all the gym lights including the emergency lights. The Baldwin Booster Club also funded the replacement of basketball game benches in the gym. Thank you to our athletic association and booster club for your support.

Lions Club eye screening: The Lions Club conducted its annual eye screening program. We greatly appreciate the service our Lions Club is offering our students free of charge.

Curriculum Writing: Each grade level subject areas have begun the process of creating new curricula that are aligned to the Common Core State Standards and are vertically aligned with grade-level expectations. This year's goal is that each subject area will create at least 2 new units by the end of the year.

Professional Development: This year teachers are working on professional topics of need and interest that will benefit the school and district as a whole. Some topics are social and emotional learning, math

strategies for intervention, and improving reading and writing proficiencies across all middle school grade levels. These topics address specific student needs and are aligned with research-based practices and resources.

PTO: On Saturday, November 16, the PTO held a successful spaghetti dinner and live auction that raised \$2200. The proceeds will go directly back to our students. Several local companies donated the food and auction items. NJHS members served the patrons and helped set up and clean up.

NJHS: On Saturday, November 16, members of NJHS were invited to help, run, make and serve a meal at the Covenant Soup Kitchen. Members were bused there and returned around 2:00.

CPR/AED: On Thursday, November 14th, the CPR/AED recertification class was held for eligible BMS staff.

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Report from Canterbury Elementary School November 2019

Climate

We had excellent turnout at our parent/teacher conference the week of Thanksgiving. Almost all families connected with our teachers. The building was full of activities for two days as the families came for conferences and attended the PTO Book Fair. The PTO Book Fair was open for almost 2 weeks, during our Family Fun Night in November. The PTO gifted the teachers with \$75 to spend and then families bought books for the classrooms off the wish lists. It was a very successful event!

Our CES PTO continues to bring great activities to our school. The Kid's Club, a science after school offering, continues to be very successful with over 115 students participating each month. Family Fun Nights continued in November with a Gingerbread Man Night. Crafts, refreshments, and gingerbread was everywhere! Each family fun night, we see about 100 people each time. In December, the Gingerbread Race returns for its second year on Sunday, December 14th.

The CES Chorus, Grades 3 and 4, will present a winter concert on December 11th.

Our nurse, Mrs. Turner, collaborated with the Lyon's Club to bring vision screening to our youngest students in PK and K in early December. Students were screened and some were referred for a follow up.

Our school nurse, Mrs. Turner retires in January. Thank you, Nancy, for your dedication to our students and staff! We will miss you.

The PTO continues to give us gifts; the most recent was a sensory walk in the hallway by the cafeteria. Students have the opportunity to frog jump, bear walk, or do push-ups. They are enjoying the walk greatly!

Fire Drills and staff training have been the focus of our safety program this fall. We met as a district to review the Emergency Operations Plan in October. The CES Safety Committee is met on December 5th.

Technology

CES has 2 Chrome book carts, each with 25 chrome books, which are used regularly by students. The carts are located in the hallways by classrooms to facilitate access.

Students continue to use the LEXIA program in Grade 1 to support phonics instruction. Unfortunately, the cost of this program has increased dramatically.

Our faculty participated in taking the NWEA MAP testing this fall to see what it is like for students. We have begun a Google Classroom for teachers to share professional growth. We hope to share best practices and ideas to meet the needs of our students in a shared space.

Curriculum and Assessment

NAEYC accreditation: I met with the State Department of Early Childhood in November to discuss our process moving forward regarding certification. I shared with them our action plan. The state will follow up with a letter that will tell us that we have to participate in a screening tool called ECERS. They expressed that we have done all that we can. We have successfully completed the enrollment and candidacy requirements with NAEYC and we have been given our visit site window which is from November 15-May 15, 2020. The School Readiness Council met in November and will meet again in January.

Our faculty continues to work with Mrs. Danna on curricular units in Math. We have completed our first unit and are well on our way to completing the second unit that we planned to finish this first half of the year. Our focus switches to Language Arts in January. Specials Teachers are also working on this project.

Our student assistance team (SAT) is meeting with families as we continue to design interventions to meet the needs of our students. We have developed new tracking procedures to monitor our communication with teachers to progress monitor our students. Classroom teachers and families join the team on a regular basis to review student progress. Members of the SAT include the principal, nurse, social worker, psychologist, and remedial reading teacher.

The behavioral supports for students in collaboration with EASTCONN has been very helpful. Mr. Barclay, a behavioral consultant, meets with our special education teacher, Mrs. Webster, to provide guidance for students and plans for overall program functioning. This asset is pivotal in providing for the behavioral needs of our young students.

We have begun our new Health Curriculum, approved by the BOE in August. The model allows for instruction by classroom teachers, social worker, nurse, and our dually certified Physical Education and Health Teacher, Mr. Fresco-Hawes. Resources for teachers are available in the staff room and are organized by different topics each month.

Last year we purchased a social emotional program called Second Step for Grades 3 and 4. This program provides lessons on topics such as feelings, empathy, making friends, and communication. It has been used in our school for years, but needed updating from 2004. We were able to purchase the materials for Grades 3 and 4 last spring. The School Readiness Council just approved the purchase of materials for PK through its Quality Enhancement Grant, which provides for Professional Development.

Our district-wide Strategic Plan Committee met again in November. Our focus is on defining high quality instruction and how do we best support that work collectively. The group has decided to meet on the professional development days to allow for time on this important initiative.

Respectfully submitted December 5, 2019 by Sarah Cary

