

# CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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## Report of Canterbury Elementary School for January 2020

### **Climate**

Happy New Year! December was filled with excited children! The teachers worked their magic at continuing to keep lessons engaging while adding special activities for the holidays. We had a wonderful concert from the CES Chorus in December with our new music teacher, Ms. Tackett. We have returned to school and transitioned back into our routines well.

Gingerbread Run: In December, our PTO sponsored the Gingerbread Fun Run and it was a great success. Thank you to all!

Nurse Retirement: Today we celebrated our retiring nurse, Mrs. Turner with a staff breakfast. We are pleased to welcome Cassandra Stimson as our new school nurse. We are fortunate to have found another nurse who cares about children and families as much as Mrs. Turner has done. Thank you, Mrs. Turner, for your care and dedication to the students and families of CES.

Cityscape: Our January Family Fun Night is our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Cityscapes! We gather recyclable materials and spend an evening building cities, castles, forts, and whatever else we can dream of! It is on January 24<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30. Please join us.

### **Curriculum**

NAEYC: We received the follow-up letter from the Office of Early Childhood regarding our NAEYC accreditation and my meeting with them in November. They praised our program. The letter reads in part: "It is clear that Canterbury holds a high standard for quality...the detailed action plan you presented reflects Canterbury's commitment to meeting all NAEYC standards and expediting the process to obtain accreditation. We are pleased to learn Canterbury has already received notification a NAEYC site visit will be conducted by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020."

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.

Instructional Focus: This is the time of year that classrooms are in full swing. Students understand the routines and the expectations. Teachers are planning and delivering quality instruction to engage the students and maintain their forward progress.

NWEA MAP Testing: Last summer, district administration agreed that the most stable testing period is in the winter. We decided to decrease MAP testing to twice a year and eliminate the spring testing since we have Smarter Balance Test in May. We will test for the second time this year in March. We will review the annual growth of students from January 2019 to March 2020. Next March, we will be able to compare March 2020 to March 2021. We will also use this data to inform our intervention programs and student progress within these Tier II intervention programs.

Safety Committee: The CES Safety Committee met in December and reviewed our safety drills this fall. We will meet in January to develop some more standard operating procedures (SOP) that are short, clear, and easy to remember. One of our parents, Trooper Konow, is part of our committee. We are truly grateful for his guidance and presence.

### **Grants**

Disney: We are in line to 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 the second focus is on monitoring trees and leaf development.

Connecticut Storytellers: We will have another opportunities to the CT Storytellers here with us again this spring. We received monies both from Title IV and also an outside sponsor has pledged funds for us to continue this excellent program.

Private Donations: Generous community members continue to provide funds for charitable activities for families in our school. School and community members worked diligently to provide for families during December.

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. Parent Mrs. Jessica Williamson got the grant and continues to plan and deliver our Kid's Lab program. This month, we will be focusing on animal tracks!

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Gary

# Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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**Transition:** During my transition into the role as principal of Baldwin, my priority is first and foremost on getting to meet each one of the students in my school and beginning to build relationships with the larger school community. In addition, I am working to familiarize myself with all aspects of the school, and learning about the strengths and areas for growth that exist.

**Behavioral Focus** During my hiring process, it was clear that the staff is looking for guidance and a clear set of expectations around behavior. To that end I am focused on:

- Increasing positive student recognition, through things such as the Bulldog Report
- Working with a team of educators to develop a long-term plan for shifting the behavioral culture of BMS
- Being present and visible during high-need times of the school day.

**Community Service** I will be reaching out to the Canterbury Senior Center to connect our students with senior citizens and see how we can support them in accessing and using technology In addition:

- Working with Eastern CT State University to develop community service days at Baldwin and across Canterbury

**Student Leadership** I am committed to increasing student leadership opportunities at Baldwin through the following:

- Creation of a Student Leadership Team
- Mentor program with Eastern CT State University
- Shift in expectations within the lunchroom

**Assessment** In preparation for the second half of the school year:

- The second round of MAP testing will occur this month
- Students who achieve their growth scores for the school year will be exempted from the spring MAP testing
- Continuing focus on data in order to support teacher practice

**Snow Days** BMS pushed progress reports as well as end-of-trimester report cards back a few days, due to the number of snow days thus far. This does not impact the date that report cards will be going home.