

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

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Celebrations:

Students

So far, over 30 positive parent phone calls have been made to recognize students who have received Bulldog Reports (Positive Office Referrals). This push, along with our Bulldog Bucks, has continued to improve the PBIS culture we are working hard to build at Baldwin.

As December gets underway, we continue to focus on ensuring the overall mental health and safety of our students, while balancing our instruction. One way we plan to continue to support our students is with "Friday Sweater Days" across the entire month of December, as well as a spirit week during the week before the winter break.

Staff

This month, I would like to recognize Mrs. Kelly Farland, who has been working tirelessly to bring stations-learning into the classroom in a Covid-safe manner. This work, which is challenging in a "normal" year is doubly difficult, due to the restrictions around students working in groups, etc. Her efforts are incredible and the excitement I have seen during these activities is immeasurable. In addition to this paragraph in my report, I have also sent a letter of commendation to Mrs. Duval on behalf of Mrs. Farland's efforts

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Updates:

As we progress further into the school year, I continue to look for scheduling opportunities for staff to meet to hold curriculum discussions. Of importance is our school's need for new math text sets. Over the summer, my math department spent a significant amount of time writing the curriculum and as they are implementing their learning this year, it is clear that our textbooks are in need of updating.

Professional Development:

Mrs. Beckwith, Ms. Cary, and I will be running a district-wide faculty meeting on December 9th to discuss student assistance and data collection. This focus is part of an ongoing effort to improve our student supports and to increase our tier 1 and 2 interventions within the classroom. Our goal is to continually work as an administrative team to provide small, concrete tools for staff to use that will ultimately improve practice and increase student learning.

Upcoming Events:

- All Fridays in December- Winter Sweater Days

- December 21-23- BMS Spirit Week

General Comments:*Climate*

While our overall climate is positive, there are always things for me to be working on. A few weeks ago I sent out a survey to my staff to provide me with anonymous feedback on my support and work thus far as the principal of DHBMS. One clear item that I heard was a need for improved communication. Some of the strategies that I am implementing to work towards this goal include the following:

- Daily end-of-day emails to update staff on important info
- More frequent face-to-face check-ins with all staff
- Ensuring staff receives copies of all communications (ie. Blackboards) that go home to families

I feel that, as someone who values feedback and prioritizes a growth mindset for my staff, it is critical that I lead by example and I am hopeful that this type of survey will demonstrate that willingness to my staff.

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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860-546-6742 **Celebrations**

We are celebrating being NAEYC accredited for the next 5 years! We received the news the day before Thanksgiving. We were commended for our classroom observation, our classroom portfolio, and our program portfolio. We received the following scores by Standard:

Standards	Score
Relationships	100%
Curriculum	100%
Teaching	100%
Assessment of Child Progress	100%
Health	100%
Staff Competencies, Preparation and Support	100%
Families and Community Relationships	100%
Physical Environment	98%
Leadership and Management	100%

Thanks to ALL who participated in this process! PK Teachers Mrs. Langlois, Mrs. Vallandingham, PK Paraprofessionals Mrs. Pike, Mrs. Sabrowski, CES School Staff Mrs. John, Mrs. Stimson, Ms. Williamson, EASTCONN Support Mrs. Lambert, Readiness Liaison Mrs. Frizzell, School Readiness Members Mr. Rioux, Mr. Lippke, Mrs. Arnio, Mrs. Konow, Mr. Magnuson, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Musumeci, Mrs. Marsalisi, Mrs. Demicco, and Miss Cary.

Parent/Teacher conferences were well attended but we missed seeing all the families here in the building.

Our families continue to generously support us. Most recently we received a handmade gift from a family to bring us joy during the holiday season. Thanks to all for these kind gestures and words!

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Updates

IReady: Now that we have the data, we are learning how to access the reports on IReady. This information will assist us in tracking student progress. Remote students are engaging with IReady lessons.

Second Step: We continue to implement this curriculum and the vocabulary of the program can now be heard in the hallways and in conversation. "Self Talk" is a current concept and students PK-4 are learning that if we give ourselves positive messages, we will feel better.

Chrome books have arrived in the district and once they are disseminated at Baldwin, the rest of the devices will come to CES. We are planning for a 1 to 1 model for 4th graders. Classrooms will receive machines for their rooms for student use as well.

The Kindergarten team completed the state Kindergarten Entrance Inventory which is a tool that the state uses to gather data on students across the state in the fall of their Kindergarten year. Teachers report on the following areas: creativity, language, literacy, numeracy, social, and gross motor.

Professional Development

On December 2nd, a team of 3 participated in a training from IReady on reports and how to use the IREADY tools to support instruction. Next week in a joint staff meeting, we will be discussing progress monitoring and IREADY provides us with many resources for this purpose.

Upcoming Events

We plan to participate for the second year in a row, on December 11th, in the CT Children's Hospital's PJ Day for the Kids. Last year, we donated about \$500 to this cause.

Kids' Lab: We are planning a second remote Kids' Lab for December. This will be an interactive remote experience in which a paleontologist will show and explain to students what he does. November's Kids' Lab was a presentation from the Mystic Aquarium on penguins.

CT Storytellers are starting their sessions with Grades PK, K and 1. We are grateful for this program which the students thoroughly enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Cary, Principal



Canterbury Public Schools Pupil Services Office

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<http://www.canterburypublicschools.org/special-education/>

Celebrations:

- Bridget Griffin is BMS's new 7th and 8th grade special education teacher. Ms. Griffin comes to us from an intensive clinical program where trauma-informed practices were a large component of the work. Ms. Griffin is skilled in relationship building and designing programs for students with disabilities. We are grateful for her acceptance of our middle school special education position.
- All special education state reporting is complete for special education data, timeline compliance and excess cost grants.
- We are in the beginning stages of unifying our intervention system, district-wide, to provide a continuum of services to students well before children are identified as needing special education. This Multi-Tiered System of Support will drive our Student Assistance Team process and build strategic instructional plans in the classroom and with our interventionists. Our first district-wide professional development on this initiative will be held on December 7, and will focus on aligning intervention with assessment by monitoring student progress with our new iReady reading and math system.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Updates:

- Social/Emotional Screener Update

Teachers have been able to rate their students (using the DESSA-Standard) who scored in the "need" range (according to their parents) on the DESSA mini. The DESSA standard pinpoints the competency in five social skill areas: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and decision-making. Teachers can use this information to differentiate instruction in the classroom and provide tiered interventions even before referring a child for help through our Student Assistance Team.

- A small group of faculty from the Pupil Service department continues to develop an aligned process from assessment to intervention, so that our district can implement findings from current, efficacious, research on teaching and learning.
- Pupil Services Department by the Numbers

Number of PPTs Since Start of School	Number of Assessments Completed since Start of School	IEPs at the Start of School / Currently	Out of District Placements at the Start of School / Currently	
57	20	87 / 77	Clinical	5 / 4
			Transitional	4 / 5
			Academic Intensive	1 / 2
			Out of Town / Magnet	1 / 2
			Alternative	1 / 1



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Professional Development:

- Three out of nine staff members have completed Physical and Psychological Management Training. The training teaches staff how to safely de-escalate a situation when a student is in crisis. The remaining 6 staff will complete training on December 14, and will meet on December 21 to review and coordinate a district wide response to a crisis situation.

Upcoming Events:

- Analysis of the correlation between students identified as EL and Special Education
- Review of the identification process for students who may be gifted and talented