

CANTERBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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CES Report of the Board of Education for January 2022

Celebrations

In December, we focused on the CES attribute of Kindness through Empathy. Again our students excelled at responding to our character focus for the month. We celebrated our monthly spirit day on December 23rdth. The theme was silly socks and my, how silly we were!

In January, our character theme is Responsibility. We show our responsibility as students by having pride in our work. Spirit day is January 31st and the theme is Sports! With the Super Bowl around the corner, we will honor our favorite teams in this January spirit day.

On Friday, December 10th, we had a pajama day to benefit the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. We each donated a dollar to support CCMC and wear pajamas for the day! Across the district we raised \$1,043. At CES, we raised \$418 and our PTO matched that amount. The rest of the earnings came from Baldwin! Way to go, CPS!

In December, we also gave as a staff and community to those who may be in need. We participated in the Toy Drive and we found new ways to give by collaborating with community members and groups. Our families expressed intense gratitude for these gifts.

We celebrated together with a staff lunch on Wednesday, December 15th. Staff had a grinder of their choice, chips, and dessert. On December 22nd, the office and the kitchen joined together for a holiday breakfast, which we all greatly enjoyed.

We celebrate the generosity we see in our community. We continue to receive food donations here at the school. We have an outside box by the front door that families use to give food. In the coming months, our social work interns will lead a food drive across the school. They will talk to Canterbury Cares and ascertain what items are most needed and then we will work to get these things for them.

Professional Development

The Student Assistance Team (SAT) and grade level data teams in Reading and Mathematics continued to work together to provide for the intervention needs of our students. We piloted a new SAT referral form in November and have been receiving some referrals from teachers. We meet as a SAT team as quickly as possible to assist the teacher and the student. This ambitious renewal of our intervention system is growing and as the year moves along, we are reflecting and evaluating our processes and their impact on student growth.

Our safety committee met in the fall and will again on January 27th to follow up on the goals we have made for the year.

Finally when we came back from break on Monday, the admin team and our health team dove into the new regulations regarding COVID responses such as quarantines and contact tracing. We responded to the needs of the families and staff this week. Each staff member received 2 N95 masks and we received home tests for COVID which are available to staff and families.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

In January, we will conduct our mid-year assessments such as I-Ready for Grades 2-4. We are pulling back from the mid-year I-Ready test for Grades K and 1 since at that grade level, many grade level assessments exist to gauge the growth of students in reading and math. In addition, it is developmentally correct to conduct these assessments for our youngest learners in person, face to face with one adult. We will also conduct the second round of our social emotional screener called the DESSA this month.

This time of year is one of the most important for our teachers and students. We have established routines and in January, February, and March, we all push hard to learn and grow. The students' engagement in their own work is critical for our overall success. Many thanks to all the departments that support our classrooms, such as custodial and maintenance, transportation, and our business office. We couldn't do it without you!

Respectfully submitted by Principal Sarah Cary

Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School

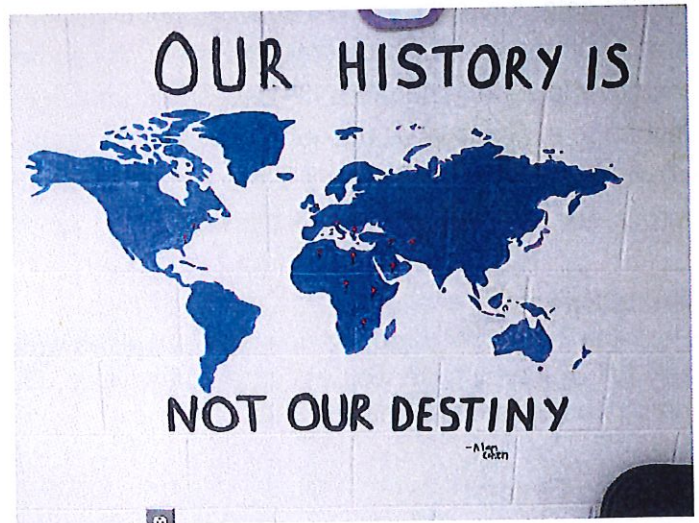
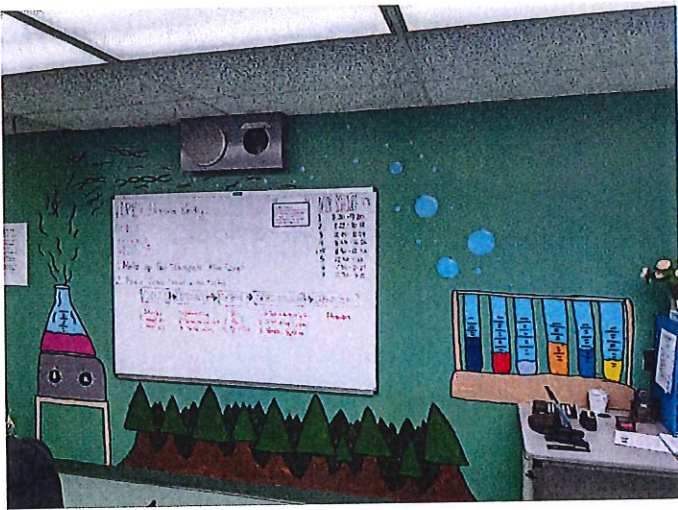
↔Respect↔Responsibility↔Community↔

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Celebrations:

Students

Art students over the course of the first semester have been working on creative murals around the school building. With murals located in the hallways, the cafeteria, classrooms, and even my office, students have been working hard to make the building more colorful and reflective of our student body. Here are a few examples of the murals that semester 1 students have been painting:



Students also finished out 2021 by creating an awesome thank you video for our staff. Students from every grade recorded messages to each of our teachers and paras, expressing their thanks and their gratitude and wishing happy holidays to our BMS staff.

Finally, through the generosity of our staff, BMS was able to assist three Canterbury families over the holidays, with gifts and meal assistance. It is always impressive how well our staff comes together for those in need.

Staff

This month I would like to recognize two of my staff members: Evelyn and Jill Smith. Both of the Mrs. Smith's are irreplaceable members of my team, helping to keep our school open and running, and working hard to meet everyone's needs in a timely and professional manner.

Jill Smith is my right-hand woman, balancing her knowledge of Powerschool and the state systems with her responsibilities around supporting the principal and main office. When I have a question to ask, Jill is my go-to person who can speak to the history of the school, past practices, and even her own experiences as a parent of recent graduates. She is invaluable to my job and makes my day-to-day life much easier by being my team member.

Evelyn is the face of our school's spirit. She always goes above and beyond to come up with creative ways to engage our students and staff and to continue to improve our school's climate and community. From planning spirit weeks to being the annual 8th-grade advisor, Evelyn is always looking to do more for our students and for our community.

Both of these women are an integral part of our school. I am thankful for their day-in and day-out hard work, their thoughtfulness, and their willingness to do whatever it takes for our students and our school.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Updates:

Later this month we will be undergoing our second round of iReady testing. I am eager to see the results and to discuss with my reading and math staff our areas of strength as well as our areas for growth and improvement.

As 2022 gets underway, we will also be spending parts of our faculty meetings in committee structures. One of the committees that will be meeting is the Instruction and Assessment committee. One of my goals for this committee is to bring samples of assessment practices from around the school for discussion, so we can continue to examine what makes quality assessments and so I can engage staff in bringing back their new learning from the committee to their respective teams, to share new ideas and practices, and help us to improve our assessments across the school.

Climate Update:

Before the break, we wrapped up a spirit week as well as a snowman decorating contest. Students had a great week full of learning as well as fun and festivities. Our snowman decorating contest went very well, with one winning homeroom from each grade.

Upcoming Events:

- January 14- Mid-trimester- All grades updates- Virtual Progress Reports
- January 17- MLK Day of Service: No school
- January 18- Second-semester specials begin



Canterbury Public Schools

Pupil Services Office

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Board of Education Report January 4, 2022

Celebrations

- Canterbury paraprofessionals have been instrumental in covering COVID-related absences throughout our school buildings over the recent months. Without the flexibility and initiative of our paraprofessional team, we would not have been able to fill vacancies left by teachers needing to be out. The paraprofessionals have adjusted to schedule changes throughout their days and weeks and deserve a tremendous amount of appreciation for keeping the district afloat during a time where substitute coverage is unavailable.

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment Updates

- Training has started on the newest version of the Developmental Reading Assessment-3rd edition. Kits have been purchased and the distribution has begun. Reading interventionist, Polly Dean, has designed a training for teachers to administer the reading assessment, which is part of our district's benchmark assessment throughout the school year.
- Canterbury will begin English Language Proficiency testing in the coming month. We currently have 5 students in-district who are bilingual or whose dominant language is other than English.
- BMS and CES have begun using a consistent pre-referral process to special education using Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). Students who are not performing to grade level expectations are referred to the Student Assistance Team where performance data is reviewed and a plan made to support students who need additional academic, emotional, behavior or communication intervention. The next step in the implementation of this process is to design an intervention and progress monitoring plan that teachers can use to provide targeted instruction and track progress for a pre-determined number of weeks. The team will then determine if there has been adequate progress made, and adjust (or terminate) the intervention plan accordingly.

Program Updates

- Pupil Services Department by the Numbers

Number of PPTs Since Start of School	Number of New Referrals since Start of School	Number of Assessments Completed since Start of School	IEPs at the Start of the 21-22 School Year / Currently	Out of District Placements at the Start of School / Currently
82	16	16	74 / 86	<div>Clinical 3/2</div> <div>Transitional 4/6</div> <div>Academic Intensive 1/1</div> <div>Alternative 0/0</div> <div>Ag/ Magnet 3/3</div> <div>Out of Town 2/2</div>

- Canterbury is discussing the possibility of participating in a regional Extended School Year program with surrounding towns. Staffing ESY in Canterbury last year was difficult, and the same staffing challenges are anticipated for the summer of 2022. Regionalizing the program will allow Canterbury to pool human resources and meet the needs of our students.
- Reading and Math Interventionists continuously evolve the services they provide to students and have fine-tuned their service delivery for the next intervention cycle. Children identified as the neediest students, according to learning outcome data, in a grade level will receive targeted instruction between 2 and 5 times per week. Prior to this change, large numbers of students received intervention to establish a baseline understanding. Now, those students needing it most will receive the extra, specific support.