



Plainville Board of Education's

Community Letter

Summer 2018

Plainville Community Schools inspire and prepare lifelong learners to follow their passion, engage in their communities, and positively impact our global society.

Message from the Board of Education

In this issue...

- BOE Message, 1
- Teacher of the Year, 1
- Student Spotlight, 2
- Adult Education, 2
- Let's Chat With, 2
- Good News, 3
- Volunteer Awards, 4

As the school year ends and the kids are getting ready for a busy summer, so will the Plainville Community Schools. Starting this summer, the Frank T. Wheeler Elementary School will be undergoing a major renovation. The Wheeler faculty and staff have been very busy packing up their rooms during the months of May and June. To assist with this process, the district allowed Wheeler to have four additional half days for packing purposes. Parents were provided with free childcare during these half days. All items will be moved into the gym for the summer to allow spaces to be clear for the summer abatement process.

The projected phasing for renovation is as follows:

- Beginning in September, the east wing will be renovated. Teachers and students will relocate into different areas in the south wing during this renovation period.
- In December of 2018, teachers will re-occupy their renovated rooms in the east wing, while teachers in the west wing move into different areas in the south wing.
- Renovation of the west wing begins in January of 2019 and is expected to be completed by July of 2019.
- The renovation in the south wing will begin in September of 2019.
- The entire renovation is projected to be completed by February of 2020.
- For the two years of the project, the Wheeler Pre-K students will be relocated to the Linden Street Elementary School.

We are very excited about Wheeler's much needed renovation and look forward to our new school being ready in about two years. Enjoy a great summer and see you next year!

2018-2019 Teacher of the Year: Melissa Dodenhoff

Plainville Community Schools has named Linden Street School second grade teacher Melissa Dodenhoff as the 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year. Dodenhoff has been an educator for 15 years, serving as a second grade teacher at Linden for the duration of her career. As Teacher of the Year in Plainville, she will also participate as a candidate for Connecticut's 2018 Teacher of the Year program. Each district Teacher of the Year will be individually recognized at an awards ceremony later this year hosted by the Connecticut Department of Education. Dodenhoff was also honored at the June 11th Plainville Board of Education meeting.



Teacher of the Year, Melissa Dodenhoff and her second grade class together with Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Maureen Brummett

Written By: Jack McDermott, Mary Burby, Avery Verrastro, and Szymon Halas
 Students at Toffolon School have been working on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Corn Unit. In this unit, we have been observing and making models of our wet harvest corn. Just over the past month we have observed and noticed major changes. We have identified that the wet harvest corn is real because it has mold, stalks, roots, and kernels falling off. To identify if the stalks were growing out of the corn cob or the corn kernels, each group set up an experiment. We planted 3-5 kernels and one cob in separate containers. We have been noticing and wondering a lot! These have led to discussions where all students can share their thoughts by telling the whole group things they are noticing and wondering about with the corn. The experiment is causing us to ask many questions and we have been finding out more information about corn. We really think the NGSS Corn Unit is interesting and fun. We hope other students will get to experience it too.



Fifth graders, Sofia Ricciardiello, Daniel Lacaille, Kaitlyn Parsons, Matthew Corriveau, and Aliveah Benn from Mrs. Hartung's class show the corn experiments that they created this year as part of a new science unit.

Adult Education

Plainville Adult and Continuing Education will offer **FREE** English as a Second Language classes at the Plainville Community Food Pantry this summer during select dates in July and August, from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. Please call to register: **(860) 793-3209**.

Do you have an idea for an adult enrichment class? Please call (860) 793-3209 with your suggestions.

The Fall 2018 Plainville Adult and Continuing Education Program Guide, will be mailed to all Plainville residents mid-August and will also be posted at:

www.plainvilleschools.org

Let's Chat With...Gary Feltt, MSP Science Teacher

MSP Science Teacher, Gary Feltt, retired in June after 49 years of teaching.



How long have you been a teacher? 49 years, I started in the fall of 1969.

What made you decide to become a teacher?

My mom was a teacher in Southington for 38 years, so I knew that was what I wanted to do.

Have you always taught sixth grade Science at the Middle School of Plainville? I also taught fourth and sixth grades at Toffolon.

Who made the biggest impression on you in your career as an educator? Mr. Robert Centurelli, he was a sixth grade teacher at Toffolon.

Your loyalty to the Plainville Community Schools is commendable--what kept you here? The people that I work with.

What will you miss the most about teaching?

The students. You always love when the light bulb goes off.

What do you believe are the most important qualities in a teacher? Patience. You need to listen and attempt to understand your students.

What has been your biggest challenge as an educator? The changing technology!

What advances in science are you most excited about? Living on Mars.

Share your wisdom and secrets for classroom management and connecting with your students. Be honest with your students and listen to what they have to say.

What are your plans after you retire? Touring the United States.

Good News! Great things are happening in our school district.

LINDEN STREET SCHOOL

The Linden Street School Reading Incentive Committee held their annual "iHEART Guest Readers" event during National Children's Book Week (April 30- May 4). Parents, community members, Board of Education members, district administration and staff visited as guest readers in classrooms throughout Linden...**The Linden Community** participated in the "Paint the Town Purple" fundraiser for Relay For Life on May 18th. **Linden Scholars and staff** wore purple and donated \$953.47...**Fifth graders at Linden** completed the DARE program and celebrated their learning with Detective Rodriguez...**The Linden Community** held their first ever "unbirthday party" celebrating all scholars' birthdays that occur after the last day of school.

LOUIS TOFFOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Toffolon Student Council, with the guidance of the school nurse **Marta Santiago**, collected pennies for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's program "Pennies for Patients." **Toffolon students** in all grades donated a total of \$1,068.82 in pennies for the cause...**Toffolon** held its annual "Pet Parade" on May 29th with many pets visiting school grounds for the event...Local author Jenna Grodzicki visited **students at Toffolon** on April 18th, speaking about her two favorite things--reading and writing, highlighting the process of writing, revising, and publishing...**The Toffolon Community** kicked off the new whole town read aloud, One Book, One Community on May 4th featuring *The Water Horse* by Dick King-Smith...**The Toffolon Community** participated in the "Look for the Good Program," a gratitude campaign focused on uniting the school around the theme of kindness and looking for positives.

FRANK T. WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Wheeler Student Council held a "Super Hero Day" where students and staff donated one dollar to dress up as a super hero. The event raised \$200 which was donated to the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut in honor of **Wheeler preschooler Mason DeBellis**, who has been battling intractable Epilepsy for more than two years...**Wheeler fourth grader Reese Cello** advanced to the finals for the State Invention Convention. The state program started with 16,000 inventors and 800 advanced to the finals...**Students in grades K-5 at Wheeler** celebrated Youth Art Month collaborating among grade levels to create a mural about cultural awareness...**The Wheeler Parent Teacher Organization** held a "Pawtastic Pet" themed spring book fair, where families made donations to support the local animal shelter at the Plainville Police Department. Plainville Animal Control Officer Donna Weinhofer received the pet supply donations and a check for \$67 through the generous donations of the **Wheeler community**.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE

Twice Nutmeg nominated author Lynda Mullaly Hunt visited MSP on May 30th and spoke to students about the importance of grit, perseverance, and self-determination...**MSP sixth grade students** enjoyed a performance of the "Chariot of the Sun" presented by Mr. Jeffrey Benoit. Benoit used a combination of poetry, masks, mime, and skillful audience participation to bring classic Greek tales to life...On May 18th the Looking In Theatre visited **MSP** to perform three grade level assemblies, helping students deal with important social, family and personal issues that affect adolescents...**MSP students Matt Bonney, Zachary Finkelstein, Patrick Kapusta, Valiantsin Kasabrukha, Ella-Jane Lacasse, Morgan Shimo, and Zack Wyman**, together with **faculty members and advisors Camille Westfall and Laurel Schwartz**, attended the annual Technology Student Association competition, held at Conard High School

in West Hartford. **MSP** swept the awards in Dragster Design. **Ella-Jane Lacasse** took first place, **Zach Finkelstein** placed second, and **Valiantsin Kasabrukha** placed third. **Zachary Finkelstein and Matt Bonney** placed second in VEX IQ robotics.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Financial Planner and **PHS alumnus, Angleo Pietri**, was a guest speaker in **faculty member Brian Edge's Personal Finance and Financial Literacy classes** on May 21st. **Pietri's** interactive discussion stressed key concepts that allow young adults to become financially independent...Several **PHS students** who serve as members of the United Way of West Central Connecticut's Youth Advisory Board, together with the group's advisor, **PHS faculty member Kim Livingston**, participated in the United Way's Annual Day of Caring Event on May 18th. The group completed a variety of service projects at various locations including planting, weeding, making flower beds, painting, washing windows and more... **Seniors Jacob Hillburn and Phoebe Bell** are the recipients of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) *Student Leadership Award*. Students are nominated to receive this award by their school principal, and have to meet leadership skill criteria outlined by CABE...The **PHS Interact Club** hosted the 6th annual Senior Citizen Prom in the school's cafeteria. This year's theme was "Jungle Adventure" and featured dinner, dancing, socializing, raffles, superlative awards and music provided by the "Senior Eighth Notes" a local "senior" band.

DISTRICT

Plainville Community Schools received a grant from the Plainville Community Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation to support the Go Kid Go Project, a program developed with CCSU to provide modifications to wheelchairs for **Plainville students...The MSP and PHS Robotics Teams**, together with their advisors, **Camille Westfall and Laurel Schwartz (MSP)**, and **David Gaignard and Mark Chase (PHS)** were recognized at the May 14th Plainville BOE meeting...**Twelve elementary school musicians** represented Plainville Community Schools at the Connecticut Elementary Honors Choir Festival, part of the Connecticut Music Educators Association Conference held in Hartford. **Plainville Community Schools' students who participated in the choir included Toffolon: Jared Bangloy, Amelia Gorgon, Kaitlyn Parsons, Mileigh Saysana; Wheeler: Kali Fangiullo, Tyler McGraw, Alexis Wojcik, Melak Al rubaye; Linden: Maryssa Bakaysa, Nathaniel Cranson, Chase Powell, and Audrey Vandermark...A select group of Plainville fifth and sixth grade band members** were chosen to participate in the Honors Band for Instrumental Music students in grade 4-6 throughout the state at the Connecticut Music Educators Association Conference. **Honors Band members from Plainville included Toffolon: Elizabeth Roche and Royalize Vasquez; Wheeler: Hunter Krystock and Maria Rodriguez; Linden: Alex Vazquez-Brown, Nathan Dudzic, and Julianna Radziewicz; Middle School of Plainville: Nathan Miron, Geno Palaia, and Sean Egan...PHS School Psychologist Jeri Lynn Turkowitz and MSP Physical Education teacher Amy Tennant** were recognized as the district's Everyday Heroes for the month of April for their work with the **Plainville High School's Unified Basketball Team**.

Volunteers Recognized



2018 Volunteer Award Winners: Charles Floyd, Barbara and Dave Barry

Plainville Community Schools' annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner and Awards Program was held on May 10th, at Plainville High School. More than 100 school volunteers, Board of Education members, administrators and staff were present to enjoy an evening of food, friends, and recognition. The event provided an opportunity to thank Plainville's school volunteers for their time and commitment that they make to students across the district. The 2017-2018 *Mentor of the Year Award* recipient was Charles Floyd, who mentors a student at the Middle School of Plainville. Dave and Barbara Barry, with 47 years of combined volunteer service to Plainville schools, were the recipients of the 2017-2018 *Volunteer of the Year Award*.

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Belief Statements... We believe:

- Our public school system is the core of the community and has a fundamental responsibility to develop productive, educated citizens in a democratic society
- Optimal achievement for each learner is a responsibility shared by students, home, school, and community
- We must provide each student with a comprehensive curriculum and effective instruction to ensure meaningful engagement in the learning process
- A safe, caring learning environment promotes the academic growth, health, and emotional well-being of each student
- Communication and collaboration serve to increase knowledge, trust, and respect, and are the responsibility of everyone in the community
- Professional Learning Communities foster teamwork that results in the continuous improvement of teaching and learning outcomes