



Plainville Board of Education's Community Letter

Spring 2019

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

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Spring is upon us and the school year is moving along quickly! Faculty, staff and students are busy with academics, spring sports, extracurricular activities, fundraisers, and a variety of programs and special events. Several Board of Education members, together with Dr. Brummett and Plainville High School student representatives Allie Chambrello and Maddie Rund, recently attended the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education's Day on the Hill in Hartford. They listened to remarks by the leadership of the Connecticut General Assembly, issue briefings, visits with legislators and more. The Board is also working on the annual Superintendent's evaluation and planning for the upcoming Board meetings to close out the 2018-19 school year. Plainville Community Schools will host the annual Superintendent's Showcase event on Monday, April 29th. Superintendent Brummett will begin with a brief presentation, including a performance by the Plainville High School State Championship Cheerleaders, followed by an "open-house" style showcase in the high school's cafeterias, featuring presentations, demonstrations and performances by students, faculty and staff.

Finally, a reminder that the town's all day budget vote will take place on Tuesday, April 30th, from 6:00AM-8:00PM at the firehouse located at 77 West Main Street.

Unified Basketball Game



The Plainville Community Schools Annual Students versus Administrators, Board of Education Members, Staff, and Parents Unified Basketball Game was held on February 25th at Plainville High School.

The student team is coached by PHS faculty member Jeri Lynn Turkowitz, Matt Gingras, and Middle School faculty members Amy Tennant and Stephanie Gagne. The students were victorious, winning the game with a score of 107 to 20!

Read Across America

State Representative William Petit Jr., recently visited the first grade classrooms of Karen Dinsmore and Olga Jubinville at Linden Street School to serve as a guest reader in honor of Read Across America!



Mushers Visit the Middle School of Plainville



Plainville resident and dog sled runner, Joan Kaczmarczyk, visited the Middle School of Plainville on March 14th to speak with sixth graders about the care and training of sled dogs and the sport of sled racing. Students are involved with a unit of study in English Language Arts classes and read Gary Paulsen's *Woodson* where they learned of Paulsen's experiences running his dogs in the Iditarod. During the unit, each student chose a musher to follow in this year's Iditarod race and searched daily to see their musher's position. They read daily blogs and viewed photos and videos which were sent from the race, and they were able to track their musher's progress by GPS through the Iditarod's website. Ms. Kaczmarczyk was an excellent source of information for students. Her presentation included an explanation of

the features of the dog sled, a 'meet and greet' with her six Alaskan Huskies, and an informational study of the sled the musher uses during the Iditarod. Even with milder temperatures, students were able to see two of the dogs run the sled on the little snow that remained. The program ended with a question and answer session in the auditorium with Ms. Kaczmarczyk to further students' understanding of the care and treatment of sled dogs. In addition, sixth grade students and faculty raised and donated \$400 for Ms. Kaczmarczyk to donate to her favorite sled dog charity in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Top Photo: Middle School of Plainville faculty member Stephanie Gagne with students Landon Motta, Gerry Lopez-Cruz, and Sam Willequer

Bottom Photo: Middle School of Plainville students Landon Motta, Gerry Lopez-Cruz, Sam Willequer, Juliana Radziewicz, Grace Gibson, and Sofia Ricciardiello



Let's Chat With...Jen D Lorenzo, PHS Assistant Principal



What do you enjoy most about being Assistant Principal?

I enjoy that no two days are ever the same. My day is completely different as an administrator compared to when I was a classroom teacher. I used to spend the majority of my time planning and now I look forward to adjusting my day as events take place throughout the school.

What influenced your decision to move from teaching to administration?

I knew early on in my childhood that I wanted to be an educator. My father and my aunt are both retired math teachers. I have always been interested in educational leadership in particular. Those interests inspired me to apply for the instructional leadership position in the Math Department and are the same reasons why I wanted to join the administrative team here at PHS.

Do you miss being in the classroom?

Yes. I miss working with a small group of students and seeing their progress over the course of the school year. I miss working with students who come in struggling with math and seeing them develop the confidence to problem solve successfully.

How has your background helped your transition?

Throughout my teaching career I have always tried to connect to students outside of the classroom. I have coached,

am a class advisor, was an instructional leader, and have been on numerous school committees. All of these experiences have helped me become part of the PHS community.

What has been the most significant accomplishment in your educational career?

Being named Assistant Principal has been my proudest moment as an educator and to have it be at PHS has been the best part. I always refer to Plainville as my second home and I look forward to helping make PHS the best high school for our students to attend and our faculty members to work.

Do you have a mentor?

The other three administrators have been like mentors to me, each in their own way. Mr. Johnson, Mr. Coe and Mr. Farrell have been useful resources throughout this transition time. They have all been 100% supportive and are part of the reason I have enjoyed making this transition so much. We are truly a TEAM.

What one piece of advice would you give to PHS students?

The advice I would give to all PHS students is to follow your dreams. Even if they are lofty, if they are your own and you believe in them, you will accomplish them. The road to achieving your dreams might be rocky and at times you may fail, but that is when you need to refocus and come back stronger. The challenges you face while pursuing your dreams are what will define you and make achieving your dreams so much sweeter.

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

LINDEN STREET SCHOOL

Students in Christina Corvello's sixth grade science classes at the Middle School of Plainville prepared an NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) lesson to teach kindergarten students in Shannon Bakaysa's class. The students learned how to make a lava lamp during the lesson... Over 100 students and their family members joined 20+ teachers, staff members, and PTO representatives for a fitness obstacle course staged throughout Linden known as the Linden Kidathalon! Participants hurdled, skipped, balanced, swung on a rope, danced, and sprinted around stacks of books in the Library! Families were asked to bring donations of paper and bath goods for the Plainville Community Food Pantry.

LOUIS TOFFOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Toffolon fifth grader Brooke Krupa was one of four students at the annual New Britain Symphony Children's Concert to receive an award for her essay in their poster and essay contest...With assistance from an Elizabeth Norton Trust Fund grant, the Toffolon Parent Teacher Organization hosted two performances of the History Time Henry program to give the students a fun and educational overview of key moments of American History, including the American Revolution, Women's Right to Vote, The Civil Rights Movement and Space Exploration...Toffolon celebrated Read Across America on March 1st. As part of the celebration, students participated in Makerspace-based activities such as building free standing Truffula Trees, Thing 1 and Thing 2 traps, and redesigning a hat for the Cat in the Hat. Fourth and fifth graders reflected on positive reading memories and shared them with each other using Padlet, "an online bulletin board." Guest readers visited classes throughout the day.

FRANK T. WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On March 14th, fourth graders participated in their annual Invention Convention. Students explained how their inventions solve a real life problem and the process they went through to build their own inventions as parents, faculty and staff members viewed the inventions. The school winners will advance to the statewide competition, which will be held on May 4th... Students enjoyed a visit from "Dinoreader" the T-Rex (A.K.A. Principal Andrew Batchelder) who visited classrooms looking for "Dinomite" readers...NBC Connecticut Meteorologist Bob Maxon visited fourth graders to provide an overview of his role as a meteorologist and a lesson on the weather.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE

Professional Storyteller Tom Lee visited MSP on March 26th to support the sixth grade study of Mesopotamia. Lee began the visit with a presentation to the entire sixth grade on the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, a story about the first "superhero" ever. The assembly was followed

by an in-depth discussion with several classes on cuneiform (one of the earliest forms of writing) and the arts in Mesopotamia...MSP hosted the VEX IQ Robotics State Championship on March 9th. Three MSP teams qualified to attend the "Worlds" competition in April...The MSP Student Council organized the second annual "Souper Bowl Collection." During this time, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students competed to see who could donate the most non-perishable food items to support the Plainville Community Food Pantry. Collectively, MSP donated 529 pounds of food to the pantry.

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

On April 3rd, PHS Business teachers Brian Edge and Vira Boartricht took 34 students to Central Connecticut State University to attend a Financial Reality Fair where the students practiced financial planning for adult life on a budget...The PHS Theater Unlimited student group worked with School Resource Officer Jessica Martins to create a safety training video for the high school's students...seven PHS students received awards at the Connecticut Regional Scholastics Art Awards statewide art competition including Emily DeSantis – Gold Key, Ian Howard – Gold Key, Victoria Maillet – Silver Key, Moyce Ramirez – Gold Key, Ashley Romano – Silver Key and Honorable Mention, JoAnna Salmon – Honorable Mention and Sergio Zaldivar – Honorable Mention...The PHS Jazz Band, under the direction of Dominic Talotta, was invited to play at Infinity Hall for the Southern New England High School Jazz Festival on March 24th.

DISTRICT

Toffolon School Custodian Greg Masse is one of two winners of the national Champions of Clean Contest sponsored by Clorox. Masse was nominated by Facilities Department Office Professional, Sandy Bouchard, and will receive an all-expense paid trip to one of several destinations of his choice...In honor of national Music in Our Schools Month in March, Linden and Toffolon schools invited families to attend music classes with their children; parents and guardians observed and participated in general music classes. The Town-wide Band concert served as the Music in Our Schools Month finale, featuring bands from elementary, middle, and high-school levels in the March 27th concert. Director of Community Relations Lynn Davis was recognized as a district Everyday Hero at the March 11th Board of Education meeting for the month of March...Sergio Mendoza's article was recently published in a national Adult Education magazine, *The Change Agent*. Mendoza answered the *Change Agent's* call for articles with his piece entitled, "La Guelaguetza, A Festival of Reciprocity," while attending Plainville's Adult Basic Education program.

LegOlympics



Volunteer mentors and their student mentees enjoyed the annual "Mentor Fun Night" event with a "LegOlympics" themed program held at Plainville High School on March 18th. Mentor Fun Night is a special evening held each spring, where mentor matches in the school district come together to participate in a group activity outside of the school day, and allows student mentees' families to also meet and visit with the volunteer mentors.

Student Spotlight: Andrea Ybanez, PHS Senior



What has been your most memorable high school experience?

PHS has given me many memorable experiences, from sports to other extracurriculars. However, my most memorable experiences are with the choir. The choir is one of the places that I can most be like myself. I can openly express myself through music and the performing arts. The concerts are the best part of the class and they are my most memorable experiences here.

How has PHS had an influence on you?

This school community has taught me a lot about how to be a better person. The school and its people are all positive influences on me and all they have taught me will always affect what I do in life.

What were some of the best PHS activities you were part of?

Some of the best activities that I have been part of at PHS are Chamber, Yearbook, Girls Tennis, Class Officer, Interact Club, French National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Veterans Day celebrations, and volunteering in the School Counseling Office.

What would be a recommendation for next years' Freshmen?

Be involved! Take every opportunity that's given and run with it!

What are you most proud of at PHS?

Graduating is what I am most proud of at PHS! It seems very cliché, but graduating high school is definitely a challenge and I am proud of myself as well as everybody else who is going to graduate.

What are your plans after you leave PHS?

I plan on going to UConn for Psychological studies.

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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