

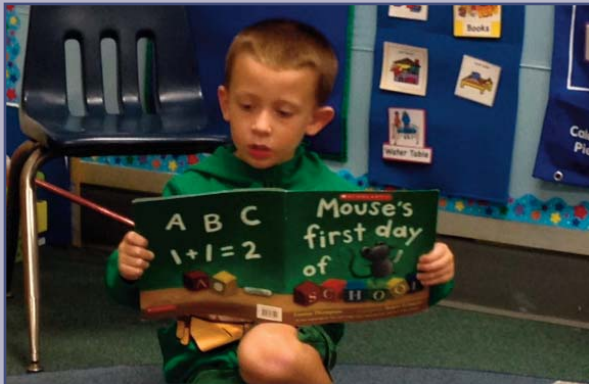


Plainville Board of Education's Community Letter

Fall 2014

To provide rigorous and enriching experiences that prepare each student for success in a changing global society.

Message from the Board of Education



Sam Carney at Wheeler

Over 100 students were welcomed into our new Plainville Community Preschool program on September 4. The program runs Tuesday through Friday in morning and afternoon sessions at all three elementary schools. Attending prekindergarten in their neighborhood schools allows our preschool students to become a part of their school community prior to kindergarten. Our youngest students have already begun learning important social and academic readiness skills in a language rich environment. The board of education felt it was very important to support this early education model.

A review of data from our kindergarten classes indicated that over 30% enter school already behind in learning readiness skills. This expansion of our existing pre-K program was developed by a committee that met during the 2013-14 school year, which included current and former board of education members, Brent Davenport and Charlotte Koskoff. The committee reviewed research that indicates providing high quality preschool can prevent the achievement gap from developing. Parents, staff, and the board of education are very excited about what this program will do for our youngest learners. For more information, please call **Cathy Demurs at (860) 793-3270**.



Mia Malone,
Jasmine
Labarda,
(kneeling
in the back)
Ireidaliz
Ruggiero
(front right)
at Toffolon

Read, Right, Run at MSP

The Middle School of Plainville students and staff have an additional opportunity to read, exercise and do good deeds, as part of the "Read, Right, Run" program coordinated by Library Information Teacher, Joyce Lynch. According to Lynch, the program encompasses three themes underscored regularly at the middle school--reading, community, and health. The goal of Read, Right, Run is to promote reading for pleasure, encourage participants to do kind deeds, support physical fitness, and foster perseverance, independence, and personal responsibility. The theme of the program is a "marathon." As such, student and staff participants will pledge to read 26 books, run 26 miles and do 26 "right deeds" in 26 weeks. Participants may also opt to complete a "half-marathon," a 10k, or a 5k, adjusting the number of items to complete in each category. The Read, Right, Run challenge will run from October 1, 2014 through April 1, 2015. Fleet Feet Sports helped to kick off the official start of the program on October 6, with a running clinic for all participants.

In this issue...

- BOE Message, 1
- Read, Right, Run, 1
- Spotlight on: Wheeler, 2
- Leadership Skills, 2
- Good News, 3
- Let's Chat With, 3
- Adult Education, 3
- Higher Education, 4

Spotlight on: Frank T. Wheeler Elementary School

Ever since I have gone to Wheeler School, there has been one playground for grades K-2. Grades 3-5 had a big field, which was good, but it was so empty. The PTO had an amazing idea to build a new playground and was raising money even before the current principal, Mr. Batchelder arrived last January. In the spring, the PTO met with Kompan, a playground designer. The new playground, the one we have now, was the one design that was chosen. The PTO didn't have enough money to build the playground, but they worked hard and raised money through many exciting events like "Pancakes with the Principal" and a walk-a-thon. The Plainville Superintendent of Schools and the Plainville Board of Education realized the efforts of the Wheeler PTO and community to raise the money

for the awesome playground. The board of education gave the rest of the money to Wheeler to build the playground. It is a rope course, and I have to say, it is much better than empty space. It includes a big rope course, a wheel that spins, and two cup chairs that spin. The wheel is my favorite thing about the new playground. While the wings, football and basketball court are still popular activities, the new playground is definitely a big hit.

Written by: Lily Feyerabend

Lily Feyerabend, fourth grader, at the new Wheeler playground



Plainville High Students Hone Leadership Skills

Three Plainville High School students were able to take their leadership skills to the next level through participation in the 2014 Hugh O'Brian (HOBY) State Leadership Seminar. Each year over 9,000 sophomores across the country are selected to represent their respective high schools in state level leadership seminars. Last May, PHS students Peter Lawson, Maddie Ware, and Taylor Rogers were selected to attend the three day seminar held at the University of Bridgeport. According to the HOBY organization, the seminar allows students to recognize their leadership talents and apply them in becoming effective, ethical leaders in their home, school and community. The Plainville students, together with peers from across the state, participated in hands-on leadership activities, met leaders from Connecticut, and explored their own personal leadership skills while learning how to guide others and make a positive impact in the community. "Students were invited to participate in the selection process by

their respective school counselors based on identified leadership attributes," explained PHS Counselor Aldo Vallera. "They were then required to prepare essays, which were reviewed and evaluated, and from that process, the students were ultimately selected to attend the event." Lawson received a scholarship from PHS to attend the program, while Ware and Rogers both received scholarships from the Woman's Club of Plainville to attend.

Lawson, Ware, and Rogers are all currently involved in a number of clubs and organizations at the high school, and found the seminar to be a positive learning experience for a variety of reasons. "It was a fun leadership conference and worth going to," said Lawson. "I had a good experience at HOBY and learned to open up and meet new people," explained Rogers. "I had fun meeting new people and working as a team," added Ware.

(L-R): Maddie Ware, Peter Lawson, Taylor Rogers, Aldo Vallera



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

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

PHS Principal **Steve LePage** went “Over the Edge,” on behalf of Special Olympics Connecticut, by rappelling down from the 34th story of the Mohegan Sun Casino to raise funds for the Special Olympics organization. Thanks to the generosity of colleagues and friends, LePage raised more than \$1,300...**The Girls Volleyball Team** held its DIG PINK event in conjunction with the SIDE OUT Foundation on October 3 to raise money for the fight against breast cancer. This is the fifth year the team has supported the cause through this event...The **high school** hosted a College Fair on October 24 with more than 120 colleges and universities in attendance.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE

40 **MSP students** together with faculty members **Camille Westfall, Kim Coyle, Adam Murphy and Laurel Schwartz** attended the third annual “Manufacturing Mania” event at the Aqua Turf in celebration of National Manufacturing Day. The event featured exhibits from Connecticut manufacturers and higher education institutes, demonstrations, hands-on activities, competitions, guest speakers and more...**MSP** presented an anti-bullying workshop for parents on September 30 sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League. The workshop offered a forum for dialogue among parents regarding the impact of bullying on children, and assisted parents in developing strategies to help their children respond effectively to bullying behaviors.

LINDEN STREET SCHOOL

Linden Principal **Paula Eshoo** accepted the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge and completed the task on the first day of school! At the close of the school day, while Linden students and staff looked on, **Superintendent Kitching** poured the icy bucket of water on Principal Eshoo, who then extended the chal-

lenge to several colleagues...**Linden staff members** are using “Dress Down Fridays” to give back to a number of local charities. Participants raised a total of \$2,140 that was donated to the following organizations: Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, Plainville Community Food Pantry, Petit Family Foundation, and the Linden Scholarship Fund.

FRANK T. WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wheeler Faculty member **Reggie McConachie** attended an interactive workshop sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics with a focus on connecting numbers and operations in the classroom...Johnny Applesed (volunteer Reade Clemens) visited **Wheeler first graders** to discuss the life cycle of the apple and tales of Johnny Applesed.

LOUIS TOFFOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As part of the Open House at **Toffolon**, visitors were offered a “virtual tour” featuring various aspects of the school community via videos accessed through QR codes...As part of the school’s Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports program, during the month of October, **Toffolon students** earned Tiger Tickets to “buy” a “Teachers in Disguise Day”--during which teachers wear a costume to school for the day.

DISTRICT

A group of **faculty members** attended TeachFest: Summer Academy--a one day event held at the Hartford Convention Center. This professional development opportunity was designed to assist teachers in becoming more familiar with the principles associated with the Connecticut Core Standards... District staff members **Lynn Logoyke, Claire Fournier and Tawana Graham-Douglas** attended the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project: Summer Institute on the Teaching of Reading and Writing held at Columbia University.

Let's Chat With...Amy Labas



Coordinator of Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

What attracted you to the Coordinator of Athletics and Extracurricular Activities position?

I grew up knowing Plainville as a place with great teams and I felt that it was a great town overall. The general feeling I get from the community is that it is a town that really supports athletics at all levels.

What are your responsibilities in this role?

My responsibilities include the management of high school / middle school athletics, after school activities at all levels, and bookkeeping oversight.

What is your number one priority?

My number one priority is to really immerse myself in the town and get to know as many people as I can and be a part of as many groups as I can.

What have you enjoyed most about serving in this position thus far?

Meeting all the people of Plainville--it is great to be a Blue Devil!

Adult Education

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN

Evening courses, offered through Plainville Adult and Continuing Education are available at no cost: Adult Basic Education*, Credit Diploma Program, Citizenship Preparation, English as a Second Language*, GED Preparation* & PARC: ABE. *Also available mornings with childcare at no cost.

FALL ENRICHMENT CLASSES

are available early evenings for a nominal fee. November courses include: *Floral Design, Introduction to PowerPoint, Intermediate PowerPoint, and Life Planning for Children with Special Needs.* Spring registration is already open for Healthcare Training programs.

PLEASE CALL (860) 793-3209.

Class of 2014 Higher Education Destinations

THE CLASS OF 2014 RECEIVED \$153,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

American International College
American University
Barry University
Bay Path College
Bentley University
Brandeis University
Central Connecticut State University
Clark Atlanta University
Coastal Carolina University
Curry College
Eastern Connecticut State University
George Washington University
Goodwin College

Hartwick College
Ithaca College
Johnson & Wales University
Lincoln College of New England
Lincoln Technical Institute
Manchester Community College
Mount Holyoke College
Naugatuck Valley Community College
Nichols College
Plymouth State University
Roanoke College
Sacred Heart University
Southern Connecticut State University
Suffolk University
Tunxis Community College

Universal Technical Institute
University of Alabama
University of Connecticut
University of Hartford
University of Massachusetts - Lowell
University of New Hampshire
University of New Haven
University of Rhode Island
University of Saint Joseph
University of Tampa
University of Vermont
Western Connecticut State University
Western New England University
Westfield State University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Plainville Board of Education
Plainville Community Schools
1 Central Square
Plainville, CT 06062
Phone: 860.793.3200
Fax: 860.747.6790
www.plainvilleschools.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 416
FARMINGTON, CT
06032

PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Jeffrey C. Kitching
Superintendent of Schools

Brent Davenport
Michael Giuliano
Deborah Hardy
Laurie Peterson
Cheryl Provost
Andrea Saunders
Becky Tyrrell
Foster White
Barbara Willard



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 democracy
- 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 foster knowledge, trust, and respect and are the responsibility of everyone in the community.