



Plainville Board of Education's Community Letter

Summer 2016

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

Message from the Board of Education

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Plainville Community Schools has been going through a lot of changes over the past couple of months. Dr. Kitching has left the district to pursue another job opportunity. Dr. Brummett was appointed Superintendent of Schools, while PHS Principal Steven LePage, was promoted to Assistant Superintendent.

Let's not forget PHS Assistant Principal Rosa Pérez, who will replace Dr. Linda Van Wagenen as the new Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, due to her retirement. The Board hired Carl Johnson as Assistant Principal at PHS and has appointed Roberto Medic as the new Plainville High School Principal. While our district is going through this period of administrative transition, the Board of Education would like to assure parents and community members that we are making sure all of our schools continue to run as smoothly and efficiently as always. Change in leadership can sometimes be perceived as scary,

but it is also a time when new ideas and strategies emerge. The Board is confident that by the time school starts in the fall, our new leadership team will be ready to keep our district moving in a positive direction.

Have a great summer and see you next year!

Student Spotlight on...Toffolon School



By: Madi Ross, Alison Wisz,
and Alida Passaretti

Fifth graders are the leaders of the school. They model R.O.A.R.S. for all of the other kids." R.O.A.R.S. stands for Respect, Organization, Active Learning, Responsibility and Safety. Fifth graders model respect for lower grades by their behavior at morning recess and during bus rides. With the challenge of more homework, we have come to understand how important it is to be organized and responsible. Book clubs and book partnerships have really helped us to be active learners. We needed to set our own agendas and do the assignment that was agreed upon by our book club members. Student Council has been very active in modeling how important taking responsibility for the needs of others

is. Student Council has sponsored many activities to help others like: a food drive, the Fall Fair, Autism Speaks, and Paint the School Purple, among many other things. Student Council members were elected by fifth grade students. We really developed an understanding about government from this. The rewards of following R.O.A.R.S. have led us to be able to experience great opportunities outside of school. We have been able to go on many field trips that have helped us to learn more about the world and our place in it. Camp Sloper helped us to build our teamwork skills and how to work with groups. Our Sturbridge trip helped us to learn much more about colonial life. We saw the sheering of sheep and got to see a blacksmith making a shovel and a knife. We churned butter and carded sheep wool. Middle school orientation helped us to see that Toffolon has prepared us for what we need to be ready to do in the future. We are all excited about going to the middle school but we will miss many things about Toffolon. Our teachers have led us through the tough times and have been very helpful in our lives. We will miss them. Because of our teachers and our parents we are up to the challenge of beginning middle school and trying to navigate our way to our classes!



*Superintendent,
Plainville
Community Schools*

What is your leadership style? I have a very collaborative leadership style. We have a tremendous pool of talented teachers and administrators in the Plainville community school district. It is my job to provide the conditions that allow them to do their best work on behalf of our students.

What is a key issue facing public education today? A key issue facing public education today is the expectation to do more with less. We have accomplished amazing things in Plainville with an annual average budget increase of less than 1% over the past six years. As a community, we will be challenged to maintain our forward momentum with shrinking resources.

What is your vision for Plainville Community Schools? My vision for Plainville's schools is one of continuous improvement. Our increased time next year to engage in Professional Learning Com-

munity work will help our teachers have more opportunities to discuss ways to promote high levels of student learning and engagement. I am very confident that the increased collaborative opportunities our teachers will have next year will be extremely beneficial to our students.

What are you most proud of? I am so proud of many things that we have accomplished in our schools. Most recently, we have expanded our preschool programs so that all four year olds in Plainville can attend preschool in the same school where they will attend Kindergarten. I believe our high quality preschool program will ensure our students are ready for Kindergarten and beyond.

What is your biggest accomplishment as an educator? I am so honored to be the Superintendent of Plainville Community Schools. I have been a part of this learning community for 18 years. To have the privilege of leading amazing students, teachers, and administrators is, without a doubt, a source of incredible pride.

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District Volunteers Honored at Annual Recognition Program

Plainville Community Schools' annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner and Awards Program was held on May 17 at Plainville High School. This year's theme was "Spring and Simplicity." More than 100 school volunteers, Board of Education members, administrators, and staff attended the event, which provided an opportunity to thank Plainville's school volunteers for their time and commitment that they make to students across the district. Volunteer award winners were also recognized during the program. The 2015-16 Mentor of the Year recipient was Rosemarie Babin, a retired school district employee who mentors a student at Lin-

den Street School. Tina Autunno, a volunteer in the Plainville school district for 13 years, was the recipient of the 2015-16 Volunteer of the Year Award. State Representative Elizabeth Boukus also presented citations to Linel Noble representing Webster Bank, and John Legato representing General Electric, for their corporate support of volunteerism in Plainville Community Schools. At the close of the recognition program event, Volunteer Coordinator Sue Bradley presented volunteers with pins for years of service. Multiple volunteers were recognized for their 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of volunteer service to Plainville schools.



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

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

PHS juniors and seniors, together with faculty member **Brian Edge**, and **Assistant Principal, Rosa Pérez**, attended the Financial Reality Fair at Central Connecticut State University...**The PHS Interact Club** hosted the 4th Annual Senior Citizen Prom on April 28, the theme was "Casino Night" and featured a full course meal, DJ, live band, raffle prizes, and a photo booth...**14 PHS students** with **faculty members Paris Godbout** and **Mark Chase** attended the Girls & STEM Expo held at Central Connecticut State University. The students participated in a variety of activities including snap circuits, DNA extraction, and creating cardboard chairs. In addition, they attended a presentation hosted by the Society Of Women Engineers...**PHS Principal Steven LePage** presented a certificate of special recognition to Mr. Ken Crowley of Crowley Ford in Plainville at the May 9 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Crowley with Crowley employees Stacey Gray and Tom Moran, were honored for bringing the Drive 4UR School fundraising program to PHS each year for the past six years, raising over \$33,000 for various school groups and activities...**PHS Forensics classes** welcomed guest speakers Detective David Posadas from the Plainville Police Department and FBI Special Agent Marc LaFrance, who shared their respective experience in the area of Forensics.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE

Sixth graders at the middle school welcomed a visit from Certified Broadcast Meteorologist Dan Amarante, and Emmy Award Winning Meteorologist Rachel Frank, from FOX-61 News. The presentation came at the end of the unit of study on weather as a culmination activity, so the students could connect their learning to the outside world...MSP held its annual charity **student-staff** basketball game in honor of **Mrs. Susan Steele**, MSP faculty member who passed away earlier this year. One of Mrs. Steele's favorite organizations was the Humane Society, for which students and staff raised over \$4,750.00 in her memory. The event was coordinated by MSP faculty member **Greg Warnat**...On May 21 **MSP Chamber Singers** performed at the Family Fun Festival at PHS.

LINDEN STREET SCHOOL

Linden's Student Council partnered with the two **preschool classrooms** to engage students in read-alouds to deepen their emergent comprehension skills. **Fifth grade Student Council members** worked with the **preschoolers** to recall and retell the events of *The Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle in sequence and worked on letter, color and number identification and fine motor skills...**Linden faculty members** recently showcased their accomplishments for colleagues during the "Goals Gallery Walk," sharing strategies for success and best practices as a group.

LOUIS TOFFOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As part of the whitehouse.gov live stream, on March 16 **fifth grade students from Toffolon** watched the live historical nomination of Federal Judge Merrick Garland as a Supreme Court Justice by President Obama. As part of their US Government Unit, the students were able to listen as President Obama discussed how the three branches of government come together to nominate and then decide upon a Supreme Court Justice... Toffolon held its first Annual Pet Parade on May 16. **Principal Lynn Logoyke**, together with **students, families and their pets**, walked a lap around the school grounds with a variety of pets on parade...**Toffolon music teacher Greg Wilfrid** presented a workshop at the Connecticut Music Educators Association In-Service Conference held at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. The workshop was titled, "*Kids Know The Difference: Quality Games and Music for your Classroom*," highlighting games, songs, and activities he uses in the classroom at Toffolon.

FRANK T. WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wheeler fourth graders traveled to the Connecticut Historical Society, where they worked in teams to examine artifacts and documents to uncover many different family stories about moving to Connecticut as an immigrant...**Wheeler first graders** enjoyed an "in house field trip" visit from Ms. Eileen and Ms. Barbara of the Indian Rock Nature Preserve in Bristol. The students were able to touch the animals, and learned about their habits and habitats...**Wheeler fifth graders** shared their research on how humans impact the environment through presentations and posters that they prepared and displayed during the fifth grade Eco-Fair held on May 4. In conjunction with the Eco-Fair, **Wheeler students** celebrated Superhero Day, demonstrating how everyone can be a superhero for the planet.

DISTRICT

Twelve **fifth grade students** from **Linden, Toffolon, and Wheeler elementary schools** participated in the Connecticut Music Educators Association Honors Choir on April 29. The choir included singers in fourth through sixth grade from across the state. Participants attended a full day of rehearsals at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Rehearsals were followed by a concert in the ballroom for friends, family, and music educators...**Plainville Adult and Continuing Education Coordinator Jill O'Brien** received a grant from the Plainville Community Fund II at the Main Street Community Foundation to support Plainville residents with financial need to attend a Fall, 2016 *ServSafe Manager Food Protection* course to assist with career opportunities.

www.plainvilleschools.org



Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, and GED Preparation classes are available this summer free of charge. Classes run July 5 - 28. Please call Plainville Adult and Continuing Education to join: (860) 793-3209.

May 26, 2016

Plainville High School Turf Field Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



State and local officials, school district administration and staff, student athletes, PHS Band members, and visitors were on hand for the Turf Field Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held on May 26. Speakers included Plainville Board of Education Chair Andrea Saunders, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Maureen Brummett, Former Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jeffrey Kitching, Turf Committee Chair Philip Cox, Plainville Town Council Chair Kathy Pugliese, Student athletes Grant Sarra and Lauren Tanner, and State Representative Elizabeth Boukus. The Turf Field Project was made possible by a generous donation from the Tinty Foundation and a grant from the Connecticut Bond Commission.

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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 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.