



Plainville Board of Education's

Community Letter

Summer 2017

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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Another school year is coming to an end. How is it possibly July already? Summer vacations are upon us, so now is the perfect time to reflect on points of pride from the 2016-2017 school year: Pre-K has expanded to full day at all three elementary schools; expanded dual credit course options that earn college credit; (UConn, Middlesex, Tunxis and CCSU); increased PLC time for our teachers has created a culture of sharing and innovation in teaching practice; outstanding Veterans Day programs in every school in the district. We are certainly proud of all we have accomplished. We look forward to the 2017-18 school year which will bring some new and continuing enhancements. Here are a few of them:

- Creating a STEAM lab at MSP
- Expanding ESL services to meet changing student needs
- Maintaining the after school program despite loss of grant
- Revising teacher evaluation plan to increase flexibility
- Continuing growth of technology infrastructure
- Website makeover
- Increased staff/teacher recognitions through the *Everyday Hero* program

We will continue to make improvements to our schools and educational programs so that our students will be prepared for life in the 21st century. Congratulations to the PHS graduating class of 2017. Enjoy a great summer and see you next year!

P.S. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Plainville community for moving the Wheeler School renovation project forward. The proposed project passed by a large margin of voters at the referendum held on June 12th.

Teacher of the Year

Plainville Community Schools named Linden Street School Physical Education teacher Melissa Patterson as the 2017-18 Teacher of the Year.

Patterson was nominated by colleagues Amy Tennant, Rob Silliman, and Cindy Birdsall, who outlined a variety of attributes attesting to her qualifications for the award, and describing her as exceptional. Patterson has been an educator for 15 years, serving as a physical education teacher at Linden for 13 years. She was honored at the June 12th Plainville Board of Education meeting.

In photo: Dr. Maureen Brummett, Teacher of the Year Melissa Patterson, Cindy Birdsall, Amy Tennant, and Rob Silliman.



Toffolon Student Spotlight: “What Memorial Day Means to Me”

Memorial Day is the day we come together and remember the heros who fought and gave their lives to protect our country. We thank those who served and did not come home and have been laid to rest. My family and I are very fortunate to have never lost a family member to war. We do, however, have many family members who have fought and served for our country. We are very lucky to have them come back alive. This was at great cost. My great Uncle Paul Maroon lost both his legs to a landmine explosion during the Vietnam War. My heart goes out to all those who have lost part of their family to war. I'm extremely grateful to have such brave men and women fighting to protect our freedom and who gave the ultimate sacrifice. I am very grateful for what I have and that I live in the great U.S.A. I would like for us to all take a moment of silence. Thank you so very much for taking the time to honor these brave men and women.



Adriana Mills, Toffolon Student

“My inspiration to write the What Memorial Day Means To Me essay is my family. Every boy in my family ending from my Grandpa Tony and Grandpa Joe have gone into war. That really inspired me to write the essay. Knowing that a majority of my family has fought to make our country the way it is today gave me a direction to write about. The What Memorial Day Means To Me essay was an optional assignment. So since I have a passion for writing, I wrote it. When I came to school like it was a normal day, during the morning announcements I had found out I had won. I felt strongly that the men and women who have fought for our country should be honored.”

Collaboration in Action

During the school year, MSP Industrial Arts Instructor Kim Coyle was looking to make meaningful connections with her students and their work in 3D design, and create an opportunity for students to practice the concept of visualizing. In collaboration with Louis Toffolon Elementary School fifth grade teacher Sue Fabrizio, they created a project plan whereby the fifth graders at Toffolon would create a drawing, and then the MSP students could 3D model and print them. The fifth grade teacher team at Toffolon had their students create a "10 minute stick figure drawing of a robot" and Coyle's students at the middle school worked to bring them to life. "The connections to the classes made the project very real for my students. They were excited to choose drawings made from friends and siblings," explained Coyle. "I also believe that it was a great way to extend MSP to the fifth grade students and give them a glimpse of middle school just before they transition to the middle school." Coyle presented the completed projects to the fifth graders on June 5th, who were very excited to see the outcome of the collaboration with their older student peers. "The students were amazed, delighted and ecstatic to see their designs become a tangible product," noted Fabrizio.



Fifth graders at Toffolon display Mini Robot Projects!

Adult Education: Customer Service and Sales Certification Training Program

Plainville Adult and Continuing Education received a grant award distribution of \$1,525 from the Plainville Community Fund II at the Main Street Community Foundation, to support a "Customer Service and Sales Certification Training Program," to be held this fall. This funding will make available 15 (needs-based) scholarships for Plainville residents.

For additional information or to request a scholarship application, please call **Plainville Adult and Continuing Education: (860) 793-3209**. The Customer Service and Sales Certification Training Program will be featured in the Fall 2017 Plainville Adult and Continuing Education Program Guide, mailed to all Plainville residents mid-August and will be posted at: <http://www.plainvilleschools.org/family/adulted>

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

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

The Future Business Leaders of America Club, led by faculty member **Brian Edge**, recently took a trip to Dunkin' Donuts Park, where they participated in "Education Day - Marketing at the Ballpark" and watched the AA Affiliate of the Colorado Rockies play against the Richmond Flying Squirrels...**Natalie Michaud, Corey Nickson** and **Nicholas Costantini** have been named recipients of the *Students Rock Award* for Semester 2...a group of students recently toured Bristol Hospital to meet with professionals in the health field...**PHS student John F. Kennedy** had the opportunity to job shadow with Connecticut State Representative Dr. William A. Petit Jr. this spring...**a group of First Generation PHS students** toured the campus of Central Connecticut State University and met with Professor Dr. Matthew Heinly who spoke about First Generation expectations...**The Interact Club** hosted the 5th annual Senior Citizen Prom in the school's cafeteria. The evening's theme was "Masquerade" and featured dinner, dancing, socializing, raffles, superlative awards and music provided by the "Senior Eighth Notes" a local "senior" band.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE

A group of students from Art, Engineering and Technology Education, Physical Education, Health, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Music classes were honored at a "Student of the Session" breakfast celebration...Students in the **Engineering in Action Club** worked this year to complete modified vehicles for children in the community with special needs. The MSP students researched project materials, fundraised by holding a bake sale during the winter concerts, purchased and constructed two power wheels vehicles, then modified the vehicles to match each child's needs.

LINDEN STREET SCHOOL

The Linden Community celebrated National Children's Book Week in May including the culminating iHEART Reading guest reader event on May 5th. Several guest readers visited Linden classrooms

that morning and shared books with students...Physical Education teacher **Melissa Patterson** was named the 2017-18 Teacher of the Year...**Principal Paula Eshoo** and head teacher **Melissa Orfite** created a fun and exciting team-building activity to boost school spirit and build camaraderie, partnering with Smart Team Building to bring "The Contest" to Linden staff during Spirit Week. With team spirit and collaboration, eight randomly selected teams of Linden staff members worked together to complete a series of challenges and activities for showcasing team enthusiasm, unity, and cohesiveness to further enhance school climate.

LOUIS TOFFOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The second annual "Pet Parade" was held on May 4th where Toffolon family pets joined in a parade around the school property...**The Toffolon Community** held a Book Character Parade where students and staff dressed as characters from their favorite books.

FRANK T. WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fifth graders held their annual EcoFair at Wheeler where they presented information about environmental topics affecting Earth...**Wheeler's Student Council** visited Apple Rehab to deliver a "Gratitude Wall," the result of participation in the "Look for the Good Project"—a ten day gratitude campaign that encourages students to leave any "crabby" attitudes behind and look for the good.

DISTRICT

The PHS Class of 2017 participated in a "Senior Walk" at Plainville elementary schools on the morning of their graduation, June 15th. They gathered at their respective elementary school alma maters for one last "walk" through the buildings where they were cheered by the elementary school students and teachers...Two Everyday Heroes were recognized at the June 12th Plainville BOE meeting. MSP eighth grader **Lexi Charbonneau**, nominated MSP staff members **Steve Leseur** and **Carol Von Achen**, and PHS Culinary Arts teacher **Al LeSage**, nominated by PHS parent **Sheri Ryan** were honored for making a difference in the lives of others.

Let's Chat With...Christopher Farrell, Athletic Director



WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR POSITION IN PLAINVILLE?

Teaching and coaching in this district for about eleven years made this position very attractive, and a career goal of mine was to become an athletic director. Plainville is a super community filled with great student athletes, parents, teachers, administrators and support for athletics.

WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS ROLE? I am responsible for the day to day operations of Plainville High School's athletic program as well as the Middle School of Plainville program. I coordinate busses, officials, coaches, and athletic facilities scheduling. I also work very closely with coaches to evaluate and improve the experience our student athletes have within each athletic program.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY? To make sure the experience our Blue Devil student-athletes have is one that is positive and allows for development (both physically and mentally). Students need to excel in the classroom first before they excel in the athletic realm. These two areas go hand in hand.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT? I have been fortunate enough to work with thousands of student athletes throughout my career. I would say that being part of three state championships (one as head coach) is my greatest professional accomplishment.

Toffolon Pet Parade

Louis Toffolon Elementary School held its second annual "Pet Parade" on May 4th where a variety of Toffolon family pets and owners joined in a parade around the school property. The parade also featured Toffolon Principal Lynn Logoyke with "Wally" and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maureen Brummett with "Snowball!"



MSP: STEAM LAB

Plans are underway for a new STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math) Lab at the Middle School of Plainville thanks to a grant from Fitzgibbons.

The STEAM project will include updating both technology labs at MSP and incorporating some music classes. New equipment and machines will be purchased over the summer months in preparation for the new lab.

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

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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