

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Florence Budge

December 2014

Enrollment: 249

On November 6th we held our annual Veterans' Day Celebration as well as an evening tribute to our Honors and High Honors award recipients. The Veterans who came and shared their stories left a powerful message with our students. The event was a moving tribute to all of our heroes and KCS was honored to have them among us. The evening recognized our KCS Scholars who were spotlighted for their academic success. The award recipients all held an Honors or High Honors average for at least 9 marking periods in Grades 5-7. Congratulations to our scholars!

On Monday, November 10, KCS attended the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Region One Nutmeg Children's Book Award author's visit at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Grades 4, 5, and 6 attended the event featuring Rebecca Stead. Ms. Stead is not only the author of the 2015 Nutmeg nominated book, *Liar & Spy*, but she is also the author of the 2011 Nutmeg nominated book, *First Light*, and the author of the 2010 Newbery Medal winner, *When You Reach Me*.

Our Parent / Teacher conferences were held on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and were very well attended. During the conference times, Meghan Robb and Linda Miller held Parent Portal Workshops for those parents who needed assistance logging onto the Parent Portal in PowerSchool.

Our basketball season is underway. Deb Morin is the girls' coach and Dave Grusauski is returning again to coach the boys.

Our chorus members and instrumental students have been preparing for the Winter Concert which will be held this week on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. You are cordially invited to attend one or both of these performances.

Students in grades 3 - 6 will participate in the annual *Jump Rope for Heart* on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. This event, organized by Marci Saunders, is a fundraiser for the American Heart Association. The money that is raised will go towards research for heart disease and stroke.

We will have a 1:00 pm dismissal on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are on break until January 5<sup>th</sup>. I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

**NAEP Testing:** We were informed last June that our grade eight students will participate in the NAEP (National Assessment of Academic Progress) testing, a paper and pencil test, in either math, reading or science. The testing date assigned is January 28, 2015. Our upper eighth grade teachers will not be required to administer the assessment, but they will be welcome to attend the sessions.

As their letter indicated, "NAEP does not produce scores for individual students and participation is anonymous;

- The NAEP assessments do not impose any consequences for students, teachers, schools, or districts and are intended solely to provide an overall measure of educational achievement for the nation and individual states;
- Participating students are not required to complete the entire test and may skip any test question. Even when a student does not complete the entire test, valuable information is obtained from the item responses provided; and
- A parent notification letter will be sent home to families of selected students. The letter explains the importance of NAEP and lets parents know that they may decide that their child will not participate."

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- January 8 Board of Education meeting
- January 10 Northern Regional Music Festival Auditions
- January 19 Martin Luther King Birthday - no school
- January 28 Grade 8 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) testing
- January 30 Report Cards - gr. 5-8