

Principal's Report
Florence Budge
March 2015
Enrollment: 254

School Happenings:

To date we have had a total of six snow days and nine late openings. In addition, due to a power issue in October, we must attend school one additional day. As of today, our last day of school is June 24th.

Even though the Regional Band and Chorus concerts were postponed due to snow, it was well worth the wait. The February 20th band and chorus performance was outstanding!

The basketballs teams concluded their season in February. Ann MacNeil, our regional Athletic Director, arranged a boys and girls basketball jamboree which allowed 8th grade players from all schools to combine teams and play a competitive, yet fun round of games. This also began alliances for those players who will be playing at the high school. Although the official results have not yet been announced, the KCS boys' team finished second with a record of 8-2. We believe the girls' team also placed second with a record of 6-4. Thanks to coaches Deb Morin and Dave Grusauski for their successful basketball season.

Thank you to Marci Saunders who stepped up to organize our intramural basketball for our 5th and 6th grade students. This has been a long standing tradition started by Len Gulotta and we are happy to have this after school activity continue. In addition, I would like to thank all the teachers who have volunteered their time to coach the teams.

The Annual KCSSF Chocolate Fest was held on February 12. It wasn't long after dismissal when the lines began and the sweet smell of chocolate wafted from the cafeteria throughout the hallways! As a result of the generous donations, participation of local citizens, and the many local establishments that supported the cause, \$2600 was made for the KCS Scholarship Fund. Thank you to everyone who donated delicious desserts, attended the KCSSF Chocolate Fest last Wednesday, or did both! We feel very lucky to be in a community that is so generous in its support of KCS graduates who go on to post-secondary education after high school!

A special recognition goes to our Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades for collecting 180 items for the Kent Food Bank to celebrate the 100th Day of School. Well done!

A voluntary exploratory committee met concerning the status of a summer program.

On Friday, February 28th, Kent "local celebrities" visited K-6 classroom and read a story to the youngsters. After the readings and discussions, the books are then donated to each classroom to add to their library. KCS would like to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Starr for organizing this time-honored tradition.

Our Special Recognition Assembly for grades 5-8 was held on February 25th for the first and second marking periods. Congratulations to all the students who met the Honor Roll requirements and to those students who received special recognition for hard work, kindness, and for going above and beyond.

As part of the Enrichment Program, a group of (5) students have created an exhibit to compete in *National History Day* at Torrington HS this Saturday, March 7th. The theme this year is "Leadership and Legacy in History." KCS students chose Nelson Mandela as their topic because of his significant involvement in the anti-apartheid movement. They decorated their exhibit board to simulate a prison cell since Mandela was imprisoned for much of his life. If our students place at this event, there is an opportunity to go to Nationals.

Testing:

On March 19th only the fifth and eighth graders will take the Connecticut Mastery Test in Science. This test is given in one sitting, taking approximately 65-70 minutes.

Teacher Events:

K-3 teachers will be taking a Reading Survey this year as mandated by Connecticut state law in C.G.S. 10-145r ("local and regional boards of education" shall require each teacher to complete a reading survey). The Connecticut State Department of Education will report only district level and school level aggregate results to all school districts; and will exclude individual teacher level data. The available survey results data are to be used to plan professional development.

KCS teachers attended a professional development workshop at Geer on February 13th. Dr. Elizabeth Englander, Director and Founder of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center and Professor of Psychology at Bridgewater State University gave a presentation in a very realistic and practical way about student use of social media and technology and about bullying. She was very well received by the staff.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 6 & 7	Northern Regional Music Festival Performance
March 10	HVRHS to meet with individual 8 th grade students
March 11	Grade 4 Arts Day - Hotchkiss School
March 16	Health classes for grades 6-8
March 19	Science CMT testing - grades 5 & 8
March 20	Report Cards - grade 1-4
March 20	8 th Grade Spaghetti Supper - 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
March 20	Student/Faculty Basketball Game - 7 p.m.