

Principal's Report

Florence Budge
September 8, 2016
Enrollment 235

- The doors to KCS opened for the 2016-2017 school year at 8:25 a.m. on August 31. With the help of our wonderful staff, our students entered the building safely and without incident. With staff at key entry points, students and parents were greeted and able to proceed to their destination.
- These beginning days have been a terrific start to what promises to be an exceptional year! Students arrived in their new outfits with smiles and hugs, ready to share snippets of their summer adventures. It was amazing to see each class in action. The excitement that coming back to school generated radiated from the faces of staff and students alike! To culminate the first week, a school meeting was held followed by a "Popsicle Party" on Thursday. Many thanks to the PTO for supplying the cool icy treats on a very hot day!
- Kindergarten Open House was held on August 25th and was very successful! Kindergarteners and students new to KCS learned about our school with the help of several staff members and teachers. They then rode the bus with their parents, asked questions, and visited their classrooms. It is always delightful to see these new faces enter the halls of KCS!
- New faces/changes in position at KCS: Welcome to
 - Marilyn Dwyer - Social Studies teacher for grades 5-6 as well as teaching a section of Gr. 5 Writing.
 - Charlotte Allen - Enrichment Paraprofessional for grades 3-8.
 - Jandi Hanna - Speech teacher.
 - Stacey Sypko - Paraprofessional working with Rebecca in Gr. 1.
 - Diane Chinatti - Paraprofessional working with Special Education
 - Suzanne Ingellis - Paraprofessional working in Pre K.
 - Melissa Perotti - Physical Therapist
 - Deana Clark - Cafeteria/Salad Bar
 - Kevin Capobianco - Soccer Coach
- Summer Happenings:
 - In District: Several of KCS teachers were present at different meetings/workshops held at the High School throughout the summer:
 - The Leadership Teams throughout Region One met at HVHS to discuss their roles and responsibilities. Lee, Valerie Susan, David and Florence attended the meeting.
 - The Curriculum Mapping Members met at HVHS during the summer to continue with the mapping of curriculum pertinent to their grade level/subject area.
 - Deb Morrin worked on refining the 6, 7 and 8 writing rubrics and 5th grade writing and reading with Cornwall and North Canaan teachers for the regional Rubicon template.

- Cindy Willson worked on curriculum mapping for Social Studies for Grade 8 as well as a summer PD program at Beckley Furnace site to explore and learn about the history of the furnace.
- Jenn Menitti and Michelle Mott, refined the rubric for scoring Curriculum Mapping projects and evaluated the summer curriculum maps, using a rubric.
- Josh Szwed worked on creating NGSS-aligned curriculum units for Gr. 5-6
- Early Literacy Groups:
 - Lee, Kathleen, Ane and Florence attended a 2 day workshop on Early Literacy Groups at HVHS given by Dr. Canady.
- Other Professional Development Opportunities:
 - Ellen Diker was a participant in the The Art of Education's "Summer 2016 Art Ed Now Online Conference." The Art of Education is a company created by art teachers to provide relevant professional development and, according to Ellen, they delivered just that.
 - Scott Eldridge attended PowerSchool training in Maryland. (He also did PowerSchool trainings/updates for staff during our opening days.)
 - Josh Szwed attended STEAM Conference at Harvard.
 - Scott Eldridge attended a Google Apps for Education workshop.
- **Summer School:** Kathleen Robey, Meghan Robb, Deb Morrin, Ane Starr, Adrienne McBrian, Marilyn Dwyer, and Stephanie Hastings taught summer school. Lee Sohl was the Summer School Director.

Many thanks to our custodial crew (Bill, Jim, Dave, Stephen and Beth) who worked tirelessly toward making our school sparkle as well as making it safe in anticipation of the first day of school. (List of improvements/upkeep attached.)

Thank you to Charlie, our tech guru, who ensured a smooth technological transition into the new school year. (List of improvements/upkeep attached.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 14, 2016:** Open House is scheduled

Grades K-4	6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Grades 5-6	7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Grades 7-8	7:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- **September 28, 2016** PD for professional Development
- **October 6-7, 2016** Teacher Workshops
- **October 10, 2016** Columbus Day- No School

2016 TECHNOLOGY Projects over the Summer

Beyond the usual student laptop repairs, imaging, configuration - GMail system yearly rollover of all students and parents, - adding incoming 7th grade students, new staff and students to the network... the following upgrades were made:

- 1) A new server was put into production and existing virtual servers were transferred to the new bare metal box. The prior production server now houses a rebuilt Backup Domain Controller which offers logon failover capabilities should the new production server be out.

- 2) 7th/8th Grade Student laptops (60) were upgraded from traditional hard drives to Samsung Solid State Drives. These are much faster, have no moving parts, generate less heat and draw less power which is all good for battery life.

- 3) The final 100mb switches were upgraded to 1000mb switches in two hub rooms, so now the entire network backbone including the internet connection are running at 1000mb.

- 4) Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) units were replaced in all 3 hub rooms.

- 5) Started rollout of Cisco 802.11ac Wave 2 wireless access points (WAPs) in classrooms. Not only do they connect to the network at 1000mb (vs current 100), but offer faster connection speeds vs. the existing WAPs.

- 6) 2 new Chromebook carts of 16 each were readied, most likely bound for 3rd Grade.

- 7) A new web filter system by iBoss was installed. This system offers more control over filtering groups and provides better insight into our internet traffic.

- 8) *More of an FYI* - The Connecticut Education Network (CEN) announced that we are currently in the 10mb bandwidth usage tier and therefore our rate is \$150 monthly paid quarterly. The initial "mock" bill they sent in March had us down for \$198 monthly. Should we go over the 10mb tier the next jump is to 100mb at \$450 monthly. I encouraged them during a phone conversation in early July to please consider tiers in-between such as a 25mb & 50mb tier. Since it is quarterly billing, the first "real" read of our usage will be at the end of the OCT-NOV-DEC quarter as the JUL-AUG-SEP quarter had a mostly empty building.

KCS has been with CEN for well over a decade and though it is unfortunate that the state no longer subsidizes schools and libraries with their internet, their service and reliability have been stellar.

Custodial projects summer of 2016

- Safety latches were put on classroom doors for lockdown.
- Mulched the entire playground
- Reseeded area for outdoor classroom
- Brand new fire alarm system. We are totally updated with a fully addressable fire system, including a brand new fire panel, new fire heads, and pull stations. As Bill and NW Alarm reviewed the building map and then went over the building there were additional heads that didn't show up in the original prints. Therefore, forty five addressable smokes and 5 additional heat heads were added along with additional modules. School opened on time and we passed all inspections by the Fire Marshall on Saturday, a couple of days before the opening of school on the 29th of August.
- SmartBoards were installed.
- Two ductless air conditioner units were installed in upper grades.
- Computerized Lunch time system .up and running

Summer School Update 2016

Summer Skills -

Summer Skills went very smoothly! We had a great staff - five teachers and two assistants (all from KCS) to work with students in grades kindergarten through four. These are students who, for the most part, receive reading or math intervention support, or special education services. Sometimes a child is recommended because he or she was doing well in class, but the teacher feels that they need the structure of summer school to keep them on the right path. 28 students (including 5th graders) were signed up, but 22 children actually attended. They worked on reading, math, and writing, often using science and social studies topics.