

KENT CENTER SCHOOL  
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT  
NOVEMBER 3, 2016  
ENROLLMENT: 232

Congratulation to the following KCS Scholar Award recipients: Astrid vonSeufert, Lydia Klingebiel Brendan Stewart, Daniel Agostinho, Cole Branson, Chloe Hannan, Morgan Killen, Brogan Lamb, Isabella Brown, Melissa Mauri, Ivan Pascasio, Elle Raftery, Abby Coolbeth, and Ryan Dorn. KCS is very proud of these young scholars.

Grandparents Day was held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 165 Grandparents and Special Friends spent the morning involved with their grandchildren's classes. There was wonderful energy and happiness throughout the school. Thanks to the PTO for organizing this special day.

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders completed another amazing week (10/17-10/21) at Nature's Classroom at the Sargent Center in Hancock, NH. They spent the week learning wilderness survival skills, completing a high ropes course, scaling climbing walls, learning to navigate, and becoming amateur aquatic biologists. They really focused on the theme of the week "Team Building" and came together as a group to support each other in a number of ways. The trip was one to remember and we would like to thank the Board for their continuing support of the Nature's Classroom trip and its transformative outcomes for students here at Kent Center School.

Grades 4, 5 and 6 enjoyed a beautiful fall day at Old Sturbridge Village on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The students explored the living museum, asking re-enactors insightful questions and taking lots of notes for narrative and expository writing projects. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in a mock town meeting. They needed to decide the best way to care for 17 destitute adults. Many students stood and voiced opinions which were informed and compassionate. One student insisted the town care for these people because "that's who we are; that's what this country is about!" The students learned about history and the chaperones learned the future of our country will be in good hands!

Also on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students visited the Norman Rockwell museum in Stockbridge, MA. Students received a guided tour and were able to see and learn the background of his *Four Freedoms* paintings. Students also toured Rockwell's personal art studio located on the museum grounds. Eighth graders had the opportunity to visit famous political cartoonist Thomas Nast's exhibit and create a drawing from one of Norman Rockwell's 323 *Saturday Evening Post* front cover illustrations.

KCS 6<sup>th</sup> graders joined 6<sup>th</sup> graders from the region at Hotchkiss School for a day filled with math and science. Students were amazed by presenter Bill Fenton as he introduced the day with his scaled model of our galaxy. Students then branched off to explore different math and science concepts like cloud formations, measurements in recipes, a visit to the biomass heating facility and green roof, computing with Arduino, gaming, Rubic's Cube, and planes, the Marshmallow Challenge, experiments with dry ice, DNA extraction, and sun gazing through a telescope. Students also had the chance to make binary bracelets, play math games, make boxes with origami, make cube bubbles, and construct geometric shapes out of connecting hexagons.

Students were impressed with the day. We thank the Hotchkiss Faculty, especially Mr. Charles Bell, for a terrific day on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Fall Marathon was a huge success with 20 kids participating. About a dozen kids walked/ran daily. Many kids are approaching their 26 mile goal. On Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, The Race for Aydan Family visited the KCS Marathon to encourage the kids and hand out t-shirts to symbolize our partnership. We wish them well and are thankful for their support. I want to thank the teachers who monitored and supported this program: Valerie Vega, Kathleen Robey, Carol Spelbos, Pattie Heaton, Mary Cox, Marci Saunders, Susan Makarewich and Betsy Morrow. Without them, it would not have been possible.

On Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, artsAlive sponsored a visiting artist performance and workshops. Hip Hop Dimensions Poetry in Motion Crew danced in an all-school assembly, showing all the positive attributes of Hip Hop Culture and taking the audience on a journey through the history of hip hop dance and music. After the assembly, the two seventh grade classes attended workshops where they learned some exciting and very athletic dance moves. Thank you to artsAlive for sponsoring this program.

#### **Update on Professional Learning Communities:**

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, the staff was engaged in Professional Learning Communities on the topics listed in the Strategic Plan. They included: Personalized Learning, Grading, Student-Led Conferences, and Data Analysis.

#### **Grading:**

Through research, discussion, and practice, the team focused on three main topics: Retakes, No Zeros, and Habits of Mind/Work. They interviewed staff, read and presented research and discussed changes. Their aim is to develop guidelines for KCS grading practices.

#### **Student Led Conferences:**

The PLC group on student led conferences has been exploring ways to pilot this program during the spring conferences in 2017. This program represents a goal in our strategic profile to help students demonstrate understanding of the curriculum. Teachers in this PLC have been exploring this concept through articles, videos, and personal conversations with other teachers outside the district. They have used the information gathered to create an outline of how the program will look in each of their different classrooms.

Through student-led conferences, students will create a portfolio that includes student driven goals set after the first trimester. Students will collect evidence that supports their work towards achieving these goals. Teachers will work with students to prepare the conversations they will have with their parents during the conference, using multiple self-assessments, and analysis of their work.

### **Data Analysis:**

The Data Analysis Team focused on interpreting and comparing Kent Center School SBAC and STAR data to other DRG's; comparing school benchmarks and CT SBA as related to intervention-related decisions and classroom strengths and weaknesses; and, data collection options beyond STAR assessments, They discussed conveyance of information gathered to faculty.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 4	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Play – 1:15 and 7 pm
November 7-10	Book Fair
November 8-9	Parent/Teacher Conferences – 1pm Dismissal
November 10	Veterans Day Celebration – 10 am
November 11	Veterans Day – no school
November 16	Gr. 7 & 8 –French Field Trip to Pomperaug H.S.
November 23	Thanksgiving Share – 9 am
November 23	1pm Dismissal
November 24	Thanksgiving
November 25	Thanksgiving Break
November 30	End Trimester #1