

## Principal's Report

Florence Budge

October 2, 2014

Enrollment: 256

### School News:

September was quite a busy month. After an initial first week, Kent Center School students were treated to a 'Welcome Back Celebration' on September 5<sup>th</sup>. We would like to extend our appreciation to the PTO for providing popsicles for the entire school to enjoy.

Our annual Open House on September 17<sup>th</sup> was very well attended. We tried to accommodate all grade levels with presentations being given at different times. Students in K-3 were able to "show off" their classrooms to their parents. The PTO provided child care for younger children as their parents attended the "Parents only" curriculum presentations for grade 4-8.

We have reached the half-way point for the Fall Marathon. Children run a mile or more each morning before school to reach a goal of 26 miles at the Kent Pumpkin Run. We have approximately 40 children participating. This year, we have partnered with the *Race for Aydan*, a local family whose goal is to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House.

Brooker Memorial Dental Clinic will again provide an in-school preventive dental care program to all children in grades K-8 in Region One elementary schools. Children in grades K-8 will be offered free dental examinations, cleanings, fluoride and sealants. Dental health presentations were held for all classes on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and the KCS Dental Clinic will be held Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays for 4-6 weeks beginning at the end of October.

In celebration of the Kent Historical Society's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Kent Center School students were invited to write a prediction about what life in Kent will be like 25 years from now. It will be very interesting to open the time capsule in 2039 to see if what our young students predicted came true!

Please take notice of the beautiful mums in front of the school. Thank you, Student Council members, for planting these flowers and beautifying our school. The Student Council has many activities planned for this school year. Under the direction of Cindy Willson and Monica Rodriguez, the council plans on having an Ice Cream Social and a Character Dress Up Day during the month of October.

Governor's Summer Reading Challenge: The total number of books read over the summer months by KCS students was 4,057 books. Nine grades participated as well as faculty and staff. Thanks to all who participated and to Betsey Morrow and Katie Moore in organizing the event for KCS.

Meghan Robb and Linda Miller have been instrumental in supporting teachers in the use of Power School. They have conducted training sessions at our faculty meetings and held informal workshops after school to support them as we approach the opening of the Parent Portal. The Parent Portal will be up and running by October 6<sup>th</sup>. An optional Parent Workshop will be given on October 8<sup>th</sup> after school.

## **Classroom News:**

Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 went to Mystic Seaport on Friday, September 26 to view life in a 19<sup>th</sup> century whaling/fishing village. The students learned about the technologies of the period and how one industry impacted a whole community. For a number of years, the three grades have gone to Sturbridge Village and Mystic so all the students will have had the opportunity to see life in a different period and learn how to make observations and view primary sources in Social Studies. The visits are referenced throughout the study of Social Studies in grades 5 and 6 throughout the year.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grader's had a wonderful time at Nature's Classroom this year. They dissected sharks, squids, and snakes, learned about the physics of flight by throwing Frisbees, saw seals and other sea life at the beach, identified different trees and plant life, learned what happened when you bite wintergreen lifesavers at night, and of course sang and danced. They bonded together through team building activities that really brought everyone closer together. The Nature's Classroom staff was amazed at how kind, tolerant, and polite our students were, noting that we were one of the best groups to visit their site this year. An amazing experience was had by all! KCS would like to extend our thanks to Mr. Eldridge, Mr. White and Mrs. Montemorra for chaperoning this memorable trip and to the Board of Education for supporting the 7<sup>th</sup> grade's adventure.

Our after school Homework Club for grades 4-8 is about to get underway. Teachers volunteer to stay after school to help students who were recommended by their teacher. The Homework Club meets every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Our first Region One soccer game was played on September 29<sup>th</sup>. We are pleased to have Deb Morin return to coach the girls' team while Marty Lindenmayer is coaching the boys. We wish them luck this season.

Congratulations to eighth grader, Robert Johnson, this year's recipient of the Litchfield County Superintendent's Award. This award is given to a candidate who demonstrates model citizenship, a positive attitude, leadership skills, participation in school activities, and an aptitude for achievement. KCS is honored and proud to have Robert represent our school at an award dinner in November.

## **Upcoming Events:**

|                |   |
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| October 7      | Fire Safety Day   |
|                | Grade 4 to visit Kent Memorial Library                            |
| October 9 & 10 | Teacher Workshop Days – no school for students                    |
| October 13     | Columbus Day  |
| October 16     | Grade 8 to visit Sloane Stanley and Seven Hearths                 |
| October 17     | Grandparents and Special Friends Day            8:30 – 11:00 a.m. |
| October 21     | Grade 6 - SM&SH Day at Hotchkiss School                           |
| October 24     | Kent's Regional Dance            7:00 – 9:30 p.m.                 |
| October 28     | Flu Clinic – KCS Library            3:30 – 5:00 p.m.              |