

KENT BOARD OF EDUCATION
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
DECEMBER 2017
ENROLLMENT: 230

This fall, KCS instituted a new program called FLEX. After taking a school-wide survey of student interests last spring and researching ways that various schools provide enrichment and personalized learning opportunities, the KCS faculty took a leap of faith this fall and developed a number of hands-on mini courses. Each grade level offers extra support during FLEX time one to three times a week. During the last period on Tuesday afternoons, however, all teachers and students are engaged in a variety of Flexible Learning Experiences. On Tuesday, November 27, the whole school gathered to celebrate the culmination of their efforts. Students settled into their groups while listening to the **Musical Balance** group play a piece by Jean Sibelius. Two students from **Photojournalism: Documenting FLEX**, introduced a slideshow featuring roughly 300 of the 4300 photographs taken by the twenty-five student photojournalists from grades four to eight. Representatives from each of the other sixteen groups stepped to the microphone to explain what they had done or learned throughout the term as the slideshow provided visual testimony to their progress. The pride of accomplishment and achievement was evident on students' faces throughout the program: from feats of physical balance and evidence of perseverance from kindergarten students, to independent projects such as creative writing, architectural design and game development among older students.

Kent Center School 3rd and 4th Graders performed in "The Artful Dodgers" by Mary Donnelly and George L.O. Strid on November 3, 2017. Although it made a number of references to Dickens' "Oliver Twist", the plot revolved around baseball, art and teamwork. All the 3rd and 4th graders were involved as singers, dancers, actors and stage crew. The show was directed by David Poirier and Lee Sohl, with the choreography by Valerie Vega and dance instruction by Marci Saunders. The featured soloists included Lucy Ober, Genevieve Malinowski, Chase Harrington and Jenna Janiak-Anderson. In addition, 4th graders completed a busy month by starting up band and string instruments! They received their rentals, had their first lessons and are already practicing their first songs on their new instruments! Look out for some great performances in the future from these talented students!

Our annual Veterans Day Celebration was held on November 9. We were honored to have our local veterans visit us for the morning. Two of our veterans, along with assistance from two of our students, gave a lesson on folding our nation's flag. The bagpiper's tunes were very moving. After the assembly, the veterans spent some time in the classrooms where they welcomed questions from our students. We wish to thank all veterans for their service to our country and for sharing information about veterans with the KCS community. A special thank you to Marty Lindenmayer for planning and participating in the event!

On November 16th, as an Enrichment initiative, second grade students were treated to a recent visit by Thomas Daly, Curator of Education from the Norman Rockwell Museum. Students learned about the life of Norman Rockwell, as well as the stories within his paintings. This

particular program is an extension of "The Long Ago & Today" unit of the Second Grade curriculum.

After learning about the Middle East, Mrs. Willson's 7th grade students were given the opportunity to present material in a Stop Motion video, Google Slides or a video with a musical backdrop. The eighth grade students are studying government and finished a play about the development of the Constitution, "A Bundle of Compromises." Students are currently working on posters depicting the goals of the Preamble. Students had lots of fun and learned a great deal!

During the month of November, 57 children participated in the Brooker Memorial Dental Clinic at Kent Center School. We had 25% of the students participate in this program. Eleven of these students were participating in the program for the first time.

The KCS Student Council did a fantastic job planning the Thanksgiving Share program held on November 22. Audrey Richards did a wonderful job singing the national anthem, and the Thanksgiving jokes had the students giggling in their seats. The Student Council made a special Thanksgiving video, and their hard work showed! Using the new green screen that Mr. Eldridge has, the students were able to interview students and pretend they were actually aboard the Mayflower. And of course, no Thanksgiving Share would be complete without the Thanksgiving song! Lily Scofield did an excellent job leading the students in her turkey costume!

Our basketball season is underway. Thank you to Debbie Morin for coaching the girls team and to Josh Szwed who is coaching the boys team. Good Luck to both teams.

Assistant Principal position

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- December 6 1:00 Dismissal Teacher Professional Development
- December 7 6:00-8:00 HVRHS Open House for 7th and 8th Graders
- December 11-15 KCS PTO Book Fair
- December 12 Community Partnership Meeting 5 p.m.-7 p.m.
- December 13 Winter Concert 1:15 & 7:00
- December 22 1:00 Dismissal, Trimester 1 Report Cards go home
- December 25-January 2 Winter Break