

KENT BOARD OF EDUCATION
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
JANUARY 10, 2018
ENROLLMENT: 233

The Parent Volunteer Reading Program occurred during the month of December in Mrs. DaSilva's room. Parents were asked to come into the class on any Tuesday or Thursday to have children read to them from 8:30-9:15 am. There was a great turnout of parents! In addition to reading, parents also enjoyed a little free choice time with their child before the program started.

Emily Carreiro and a group of her South Kent students taught third graders a lesson on December 7 about animal adaptations. There was lots of discussion and hands-on learning activities. It was a wonderful community experience!

The PTO held their annual book fair during the week of December 11-15. The students, parents and staff had fun shopping. Thank you to Christina Woodard and the PTO for organizing this event and to the volunteers who helped at the checkout desk.

On December 13, the KCS gym was alive with the sounds of the season and then some! Mr. Poirier and the Jazz Band started us off with some snappy tunes, followed by Intermediate Band, Intermediate Strings, Senior Strings, Advanced Strings, and Senior Band. Mrs. Kleisner and her Chorus groups entertained us with some wonderful songs for the season. Some of the students performed instrumental and choral solos and we were also in awe of an original song sung by one of our students! What a talented group of students we have at KCS!

On December 15, the 4th, 5th and 6th grades went to Bank Street Theater to see the movie, "*Wonder*." There wasn't a dry eye in the house! The movie was the conclusion of the students reading and discussing the book, Wonder. The book's focus is on inclusiveness, tolerance, acceptance, and kindness. In keeping with that theme, KCS Student Council posted messages about kindness on the front lobby bulletin board. We hope you got to see them!

Former student and owner of International Robotics, Jason Doornick, brought his robot, GeMo to KCS on December 19. Jason, through GeMo, talked about following your dreams and taking care of the earth. Students enjoyed watching the robot move around, give a few children rides, and play pop music. At the end of the day, Jason and GeMo introduced our new FLEX theme of growth, along with the Habits of Mind dispositions of creating, imagining and innovating.

During December, seventh and eighth graders participated in Hoops for Heart, and students in grades 2-6 participated in Jump Rope for Heart on December 22. Students were given the option to fundraise for this important event benefiting the American Heart Association. Many thanks to Marci Saunders for organizing these events. Even though we had an unexpected shortened day on the 22nd (Bad weather expectations caused dismissal at 12 p.m.) that caused a shifting of schedules throughout the day, the Jump Rope event was a spectacular success! Thank you to the 30+ parent volunteers who helped make it so as well as the teachers and classes who participated.

KCS held its first Community Partnership meeting on the evening of December 12. In spite of weather concerns, the gathering was a success! Twenty people, including teachers, attended. The teachers gave presentations on the new science standards, grading practices and FLEX. After each presentation, parents, community members and teachers split into discussion groups, then shared thoughts with the group as a whole. Another meeting, with different topics, will be held in the spring. Thank you to all parents and staff that participated

School vacation began on December 22 for students and staff. Staff returned on January 2 for a Professional Day held at HVRHS focused on Personalized Learning led by Bena Kallick and Allison Zmuda. Mrs. Carter stated that Bena and Allison will be working with the district on personalized learning over a 3-5 year period. The day concluded with staff being reunited with their individual school colleagues to discuss personalized learning: insights, clarifications, questions, next steps, and actions to move us forward.

Staff and students returned on January 3 for one day. However, due to inclement weather on January 4-5, schools were closed. Our second day back with students was January 8.

Upcoming Events for January:

- January 11 – Basketball at Cornwall
- January 15 - No School- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 19 – Basketball at Home vs. Salisbury
- January 23 – Basketball at Home vs. Sharon
- January 24 - 1:00 Dismissal for Teacher Development