

**Kent Board of Education**  
**May 2018**  
**Enrollment: 234**

On Friday, April 6, Kent Center School 4th, 5th, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students attended the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Region 1 Nutmeg Children's Book Award author presentation at HVRHS. The event featured author, Jordan Sonnenblick, author of the 2010 Nutmeg nominated *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie* and the 2013 Nutmeg nominated *After Ever After*. Students laughed as the author humorously shared information about his fourth through eighth grade school experiences and were quietly respectful when the author shared why his first book was about a character who had a little brother with cancer. The program concluded with the author answering questions from the students as well as with the author complimenting the entire audience. Miss Morrow reported that the author shared that he visits approximately 65 schools each year and our audience was one of the best behaved and most respectful this year.

In April, the kindergartners participated in their first Student-led conferences. They read to their parents, shared their writing folders, demonstrated their letter and word writing abilities, and solved addition and subtraction problems at different stations. This was a great opportunity for the students to show their parents what they have been learning. They were excited and proud to share this time together!

The Kindergarten Team welcomed next year's kindergartners for registration before April vacation. We are looking forward to welcoming our new students to Kent Center School at the end of August!

Mrs. Menniti's second graders researched Earth Day through non-fiction resources, poetry and videos. Students learned about when Earth Day first was celebrated, pollution, and how our decisions effect the environment. Using the information that they learned, students completed projects to show ways they can reduce, reuse and recycle to help the environment.

"The Nature Lovers FLEX group" met for the first time. Thirteen students in kindergarten through grade four met with Mrs. McBrien, Mrs. Lafontan and Mrs. Menniti to discuss what they love about nature and what they hope to learn through this experience. Students explored nature and its beauty by walking around the grounds of Kent Center and sketching things they heard and saw around them. What an observant group they were!

After school French began for first and second graders thanks to Mrs. Vega! Mrs. Vega meets with each grade from 3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m. each week for the next few weeks. Bonne chance!

On Thursday, April 26, the third graders enjoyed an afternoon concert at historic Music Mountain in Falls Village. Sponsored by The Arts Fund for Region One, the students joined all third graders from Region One for a string quartet concert at this famous venue. The performers were graduate students from Bard College Conservatory of Music. Their masterful renditions of two string quartets by Beethoven and Dvorak delighted and inspired the students who will be performing on their recorders in their first instrumental concert the following week. The quartet members, led by a viola player, Joe Burke, did a wonderful job interacting with and answering questions for the third graders.

Third graders took a field trip to Washington, CT to visit The Institute for American Indian Studies. Students participated in engaging lessons to learn about Native American people. The students enjoyed exploring the replicated 16th century Algonkian Village. They also learned how to play a traditional Native American game that would help teach children important skills, such as hunting. Thankfully, the weather was pleasant and the students had a great time!

Sharon Audubon visited First Grade on Thursday, 4/26/18. The children learned a great deal about many different types of birds.

- What makes a bird a bird?
- What makes birds so light?
- Do birds have teeth?
- What organ do humans have that birds don't have?
- Should you feed bread to the ducks?

Ask any first grader these questions and they will tell you the answers!

Miss Wendy presented a wonderful program called "Beaks, Bills and Other Bird Thrills."

The students loved petting Paloma, the white, ring-necked dove that lives at the Sharon Audubon Center. It was a great day of learning! Many thanks to the Audubon for sharing information about our feathered friends!

KCS's 17th Arbor Day celebration was held indoors under cloudy skies. While the newest member of KCS was soaking its roots in newly turned earth - we recognized those that made this possible. Kent Greenhouse, the recycling contestants, and the students themselves. We give special recognition to the 8th Graders for the first of many going away gifts in the form of Arbor Day murals - many featuring themes of branching out as our seedlings go to find new pastures to grow in.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- May 3 – Spring Concert at 1:15 pm and 7:00 pm
- May 7 – Bi-Okoto Performance 9:00 am
- May 15 – NGSS Science Pilot Test for Grades 5 and 8
- May 16 – Kindergarten to Visit HVRHS Vo-Ag Fair
- May 16 – Grade 4 Lunch at Fife and Drum
- May 17 – Grades 1 and 2 to Warner Theatre
- May 17 – Grades 6-8 to the Regional Track Meet
- May 21 – Student Council to visit the Senior Center
- May 23 – Grade 8 Class Trip to NYC
- May 24 – KCS Art Show
- May 30 – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Musical - 10:20 am and 1:30 pm