

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
MAY 2017
ENROLLMENT: 236

Twenty one kindergarten students registered thus far to attend kindergarten next year. We anticipate several more children will register before the beginning of school next school year.

Our regular Spring Parent/Teacher conferences were held on April 4th, with selected classrooms piloting a Student-Led conference format. The feedback from parents, teachers and students on this new format was very positive. The students took their duty very seriously and felt responsible for a new part of their learning process. Hats off to teachers and students for all they did to make the conferences a successful learning experience!

On April 7th our third graders visited the Institute for American Indian Studies. It was an enriching event with a mixture of outdoor and indoor activities. Under the guidance of veteran program leaders, the children extended their knowledge, viewed interesting artifacts, and played interactive learning games.

Mrs. Vega began her weekly after school French classes for Grades 1 and 2. This 6 week long program has the students playing and singing in French. Bonne chance!

1st and 2nd graders enjoyed a performance of *The Rainbow Fish* at the beautiful Warner Theater on April 18th. The show was filled with music, dancing, and eye-catching costumes. The bus ride is always an adventure too!

Our 2nd graders took a walking field trip the Swift House last week to hear first-hand stories of Kent's one-room schoolhouses. They were greeted by Marge Smith ringing an old fashioned school bell. As children entered the building, they were sorted into groups according to what school they would have attended. Kent had 14 one-room schoolhouses at one time. Ky Anderson and Charlotte Lindsay shared their stories about attending one-room schoolhouses as children. This is a collaborative program between the Kent Historical Society and Kent Center School. Children finished up their thank you letters this week which will become a part of Kent's history!

April 24-28 began the SBAC testing for grades 3-8. A special thanks to the PTO for providing breakfast and the Student Council for serving it to provide some extra brain power for the test-takers each morning.

On April 26, Grade 8 made the annual trek to NYC. For some students this was the first trip to the big apple! Students and chaperones took in the sights at the 'Top of the Rock' observatory deck, sampled local food for lunch and saw an excellent production of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." Then they topped off the night with a family-style Italian meal and some sightseeing and shopping. Needless to say, it was a spectacular event for all!

Also, on April 26, Grade 7 made a visit to Beckley Furnace in North Canaan to complement their study in Social Studies. Beckley Furnace is Connecticut's only designated Industrial Monument, it is the centerpiece of the Upper Housatonic Valley's Iron Heritage Trail.

Arbor Day was held on April 28th, 2017. The celebration began with the planting of a tree near the front entrance of the school. This tree was provided by the Kent Conservation Commission and the Kent Garden Club. After the planting, the program moved to the gymnasium and Miss Diker welcomed everyone. Then, several fifth graders spoke about the history of Arbor Day and its connection to Birdsey Northrop. Following their presentation, Mrs. Starr presented the recycling segment and presented awards to the poster contest winners. Miss Diker then spoke about the art component of Arbor Day and had the 8th graders reveal their artwork. Finally, Mr. Poirer led everyone in the singing of the *Rattlin' Bog*. In conclusion, Miss Diker invited the teachers to let their classes view the 8th graders' artwork. Thank you to all the people who were responsible for making Arbor Day a true celebration!!

The PTO book fair is being held during the week of May 1st. A big thank you to the PTO for all they do for our students and staff.

Baseball and Tennis are underway. We are lucky to have Kevin Capobianco return again this year to coach our baseball team. Deb Morin will again be coaching our tennis team. We wish our teams much success!

Our 8th grade graduation date has been set for Friday, June 16th.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 9	National Teacher Appreciation Day – Lunch provided for staff courtesy of PTO and parents
May 10	Grades 6-8 to HVRHS Drug Prevention Program “Natural Highs”
May 11	Grade 4 – Lunch at the Fife & Drum Restaurant
May 11-12	KCS Art Show
May 12	Kent’s Regional Dance
May 18	Track Meet – Grades 6-8
May 19	Kent Town Vote
May 24	1 pm Dismissal – Professional Development
May 26	Competition Choir Trip
May 29	Memorial Day – No School