

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
OCTOBER 2016
ENROLLMENT: 235

We had a wonderful turnout for our annual Open House which was held on September 14. Students in grades kindergarten through grade 3 were proud to show their parents their home rooms and to show off their school work. Grades 4-8 had a more structured evening with presentations given by individual subject teachers.

Our soccer season is in full swing. Debbie Morin is coaching the girls and we are very lucky to have Kevin Capobianco coaching the boy's team. The teams are doing very well so far.

Grades 3 and 4 began rehearsal for "Cinderella". The performances will take place on November 4 with a 1:15 pm performance for the school and again at 7 pm for parents. We'd love to have the Board join us!

After school on September 9, three KCS students knocked on Mr. Szwed's window and told him that they found an injured bird on the playground. The bird was a female American Goldfinch and appeared unable to fly away, due to a likely collision with one of the windows. Mr. Szwed contacted Sharon Audubon and he drove the bird to their Wildlife Rehabilitator, Sunny Bettley (formerly Kellner) and also a KCS alum. After a few weeks, the bird was ready to be released back into the wild, along with another goldfinch that had been found in Sharon. A volunteer from Sharon Audubon, brought the birds to KCS, and with the 5th grade students who found the bird, opened the carrier to let the birds fly free once more. This was a great team effort and a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about our role as stewards for our wild neighbors and their habitat!

During October and November, Kent Center School is hosting a free Dental Health Clinic, offered to all students in grades Pre-K through grade 8. This program provides a presentation on dental health for all students and free dental screenings, cleanings and sealants for students signed up to participate. This program is made possible through a partnership of The Foundation for Community Health in Sharon and The Maria Seymour Brooker Memorial Inc. in Torrington, CT.

On Saturday, September 17, the Kent Memorial Library hosted a mock town meeting to demonstrate direct democracy, and KCS was invited to participate. KCS students in grades 4-8 wrote arguments for and against the motion to be proposed which was to authorize the BOE to change the school year from a ten month calendar to a twelve month calendar, adopting the 45 day/three week plan. KCS student Izzy Houck posed the motion at the meeting, seconded by Anna Brown. Zoey Greenbaum argued the plan would impact the ability to travel and see distant family. Linnea Saxton also spoke against the motion, saying it isn't difficult for students to get back into the swing of things. First Selectman Bruce Adams disagreed based on his teaching experience. The motion passed 24-18.

On September 18, we had our school-wide evacuation drill. The students were well-behaved and followed directions beautifully. Thank you to Kent School for allowing us to use their building in town and to the Kent Emergency Management Director, Brian Hunt, who assisted us with the drill.

The students had a long weekend due to teacher workshops followed by Columbus Day. On October 6, staff worked at KCS in teacher-led teams to investigate a variety of topics including: Personalized Learning, Student Led Conferences, and Grading Practices. Teachers then analyzed data and began drafting goals for the coming year. SmartBoard professional development was given in the afternoon and teachers walked away with questions answered as well as many ideas.

On October 7, teachers travelled to the high school for a presentation and discussion on grading practices given by Cathy Vatterott, author of the books, Rethinking Homework and Rethinking Grading. She was an interesting and informative presenter. This topic is being investigated in one of our PLC teacher-led teams.

The SBAC test results have been distributed to parents with a letter of explaining the process and personal student results. Results will be shared with the Board.

Upcoming Events:

October 14	Grandparents Day – 8:30 – 11 am
October 16	Family Fun Day at Club Getaway
October 17 – 21	Grade 7 at Nature’s Classroom
October 20	Grades 4-5-6 to Sturbridge Village
October 20	Grade 8 to Normal Rockwell Museum
October 28	Hip Hop Demonstration by Poetry in Motion Crew
November 2	Picture Re-take Day