

# *Principal's Report*

Kent Center School  
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September 3, 2015  
Enrollment 239

- On August 27<sup>th</sup> the Kindergarten Open House was held. It was very successful! Twenty students learned about bus behavior with their parents, asked questions, met several members of the school staff, and then visited their classrooms. It is always delightful to see these new faces enter the halls of KCS!
- The sight of smiling faces and the sound of lively chatter permeated the halls of Kent Center School on August 31<sup>st</sup> as KCS opened its doors for the first day of school. With the help of Trooper Andrew Fisher as well as the wonderful staff of KCS, stationed at strategic points to greet our students, children and parents were greeted and proceeded to their destination with ease.
- What a wonderful beginning of the school year this has been! The weather, although a wee bit on the warm side, was sunny and inviting. Students exchanged stories with their classmates and strolled to their classes in anticipation of the wonders that awaited them. These first four days have been a terrific beginning to what promises to be an exceptional year! The excitement that coming back to school generated radiated from the faces of staff and students alike! Today, the PTO sponsored a "Popsicle Party" to culminate a super week! All of us at KCS appreciated the cooling effect of the pops! Many thanks to the PTO
- KCS is pleased to welcome some new staff members: Ellen Diker, our new Art teacher; Cindy Willson, Grade 7-8 Social Studies teacher; Michael Spalinger, Grade 7-8 Math teacher; and, Marilyn Dwyer, Enrichment Paraprofessional.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 4, 2015** No School
- **September 7, 2015:** Labor Day/No School
- **September 8, 2015** Kid's Marathon will begin
- **September 10, 2015:** School Pictures
- **September 16, 2015:** Open House:
  - Grades K-4 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
  - Grades 5-6 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
  - Grades 7-8 7:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## **Building Summer Upgrades 2015**

Besides the yearly indoor summer cleaning tasks, the custodial crew cleaned the building from top to bottom. They cleaned every room, piece of furniture and floor in the building as well as performed all maintenance to the exterior grounds. This year was exceptionally difficult since it required continual revisiting of rooms below the new roof construction for cleaning. In addition, the following was also accomplished:

- Ordered, received, built and distributed new furniture (desks, bookcases, and chairs).
- Refinished gym floor.
- Patched all potholes in parking lot and excavated two sinkholes in parking lot. Repaved all of them.
- Eversource electrical upgrade. An additional upgrade audit was performed for rooms not covered by the initial upgrade. Presently waiting for the results.
- Roof project nearing completion and will be done on September 5, 2015.
- Five Smartboards to be installed on September 3rd.

### **Passed**

-Fire Inspection: Passed

-Sprinkler Heads checked.

-Kitchen hood inspection checked.

## **Technology Update from summer 2015**

Several IT initiatives were implemented during this shortened summer. Here are the highlights:

**1)**

7th & 8th grade classrooms have new hp laser printers. We got a nice 12 year run out of the prior machines. The approximately 60 computers that print to those rooms were re-configured for the new printers.

**2)**

Gmail system was rolled over to 2015-16 homerooms for parents and students. Though this does not sound glamorous, it is a lot of work migrating all parents and students from 4th grade up into their new groupings.

**3)**

New Fortigate 200D firewall was installed to replace the 5yr old prior model. Fortinet is one of the leaders in data security and I have been working with them for years. A company out of Old Lyme assisted in remote configuration and troubleshooting. This unit is our gateway to the internet and does threat analysis on every packet of data coming into KCS.

**4)**

New student laptops were brought in as last school year ended the 3 year student cycle. Returned student laptops will be upgraded this fall with more memory and solid state drives to serve staff for the next 3 years. The new student laptops are the hp ProBook 440 G2 using Windows 8.1 and a 5th generation Intel Core i5 processor. 7th/8th grade laptop rollout is scheduled for the week of Sept 7.

**5)**

The biggest change (and challenge!) was migrating to new virtual servers running Server 2012 R2. This project utilized our network consulting team Yucatech. A migration of this magnitude always carries its share of imperfection, but any issues were ironed out through extensive testing prior to start of school.

**6)**

To compliment the new servers, I brought in a Barracuda Networks 290 Backup Appliance. Not only does it backup our virtual servers to its own raid array, during the day, the backups from the prior night are replicated to the Barracuda Cloud to ensure data redundancy.

A busy summer that should bring about meaningful change to the IT infrastructure of KCS.

Charlie Taylor