

## **Laconia School District Happenings – October Edition**

Below please find some of the events and activities that have taken place or are upcoming in our schools and in some of our District programs.

### **Elm Street School**

- We had a bullying assembly performed by Recycled Percussions' "Chaos and Kindness" with segments which will be aired on their show. However, at this time, we do not know when.
- Odds Bodkins is going to be performing the last week of September for Grades K-5.
- Our fifth graders are participating in Genius Hour weekly and have been proud to showcase their work throughout the building. Genius Hour is a time when students can pursue something they are interested in and present their results to a larger audience.
- Our library commons is up and running, however we are still working toward its completion in the fall of 2019.
- Our Open House went very well with almost 100% of our families in attendance.
- We have been having weekly assemblies to focus on the expectations in our building as part of our Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program (PBIS).
- Our staff fully enjoyed the professional development day presentation by Mike Anderson on student choice. We are using one of his texts as part of our school wide book study and are already implementing some of the strategies.

### **Pleasant Street School**

Some of the activities taking place include:

#### **We Are...Night**

- Thursday, August 30, 2018: Open House for all PSS families to introduce teachers to the families and students

#### **PBIS Rollouts**

- Monday, September 10 - Until the end of the Month: School-wide rollouts using common language and lesson plans for all students. At present time, we have completed the Café, Hallways and the Bathroom. Playground and Assemblies are coming up.

#### **VIPSS Meeting**

- Monday, September 10, 2018: PTO meeting with parents. Reviewed new safety precautions, upcoming events, introduced our school-wide hero as well as shared our "Year of the Family" goal.

### **"Won't You Be My Neighbor"**

- Monday, September 10, 2018 (PD Movie Screening for PSS Hero): 17 members of PSS screened the movie "Won't You Be My Neighbor". Our school-wide hero is Mr. Rogers and our staff is working towards big ideas in building a better neighborhood.

### **Granite United Way "Day of Caring"**

- Wednesday, September 12, 2018: PSS sent over 300 students, faculty and staff into the community to volunteer for the "Day of Caring". Students worked with Breast Cancer Awareness people, wrote "thank you" cards to G UW Volunteers, cleaned the Nature Trail, cleaned the Fire Station and trucks, sang at the Taylor Home and cleaned the WOW Trail. There is a video on YouTube recapping the day.

### **PAWS Program Begins**

- Friday, September 14, 2018: PAWS (Providing Awesome Weekend Support) began. We bagged weekend meals for over 50 families at PSS, nearly 30% of our population

### **"Live from PSS" Facebook**

- Monday, September 17, 2018: Started our "Live from PSS" feed on Facebook to update families on PSS happenings.

### **We Walk Wednesday**

- Wednesday, September 19, 2018: Over 50 families participated in our monthly walking event. Approximately 100 students walked more than 5 laps before school. Healthy snack and raffle prizes were enjoyed.

### **Family Pancake Breakfast**

- Friday, September 21, 2018: Free pancake breakfast for our PSS families. We served over 350 meals to families as they enjoyed pancakes, milk, juice and fruit. Teachers decorated the café and also cooked pancakes for our guests.

### **We Are...PSS Day (Game of Life)**

- Friday, September 21, 2018: Community building activity at PSS in which all students work together to discover the possibilities of education through an interactive "Game of Life". The activity was coordinated by Mrs. Gonzalez and included every student and faculty member participating as a "family" to make decisions.

### **Odds Bodkin "The Golden Rule"**

- Friday, September 21, 2018: Odds Bodkins performed at PSS through the support of the Putnam Fund. Music and storytelling connected to the Golden Rule.

### **50K with 50Kids doing 50 Laps**

- Week of September 24: Our PSS Walk-A-Thon kicked off with Mr. Levesque challenging the students to walk 50 laps during the week leading up to the Fall

Festival. Student can get donations for their efforts. Mr. Levesque is doing a 50K Trail Race on September 30 and hoped the students would “join him” in this challenge while at PSS.

### ***Fall Festival***

- Saturday, September 29, 2018: Annual fundraising event at PSS that supports all PSS field trips and enrichment activities. Games, raffles, fun events happen Saturday morning from 11-3.

### **Woodland Heights School**

- Since opening we have been busy with our PBIS rollouts and recognition schedule. We teach the expected behavior in the classroom, bus, cafeteria, hallways, assemblies, playground, and bathroom. We had our first recognition this past week for following adult directions and next week for dismissal behavior.
- First day of school assembly in which we showed our staff video of Have It All to the students as we kicked off the school year.
- We had a peace crane presentation from the Congregational Church to our 5th grade teachers as they helped fold 4,500 origami peace cranes that were hung in Laconia from last year (that was from all 3 schools).
- Next week we have a 4th grade teacher going on a walking field trip in Laconia to businesses downtown for a social studies lesson on economics.
- In October we have pumpkin carving for Pumpkin Fest and an Odd Bodkins assembly on Empathy and Kindness through storytelling courtesy of the Putnam Fund.

### **The Huot**

- The NH Association of Home Builders, the parent chapter of our Lakes Region Chapter, presented their "Cornerstone Awards" to Mike Schofield and Matt Towle for their work on the Tiny House.
- First year students in Culinary Arts have been working toward their Serv-Safe certification and are almost complete.
- Culinary students also worked on their first function of the year, creating treats for our Open House.
- First year Health Science students are wrapping up their American Heart Association Heart Saver CPR/AED and First Aid.

- Two more HTC programs are on Twitter. Check us out @CulinaryHuot and @HTC\_Engineering.
- Huot staff have started holding Friday morning peer sharing sessions. This 100% teacher driven activity is improving professional practice across the center.
- Several programs are currently pre-testing students in preparation of Precision Exams this spring.

### **Office of Extended Learning**

- Project EXTRA at Elementary Schools began September 12th. Each elementary school designs and delivers programs that are aligned to a particular theme. ESS theme is technology, PSS is Mother Earth and WHS theme is #Life of Adventure in strong partnership with NH School to Farm Coordinator.
- The REAL Initiative is building a strong extended learning day with various community and business partners providing cooking, hip-hop dance, fashion-design, art with Larry Frates and Lego Robotics. On October 2nd, four members of the REAL Student Leadership Team will be attending the Student Leadership Conference at Southern New Hampshire University New England League of Middle Schools. Additionally, the REAL Student Leadership Team was awarded a grant from the NH Reaching Higher organization to develop a LMS/LHS student leadership team focused on college, career and life readiness.
- Genius Hour is now being offered as an exploratory for the full year for 6th grade students. Currently, 20 students, guided by four 6th grade teachers, are delving into their passions and interests. With additional funding, we are hoping to offer Genius Hour to 7th and 8th grade students the second half of the school year.
- Ken Martin, of the Laconia School District, was the recipient of a Work-Based Learning Advisor/Coordinator Champion Award on Monday, September 25th for his work as an ELO Coordinator for LHS and the Huot Tech Center. Governor Chris Sununu and Commissioner of Education Frank Edelblut presented the awards at the Christa McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord. Currently there are 20 high school students who have begun their ELO learning plans with guidance from Ken Martin. Additionally, LHS students can learn archery and robotics during their extended learning time.
- The Office of the Extended Learning team has been invited to speak to Professor Buteau's class at PSU next Wednesday about our initiatives and best practices in youth development.
- Beth Vachon and I were invited to be members of the Belknap Mill Society advisory panel contributing to their Industrial Evolution Capitol Campaign.

## **Office of School Wellness**

- Office of School Wellness (OSW) staff coordinated the *1st Annual Wellness Fair* open to all Laconia students and families on September 13th at LMS. Twenty-three community partners participated to support increased awareness and knowledge in health and medical resources, substance misuse prevention and treatment services, and a variety of self-care and wellness supports for physical and mental health promotion. Partners had tables with information, free giveaways, and other resources, as well as donated incredible raffle prizes for our students and families! We are fortunate to have so many amazing resources in the Laconia community! We are already planning for a 2nd Annual Wellness Fair for the 19-20 school year.
- Afterschool health and wellness opportunities for staff (at no cost) have already started happening. Upcoming opportunities include: Yoga, Whole 30 Program, and SHiNE Dance Fitness.
- The OSW held the following PD during August 2018: (1) Two Wellness PD days for staff that included presentations and interactive opportunities including: Thai Yoga, Reflexology, Fitness at the Downtown Gym, *Whole 30* presentation, *Time for Change* presentation, and Reiki. (2) Two *Diversity and Cultural Competence* Trainings.
- OSW supported numerous PBIS Retreat days for all schools during the summer, one Project GROW Retreat day for the Project GROW Leadership Committee, as well as staff attendance at the two-day 2018 MTSS-B Summer Institute: *Building Trauma-Informed Communities of Hope, Resilience, and Care* held at PSU in August.

## **Laconia Middle School**

- We are in the middle of our PRIDE expectations rollout at LMS. Students and staff are focusing on positive behavior expectations that will benefit our school community. Students have opportunities to earn rewards when they demonstrate expected behaviors.
- We have also rolled out our school-wide theme for the year: Get Moving! Students got moving this summer as part of their summer work and will continue to have great opportunities to move throughout the year. Staff members have wellness buddies and we are encouraging each other to meet personal goals. We have received generous donations from Body Covers, The Wellness Complex, CrossFit Juggernaut, and more!
- We continue to explore ways to provide students with personal learning experiences at LMS. For example: Sixth graders are participating in Genius Hour again this year. Eighth graders continue their work with one to one learning.

- We had a wonderful Open House in September! The Office of School Wellness hosted a Health and Wellness Fair on the same evening at LMS. It was a fun night and we received very positive feedback.
- We are excited to announce that four of our students will be participating in a youth leadership conference on October 2nd sponsored by New England League of Middle Schools. This has been made possible through our partnership with the Office of Extended Learning.

LMS participated in the United Way's Day of Caring for the first time! Every student participated in a community service activity, such as: washing police cruisers, writing letters to troops, creating games for hospital waiting rooms, and walking into town to thank our neighbors for choosing to have their business in Laconia.

### Laconia High School

- **Guidance** hosted a freshman open house prior to the opening of school and had over 90 students voluntarily come in on August 27 to get acclimated to the high school.

The freshman will be taking a Gear UP sponsored field trip to NHTI on October 10<sup>th</sup> touring NHTI and to see a presentation by NHHEAF.

Guidance counselors have been meeting with seniors discussing their college plans and making sure they have taken all of the necessary steps for a successful application process. Some of the points of discussion have been around SATs, the application process, using Naviance as an application tool, financial assistance and upcoming college fairs.

Guidance counselors have been going into the Sophomore Citizenship class to support the What's Right for Me Project, introducing students to Naviance and helping them better understand the world of work and the paths to get there. This will occur further into October and then again for the other sections.

- **Homecoming** This week was homecoming week at Laconia High School with events planned during the course with competition amongst the grades designed to promote school spirit. Friday was the busiest day of them all with a pep rally, parade and finally a football game. Saturday's schedule included home matches by boys' and girls' soccer, field hockey, and volleyball.
- **Open House** We had a very successful open house with a lot of parents in attendance on Thursday evening. No official numbers, but longtime staff cited it as being the heaviest attended open house in years. We changed from the traditional format of where parents would move with their child's schedule to where they could go visit their teacher at their leisure. Each department put on a "Display of Learning" and student work. The feedback from parents and families was very positive.

- **National Honor Society** has started tutoring their peers towards accruing volunteer hours towards their service requirement of a 100 hours/year.
- **One to One computers** – This year freshmen, sophomores and juniors received one to one devices. They were successfully distributed on five separate evenings through the library prior to the start of school. Next year they will be distributed to seniors completing the rollout of the one to one program.
- **Athletics** Our athletic teams are off to a great start. Boys Soccer is 3-3-1, Girls Soccer 3-4, Field Hockey 0-7, Volleyball 4-3, Unified Soccer 1-0, and Football is 2-1. Our golf team is 5-12 with freshman Evan Rollins medaling at every match coming in the top 3. Our X-C team is doing well with runners placing in the top ten of each of their matches.
- **CIA** - The Math and English Departments have been working on strategies to help students improve their SAT scores via information received from student PSAT scores. This year both juniors and sophomores will take the PSATs on October 10th, allowing sophomores additional time to receive targeted supports. In October all department heads will receive training through the College Board on how to access and utilize SAT and PSAT data for their students. In PLCs, all departments have selected a goal to work on to help them continue to prepare for the transition to a Competency-Based system at LHS which includes refining and writing Performance Based Assessments, collecting a body of student work to assess student growth in competency areas, writing learning progressions, and calibrating scoring of Performance Based Assessments.