



GOOD NEWS WEEK ENDING January 11, 2019

High School

On Monday, students in Ms. Stevens' sophomore English class presented a collective poem they wrote after working with published, local poet, Mr. Terry Carter, in conjunction with the Stoneham MLK, Jr. Celebration Committee. Thanks to a grant from the Stoneham Business and Community Educational Foundation, Meld, Inc., and the National Coalition for Education and Cultural Programs, students were able to work with Mr. Carter for six hours on the topic of "Welcoming the Newcomer to our Community". They recited their poems and presented visual images to district and high school administrators, members of the Stoneham MLK, Jr. Committee and other teachers. The poem will be presented as part of the program at the Town's Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Monday, January 21, at the Boys' and Girls' Club that starts at 10:00 am. All are welcome to attend.

Congratulation to Athletic Director, David Pignone! In March, Mr. Pignone will receive the Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association President's Award of Merit.

Central Middle School

In December, the Central Middle School Special Education Teachers and Staff participated in the second year of a two-day training on Mindfulness led by Caitlin E. Krause of *MindWise*. Caitlin, a Boston-born global educator who started her own business in learning and leadership, educated the staff on the roots of mindfulness, the research that grounds the practice, and the practical applications of mindfulness in the Middle School setting. Staff were open, present, and motivated to investigate different techniques while giving careful consideration to how to incorporate mindfulness practices into the Middle School. Experience in studying a range of applications of Mindfulness and working with innovative mindset and organizational change led Caitlin to write her forthcoming book, *Mindful by Design*, due out in early 2019 (published by Corwin Press). The book's focus is on applying mindfulness across different subjects, showing ways to actively embed practices in personal and professional settings. Curiosity-driven, Caitlin connects mindfulness with design thinking and storytelling elements, to amplify voice, freedom, and intentionality in student-centered learning design. The Central Middle School Special Education Teachers and Staff look forward to a continued conversation about applying mindful practices at the middle school to address the varied and individual needs of our students. In Caitlin's words, it's all about active awareness and intentional connection.

Colonial Park

This week Sam Drazin visited Colonial Park School, holding assemblies for students. Sam is an educator and motivational speaker who focuses on disability awareness as a way of teaching students about differences. Sam also held a training with CP staff and a parent evening that was attended by parents/guardians from all three elementary schools.

Mrs. Corso's first graders have been practicing teeny-tiny subtraction problems. That is the problems are printed in a font so small they require a hand lens to read, and they are hidden in a picture. This playful activity is motivating students to practice their subtraction facts. Wow! They are getting fast at subtracting!

Robin Hood

Robin Hood School welcomed Mr. Sam Drazin on Tuesday, January 8, thanks to the Robin Hood PTO and the Stoneham Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Community. Mr. Drazin is an educator born with Treacher Collins Syndrome—a rare congenital disorder resulting in both facial anomalies and hearing loss. Through personal stories and photos, Mr. Drazin educated our students during two assemblies, a K-2 and a grades 3-4, on his disorder and the effect it has had on his life. His message of respecting and celebrating differences was conveyed to students in a thoughtful, meaningful way that they will not forget. We are grateful our community had the opportunity to meet Mr. Drazin.

Grade 3 students were excited to kick off their “Start Your Engines” unit in preparation for the upcoming English Language Arts MCAS test this April. Since third grade is the first year of MCAS testing, grade 3 teachers begin working with students in January to decrease test anxiety and help students feel prepared. The unit focuses on writing stamina, responding to reading and composing responses in Google docs, since the test will be completed on the Chromebook.

South School

Students that were “Caught being...” last week and before the break were: Dominic, Muhammed, Helen, Maya, Gavin, Amanda, Malik, and Kyleigh.

Last week we welcomed our new preschool students to the South! We also welcomed the new preschool staff: Mrs. Caitlyn Bowdidge (teacher), Mrs. Bethany Shinnick (ESP), and Ms. Victoria Benoit (ESP).

We also welcomed a few new teachers to the South staff: Ms. Gabrielle D’Avolio (first grade teacher), Ms. Alexa LoRe (3rd grade teacher), and Ms. Amanda Green (Title I Tutor).

We also had two enrichment programs here at the South. The whole school enjoyed Sam Drazin on Tuesday, and on Wednesday our 2nd and 3rd graders learned about Amelia Earhart.