

# Newton Public Schools

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## **Principals' Reports**

### **Newton High School - Jeff Waldron**

*Provide regular opportunities for teacher collaboration*

- My intention was to poll NJAC principals at last week's Board of Governors meeting as to how they provide their teachers with regular opportunities for collaboration. However, I was unable to attend, so will be surveying them through our Google group.

*Implement a research based academic intervention system to support at risk students*

- The guidance department and administrators met to discuss students who are at risk academically. The tiered system of academic support (TSAS) includes a universal screener as a means to identify at risk students particularly in math and English. We currently do not have a universal screening tool, so we used first marking period grades as our indicator.
- The guidance and administrative teams met to discuss all students who had received a failing grade in any course for the first marking period. At that meeting, we assigned each student an intervention and determined a date for a progress check to determine the effectiveness of the intervention.
- In some cases, the needed intervention was not clear so we have planned meetings with the student, his/her guidance counselor, an administrator and in some cases, a parent. The goal of this meeting is to gather more information that will lead to positive interventions.
- While our TSAS is still in the early developmental stage, we feel we can employ certain aspects of the system now to the benefit of students who are currently struggling. This also provides us with useful data we can use as we move forward in the development of a comprehensive TSAS.

*Other School News*

- Karen Mazur and I attended a Morris County Chamber of Commerce Education Committee meeting to view a presentation on the [Jobs for America's Graduates \(JAG\) program](#). The JAG Program "is a state-based national non-profit organization dedicated to preventing dropouts among young people who have serious barriers to graduation and/or employment." The NJ chapter of JAG boasts over a 90% graduation rate since 2012 in NJ's toughest schools. That is well above the average graduation rate for the rest of the school population. While we knew Newton would not be a good fit for the full JAG program, we did expect valuable takeaways for use with our struggling students. We came away with ideas to expand our structured work experience course and enhancing our community partnerships through our relationship with the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce.
- Our STEM Academy hosted an open house breakfast to celebrate the rebranding of our program. Many of our community partners who are affiliated with the Robotics program attended and had the opportunity to see how Robotics fits into our overall programing. Special thanks to Senator Steven Oroho for sponsoring our breakfast buffet.
- We hosted an Open House for our community on Tuesday of this week. We had approximately 150 guests who had the opportunity to hear and see what makes Newton High School a special place. This year's program began with an overview in the auditorium and then took our guests on a tour. The tour was not designed to show off our building but was designed to highlight our programs. We offered guests the opportunity to learn about our core academic programs, our sports and activities, our library, and our elective based programs (Ag, Business, and STEM Academy). We were happy with the program

but are expecting to grow and develop each year. We came away with some great ideas for 2019.

- On Wednesday of this week, I was a guest at the Newton Rotary Holiday Luncheon to enjoy a performance by our Honors Choir under the direction of our own Ashley Foster. By all accounts the performance was one to be remembered. I am excited for our holiday concert on December 13th and look forward to watching our students grow and develop under Ms. Foster's direction.

### **Merriam Avenue School - Kevin Stanton**

- At a school-wide meeting last month the faculty discussed the implications of our commitment to student centered learning. We decided to look into our current school practices to identify how we can better align those practices with our values - to educate the whole person and to differentiate instruction to meet the unique needs of each child.
- Over the next few months we will be discussing our current report card and grading practices. We are going to start by looking at three key questions: 1) What information should be communicated in a report card? 2) Who are the audiences for the information? 3) How can and should the information on the report card be used? Our goal in answering these questions is to prioritize what gets taught and assessed and to explicitly communicate a comprehensive picture of our program to parents.
- Re-evaluating how we think about grading and the reporting of student achievement is a multi-step process that will need to include input not only from school personnel, but the entire school community. Subsequent meetings will seek out that input.
- In December / January, all classroom teachers will begin their second round of student assessments: 1) to identify growth from the beginning of year starting points, and 2) to identify skills to be targeted in Guided Reading and Math groups. In Math we will use the mid-year Boulder Assessment and in Reading, a Running Record with miscue analysis. Both assessments are designed to allow teachers to observe student problem solving and thinking when confronted with math and reading tasks. In addition to the observational assessment, third and fourth grade teachers will be using the i-Ready computer based assessment in Math to further identify skills for targeted and individualized classroom instruction.
- I will be meeting with each teacher K-4 at the end of January to help identify patterns in their results. I will also work with the fourth grade teachers to correlate their classroom assessment data with their students' assessment data from last year's third grade PARCC test.
- In Choose 2 Connect, we have partnered with the high school to provide homework help for C2C students and to support reading and literacy. High school students help support C2C teachers during the academic enrichment hour by helping with homework and providing tutoring. In the Just Read program, our Reading Teachers and high school students read high interest books on a variety of topics with groups of students.
- We are expanding aftercare to include preschool students in January, and are currently in the process of licensing as a childcare center so that our families can receive an income-based subsidy to defray the cost of aftercare.

### **Halsted Middle School - Kristi Greene**

*Increase student achievement in English Language Arts and Math as shown by lexile/quantile growth.*

- Specific Targets: Students with disabilities and students who meet the requirements to receive ELA/Math support/intervention, and students at risk of failure.
- Progress:
  - Generation Ready Professional Development
    - On November 20, Harriette Grosvenor met with all teaching staff during unit meetings to discuss pre-planning required for small group activities; and debriefing with questions and concerns after implementing a small group activity
    - On December 18, Harriette will provide staff with individualized coaching sessions to do one of the following: plan a small group lesson; observe a small group lesson; co-teach a small group lesson.

*Implement research based behavioral and social emotional multi-tiered interventions to improve climate and culture and increase academic achievement.*

- Specific Targets: Implement Tier II and Tier III behavioral interventions
- Progress:
  - November's behavioral incentive [Halsted 5 Flood](#) winner are as follows:
    - Week One: 6th Grade
    - Week Two: 8th Grade
    - Week Three: 5th Grade
  - December is an activity incentive month. Students will collect Halsted 5 tickets in order to buy their way into the activity of their choice.
  - Counseling services continue within the school day or directly after school by Youth Advocate and private counselors to provide individual counseling for students to teach replacement behaviors.

*Other School News:*

- December 5th: Bring Your Parent to School Day: [Pictured Here](#)
  - Students ate breakfast with their parents and guardians and then took them to class for two periods.

**Directors' Reports**

**Preschool & Special Education - Jennifer Pasquali**

- Total CST students
  - PSD: 30
  - MAS: 83
  - HMS: 74
  - NHS: 101
  - OOD: 12
- Students currently being evaluated
  - PSD: 2
  - MAS: 2
  - HMS: 0
  - NHS: 0
- Special education students moved into or out of the district:
  - MAS: 5 In, 2 Out
  - HMS: 4 In, 1 Out
  - NHS: 2 In, 1 Out
  - OOD: 1 In, 0 Out
- ELL
  - MAS: 24
  - HMS: 9
  - NHS: 30
- Homeless
  - There are a total of 27 homeless students; 6 of the homeless students are Newton residents; 1 student is at Carrier Clinic, 2 are attending their home districts, and all the rest are attending Newton Schools.
- Preschool: Expansion plans are underway and implementation start date is January 2nd. An informational parent meeting was held on December 13th and was well attended with details of the program being shared out. All preschool staff have been hired, and the teachers are preparing to move in on the week of December 17th.
- MAS BD: After reading the book, Winn Dixie, students recreated a bottle tree that they read about in the book. The students had to create their own bottle tree with quotes about what habits, behaviors and lessons they have learned to change or do better in the past year. ([Bottle Tree](#))
- NHS MD: The Holiday Tea was held on December 7th and was open to parents and alumni. The students baked an amazing array of cookies for parents, students, and staff to enjoy. ([Cookies](#)) ([Group Photo](#)).

Students from the MD and LLD programs will be joining friends from several area school districts for a holiday dance at the Lafayette House on December 14th.

- DLM: 2019 Spring Window: 4/03 - 5/24
- PARCC: PARCC accessibility features and accommodation are being reviewed for upload.
- Bilingual Education: Responsibilities are transitioning to Kenney Lutz.

### **Security & Character Education - Samantha Castro**

With the assistance of the Newton Police Department and High School staff, the December 3rd reunification drill with Halsted's 5th grade was viewed as a positive experience. The Administration was grateful for everyone's cooperation, dedication, and professionalism throughout the drill.

#### *Halsted*

- On December 19th, the 8th Grade Mentoring Group will visit the High School to participate in their annual Gingerbread House Making Contest. This event will focus on relationship building and facilitate a smoother transition to the high school.
- The Climate Team met on December 19th to discuss the state of the building from September to December and to plan initiatives for the new year.
- The 8th grade Strong and Smart Students (SASS) as well as the 5th-8th grade CAP programs will be wrapping up their first half of the year initiatives with the end of December and will be looking forward to implementing new initiatives with the coming new year.
- The Choir spread holiday cheer throughout the community as they entertained senior citizens at a holiday banquet, and helped holiday shoppers get into the spirit as they sang carols at Shop-Rite.

#### *Merriam*

- School climate team met to discuss the implementation of new school initiatives for the new year. Developing our peer mentoring program to kickstart over the week of The Great Kindness Challenge at the end of January
- The school counselor and social worker completed the first round of Tier 2 group intervention. Data will be evaluated and assist with generating progress reports.
- The first round of yoga is complete, and will start up soon for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades.
- The Mitten Tree Program is in full effect. Students will again fill out paper mittens with gender/size for staff members to purchase for donation.
- December counseling classroom lessons focused on the importance of empathy.
- Kicked off a partnership with the Weekend Bag organization to provide hygiene bags to our homeless population.

#### *High School*

- Peer leaders met at the start of December made and delivered holiday cards for residents in local senior living facilities.
- The November student of the month was awarded to Elijah Picaro and the staff of the month recognition went to Jim Hofmann.
- Ms. Bechtel attended the County ABS meeting at CFPC on December 4th.
- The School Climate Team met on December 5. Discussion topics covered:
  - No Student Eats Alone/Safe Space for lunch initiative.
  - Anti-foul language posters displayed throughout the building.
  - 2nd annual Staff Chili Contest on January 21.

### **Assessment & Bilingual Education - Kenney Lutz**

#### *Assessment*

- We had a meeting in early December and have all necessary steps in place internally to begin our preparation for the for the assessments. There are a few changes in format and duration regarding the assessments this year. They will be covered at the statewide training in February. Once covered and understood at the training, the updates will be reported out to the Board.

#### *Bilingual Education*

- A new approach is underway on bilingual education due to the increased numbers of our ELL population. A committee has been formed, including staff from all three buildings, that will meet regularly to stay on top of this new development. Along with the committee formation, a needs/wish list for each school has been created and a new budget for the upcoming year reflects those requests. The budget will be submitted on December 17 for review. There will be more to report going forward regarding our bilingual program.

### **Information Services - Mary Decker**

- Data Collections: ASSA submitted; State Assessment Registration submitted
- Follow each school on social media now. Great way to keep up to date with the many happenings in our district. Check out the Community Events & Fundraising pages.
- Preparing technology/software programs for the new preschool program starting January 2nd.
- Our Symbaloo page is being updated with more technology related links
- Merriam has started using iReady software program.
- NJSLA (formerly PARCC) Committee has meet and started preparing for spring assessment.
- Several teachers are piloting the use of large screen TV's in their classroom in place of more expensive smartboards.

### **Athletics & Student Activities - Ryan Hashway**

- Fall sports had twenty athletes make first team all-league, fourteen athletes made second team all-conference, and nineteen athletes were academic all-conference by maintaining a 3.5 GPA.
- Winter scrimmages have begun for most sports, while bowling, swimming, and ice hockey have just begun regular season competition.
- Ten student-athletes attended the NJAC Sportsmanship Summit on December 4 at Sussex Tech HS.
- Peer Leaders are aiding in the coordination of the eighth grade school visits.
- Robotics participated in the Season of Hope Toy Drive.
- Student Council participated in Stuff the Stocking.
- Interact Club is investigating the possibility of adding "Light the Candle" to its activities, which is monthly birthday cards to foster children.
- Head coaches continue to meet every other month. They are now laying the groundwork for an athlete of the month program.
- Winter sports:
  - Swimming – Girls 2-1; Boys 3-0
  - Ice Hockey – 1-2-1
  - Bowling – 0-2

### **Curriculum & Professional Development - Angela Dunbar**

#### *Curriculum*

Goal: Develop curriculum that strengthens student-centered learning to increase student achievement.

- Halsted
  - All of the content areas have completed 50% of Phase II.
  - The Halsted Middle School Instructional coach will attend a Math Modeling Professional Development Session at Lenape Valley High School. The purpose of this workshop is to dive into what this mathematical practice means and does not mean. Discussion will include examples and tasks that will help teachers identify when a math problem could be considered a modeling task
- High School
  - The director of curriculum will meet with the CLT members on December 17th to review department progress
  - The Social Studies department is working with Generation Ready to revise their curriculum and increase student centered learning in Social Studies. Session # 3 will occur on December 14 to

redesign course study in World History and U.S. History I and II Including the determination of unit number and selection of topics for each unit. The agenda is listed below:

- Review Sample Understanding By Design Social Studies units and Model Curriculum
- Selection/ Determination of Social Studies topics to be studied
- Review Social Studies Learning objectives and Standards
- Review current curriculum and determine number of units for each course. Ensure all Social Studies Standards are covered.
- Create the first Social Studies units in World History and U.S. History I and II

#### *Professional Development*

- The principals are organizing their schedules for the January in-service day.
  - Merriam will have professional development on Interpreting Observational Assessment & Individualizing Instruction - Tier 2 Practices
  - Halsted
    - Teachers will have the opportunity to participate in professional development sessions focused on small group instruction and collaborative group work.
    - Teachers will have the ability to collaborate with their content area to revise assessments and work on Phase II of the curriculum.
  - High School
    - Building coordinators and CLT members will collaborate with the principal regarding their professional development needs to determine the schedule of events during the in-service day.
  - Halsted and High School Visual and Performing Arts teachers will meet during the in-service day to discuss their curriculum units and pacing of skills.
- Ana Maniago attended a state roundtable to learn more about bilingual education in New Jersey public schools and ESL policy and practice.
- Angela Dunbar sent an email to all Newton Public School employees to inform them of her new role as Director of Professional Development and were asked to email Angela if they would like information that the district receives about upcoming professional development opportunities.

#### **C2C - Elysia Ochs**

##### *Goals*

- To provide high-quality education and enrichment programs that will enable students to improve academic achievement and promote positive behavior and appropriate social interaction with peers and adults.
- To establish collaborative relationships that offer opportunities for literacy and related educational activities to the families of participating students.
- To measure participants' progress and program effectiveness through monitoring and evaluating.

##### *Enrollment and Attendance*

- Merriam: 129 students registered; average daily attendance = 104
- Halsted: 211 students registered; average daily attendance = 98

##### *Community*

- C2C is partnering with Family Promise of Sussex County, a non-profit agency in Newton, which provides services to families in Sussex County who may be experiencing a housing crisis. Family Promise will provide two hours each week at Merriam and Halsted to offer a character education program for all C2C students starting January 2019. This program will support children with activities to strengthen individuals and families, build leadership, explore life skills, and have fun at the same time.
- The TREP\$ Marketplace, an entrepreneurial program for students in grades 4-8, will be happening on Thursday December 20th from 2:30-5:30 at both Merriam and Halsted. Students have worked hard to develop their business model, market their products, and are ready to sell to the community. This is a cash-only event open to the public.

#### **Facilities Services - Joe Van Kirk**

- The revised High School canopy bid opening will be held on December 18th.
- Halsted choral room sound panels were order on November 30 with a 5 week lead time. I will schedule the install when they arrive.
- Scheduled the repair on the fresh air intakes on C-Level for the week of December 17th, weather permitting.
- District office downstairs carpet install is scheduled for December 27th.

### **Building Coordinators Reports**

#### **Merriam Avenue School - Rose Lange, Nik Lasso, Scott Zymet**

*Goal #1: Foster social and emotional well-being and an academically engaged classroom environment through integration of research based character education and social/emotional interventions within the RtI framework*

- Physical Education - Students participated in station activities and were able to discover many pieces of PE equipment can be used in different ways in different settings. Students in grades 3 and 4 took part in their Pacer Test with the goal of enhancing their cardiovascular endurance.
- Art students are planning out their clay projects that will begin on their return from Winter Break.

*Goal #2: Close academic achievement gaps through implementing RtI practices and promote inclusionary educational practices for all students school-wide*

- Physical Education - Mrs. Hoffman's MD classroom comes to the gym twice a week for Adapted Physical Education. Students in her class also come to their homeroom specials and participate with their classmates and are able to work together with their classmates in a number of activities.

*Goal #3: Integrate digital learning and literacy into classroom instruction in order to enhance and individualize student learning.*

- World Language students are learning about the history of the Poinsettia Plant. They have been making and coloring beautiful poinsettia flower ornaments to bring home and to decorate our school's Christmas tree. Poinsettias are from Mexico, the Aztec used them for dye fabric and for medicine. Poinsettia flowers are also known as the flower of Christmas Eve. Joel Robert Poinsett, the first ambassador of the United States to Mexico, saw them as he was driving in the Mexican countryside and brought them to South Carolina in 1828. Poinsettias grow up to 15 feet tall in Mexico.
- Students are also playing Kahoot while learning about Christmas in World Language

*Goal # 4: Increase family and community involvement in school programs*

- The 4th grade chorus took trips to Newton Hospital and Bristol Glen on Friday, December 14th to sing for the residents and patients at each building. On Monday December 17th, 4th grade chorus students sang Run Run Rudolph live in studio at 102.3 WSUS. Their song was played at Merriam Avenue School for all of our students to hear.
- Art students provided decorations out of recycled materials and were present for the Newton Tree Lighting.
- Intramurals Club began on December 11th for 3rd Grade and December 13th for 4th grade and will continue to run on Tuesdays and Thursdays before school.
- The Specials Department participated in helping complete the Mitten Tree by purchasing a hat and gloves for students in need.

#### **Newton High School - Brian Bennington, Michael Grifone, Ana Maniago, Karen Mazur, Jake Mull, Brendan Scullin, Karen Seely-Nelson, Leesha Torppey**

##### **Career & Technical Education**

*Agriculture:*

*Student Accomplishments*

- At the National FFA Convention, 5 teams were awarded bronze in the following events: Ag Sales, Forestry, Floriculture, Livestock Evaluation, and FFA Creed.
- Students went to Longwood Gardens to see various plants and flowers. They are currently working on holiday flower arrangements for various customers, over 147 poinsettias were sold.

- In addition, they have completed their annual community service project for Merriam preschoolers where they packaged for those in need this holiday.

#### *Staff Accomplishments*

- Ms. Allen has just received the NJ Teacher's Turn the Key Award at the National Association of Agricultural Educators in San Antonio, TX.

#### *Other News*

- February 2019 students will be visiting Harrisburg Sports Show Trip and the Staff and Faculty Luncheon at the Ag shop.

#### *Foods:*

##### *Student Accomplishments*

- Students are having a gingerbread house competition. They have been working very hard because only one of them can win. The designs range from traditional houses to beach bungalows
- Students have been learning about balanced diets in regard to protein and fat. They have been calculating healthy consumption based on body weight and activity. They capped the lesson by creating their own protein bars.
- Students are currently having a Christmas cookie exchange between classes.

#### *Business:*

##### *Student Accomplishments*

- FBLA was very successful this year with 5 students qualifying for competition this upcoming March. Last year only 1 student qualified..

#### *Technology:*

##### *Student Accomplishments*

- Technology students competed in the State Hydrogen Fuel competition. Our students entered three different car designs. Out of about 50 cars, we placed 6th and 11th. We worked with the science department to learn how to use the reversible H2 cells.
- STEM robotics students are preparing for the January VEX robotics competition at Sparta HS.

## **English**

#### *Staff Accomplishments*

- Kristen Hauser has completed her master's degree.

#### *Professional Development*

- Diana Guerriero and Kristen Hauser continue to work closely by meeting frequently to keep the two Honors I classes as similar as possible.

#### *Other News*

- The Honors II classes made holiday cards for their pen pals that included original haikus or limericks.

## **Guidance**

#### *Student Accomplishments:*

- Recent college acceptances include Johnson & Wales, Pennsylvania State University, Western New England University, Moravian College, Oregon State University, West Virginia University, and Old Dominion University.
- Sophomore Elissar Abou-Jaoude has been selected as this year's Hugh O'Brien Leadership (HOBY) attendee.
- Juniors Ivy Nisler and Daniel Flores have been selected as this year's NJ Scholars Program Nominees

#### *Professional Development:*

- Lisa Bechtel attended a substance abuse presentation on Nov 28th, sponsored by the CFPC; and an ABS meeting on December 4th
- Lisa Casamassina and Michelle Herring attended a professional development event at St. Barnabas in West Orange, focusing on Social Media and Cyberbullying on December 6th.
- Karen Mazur attended an ELL best practices workshop at Franklin HS on December 5th. This day included an overview of Franklin's ELL class structure, visits to various classrooms, and an informational session provided by the NJ State DOE on requirements for instruction.

#### *Other News:*



- PSAT scores were returned to the sophomores and juniors who took the test in October. Students received their scores along with a presentation on how to interpret these scores.
- Administrators and guidance are currently planning the tour scheduled for all sending district 8th grade visits on January 8th and 10th.
- The 2018-19 Program of Studies is currently in review by building coordinators. This review will culminate in the 2019-20 version being ready to upload to our website when we begin the scheduling process.
- Sussex County Community College Director of Admissions Todd Poltersdorf met with students in concurrent classes on December 18 & 19. Mr. Poltersdorf outlined the procedure for registration for spring concurrent courses, and distributed necessary materials to interested students.

## **Health & Physical Education**

### *Student Accomplishments*

- The PACER test has been permanently implemented for all 9th graders during the first week of every month.

### *Professional Development:*

- Mrs. Jacobellis and Mrs. Steele attended the "Connecting the Continuum" Conference held at Perona Farms on November 29th. We learned about the most current drug trends and how to implement these studies into our Health classes.
- Mrs. Jacobellis attended the NJAC Sportsmanship Summit at Sussex Tech on December 4th.

## **Mathematics**

### *Professional Development*

- Members of the math department continue to work on the Algebra 2 curriculum scope and sequence and Atlas phase 2 development.

### *Other News*

- In Consumer Math, Mr. Iliff's class watched a documentary on "The Secret History of the Credit Card" and then will follow up with a credit project.
- PSAT results will be given to the students this week. Teachers will go over the practice test to see which problems were included on the most recent administration of the test

## **Science**

### *Professional Development*

- Meetings were held to discuss different ways to implement NGSS labs into the curriculum.

### *Other News*

- Science League teams have been meeting to prepare for the upcoming competitions.
- A discussion was held discussing the pros and cons of administering the exams at our school.

## **Social Studies / Visual & Performing Arts**

### *Other News*

- Coffey - Mock Trial team has continued to develop their case. Members just finished their dress rehearsal at the Sussex County Judicial Center this Tuesday. And are preparing for their competition season which begins on January 10th.
- Cuozzo - Honors Art will be mailing out their portraits from the Memory Project: portrait drawings for children in a refugee camp in Rohingya. Art students will be exhibiting work at the Newton Theatre and selling photographs at Charcoal Moon on Spring Street.
- Scullin - Auditions for *Newsies* have begun. A cast will be set over the winter break and rehearsals will begin in January.

## **World Languages**

### *Student Accomplishments*

- Spanish A Students worked on "Dia de Muertos" projects and created their first dialogue in Spanish
- Social Studies ELL students have been working in Maps and developed a project on Thanksgiving Day.
- Mrs. Adam's Spanish 2 CP students researched and taught their classmates about festivals in the Spanish speaking world and then prepared an authentic dish for the class to share.
- Mrs. Adam's Spanish 1 ACP students are creating a "poema en diamante" to describe themselves in Spanish.

- Mrs. Adam's Spanish 2 ACP students completed and presented Google Slides reality TV show application family presentations entirely in Spanish.
- German 1 students prepared slide presentations of German-speaking countries for their classmates.
- German 2 students will be preparing a 3 course meal and perform a skit in a restaurant as their culminating activity for the chapter.
- Mrs. Leone's French 4 wrote a story about what they used to believe when they were little using the imperfect tense
- Mrs. Maniago's Spanish 3 students designed a brochure in Spanish promoting school clubs and extracurricular activities.

#### *Staff Accomplishments*

- Mr Rueda was asked to be the guest speaker to the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony
- Mrs. Hannig-Eisenberger attended the Northern NJ American Association of Teachers of German fall meeting at Saint Peter's Prep in Jersey City. She is the secretary/treasurer of the chapter.

#### *Professional Development*

- Mrs. Hannig-Eisenberger attended the Syracuse University Project Advance Fall Meeting in New York City on December 14th. She and her German liaison and the director of SUPA went to the Austrian museum "Neue Galerie" and discussed ways to integrate art into the SUPA curriculum.
- On December 5th Ana Maniago attended the ELL Superintendent Institute North at Franklin High School Media Center sponsored by the NJ Department of Education. This institute will provide practical information that ELL teachers need to ensure that their instructional programs are set up for success. Workshop participants will be equipped with tools, resources, and strategies that they can use to survey their existing programs and identify opportunities for change.

#### *Other:*

- German Club sold advent calendars to celebrate the season.
- World Language Honor Society Induction Ceremony and Reception: New members were inducted into the Spanish, German & French honor societies on December 6th at 7pm. Two former NHS students, Ashley Gianni-Bradford and Andrew Cooney were guest speakers.
- The Multicultural Club had their monthly sale "TASTE OF THE WORLD"
- Spanish Club with Mrs. Gray-Revoredo and Mr Rueda as advisers, held a meeting for the holidays where the club made poinsettia flowers to bring home and they organized the annual fundraiser, Krispy Kreme doughnuts.
- Mrs. Leone had her French Club members create holiday cards to deliver to a local nursing home.

### **Halsted Middle School - Sue Desautels, Megan O'Mara, Joanne Nieman, Jean Perrier**

#### *Professional Development*

- Mrs. Zwarych went to a professional development day on ESL that discussed the importance of teaching grammar in purposeful ways, how to teach students what their learning targets are and how to reach them, and some strategies to use in assessment for English Language Learners.
- Our Universal Team met once again with Sharon Lohrmann on December 19th to review our fall behavioral data, set upcoming school goals, and to review our December 21st Incentive Day.

#### *Student Programming*

- On December 18th, the student-named "Jingle Bell Band", consisting of advanced 8th grade musicians, performed at the Newton Ronetco Shoprite to spread some holiday cheer to the greater community.
- Our Physical Education classes have been actively working and learning about strategies both on and off the field. Cooperation is key when it comes to strategies that we can use for the rest of our lives. Health classes are underway and students are creating an understanding for the importance of not only physical but mental and emotional well being as well. Officer Tosti has joined us again this year and is educating our 5th grade students in the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) program which takes place for ten weeks and culminates with a graduation ceremony.
- Mrs. Zwarych's ELL students are finishing a unit talking about what they like using different food. Her other group of students is learning different model words to talk about preference, how to make a polite request, and demonstrating different degrees of certainty.

- 5th grade gifted and talented students participated in a bridge building contest at High Point high school on November 29th. Halsted representatives were divided into teams with members from other participating schools from Sussex County. The goal of the competition was to create a bridge that would support the greatest load. While STEM concepts were highlighted all day, cooperation was fostered as team members worked to attack the challenge. Congratulations to Aidan Wortman whose team, the Strikers, placed 3rd overall.

#### *Student Accomplishments*

- Students of the Month - 5th Grade: Addison Hardin; 6th Grade: Max Maslowski; 7th Grade: Shiv Mehta; 8th Grade: Fabian Specht
- Students in art class and in Art Club participated in community service earlier this month by creating original ornaments to decorate the town tree. The Newton Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on December 7th. Many students participated in decorating the tree with homemade ornaments.
- A handful of 8th grade students helped students in our LLD room to create unique ornaments for the town tree (*pictures below*). This is part of a weekly special art class that Mrs. Del Vecchio and her lunch group holds in room G7.

