

Newton Public Schools

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Dr. G. Kennedy Greene
Superintendent

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Principals' Reports

Merriam Avenue School - Kevin Stanton

- Full-day preschool at Camp Auxilium started on January 2nd. Preschool aftercare also began, currently with seven students signed up.
- The faculty will be meeting on January 18 to discuss grades and reporting of those grades. We will be discussing 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.
- Classroom teachers have begun mid-year student assessments: The goal of these assessments is 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.
- I will be meeting with each K-4 teacher between January 28 and February 1 to help identify patterns in their mid-year assessment 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.
- I met with all third and fourth grade teachers who had assessed their students using the I-Ready Diagnostic. We are looking at grade level and classroom patterns of results and identified geometry as an area in need of focus.
- Alignment between whole group and small group instruction was also discussed and our definition of small group instruction was expanded to include the understanding that small group instruction ought to be flexible in terms of duration and groupings. It ought to be based on the presenting learning needs of students as defined by relevant and on-going assessment in conjunction with the priorities for the developmental stage of the student.

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 with Harriette Grosvenor
 - December 18 - Harriette met with teachers based on teacher request
 - Nine teachers met with Harriette to plan for small group instruction
 - Two teachers asked Harriette to observe their small group lesson and received feedback following it. One teacher asked that Harriette later co-teach a small group lesson in order to observe her interactions with students
 - January 21st In-Service
 - Small group instruction planning time with Harriette Grosvenor
 - Phase II Curriculum Work

- Administration is investigating the ability to schedule students for a blocked period of about 80 minutes each day for mathematics (approximately 400 minutes per week) in the 2019-2020 school year. We participated in a survey requested by the Sussex Wantage district regarding the current number of minutes of math instruction per day. [See survey results here.](#)

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:
 - December was an activity incentive month. Students will collect Halsted 5 tickets in order to buy their way into the activity of their choice.
 - Students were surveyed to see what activities they might be interested in for incentive day. ([survey results](#))
 - Activities included: popsicle stick ornaments, movies, escape room, computer games, Just Dance, zumba, basketball, minute to win it activities, football, and lip sync ([Photos](#))
 - Counseling services continue within the school day or directly after school by Youth Advocate and private counselors.
 - Providing individual counseling for students in order to teach replacement behaviors
 - Family counseling services were provided for one family
 - Additional group counseling services are being pursued.

Newton High School - Jeff Waldron

Provide regular opportunities for teacher collaboration

- I will be meeting with interested staff members as well as creating an ad hoc committee on scheduling during the January 21st inservice. The goal of that meeting will be to examine scheduling options that will allow for regular PLC time. We have gathered viable options through a combination of investigation and polling other high schools.

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

- The guidance department and administrative team combined to discuss intervention options for each of the 96 students who received at least one failing grade in the first marking period. Each student was assigned a new intervention or will continue with existing ones that have generated positive results.
- Michelle Herring, Brian Bennington, and I will be meeting next week to alter our recordkeeping system to include the ability to track and record student progress after interventions have been implemented.

Other School News

- A Pompton Plains based church (with which Karen Mazur is affiliated) organized a fundraiser to donate personalized Braves sweatshirts to our ELL student population. The picture below includes only our "beginning" ELL population. An additional 9 intermediate level ELL students also received sweatshirts.



- We have 17 seniors who will be utilizing the portfolio process as a means to fulfill the graduation requirement of competency in ELA and mathematics. As you may recall, the portfolio process is utilized by students who did not demonstrate competency on the state assessment or one of the state approved alternate assessments. Portfolio classes will begin with the transition to the second semester at the end of this month.
- Our 9th grade ELA and mathematics teachers will be meeting with their 8th grade counterparts from all three districts. The specific agenda will be built collaboratively by participating members, but the overarching goal will be to discuss supporting a positive transition from middle to high school in those content areas. Our plan was to meet during the January 21st in-service, however, Green will be utilizing a half day schedule with students so we may need to choose another date.
- On a related topic, I reached out to the middle school principals of the three districts to arrange a meeting with the same overall goal of smoothing the transition into high school. All three principals have agreed to meet and we will again build a specific agenda using a shared document.
- I will be meeting with Karen Mazur, JoAnn DaSilva, and Michael Grifone to discuss plans for a career fair this spring. Hosting a career fair to expose students to local and extended career options has been a backburner topic of discussion for the past several years. This year we have decided to move it to the frontburner. I will keep you posted on our progress.

Directors' Reports

Security & Character Education - Samantha Castro

Halsted

- Guidance met with the CFPC for the purpose of planning five new groups, which will begin meeting this February. All will offer social and emotional support to those students.
- On January 14th the eighth grade class along with a cross-section of teachers will be participating in Challenge Day. This full-day program will be facilitated by two external counselors with a focus on developing leadership and social-emotional skills. The development of these skills can be measured and reflected in a higher level of intellectual flexibility, task leadership, emotional control, self-confidence, and social competence of those students involved.
- Guidance will visit students during Social Studies classes to facilitate age-appropriate discussions focused on identifying individual triggers and how to make good decisions in stressful/emotional situations.
- Professional Development: Guidance will be attending the third in a five-part series with NJPBSIS. The focus of this presentation will be Function Based Problem Solving for Students Engaging in Repeated Behavior Problems: Day 1.

Merriam

- We are focusing on kindness throughout the month of January
- Kindergarten and 1st grade have weekly lessons about what it means to be kind and how to show kindness throughout school, home, and the greater community.
- 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade will have guidance lessons on kindness and empathy.
- We will participate in the Great Kindness Challenge (GKC) that will take place during the week of January 28th, during which students will see an assembly by the JLine Dance Crew

High School

- Recently we hosted 8th grade tours for Green, Andover, and Halsted. This event was led by our Peer Leaders and highlights the various opportunities for the whole student that awaits these young Braves.
- #TAG mentors rang in the new year with identified 8th graders in need of peer support. The exercise at hand was the annual Gingerbread House Contest. With innovative thought and execution the homes were a success and so was the interaction among high school students with the middle schoolers.
- We are hosting Jeff Veatch to speak with our students about substance abuse. In 2008, Mr. Veatch lost his 17-year-old son, Justin, to an accidental drug overdose and knows the struggle all too well. Jeff's multimedia talk, "A Message from Justin", walks audiences through his first-hand experience of losing a

loved one to overdose and how prevention and early intervention are possible with the right knowledge. He will present 2-assemblies, and push into Health classes to follow up with in-depth discussion.

- Professional Development:
 - Dr. Castro attended School and Campus Preparedness, Response, and Recovery to Active Shooter Incidents on January 9 at Montclair State University.
 - Ms. Bechtel will attend the Sussex County SAC meeting on January 11 at CFPC.
- The School Safety Climate Team will meet on January 31. The SSCT will sponsor Be a Part of a Team, where students and staff will dress in sports apparel on February 4.

Assessment & Bilingual Education - Kenney Lutz

Assessment

- The testing committee has a meeting on January 14th to review all PNP work and update anything related to our school base testing plan that needs to be adjusted. We have also registered to attend the State required training related to the assessment this year. That training takes place in mid-February. An update related to that experience will be forwarded in the next report.

Bilingual Education

- A budget for the upcoming year has been constructed and submitted reflecting the needs and growth in this area. All schools had the opportunity to weigh in and express their concerns and needs moving forward. A comprehensive approach towards Bilingual Education will be the focus moving forward to ensure all of the needs of the students and staff will be addressed and met in the best way possible.

Information Services - Mary Decker

- Six staff members from all three schools attended the NJECC Conference. Michele Schmitz was the keynote speaker bringing her message of Creativity in the EPIC School to the audience. Nik Lasso and Erin Marmara presented sessions that resulted in comments including “outstanding presentation” and “I will use this tomorrow.”
- Technology for preschool at Camp Auxilium is up running with smartboard installation to follow this month.
- NJSMART has a new submission called Performance Reports that is due at the end of January.
- Erin Marmara is attending workshops to receive her Google certification.
- We have created a new Google community group for Newton staff to share requests, ideas, plans, etc. throughout the entire district.
- NJSLA accommodations have been exported from PowerSchool to be reviewed by CST and then imported to Pearson.

Athletics & Student Activities - Ryan Hashway

- Our wrestling program hosted the 14th annual Henry Boresch Duals. Five of the eight schools that competed in this iconic event were in the top twenty in the state.
- The High Point girls basketball team will honor Whitney Dugan during their “Pretty in Pink” game at High Point on January 19. While the Newton girls team is not competing in this game, they will be there to support Ms. Dugan.
- Girls Basketball won the varsity and junior varsity inaugural Somerville Holiday tournament.
- Wrestling placed third as a team at the John Goles Tournament at Warren Hills. Wyatt McCarthy, Nathan Fitt, and Luke Fisher were all crowned champions.
- Wyatt McCarthy earned his 100th career win.
- Peer Leaders participated in the eighth grade school visits.
- On January 19th and 20th, our girls and boys basketball teams will be participating in the Hopatcong Showcase.
- Winter sports:
 - Swimming – Girls 5-1; Boys 6-0
 - Ice Hockey – 3-9-1
 - Bowling – 2-7

- o Girls basketball – 6-0
- o Boys basketball – 3-5
- o Wrestling – 5-3

Curriculum & Professional Development - Angela Dunbar

Curriculum

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

- The NHS Social Studies department is working with Generation Ready to revise their curriculum and increase student centered learning in Social Studies. The agenda for the session that occurred on January 8 is listed below:
 - o Questions and concerns about the unit design
 - o Review Sample unit and analysis of findings
 - o Revision of social studies units with the aid of comments provided by the consultant on participants' submitted units for US1, US2 and World History
 - o Creating units using UBD - Unit 2 showcase
 - o Q&A Synthesis and Closing
 - o Exit Ticket: What support do you need in order to help you complete the unit you are presently designing (time/resources/ etc.)

Professional Development

- New teachers and staff have received their Safe Schools training programs
- Halsted's assistant principal, instructional coach, LDTC and school psychologist attended Part I of a three-part Tier III system of support training for behavior.
- Halsted math teachers received training on the use of Affirm, which is a math digital assessment and practice tool. Affirm provides instant grading and a number of analytics and reporting tools to help track student progress over time.
- January 21 In -Service Day
 - o Merriam has their in-service day plan complete
 - o The middle school and high school are finalizing their schedule of events

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: 130 students registered, average daily attendance = 110
- Halsted: 213 students registered, average daily attendance = 101

Community

- Thorlabs will be sponsoring two Girls on the Run teams of 15 girls each at Merriam and Halsted,, respectively. Girls on the Run is a life skills program that teaches girls to understand themselves, value relationships, and connect to their community through interactive lessons and running games. Girls complete the program by walking, running, or skipping their way through a 5K at Lake Mohawk in Sparta with a running buddy that supports them. Running buddies are often staff members that are asked by the students. The donation will be submitted for approval at the next board meeting.
- Dr. Dan Stelluto, an independent evaluator hired by C2C, will be visiting Merriam and Halsted on January 14 and 15 to complete an initial evaluation of the program and its goals. A randomly selected group of student will also be electronically surveyed about their experience in C2C. He will also meet with various staff members and administrators during his primary visit.

Facilities Services - Joe Van Kirk

- The kiln projects at the High School and Halsted are finishing up. The new rooms are built and the electric to the kilns are installed. The final inspections from the town are scheduled for January 15.
- I am meeting with contractors to get quotes on projects on the facilities priorities spreadsheet.
- The carpet in the Board Office basement was installed over winter break to complete the drainage project.

Preschool & Special Education - Jennifer Pasquali

- Total CST students
 - PSD: 32
 - MAS: 83
 - HMS: 76
 - NHS: 102
 - OOD: 13
- Students currently being evaluated
 - PSD: 1
 - MAS: 3
 - HMS: 0
 - NHS: 0
- Special education students moved into or out of the district:
 - MAS: 2 In, 2 Out
 - HMS: 1 In, 0 Out
 - NHS: 1 In, 0 Out
 - OOD: 1 In, 0 Out
- Homeless
 - There are a total of 32 homeless students, 11 of whom are Newton residents. 1 student is at Carrier Clinic, 2 are attending their home districts, 1 is at First Impressions and the rest attend Newton Schools.
- Preschool: An open house at Camp Auxilium was held on December 28th and many parents and children came to see their new classroom and meet their teacher. Full day preschool, both GE and PSD, began January 2nd. The transition to full day went very well at both MAS and Camp Auxilium. ([Riding the School Bus](#)) ([Playground Fun](#)). I have received feedback from several parents that the children love their new classroom at Camp and are coming home very tired from a fun-filled day at school!
- MAS MD: On December 14th the NHS Football team visited our Adaptive PE Class. Fun was had by all. ([Scooter Fun](#)) ([Basketball Fun](#)). Integrated OT/Speech group enjoyed making dreidel cookies, Christmas shaving cream and following directions. ([Christmas Shaving Cream](#)) ([Cookies](#))
- Halsted MD. Mrs. Cooper transitioned to her new role as Master Teacher and Mrs. Jacqueline Elmo took over on January 2nd. She is enjoying getting to know her students and staff.
- NHS MD: The SWAP Holiday Luncheon/Dance was held at the Lafayette House on December 14th. The students had a wonderful day socializing with peers from neighboring high schools. ([Dancing](#)) ([More Dancing](#)) ([Mrs. Fusco Dancing](#))
- DLM: Spring Window is April 3 to May 24. Planning is in progress.
- PARCC: Accessibility features and accommodations for 504, IEP, and ESL students continue to be gathered, updated, and reviewed prior to final upload.

Building Coordinators Reports

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

World Languages

- *Student Accomplishments*

- A group consisting of German 3 and 4 students as well as French students went to Andover and Green Middle Schools to introduce the 8th graders to their language choices at NHS.
- Ms. Gray-Revoredo's Spanish 1 ACP wrote their first major essay entirely in Spanish: a 15 sentence, 200 word essay about the characters in the movie *Coco* using the vocabulary and sentence structures we have learned so far.
- Ms. Gray-Revoredo's Spanish 1 ACP researched, planned and presented a trip to an assigned Spanish-speaking country which included travel and accommodations, currency exchange, tourist sites to visit, *pasatiempos*/festivals/sports, geography and geographical features, the capital city, a souvenir to purchase, a typical meal/food dish, major exports and a drone video of the country and/or capital.
- Spanish 2 CP made digital flash cards of their vocabulary words. They are learning more verbs, verb phrases and more complex ways to communicate (adding on to Spanish 1 CP).
- French 4 created a story using the past tense and imperfect
- French 2 described the ideal sister and worst possible brother using chapter vocabulary
- French 1 presented the ideal classroom in the target language and played bingo using the higher French numbers
- SUPA Spanish students are reading *El Mio Cid*, the oldest Spanish epic poem preserved based on a true story. After reading it, the students will describe the role of *El Mio Cid* and the characteristics of the medieval Spanish society.
- **Staff Accomplishments**
 - Mrs. Hannig-Eisenberger was voted to remain the secretary and treasurer of the Northern NJ chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German for 2018-2019 at the fall meeting.
- **Other News**
 - Mrs. Leone had a guest speaker come to speak to the French and German clubs in order to create interest to serve as host families for the French students arriving this spring.

Health & Physical Education

- **Student Accomplishments**
 - Junior/Senior Health Classes are continuing through the end of the month
- **Staff Accomplishments**
 - Physical Education staff will be working on Phase II of Rubicon on January 21st In-service.
- **Other News**
 - Speaker Jeff Veatch will be speaking to the health classes as a follow up to his school assembly about his son who passed away from a heroin overdose

Science

- **Student Accomplishments**
 - The science league teams had their first competition and the highlights are as follows:
 - Teams
 - Biology 2 – 1st place
 - Chemistry 1 – 1st place
 - Chemistry 2 – 3rd place
 - Physics C – 1st place
 - Students
 - Michael Rizzo - Highest score in the county Physics C
 - AJ Intocia – Second highest score in the county Physics C
 - Ryan Penny – Highest score in Chem 1
 - Nick Saladino– Highest score in Bio 2
 - Gabby Guerrero – 2nd highest in Bio 2
- **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 regarding the pros and cons of administering the exams at our school.

Mathematics

- *Professional Development*
 - Teachers of Algebra 1 will be meeting with 8th grade teachers from the sending districts on the afternoon of the in-service to discuss curriculum, the transition from the eighth grade to the high school and other topics.
- *Other News*
 - Students in Ms. Gvoth's class created real world models of Sierpinski's Triangle using balloons to reinforce the understanding of fractals and iterations in mathematics.
 - Mr. Yeager's math league students completed their third test and continue to battle with Vernon for the top place in the county.

English

- *Professional Development*
 - Diana Guerriero, Kristen Hauser, Caitlin DiNunzio, and Karen Seely-Nelson will be traveling to Green Hills School for an articulation meeting among the three middle schools and the high school.

Social Studies / Visual & Performing Arts

- *Professional Development*
 - The Social Studies Department has completed day four of curriculum work with Generation Ready, refining the core courses offered.
 - *Other News*
 - Filan - On January 15, Mr. Filan and 22 criminal justice students spent a few hours at Newton municipal court speaking the judge and other members of the court and seeing some cases being heard.
 - Scullin - Newsies has been cast and is in full swing. We are looking to branch our advertising out to a Newton billboard and on television screens in two local diners.

Career & Technical Education

- *Agriculture*
 - Our Ag department has the NHS teacher of the year (Mr. Worth Christian)
 - 30 students are preparing for the annual Harrisburg Sports show this February.
 - Ag is hosting a college visit from UTI. All Ag and Tech students are invited. This will expose our students to an alternative path for success.
- *Foods*
 - Students are expanding on the proteins and fats. They are experimenting with different oils and healthy fats. (Chili, Bread)
 - 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.
 - International foods are sweeping through western Europe with crepes and boeuf bourguignon.
- *Business*
 - Sports management class is cooperatively learning with Centenary University sports management. They will put on a live event in the Spring.
 - FBLA was very successful this year, qualifying for states, We had 5 students qualify for competition this upcoming March, and increase of 4 students.
- *Technology*
 - Our students are just starting to prepare for the TSA state competition in March and April. The competitions range from fashion design to Architecture, to Engineering.
 - The TSA / Robotics STEM students competed in the January VEX robotics competition. We finished 36 out of 55 teams. That's not bad for our first attempt. Our students learned a lot. The experience was very valuable.

Guidance

- *Student Accomplishments*

- NHS seniors have received acceptances from the following colleges and universities: Rutgers University, Case Western, Towson, Drexel, Boston College, NJIT, Castleton, Albany College of Pharmacy, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, University of Tampa, San Diego State University, Indiana University at Bloomington,
- Professional Development
 - Lisa Bechtel attended the Sussex County SAC meeting on Jan. 11
- Other News
 - The department welcomed 8th grade students on January 8th (Long Pond and Green Hill Schools) and January 10th (Halsted) for their annual introductory tour of the school. The 8th graders started in the Auditorium with introductions and a Student Spotlight Presentation, featuring students from all walks of life. The Peer Leaders led tours through the building with stops to listen to presentations from academic and elective areas, including Visual & Performing Arts, 21st Century Life & Careers, and academic demonstrations including examples from a forensics crime lab.
 - The review of the 2019-2020 Program of Studies is now underway by Building Coordinators, Counselors, and Administrators.

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

Professional Development

- Mr. Bolen has recently been added to the school's Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS) team and is looking forward to utilizing data and the subsequent positive reinforcements that will help refocus troubled and at-risk students. As a member of the I&RS team, Joe will transport an expertise of data collection combined with a strong rapport with students of all demographics who face barriers within the learning process.

Student Programming

- Last month in Mr. Grzymko's math resource room classes, the students participated in a STEM challenge activity where they were given small marshmallows and toothpicks and were challenged to build the tallest holiday tree they could in around 20 minutes. Students were able to work independently or in groups; it was their choice. The winning tree stood 14 inches off the table and was created by 5th grader, Logan Gleason. Also during December all of his classes participated in the PNC Bank Christmas Price Index Challenge in class. The students were given all the items in the song the 12 days of Christmas and asked to guess what they believe each item would cost and then asked to find the total cost of Christmas.
- The 8th grade Art & Music classes for the 2nd Marking Period have combined on a collaborative project using music analysis, design, and watercolor techniques. Final projects can be seen posted outside of the Main Office starting next week.
- 5th-grade ELA classes are completing their L.E.A.D. essays in conjunction with the program their health classes. They are working hard at writing a solid introduction with a thesis and a proper conclusion with a strong final thought.
- 5th graders just finished up reporting out their Book Talks using Flipgrid. The students paired up and recorded with a partner in the library. The students are currently self-reflecting on this new technological approach to presenting. Overall, most found that this was a great alternative to traditional classroom presentation. It was a lot of fun, and Ms. McKnight was a huge help.

Students of the Month:

5th Grade: Harsh Brahmbhatt
 6th Grade: Celeste Gonzales-Landa
 7th Grade: Jazira Faines
 8th Grade: Rachel Borusiewicz

Student Service:

- On January 15th, Student Council members in grades 7 and 8 went to Town Center to socialize with residents. It is our hope that this will be a start to forming relationships with them, and plan regular visits, during which we provide tech help, play games, and enjoy conversation.

- Student Council is collecting new toothbrushes to support a NHS student who is running a toothbrush drive. We are hoping to get many donations so we can help her reach her goal.
- Student Council ran a 5th and 6th grade movie night on January 11th. Students enjoyed pizza, popcorn, drinks, and snacks while they watched *Incredibles 2*. What a fun night!

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 are participating in GoNoodle & Cosmic Kids Yoga during PE class. Students are learning the physical social and emotional benefits of Yoga. GoNoodle is known for promoting brain breaks in a way to re-energize students to benefit learning.
- 3rd grade students are working together in Art and Music for their Concert/Arts Night that has a theme of weather.

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

- Specials teachers will be participating in the Week of Respect and focus on teaching students the importance of being accepting of all students.

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

- World Language students are learning about traditions of Spanish speaking families for celebrating the New Year. Students are learning about traditions that will help bring a prosperous new year.
- Art students are learning about geometric shapes of antiquing from all around the world and are creating their pinch pots. Students are also learning about the history of pottery.
- The Project Fit America vote will be sent out district wide in late January. (see below)

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

- Intramurals Club is continuing to run on Tuesday and Thursdays for 3rd and 4th grade. Students are being introduced to team sports that are not played during PE.
- Merriam has been named a finalist for the Project Fit America contest in hopes of being selected as one of 4 winners for a grant that would include a new playground geared towards physical fitness. Links to vote for Merriam will be sent throughout the district as well as to local businesses in the community.
- The Winter Concert/Arts Night will be open to the community and projects will be on full display.