

Newton Public Schools

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Dr. G. Kennedy Greene
Superintendent

Dr. Alfred Savio
Business Administrator

Principals' Reports

Merriam Avenue School - Kevin Stanton

- Using the document we reviewed in March, each grade level will be identifying essential categories of skills in Math.
- The math intervention teacher and I met with a representative from Edulastic. Edulastic is a web-based platform that provides assessments and analytic capacities at the individual student, classroom, and school level. Assessments in literacy and math can be created from a certified bank of questions that are linked to academic standards. The representative demonstrated the analytic components of the program.
- I will be meeting with each grade level to explore the feasibility of using the Edulastic platform to create diagnostic and progress monitoring assessments for next school year. Questions can be linked to standards in the essential categories of skills identified at each grade level. Using the analytic tools available, teachers will be able to generate a report indicating student levels of mastery on specific standards. The goal for this school year is to generate a diagnostic assessment that can be used at the start of next school year. We will focus on developing math assessments this month.
- In April and May we will be developing a sequence of skills in Literacy and I will be meeting with all grade levels either this month or early next month to begin the process of enhancing and refining our diagnostic assessment capacity in literacy.
- Test proctors have been trained to administer the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment in ELA and Math.
- The All for Books Challenge will run from April 5 - 10. This year students will raise money by putting change or dollars into a jug with a teacher's picture on it. The teacher who has the most money raised will have to kiss a pig at the end of the week.
- The PTO Spring Book Fair will be from April 9-11.

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 on March 5th & 28th. Created a rubric with exemplars, aligned with our teacher observation tool. Used to assess small group instruction and collaborative group work in the 4th marking period
 - 75 Minute Block Professional Development Plan. Created a structure and materials to provide teachers with training in utilizing a 75-minute block

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:
 - The Halsted 5 focus for March was on behavior (respect, listening, prepared, responsibility, pride). April's focus will be on respecting school property will focus on chromebook care

- Mark Newman met with Grade Level Units this week to discuss function-based problem solving around engaging in repeated behavior problems regarding specific students
- Damian Petino met with grade level units to discuss the definition of some specific disabilities and how a disability manifests into a student's day-to-day functioning along with strategies to use and measures to avoid.

Other News

- Mallory's Army Presentation - [TapIntoNewton article](#) written by Halsted students, Piper V. and Mauve D.

Newton High School - Jeff Waldron

Provide regular opportunities for teacher collaboration

- The ad hoc scheduling committee will soon be meeting to discuss two options that will allow for regular teacher collaboration.
 - Option 1: Build the master schedule around predetermined common prep periods for all core content area teachers. For example, period 1 may be designated for math. As such, math teachers will not be scheduled to teach during period 1 allowing them to meet during that time. Period 2 may be designated as a social studies period, and so on. This option does not include regular collaboration time for all teachers.
 - Option 2: Design and implement a shortened period schedule similar to what is used for a delayed opening. The altered schedule will shorten the meeting time for all nine periods and create an opportunity for collaboration during the remainder of the school day. We currently run about 30 altered schedules throughout the school year to accommodate all types of special events (club meetings, AP test gridding, fall and spring play tease, and special speakers to name a few). If we consolidate these activities into less days for an extended period of time we may be able to create an opportunity for all teachers to meet periodically throughout the year while reducing the number of altered schedules implemented throughout the year.

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

- The guidance department and administrative teams will again combine forces to review third marking period grades as a means to evaluate the effectiveness of the academic interventions implemented for each student thus far. Third marking period grades are due April 9 so we will be meeting sometime after that date.

Other News

- You may recall from last month's report that Jenny Allen was named the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) New Teacher of the Year for the state of New Jersey. I am now proud to announce that Jenny was named the ACTE New Teacher of the Year for Region 1. Region 1 is comprised of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Congratulations Jenny and best of luck in the national competition!
- As you know, part of the initiative to enhance the effectiveness of our elective program is to expand our involvement in curriculum related competitions. To that end, our students have engaged in the following competitive events:
 - Thirteen members of our Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club attended the FBLA state convention. Over the course of the two day event, NHS students had the opportunity to participate in and observe several State level competitions and activities that will help guide their future development. Five FBLA students qualified for the State competition meaning they were in the top 16 in the state. One student placed 5th making him the first alternate for the national competition.
 - So far, three NHS agriculture teams have placed first in the state Career Development Event (CDE) competition with results still coming in. Our Farm & Agribusiness Management, Forestry, and Meat Evaluation and Technology teams are all state champions and eligible for national competition.
 - Our Technology Students Association (TSA) will be attending the New Jersey State TSA Conference on April 19th. We will have eighteen students competing in 28 events. Good Luck

Braves.

Directors' Reports

Curriculum & Professional Development - Angela Dunbar

Curriculum

Goal: Develop curriculum that strengthens student-centered learning to increase student achievement. Phase II includes assessments, instructional strategies, materials, and modifications.

- Mr. Waldron and Ms. Dunbar have scheduled time for CLT members and/or content area teachers to update Phase II of their curriculum. CLT members and/or the director of curriculum will assist with this process during the month of April.
- Halsted and Merriam are focused on Phase II of the curriculum writing process through May.

Professional Development

- The bus driver training plan will be revised in Safe Schools to align with the new regulation.
- As of April 11, the district's Safe Schools assignment compliance is 98%, which excludes outstanding assignments for substitutes. Building principals and directors received a Safe School report of staff members with outstanding assignments.

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: 139 students registered, average daily attendance = 127
- Halsted: 222 students registered, average daily attendance = 99

Community

- Students and C2C staff are set for Maker Day at Halsted on April 12. Students will be teaching others how to do the following activities: String Art, Making Ice Cream, How to Draw, Can You Guess This Riddle?, Mosaic Art, and Fun with Obleec to name a few. Maker Day is open to all C2C students, families, and friends from 3:00 pm until 5:30 pm.
- All C2C students have been invited to compete in a [C2C logo contest](#). All entries are due by April 15th. The winner's design will be printed onto C2C t-shirts.
- Girls at Halsted are participating in DreamGirls in Action. They recently completed the lesson titled: [What Does An Industrial Engineer Do For Vera Bradley?](#) The girls learned the importance of the 5s: sort, set in order, shine, standardize, and sustain through a timed search game applying one of the 5s to each round.

Facilities Services - Joe Van Kirk

- Met with appraiser to look at 57 Trinity St, 58 West End Ave, and 4 Gardner Ave to get market values.
- Took ESCO reps on walk through the district for energy audit.
- Construction on the Halsted nurse's office has begun.
- Met with EI Associates and contractors for the structural repairs needed on the High School Auditorium brick veneer and sealing the stairs over C-level entrance.

Preschool & Special Education - Jennifer Pasquali

- Total CST students
 - PSD: 34
 - MAS: 90
 - HMS: 74

- NHS: 97
- OOD: 14
- Students currently being evaluated
 - PSD: 2
 - MAS: 0
 - HMS: 2
 - NHS: 0
- Special education students moved into or out of the district:
 - MAS: 0 In, 3 Out
 - HMS: 1 In, 1 Out
 - NHS: 0 In, 1 Out
 - OOD: 0 In, 2 Out
- Homeless
 - There are a total of 39 homeless students; 16 of whom are Newton residents; 1 student is at Carrier Clinic, 1 is attending their home district, 1 is at First Impressions and all the rest are attending Newton Schools.
- Preschool: Open House was held on April 11 at Camp Auxilium. Mrs Cooper gave a presentation on the program ([Open House Presentation](#)). Thirteen families attended and registration is open for the 19-20 school year. This week is “Week of the Young Child”, an annual celebration hosted by NAEYC to spotlight early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities. Themed days included: Music Monday ([Mr. Tripoli Playing Guitar Video](#)), ([Music Monday at First Impressions](#)), Tasty Tuesday ([Tasty Tuesday Tacos](#)), Working Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday.
- Halsted Best Buds Club and Lunch Bunch: Students participated in a variety of activities last month including: St. Patrick’s Day Green Food Tasting, St. Patrick’s Day Catapulting Lucky Charms, Game Day, and taco lunch during Lunch Bunch. ([Pictures of Activities](#))
- Hasted MD: Students went to the YMCA to swim on April 2 and this will be a monthly trip.
- DLM: 2019 Spring Window is 4/3 - 5/24. Teacher training and student setup completed this week. Testing will begin the week of April 15. Eleven students will be participating in DLM this year in grades 3-11.
- PARCC: PARCC accessibility features and accommodations for 504, IEP, and ESL students continue to be gathered, updated, and reviewed prior to final upload.

Security & Character Education - Samantha Castro

We announced on April 11 that each school will begin using the Raptor visitor management system as of April 29 to increase campus safety for students and staff. A [letter](#) from Dr. Greene went out to all families.

Halsted

- On April 2nd, we celebrated “Light It Up Blue” for Autism Awareness Day.
- Tamara Taylor (5th), Alex Munoz Nava (6th), Nicole Morehouse (7th), and Franklyn Chocoj Flores (8th) were selected as the TRS Students of the Month.
- The School Safety and Climate Team’s (SSCT) next meeting is scheduled for April 30th.

Merriam

- The Pride Ambassadors’ service learning project is underway. They will teach students the importance of healthy eating and how to plant fresh vegetables and plants. Every student will plant basil in his/her own milk carton.
- Thanks to Cosmic Kids Yoga the 3rd and 4th graders have learned how to start the day in a calm and relaxed space. Unfortunately, the program is wrapping up the year.
- This month’s guidance lessons focused on a variety of topics from understanding feelings and relaxation techniques to choices and consequences, as well as rumors, gossip, and drama.
- The Book Fair will take place April 9th- 11th in the MAS library

High School

- SSCT met to review and begin the process to code the data to develop recommendations for next year’s programs.

- CFPC will provide training to the SSCT on how to effectively utilize the team with regards to program needs and execution on May 8th.
- Next SSCT meeting is scheduled for April 16th
- On March 31st, three peer leaders (Danny Flores, Ivy Nisler and Noelle Casperson) participated in the Center for Prevention & Counseling's "Celebrate Without Alcohol" poster/billboard/lawn signs campaign. The students will be featured in a photo along with other Sussex County students who have made the choice not to drink alcohol.
- Toby Wooldridge--Grade 10--was selected as a winner for the poster contest "Life is Your Journey, Travel Alcohol-Free." This contest was sponsored by the Sussex County Coalition for Healthy & Safe Communities. His poster will be featured in the New Jersey Herald.
- Danny Flores was selected to be the NJ representative for the YTAG (Youth Tobacco Action Group). Next meeting is April 10th.
- The Peer Leaders and Spanish Honor Society partnered up on April 10th in honor of Global Youth Day to make cards for hospitalized children in the U.S.
- A group of Peer Leaders and Peer Mentors will be participating in the March of Dimes walkathon on May 5th at the Sussex County Fairgrounds.
- April is Alcohol Awareness Month, an educational opportunity where Peer Leaders will read public service announcements during the week of April 15th.
- Sussex Tech hosted a vaping presentation entitled, "Seeing Through the Cloud," on March 29th that Lisa Bechtel attended and turn keyed to Guidance.

Information Services - Mary Decker

- DLM testing is setup and ready to start during the week of April 15.
- Halsted is employing an additional 30 chromebooks for use to replace some of the older damaged ones.
- SCCC has visited NHS to outfit one classroom with video conferencing equipment. This will enable students to take courses remotely offered by the college. Additionally, the room could be used for other distance learning opportunities
- The Raptor visitor management system will go live upon students' return from Spring Recess on April 29. Visitors to the schools will be required to provide an ID. The ID will be checked against various databases and if cleared, the visitor will be permitted entry.
- The district has been notified from our internet provider that as of July 1, they will cease doing business in NJ. We are developing a RFP to search for a replacement.
- We are working on configuring the new phone system for a projected deployment in May.
- Merriam is exploring standards based electronic report cards for grades K-4.
- Staff have been using the Educational Impact software for online professional development.
- Jill Aquino has been streamlining her nursing procedures through use of Google Drive.
- We are continuing exploration of software programs used throughout district in an effort to streamline the use and cost to be more effective and efficient.

Assessment & Bilingual Education - Kenney Lutz

Assessment

- There is not much to report here as there has been little change since the last update. All testing schedules are set and the staff has been trained in all three buildings. Testing groups are established and the final plans for moving toward test administration are in place. All testing materials have been received from the state and were distributed to all of the school's test coordinators. We are just awaiting the start date for the assessments to begin. The only change from last year to this year is that 11th grade students do not have to take the assessment.

Bilingual Education

- The Access Testing for the District is now complete for all three schools. There were no problems to report related to this assessment and all students completed the tests on time. All materials have been sent back and we are all set with this assessment for the year. We look forward to using our new personnel resources to provide for the growing number of ELL students who have come to us.

Athletics & Student Activities - Ryan Hashway

- Winter sports had ten athletes named first team and fifteen athletes named second team all-conference. Sixteen athletes were recognized as academic all-conference by maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or higher.
- Eric Bollette earned NJ Herald Wrestling Coach of the Year
- Girls Basketball earned NJ Herald Team of the Year. Lisa Casamassina earned NJ.com NJAC Conference Coach of the Year.
- Girls and Boys Swimming both earned NJ Herald Teams of the Year. Jessica Jacobellis earned NJ Herald Coach of the Year.
- The athletic department is currently planning the thirteenth Disque Rampone relays, an annual event.
- Michael Rizzo will be representing NHS at the May 19 NJSIAA Scholar-Athlete Luncheon.
- Spring Sports:
 - Baseball – 13-3
 - Softball – 10-8
 - Girls Track – 5-0
 - Boys Track
 - Boys Tennis – 2-9
 - Boys Lacrosse – 5-8
 - Golf – 11-1

Building Coordinators Reports

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

Career and Technical Education

Agriculture

- The official results are in for the six Career Development Events that have taken place over this past week.
- Horse Judging placed 5th in the state with team members Shelby Perna placing 9th, Cassidy Viersma 17th, Jordan Sliker 18th and Peter Weissensee 21st.
- Agricultural Sales placed 1st in the state with team members Kirk Avondoglio 1st, Eddie Baldwin 5th, Sarah Phillips 8th and Vinnie Cercione 12th.
- Environmental and Natural Resources placed 1st in the state with team members Grant Parker 1st, Travis LeMasson 2nd, Sal Zonca 7th and John Viersma 8th.
- Floriculture placed 2nd in the state with team members Paige DeVenezia 8th, Michelle Zaremski 14th, Haley Alborano 16th and Shelby Perna 22nd.
- Nursery Landscape placed 3rd in the state with team members Dominik Gruca 3rd, Donovan Hetzel 15th, Jordan Sliker 19th and Aden Sathuthiti 23rd.
- Veterinary Science placed 5th in the state with team members Matthew Kuever 17th, Ilira Mecaj 19th, Cassidy Viersma 21st and Skylar Grosche 23rd.
- Congratulations again to all teams and best of luck to the Agricultural Sales and Environmental and Natural Resources teams who will be heading to Indianapolis, IN for the National FFA Convention in October.

Foods

- Mexican style eating in international foods. Tortillas, burritos, Mexican rice with churros.
- Going to Lake Mohawk for a tour of their facilities and to meet their kitchen staff.
- Nutrition is exploring poultry and the benefits of the different parts of the bird. Chicken parm, chicken soup, and oven fried chicken.

Business

- Last month, students from our Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competitive club, competed in the NJ State Competition and attended the leadership conference in Atlantic City.

- We had some students perform amazingly in the state level competition, including 3 students who scored high enough in their competitions to be invited to represent New Jersey as alternates at the national competition in San Antonio at the end of June. These students are:
 - Danny Flores for Business Law.
 - Nicolette Occhifinto for Organizational Leadership.
 - Owen Power for Agribusiness.

Technology

- Technology students competed last Saturday in the State TSA events. We brought more students and competed in more events than last year.
- Congressman Josh Gottheimer made a visit to the STEM Lab to discuss the available broadband capabilities in Sussex County and to congratulate the Robotics Team on their efforts and success through the past ten years.

English

Student Accomplishments

- Michael Toepfer won an award at Teen Arts.

Other News

- Nineteen sophomores have registered for AP Language and Composition for their junior year. Currently the course did not have enough student interest to run.

Guidance

Student Accomplishments:

- Congratulations to Elissar Abou-Jaoude, Luke Bandel, and Emily Matlaga, who have been selected as participants in Lehigh University's Summer Engineering Institute. This is a two-week program where they will live on campus and study with Lehigh professors as they participate in group projects and STEM challenges.
- Daniel Flores has been selected to participate in the New Jersey Scholars Program: *Mind and Body: The Future of Being Human*. This is an intensive academic program for 39 of the most intelligent, outgoing, and highly motivated students.
- Congratulations to Greg Nappa who recently participated in the All-Eastern Honors Choir program.
- Congratulations to the following juniors who have been selected to represent us at Boy's State in June: Daniel Flores, Owen Power, Peter Van Orden and Steven Ward (Delegates), and Luke Kerrick and Kellen Miller (Alternates).

Professional Development

- Lisa Bechtel attended the Sussex County SAC meeting on April 12.
- Michelle Herring attended a concurrent course presentation at Centenary University, in order to prepare for our relationship for the 2019-2020 school year.

Other News

- The Guidance Counselors administered the ASVAB to 52 students on April 11.
- The annual Scholarship Awards Program is in full swing. Scholarship information was released to all seniors through email, Naviance, and announcements.
- Student requests for courses for the 2019-2020 school year are complete. Course request tallies are in the hands of the Building Coordinators for staffing review. Master Schedule building will begin after Spring Break.

Health & Physical Education

Student Accomplishments

- All freshman have completed health for the year.

Staff Accomplishments

- SGO's have been completed

Professional Development

- All P.E. staff were present for a curriculum/Atlas meeting (April 1st). At the meeting they learned what was expected for the next step in Atlas. Mrs. Jacobellis and Mr. Parzero will be entering the appropriate information.

- Mr. Parzero attended Rutgers for a professional day. He received up to date information on football and strength and conditioning.
- Staff attended PLC (March 19th & 20th) related to Pearson training and the NJSLA.

Other

- Mrs. Rimassa has returned from her maternity leave.

Mathematics

Professional Development

- Members of the math department continue to update the Algebra 2 curriculum and scope and sequence.

Other News

- Department members met on April 12 to work on curriculum

Science

Student Accomplishments

- Team Results of the April Science League Competition - Chem 1: 1st in the county; Bio II: 1st in the county; Physics C: 1st in the county; Environmental Science: 1st in the county; Bio I: 2nd in the county.
- Individual Results of the April Science League Competition - Ryan Penny: 1st in the county in Chem 1; Alexa Taranova-Bunda: 2nd in the county in Chem 1; Nick Saladino: 1st in the county in Bio II; AJ Intoccia: 1st in the county in Physics C; Bridget Guziewicz: 1st in the county in Environmental Science.

Staff Accomplishments

- Jake Mull was selected as the Pass It Along Most Inspiring Teacher for the 5th year in a row.

Social Studies / Visual & Performing Arts

Student Accomplishments

- Our Art students had an excellent showing at this years Teen Arts Festival at the Sussex County Community College. Several students had work chosen to be shown at other Art Shows around the county. The list includes:
 - The PAC at SCCC: Daniel Zimmerman, Riley Catalano, Erin Smith, Grace Raddi
 - The C Gallery at SCCC: Kassondra Van Houten, Milton Salam Tiul, Alyssandra Rezza, Avery Caico, Felicia Artrip, Gabrielle Zukowski, Maddie Chymiy, Karla Proano Valverde, Andrew Carlson
 - The Encore! Gallery: Andrew Carlson, Maddie Chymiy, Gabrielle Zukowski, Milton Salam Tiul, Alyssandra Rezza, Daniel Zimmerman, Riley Catalano
 - The Gallery at Bristol Glen: Felicia Artrip
 - The Judicial Center: Paige Strangeway
 - The New Jersey State Teen Arts Festival: Erin Smith, Grace Raddi

Staff Accomplishments

- The Social Studies Department is completing their work entering any remaining data into Atlas.

Other News

- Bollette - Psychology classes recently concluded their dream interpretation projects
- Filan - In Criminal Justice, we had Sergeant Bambara from the New Jersey State Police come in and speak to the class about the 4th Amendment.
- Moretz
 - Western Civilization II Honors students completed lessons, activities, primary sources and assessments on the Enlightenment, enlightened despots, and the American and French Revolutions. They continued independent research on the Salem Witch Trials in preparation for writing a critical analysis research paper.
 - World History CP and ACP students completed lessons, activities, primary sources, and assessments on the French Revolution and the Age of Napoleon and they began the Industrial Revolution. Also completed were absolute monarch battles (debates) and self-assessments.

World Languages

Student Accomplishments

- Mrs. Adam's Spanish 1 ACP students created 3 *prix fixe* menus in Spanish using Google Slides.
- Mrs. Leone's French III students wrote an essay about housework using several verb tenses.
- Mrs. Leone's French II completed an integrated performance assessment for their food unit.

- Mrs. Leone's French I students finished up their study on the many ways to form questions in French.
- Mrs. Maniago's ELLs completed Google Slides using information from their classes.

Staff Accomplishments

- Mrs. Adam and Mrs. Leone completed their SGO's.

Professional Development

- Mrs. Adam has been participating in weekly discipline committee meetings.
- The department finished Phase 2 of Atlas Rubicon curriculum.

Other

- Mrs. Maniago and Mr. Rueda took the English Language Learners to the Liberty Science Museum on April 5th.

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

Professional Development

- On April 4th, eight staff members participated in CPR training that was organized by Carol Marinaro.
- Mr. Bolen has been exploring the realm of flipped classroom learning with a string of videos that have taught students how to write a literary analysis in preparation for the New Jersey Student Learning Standards Assessment. On each of the three videos, Mr. Bolen explained the general functions of each type of paragraph – introduction, body, and conclusion – and also wrote an example so the students could draw connections between the process and application. Many students remarked that the videos were extremely beneficial and enjoyed how they shifted instruction to a learner-centered approach and were able to explore the topic in greater depth when the learning continued in the classroom.

Student Programming

- 6th Grader Cheyenne Whitesell entered an argumentative essay into a "Save Our Swimming Pool" contest for the Town Pool. She won first place!
- This month in Jazz Band, a small group workshop on "Jazz Improv and Solo Writing" is being offered to interested advanced musicians in the department. Ian Zambrano, Andrew Manni, and Sabrina Sharafi all jumped at the opportunity to accept the challenge and try something new. They are currently working on composing solos which will be heard at the annual Spring Concert on May 16th.
- Girls on the Run is in full swing with the spring season! The team is made up of about a dozen 7th and 8th grade girls. The goal of the program is to promote adolescent growth through learning about coping skills, confidence building, while getting exercise. The girls learn about the four parts of the "Girl Wheel" (social, heart, body, spirit, and brain) while doing a variety of interactive activities. At the end of the season, they will celebrate their success by completing a 5K in Sparta!
- The fifth grade students just finished reading *Because of Mr. Terupt* and have been working very hard on a Dodecahedron Project, where they have to answer 12 questions about the book using the R.A.C.E. or R.A.F.T. strategy. After they get graded on their responses, they will assemble their twelve pentagons with questions inside into a dodecahedron. They plan to take these home and hang them in their rooms!
- The 5th graders attended the musical production of "The Lion King" on April 11th at The Newton Theatre. Many were eager to support a few peers that were in the play, Kali Kapetanakis and Savannah Raymond. This experience provided many of our students with their first visit to The Newton Theatre as well as their first live production.

Students of the Month

- 5th Grade: Vanessa VanHouten; 6th Grade: Jasmine Bridgers; 7th Grade: Piper Vanderhoof; 8th Grade: Gianna Carchia

School Service

- Student Council took another trip to Town Centre in order to assist residents with their technology needs! We helped reset passwords for email accounts, adjust settings on social media accounts, and clean up inboxes. Some students even assisted the director in designing a template for her monthly newsletters! We shared some good conversation, games, and a snack as well. We are looking forward to continuing to build relationships with the residents of Town Centre!

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

- All students grades 1-4 participated in Jump Rope For Heart on April 17th. Students have been collecting donations for the American Heart Association for 2 weeks. All proceeds will help benefit the fight against heart disease. Students are learning the importance of helping others.

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

- 3rd grade students have been practicing on playing their recorders during their music class.
- 4th Grade is preparing for their chorus and band spring concert during their recess as well as after school.
- 1st grade is getting ready for their spring concert in May
- 3rd and 4th grade students are working on landscape portraits in Art.

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

- All students will begin learning about Jump Rope For Heart and the importance of cardiovascular exercise and healthy ways to take care of their heart.
- 3rd and 4th grade students are completing research projects in Spanish as they learn about the different cultures of different Spanish speaking countries. Students are researching traditional foods, clothing and dances.

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

- The All For Books Challenge raised over \$300 for new books for the library with students voting Mr. Stocker as the winner of the Kiss the Pig contest.
- The 3rd and 4th grade will be attending a Sussex Miners Baseball Game in May.
- The 4th grade students will begin their Splash and Swim Program in May.
- Jump Rope For Heart has raised over \$6,000 schoolwide.