

CCHS School Board Report

1/23/2024

Carol M. Kiesman, Principal

A huge **THANK YOU** to all of the staff at CCHS for helping in every area to ensure the safety of our students during the storm with high winds and flooding on Dec. 18.



BARR News: BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) Congratulations to our 5th grade classes for their national recognition of their U-Time lesson “Rainbows” (the object is for students to tell about a “rainbow” in their life) in the BARR National Newsletter. Our BARR coach noticed this activity during her in-person visit and submitted the rainbow display to the national newsletter.



Community School Partnerships: We have formed new partnerships within our community to help support our students and their families. Members of the local Sheriff’s department will be joining our students for lunch once a month. The officers plan to eat lunch with our students and share age-appropriate jokes and stories. A second partnership we are implementing is with RSU

9 Adult Education. Once per month we will be hosting guest speakers for parents/guardians on topics such as cyber security and internet safety, SEL(social emotional learning, and MTSS/RTI (multi-tier support systems, response to intervention) for home.

Our Community School project implementation is one of only three in the state. This fall Amanda Clark, LCSW and Carol Kiesman, Principal were interviewed by the MDOE team for community schools which resulted in an article and video being produced for the MDOE weekly newsletter:

<https://mainedoeneews.net/2024/01/12/getting-to-know-community-schools-in-maine-welcome-to-cape-cod-hill-community-school/>

Deeper Dive for Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and SPED Department: PLCs (Professional Learning Community) have been ongoing for grade level teachers for several years. We have decided to adopt the BARR philosophy and involve more staff members in our PLCs in order to dive deeper into the data we are gathering and provide more impactful services for our students. During each professional staff directed LAW Day teachers will have the opportunity to not only meet in grade levels, but also in grade spans, and will include professional staff from the SPED department, the literacy specialist, the math specialist, Gifted/Talented staff and other school specialists. By expanding the PLCs it is our hope to be able to look at every single student’s data and provide tailored systems of support based on areas of strengths and needs as shown in the data. Along this same line we have made a shift in our SPED services by adjusting case loads so that the academic as well as SEL needs of our students can be focused on in a more systematic way that better aligns with MTSS. Kasey Purington, a second grade teacher working on her masters in administration, will be spearheading these changes as her project for her mentorship.

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Building Positive Relationships: In order to build upon and strengthen our relationships we have made some changes in our Before & After Care programs. We are at maximum capacity in both programs and welcome volunteers. We are now staffed by school employees who are able to extend the positive reinforcement of expectations that are being implemented through both the BARR program and using PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports) to build stronger school and home connections and allowing students to have voice and choice in the various activities that are offered. Along this same line the whole school is using “Glow and Grow” notes to recognize students who are making good choices, being responsible citizens of our school community, and upholding the pillars of our community school - being kind, respectful, and responsible. The recipient of the note can choose any adult in their life with whom to share the note.



Extension Activities: Many of our students are participating in various extracurricular activities. These include band, chorus, and orchestra in the visual and performing arts areas. All groups performed at our winter concert evening and did a fantastic job!



Other extension activities include an after school play group led by staff member Matt Brown and Seed Squad led by Libby Kaut. Seed Squad participants were fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the Governor’s Tea hosted by the State Garden



Club in Augusta on Dec 7. They had the honor of being chauffeured to this event by our very own superintendent, Mr. Elkington.

Very Active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO):

The PTO of CCHS continues to provide many wonderful activities for our students and families. November found our cafeteria beautifully decorated, a background of gentle music, and students and staff enjoying our traditional “Friendsgiving”. December brought “The Polar Express” to life in our VPA hall and into the gymnasium featuring a train ride to the North Pole, games, snacks and activities for families, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, and a reading of the beloved story by our fabulous Kindergarten teacher, Courtney Schools. January will find CCHS PTO providing a ziti dinner for families who wish to dine in or do take-out with staff and PTO volunteers providing prep, serving as waiters and hosts, and car hop delivery.



Finally, we wish to welcome many new faces to our CCHS family. This semester we welcome several student teachers from UMF and Thomas College into our classrooms who will be mentored and carefully guided by Katherine Bartlett, Kasey Purington, Delana Yeaton, Ali Paradis, and Zale Lochala. We also welcome new staff member Emily Stinson into our art department.