

Kensington Elementary School

Principal's Report

September 2017

Teaching/Learning

KES is welcoming several new staff members to our family this year!

Mrs. **Sarah McCarthy** will be taking the lead in the KES STEM Lab (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Mrs. McCarthy comes to us from Timberlane Middle School where she has taught 6th grade science for the past 13 years. She is passionate about Science and inquiry-based learning for all students. We are looking forward to her energy, enthusiasm and creativity and I have no doubt she will fill the big shoes left by Mrs. Kelsey Plourde who moves to 4th grade this year.

KES also welcomes a new School Psychologist, **Trish Merrill**. Mrs. Merrill has previously worked in the Epping Elementary School and is currently finishing her doctoral thesis under the tutelage of Dr. Peg Dawson and Dr. Richard Guare. Mrs. Merrill has provided clinical support to children and families at the Center for Learning and Attention Disorders in Portsmouth, NH. We are so fortunate she will be able to share her knowledge and expertise with us.

I am pleased to announce our new Kitchen Manager will be **Deb Plourde**. Yes, we will have two Mrs. Plourdes in the building this year! Mrs. Deb Plourde has many years of experience working in a school food service program and we are fortunate to have her (and her big box of spices) move into our kitchen! Ms. Plourde is already a familiar face to our staff and students as she has served as our evening custodian and "mystery painter" this past year.



THANK YOU MRS. GREENWOOD!!!!

Health/Community

The KES PTO has always been a wonderful support for the teachers and students and we are so fortunate to have them! This year, they have extended their outreach to support the greater Kensington community and have organized a food drive in honor of the late Superintendent Michael Morgan. Knowing his deep connection to **68 Hours of Hunger**, all of the donations are being given in his name. At the KES Curriculum Night this week, our families brought in over 200 canned goods and other non-perishable items. In addition, dozens of backpacks were donated in support of the mission of this program. The families here at KES continue to show their kindness and generosity and I'm certain that Mr. Morgan would be appreciative of their thoughtfulness. He was one to always remind us to "*Leave the woodpile a little higher than the way you found it.*"

Design/Philosophy/Governance

Last spring, the School Board conducted a survey regarding **communication** at KES. Looking at the results of that survey and the specific comments families provided, our staff decided to make some changes to the way we get information out about upcoming events and classroom news. Parents overwhelmingly stated in that survey that they prefer electronic communications from the school. All teachers, including our specialists, will be emailing newsletters to families using the Smore platform. Smore will provide consistency so that all families, whether they have a student in Kindergarten or 5th grade, will receive similar communication from the classroom teachers. In addition to the Smore newsletters, students will also take part in communicating classroom events. While this student writing may look different at each grade level, it is important for them to help celebrate their learning and share that with their parents. Having an authentic audience for their writing is also important for them so that they see their work as being relevant and meaningful. The staff appreciates that feedback offered by our parents and we are hopeful that we will be providing more consistent communication and that it will be delivered in a manner that our families have requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Ruel
Principal