



Superintendent's Report
March 27, 2019

1. Dr. Ruth Potee and Substance Abuse and Addictive Behaviors Presentation:

On Thursday March 21, 2019, Dr. Ruth Potee, MD, addressed a packed auditorium filled with NRSD students, their families and faculty to deliver a thoughtful and thorough presentation on the dangers associated with substance abuse and addictive behaviors. Her presentation spoke specifically to brain development and the importance of educating our youth about the dangers associated with illegal substances and the risk of addiction. Prior to Dr. Potee's keynote, several interactive stations were also set up with several resources for information and strategies to address this important topic. The turnout for the event was phenomenal!

(Standard 1, 3, 4)

2. Extended Learning – Coming Attractions

April Vacation Camp (April 16 – 19) is filling up quickly! Designed for grades K – 6, the district's popular camp is available as a half-day or full day option and will be held at the Center School. Families can choose from an arts/drama oriented program to a STEM/LEGO program, plus a special Saori Japanese Weaving workshop for campers who want to use a loom to create colorful projects made of fibers.

NRSD Summer Camp (June 24 – 27) is a wonderful four-day camp experience for K – 6 students who want to explore, create, and make new friends! Held at the Hale Middle School from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., this year's camp offers three different options: Ninja Warrior, a full-day multi-sport program led by Viking Sports, or two different half-day programs, Splish Splash Artsblast OR ImagArena, a popular STEM related program. Fun for everyone!

New Extended Learning Brochure – With an emphasis on structured creative choice, fun and discovery, the Extended Learning Program focuses on three key pillars of enrichment: Communication, Community, and Physical and Emotional Well-Being. Our colorful brochure reflects the program's new rates (3% increase; last increase was three years ago) and philosophy. The Extended Learning Program has an AM and/or a PM option which is offered at FSS/Bolton (K-5), Center/Stow (K-5), Hale/Stow (grades 4 & 5), and MRE/Lancaster (K-5).

(Standard 1, 3)

3. Kindness Counts

Staff members at The Center School worked with their students to set-up and push a cart around to all of the staff with coffee and treats on it and at Luther Burbank MS, they have started Positive Sign Thursdays as part of an overall Kindness and Positivity campaign. Hale Middle School kicked off Kindness Week with an assembly about Silent Strength. After the assembly the student body pledged to silence hurtful and mean spirited actions and words. Throughout the week students sent each other kind mail. These notes were filled with uplifting and kindhearted words about peers and teachers. Every morning students entered the building while fun, positive and upbeat music was playing over the

intercom. This helped to set a tone for the day and brighten our morning. Finally students debriefed the weeks' events in advisory and answered the following prompt "To me, kindness is...." The students' responses were written on leaflets of paper and are being turned into a kindness tree in our hallway. Overall it was an amazing experience for the Hale Community! The Florence Sawyer School will be celebrating kindness during the week of April 8. The purpose of the week is to recognize and celebrate random and intentional acts of kindness while spreading joy and compassion through our community. In addition to the dress-up themes and school-wide activities, members of the club (under the direction of Jayne Richards and Liz Combs) have also created class kindness kits filled with activities for students at each grade level.

(Standard 1)

4. Mary Rowlandson School Council Meeting

A note of thanks to all volunteers who take part in our many school councils. I continue to appreciate the exchange of dialogue when I meet with these groups of individuals across the district. I am most appreciative of their dedication and commitment to the work that is done in each building.

(Standard 1, 3)

5. NRHS Jazz Band Night'

What an incredible night of music at NHRHS! All jazz bands from within the school district performed. The finale included all 130 members from across NRSD in a show stopping selection. Congratulations to all students and staff involved in this special evening of music.

(Standard 1, 3)

6. Hale Career Day

On Friday March 22, 2019, Hale Middle School welcomed over 25 professional in various occupations to present to middle school students on the types of work they do beyond the walls of school. From engineers to business owners to writers, students were graced with a multi-dimensional look into the opportunities that are available for them as they enter the real world. Thank you to all of our innovative and career professionals who joined us!

(Standard 1, 3)

7. Award Winning Athletic Director

Congratulations to our Athletic Director, Tania Rich. She was recently recognized for her many efforts and accomplishments at the Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association where she was honored with an award for Distinguished Service by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Ms. Rich continues to be a shining example of excellence in all she does within our district.

(Standard 3)