

## Message from the Board of Education

On the evening of October 5th, Plainville High School hosted “Experience PHS”— a newly designed open house event for students and their families. Historically, the high school has followed a more traditional open house model for family members to visit classrooms and meet teachers. This year, the new format set the stage for visitors to truly get a sense of all that Plainville High School has to offer. Throughout the high school, faculty, staff, administrators, students and community partners were grouped into four primary areas of focus including School & District Initiatives and Goals, PHS Activities & Athletics, Community Partners, and Teaching and Learning. Visitors received a “map” that guided them to these locations, and they were free to visit each area at their convenience. In the School & District Initiatives and Goals area, visitors were able to learn about Learning Adventure Days, the school’s Attendance Matters @ PHS initiative, district strategic planning and more. A wide variety of athletics, clubs and related organizations were represented in the Activities & Athletics area, with students and advisors on hand to share information about each group. Several of the school district’s community partners were available in the high school Learning Commons to share information about several programs, supports and opportunities for PHS students, including business partners supporting the Fieldwork Experience internship program, the Plainville Coalition for Positive Youth Development, several colleges and universities, representatives from the military and more. Just outside of the Learning Commons, Career Pathways informational posters were on display featuring PHS alumni and information about their career paths, and visitors got a first glimpse of some of the new visual branding items throughout the school! Finally, students and families were able to meet all of the faculty members and departments in various locations throughout the building. The new open house format truly allowed visitors to “Experience” all that Plainville High School has to offer.

### Student Spotlight: Wheeler



Interviewer:  
Ashley Thorpe,  
Grade 5

Interviewee:  
Sarah Miller,  
Teacher, Grade 5

Frank T. Wheeler  
Elementary School

*“I chose to interview Miss Miller because she is my new teacher and the new advisor for the Wheeler Student Council.”*

**Q: What is your favorite part of teaching?**

A: My favorite part of teaching is making a positive impact on students and the memories we make in the classroom each year. I enjoy the moments we have in the classroom, outside, on field trips, and teaching science lessons! I also enjoy getting to know my new class each year and making connections with my new students!

**Q: What is the most difficult part about teaching?**

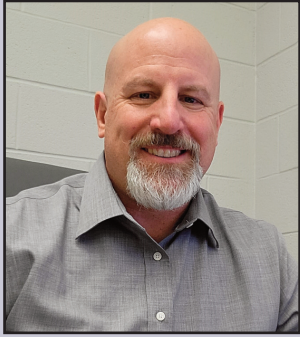
A: The most difficult part about teaching is saying goodbye to everyone at the end of the school year.

**Q: What inspired you to teach?**

A: I knew I wanted to be a teacher at a very young age when I used to come home and play school with my little sister in our basement. When I was in elementary school, I loved the teachers that I had and they inspired me to want to become the teacher I am today. I also enjoy making a difference in each student’s life whether it be something big or small.

continued on page 3, please see “INTERVIEW”

## Let's Chat with...Rich Marques, Director of Safety and Security



### What are your primary responsibilities in your current role as Director of Safety and Security?

My number one responsibility is to ensure that our students, staff, and visitors are in a safe environment to the extent that they can focus on education and not worry about their security. This includes training, education, and collaboration with various entities that help to keep us safe.

### What is a "typical" work day like for you?

I typically meet with our security staff to get updates on any issues that we need to address. This could include physical security needs such as doors, cameras and lighting. It often includes the review of safety procedures to see if we are adhering to best practices. I often visit one or more of our schools to meet with the

principals and talk about any security concerns.

### What do you enjoy most about your role in Plainville Community Schools?

I enjoy getting out and visiting each of the schools in our district. I look forward to working with our staff because they genuinely care about the safety of their students.

### What is your top priority?

The safety of our students and staff is the top priority. That includes ensuring our school community is well trained in safety drills and that we know how to respond to various emergencies.

### What professional accomplishment are you most proud of?

I am proud to have served the Town of Plainville as a police officer for 27 years. I feel honored to be selected as Director of Safety and Security and I look forward to serving our school community in this new role.

## Learning Adventure Days

On October 7th, Plainville High School students participated in a "Learning Adventure Day." Learning Adventure Days are designed to provide unique learning experiences that allow students to exercise the school district's Portrait of the Graduate tenets, in being: *Communicative, Collaborative, Innovative, Mindful and Resilient*. Ninth grade students spent the day as a group working on team building and collaborative skills with Empower Leadership. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors were able to select from a wide variety of activities based on interest. The sessions ranged from full day experiences to several two hour programming segments. Sessions included a construction / remodel project of the Plainville High School athletic ticket booth, a UConn campus tour, a hike at Sleepy Giant, a hands-on experience with the National Guard, Yoga, Weight Training, Adult and Pediatric First Aid, CPR, AED for Certification, a cardboard boat

build and race, a tour of Trumpf Inc., and more.

The goal of the next Learning Adventure Day on December 16th, which will focus on college/career exploration, is to incorporate the expertise of the community.

As such, Plainville High School is currently seeking local professionals, businesses and organizations to:

- visit Plainville High School to talk about their career / career field with a group of students
- provide students with a hands-on experience in their career field at their place of employment
- welcome a group of students to their workplace for a tour
- host a job shadow for a student / small group of students



Students refurbished the Plainville High School's ticket booth on the October 7th Learning Adventure Day.

**If you, or your company / organization would like to participate in the December 16th Learning Adventure Day, either on-site at Plainville High School or hosting a group of students at your location, please contact:**

**Jen DeLorenzo, (860) 793-3220  
delorenzoj@plainvilleschools.org**

# Good News! Great things are happening in our school district.

## LINDEN STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Students in Mr. McMahon's class** created positive messages and mini-posters that they placed throughout the school building. Linden students and staff are met with kind words and inspirational phrases as they move through the hallways and the stairwells...**Fourth and fifth grade students** enjoyed an assembly from "Power Squad" where they learned how to conserve energy and the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources.

## LOUIS TOFFOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Toffolon fifth grade students lead by Susan Fabrizio and Shayla Quirion** are excited and gearing up for their Connecticut Kid Government event by participating in the Connecticut Kid Governor Exhibit of the present Kid Governor Makhi Modeste and his Cabinet...**Toffolon fifth graders** attended Camp Sloper in Southington, Connecticut to participate in a series of team building activities. The students engaged in several collaborative tasks such as building machines with their bodies, then creating stars, trapezoids and rectangles with a large circle of rope.

## FRANK T. WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Students in Samantha Woodward's fourth grade class at Wheeler** made posters and cards for the employees of the Bristol Police Department as a gesture of kindness. The generous gifts were featured on NBC30 news...**Wheeler preschoolers** enjoyed a community helper visit from members of the Plainville Police Department and Plainville Fire Department.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE

**Members of the PRISMS Arts Club at the Middle School**, led by **faculty member Laura Meehan**, attended a field trip to the New Britain Museum of American Art, where they were able to experience the show "30 Americans" featuring art by contemporary African American artists, thanks to a grant from the Tinty Foundation...**Superintendent Steven LePage and Assistant**

**Superintendent Dave Levenduski** visited sixth grade Social Studies classes for Constitution Day and worked with students to solve puzzles using information about the Constitution...Students, families and faculty came together in October for a night of fun and creativity at MSP's "Paint Night" event led by **faculty member Laura Meehan** and sponsored by the school's **Parent Teacher Club**.

## PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

**PHS senior Ethan Brachle** has been selected by College Board's National Recognition Programs for Plainville High School...**PHS students** attended the school's college fair on October 17th, with an opportunity to visit and meet representatives from a wide variety of colleges, universities, trade schools, and the military.

## DISTRICT

**PHS SRO Jessica Guerrette and MSP SRO Shane Dufresne** were invited to participate in WFSB Channel 3's "Back to School" public service announcements segment...The district "PCS All Stars" award has been established to highlight faculty, staff and students who go above and beyond in modeling the Portrait of the Graduate characteristics and demonstrating excellence in alignment with the school district's "team" goals. **September All Stars**, **PHS student Jaylen Thigpen and PHS faculty members John Girard and Ken Fusco** were recognized at the September 12th Board of Education meeting and the **October All Star**, **PHS sophomore Tamia Chapman**, was recognized at the October 11th Board of Education meeting...The **Plainville school district** was recognized with several awards from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), including the CABE Board Recognition Award, presented to the **Plainville Board of Education** for the 13th time. In addition, **Plainville Community Schools** received 14 CABE Bonnie B. Carney Awards of Excellence for Educational Communications, including eight first place awards and six honorable mention awards.

### Q: Who was your favorite teacher?

A: I have several favorite teachers from when I was in school. My first favorite teacher was Mrs. Johnson who was my middle school science teacher. She would have so much fun teaching her science lessons to us and she always had the whole class laughing. I also liked my fifth grade teacher, "Mrs. Z.," who encouraged me to get into teaching. The final teacher that was my favorite in elementary school was my PE teacher, Mr. Korp. He was so energetic and always had the craziest lessons for us to do in gym class. He inspired me to also become a coach.

### Q: What are some goals you want to accomplish for this year's Wheeler Student Council?

A: Some of the student council goals this year are to raise and collect donations for the Plainville Food Pantry, Veterans Rally Point, and cancer. We also will plan Spirit Days every Friday. One final goal is to clean up the flower garden and replant it in the spring at Wheeler.

INTERVIEW - continued from page 1



*Plainville Adult and Continuing Education will offer a Boot Camp for New Dads® workshop on Thursday, December 1st at Plainville High School, from 5:30pm-8:30pm. New and expectant fathers from all towns are welcome to join. The fee is \$8.00 per dad, with scholarships available upon request. Boot Camp for New Dads® is made possible, by a generous grant from the Men and Boys' Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation. Please call Plainville Adult Education to register: (860) 793-3209*

# Oh, The Places You Will Go!



## DID YOU KNOW?

*The Plainville High School Class of 2022 received \$150,540 in local scholarships.*

## UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES ATTENDED BY THE PHS CLASS OF 2022

Bishop's University, Bryant University, Central CT State University, City College of New York, Eastern CT State University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Emmanuel College, Fairfield University, Franklin Pierce University, Full Sail University, Gateway Community College, Hocking College, Indian River State College, Ithaca College, Manchester Community College, Marywood University, Mass. College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Naugatuck Valley Community College, Nova Southeastern University, Pennsylvania State University, Princeton University, Salisbury University, Siena College, Southeastern University, Tunxis Community College, University of Arkansas, University of Connecticut, University of Hartford, University of Massachusetts, University of New Haven, University of Northwestern Ohio, University of Rhode Island, University of Saint Joseph, Western CT State University, Western New England University, Wingate College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Worcester State University

Plainville Board of Education  
Plainville Community Schools  
1 Central Square  
Plainville, CT 06062  
Phone: 860.793.3200

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT # 416  
FARMINGTON, CT  
06032

## In this issue...

- BOE Message 1
- Spotlight 1,3
- Let's Chat With 2
- Learning Adventure Days 2
- Good News 3
- Adult Education 3
- PHS Class of 2022 4

## PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Steven LePage  
Superintendent of Schools

Rachel Buchanan  
Cassandra Clark  
Lori Consalvo  
Deborah Hardy  
Rebecca Martinez  
Laurie Peterson  
Crystal St. Lawrence  
Becky Tyrrell  
Foster White



## Belief Statements... We believe:

- Our public school system is the core of the community and has a fundamental responsibility to develop productive, educated citizens in a democratic society
- Optimal achievement for each learner is a responsibility shared by students, home, school, and community
- We must provide each student with a comprehensive curriculum and effective instruction to ensure meaningful engagement in the learning process
- A safe, caring learning environment promotes the academic growth, health, and emotional well-being of each student
- Communication and collaboration serve to increase knowledge, trust, and respect, and are the responsibility of everyone in the community
- Professional Learning Communities foster teamwork that results in the continuous improvement of teaching and learning outcomes