

## Message from the Board of Education

On December 16th, Plainville High School students participated in a career focused "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 of being *Communicative, Collaborative, Innovative, Mindful and Resilient*. The primary focus of the December Learning Adventure Day was "Career Exploration" and students in all four grades at the high school had a wide variety of opportunities in which to explore an extensive variety of vocational pathways.

In preparation for the December Learning Adventure Day, high school students were invited to complete a survey to share which career pathway they were interested in exploring. From that information, the Learning Adventure Day plan was developed. The first part of the day-long program featured a "Career Gallery" where student groups were able to cycle through the school's gymnasium and meet a wide variety of over 70 career representatives from many local businesses and organizations. After the gallery portion of the morning, students were able to select from a menu of more than 35 options for on-site and off-site career focused learning adventures. Examples ranged from a group of students who toured the WTNH News 8 newsroom and live morning news broadcast in New Haven, to a visit with several local manufacturers, a trip to the state capitol and the opportunity to meet with a federal court judge, a hands-on session at a local advertising agency, an interactive session with representatives from Hartford Healthcare and much, much more. Students also had the option to spend a full day at a job shadow of their choice throughout Connecticut.

The December 16th Learning Adventure Day was another exceptional point of pride for Plainville High School and our entire school district. As a Board, we are grateful for the extraordinary support from the many individuals, businesses and organizations that shared their time and unique career pathway journeys with our high school students that day.

***If you or your company/organization would like to participate in a future career focused Learning Adventure Day in Plainville Community Schools, please contact Lynn Davis at [davisl@plainvilleschools.org](mailto:davisl@plainvilleschools.org) or Sue Bradley at [bradleys@plainvilleschools.org](mailto:bradleys@plainvilleschools.org) for additional information.***

### Student Spotlight: MSP

My 8th grade year has been full of challenges. There are some friendly adults at MSP that always find a way to support me, no matter what is happening. Three adults in particular that I would like to acknowledge are Mr. Berard, Mr. Warnat, and Mr. Ginley. Mr. Berard lets me hang out with him a couple minutes a day after class, and we talk about what is happening in my day. Mr. Warnat is always there for me if I need help with anything, but especially math. He always takes the time to explain it a different way if I need it. Mr. Ginley always greets me with a smile, and is around to talk if I need some help. Middle school is a difficult time, but the adults at MSP are here to help us.

*Article By: Emily Makhijani*

*In photo: Emily Makhijani and Mr. Ginley, Security Officer*



Linden Street School students have been tinkering this year with our new 3D MakerBot printers. Students first create a design using a software program called Tinkercad. Depending on the details in their design, this process can take quite a bit of time. When students are pleased with their design, they export it off to be reviewed by a teacher, and then it is sent to the 3D printer. As easy as those steps sound, students know the process is not always that simple. Fifth grade students Ava Autunno, Alekzander Hixson, Jaxson Niedzwiecki, and Steven Pomerleau reflected on their experiences with 3D designing and printing:

**What do you like about 3D designing and printing?**

*I like how it lets you express your creativity and makes your imagination come to life. (Jaxson)*

**What is challenging about 3D designing and printing?**

*Some things that are challenging are you*

*have to have support down for some designs. If you accidentally forget to add something, like a platform, then you have to move your whole creation to put the platform down. Supports are important because without them your creation could fall easily. (Ava)*

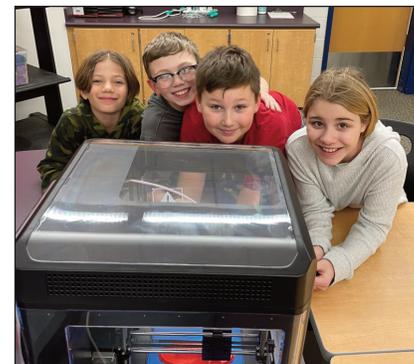
**Have you ever had a printing design fail? If so, how did you persevere?**

*I have had a print fail. It broke, so after that happened I tried again. I had to change a few things so it wasn't too fragile. You also have to check if your design is thick enough because if it is too thin it could break, but the most important part is to not give up. (Alek)*

**What would you like other people to know about 3D designing and printing?**

*I would like people to know that 3D printing and designing is one of the best ways to express your creativity. You can make almost anything you want from characters to cups. There are so many possibil-*

*ities with 3D printing and more people should be able to do it. In real world situations, people use 3D printing for many everyday uses. Hospitals can even 3D print prosthetics! 3D printing seems like something just to mess around with, but it's important. (Steven)*



## Wheeler's New Wolf



Frank T. Wheeler Elementary School's wolf mascot has "come to life" thanks to a unique piece of art created by former Wheeler faculty member, Matthew Guarino. Guarino, a longtime Plainville Community Schools employee, also served as the Middle School of Plainville Principal prior to his retirement in 2021, and currently works as a tutor at Wheeler School. Guarino logged many weekend hours planning for and bringing the new Wheeler wolf sculpture to fruition on site at the elementary school. According to Wheeler Principal, Andrew Batchelder, the wolf "commission" was born from a conversation he had with Guarino earlier this year while walking through the school together. "I pointed out the old, iconic oak tree in the back of Wheeler to Matt one day, and explained that the tree would be cut down due to its age and condition. Several Wheeler parents had suggested something be made from the tree if possible, since it is such an integral part of the Wheeler landscape. I asked Matt, who is also a talented artist, what he thought about possibly carving a wolf sculpture into the stump of the tree once it was cut down, and without hesitation he agreed, saying 'yes, I can do that!'" Guarino explained that in preparation for the project, he had initially asked that the tree be cut to approximately eight feet in height, to ideally be able to complete the carving. Instead, the tree was cut, but the stump measured ten feet in height, so Guarino cut off approximately two additional feet to accommodate the carving project, and was able to also create a "Reading Partner Chair" with the extra tree piece, where students enjoy sitting, hanging out and reading together. After many hours of work and three shades of stain, the Wheeler wolf carving was completed and now sits proudly on the school's grounds.

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

## LINDEN STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The **Linden Community** is enjoying the school's new "Gaga Pit" including a friendly competition held between **Linden's RISE Staff** and the **second grade faculty team**...Special guest readers continue to visit Linden to enhance learning experiences, including older and younger **Linden students**, who meet on a weekly basis as Book Buddies, strengthening peer relationships and reading for all students...**fifth graders** play leadership roles as kindergarten helpers, library helpers and as special guest instructors in the Band Room.

## LOUIS TOFFOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Students in the **Toffolon Choir** hit the road to spread cheer, sharing a repertoire of holiday carols at Apple Rehab Farmington Valley, the Jerome Home and Arbor Rose, and the Plainville Senior Center...**Toffolon fifth graders** continued their community service efforts by creating colorful placemats for the Plainville Senior Center's Thanksgiving meal...**Toffolon's office staff** organized their yearly "Mitten Tree" where staff and families donated new mittens, coats, hats and gloves for the Plainville Community Food Pantry...**Toffolon faculty member Susan Fabrizio** and **Toffolon Student Council members** sponsored a "Campfire Day" complete with a faux campfire and hot chocolate. Donations were collected and given to the American Cancer Society.

## FRANK T. WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The **Wheeler School community**, led by their **Student Council members and Faculty member / Advisor Sarah Miller**, teamed up with HW Green Company Inc. for a school-wide recycling project for the 2022-23 school year...**Students in Miss Bartley's first grade class** earned their "Word Detective" badges, working hard to solve tricky words in their reading. **Principal Andrew Batchelder** presented the students with their badges... **Wheeler students** created a beautiful Thanksgiving work of art on which each student wrote what they are thankful for on a feather to create the "Thankful Turkey" for the school's wall.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE

Six **Middle School robotics teams** led by **Faculty Member/Advisor, Camille Westfall**, competed on January 7th at the STEM Academy in Wallingford. Five of the six teams finished in the top 20 and were able to advance to the upcoming Finals...Using items that would otherwise end up in the trash, students in the **Middle School's "Trashion Fashion" After School Club**, led by **Advisor, Michele Fischer-Paul**, created one-of-a-kind wearable pieces of art. The group learned about the environmental impact of the paper, plastic and fashion industry, created vision boards, learned pattern making, then created their own "trashion fashion"...**Students in the PRISMS Arts Club**, led by **Advisor, Laura Meehan**, created

gifts for Veterans in the Plainville community. These gifts were handed out to the Veteran guests at the Middle School's annual Veterans Day celebration and to Veterans in the Plainville community.

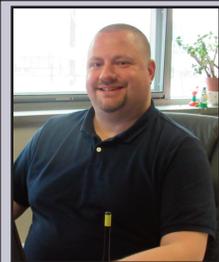
## PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

**Plainville High School seniors Nolan Wargo and Lily Feyerabend** were named the **Semester 1 Student Rocks award winners**, being recognized for assuming responsibility for their positive contributions to the school and community...**The PHS Chamber Choir** had a busy holiday season caroling at the Hillstead Museum, the Plainville Senior Center, the "Holiday Glow" event held at the Connecticut Convention Center and at the high school's Holiday Extravaganza event...**PHS faculty members Mark Chase and Dave Gagnard** coordinated a visit from the Connecticut National Guard who brought in a jet engine and spoke to students in the high school's transportation, engineering, construction, and business classes about the design, mechanics and latest technology that is currently used...**The PHS Chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America** collected 46 new, unwrapped toys which were donated to the local Marine Toys for Tots collection...**The PHS Baseball Team** and coaches were honored at the November 14th Board of Education meeting for receiving the "Sportsmanship Team of the Year Award" from the Hartford Board of Umpires...**The PHS PE Department** hosted a "Breakfast of Champions" on December 23rd for students who passed all four sections of the CT Fitness Exam during the first semester. The event was sponsored by Marc Koss/Great American Donut.

## DISTRICT

The **November Plainville Community Schools "All-Star" award winners** were recognized at the November 14th Plainville Board of Education meeting. They include: **Community All-Stars, Mark Belanger and Stephen Martino, Student All-Star, Isabella Taylor, and PCS Staff All-Stars, Sue Bradley, Deb Pikiell and Lynn Davis**. The January Plainville Community Schools "All-Star" award winners were recognized at the January 19th Plainville Board of Education meeting. They include: **PCS Staff All-Stars, Ashley Carl, Sharyn Lavore, David Levenduski and Matthew Guarino**. The "All-Star" award recognizes students, faculty, staff and community members who go above and beyond in modeling the school district's Portrait of the Graduate characteristics and demonstrating excellence in alignment with the school district's team goals...**The Plainville Board of Education** received the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Leadership Award at the annual CABE/ CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Convention. The CABE Board Leadership award is designed to recognize boards which work effectively together as teams and meet a number of criteria relative to community relations, board operations, policy, and board member professional development.

## Let's Chat with...Mike Smith, Facilities Director, Plainville Community Schools



What are your primary responsibilities in your current role as Facilities Director?

*As Director of Facilities I am in charge of the overall maintenance of Plainville's educational facilities. Health, safety, state compliance, energy, and cleanliness are just a small part of what I focus on each day.*

What is your top priority?

*Every Facilities Director will have a different priority. Some focus on energy costs and money savings. My top priority here in Plainville, and in my previous facilities positions, is and always will be health and safety. Clean, efficiently run, safe environments for our students.*

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

*I love the sense of pride everyone has regarding our schools and to be a part of the school district where my kids attend is a plus as well.*

What professional accomplishment are you most proud of?

*My management style. I have my MBA from UHART but I will be honest and say that you truly cannot learn effective management from a book. I believe my ability to empathize with and truly get to know my employees is the first step in effective management. Once a rapport is established then an understanding of expectations can be easily achieved.*

# Plainville Adult and Continuing Education



Plainville Adult and Continuing Education will offer evening programming, free of cost, this winter and spring in the following areas: Adult Basic Education (Math and Reading/Writing), Adult High School Credit Diploma Program, Citizenship Preparation, English as a Second Language, and GED Preparation. Most programs are offered mornings too, with cost-free child care, provided by professionals from the Plainville Family Resource Network, at Linden Street School. Adult enrichment (fee-based) programs will be available, too. The Program Guide will be mailed to all Plainville residents, early February. Registration is required for all programs. For further information, please call Plainville Adult and Continuing Education: (860)793-3209 or visit [www.plainvilleschools.org/departments/adult\\_ed](http://www.plainvilleschools.org/departments/adult_ed)

**Enrichment Class List:** *A Mediator's Guide to Destress, Bob Ross Painting, Boot Camp for New Dads, Conversational Spanish, CT Security Officer License Training with Certification, Empowering You Through the Probate Process, Estate Planning 101, First Impressions/Interviewing, Grammar and English Usage for High School Graduates, How to Meditate: As Simple as ABC, Math for High School Graduates, Mindfulness Meditation, Professional Speaking Skills, Riveting PowerPoint, Scrapbooking 101, Therapeutic Yoga for Healthy Aging, The Heartsaver Program with Certification, and Wealth & Women: Unlock Your Potential*

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## PLAINVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## 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