

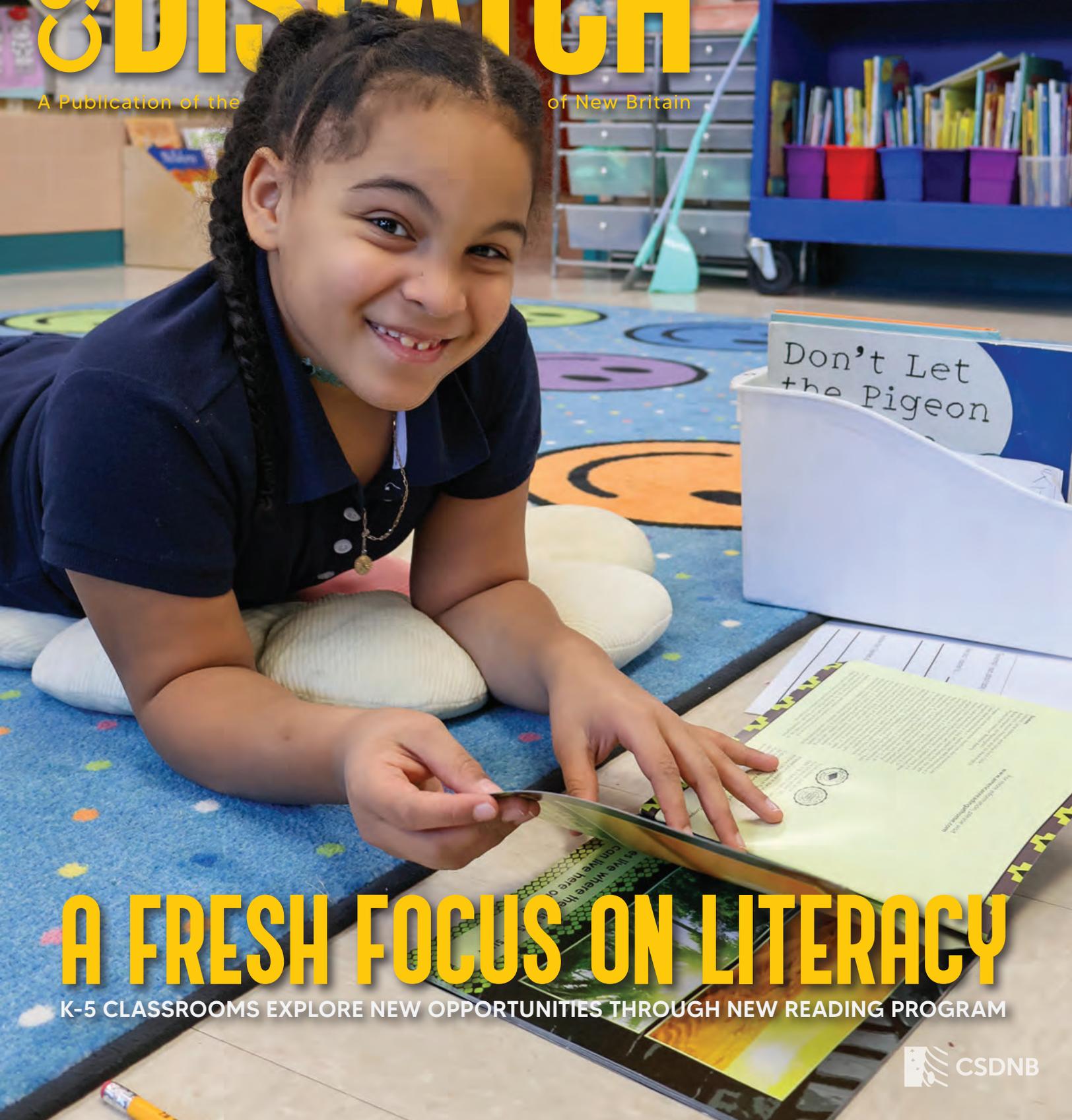
DEC
20
23

VOLUME 2
ISSUE 04

CSDNB DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the

of New Britain



A FRESH FOCUS ON LITERACY

K-5 CLASSROOMS EXPLORE NEW OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH NEW READING PROGRAM

HELLO NEW BRITAIN FAMILIES AND STAFF MEMBERS:

Thank you for continuing to read our new newsletter, District Dispatch. We have many things to celebrate and also much work to do. This newsletter will keep you informed of the great things that we are seeing from the district level of our school system. Our staff members and families are critical pieces in our plans to grow and improve CSDNB. Thank you for taking the time to stay in touch with us!

In Partnership,



Superintendent Tony Gasper



CSDNB DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the Consolidated School District of New Britain



First grade students at Vance Elementary School dive into non-fiction research during daily reading lab.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- pg. 04 Superintendent Recognition
- pg. 06 Spotlight on CSDNB Operations
- pg. 08 Reading Curriculum Update
- pg. 10 CSDNB District Updates
- pg. 24 CSDNB Smiles Photo Galleries
- pg. 31 2023-2024 Calendar

DEC
20
23

VOLUME 2
ISSUE 04

CSDNB DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the Consolidated School District of New Britain

VOLUME 2 / ISSUE 04



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Feature Stories by:
Ryan Langer

Art Direction by:
Pawel Figat

Translations Provided by:
Miguel Mendez & Majedah Nassir

Special Thanks to:
Members of the Senior Leadership Team
and CSDNB staff members who have
contributed updates & photos.

THIS ISSUE AND MORE
CAN BE FOUND ONLINE!

Scan below!



FOLLOW CSDNB
ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

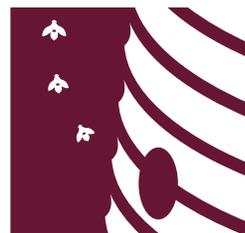


The Consolidated School District of New Britain

2022-2023 Intellectual Property

This publication is owned by the Consolidated School District of New Britain
and no part of it may be reproduced without the permission of the District.

Authorized by: Superintendent Tony Gasper



CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF
NEW BRITAIN

In partnership with family and community, the Consolidated School District of New Britain works to provide the best personalized and comprehensive whole-child education at every level so students will be prepared for, and positively contribute to, a profoundly different future.

NEW BRITAIN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joseph Listro
Anthony Cane
Sal Escobales
Anthony Kane
Barbara Marino
Annie Parker
Joan Pina
Diana Reyes
Jose Rivera
Tina Santana

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Tony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools
Ivelise Velazquez, Deputy Superintendent
Kristie Bourdoulous, Academics and Accountability Officer, PK-5
Tyrone Richardson, Academics and Accountability Officer, 6-12
Maryellen Manning, Chief of Staff | Relationships & Accountability
Rebecca Gonzalez, Chief of Operations
Ann Alfano, Chief Financial Officer
Jeffrey Prokop, Chief Information Officer
Nicole Sanders, Director of Talent and Equity
Mark Spalding, Director of Pupil Services
Diana Rios, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Ryan Langer, Communications Officer

WWW.CSDNB.ORG



Welcome

With gratitude,
we wish to extend our
congratulations and a
warm welcome to the
City of New Britain's
recently-elected
Board of Education
members!



SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION



Daniel Moronfolu
Roosevelt Early Learning Center

Daniel Moronfolu, Roosevelt Early Learning Center preschooler, was nominated to receive the Superintendent Challenge Coin by Terry Turcotte, RELC Principal. Daniel has shown an extensive amount of growth in his speech and communication since he started in the RELC program. When Daniel first started at RELC, he was unable to verbally communicate. Currently, Daniel is requesting his needs and wants and communicating with adults and peers. He is a role model in his class and continues to make progress based on the CT ELDs. Turcotte said the entire team is proud of his success and looking forward to their continued work with him.



Amira Khiar
Roosevelt Early Learning Center

Amira Khiar, Roosevelt Early Learning Center preschooler, was nominated to receive the Superintendent Challenge Coin by Terry Turcotte, RELC Principal. Amira is a shining star in her RELC preschool classroom! She has made exemplary academic, social, emotional, and cognitive growth throughout this school year. Amira is a great friend to her peers and is the first to help when a friend is in need. She has above-average academic performance and is beyond ready to soar in Kindergarten! Amira writes her name independently and draws pictures with details. She communicates and interacts during play-based centers. Turcotte said the entire team is proud of the role model student she has become and that they can't wait to see where the rest of the year brings her!

SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION



Lainey Cruess
Roosevelt Early Learning Center

Lainey Cruess, Roosevelt Early Learning Center preschooler, was nominated to receive the Superintendent Challenge Coin by Terry Turcotte, RELC Principal. Lainey is a role model student to her peers and often helps them through problem-solving skills. She is very caring and shows pride daily. Lainey has also made exceptional growth, academically and socially and is excited about learning. Turcotte said the entire team is so proud of Lainey!



Kevin Hebert
HALS Academy

Kevin Hebert, HALS Academy Music Teacher, was nominated to receive the Superintendent Challenge Coin by Leona Clerkin, HALS Principal. Recently, a HALS student suffered a life changing injury to her hand. Worried how he could adapt his instruction to aid her in music class, Hebert requested a smaller sized bass guitar especially for her to use. The special bass guitar was purchased for her based on recommendations from music professionals. When the new guitar arrived, he surprised the HALS student with the new instrument and emailed the student's mom to let her know about it. All the students in her class watched her open it up and cheered. Hebert went above and beyond to make a challenging situation into something supportive for a sweet young girl who is just a ray of sunshine, despite this injury. His willingness to support both the student and her mother through recovery was heartwarming to witness.



BUILDING EXCELLENCE

A SPOTLIGHT ON CSDNB'S OPERATIONS TEAM

The CSDNB Operations Team, commonly known as The Facilities Department, features a number of individuals dedicated to supporting the entire district by providing a clean, safe, and healthy environment for teaching and learning. The efforts of these individuals, often quietly behind the scenes, ensure the smooth functioning of 15 school buildings, 1 administrative building, 1 maintenance building and 1 rental property.

"I want to take a moment and acknowledge the unsung heroes of our department. These individuals often work tirelessly, behind the scenes, going above and beyond without seeking recognition or praise," said Rebecca Gonzalez, Chief Operations Officer. "It's important to remember success is not achieved by a single person, but by the collective efforts of a team. Our team plays a crucial role in ensuring that our operations run smoothly so our entire community can meet their goals. They are the backbone of our organization and their contributions deserve our utmost appreciation."

The team includes experts from various fields who supervise hundreds of employees across the district providing essential support services that directly impact the overall well-being of

CSDNB's school community. The Operations Team oversees all aspects of property management including safety, security, maintenance, custodial services, grounds, utility systems, design, construction, energy management, transportation, food services, special projects and much more. Their contributions are indispensable, ensuring the district can function efficiently. It is only fitting that we take a moment to recognize and appreciate the incredible efforts of these unsung heroes!



ENVIRONMENT

Calm, safe, clean, healthy learning environments

- The Essential 10 -



"It's important to remember success is not achieved by a single person, but by the collective efforts of a team"



REBECCA GONZALEZ
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

PUT A FACE TO THE NAME: WHO'S WHO IN CSDNB OPERATIONS?

OPERATIONS

The operations staff manages the behind the scenes challenges supporting our various departments and teams. From new construction projects, to purchasing, shipping and receiving of consumable goods and the processing of inspection reports, the Operations team works around the clock.

- A) Rebecca Gonzalez, Chief Operations Officer
- B) Robert Smedley, Manager of Special Projects and Technology
- C) Sherry Tyler, Manager of Facilities Operations
- D) Tiffany Secondo, Facilities Assistant



SECURITY

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is our top priority, and that's where our security personnel step in. They work tirelessly to monitor school premises, enforce safety protocols, respond to emergencies, and more. The Manager of Security supervises 18 Campus Safety Officers.

- E) Russ Taylor, Manager of Security



MAINTENANCE

Behind every smoothly running school is an adept maintenance team. From fixing leaky faucets to ensuring that heating and cooling systems work seamlessly, their expertise ensures that the infrastructure of our schools remains in top-notch condition. The Maintenance Foreman supervises 13 maintenance employees.

- F) Andre Clay, Maintenance Foreman



CUSTODIAL

Custodians are the backbone of a clean and safe school environment. From sweeping the hallways to sanitizing classrooms, their meticulous efforts create a conducive atmosphere for learning while ensuring the health and well-being of our students and staff. The Manager and Supervisors oversee 58 custodians.

- G) Chris AuCoin, Manager of Custodians
- H) Julyanna Korkatzis, Supervisor of Custodians
- I) Carlos Blanco, Supervisor of Custodians



TRANSPORTATION

Getting students to and from school safely and efficiently is the responsibility of our transportation team. CSDNB's team collaborates with multiple bus vendors, drivers, crossing guards, and maintenance crews to ensure that the journey to and from school is smooth and secure. The Manager of Transportation supervises two transportation assistants and oversees over 200 drivers under two different vendor contracts.

- J) Rich Valerio, Manager of Transportation



FOOD SERVICES

Our Whitsons Culinary Food Services team works diligently to advance school nutrition and increase access for students to organic food through new cutting-edge menu items. They play a crucial role in promoting a healthy and thriving learning environment. The District Manager and Executive Chef oversee all 19 cafeteria operations and all food services workers.

- K) Zacharay Tenen, District Manager
- L) Shaun Cleary, Executive Chef of Innovation





Vance Elementary students in Ms. McLaughlin's first grade classroom enjoy daily reading labs.

A FRESH FOCUS ON LITERACY

ARC CURRICULUM UPDATE

Students across the district reading fiction and non-fiction topics every day, and writing about what they read, thanks to a partnership with the American Reading Company (ARC). The comprehensive reading program was rolled out in August 2023 to over 400 staff members representing a paradigm shift in the district's approach to literacy instruction.

"ARC has been a great tool to get both fiction and nonfiction books at students' independent levels in their hands for daily

practice. It is nice to have a library that is organized so that students can easily choose 'just right' books," said Christina Deprey, Smith Elementary School First Grade Teacher. "My students are noticing a lot more word patterns and 'power words' now that we are using ARC. They are also able to sustain independent reading for longer than in years past now that they have access to many books on their level."

Last year, The State of Connecticut enacted language regarding reading instruction in the Fiscal Year 24 appropriations bill requiring all public school districts to either choose a new comprehensive reading program from a menu of six options or ask for a waiver to delay the decision. CSDNB's leadership made the decision to vet materials and launch a program in the fall of 2023 for all K-5 students, rather than delay, to move further towards the goal of ensuring all students are reading and writing on, or above, grade level.

Students, staff, families, and community members were invited to review the menu of options and helped CSDNB identify ARC as the best fit. Prior to ARC, not all teachers districtwide were taking a comprehensive approach to teaching reading in seven key areas: oral language, comprehension, vocabulary, phonics, phonemic awareness, and rapid letter naming.

"Every classroom has periods of time when students are reading books and researching a topic. Sometimes students



“Literacy is the gateway to all other content areas. If kids can’t read they really don’t have access to their education so thats really why we are taking this so seriously in New Britain.”

LILLIE STUART

DISTRICT COORDINATOR OF LANGUAGE ARTS



are listening to the teacher read and having discussions. Sometimes the students are working in small groups to shore up some of their reading skills. Sometimes everyone is writing,” said Deputy Superintendent Ivelise Velazquez. “Overall, we see much more reading taking place and a whole lot more excitement about reading!”

Deprey said her students really look forward to their small-group reading time each day during reading toolkit lessons. “I have enjoyed the small group reading toolkit lessons the most as well, since the lessons teach foundational literacy skills in a systematic and explicit way that solidifies concepts for students,” said Deprey.

The implementation of any new program, such as ARC, may present challenges. The Academics Leadership Team was able to design the school calendar in a way that gave staff more time for professional learning to improve practice. In November, CSDNB hosted the first of two full day professional development sessions planned throughout the year which provided time for teachers to plan, ask questions, and discuss how to reset if that what they needed with districtwide grade level teams.

“I think a full day of professional development is impactful because we get a lot of time time to collaborate with our teams. It’s nice because we can also get some ideas from

other schools for things we can implement into our first grade classrooms since we obviously do things differently as teams,” said Meaghan McLaughlin, Vance Elementary School First Grade Teacher after leaving an ARC training with first grade teachers from across the district. “We’ll go back and apply that knowledge, connect that to our teaching, and do whats best for our students.”

One of the key objectives of ARC is to develop readers who can sustain reading for longer periods of time, deeply understand the content, and effectively articulate their thoughts about what they’ve learned through both discussion and writing.

“No two students become expert readers along the same path. As educators, we must understand that every child is different and we must differentiate what we do to engage them in the reading process that is best for them rather than depending on a one size fits all approach. The science of reading is broad and not narrowly based on phonics alone,” said Velazquez. “We are seeing lots of new reading behaviors that were not apparent before and we hear students talking about their favorite books or talking about what they want to grab next.”

Lillie Stuart, District Coordinator of Language Arts said the district’s focus on literacy is critical, thanking the district teachers, administrators, and coaches who have been the backbone of the ARC rollout.

“Literacy is the gateway to all other content areas. If kids can’t read they really don’t have access to their education so thats really why we are taking this so seriously in New Britain.”



CURRICULUM

A Rigorous, useful, Board-approved curriculum document for every subject area, course, and grade

- The Essential 10 -

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?

NEED HELP WITH YOUR STUDIES?

FREE 1-TO-1 ON-DEMAND
HOMEWORK HELP & TUTORING
IS NOW AVAILABLE 24/7 FOR
ALL CSDNB 9TH GRADERS!

Varsity Tutors

CSDNB

GIVE YOUR GRADES A BOOST WITH THE HELP OF VARSITY TUTORS!

To support our 9th grade students and their families, we are now offering FREE on-demand homework help and tutoring services with a personal virtual tutor for all freshmen students.

We have contracted with Varsity Tutors to ensure that all 9th grade students have 24/7 access to instant academic support through their Clever Portal.

- ✓ SECURE ACCESS THROUGH CLEVER PORTAL
- ✓ 24/7 UNLIMITED INSTANT ACCESS TO REAL-TIME TUTORING VIA CHAT
- ✓ LIVE CHAT AND INTERACTIVE WHITE BOARD SUPPORT
- ✓ HOMEWORK SUPPORT FEEDBACK ON WRITING, STUDYING SUPPORT
- ✓ LIVE AND ON-DEMAND ENRICHMENT CLASSES
- ✓ UNLIMITED ANNOTATED ESSAY REVIEW

This no-risk support service is absolutely FREE for all CSDNB 9th Graders! Try it today! Simply log into Clever Portal and click on 'Varsity Tutors' to get started!

FREE TUTORING AVAILABLE FOR ALL 9TH GRADERS

Does your 9th grader need help with their studies? To support our freshmen students and their families, we are now offering FREE on-demand homework help and tutoring services with a personal virtual tutor for all freshmen students. We have contracted with Varsity Tutors to ensure that all freshmen students have 24/7 access to instant academic support through their Clever Portal.

This no-risk support service is absolutely FREE for all NBHS/SCA freshmen! Log into Clever Portal and click on 'Varsity Tutors' to get started.



STAFF ATTEND RESTORATIVE PRACTICES FOR EDUCATORS TRAINING

Last month, many Administrators, Teachers, Security Guards, Deans, and a BSA attended a two day Restorative Practices for Educators training with the goal of fostering a positive classroom and school culture. During this two-day introductory experience, participants learned the fundamental theory and practices for engaging with students, staff, and parents in their school setting.

Building and strengthening relationships and community is a critical component of school culture. Restorative practices is an essential process for creating a positive learning environment, building social capital, and resolving relational issues. Additional training sessions will be offered in December allowing more staff to attend. Additionally, trained staff will be sharing strategies with colleagues and offering mini professional development sessions to continue moving this work forward.

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?

EDUCATORS RISING COLLABORATION WITH CCSU CONTINUES

The Educators Rising Ladies of New Britain High School continued their series of visits to Central Connecticut State University last month. Under the mentorship of Dr. Toni Ryan and Dr. Paula Talty, over 40 young women attended an all-day workshop where they discussed current education topics (and dilemmas). They even used props and objects to symbolize inequities in education. These same students will attend further sessions throughout the year designed to elevate self-expression, and self-advocacy while empowering the young women in the program to succeed. Ms. Marquez, Mrs. Miano and Mrs. Moffett are proud of their participation, engagement and voices!



CSDNB CELEBRATES 'READ FOR THE RECORD' WITH THE UNITED WAY

CSDNB recently partnered with the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut and Hartford Public Library to celebrate the 18th Anniversary of Jumpstart's Read for the Record Program.

Volunteers visited our elementary schools to read "With Lots of Love" by Jenn Torres Sanchez to all 3rd graders. What made this event even better? All 3rd-grade students were able to take home their own copy of the book. CSDNB would like to thank The United Way and all the volunteers who joined us to make this Year's Read for the Record a successful day celebrating literacy.



DISTRICT UPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



NBHS STUDENTS LEARN FROM NBPD PARTNERSHIP

The Introduction for First Responders course recently finished its unit on police work. Detective Lopa from the New Britain Police Department guided students through many aspects of the police career path. Students learned about the polygraph system, fingerprinting, and the police academy. The NBHS classroom hosted visits from the NBPD SWAT team, the canine unit, the school's SROs and representatives from many different bureaus of the department. The highlight of the course was a field trip to police headquarters, where students got to see what it was like to be a police officer on active duty. CSDNB would like to thank the NBPD for such a great hands-on unit. Up next, NB Emergency Medical Services!



CSDNB STUDENTS LEAD FOOD DRIVES

Students across the district led food drives in November to support local food pantries. Holmes Elementary gathered an incredible 1,581 items in just two weeks! The HALS Academy National Junior Honor Society 8th-grade students organized their own canned food drive and sent an extra thank you to homeroom 201, Ms. Crooks, for bringing in the most donated items. The Jefferson Elementary Jets collected over 600 items for their nonperishable food drive. Congratulations to their top class, Mrs. Rosenstein's 3rd grade class who collected over 145 items! The Lincoln Elementary Leaders Rising group held its first event of the year, a Thanksgiving food drive for My Portion Inc. Food Pantry. The students collected canned goods and loaded them up for the pantry to provide a Thanksgiving meal for veterans and homeless individuals in our community. Great job CSDNB!



DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



CHAMBERLAIN ELEMENTARY HOSTS LITERACY NIGHT

Chamberlain Elementary recently partnered with Dr. Turner and the CCSU Literacy Center to host their first Literacy Superheroes Night.

From capes to books, our little superheroes dazzled us with their enthusiasm for reading and learning. We thank all of our families and staff who attended and encouraged all of our learners to practice their reading powers and send an extra thank you to Dr. Turner and his team for their continued support at Chamberlain!



EDUCATORS RISING STUDENTS GET HANDS ON EXPERIENCE AT SMALLEY

Students from New Britain High School's Educators Rising Program recently visited Smalley Elementary School for some hands-on experience while working with the Smalley Bees. Students had the opportunity to work with whole classes, small groups, and even individual students. On top of the teaching experience, this crossover has created great opportunities for mentorship and positive influence between the high school and elementary students and has been a great experience for both sets of students.



DISTRICT UPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



FAMILY CONNECTION ON VETERANS DAY

Last month, students in Ms. Alicia Strong's 4th grade class at Smalley Elementary School had an important visitor, their teacher's father, Staff Sergeant Strong.

Staff Sergeant Strong visited the class to speak to students about his time serving in the US Air Force. The students had a chance to ask questions and thank him for his service. CSDNB would like to thank Staff Sergeant Strong and all of our nation's brave veterans for their service. We would also thank Ms. Strong and her father for creating this great educational opportunity together!



LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING WITH 'BALLOONS OVER BROADWAY' INSPIRED PARADE

Just before Thanksgiving, the Lincoln Elementary School first graders took part in the "Balloons Over Broadway" parade, a new tradition inspired by the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade and 'Balloons over Broadway,' a children's book by Author Melissa Sweet. The talented first graders crafted their own whimsical balloon characters and proudly paraded through the school, showcasing their incredible work. From Spiderman to Bluey to Pikachu, these imaginative creations truly captured the spirit of the season.



DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



MELISSA VANCOUR EARNS STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

Melissa Vancour, New Britain High School Family School Liaison, was recently recognized by the Connecticut Association of Prevention Professionals with the Coalition Sector All-Star Award.

Ms. Vancour earned the award for her outstanding work representing CSDNB at Local Prevention Council meetings, engaging youth with prevention work, sharing resources with the community at various events, committing her time to the Prevention Street Team, and chaperoning various youth conferences. Congratulations Melissa! Your dedication to the youth of New Britain is evident in all you do and you make us so proud!



OVER 400 NBHS STUDENTS CELEBRATED FOR PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Over 400 New Britain High School students were recently recognized for their perfect attendance during Quarter 1. Yes, you read that right – 400 students!! To honor this remarkable accomplishment, NBHS hosted a special celebration breakfast for these dedicated students. Their commitment to being present and engaged in their education is truly commendable, and we couldn't be prouder.

At this time last year, the NBHS chronic absenteeism rate was 43.51%. We are excited to announce that it has dropped significantly to 35.2%! That's an incredible 8.28% decrease – a testament to the collective effort and commitment to success.

We also have to send a special shout-out to all of our schools that are showing greater than an eight percentage point improvement over last year at the 50-day mark: Slade Bridges, Lincoln SCS, Chamberlain, Chamberlain Bridges, Gaffney, Smith Key, Slade, Smalley, and HALS!

DISTRICT UPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



CSDNB TEACHER OF THE YEAR HONORED AT STATEWIDE EVENT

The State Department of Education and Teacher of the Year Council recently hosted the annual statewide Teacher of the Year Ceremony at the Bushnell. Teachers from across the state were celebrated, including CSDNB's Teacher of the Year, Eileen Marquez. The program celebrates excellence in teaching by recognizing teachers who have inspired a love for learning in their students and who have distinguished themselves in the profession.

You make New Britain so proud Ms. Marquez!



GAFFNEY CELEBRATES ATTENDANCE WITH VISIT FROM VALENTINE THE CLOWN

Mrs. Simboski's class recently won Gaffney Elementary School's school-wide October Attendance Challenge and a visit from Valentine the Clown, an expert face-painter! We like to give a huge shoutout to each student and their families for making attendance a priority!

Each month Gaffney has a brand new attendance challenge planned, and we can't wait to see which class will rise to the occasion next. We ask all families and staff to encourage students to be present and on time for their chance to win some exciting surprises.



DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



CAMPUS SAFETY OFFICER RECOGNIZED BY LIBERTY BANK SURPRISE SQUAD

The WFSB Channel 3 Eyewitness News Liberty Bank Surprise Squad recently stopped by Slade Middle School to surprise a very special Campus Safety Officer!

Scott Ahern was nominated to be recognized after an 18-month battle with cancer and for his commitment to supporting all Slade students by spreading kindness wherever he goes.

"He is amazing with the students. He is amazing with the staff. He'll go out of his way for anyone, would give the shirt off his back," said Interim Principal Andrew Mazzei.



HARTFORD WOLF PACK SUPPORTS THE JEFFERSON JETS!

The Hartford Wolf Pack recently donated classroom backpacks to 25 teachers across the state and Jefferson's own Ms. Consalvo won for her entire class after being nominated as a favorite teacher in the statewide contest. Thank you to everyone at the Hartford Wolf Pack who made this happen and keep up the great work Ms. Consalvo!



DISTRICT UPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



GOLDEN HURRICANES HOST MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND NIGHT

The New Britain High School Golden Hurricanes Marching Band recently gained some new members. CSDNB's annual Middle School Band Night featured students from Slade Middle School, Pulaski Middle School, DiLoreto Middle School, and HALS Academy who took the field alongside the Golden Hurricanes for a very special performance. We can't wait to see all of these students back on the field in gold over the next few years!



NBHS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN INNOVATION CHALLENGE

The New Britain High School Introduction to Economics class is proud to be participating in Junior Achievement's Tech 4 Sustainable Futures multi-date innovation challenge.

The program was created through a partnership with Junior Achievement, Capgemini, and The Hartford to provide a unique opportunity for collaborative learning focused on technology, sustainability, and building a business plan and product aimed at creating a more sustainable world. Students are guided and mentored through this multi-week immersion experience by professional volunteers who dedicate their careers to such topics. Students will have the chance to pitch their ideas to a panel of judges and win prizes. Additionally, the top-scoring teams will be invited to participate in a statewide year-end innovation challenge!

The NBHS class, with their teacher Barbara Maselek, will be participating on Fridays through the end of the calendar year. Thank you to Junior Achievement, Capgemini, and The Hartford for making this possible!

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



CSDNB FRCS HOSTS FIRST JOINT 'PLAY PARTY'

The CSDNB Family Resource Centers recently hosted their first-ever 'Play Party' with registered families on Halloween. The Play Party was a great opportunity for families with children ages birth to 4 to connect with other families in New Britain and our FRC staff. We thank all of the little monsters who came out to learn with us on Halloween!

Are you interested in learning more about our Family Resource Centers or in joining our FREE Play and Learn groups? Register here! <https://bit.ly/484H5LK>



Great job!

WAY TO GO NORTHEND!

Congratulations Northend School! The Connecticut State Department of Education reported Northend made sufficient growth in their Math Smarter Balance Assessments!

"This is further proof that we can and will move our district in a positive direction to benefit all of New Britain's children," said Dr. Tony Gasper, Superintendent of Schools. "Congratulations Rolanda and the Northend Team!!!"

DISTRICT UPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?



SMITH CLASS GIVES BACK WHILE LEARNING

Mrs. Zangrandi's class recently hosted a special visit from the Hungerford Nature Center.

Students had the chance to learn about some of the center's animals and got to pet them. The class has also been learning about the importance of "giving" through their reading and decided they also wanted to make a donation to the center. Both kids and adults wanted to give and the class was able to make a \$50 donation to the nature center.



AMBULANCE SIMULATOR UNVEILED AT NBHS

CSDNB recently unveiled a new Ambulance Rig Simulator at New Britain High School with a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the many new opportunities afforded to students through the program.

NBHS Public Service Academy students can now gain hands-on experience in an ambulance without ever leaving the classroom thanks to the new Sim Rig. The Introduction to Public Safety Course is co-taught by Colleen Moffett-Mals, NBHS Teacher, and Emily Derynoski of New Britain Emergency Medical Services. Students in the Health Academy will also have the opportunity for crossover to use the Sim Rig.

We thank all of our community partners who joined as at the ribbon cutting and for their dedication to making this class possible.



DISTRICT UPDATES

What's New and Happening at CSDNB?

WORD OF ADVICE:
Insure your student's device...



2023-24 STUDENT DEVICE INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE

Last year we had over 1800 students participating in the student device insurance program and honored over 1100 claims. Student Device Insurance is now available for purchase through the My School Bucks store. 801 have enrolled so far in the first two months of school. Let's continue this trend and enroll more students than last year! Thank you to those who have already enrolled. Details on the student device insurance program can be found on our district website www.csdnb.org/csdnb-student-device-insurance.php or by scanning code below:



DECEMBER TECH TIP: POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL APP VS WEB. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Checking your PowerSchool parent portal is a powerful way to monitor your child's grades and attendance. You can use either a web browser or the app for a smartphone to access your account, but are they the same? Not exactly. Some features are only available on the web version that are not accessible on the smartphone app. Here is a breakdown of the differences:

Feature	Web	App
Grades	✓	✓
Attendance	✓	✓
Forms	✓	✓
Report Cards	✓	No
Student Tech Tickets	✓	Partially in the forms section
Transportation Info	✓	Separate App
MySchool Bucks	✓	Separate App
School Messenger	✓	Separate App
Food Menus	✓	Separate App

DISTRICT UPDATES

DISTRICT UPDATES

Staff Shoutouts



CARRIE DILLON
Guidance Counselor
Slade Middle School

"Carrie goes above and beyond to meet the needs of Slade Middle School 6th grade students. She is flexible and accommodating to the many needs that arise on a day-to-day basis- be it students, staff, families, or administration. She is a master in prioritizing and in her communications with others that make her a trusted, valued member of the learning community. All situations are a learning experience in Carrie's hands."

-Lauren Miele, Interim Asst. Principal.



ALEJANDRO ORITZ
Principal
Pulaski Middle School

"He is an extremely caring and hardworking leader who goes above and beyond to make every staff member feel worthy and comfortable. He is warm, respectful, and genuine in all his interactions with students and staff. He made my transition back to the building very smooth by supporting me with his trust and respect. He is evidently present and involved throughout the school, instead of being stuck in the office all day. He not only treats the staff as equal partners but also cares about faculty and staff and their lives outside of the school. He definitely leads by example and motivates me to do better."

- Anonymous Staff Member

DISTRICT UPDATES

Staff Shoutouts



MEGAN JACOBS-CARTA
Teacher
Chamberlain Elementary School

"I'd like to nominate Mrs. Jacobs-Carta. My son is lucky enough to have her again this year as she's moved up to be a third-grade teacher. Parker has spoken so highly of Mrs. JC since last year when he first had her. She is kind, patient, understanding, approachable, and fun. It's refreshing to know how safe and comfortable my son feels in her class. He has mentioned many times that she is the best teacher he can have and I have to agree. Parker has learned SO much in her class."

- Shawna Kadric, parent/guardian



KARA LANZ
PE/Health Teacher
Pulaski Middle School

"Ms. Lanz goes way above and beyond for students. We appreciate everything you do for the students at Pulaski. Your duty never goes unnoticed."

-Tanairy Diaz, parent/guardian

**Do you want to nominate
a CSDNB staff member to
receive a Staff Shoutout?**

Scan QR code below:



DISTRICT UPDATES

CSDNB Smiles

The Past 30 Days at CSDNB





Many more photos of this experience can be found on CSDNB's social media!

CSDNB Smiles

The Past 30 Days at CSDNB





Many more photos of this experience can be found on CSDNB's social media!

CSDNB Smiles

The Past 30 Days at CSDNB





Many more photos of this experience can be found on CSDNB's social media!

NEED HELP WITH YOUR STUDIES?

*FREE 1-TO-1 ON-DEMAND
HOMEWORK HELP & TUTORING
IS NOW AVAILABLE 24/7 FOR
ALL CSDNB 9TH GRADERS!*



GIVE YOUR GRADES A BOOST WITH THE HELP OF VARSITY TUTORS!

To support our 9th grade students and their families, we are now offering FREE on-demand homework help and tutoring services with a personal virtual tutor for all freshmen students.

We have contracted with **Varsity Tutors** to ensure that all 9th grade students have 24/7 access to instant academic support through their **Clever Portal**.

- ✓ *SECURE ACCESS THROUGH CLEVER PORTAL*
- ✓ *24/7 UNLIMITED INSTANT ACCESS TO REAL-TIME TUTORING VIA CHAT*
- ✓ *LIVE CHAT AND INTERACTIVE WHITE BOARD SUPPORT*
- ✓ *HOMEWORK SUPPORT, FEEDBACK ON WRITING, STUDYING SUPPORT*
- ✓ *LIVE AND ON-DEMAND ENRICHMENT CLASSES*
- ✓ *UNLIMITED ANNOTATED ESSAY REVIEW*

This no-risk support service is absolutely FREE for all CSDNB 9th Graders!
Try it today! Simply log into Clever Portal and click on 'Varsity Tutors' to get started!

2023-2024 School Year

JULY					AUGUST <small>4 Days</small>					SEPTEMBER <small>20 Days</small>					OCTOBER <small>21 Days</small>				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4					1	2	3	4	5	6	
10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
31					28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				

NOVEMBER <small>18 Days</small>					DECEMBER <small>15 Days</small>					JANUARY <small>20 Days</small>					FEBRUARY <small>19 Days</small>					
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3					1	1	2	3	4	5					1	2
6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	
13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	
20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	
27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31	26	27	28	29					

MARCH <small>19 Days</small>					APRIL <small>17 Days</small>					MAY <small>22 Days</small>					JUNE <small>5 Days</small>				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
				1	1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	29	30	27	28	29	30	31								

Districtwide

- = Holiday (Schools/District Closed)
- = No School ● = Early Dismissal ■ = Professional Development
- August 23 Convocation AM/Building Meetings PM
- August 23, 24, 25 Professional Development
- August 28 First Day of School (Full Day)
- September 4 Labor Day
- October 9 Indigenous Peoples Day
- October 18 Prof. Dev. (Early Dismissal for Students)
- November 7 Election Day, Prof. Dev. (No School for Students)
- November 10 Veterans Day Observed
- November 22 Early Dismissal
- November 23-24 Thanksgiving Recess
- December 21 Half Day
- December 22-January 1 Winter Break
- January 5 Three Kings' Day Observed
- January 15 Martin Luther King Day
- January 31 Prof. Dev. (Early Dismissal for Students)
- February 16 Lincoln's Birthday Observed
- February 19 President's Day
- March 4 Prof. Dev. (No School for Students)
- March 29 Good Friday
- April 8-12 April Break
- May 15 Prof. Dev. (Early Dismissal for Students)
- May 27 Memorial Day
- June 7 Last Day of School (Early Dismissal)
- June 19 Juneteenth Holiday

Special Observance Days

Faculty will make appropriate accommodations for students affected by these and other special observance days.

Sep. 15-17 Rosh Hashanah	Mar. 31-Apr. 6 Bright Week
Sep. 24-25 Yom Kippur	Mar. 10-Apr. 9 Ramadan
Sep. 29-Oct. 6 Sukkot	Apr. 9-10 Eid al-Fitr
Nov. 12 Diwali	Apr. 22-30 Passover
Mar. 25 Holi	June 17 Eid al-Adha

Pre-K ▲

- ▲ September 27 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ October 25 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ November 29 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ January 24 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ February 28 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ March 20 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ April 24 PD (Early Dismissal)
- ▲ May 29 PD (Early Dismissal)

Elementary School ◆

- ◆ November 27 End of 1st Trimester
- ◆ December 12 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ December 13 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ December 14 (Evening Conferences)
- ◆ March 6 End of 2nd Trimester
- ◆ March 19 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ March 20 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ March 21 (Evening Conferences)
- ◆ June 7 End of 3rd Trimester

Middle School ◆

- ◆ August 25 Grade 6 Only First Day (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ November 27 End of 1st Trimester
- ◆ December 12 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ December 13 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ December 14 (Evening Conferences)
- ◆ March 6 End of 2nd Trimester
- ◆ March 19 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ March 20 Conferences (Early Dismissal)
- ◆ March 21 (Evening Conferences)
- ◆ June 7 End of 3rd Trimester

High School ■

- August 21 Freshmen Orientation (10:00AM)
- August 25 Freshmen Only First Day (Early Dismissal)
- August 28 First Day of School - All Grades
- September 28 Q1 Progress Reports Available in PowerSchool
- September 28 Open House (6:00-8:00PM)
- October 30 End of Quarter 1
- November 3 Q1 Report Cards Available in PowerSchool
- November 6 Fall Conferences (6:00-8:00PM)
- December 6 Q2 Progress Reports Available in PowerSchool
- January 17 End of Quarter 2
- January 18 Second Semester Begins
- January 23 Q2 Report Cards Available in PowerSchool
- February 21 Q3 Progress Reports Available in PowerSchool
- March 22 End of Quarter 3
- March 28 Q3 Report Cards Available in PowerSchool
- March 29 Tentative SAT School Day (Early Dismissal)
- April 2 Spring Conferences (6:00-8:00PM)
- May 1 Q4 Progress Reports Available in PowerSchool
- May 8 Senior Presentations (Early Dismissal)
- May 15 Senior Presentations (Early Dismissal)
- June 3-6 Final Exams
- June 7 Last Day of School (Early Dismissal) (Make-up day)
- June 7 End of Quarter 4
- June 10 Q4 Report Cards Available in PowerSchool
- June 11 Graduation (Tentative)



CSDNB

WWW.CSDNB.ORG



CSDNBCT



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

272 Main Street • P.O. Box 1960 • New Britain, CT 06050-1960



In partnership with family and community, the Consolidated School District of New Britain works to provide the best personalized and comprehensive whole-child education at every level so students will be prepared for, and positively contribute to, a profoundly different future.

The Consolidated School District of New Britain strives to pursue excellence one student at a time.

The Consolidated School District of New Britain

2022-2023 Intellectual Property

This publication is owned by the Consolidated School District of New Britain and no part of it may be reproduced without the permission of the District.

Authorized by: Superintendent Tony Gasper



CSDNB

WWW.CSDNB.ORG



CSDNBCT