

West Middle Community School is officially back on the hill. We are excited to share with you how our year has been going so far. It is hard to believe that we have already been in school over 145 days.

In September we opened our new building and Volunteer Center with a celebration planned by, members of West Middle's School, leadership, Governance Council, PTO and the community hosted by The Hartford. There were over 100 community members in attendance including Mayor Luke Bronin and Associate Superintendent Kate Carbone.

In addition to all of the great things happening. West Middle Community School is seeking volunteers for the new Volunteer Resource Center. Currently we have over 25 volunteers at work at West Middle. We are still looking for classroom support, helping hands for student activities, and many more opportunities.

On our pathway to excellence, West Middle Enrichment featured the first day of afterschool program on September 8, sponsored by Lead Agency, Boys & Girls Club between the hours of 4-6 p.m. The first day proved to be a huge success with up-ward of 70 students enrolled in the afterschool program during which time the students and staff were able to get acquainted, home-work & tutorial assistance was provided along with fun filled engaging programs/activities and free giveaways were provided to all participating students.

During the Winter, we had a Thanksgiving feast organized in partnership with lead agency Boys and Girls Club, Connectikids and West Middle hosted by Asylum Hill Congregational church over 250 students, families and staff were in attendance. We were excited to host our first movie night in our new gymnasium featuring the Polar Express. Students, parents and staff came together in their pajamas to watch the movie and enjoy popcorn, cookies, and hot chocolate over 60 people in attendance.

This Spring we celebrated the Birthday of Dr. Seuss with a special visit to our K-2 classrooms from Cat in the Hat and readers from the United Way Read Across America. We began our Box Tops drive with a monthly contest between home rooms for a pizza party to the class that turns in the most box tops. Students have been to many exciting places including the Bushnell, TheatreWorks, Real Art Ways, as well as the Wadsworth Athenaeum.

Students in grades seven and eight attended The Success Leadership program, which is a collaborative effort of the Hulbert Outdoor Center and InspiringKids. The program helps students learn leadership skills, practice these skills by teaching their peers about what they learned, and leading their school in projects that benefit their local community. Our student leaders are sponsoring a school wide Community Day on May 5th.

The 2016-17 Enrichment featured a variety of school day/afterschool program initiatives and family events but are not limited to: science & engineering, health & nutrition, the performing arts (Cartooning/ Hip-hop/Lyricism and Writing/Theater/Fabric & Collage and Drumming), field trips to the Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum, Connecticut Science Center, UCONN Medical Health Campus in Farmington, CT, (2) six week student workshop-enrichment series during the fall/spring, as well as college tours for middle grade students.

West Middle Community School Volunteer Resource Center continues to seek volunteers. We are looking for classroom support, assistance with student activities, and many more opportunities.

We always welcome support and enthusiasm. Contact the school to reach our leaders, including Principal Lynn Estey, Dean of Students Brenda Stovall, School Governance Council Chairperson Doug Glanville and Community School Coordinator Joe Bumpers.

Column Submitted by: Nicole Rodriguez, Director of Volunteer Resources