



Plainville Board of Education's Community Letter

Winter 2017

Plainville Community Schools inspire and prepare lifelong learners to follow their passion, engage in their communities, and positively impact our global society.

Message from the Board of Education

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As 2017 unfolds, the Board would like to highlight a wonderful new program called "Everyday Hero." This program has been introduced by Superintendent Brummett to honor any staff member or student who has gone above and beyond for another student or colleague. Each month, beginning with the January 9th Board meeting, Everyday Hero nominees will be recognized and celebrated.

The January recipients included middle school staff members Justine Misseri and Ellen Nichols who were nominated by Marcy Miller, parent of MSP student Krystyna Miller. Mrs. Miller said that both women have been instrumental in Krystyna's adjustment back into the Plainville Community Schools from an out of district placement. They make her feel secure and comfortable talking to her teachers, advocating for herself, and even help her socially.

The third recipient was Linden Street School Principal Paula Eshoo. She was nominated by Jill Bright, parent to Jordan and Nolan. Bright stated, "Principal Eshoo goes above and beyond every day to make each student feel important.

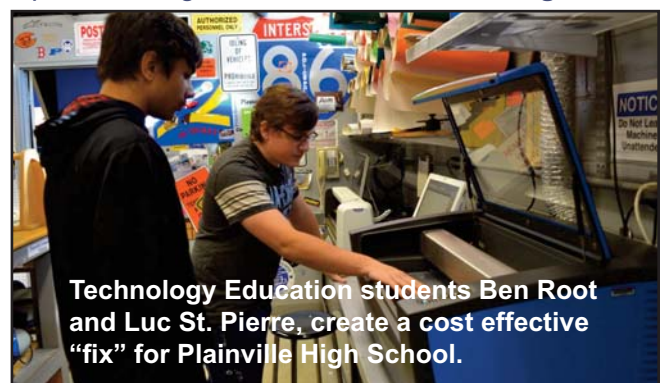
She is always smiling and looks for the good in everyone. She has also shown all the kids that it is "cool" to behave and be respectful, not the other way around!" Congratulations to our first group of Everyday Heroes. Please visit www.plainvilleschools.org for additional information.

Technology Education @ PHS



Plainville High School Technology and Engineering students, junior Ben Root and senior Luc St. Pierre, are putting 21 Century Skills into action, most recently using their knowledge and skills to create a "fix" for some broken light lenses in the high school's auditorium. This winter, representatives from the district's Facilities Department approached Technology and Engineering Education faculty member and department instructional leader David Gagnard, explaining that several of the light lenses in the school's auditorium were broken and needed

replacement, but were also very costly, and asked if they could possibly be replicated by students in Gagnard's Communication 2 class. Root and St. Pierre volunteered for the project, and put together a plan to create the lenses. "The students were eager to take on the task, and structured the project through the Modes of Communication that we study in the Communication classes, including Human to Human, Human to Machine, Machine to Machine, and Machine to Human, which encompassed all of the components of bringing this project to fruition," explained Gagnard. **SEE "TECH ED" Page 3**



Technology Education students Ben Root and Luc St. Pierre, create a cost effective "fix" for Plainville High School.



The Lindy Lounge was created by Mrs. Stevenson and the Reading Incentive Committee at Linden Street School. The Lindy Lounge was created so that young authors could share their work with other young authors and not just share it with our parents, siblings or other family members. At the Lindy Lounge, we are awarded

for working hard on writing our stories because writing is hard work! So that is why and how Mrs. Stevenson and the Reading Incentive Committee created the Lindy Lounge.

The Lindy Lounge area is made up of a robot carpet, a book case filled with all kinds of books, and a bunch of little individual soft, squishy benches. It is used to hang up writing from our young Linden writers and to celebrate our writing. The teachers pick one student from each class and display our beautiful writing.

For the celebration, we sit in the Lindy Lounge and listen to each other's writing. First, Mrs. Stevenson and Ms. Tynik pass out our writing for us to read. Then, we take turns reading our writing while everyone listens. After, we ask each other questions about our stories and share our favorite part. You don't have to read your writing if you don't want to, that is up to you. When other people are reading you get to eat popcorn that was specially made for the celebration in the Lindy Lounge.

*Written by:
Maryssa Bakaysa, Grade 4
Linden St. School*



Hour of Code

Plainville elementary school students in kindergarten through fifth grade celebrated National Computer Science Week while learning about computer coding through the Hour Of Code program. Hour of Code is a non-profit organization that has created a free, game based learning environment for students of all ages. The goal of the program is to get students learning about and applying computer coding strategies at an early age. This year over 27 million children, worldwide, accessed the Hour of Code site and participated in their first coding experience. This marks the second year that Plainville students participated in the national computer coding event. The program is configured in a gaming format which was appealing to students, and easy to understand and navigate. As a result, the students responded quickly and with skill, navigating a series of mazes which became progressively more difficult. All students were able to complete many levels, some even finishing all 20 levels during their coding session, underscoring the success of the program as students were engaged in technology while learning, practicing and persevering to gain essential 21st century skills.



Teacher of the Year



Plainville's 2016-17 Teacher of the Year Maria Fazio Colangelo was recently invited to attend the Annual Convention & World Language Expo in Boston, Massachusetts, sponsored by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). The Expo draws thousands of educators from across the world. Colangelo attended a number of workshops and was able to network with foreign language teachers from across the globe. Fazio Colangelo has been an educator for 37 years, and at Plainville High School for 25 of those years, teaching Italian, Reading, and English as a Second Language.

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

PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL: Detective David Posadas from the Plainville Police Union presented a donation of \$1,000 to the **PHS Robotics** program... 100+ colleges, universities, technical schools and branches of the military were in attendance at the annual **PHS College Fair**... The **PHS Science Department** hosted world renowned speaker Dr. Sam Rhine at the annual Genetics Conference... **PHS** hosted the 5th annual Career Day event, where over 40 speakers participated in the program including representatives from a variety of career fields such as engineering, law enforcement, culinary, medical and more. **MIDDLE SCHOOL OF PLAINVILLE: 25 seventh and eighth graders**, together with faculty members **Camille Westfall and Kim Coyle** attended a field trip to Manufacturing Mania in Cromwell to celebrate Manufacturing Month... A group of **MSP students** attended the Connecticut Technology Student Leadership Association Officer Leadership Workshop where they participated in team building and leadership activities... A group of **MSP students** attended the UCONN Engineering Ambassadors' STEM Night at the CT Science Center. The event was designed to engage students in experiments to get them excited about engineering and the sciences. **LINDEN STREET SCHOOL: Superintendent Brummett** recognized Mr. Mike Chancey from Paint And Powder Works at the December 12th BOE meeting for their donation of resources and time for repairing, priming and painting the original bell stand from Linden... **Principal Paula Eshoo** received a grant from the Plainville Community Fund for Four Square and Dolphin Hopscotch stencils for the school's playground. **LOUIS TOFFOLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Toffolon students** participated in their 2nd Annual Cardboard Challenge and shared their creations at the school's "Day of Play" in November... **Toffolon Preschool classes** celebrated Fire Safety Month with a visit from Plainville Fire Marshall Larry Sutherland and a fire truck! Sutherland spoke to the preschool students about the importance of 9-1-1, and "Stop, Drop and Roll" for clothing that catches fire. **FRANK T. WHEELER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Wheeler students** attended an anti-bullying assembly with guest speaker Tommy James... **Fourth graders** enjoyed a day of hands-on discovery about animal adaptations, problem solving, and the forces of gravity at the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford... Wheeler held its first annual Grandparents/Grandguests Day, attended by over 100 guests... **Third graders** traveled to Indian Rock Nature Preserve as part of a social studies unit of study on Cultures across Connecticut. **DISTRICT:** The **Plainville BOE** received CABA's highest leadership recognition; the *CABA Board of Distinction Award - Level 2* for the eighth consecutive year... **Plainville Community Schools** received four *2016 CABA Excellence in Educational Communications Awards*... **Plainville Community Schools** was featured in a report entitled "Tomorrow's Technology Today" published by The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Technology Committee focusing on technology transforming teaching and learning in Connecticut schools, together with the release of a video on the same topic.

Let's Chat With... Steven LePage, Assistant Superintendent



What is your top priority?

My top priority is to ensure that I work as a partner with Dr. Brummett and the leadership team so that we are doing all we can to prepare our students for active, productive and prepared citizenship in their changing world. I hope to be a strong member of our team and to remove any barriers and obstacles to the successful fulfillment of our district vision and goals.

What are your primary responsibilities?

My responsibilities are very broad and include such areas as collaboration with the central office team on district vision and goal development, professional development, oversight of our teacher evaluation and development model, district-wide instructional rounds, policy updates and revision recommendations to the Board, grant writing and oversight, state reporting, residency investigations and oversight, student discipline hearings, personnel matters, first-year teacher development and observations, support of school leaders and teachers on a va-

riety of needs, and more. No two days are the same or without an interesting challenge or opportunity to address.

Describe your leadership style.

I like to think that I am a supportive leader who always listens and makes my best decision in the interest of all involved. I am learning every day and have much to learn, even after over 20 years as an educator, school and district leader. I hope that others see me as a caring, compassionate and passionate leader who wants what is best for our students, yet respects and values the beliefs and needs of all in attaining that goal.

What professional accomplishment are you most proud of?

I am proud of my work as a principal and like to think I got to know not only our wonderful high school students, but also the townspeople on a larger scale. I have a deep commitment to Plainville and that is easy because it is filled with really great people. I am proud of my involvement in Interact, Rotary, charitable opportunities to give back and help others (and modeling that with students) and being a part of the Plainville team because as our saying goes, Plainville Rocks!

TECH ED

(continued from page 1)

Once they completed their initial research, the students used digital calipers and electronic imaging tools to take precise measurements and draw an outline and plan for what they needed. Once complete, they put that information into a computer using graphic design software that allows the user to create a 3D rendering, in order to create an outline and shape for the exact light lens size. Testing was completed using acrylic on a computer numerical controlled laser cutting machine to determine the optimal sizing for the prototype. Through trial and error, the students reconfigured the design until it was exactly right, and they were able to then cut the final design for the lamps. The final step involved using another machine in the school's Communication Lab to heat the acrylic glass to the correct curvature. The students manufactured several of the new light lenses at a fraction of the cost for the auditorium to be used when others break, and the first set of new lenses will be installed in the auditorium in February.

"I enjoyed the project because it is a good field to explore and it helps us understand how to design and produce objects in the real world," noted St. Pierre.

"I liked being part of the project as well, and the fact that it saved the school district both time and money. I'm happy to have been selected to work on this project," said Root.

Both students are looking forward to future projects to extend their learning and make cost effective improvements at PHS.

Unified Basketball



Three years ago, the Middle School of Plainville was invited to bring their student athletes to join the Plainville High School Unified Basketball Team. The High School Unified Team consists of high school student athletes who practice with their high school peer athletes twice a week after school. The middle school students travel to the high school during enrichment on Mondays and Thursdays to practice with their teammates. The Unified Team plays against other unified teams during half-time of the varsity basketball games. After their last game, Mrs. Misseri, MSP School Psychologist, commented, "Our students did an outstanding job. We have GREAT high school peer athletes working with our student athletes. Their genuine compassion for their classmates is nothing less than heartwarming."

Article: By Alexia Patenaude, MSP student

Photo: The Middle School team players are Skyler Scott, Daniel Myska, Andrew West, Riley Lasko, and Braden Shumbo. Missing from photo: Trevor Garrow-Cooke.

The Unified Team coaches are Cindy Birdsall, Jeri Lynn Turkowitz, Amy Tennant, and Stephanie Gagne.

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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