

Name: Sarah Forrey-Pettit School/Program: Pond Cove Elementary

## **Administrator School Board Update**

**Tuesday, February 14, 2023**

Staff update:

- Hired general education ed tech (shared between MS/PCES)!
- Started search for an administrative assistant. We hope to have a replacement prior to March 3, which is the current assistant's last day.
- Bri Gallagher and Megan McDermott, Pond Cove School Counselors, provided a special message on the morning announcements each day during National School Counseling Week to build awareness of the importance of school counseling programs and provide inspiration to students.
- Becky Bean hosted fourth grade music concerts on February 7 and 9. This was the first time since COVID that we've been able to host these! They were well attended and went well.
- Leesa Joiner (technology integrator), Tami Johnsen (extended learning strategist), and Ellen Bailey (math specialist) will host three STEAM nights in the coming months. The first will be held on Tuesday, February 28.
- Gabbi Morse and Becky Bean are currently serving as intern principals as part of their graduate work to gain principal licensure. They have been participating in several leadership opportunities that align with their program requirements and both are doing an outstanding job.

Facility update:

- The fire alarm was tested in the building and was found to be in good working order.

Celebrate the Good

- February 6 - 10, we celebrated National School Counseling Week. We hosted a week of events, which included the following:
  - **Monday: Make a Donation Day!** We invite families to donate any amount of their choice to [The Center for Grieving Children](#) in honor of "Bri and Megan at Pond Cove". If you choose, you can let them know that you made a donation in their honor.
  - **Tuesday: A Shower of Hearts Day!** At school, each class will write notes on heart-shaped paper and deliver them to each counselor.
  - **Wednesday: Bring a Flower for our School Counselors Day!** This can be any type of flower (e.g., origami flowers, pictures/drawings of flowers, etc.).

- **Thursday: Post a Note of Appreciation on Social Media Day!** We encourage families to head on over to the Pond Cove [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) pages and share a note of thanks for Megan and/or Bri.
- **Friday: Wear Teal Day!** The American Counseling Association celebrates Teal Day in early April. However, in honor of our counselors, we invite everyone to wear teal to demonstrate our support of school counseling and their important work. Learn more about the ACA's official Teal Day and purpose at [this link](#).
- Implemented the NWEA Dyslexia Screener assessment for students in first and second grades. (Kindergarten will take the screener in the spring.) Our findings identified fourteen students who were flagged as having early literacy concerns, all of whom were already either receiving special education or RTI services. This is an impressive alignment with normative data results and our school intervention programming.
- Cam Rosenblum's grant proposal for visiting authors Anika and Christopher Denise, an award-winning husband-wife author/illustrating team, was awarded by CEEF and supplemented by the PCPA!
- The fourth-grade team was recently awarded a CEEF grant to help make their yearly visit with expert basket maker, Towanda Brown, a reality. Later this spring, Towanda will, once again, lead students in the creation of their own unique medium size basket based on a traditional pattern. Students will learn two basic techniques of weaving with reeds: twining and plaiting. Most importantly, fourth graders will learn that baskets are universal. Through a detailed slideshow entitled "Making Connections," Towanda will help focus students' attention on the basket history of Maine and the Wabanaki people. This initiative will be supported by generous grants from both PCPA and CEEF this year.