

*Daryl Palmieri,
Interim Executive County Superintendent*

UNION COUNTY DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS January-2020



"Education must not simply teach work- It must teach life."
– W.E.B. Du Bois

Welcome to our monthly highlights for January 2020.

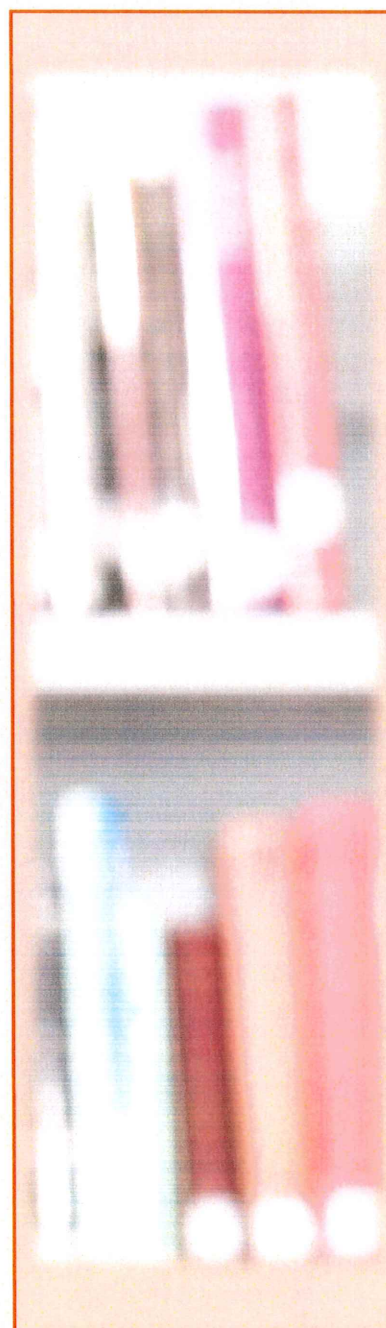
January has been an extremely busy month for the county office. As we wrapped up our midyear budget reviews, we began to roll right into our QSAC visits for the 2019-20 school year.

I continue to urge all districts to utilize our office when questions or issues arise. We are here to help and be a resource for every one of our school districts in Union County.

As we head toward the warmer months, we have some great programs planned that we hope everyone can be a part of and should be beneficial to your district and staff. Please stay tuned for details.

I would like to wish everyone a great February and our team is always ready to assist in any way that we can.

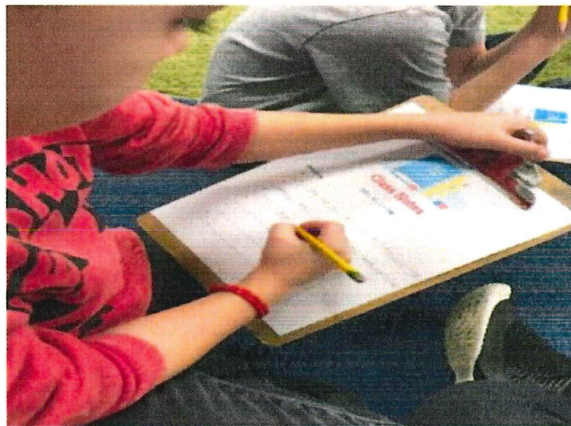
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MOUNTAINSIDE

Beechwood Bookstore Grand-Opening

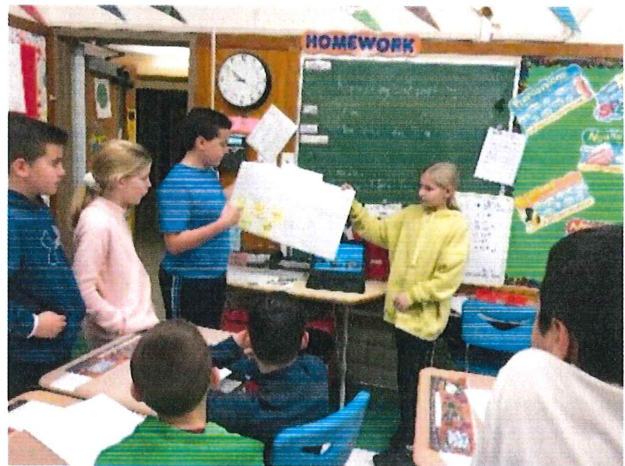
Beechwood School in Mountainside has been bustling with activity. In early January, we had the opening of our first-ever kindergarten book store. As a culminating activity to their Show and Tell writing unit, the students created their own book store - complete with a Starbucks, a "Meet the Author" station, a "Kids' Zone" with activities, and a cash register station. The PEAK, first grade, and second-grade students all visited the kindergarten book stores. Mrs. Jenks, Beechwood School Principal, purchased quite a few books and 5 coffees by the kindergarten absolutely adorable!!



Mountainside Fifth Graders Teach the Class

Deerfield School fifth graders in Lori Topel & Christine Delaney's Language Arts class celebrated the end of their Nonfiction Reading Research unit (from Teachers College Reading and Writing Project) by creating teaching shares about self-chosen topics to present to fourth graders. Working collaboratively in small groups, students investigated a topic thoroughly using various print and online sources, grouped information, and ranked the most important main ideas they wanted to teach about their topics.

Students designed visuals such as posters and Google Slides presentations as teaching tools, created note-taking graphic organizers for the fourth graders to record their learning on, and constructed assessments to gauge student learning at the end of their presentations. Lastly, fun activities such as board games and trivia contests were included to extend the lessons, offering prizes such as bookmarks with fun facts on them. The fifth graders had a blast thinking like teachers and sharing their expertise with younger students, and the fourth graders expressed that they were very excited to have their turn next year!



PLAINFIELD

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Barlow Inaugurates New Facilities
Mr. Wilson Aponte, Principal



On Monday, December 16, 2019, the Plainfield Public Schools celebrated a ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate the new additions and renovations at the Barlow Elementary School. Students and their families, staff, community and elected officials attended, along with members from the project

architect, LAN Associates (LAN). The project included a new 11,700 sq. ft. "cafetorium" with a state-of-the-art performance stage, new kitchen, indoor and outdoor storage, and a new lobby and modernized gymnasium.