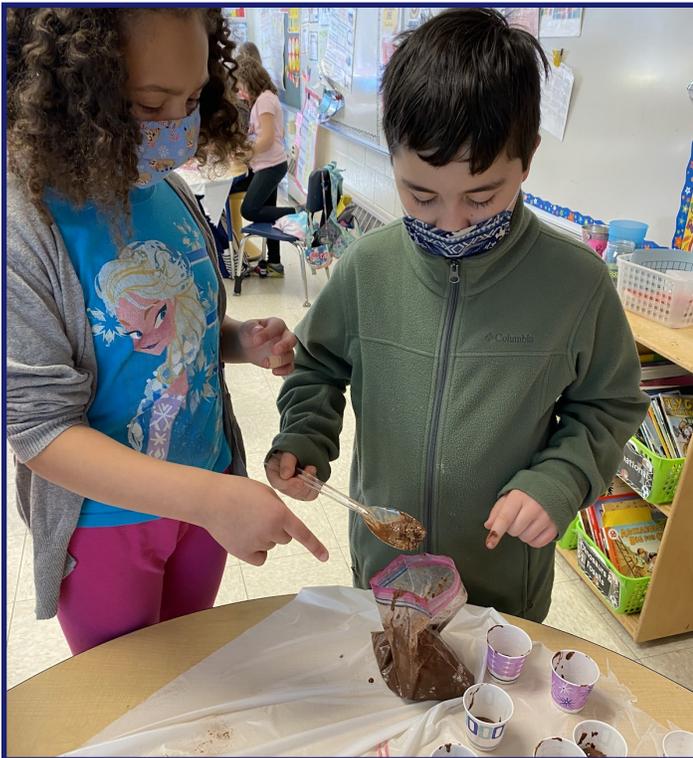




Student Learning Process Combines Research, Analysis and Creativity



In this student-centered learning project Grade 3 students created standard ice cream, then refined their recipes three times based on feedback to develop a healthier ice cream.

A core belief in Mansfield Schools is that students learn best when they engage in joy-filled, challenging and personalized experiences to gain academic skills. Student-centered learning has clear learning goals, encourages creation of a product or presentation, allows for reflection and review and includes field experiences. What is more joy-filled than ice cream?

To launch their student-centered learning initiative, Vinton School Grade 3 teachers Laura Smith and

(See *STUDENT LEARNING* on pg. 2)

Mansfield's New Net-Zero Energy Elementary School Construction Begins

With the selection of Newfield Construction, the Town of Mansfield School Building Committee has moved the new school project to the next phase. Construction fencing installation around the entire construction site plus materials staging marks the beginning of the 16-month construction. Tree removal has also begun on the site behind South-east School.

Superintendent of Schools Kelly Lyman, Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth, and School Building Committee Chair Randy Walikonis joined Architect Jeff Brown from TSKP Studio and the Project Manager Scott Pellman of Collier's Project Management in a virtual presentation providing an overview of the project. If you missed it, you can find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAsKkzKrCyM>.

Additionally, a website has been created that focuses on the new school building and its progress which

(See *NEW SCHOOL* on pg. 2)



Signs of the new Mansfield Elementary School construction are starting to appear. An overview of the school's educational goals and designs is available for viewing at www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAsKkzKrCyM.

Student Learning and Healthier Ice Cream (cont. from page 1)

Julianne Belair challenged their students with the driving question: How can we create a healthier ice cream that also tastes great? Over the course of a month, students researched ice cream ingredients and nutritional facts, and created bar graphs to demonstrate what they learned. Next, they learned about ice cream and food science basics by interviewing Bill Scituro, the manager of dairy manufacturing at the UConn Dairy Bar, and nutritional basics from Food Service Director Stephanie Deason.

With that learning, students rolled up their sleeves and created a basic ice cream, then applied health data and food science to create their recipes. Through the process, students evaluated their own progress toward a healthier ice cream, using a Google-based “Jamboard” to gather data on “What I know, What I learned, What I wonder.” Analyzing this feedback, students refined their recipes to make the final product better. Teachers worked with students in large and small groups to explore the lessons and provide support. Solving real-world problems requires science, math and writing skills, and this project applies all of these academic basics.

The goal is that students will transfer their skills and apply their learning to a new situation.

“There was no limit to the ingredients the teachers provided--strawberries, blueberries, all kinds of things students could experiment with,” said Vinton School Principal Mike

Seal when he described this project to the Board of Education. “Students took ownership of their learning, and there was a lot of opportunity for voice and choice: ingredients and how much of each to use. The joy of learning was really visible.

“I’m convinced that if we engage in this kind of work, year over year in PreK to grade 8, then our graduates are going to come away being critical thinkers, collaborators, creative communicators and citizens of the world,” he added, the elements of Mansfield’s Portrait of the Graduate.



Students chose many types of fruits for their ice cream recipes.

New School (cont. from page 1)

can be viewed at www.https://mansfieldct.gov/2153/Elementary-School-Project. A live webcam will be installed at the site by the end of June so that students, families and community members can watch the progress of the building in real time.



A scale model of the new school as seen from the front.

A groundbreaking is being planned for mid-June, followed by the demolition of the portable

classrooms and brick storage building at Southeast so foundation work can begin. In the fall, elementary students will have the opportunity to each sign the final beam before it’s hoisted up on the framing to become permanently installed in the new school.

Construction Updates for the Community:

- **Baseball teams will have access to Field A and B, plus restrooms, storage and concessions. Batting cages will be relocated temporarily.**
- **The Southeast School playground will be off limits for public use as soon as school closes after June 17. This play equipment will be preserved, reinstalled and enhanced. The town has several other playgrounds for use throughout the summer, including the Mansfield Public Library close by, and at the Mansfield Community Center.**
- **Hikers accessing the trails to Mansfield Hollow State Park will be directed to a trail access point along the fencing just outside of the dirt road. Please watch for signage.**
- **Parking is available in the lot at Southeast Park, but cars may not be parked along the construction road or along the Field C fence.**

Grade 4 Students Raise Funds to Support Local Businesses and Hospital Workers

Grade 4 remote learning students, under the guidance of Teacher Madison Corlett, fanned out across Mansfield to purchase gift cards from 14 local restaurants and retailers. The class raised \$3,730 with the goal of giving local businesses a boost with their purchases, and they were warmly received by the businesses they visited.



Students purchased gift cards from Mama's Muffins owner Lea Nazario plus 13 other local businesses in Mansfield.

Each gift was tucked into a thank you card, many of them hand-drawn, and the 75 gift cards were then presented to the

Windham Hospital Foundation for healthcare employees. Hospital workers' names will be randomly drawn to receive the generous gifts, Coincidental with National Nurses' Week and National Hospital Week, the students' gifts will enhance the celebration at Windham Hospital.

Teddy, one of the participating Mansfield students said, "I've always loved projects and collaborating together on this one has been really fun. I think (the hospital workers) will be overjoyed with this gift. They have been suffering, working long hours with no sleep. I hope they'll be happy to get our gifts."



Julia Schreiber wrote thank you notes in her cards

Goodwin Student Recognized by National Statistics Organization

Grade 4 student Mubtasin Rafan was awarded a plaque in a national 2020 statistics poster competition for earning honorable mention. With encouragement of Teacher Nancy Titchen, Rafan entered the American Statistical Association's poster contest last spring as part of a Goodwin School statistics project.

Rafan and his brother Arayan from Goodwin School and Raifa Azarin Khan from Annie E. Vinton School have created statistics posters this spring, and have progressed to the 2021 national level competition.



Goodwin student Mubtasin Rafan was awarded a plaque for his poster about "Exploring Pi".

Southeast Students Campaign to Collect Cereal Boxes for Local Food Pantries



Students from grade 3 at Southeast School created posters and a promotional video, and wrote letters to local grocers to generate donations of 268 cereal boxes for four local food pantries.

Grade 3 Southeast School students created a campaign which resulted in donations of 268 boxes of breakfast cereal. Believing that local families and food pantries could use extra support, the students researched ideas for how to boost donations. With guidance from teachers James Hendricks and Susan Irvine, students wrote letters to local grocers, produced a video which was shared at school and on the district's Facebook page, and created digital posters promoting the drive.

Extended School Year Summer Learning Opportunities to be Offered

Mansfield School students who can use extra academic and social emotional support are being invited to take advantage of a full day of learning fun and activities this summer. To encourage students to participate in active in-person instruction and afford time to explore full-day activities, the district is offering door-to-door bus transportation to any student invited to participate, a first for the summer program.

All participating elementary students will spend their mornings at Vinton School. Engaging in one-on-one and small group instruction in targeted subject areas, teachers and students will work to catch up or progress on key academic and social-emotional skills. Special programs include an integrated arts and learning opportunity in cooperation with Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford. After a morning of learning fun, elementary aged students will then be provided the opportunity to join in on the activities and exploration opportunities offered by Camp Mansfield.

Mansfield Middle School students will practice and develop new skills to encourage achievement.



STEM activities will be a robust part of summer learning in Mansfield.

They will also have the opportunity to hone literacy skills working with an artist-in-residence from Hartford Stage Company to develop, write and perform a play. Students will also be challenged and engaged with Science-Technology-Engineering-Math (STEM) activities

including two weeks of Robotics Camp. Another STEM initiative will involve blending engineering and design skills using filmmaking.

The summer plan is funded in part by state and federal programs for schools to provide extra student support coming out of a year interrupted by the pandemic. Superintendent Kelly Lyman shared with the Board of Education that most students stayed engaged with learning and are on track for the next school grade, an encouraging start for 2021-22.

Violin and Cello Instruction Added at No Cost to Families

Strings instruction, a long-time optional offering in Mansfield Schools, will become a choice for elementary students in 2021-22. The Mansfield Board of



Violin and cello instruction will be offered at no cost to families in '21-22 school year in select elementary grades.

Education has approved a proposal to offer strings instruction as part of the Mansfield music program at no additional cost to families.

Superintendent Kelly Lyman proposed the change from the optional pay-to-play

program where parents share 50% of the cost of instruction. By partnering with Region 19 to share a strings teacher, the district plans to offer this enhancement to the music program. The schools may be able to supply instruments to some students at low- or no-cost, based on need.

Starting in the fall, students in grades 2-4 may choose violin instruction, with students grades K-1 added as space allows. Cello will be offered to grades K-4. Using the Suzuki in the Schools method, small-group instruction for two to three students plus an ensemble experience will be offered. Parent participation will be optional.

The strings program began in 1979 and has included partnerships with UConn and the Mansfield School of the Arts, but is now run independently by the district. While there were 56 violin and 17 cello students participating in 2015, the program has diminished to 17 violin and 7 cello students this spring. Superintendent Lyman hopes that this expansion will provide more equitable opportunities for all students to study strings, and will build up the strings program so students can continue to develop their instrumental skills through middle school and high school.



A Message from the Board of Education

How do you map out the best way to reach your destination if you don't know where you're going? That is the point of Strategic Planning, a focus of the Board of Education's work in recent months. We appreciate the thoughtful input provided by staff and families throughout this process, and believe that our updated

Mission statement and set of Core Beliefs are truly reflective of the values and desires of our community. With our refined Core Beliefs, we are readjusting our course, and can evaluate our progress along the way in preparing Mansfield students for success.

Among the shifts is a focus on how to Lead with Equity--ensuring our school community supports student learning in a safe, antiracist environment free from discrimination. To help support our teaching and support staff personnel, the district

is providing access to equity training through a summer Equity Institute. The institute will examine such topics as understanding race and racial identity and its impact on our work. Staff will also focus on shared and individual actions that support creating an equitable environment for all students and staff.

We are infinitely grateful to all of our staff--our custodians, our food service workers, our teachers and paraprofessionals, information technology staff and office administrators--for working so hard to make the most of this challenging school year. We also appreciate our Mansfield Schools families who have been flexible, supportive, and engaged. In the coming summer months, we will refine plans to ensure that in the 2021-22 school year, the needs of students are met, and that we are prepared to transition our school family to our new elementary school home with eager enthusiasm.

Our Updated Mission:

It is the mission of the Mansfield Public Schools, in partnership with the Mansfield community, to ensure that each and every child develops the knowledge, skills, and dispositions essential for civic engagement and personal excellence in learning, life, and work within our local and global community.

Middle School Students Progress to National State History Day Competition

Keeping with a long-standing tradition of participating in Connecticut's History Day competition, Mansfield Middle School students entered projects that prove history is relevant to our lives every day. The 2020-21 theme for entries was, *Communication in History: The Key to Understanding*. Congratulations to these Mansfield students who placed at the statewide competition with their outstanding projects. Those placing first and second will progress to national-level judging.



Mansfield Middle School student Mary Lynch assembles her History Day display which earned state-level recognition as an Outstanding Entry in the Arts.

Mansfield's Connecticut History Day Winners

First Place:

Paper: Sophia Caniera

Group Website: Hiruni Witharana

Group Website: Bailey Fuerst and Bronwyn Mott

Second Place:

Group Exhibit: Simonne Thibeault, Amanda Zadnik, Sylvia Halbrooks

Individual Website: Aram Adler-Smith

Group Website: Amanda Schweitzer and Aileen Liu

Special Prize for the Best Use of Oral History:

Bailey Fuerst and Bronwyn Mott

Outstanding Entry in the Arts: Mary Lynch

Mansfield Board of Education
4 South Eagleville Road
Storrs, CT 06268-9983



Two pop-up Resource Fairs in neighborhoods hosted by Mansfield Schools and other Town departments provided families information on local opportunities for support and assistance.



Food Services Director Stephanie (Richard) Deason, fired up with passion for healthy school lunches and sourcing local foods, has taken her advocacy message on the road. She was invited to present at the Connecticut Farm to School Collaborative Summit, and testified before the legislature in support of the CT Grown for CT Kids grants bill. One of her recipes featuring local kale and zucchini was included in the national publication *School Nutrition* in March.

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Mansfield Public Schools

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