

Peacham Elementary School  
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Sam McLeod, Principal: [sam.mcleod@ccsuvt.net](mailto:sam.mcleod@ccsuvt.net)

***Principal's Report  
To The School Board  
January 01, 2024***

**Progress made over the last month on action plan steps reflective of our CCSU goals, curriculum work, MTSS/MTSSB-instructional framework**

**Peer Observation Workshops and UDL implementation-**

As the next stage in our peer observation work our staff will be focusing on elements of observable UDL best practices in our building. Teaching staff will be conducting scheduled observations and debriefings with teaching partners to observe and give specific requested feedback. Observable elements of the observations will then be utilized to highlight best practices in localized Peacham staff development. Our next step moving into February and March is to have teachers observe and collaborate with like staff from other buildings in order to continually develop and expand our skills in UDL implementation.

**Highlights of Experiential Learning Opportunities and the UDL Principle of Student Engagement**



One element of engagement under UDL is accomplished through the Peacham core value of learning through hands-on and experiential learning activities. When students are able to physically engage with materials, work together with peers to create common experiences, and make connections and build relationships with both peers and adults in their learning environments, stronger connections occur and greater retention of learning outcomes occur.

### **Highlights of Recent Events**

#### **Cross Country Skiing and Winter Wellness**



We have a strong community of winter wellness volunteers this year anchored by Cornelia Hasenfuss and Tim McKay. We will continue to engage in cross country skiing and snowshoeing activities every Friday through the winter as weather permits. Thank you to all our volunteers who provide this opportunity to our kids.

#### **First Responder and Road Crew Community Meal**



The first responder and road crew community meal was a tremendous success. We hosted the entire Peacham road crew and 8 first responders for a delicious holiday meal. Our students represented our school and community with pride in their service of and interactions with our guests. Our meals honoring, highlighting, and hosting groups from in our community will continue as a way for our school to grow as an integral and interactive part of our overall town community. This focus on modeling service and developing community pride and sense of place amongst our students is a core Peacham value and also an integral component of building UDL engagement and academic relevancy.

### **Holiday Community Food Bank**

We completed a second holiday season food bank at the Peacham transfer station and the response was overwhelmingly positive. I am very thankful to the people of our community who stepped up to fight food insecurity in our area, and I am also grateful that individuals in need were able to utilize this local resource provided by our community school. I want to add extra thanks again to Nicky Greyling and Pete's Greens for their generous donation of fresh vegetables for the event.

### **Kingdom Animal Shelter Donation Drive**

I am additionally proud of our Kindergarten class for creating a new giving project with their initiative to gather donations for the Kingdom animal shelter. Through modeling service and empathy, it is our goal to guide students to become well rounded and service centered leaders of their current and future communities.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Downhill skiing at Burke**

We are scheduled to have our whole school ski dates scheduled on 1/23,1/30, 2/13 & 3/19.

### **Open positions:**

**None**

### **Bus Transportation Update**

Bruce MacLean, Rick Witt and myself are fully engaged in CDL bus training. Once completed, we will be able to resume the Peacham bus route. Bruce and Rick are taking this significant responsibility on in order to serve their community, help our kids and relieve the burden upon our families. When you see them, please thank them, because we all owe them a tremendous amount of gratitude.

*Respectfully submitted by Sam McLeod*



**Caledonia Central Supervisory Union**  
Cabot School, Twinfield School,  
Danville School District, Peacham School District  
Caledonia Cooperative School District (Barnet, Walden & Waterford Schools)

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**Superintendent's Report January 2024**

**1. Open Positions**

**Barnet School**

- Elementary Teacher
- After School Program Coordinator

**Cabot School**

- Special Education Paraeducator
- Bus Driver

**Central Office**

- 2 High School Paraeducators at the St. Johnsbury Academy
- Certified Deaf/Blind Intervener
- Tutor
- Superintendent of Schools
- Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Coordinator

**Danville School**

- No open positions at this time.

**Peacham School**

- Life Skills one-on-one part-time paraeducator

**Twinfield School**

- Bus Driver
- Food Service
- Preschool Paraeducators (2)
- High School Paraeducator (1)
- Global Citizenship Teacher part-time
- Long Term Substitute Teacher for Preschool (Spring 2024-Spring 2025)
- Learning Services Coordinator part-time
- Custodian

**Walden School**

- No open positions at this time.

**Waterford School**

- Preschool paraeducator

**“It is the mission of the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union and its seven member schools to create a learning community in which each individual can achieve the highest standards of excellence in intellectual growth and citizenship.”**

1. **January Focus** – Budgets . . . and starting to look at what the Legislature will be up to in this session. I expect a fuller briefing in the next couple of weeks.
2. **PCB Testing** – At this time we have a pretty good understanding for how to remediate PCBs in the three schools. What we are lacking is a Corrective Action Plan for each site that will actually *allow* us to remediate. The scale of the challenge is different in all three schools, with Cabot facing the most complex and expensive remediation need for its gym. Our consulting engineer has recommended that Danville skip the Evaluation of Corrective Action Alternatives (RCAA) step and go straight to a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). That recommendation was accepted, and we are waiting for a draft CAP for Danville. No additional action on Twinfield or Cabot.
3. **Required Policy Work following Legislative Session** – S.138 – the School Safety Bill, required us to adopt two policies by August 2023. The SU Board adopted those policies on behalf of the Districts at its June meeting. We are still waiting for guidelines for developing the required All-Hazards Emergency Operation Plans spelled out in the legislation. Latest from the AOE is to expect these updated guidelines in early January. The plans have to be in place by June 30, 2024; we will make best effort to meet that deadline, given that we were supposed to have had the guidelines in late summer.

Mark Tucker, M.A.  
Superintendent of Schools

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**Caledonia Central Supervisory Union**  
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**Student Services Board Report**  
**January 2024**

**1. CCSU Updates**

- a. During the most recent early release day, paraprofessionals were provided the opportunity for training by our speech language pathologists and occupational therapists on how various communication, sensory, and motor challenges can impact students in the classroom and how they can support them.
- b. The student services and curriculum departments continue to collaborate with district leaders to create a true MTSS model throughout the SU.
- c. Student services, curriculum, and IT meet regularly to review technology requests to ensure requests meet data privacy requirements as well as to ensure they are in alignment with all departmental goals.

**2. AOE Updates**

- a. Special educators are working with building based test coordinators to ensure students have appropriate accommodations for upcoming state testing.

**3. Of Note**

- a. I would like to recognize our speech language pathologists and occupational therapists for creating and providing professional development for our paraeducators. Thank you Tracy Winot, Heather MacDonald, Jennifer Sweet-DeMasi, Jennifer McCarthy, and Kelsey Shea for your efforts!

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Landry  
Director of Student Services

Peacham is a very special place. Families purposefully come to raise their kids here and often come back to be a part of our community. Two of our school board members even went to Peacham School and have returned. The community is strengthened by the bonds we develop in our school.

We want to share sincere gratitude to Sam McLeod and his staff at Peacham Elementary School. In addition, we thank Mark Tucker and his whole team at the CCSU Central offices for their unyielding commitment to all the kids in the supervisory union. As our budget not only funds the 64 kids at the school, we support over 50 more Peacham kids in the surrounding middle school and high schools. As you may know, Mark Tucker is retiring this year, and we could not be more grateful for his hard work these last seven years.

This year we will graduate nine students, sending them off to various middle schools around the northeast Kingdom. We are lucky to have excellent choices and appreciate that families can tailor their students' educational experiences to their needs.

We are still emerging from the pandemic and are finding the transition to be more difficult than anticipated. Kids and teachers continue to need more support and unfortunately this year the school budget will go up significantly. Much of this increase in budget is out of our control, due to raising tuition costs in the middle and upper schools, as well as increased healthcare and benefit costs for our dedicated teachers and staff.

Our building is in good shape. The solar panels on the roof continue to offset our electrical cost, and the pellet heater system is running smoothly. We were one of the districts in the supervisory union that did not have any PCBs in our building. Noting some of the challenges the rest of the SU is having, we feel fortunate that our building is doing well. We have updated the security and replaced all the doors this year.

This year we have celebrated many community gatherings and developed some new traditions. Thanks to Sam's diligent outreach, the Community Lunches have been well received, and individual classes have initiated two holiday food banks. It is wonderful to see the engagement of our kids, staff and community members.

Thank you again to all of you, our taxpayers, for your continued support, and as always please contact any school board member if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Clough (Chair), Cornelia Hasenfuss (Vice-chair), Andra Hibbert, Dan Devine and Alex MacLean.