

Truro School Committee Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2023

Regular Session

Present: Kolby Blehm, Peter Cook, Vida Richter, Edwige Yingling

Absent:

Others: Stephanie Costigan, Patrick Riley, Heather Harper, Margaret Allen, Katie Castano, Jess Dinoia, Chief Calise, Kathleen Rosenkampff

1. Call to Order: Kolby Blehm called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM

2. Public Comment: No comment

9.1 Vida Richter moved to approve moving 9.1 Staff presentation on Preschool by Katie Castano, Early Childhood Coordinator, and Preschool teachers Maggie Allen and Jessica Dinoia. Second by Edwige Yingling, roll call vote 4 - 0.

Peter Cook - yes

Vida Richter - yes

Edwige Yingling - yes

Kolby Blehm - yes

Katie Castano, the Early Childhood coordinator, and PK teachers Margaret Allen, and Jessica Dinoia gave a powerpoint presentation on the Tools of The Mind Curriculum for PK students. Tools of the Mind teaches important executive function and self regulation skills and gives children tools to be masters of their own learning. The teachers shared activities students engaged in during the school day. Activities are geared toward peer interaction and peer discussion. The Power Point presentation is attached to the minutes and available to view on the TCS website school committee page.

3. Dates to remember: TSC Public Forum April 27, 2023 canceled

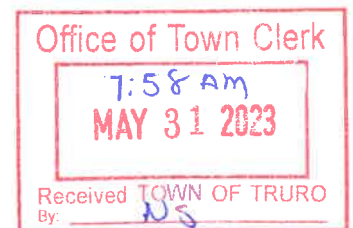
4. Approval of Minutes: Peter Cook moved to approve the February 16, 2023 and March 2, 2023 minutes, second by Vida Richter, roll call vote 4 - 0.

Peter Cook - yes

Vida Richter - yes

Edwige Yingling - yes

Kolby Blehm - yes



5. Administrator's Reports:

5.1 Superintendent: Superintendent Costigan shared the proposed 23/24 school year calendar and asked the committee to vote as presented, so moved by Peter Cook, second by Vida Richter, roll call vote 4 - 0.

Peter Cook - yes
Vida Richter - yes
Edwige Yingling - yes
Kolby Blehm - yes

Superintendent Costigan stated they are well into planning for next year and distributed the number of students in each grade in the current school year and the 23/24 school year. (enrollment attached) Administration is not expecting a 6th grade and is looking at enrollment of 94 students, PK - Grade 5.

Following the successful model of co-teaching in grades 4 and 5 the staff have been coming up with unique ideas for 23/24 grades 2 and 3. The staff has been discussing how much easier it is to navigate a co-taught classroom when there is a high special needs population. The students get their needs met in the classroom. The teachers are advocating for one of two models. Either creating a multi-age classroom where the classes would be combined full day and differentiated for instruction with students going to different spaces for second or third grade curriculum. The second option is to keep a separate classroom for each grade with a lot more crossover to mix the groups together. After a brief discussion the committee would like to hear more information and feedback on the combinations from the teachers and the families.

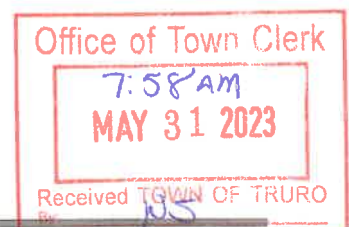
Kindergarten registration is open until May 4, 2023. Dr. Kalise Wornum is presenting to families and interested community members on Thursday April 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

5.2 Principal's Report: Principal Riley represented TCS at the Sense of Belonging conference hosted by the Learn Launch Network. TCS has been working on strengthening a sense of belonging. Principal Riley presented the Drop Everything and Chat model which has been ongoing at TCS where once a week the staff and students break into small mixed groups and chat. The TCS Readathon has been ongoing for the last month and will culminate in an all school meeting this Friday with a Rainforest theme. The Truro Wetu project will begin with a blessing of the land at Highland Light on April 22, 2023. The Truro Historical Society and members of the Wampanoag will talk to older kids about the history and culture of the Wampanoags. MCAS ELA for grades 3 - 5 have begun. Math and Science MCAS will be in May.

5.3 Business Administrator: Heather Harper gave committee members the line transfers information. The committee asked for more time before voting on the transfers. The line transfer discussion and vote will be on the next TSC agenda.

7.2 Vida Richter moved to move 7.2 up on the agenda, second by Edwige Yingling, roll call vote 4 - 0.

Peter Cook - yes
Vida Richter - yes
Edwige Yingling - yes
Kolby Blehm - yes



Peter Cook - no
Vida Richter - no
Edwige Yingling - yes
Kolby Blehm - no

6. Subcommittees: First reading of policies in Section A and Section B. The committee would like to see the changes made to Sections A and B. The committee will in the future receive all policies with changes highlighted for the first reading. Peter Cook gave some background on the creation of the Wellness Policy. The Wellness Committee worked with Charlotte Stevenson a specialist on the wellness schools assessment tools (WSAT) helped the committee through the WSAT, which helps to score and improve a schools Wellness Policy. Anything in the previous Wellness policy with a low score was changed to meet state, federal and CDC requirements. Nicole Cormier a registered dietician helped with terminology.

7. Unfinished Business:

7.1 SECTION 10: TO REPLACE THE EXTERIOR DOORS FOR TRURO CENTRAL SCHOOL To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of One Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$170,000.00) from Free Cash to the Public Education Capital Budget (01030058) to pay the costs of construction services to replace the exterior doors at Truro Central School, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto. Vida Richter moved to approve Section 10: TO REPLACE THE EXTERIOR DOORS FOR TRURO CENTRAL SCHOOL, second by Edwige Yingling, roll call vote 4 - 0.

Peter Cook - yes
Vida Richter - yes
Edwige Yingling - yes
Kolby Blehm - yes

7.2 Moved above

8. New Business:

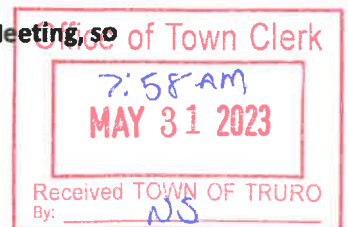
8.1 Annual vote by the school committee not to maintain grades 7 - 12, so moved by Vida Richter, second by Edwige Yingling, roll call vote 4 - 0.

Peter Cook - yes
Vida Richter - yes
Edwige Yingling - yes
Kolby Blehm - yes

8.2 Vote to approve TCSFG bake sale fundraiser at April 25, 2023 Truro Town Meeting, so moved by Vida Richter, second by Peter Cook, roll call vote 4 - 0.

Peter Cook - yes
Vida Richter - yes
Edwige Yingling - yes
Kolby Blehm - yes

8.3 Sold a Story - Fountas and Pinnell. Superintendent Costigan explained that the podcast has received national attention due to the criticism of the Fountas and Pinnell Literacy program. A majority of the teachers have listened to the podcast and the staff has had several conversations about it. Conversations have been mostly around the work the staff has been doing to supplement the Fountas and Pinnell program. Superintendent Costigan has a goal of academic achievement and how



the staff approaches literacy. The benchmark is to create a list of curriculum materials used at every grade level. The staff recognizes through the collection of data that TCS students are struggling with phonological awareness. The literacy programs at TCS include Wilson Foundations, Heggerty, Fountas and Pinnell. The staff has done professional development with The Hill for Literacy Foundation. Recently the reading interventionists and special education teachers have done professional development on strengthening reading comprehension. Fountas and Pinnell is used in grades K - 5. Principal Riley discussed teachers' approaches to students' needs. The committee questioned how families were given information on curriculum. Committee members further discussed communication to families about the literacy programs and curriculum. Principal Riley stated that information is given at school committee meetings and Superintendent Costigan explained that curriculum materials are shared with families at Open House in September. Superintendent Costigan will have the literacy committee at the next TSC meeting to share their thoughts on the podcast literacy.

8.4 Union and Non-Union contracts & Evaluation schedule - As per Superintendent Costigan's contract the committee has a timeline to notify of renewal by June 30, 2023. The committee will meet publicly and in executive session to discuss the contract. Superintendent Costigan will create a timeline for negotiations in the 23/24 school year based on last year's timeline.

8.5 Process for sharing concerns from families and community with the school committee, the committee has been discussing various ideas to do outreach to families and the community.

8.6 Online documents and work - Online documents for committee members are individualized per interest.

8.7 Committee goals discussion & outreach plan - Discussion on how to communicate and introduce to families the role of the school committee and how to get in touch with committee members. The committee will further discuss 6th grade and if it should be offered at TCS.

8.8 Safety plan update - Discussion of the updated safety plan. The plan has been updated to current safety standards. Kolby Blehm will communicate with Chief Calise on the current safety plan for TCS.

9. Other:

Rachel Rowland resigned from the Truro School Committee.

Superintendent Costigan applied for Highway Safety lights from MA DOT and they've been granted. The signs will also show vehicle speeds and are controlled remotely.

9.1 Moved above

9.2 Assemblies - local outreach - Peter Cook is working with PTV a television station in Provincetown and enjoyed participating in the Provincetown Schools celebration of students.

10. Executive Session: None

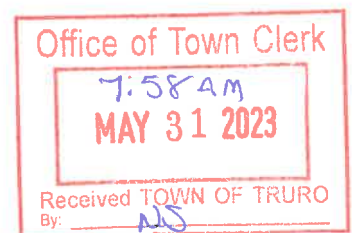
11. Adjournment: Vida Richter moved to adjourn, second by Edwige Yingling roll call vote 4 - 0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Peter Cook - yes

Vida Richter - yes

Edwige Yingling - yes

Kolby Blehm - yes



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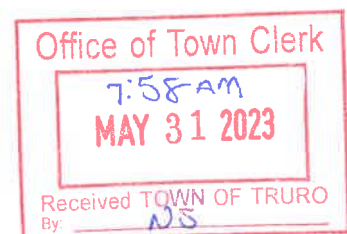
**Peter Cook - yes
Vida Richter - yes
Edwige Yingling - yes
Kolby Blehm - yes**

These minutes were approved by a vote of the Truro School Committee at their meeting on
May 11, 2023

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathleen Boff

[Signature]
Truro School Committee Member



Preschool Update Spring 2023

Katie Castano, M.S.,
CCC-SLP
EC Coordinator

With Maggie Allen
and Jess Dinoia,
PreK Teachers

Office of Town Clerk

7:58 AM
MAY 31 2023

Received TOWN OF TRURO
By: MS

Changes to our Preschool

Covid

Remote teacher - In
person teacher -
distancing

Retirement & New staff

Change in EC coordinator,
SPED teacher, Classroom
teacher

Expansion of the classrooms

response to community
needs for 5 full days -
no cost

Curriculum continuity

Needs for continuity and
consistency across
classrooms

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Program evaluation guiding questions:

1

How can we
create a more
cohesive program
between the two
preschool
classrooms?

2

How can we
maximize the use
of our indoor and
outdoor spaces?

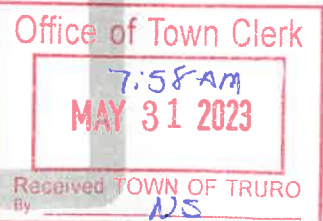
3

How do we build
foundational
knowledge of child
development to
empower staff to
meet developmental
needs?

4

How can we align
the curriculum
between the two
programs?

Conducted by: South Coast Educational Collaborative, June 2022



Evaluation Commendations & Recommendations

- Dedicated staff and administration willing to go above and beyond to ensure student success.
- Warm, welcoming environment for students and families. This was evident during the in-person observations and supported by both the staff and family survey results.
- The resources available to this program are abundant.
- The facility and grounds are well maintained and conducive to learning.

**Defining Leadership
Curriculum
Program Continuity
Professional Development**

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Tonight's Agenda

Curriculum

What are we using to
address the standards and
Early Learning
guidelines?

Enrichment & Programming

What do we do and how
are our kids spending
their time?



Professional Learning Community

How do we assess what
we are doing and
develop
professionally?

Forward Movement

What are the hopes and
dreams?

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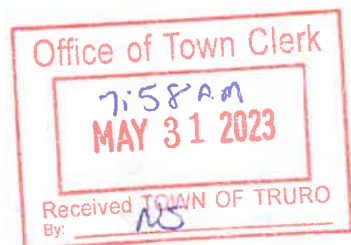
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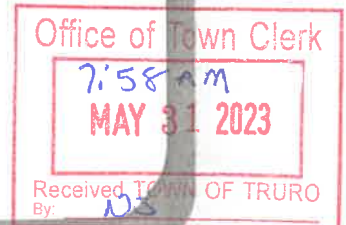
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Curriculum

01



**The foundational
philosophy of a Tools
classroom is an emphasis
on a sense of belonging
and social emotional well
being. Embedded in every
activity is room for a
child's voice to be
expressed in a safe and
loving space.**



Tools of the Mind



Drawing & Writing



Play Themes

Intentional
make-believe play
is the heart of a
Tools PreK
classroom.

Children draw a
picture of their plan
which helps them
remember what they are
going to do. Drawing
is an important
precursor to writing
and leads to a
critical component of
Tools: Scaffolded
Writing.



Self Awareness

Tools teachers focus
on helping children
become intentional
and reflective
learners where
literacy,
mathematics and
science reflect
children's learning
capacity.

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Ms. Maggie's class "Shares the News"



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Literacy Development: "Write Along"



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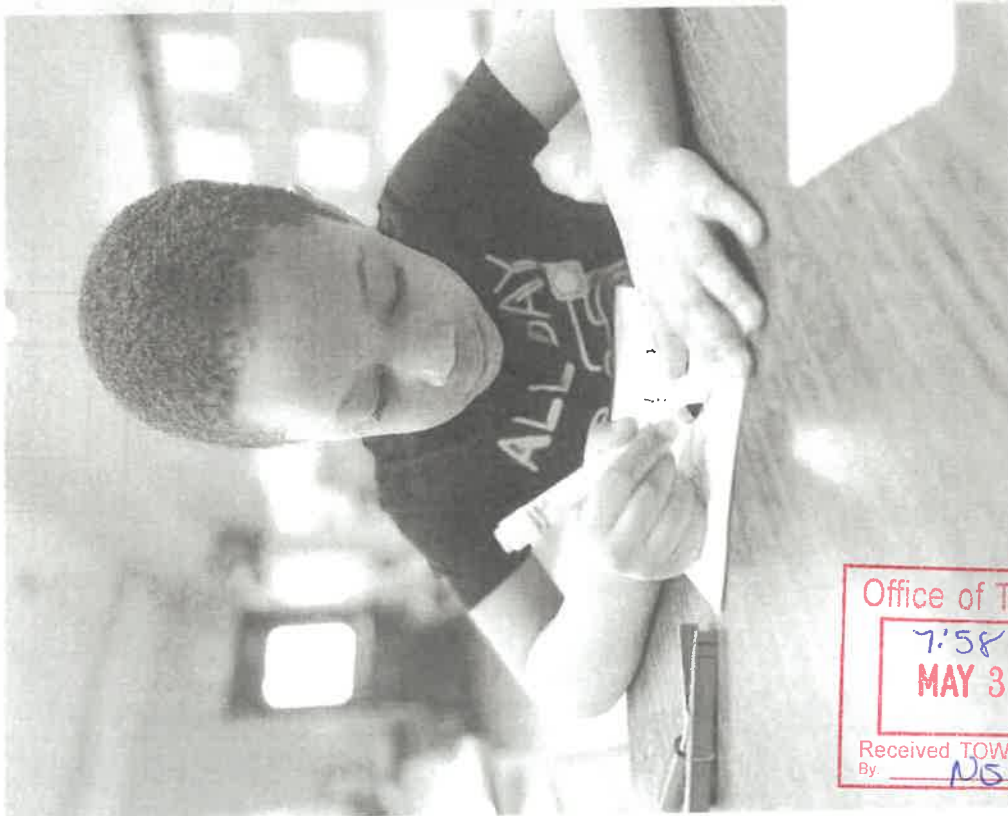
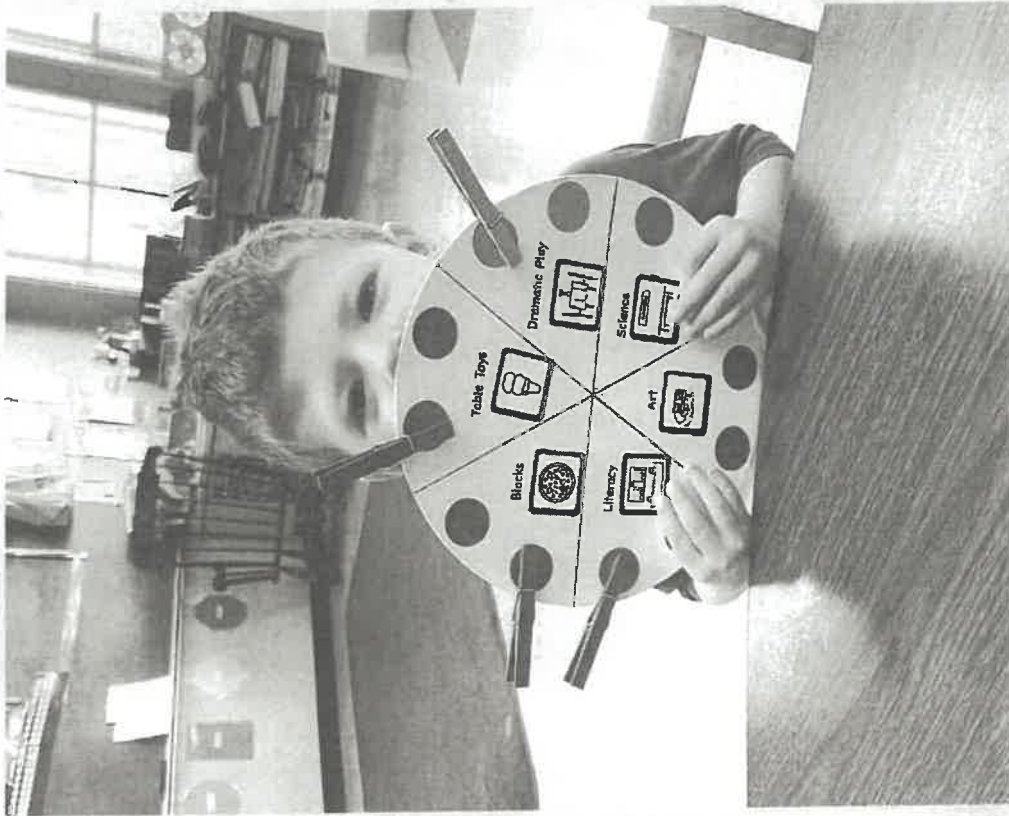
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Making Choices for center time...



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"Play Plans" promote executive functioning

Children make a
plan for their play
times and draw and
write about it
ahead of time

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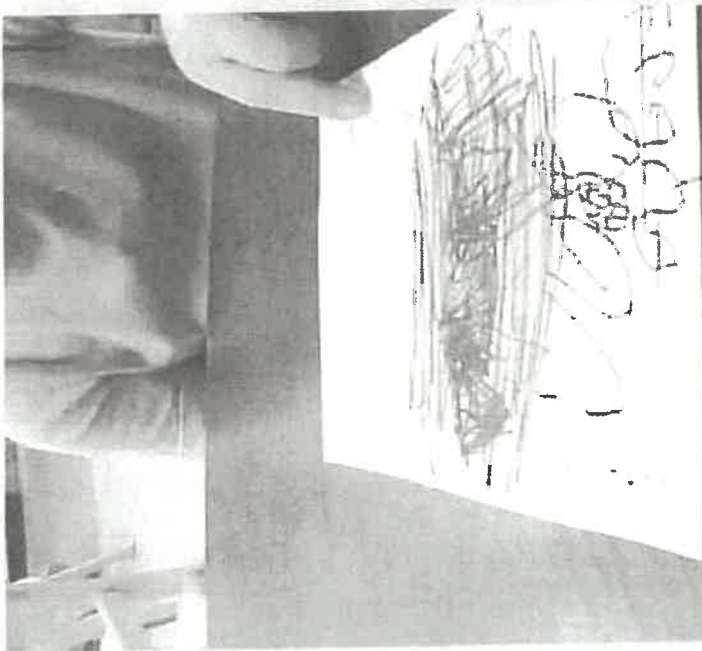
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"Play Plans" with scaffolded writing in action

Students draw lines
to mark their words
as a step to
writing.



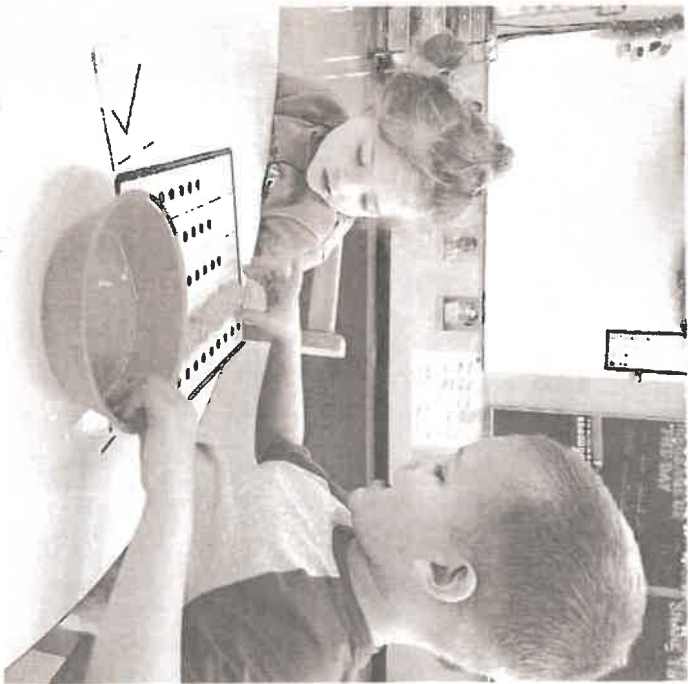
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"Mediators" support intentionality

Children work in pairs with roles marked by visual icons that indicate their "jobs." They also support independent work and development of self regulation.



2023



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Literacy Development ..Segmenting



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Assessment & Intervention

IGDIs
ESI +
PELP



We have been using these assessments for a number of years and now have long term data to use the information more predictively to support students.

Hegerty
+



We can use literacy curriculum shared in K to address early phonological awareness weaknesses to "set kids up" for success in K.

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**-Ongoing Teacher Training
in Tools for our teachers
(20 hours)**

**-Closely looking at the
Early Learning Guidelines,
the Standards, and Tools
to ensure our kids get
everything they need**



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Programming & Enrichment

02

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By:

NS

How are we enriching the lives of our students?



- Media - Read aloud & checking out books with Ms. Roderick
- Spanish with Sra. Waldo
- Motor Groups with Ms. Leah & Ms. Kate
- Music & Movement with Ms. Kerry
- PE with Mr. D
- Relationships with older students

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Student Progress - A cause for celebration!



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Serving our At Risk students



Academic Development

SPED teacher service from outside of the classroom that follows student later



Behavioral Support
BCBA training and intervention with students



Specialized Services
Therapeutic services - MTSS and IEP



Safety Care
De-escalation and tools to support students with dignity and consistency

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It takes a village!



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Family Engagement

Valentines Day party with families (combined)

Gingerbread House making party

Open House & Orientation

Daily newsletters home (paper)

Upcoming:
digital newsletter?
performance/show
(Spanish, Ms. Kerry)

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Professional Learning Community

03

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Components

Weekly PLC Meetings

- Responding to the Program Evaluations
- Program development
- Looking at continuity between the classrooms
- Support from the trainers from ToTM
- In house PD



Connections with School Community



- Streamlining the assessment and intervention process
- Getting involved in whole building activities (ASM, etc.)
- Survey updates for feedback



Come visit!

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04 Forward Movement

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What's on our To-Do List?

What
ISN'T on
it?

Don't
forget
K!

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Program Assessment

Keeping critical
elements at the
forefront



Getting the Word out

Communicating about
what we do to the
school and wider
community



Cross-Classroom Experiences

Continued connections
between classes

The End

