

CURRICULUM CORNER

Chappaqua Central School District | Office of Curriculum and Instruction

Learning Walks

District administrators participated in two recent learning walks, visiting Roaring Brook in October and Bell in November. Roaring Brook focused on their work around social emotional learning. Visiting administrators gathered evidence for the Roaring Brook team by interviewing teachers and students. Faculty will review and analyze the data at upcoming faculty meetings. At Bell, the focus was on the ongoing work around Problem-based Learning and STEAM. Admin visited classrooms in all grades and disciplines, noting evidence of the influence of this work throughout the building. Both walks were great learning experiences for the team.



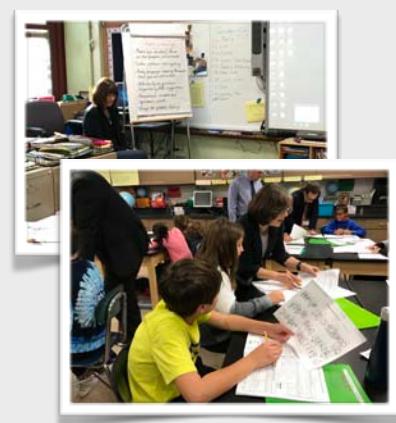
Educators participate in sessions facilitated by Chappaqua faculty members on October 27th.

Learning Together

Our Annual Learning Symposium on October 27th was a great day for teaching and learning. Our guest speakers, Alan November and Dr. George McCloskey, provided lots of inspiration and information. Chappaqua teachers and administrators facilitated over forty learning sessions in which they shared their learning and insights with one another. The day was a great example of educators learning from their colleagues and highlighted much of the great work that happens in our district every day.

Food for thought

This article describes one educator's view of the characteristics of quality professional development. It highlights the importance of colleagues sharing strategies, fine-tuning, lessons and examining student work to inform instruction. Let's talk about it!



Professional Development Updates

Another slate of in-service courses opened for registration on My Learning Plan. These courses were specific to secondary teachers but more offerings are on the way. If you have a topic you'd like to see offered or would like to facilitate a course, please contact a member of the PD team. Here's [an overview of the members of the PD team and a description of their roles.](#)

Chappaqua Children's Book Festival

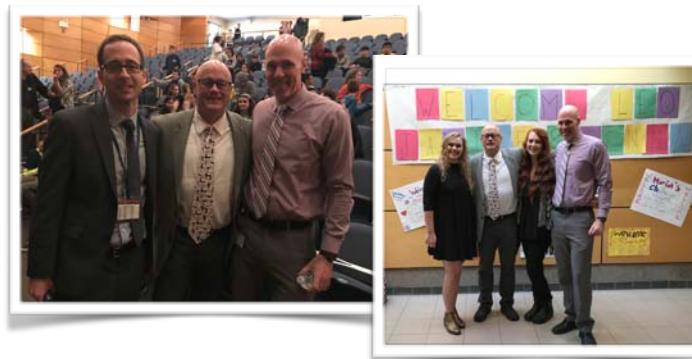
Our Chappaqua Community certainly supports literacy - and it showed at the Book Festival on October 14th! Over 90 authors were in attendance to meet young readers and autograph their books. Chappaqua parents, students, teachers and administrators all enjoyed the day.

[Seven Bridges English teachers Beth Reilly and Michael Palmieri volunteer at the Book Festival.](#)



Chappaqua Schools Foundation Awards

On October 19th, members of the CSF held an awards celebration in the iLab for teachers and administrators who received grants last year. Mara Cohen and Warren Whitney, both third grade teachers at Grafflin, were named *Innovators of the Year* to the delight of many of their students and colleagues who were in attendance. It was an impressive display of the partnership between CSF and our schools.



One awesome classroom

In Brian O'Connor's fifth grade classroom at Seven Bridges, heroes have a special place. Brian has been introducing his students to CNN Heroes since 2009 as a part of the social studies curriculum. Over the last few years, Brian's students have written letters to and Skyped with Leo McCarthy, a 2012 CNN Hero and the founder of [Mariah's Challenge](#), an organization his family founded after his daughter was killed by a drunk driver at the age of 14. Leo and his family were so moved by the connection to Seven Bridges students that they decided to travel from Montana to visit on November 16th. Leo and the McCarthy family held assemblies and visited with students during lunch periods, encouraging them to make smart, safe and responsible decisions. It was an unforgettable experience for our students and faculty.