CAVENDISH TOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

P☆TRIOTS

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April 2020 Report for the board

As a preservice teacher, one spends all one's time preparing for the room and the building in which one will conduct the work one is learning about for 4-5 years. A good deal of time is spent on the arrangement of the space in order to maximize learning and student success. Once a job is secured, teachers spend more than the allocated \$250 rebate from the IRS in buying furniture and decorations for the classroom. Some teachers make their classrooms organized and colorful, others cozy and comfortable, others are all business with reference materials adorning the walls. To be asked to abandon all that - years of work and tweaking without any time to plan, reflect and decide to move it to your personal home is asking a lot. But we did it.

Our staff is to be commended for their resilience and dedication. They picked up and transformed their homes into classrooms, moved their teaching and learning online by engaging in crash courses on remote software and then got right down to business. They figured out how to collect evidence of learning online. This is fifth grade reporting on the literary concept of theme.

All throughout this time, the teachers and staff are focused on the kids. What they need, how they are doing, and how we can help. They also are encouraging and creating opportunities for learning to happen by venturing outside. They are reaching new depths of creativity and are reminding the students about how what we are doing now connects right to work we have been doing all year long.

We also have fun. One week we had a theme for every day during our school-wide morning opening. This was my advertising for Camo and bring your Stuffed Animal day!





Click this link to see a fun movie I made for the kids when it snowed.

Our paras have been amazing. They were able to breathe a sigh of relief to learn that the governor and the board supported them financially and they stepped up to volunteer to make, package, and deliver meals. They create learning supply packets and bag them for each child. We have a system for delivery and pick up with three convenient times for busy families.

Foodservice has been equally effective- we transformed a small school kitchen into a take out and delivery service **in one day.** Staff came in to make lunches and breakfast bags and have not stopped.

This is an unprecedented time for schools and our staff has been remarkable in their ability to transform, be creative and reach kids no matter what.

Deb Beaupre