

## NORTH STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As smiling students returned to classrooms this fall, they were greeted by excited and eager staff members, ready for a joyful and rewarding year of teaching and learning. Feeling safe, valued, and a sense of belonging is a natural outcome at our extraordinary schools and we continue to imbed that goal throughout all academic and extracurricular experiences. For additional reassurance, and due to a generous donation, we rolled out an anonymous alert system for students and families to report issues about safety and wellness. We are enthusiastic to continue our discovery and implementation of innovative instructional practices, striving to stay up-to-date on how students learn best. Our elementary school is using a new reading program that promises even better results. Many teachers are exploring AI tools and strategies that will accelerate student learning and promote responsible use of ever-changing technologies.

A leader in education, North Stonington Public Schools recently became a candidate for district accreditation through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). We are the first school district in Connecticut to do so! Our administration and faculty are gaining national recognition, with Principal Kristen St. Germain representing Connecticut in Washington D.C. in October, joining principals of the year from 49 other states, and Jane Servidio, fourth grade teacher, presenting at the National Science Teachers Association Convention on Invention Education. Also, one of our paraprofessionals, Wendy Arruda, is a published author of [Silly Sounding Sentences: ABC Phonics Fun!](#), and several copies can be found throughout the elementary school. There is much to be proud of in our schools! Our community collaborations continue to thrive, with generous support from Fire, Ambulance (donation of school supplies), Giving Closet, Food Pantry, PTO, North Stonington Education Foundation, Recreation Department, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Finance. We are grateful for grants benefiting our schools and town. Together, we will build a bright future for North Stonington.

I invite our community to Coffee Chats to connect and share ideas. These are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month and take place 8-9 AM, at the Education Center (298 Norwich-Westerly Road), across from the schools. So far, we have scheduled the following dates: September 26, October 24, November 28. I hope to have many productive and celebratory conversations! Of course, you can always schedule an appointment by contacting Irma Wilhelm, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, at (860) 535-2800.

*The below image was generated by openart.ai using the prompt "Draw a black and white picture of students walking in the front door of a school while being greeted by teachers."*

