



Definition of Literacy –

Today a bright colored poster was put in each teacher's mailbox with the definition of literacy adopted by the International Literacy Association. Please post it somewhere in your classroom.

Vocabulary of Directions –

Have you noticed the "Word of the Week" (WOW) bulletin board in the elementary building? So far this year students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 have spent time expanding their knowledge and practicing using: *read, write, understand, demonstrate, clarify, develop, produce, and relationship*. These words from the CCSS are considered the vocabulary of directions and are common words used to tell students what is expected of them as they think and perform academic tasks. Jim Burke, who is well known for his work with academic vocabulary explains, "You cannot expect to succeed on assignments if you do not understand the directions."

(More news about vocabulary of directions will be shared soon.)

Healthy Bodies = Smarter Brains = High-Quality Instruction & Learning-

The Canaan Schools' Wellness committee organized the healthy potluck today in response to what they learned from the PATH Healthy Life Survey. This potluck is one of four wellness events that will occur this year and is designed to support staff in healthy eating and inform them about the amount of cholesterol in some of our food.

Everything that you eat affects your brain's performance. When you consume [food](#), it's broken down into energy that's distributed throughout the body, and the brain receives a large portion of it. Despite just clocking in at 2 percent of a human's body weight, the brain requires about 20 percent of energy taken in to keep running [source: [Aaronson](#)].

Real Life Skills-

Students in Mr. Brady's Diversified Agriculture class have a seasonal opportunity to practice life-long skills. Their wreath business is not just learning the skill of wreath making; it provides practice in selecting and organizing materials, marketing a product, taking orders, producing a quality product and, of course, reading, writing and doing math. (Proceeds from the sale of the wreaths support the FFA club.)

Collaboration Between School and Community - Start to Finish -

Mr. Brady's Diversified Agriculture class and Mr. Reid's Building Trades class are working with the Community Forest committee on a sweet deal! This week the Building Trades students will begin the construction of a Sugar House on the Community Forest property while the Diversified Agriculture students are preparing sap lines for next spring's School/Community Forest maple syrup operation. Expected to have 300-500 taps from which to produce syrup for sale, students will gain real life skills connecting their school experience with employability and the culture of the North Country.

Interesting Quote from *Leaving Johnny Behind* by Anthony Pedriana –

"It is fascinating that a substantial number of educators and non-educators who see the value of scientific research in fields such as health care and industry fail to see the contributions it can make to education. To be sure, university faculty and researchers should take a lot of responsibility for the attitudes many educators have about "research" and their teaching. Many schools of education do not typically prepare future teachers to value the use of research to inform their instructional practices or provide them with the knowledge and skills to keep abreast of scientific literature in their field. Debra Viadero, reporting for Education Week, wrote, "Even if teachers have the fortitude to plow through academic journals, chances are their professional training did not include coursework in how to distinguish good research from bad. So we find ourselves in this situation: less than one-third of the instructional practices used by teachers are based on scientific research findings."

