The Sign Post

FALL START

PEGGY LEE

After the recent retirement of David Estep, CCCBSD is happy to welcome our new Chief Program Officer, Peggy Lee. Peggy has a range of professional experiences including working in Early Intervention, as a case-manager at the Mass Commission for the Deaf/HH, Maine Center for the Deaf, Vermont Center for the Deaf, and as a private consultant (trained as a teacher of the deaf). She has extensive experience with Deaf and special education and will be a strong resource for the school while enhancing our connections in and around the community and with parents. Warmest welcome to Peggy!

After a two week summer break for students and staff, school re-opened the week of September 8th. Divided into two Cohorts, students attend on either a Tuesday/Wednesday or Thursday/Friday in-person schedule with the opposite days, including Mondays being virtual. With approximately half of the student population choosing full time remote, there has been a lot of creative thinking and problem solving happening throughout the building to ensure all students continue to receive the best education possible. The school wifi has been increased to three times its normal speed to accommodate for the zoom sessions and additional technology. Thanks to generous donors, picnic tables have been placed around the grounds to allow more seating and maximum social distancing. Walking into the building may seem a little different with masks, lucite dividers, desks 6ft apart and a lot of hand sanitizer, but students settle right in with the warmth and compassion of the CCCBSD staff.
After the cancellation of the traditional Lone Gull 10K due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the decision was made to have our first Virtual Lone Gull road race. This race was offered as either a 5K or 10K, as a runner or walker, and a location of your choice. Thanks to our generous sponsors and 120 registered runners, we were able to raise over $10,000 to support Covid-19 expenses at CCCBSD. The virtual event was a huge success, but we definitely look forward to going back to an in-person event next year.

With the first remote session of ASL classes now complete, we are happy to report very positive feedback. A virtual class gave students from much further away the ability to enroll. Each class was made up of up to 6 students and was taught live by a CCCBSD instructor. Our fall session will begin the week of September 14th with all classes already full. This session will introduce a new curriculum beginning with ASL 102 classes called “TRUE+WAY ASL”. The new curriculum will be replacing the Signing Naturally Series. Students will have access to online materials to practice their ASL skills and review all information. This is very exciting and we are looking forward to expanding on our ASL classes to better meet the needs of our community. The winter session will open sometime in November, with classes beginning in December.