



**Sheepscot Valley RSU 12**  
**November 2020**  
**Superintendent's Report**  
**Information, Recognitions, and Celebrations**

### **Superintendent Report**

The first two months have been very successful as we have been able to keep students in school five days a week for in person learning for most of the time. As of this writing, we currently have no cases of COVID 19 in the district and have not had any for over a month. RSU 12 is still rated in the green risk level by the Maine Department of Education. We hope this will continue. Thank you to everyone who has followed our safety precautions. We have been able to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by being diligent about mask wearing and social distancing. By being diligent about following these safety precautions that are unique to preventing this particular virus, we are able to keep students in school where the best learning can happen.

I remain hopeful that we will stay in school five days a week. However, we are seeing an increase in cases in Kennebec County. The Department of Education has stated that Kennebec County is still at a green risk level, but they are watching it closely. There is a chance that Kennebec County will be moved to the yellow risk level. The risk levels are reevaluated every Friday. Everyone should all be prepared to implement our hybrid model of instruction if the DOE designates Kennebec County a yellow risk level as early as this Friday. As a reminder, our response plan for the risk levels is below. These come from our [RSU 12 Reopening Plan](#).

**PLAN A:** A categorization of “green” from the Maine CDC means that all counties in RSU 12 have a very low COVID-19 risk and that in-person instruction can be considered.

**RSU 12 Response:** RSU 12 students may attend in-person instruction. An *OPTION 2: Fully Remote Online Instruction* option will be offered to students/caregivers that are interested. All staff will report to buildings. Robust Safety Precautions will be in place.

**PLAN B:** A categorization of “yellow” from the Maine CDC means that a county in RSU 12 has an elevated risk of COVID-19 spread and that a hybrid instructional model should be considered in order to have fewer students in the building at one time.

**RSU 12 Response:** All RSU 12 students may be split into two groups and follow an alternating model of instruction. Group 1 - Monday, Tuesday. Group 2 - Thursday, Friday. All students may learn remotely on Wednesday. An *OPTION 2: Fully Remote Online Instruction* option will be offered to students/caregivers that are interested. All staff will report to their buildings. Robust Safety Precautions will be in place. PreK Students will attend in-person Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.

**PLAN C:** A categorization of “red” means that a county in RSU 12 has a high risk of COVID-19 spread and that ending in-person instruction should not be considered.

**RSU 12 Response:** All RSU 12 students may be doing remote distance-learning. All staff will report to their buildings. Robust Safety Precautions will be in place.

*The county-level color designations are advisory for school administrators. Those administrators may consider local conditions and make their own decisions. For example, a school administrator in one corner of a large “red” county may decide it is safe to conduct some hybrid learning if a COVID-19 surge is concentrated in a distant part of the same county from which it is unlikely that staff or students will be regularly traveling.*

### **Curriculum and Technology Report**

Several of our staff attended the Fall conference put on by the Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine (ACTEM) this year. For the first time, the conference was entirely virtual and free to all members. The sessions were held in the afternoon and evening after the student day and provided opportunities for collaboration and learning related to hardware and software products that can be leveraged for remote learning. RSU 12 attendees shared their learning with their colleagues back at their home schools.

The Maine Department of Education (MDOE) recently announced that it has cancelled its contract with Cognia, the vendor providing the State with the federally required testing in Math and ELA for grades 3 through 8 and the third year of high school. MDOE is in the process of designing a state assessment system based on formative assessments that ideally will allow for the immediate review and use of the data to inform instruction. In years past, the data from the State assessment has not been available until months after the test is taken and in the school year after the year in which students test.

### **Westport Island Student Count Information - Coming Soon!**

### **Alna Student Count Information - Coming Soon!**

### **Somerville Student Count Information - Coming Soon!**

## **Chelsea Elementary School Report**



This past month at Chelsea we are trying to keep traditions going even with the new restrictions we are under. The PTA hosted a door decorating contest, we celebrated our summer readers, held our first Zoom PBIS assembly and have started a week of Fun Run events!

Looking ahead we are finding a way to have a hands free Book Fair with safety regulations so kids can still have the excitement of getting new books and seeing all the fun things! We will hold

our next PBIS Zoom assembly on November 6 and celebrate the successes the kids are experiencing here at Chelsea! Parent/Teacher conferences are mainly being held on Monday, November 9 and Tuesday, November 10 via Zoom or phone calls.



## **Palermo Consolidated School Report:**



Traditions are a big part of our strong sense of community at Palermo School. It is sad that we have lost a few traditions during these Covid times but building new ones can be fun. Last week, we were unable to hold our yearly Monster Mash party but students were glad to have spirit week which included crazy hair day, superhero day, and inside out/ backwards day. We ended the week with an afternoon party. We are hoping that adding some fun into the students' days helps provide some stress relief.... We could all use some of that!

A tradition we hold every Friday is our drawing for the Panther Paw Winners. We draw a name in each grade to recognize the students who are showing respectful, responsible, and safe behavior. This year we are also recognizing students who are going above and beyond their daily expectations because we have a lot of students who show a little extra kindness to others, are always willing to help, and many who are working hard to achieve their goals. We appreciate these efforts and they deserve to know how much they make a difference in the lives of others.

Our fourth grader music class has adjusted well to a new tradition. Students have learned the recorder from Mr. Robinson for many years but unfortunately students are unable to play instruments. This year they have started to learn how to play the Diddley Bows which were made by Mr. Robinson and decorated by the students. Next up, students will be learning to play the ukuleles donated to our school by a generous family.



The eighth grade class learned a lot about governmental structure and related issues the last few weeks leading up to the election. Students held a mock election on Nov. 3rd in hopes of encouraging students to understand the voting process. One student dressed as his favorite candidate for superhero day.

## **Whitefield Elementary School Report**

The month of October saw WHES staff fine tuning our practices for remote learners and preparing our response materials should we be moving to either Hybrid or Full Remote Learning. As we head toward the end of the first trimester of the school year the staff has determined consistent grading procedures for our remote learners. This process was guided by Meagan Soule, WHES Student Support Specialist, who is coordinating all current remote learners. The procedures were accepted by the teaching staff and were communicated to the parents of our remote learners.

On Friday, November 6th, WHES will conduct our second virtual PBIS Recognition Assembly. Our inaugural assembly went very well and students were excited to have the opportunity to bring the entire school community, along with parents and invited guests, together. While this is in a virtual realm, this reflects the importance of our full community as well as the need to recognize the positive efforts of our learners. We will be including monthly recognition for our remote learners for the first time this month.

Finally, keeping in the virtual mode, WHES will hold Parent / Teacher conferences on November 23rd & 24th and staff will conduct those conferences either via the ZOOM platform or phone communication. Invitations to parents to schedule a conference have been going out by classroom teachers and we hope for a strong turnout from our parents. The communication link between home and school is so critical to long-term success for learners, even in the best of times, and seems even more vital during the uncertain times we are passing through at present.

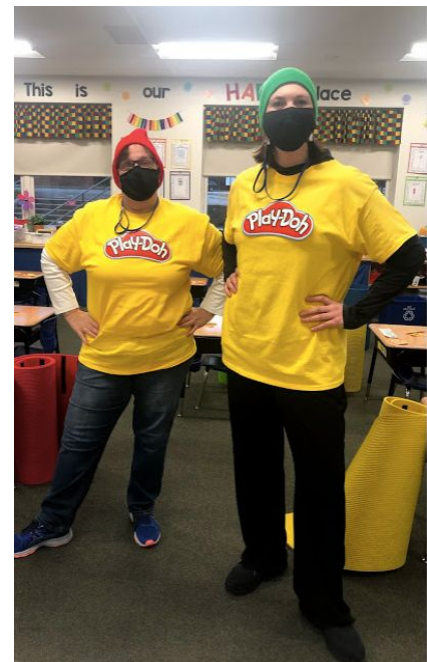
## **Windsor Elementary School Report**

Windsor school saw October out with a bang! We had a Spirit Week to celebrate making it through two months of school in person. Students and staff alike enjoyed each and every day during Spirit Week, and all agreed that having fun at school is important.

The Bikes for Books campaign had to be postponed this spring, but we were able to pass out bikes for reading rewards on Friday, October 30 to our kindergarten through third grade winners. They were thrilled to be rewarded for reading!

Students have completed their fall NWEA tests in reading, math, and language usage. This test is helpful for teachers and families both to pinpoint areas of strength and weakness, and helps point us in the right direction for developing skills. This is particularly important this year, as many students have missing skills due to school closing.

Fall sports wrapped up at the end of October, and students were grateful to be able to finish out the season. Our cross country team once



again finished their last race with top finishers in first through fifth place, and our boys and girls soccer teams finished successful seasons as well.

Parent/Teacher conferences are currently being held, with each grade span team conferencing on different days. This is to help families speak to teachers via zoom or phone, as they are not coming into the building this year.

