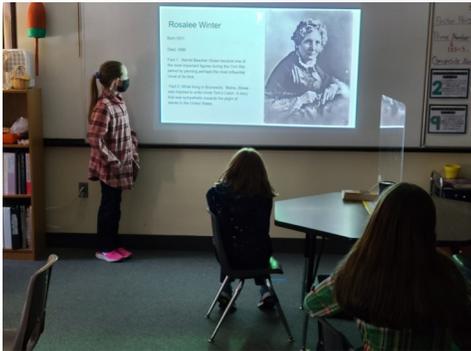


Alton Elementary School and Viola Rand Elementary School



Instruction Continues

It is safe to say that everyone is feeling fortunate to still be able to have in person classes. It is a relief for parents and healthier for students to be with friends, in a routine and out of the house where questions can be addressed and assistance given far more easily than in a remote situation. Teachers have been able to forge ahead with curriculum and have stayed pretty well on target for this point in the year. Early indicators from the winter NWEA administration is that reading levels are very encouraging after the difficulties of spring 2020. Writing is coming along, with some scaffolding in place. Math is the area that seems to have taken the hardest hit for students. Teachers and interventionists are striving to identify areas of weakness for students and build up the skills that didn't receive the robust instruction that would have happened in a normal year. A number of teachers have participated in the EMDI training that is now entering the final round of sessions. This Early Math Diagnostic Interview has already been useful in assessing where lagging students stand on their skills acquisition.

Teachers have adjusted their usual modes of accomplishing teaching tasks and are once again hitting their strides. In the fourth grade classroom above, students each made a slide about a famous Maine person which was compiled into one presentation. Each student stood up to tell the facts they learned in the research and found that speaking to a group was more comfortable for some than others.



Coming up...

Martin Luther King Jr Holiday

January 18

Trimester 2 Progress Reports

January 22

100th Day of School

February 12

February Break

February 15-19

- Individual bags of a variety of hands on toys have been distributed. The students got sets of dominoes, legos, disc builders, magnetic builders, Tangrams and magnetic letters. Students have been excited!
- Parent groups in both schools have a small, dedicated committee of members along with a more substantial list of parents who are available to help out when needed. The Alton group had a wreath fundraiser in late

