



**Sheepscot Valley RSU 12**  
**March 2021**  
**Superintendent's Report**  
**Information, Recognitions, and Celebrations**

**Superintendent Report**

**COVID19 Vaccines for school staff** - The state of Maine is making it a priority to offer vaccines to school staff as soon as possible. We have been paired with LincolnHealth to run vaccine clinics for RSU 12 employees. If you are age 60 or over and you receive a paycheck from RSU 12, then you are eligible for the vaccine. The Governor also announced last week that all school staff will be prioritized this month no matter the age at participating pharmacies. This program will run simultaneously with the school staff specific clinics. The goal is to get all school staff vaccinated at least once during the month of March if they are interested. This includes PreK-12 teachers and school staff, and workers at pre-primary, primary, and secondary schools, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, including teachers, staff, and bus drivers and those who work as or for licensed child care providers, including center-based and family care providers.

**Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Development Timeline** - The RSU 12 budget is still under development. We continue to struggle with budget development due to a significant loss in state subsidy. We are considering using Federal COVID19 aid funds to schools to provide tax relief. Regardless, the RSU 12 budget development process still has challenges ahead. We still do not know what our health insurance costs will be for next year, but anticipate an increase in premiums. Find out more about the RSU 12 budget by attending one of the public sessions listed below.

- Palermo - 3/25/21, 6 pm
- Westport Island - 3/22/21, 7 pm (teleconference)
- Alna - 3/15/21, 6 pm (Zoom)
- Whitefield - 3/30/21, 5:30 pm (in person, Central Fire Station)
- Windsor - 3/16/21, 6 pm (in person, only 10 people allowed to be present)
- Chelsea - 3/10/21, 6:30 pm (Zoom)
- Somerville - 3/17/21, 6 pm (Zoom)

Contact RSU 12 Central Office or your town office for how to access the zoom sessions.

**Curriculum and Technology Report**

Under the auspices of the Collaborative for Customized Learning, several RSU 12 teachers have been collaborating with teachers from other districts to share innovative ideas and approaches with new teachers. The district also has a number of new teachers participating in this initiative in order to support their growing understanding of our district's vision for learning.

RSU 12 has applied for a Title I Reallocation grant with the hopes of funding a summer school program for students identified for Title I services. The grant flows through the Maine Department of Education, and we should hear word of the decision by early May.

RSU 12 has begun its process of needs assessment and goal setting for the upcoming year's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) application. This is a part of our ongoing improvement cycle and is done each year. The district welcomes public input during this process. If you'd like to provide input, please contact Deb Taylor at [dtaylor@svrsu.org](mailto:dtaylor@svrsu.org).

### **Westport Island Student Count Information**

	-1	0	1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Boothbay-Boothbay Hbr CSD											2			2
9-12 Lincoln Academy										4	2	1	2	9
9-12 RSU 01											2		1	3
9-12 Waynflete School											1			1
9-12 Wiscasset School Department										1	2	1	4	8
K-8 Boothbay-Boothbay Hbr CSD					1	1			1					3
K-8 Center for Teaching and Learning		3		1	1	1			1					7
K-8 Chewonki Semester School			3	1	1									5
K-8 Edgecomb School Department	2	1	1		1		1	1						7
K-8 Great Salt Bay CSD				1					2					3
K-8 RSU 01							1		1					2
K-8 RSU 51/MSAD 51							1							1
K-8 Wiscasset School Department		1		1	1		1	1	3					8
Grand Total	2	5	4	4	5	2	4	2	8	5	9	2	7	59

### **Alna Student Count Information**

	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Boothbay-Boothbay Hbr CSD											1				1
9-12 Brunswick School Department												1			1
9-12 Lincoln Academy											1	1	7	1	10
9-12 Maine Coast Waldorf School											1				1
9-12 North Yarmouth Academy											1				1
9-12 RSU 40/MSAD 40											1				1
9-12 Waynflete School												1			1
9-12 Wiscasset School Department											3	4	1	2	10
Chelsea Elementary School										1					1
K-8 Boothbay-Boothbay Hbr CSD							1		1	1					3

K-8 Brunswick School Department											1				1
K-8 Center for Teaching and Learning		1	3	2	2	4	2	3	1	2					20
K-8 Chewonki Semester School				1			1		1	1					4
K-8 Damariscotta Montessori School			1	1	1		1			1					5
K-8 Edgecomb School Department	1	3	2	3	2		3								14
K-8 Great Salt Bay CSD			2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2					13
K-8 Juniper Hill School			1	1			1								3
K-8 Wiscasset School Department		1	1		2	1		3	1	2	2				13
Spurwink													1		1
Grand Total	1	5	10	9	8	6	11	8	6	10	11	7	9	3	104

### **Somerville Student Count Information**

	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Augusta Public Schools												1			1
9-12 Erskine Academy											4	3	6	1	14
9-12 Five Town CSD														1	1
9-12 Lincoln Academy											1			1	2
9-12 RSU 40/MSAD 40												2	1	1	4
9-12 Wiscasset School Department													1		1
Palermo Consolidated School		1								1					2
Whitefield Elementary School							1								1
Windsor Elementary School	2	7	3	3	4	3	5	5	3	7					42
Grand Total	2	8	3	3	4	3	6	5	3	8	5	6	8	4	68

### **Chelsea Elementary School Report**

We recently celebrated the 100th day of school at Chelsea School! We were very excited to reach this milestone this year. It felt like a greater accomplishment than in years past. Celebrations and fun activities were held in all grade levels.

In addition to completing 100 days, we are also closing out the second trimester and progress reports will be sent home at the end of the week. It is important to note that all progress is good progress and should be celebrated. Our students are very fortunate to be in school learning as many days as they are, especially when you look at how schools are structuring their days in the rest of our state and in the nation. More parents are feeling comfortable with sending their children back to in-person learning and Chelsea school is down to 27 remote learners, with more planning to come back next month. We cannot wait to see them back in the building!

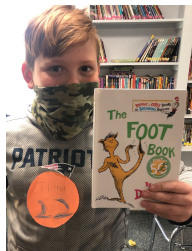
Parent-Teacher conferences will round out our month of March on the 23rd and 25th. Again, these will take place over a Zoom meeting or with a phone call. We are hopeful that next year we will get to greet our parents in person again.

### **Palermo Consolidated School Report:**



The creativity, teamwork and critical thinking is amazing to see at Palermo School. For Valentines Day, our first graders worked together to design “Lady Bug Catchers”. Each team used certain material provided to them and used their problem solving skills to design a way to catch paper ladybugs that had taken over the school. Their teacher, Ashley Lacourse, created this exciting project for these eager learners. They loved it.

On March 2nd, we celebrated Read Across America Day with lots of reading, crafts and activities. Miss Crystal designed a craft along with a fun snack for students in kindergarten through 4th grade.



A few older students videotaped themselves reading popular Dr. Seuss books so the younger grades can watch them. Our Art teacher, Mrs. Trainor also worked with classes to make hats of the Lorax! We promoted the joy of reading as a great way to explore the world, improve vocabulary, and learn about things we enjoy.



These events and projects are the best way for kids to learn and enhance their thinking skills. They go beyond the who, what, where, when and why questions to learning to explain why things are happening or creating new ways of doing things. We are very proud of the work going on in our classrooms!

### **Whitefield Elementary School Report**

We recently crested the 100 day mark of the school year and also completed the 2nd trimester. These are all feats in and of themselves, given the challenges of the pandemic year, but also mark a standard that kicks off two other important spring processes. The first is beginning formal conversations with parents related to the appropriate placement of their child for the upcoming school year. Most common is the conversation about retention of children. There are many factors that are a part of this consideration and the school and parents are actively engaged together in this very serious decision making process. Retention is typically considered in early grades and rather than a punishment, it is seen as providing a child the “gift of time,” believing that an additional year within a grade placement will aid a learner in moving into a more appropriate developmental place and a more successful school experience. With the closure of schools last year due to the pandemic and the resultant skills gaps that have presented, we are seeing an increase in parents who are interested in having the discussions related to possible retention. This may not, ultimately, lead to more children being retained but these are important conversations and considerations.

The other spring event that is cranking up in all of the RSU#12 schools is the transition planning for our 8th graders as they prepare to enter secondary school. With all our students having a number of secondary school choices available to them, our staff facilitates looking at various options, visiting (virtually and in-person) school campuses, completing registration and

academic schedule materials, meeting with parents who may have questions and, finally, assisting in the actual selection of their high school. This is such a bittersweet process as you are pleased that learners are ready to move into the next stage of their school lives but you also have a keen recognition that each 8th grade student is closing a period of their lives that took them from age 4 or 5 to 13 or 14 and this is the last time they'll be together as an elementary class. We celebrate this transition, believing our work has assisted each individual in being prepared for the challenges that will come next.

## **Windsor Elementary School Report**

Windsor School has had a busy and exciting month. Our first priority was to engage our students in a study of Black History Month. From kindergarten to eighth grade, students and staff celebrated an important part of our country's history. Students made bulletin boards, listened to music, created posters, read books. . . The list goes on and on, but I would like to highlight some of the work our middle school students did.

Some examples of specific things our middle school students studied this month include watching the documentary *Thunder Soul*, produced by Jamie Foxx. Their teacher, Wendy Simpson, also shared book talks that connect directly and indirectly with Black History and Martin Luther King books.



In Ms. Mathew's ELA classes they kicked off class each day by featuring a famous black musical artist. The students found Chuck Berry and Sister Rosetta Tharpe especially enjoyable! Students explored black history resources throughout the week, taking time to examine informational texts, stories, music, art, poetry, photography, and video clips. Each student selected an individual who is black and famous in our history to write an argument essay, supporting a claim that their person is inspiring. In addition, their weekly vocabulary study included words to match our theme such as bias, empower, and integrity.

These sixth and seventh graders held a restorative circle, discussing quotes from influential individuals. Discussion topics included what these quotes meant long ago, and what they mean today. Students enjoyed seeing how events from the past impact their lives now. In the circle, they discussed the word "integrity" and the importance of doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. Students reflected on their personal

integrity skills and set goals for improvement. A recurring topic was emotional self-control. Most students expressed some success in this area, but also a desire for improvement. This gives us good insight into future work!