

Pittston-Randolph Consolidated School



March 2021

Dear Families,

We were so excited to welcome our kindergarten through grade 2 students back in green four days a week this past Monday! It has been nice to hear so many happy voices and see the bright orange of PRIDE shirts. I am sure your children will be tired as they get used to the routine of being back in school four days, similar to our first days of school. We are already looking forward to welcoming grades 3-5 students back on Monday, March 15th, at the start of Trimester 3. We plan to wear our PRIDE shirts again on March 15 to celebrate grades 3-5 returning!

Thank you for partnering with us to continue following our safety guidelines. Keeping children home when they are sick and sending your children with an extra mask are two of these important guidelines. Classrooms have been adjusted to ensure we have 3 foot social distancing between students. This does mean desk arrangements in classrooms leave limited space. Our staff and teachers are working hard to provide high quality, engaging learning while meeting students' developmental needs for movement and social interaction.

In order for us to accommodate larger classes here at school, we have made adjustments to our daily lunch schedule. Each class has 20 minutes for lunch in the cafeteria. The children have adjusted well to this change. Classes continue to have 30 minutes of outdoor recess before or after lunch.

Thank you for following our arrival and dismissal procedures and timing. We have this structured in order to keep pick-up and drop-off traffic flowing smoothly and not blocking the road. This will be even more critical once all grade levels are back in green. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the school office at 582-6268.

Report cards for Trimester 2 will go home with students on March 26. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held virtually on Wednesday, March 31. Your child's teacher will contact you with scheduling information.

This week we are celebrating Read Across America. While we cannot have guest readers physically at school, we have been enjoying virtual read aloud. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to send a video of you reading aloud.

Thank you for supporting our school staff in their work with your children. Together we will continue to journey through these uncharted waters and find the silver linings!

Yours in education,

Christina O'Neal

Upcoming Events:

March

8th - PTG meeting @ 6:00pm
12th - Trimester 2 ends
15th - Grades 3-5 shift to green, all students wear their PRIDE shirts!
19th - 5th Grade Memory/Baby Pictures are due
19th - Workshop/no school for students
26th - Report cards to go home
31st - Parent/Teacher Conferences

April

12th - PTG meeting @ 6:00pm
16th - Workshop/no school for students
19th-23rd - Spring Break

Just a reminder that all early release days have been removed from our 2020-2021 school calendar, but we will still be having a Workshop day on Friday, March 19th. No school for all students.



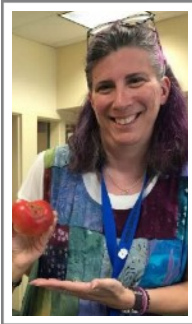
Thank you to Miss Connelly's students and our 4th grade friends for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance for the month of February!

Transportation Department

If your child is not going to ride the bus for the day, please contact the Transportation Office 582-6663.

We need to alert your child's driver not to stop and get your child.

Thank you,
Gabe Dostie
Director of Transportation/Operations



Guidance:

During March we will be learning about some uncomfortable emotions in guidance class- specifically stress, worry and anxiety. Being able to manage these strong emotions is a life skill that I wish I had been taught as a child! Through the use of books, videos, worksheets, and practice your child will learn about how to identify these emotions using clues their

body gives them; and, even more importantly, several age appropriate strategies (aka coping skills) for handling the many twists and turns that happen in life. Look for your child to bring home papers and ideas for how to manage stress in healthy ways.

You can help your child to grow when you model ways to handle stress by talking out loud. For example, "Boy, I am really feeling overwhelmed with all that I have to do today. I need to do the laundry and the dishes, take the dog to the vet, go to the chiropractor, bring little Johnny to Scouts, and cook super. My body is feeling tight and I am wondering how I can get all of this done. First, I'll take a couple of deep breaths to clear my mind. Then I'll shake out my shoulders and neck to relieve a little bit of this tightness. Next, I'll write a list of what I need to do and put it all in order. I think I'll ask the kids to help with the laundry, dishes and supper. OK. I got this. I can handle it." First, express your feelings, then do a little bit of verbal organizing. Notice how you are feeling physically and acknowledge your concern. Then create a plan to organize yourself and brainstorm some possible solutions, remember to ask for help. Finally, end with a little bit of positive self-talk. Your example of how you handle uncomfortable emotions is a powerful one for your child.

My goal is to increase your child's independence and also to help them to know that they are not alone in their feelings. Stress and other uncomfortable emotions are a part of life that everyone experiences at one time or another. The good news is these emotions can also be managed in healthy ways. I recently heard a quote that said, "Don't just go through it. GROW through it." It is my sincere desire to assist you in creating optimal growth experiences for your child as they navigate life. If you have any questions or concerns at any time feel free to contact me at jtourtelotte@msad11.org.

Here for you,

Joan Tourtelotte
("Miss T.") (She, Her, Hers)
School Guidance Councilor

The second trimester ends on March 12th and report cards will be distributed to all students on Friday, March 26th. Teachers will be contacting families soon to schedule Parent/Teacher Conferences. Once again these will be held virtually. We look forward to sharing your child's most recent work and accomplishments.



Spotlight on Staff
An interview with
"Mrs. Damon"



Role: 2nd Grade Teacher

My Favorite Color: Orange

My Favorite Food: Chocolate and Seafood

Hobbies: Reading, Baking and Shopping

My Favorite Book: Charlotte's Web

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up:
Teacher

Something Unique About You: I love country music. I would love to meet Kenny Chesney!!

Parent Teacher Group News

Reminder to keep clipping and scanning receipts for Box Tops.

Virtual PRCS PTG -Meeting(s) for 2020/2021 School Year
Monday, March 8th 6:00 – 7:00pm

Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/rcc-bdjin-zat
Join by phone
(US) +1 414-909-5908 PIN: 134 971 913#

It's not too late to order your PRCS yearbook online if you haven't already ordered one. You will need the Yearbook ID Code 14001221 ybpay.lifetouch.com or call the school and request an order form to be sent home with your student. Yearbooks are \$12.00

We are pleased to recognize the following students whose art selections are being included in the 2020-2021 yearbook:

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| Lydia M. | Madison C. |
| Savannah K. | Lyza S. |
| Ava H. | Kendall M. |
| Paige R. | Lilly M. |
| Faith H. | Conrad M. |
| Rylee M. | Madison D. |



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Maine Department of Education has removed the annual hearing and vision screening requirements for this school year. Normally, students in grades 1, 3, and 5 are screened.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's hearing or vision, please contact Nurse Martin at kmartin@msad11.org or by calling school during normal business hours. Thank you!



Spotlight on Staff.
An interview with "Mrs. Pushard-Hart"



Role: K-3 Learning Lab Teacher

My Favorite Color: Burgundy & Purple

My Favorite Food: Anything Mexican

Hobbies: Reading, photography, fishing, beach walking and baking.

My favorite book: What To Do With An Idea? By: Kobe Yamada

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up: A counselor

Something Unique About You: I know how to develop film from a 35 millimeter camera to make prints!!

Hello Families!

Artsonia, the digital portfolio program, is up and running!

Thank you for those who have signed and returned the permission slips. If you have not already, be sure to sign and return the

permission slip, and check your email to activate your student's account. Not only is this a great way to see and share your student's artwork with family and friends, there is also an optional Gift Shop offering keepsakes with your child's artwork. This ongoing fundraiser offers a portion of each sale back to the art department.

Thank you for your support and involvement!

Karol Carlsen
Art Teacher

kcarlsen@msad11.org



It's that time of year again!

Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration!

We are beginning our **Kindergarten** registration for the **2021-2022** school year! If you have a child or know of a child who will be five years of age on or before **October 15, 2021** please contact Pittston-Randolph Consolidated School at 582-6268.

It is also registration time for the **Four Year Old Program**. Applications are now being accepted for the **2021-2022** school year. Children must be four years of age on or before **October 15, 2021** and may not turn five before October 1st. If you are interested please call Pittston-Randolph Consolidated School at 582-6268 for more information or the Laura E. Richards School at 582-3612.

MSAD 11

Gardiner, Maine
Immediate Openings
for

Bus Drivers and Substitute Bus Drivers

State of Maine fingerprinting
Class B – S&P Endorsement
Required for Bus Driver position.

Applications are available at the Superintendent's Office or can be submitted electronically through the MSAD 11 website.
Call (207)582-5346 with questions.