

Alton and Viola Rand Elementary Schools

March 14, 2021
School Board Report

Hero Squad Week

During the week of March 8th, both elementary schools had a coin war between classes. The coins were collected for donation to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Fundraiser. Pennies for Patients is the former name of the drive for which we have participated in years past. The folks there have revamped the program, providing materials for both in person and virtual explorations. SEL (Social Emotional Learning) and STEM resources are excellent and are available to teachers of participating schools.

Part of the program, also, is having a hero to champion the cause. Our hero is Ethan Dalessandro. Ethan is the son of VRS Title 1 teacher Jen Dalessandro. Last June, when he was 6, he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He is now 7 and after undergoing treatments through the summer and early fall, he is back in school! His scans are clear and he was happy to be our Hero for the week! My main interest was to make students aware of the disease, the Lafayette Cancer Center and the need for continuing medical research. We discussed how small donations from many people combine to make a significant donation all together. The generosity demonstrated by many of our students was selfless and awe inspiring!



Upcoming Events:

- March 12
End of Trimester 1
- March 19
Report Cards
- March 22-25
VRS Book Fair
- April 9
Picture Day

Coin War Week

- Monday - Pennies for PJs *Bring in pennies and wear pajamas!*
- Tuesday - Neon Nickels *Wear bright neon colors and bring nickels!*
- Wednesday - Dazzling Dimes *Add some sparkle or shine and bring dimes!*
- Thursday - Crazy Quarters *Crazy hat, socks, hair?? With quarters!*
- Friday - Super Heroes *Dress like a super hero. Color a super hero cutout to show someone you know who has battled cancer like a hero!*

Jerseys for Dylan

On his February 26th birthday each year, the Viola Rand School invites staff and students to wear a sports jersey in memory of Dylan McInnis who attended VRS through 4th grade.

Dr. Seuss' Birthday

March 3rd is the date and the man would have been 117 years old this year! Alton Elementary marked the day with guest readers. I was able to read to fifth grade! Then each class played a few Seuss themed Minute to Win It games in the classrooms. Students enjoyed the games and competition!

At Viola Rand, there was DEAR - Drop Everything And Read-time. Students wore red and white and dressed like Thing One and Thing Two. Doing a Random Act of Kindness was encouraged. There was also some virtual buddy reading. Technology skills are getting impressive!

Students in both schools were able to choose several books from extensive collections of donated books to take home to keep.

PRIDE paid the way for Ice Skating!

On March 10th, Viola Rand School students had the opportunity to attend an after school trip to the Penobscot Ice Arena in Brewer for an hour of skating. For a number of years now, each winter I have taken students from Alton and Bradley to the Alford two or three times a winter. This year, the Alford was not open for such events, so PRIDE looked into other options. The new venue was terrific. It was smaller and much easier to monitor. Kelly Berube went with me to help kids when they were off the ice while I skated with the kids. We took two buses to maintain the cohorts within the school and followed the rink guidelines for Covid safety, which were mostly what we are already used to doing.

The Brewer rink had plenty of skates for kids to use and had very cool red, plastic trainers to help beginners.

The students were SO excited to go and SO excited to be there. I think for many, it had been a long time since they had gone anywhere to do something new. I was impressed with how determined they were to skate on their own. It was a great lesson on the value of sticking with something and working at it for an impressive outcome. There were some proud kids leaving the rink at the end of the day!

