

Alton Elementary & Viola Rand Schools

RSU34 School Board Report for April 2021



A caring fourth grade AES student receives a rain drop token for his collection!

Summer School

The Corona Recovery Funds have made a wished for program a reality for this summer! Jenn Vafiades, intervention teacher at AES has taken on the directorship of a brand new 5 week summer school program primarily for AES and VRS students. This program will begin on July 6 and end on August 6th. Students may opt to come one week or all five. Each week has a theme. It will start with team building, then the others will be STEAM, Water and Ice, Olympics, and finally club week. Mrs. Vafiades has lots of great ideas. There will be a library borrowing time each Monday and field trips most Fridays. Mrs. Kenniston has provided staff so that the ESY (Extended Year Program) for students with IEPs in Alton or Bradley will attend school in Alton this summer. Several teachers and ed techs have signed on to help staff summer school, notably Sandy Daniel who is taking a leading role in making this program a success. We are excited to have university students who have been hired for our new "Earn to Learn" program joining us to help with staffing. These students will be working in our schools from May 17 through the end of the year as substitutes if needed and in other supporting roles, often offering direct support to students. After the school year concludes, all staff will work the following week to prepare for summer school. They will have the week of June 28th off, before kick off on July 6th!

Upcoming Events

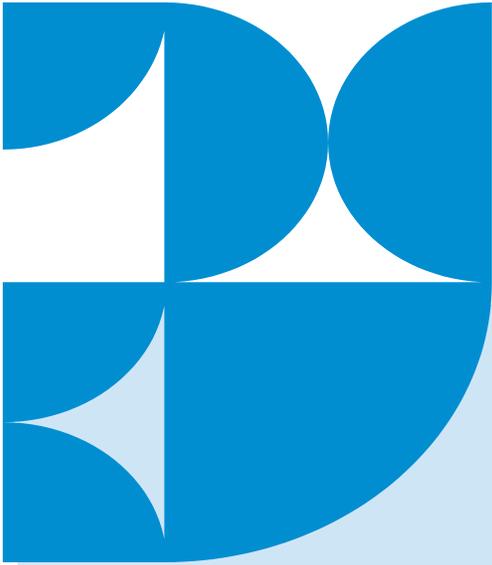
Administrative Professionals Day
April 21

NWEA Assessments for grades 3-5
April 26-30

Challenger Learning Remote
Programs Grades 2-5
April 28, 29 May 3,4

Trimester 3 Progress Reports
April 30

Native American Studies Staff
Professional Development
April 27 and May 11



Hero Squad

The third week in March was the week for our Hero Squad Drive. Hero Squad is the name for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's drive to generate support for these childhood diseases. Both schools ran a week of 'Coin Wars' where each day a different coin was featured for donations. There is a fantastic embedded content in this program for teachers to use for SEL and STEM lessons that scaffold understanding of the need for the fundraiser. Both schools had an amazing response and shattered previous year's amounts raised. We had our own hero, Ethan Dalessandro, whose mom Jennifer Dalessandro teaches in Bradley. Alton staff and students raised \$1400 and VRS raised \$990. One take away message I wanted students to realize is that when we all give a little, it adds up to make a great impact!

Teacher Appreciation Week will be the week of May 3rd – 7th. The parent groups in both schools have been busy with plans to demonstrate to the teachers and other staff members how much they value the time and effort that has gone into instruction this year. I want to echo those sentiments after witnessing the amazing attitudes of all my staff this year!

Endangered Animals

Mrs. Vose's second grade students at VRS have been collecting returnable bottles and cans for a service learning project. The class voted to adopt an endangered animal. Their bottle drive has been successful enough that they anticipate adopting three animals now! They will receive certificates and plush versions of the animals for this donation, so they are excited for the next step!

Jordan Planetarium

The Viola Rand School first grade class attended a field trip to the Jordan Planetarium at the University of Maine on Friday, April 2nd. In keeping with their safety guidelines, the class went half at a time. Mrs. Berube and nine of her students at a time attended a show called the Secret of the Cardboard Box. This show teaches about each planet in a fun and interactive way. Inside the planetarium, students were spaced well apart to watch this fascinating show. They returned to school with a new perspective on the planets that they have been studying in class.



Students were well distanced on their recent trip to the Jordan Planetarium!

