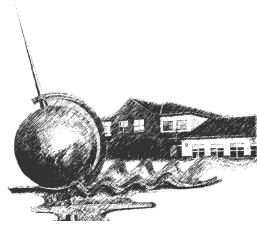


# Laura E. Richards School

MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

## Principal's Notes



Dear Families,

Whoohooo!!!! We've made it to March!! February was certainly a packed month of activities, including 100 Day, Valentine's Day, Character Dress Up, and Learning Night. March is usually a great month for academics, as we don't have any major holiday or days off. Let's hope the winter weather is behind us and mud season is short! With that in mind, please continue to have your child wear their boots and ski pants to school, even on warmer days. Our playground still has snow on it and is also wet and muddy. I also encourage you to pack an extra pair of pants and socks in your child's backpack, just in case they fall and get really wet or muddy.

We have a new staff member in our school this week. Welcome to Jessica Giles who is now working in our STEPS program.

Report cards will be coming home on March 20th and Parent-Teacher conferences will be happening at the end of this month. We will be using "Pick-a-time" again since it worked well for parents to sign up for conferences with teachers. Our Title 1 staff will also be available for conferences this time too. Conferences are a great way to hear how your child's learning is progressing and, staff really look forward to meeting with you. More information will be coming home soon.

Pat Hopkins has written a letter to families in regards to school safety. It is enclosed in this packet. Please know that our LER staff takes school safety very seriously, and we have also practiced another lockdown safety drill this week. I do appreciate how families have adjusted to remaining in the lobby if they are dropping off or picking up their children in the mornings and afternoons. Thank you!

If you ever have a question, concern, or want to chat, please call or stop in to see me!

Yours in the service of children,

### Upcoming Events

**March:**

- 2nd: Dr Seuss Day
- 9th: End of second trimester
- 13th: GEPTA meeting, 6:15 at LER
- 15th: Early release
- 16th: Workshop day, no school
- 28th: Assembly, 2:00
- 29th: Early release
- 29th: Parent-Teacher Conferences, *more info to follow!*

**April:**

- 10th Spring pictures
- 10th: GEPTA meeting, 6:15 at RVCS
- 13th: Workshop day, no school
- 16th - 20th: Spring break, no school
- 25th: Assembly, 2:00

**May:**

- 4th: Kindergarten screening for incoming students - *No school for kindergarteners!*
- 8th: GEPTA meeting, 6:15 at LER
- 9th: Early release
- 16th: Spring concert, 10:00 & 2:00
- 30th: Assembly, 8:45

**Helpful Phone Numbers**

- Laura E. Richards School 582-3612
- Superintendent's Office 582-5346
- Transportation Office 582-6663
- Boys & Girls Club 582-8458
- Special Education Office 582-7366
- LER fax 582-3175
- River View School & fax 582-3402

**For safety reasons:**

**Please do not drop your child off at school before 8:10. There is no supervision inside or on the playground until then.**

**Please remain in the lobby when dropping off or picking up your child.**

**Please do not open the locked lobby doors for others or allow others to enter when you are leaving the building. Please allow our staff to let visitors into the school.**



**Thank You, Guest Readers!**  
Thank you to the students, community members, and local celebrities who visited LER recently to share their time and talent with our students!

The Laura E. Richards School community will nurture, guide, and encourage students. We will provide a safe environment, rich in learning experiences, to foster respectful, caring, independent learners.

### Catch the Walking School Bus in the Spring!

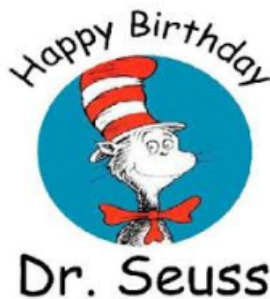
Be watching for the Walking School Bus to resume in April, weather permitting!



Remember to collect and send in your empty printer cartridges and BoxTops for Education!

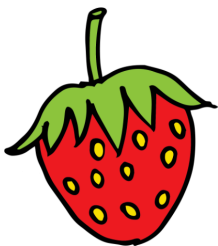


**Star Students** - Every week, each teacher chooses a student who has demonstrated the "4 Be's" -- Be safe, be kind, be respectful, be responsible. Each Star Student receives a certificate and a special pencil! Congratulations to our Star Students!



### Box Tops for Education Thank You!

A huge "thank you" to our BoxTops coordinator and Ed Tech Mrs. Roy, and to all of you who have been collecting Box Tops for Education! Through your efforts, we have recently submitted \$350.00 in BoxTops! We are awaiting the check and look forward to planning enrichment activities for our students! Keep on clipping those valuable Box Tops!



We really enjoyed our Dr. Seuss "hat" treats, our guest readers, and celebrating Dr. Seuss' contributions to children's literacy!

### LER Spring Concert

Our music concert is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16th at 10:00 and 2:00. We have two identical performances to help us with parking and seating. Guests may attend at either time.

### No School

Please note that there is no school on Friday, March 16th

### GEPTA News

Due to unforeseen circumstances we have canceled our Costume Dodgeball Tournament that was scheduled for March 3rd.

Please mark your calendars for our updated meeting schedule:

TUESDAY, March 13th - 6:15 at LER  
TUESDAY, April 10th - 6:15 at RVCS  
TUESDAY, May 8th - 6:15 at LER  
TUESDAY, June 12th - 6:15 at RVCS

### Dismissal

Thank you for respecting our learning time by not dismissing your child early unless it is an emergency! If there is a change in your child's transportation, please send a signed note or call the school as early in the day as possible. **Please try to avoid calling the school at the end of the day for any changes in your child's transportation, unless it is an emergency.** It is very difficult to notify teachers, students, and bus drivers of any changes during our busy dismissal time.

### It's Pre-K & K Registration Time!

The Four Year Old Program will soon be registering students for the 2018 - 2019 school year. Children must be four years of age on or before October 15, 2018 and may not turn five before September 1st.

If you are interested, please call 582-3612 for more information and for registration forms.

Space is limited.

Kindergarten registration time is also approaching! If you have a child who will be five years of age on or before October 15, 2018, or if you know of one, please contact the school at 582-3612.

Gardiner - Randolph - Pittston - West Gardiner

# Maine School Administrative District No. 11

150 Highland Avenue  
Gardiner, ME 04345

Patricia Hopkins  
Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 207-582-5346  
Fax: 207-582-8305  
[www.msad11.org](http://www.msad11.org)

Crystal Peltzer  
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

February 28, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students, and Staff:


Due to the number of school related threats and violence around the country, most recently the senseless school shooting in Florida, I am writing to let you know that the MSAD 11 administration is working with local law enforcement to evaluate our existing safety protocols and emergency procedures to ensure the safety and well-being of all students in our care. The steps we are taking or already have in place include:

1. School doors in every school are locked and monitored by staff. Photo identification is required by individuals unknown to the school staff.
2. Every school building has a detailed school safety plan in place.
3. Lockdown drills are discussed and practiced to make sure students, staff, and administrators know what to do in case an intruder gets past our existing locked door security system.
4. We review and revise our safety protocols and procedures on an annual basis to eliminate any oversights and to remain current on best practices.
5. The administrative team will meet with Gardiner Police Chief, James Toman, later this week to review our emergency plan and to discuss whether there are new procedures we should be implementing.
6. As part of the administrative team's professional development, we are also planning to conduct a tabletop exercise (a possible emergency scenario) with law enforcement to help administrators think about and "practice" what we need to do should an individual breach our locked door system.
7. To help monitor our buildings and grounds, we have been and will continue to budget for the installation of surveillance camera systems in all of our schools.
8. Administrators and School Board members are currently in the process of developing next year's proposed budget. On the table for consideration is an additional School Resource Officer and other student support services.

The best tool we and other schools have to avoid a violent act is for students, parents, staff, and community members to work together and communicate with each other when there is a potential threat. Every threat reported to us is immediately investigated with the assistance of law enforcement.

Safety of students and staff is our top priority. We will continue to assess our existing emergency protocols and procedures. Please know that all threats will be taken seriously.

Sincerely,



Patricia Hopkins  
Superintendent of Schools

