

School Board Report August 2021

Old Town Elementary School "Work Hard and Be Kind"

Summer Activities at OTES

Summer School Experience 2021: What an amazing summer school experience we were able to offer our students this year! We were pleased to welcome a variety of learners to our summer school during the month of July. The program ran three days a week from 8 am to 2 pm, which were extended hours to support educational loss from the 2020-2021 school year. Students were treated to four weeks of theme-based learning to help with engagement and attendance. We were lucky the sticky weather didn't impact too many of our days together and we were able to really enjoy our small group sessions with our students.

Library Club: We also offered for the first time since opening OTES a Library Learning Club for our students K-4, with our 5th graders (soon to be 6th graders) serving as camp leaders and helpers. Michelle Reesman designed activities with reading, math, STEM, and art in focus every Wednesday from 9 am to 2 pm. We were amazed at the number of students that took advantage of this fabulous opportunity this summer. We are looking forward to building on this program in the years ahead.

Kindergarten Gatherings: Michelle Reesman also offered to our incoming Kindergarten families an opportunity to get familiar with our school prior to the school year by gathering the group each week for a read-aloud and introducing them to a part of our school each week. We started with an outdoor session in our learning garden, moved into the library, gym, and a K classroom to get the students acclimated to their new learning environment.

Summer Bootcamps: We did offer our traditional summer boot camp opportunity for families wanting to brush up on key concepts and skills in writing and math through online options. The participation in these opportunities was down from previous years, but if a parent/student wanted to participate at their own time, we felt it was important to offer a chance to do so.

We will be drafting a survey to share with families and staff participating in these programs to gather feedback and help to shape our next year's offerings.



Weekly Garden Experiences

We were able to continue our summer Farm Stand this year and were excited to see so many people take advantage of this resource!



Setting our school theme for 2021-2022

Each year we select a school theme to help unite and guide some of our school experience. We have selected United in Kindness for the school year and hope to spread a message of Kindness with many of our school activities.



Greenhouse at OTES completed

As reported at the June Board Meeting, we are now the proud owners of a school greenhouse! With the effort and hard work of Christina Lannan and Jennifer Goodwin, this project has finally come together and has been erected at OTES to benefit our school's gardening program.

Calling all D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)

A few years ago we created a Dads Group to support our school and the many events at OTES. The group was very active and supportive of the many school wide functions we had created and we loved having the DADS involved at OTES. Over time, like many things in school, the group has dwindled with the COVID restrictions and activities being put on hold. We have updated the DOGS group flyer and will be outside recruiting new members at our upcoming Open Houses at OTES on September 1 and 2. We are especially interested in having our DOGS Group help with the huge Holiday Light Project we want to offer our community this year involving our School Gardens. The Project is taking shape and we will need a lot of helping hands to support the installation of lights.

We know the more positive and active people we have in our students' lives, the better for our students and school.

How Pool Testing at OTES Will Work

How Pool Testing Works

It just takes 15 minutes once a week!

Up to 25 students (and staff members!)

in a pool self-swab (shallow inside the nostril) and drop their swabs into a single tube.

STEP 2: Test the Pool

That tube is shipped to a lab and tested using

one test, and the pool is

provided with one result within 48 hours, often 24!

STEP 3: Get Results

Only positive pools result in next steps, which include at school rapid testing of each individual in the pool to identify the positive participant(s).

STEP 4: End Results

From the individual test results, **only** students/staff **testing positive** will be required to quarantine, **along with ANY unvaccinated students/staff NOT** participating in pool testing.

Why Participate in Pool Testing?

- It's a quick and easy way to help keep staff and students safe and maintain in-person learning.
- Testing is completed in the classroom with the assistance of teachers/staff that are familiar with your student.
- Early detection and peace of mind for families on a weekly basis.
- Participants can **avoid school quarantine and remain in school** even if there is a positive test result within the close contact of your student.





Old Town Elementary School


 Facebook

Our school is located near the University of Maine. We have a PREK-5 program with 600 students. The students at OTES have an enriched environment with academics, social interactions, and many alternative activities to support their developmental growth. We are very lucky to have a wonderful parent organization that supports enrichment activities and provides many exciting experiences for our students.

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