## Monroe - Message From the Principal



May 8, 2023



This is a busy time of year for our elementary schools. We have started our spring benchmark assessments which will give us a clear picture of the progress our students have worked hard all year to make. These assessments will also help us determine as a school where our focus for the new year should begin, as well as helpful hints we can share with families to support skills practice over the summer which helps to avoid "summer slide." Please plan to connect with your child's teacher during these last few weeks of school to discuss his/her strengths and areas of need as they finish up this year and prepare to move onto the next grade.

There are many things coming up in these last few weeks - both at the school level as well as the district level. Please be watching for important announcements about field trips, special school events, important assignments, and other end of year activities. Please also make a note of important district community forums and budget information. It is going to be a busy and fun month and it is going to go by quickly as we wrap up the many important things we have planned throughout the district.

I would like to send out a huge thank you to our amazing PTO for helping to make last week super special for the staff in honor of staff appreciation week. We had so many yummy treats and other special things and I know that every staff member felt appreciated!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions, concerns, or need support for your child or your family. Have a great week!

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K	In Kindergarten, we have continued our exploration of 3D shapes by building shapes out of clay and toothpicks. This helps us learn how many edges and vertices (corners) a shape has. We have also explored the shapes that make up the faces of these shapes, and identified whether they are squares, circles, triangles, or rectangles.
1	This week we finished our science unit on plants. We talked about all the parts of the plant (Seed, Roots, Stem, Leaves, Blossom) and what they do. We also learned that there are plants everywhere (including the ocean and the desert). Next week during the Letter E in our A,B,C countdown we will do an experiment with plants. They are excited to find out what this experiment is!
2/3	We wrapped up a whilr-wind tour of the Five United States Regions. We started with scavenger hunts on different types of maps, and finished by learning about climate, wildlife and landforms from the five US regions: Northeast, South, Midwest, Southwest, West. We are maintaining a mostly regular academic schedule until the last day of school, but also mixing in more outside time. I am very excited for our next science unit on Ponds! We will be answering the question, "who lives in our pond?" Stay tuned for their answers!!!
4/5	The first week of May flew by in the % classroom. Grade 4 has dived into fractions and Grade 5 is wrapping up decimals and will soon start fractions. We only have a couple social studies presentations then will do a quick science unit on force and motion! Grade 5 had a blast on their trip to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute where they helped out the scientists by entering data collected on live lobsters! The week of May 8th is going to be busy with the Bikes for Books assembly and the Book Fair!
Music	This week, students continued to learn their concert repertoire. We also practiced rap by introducing ourselves using rap, and learned how to beatbox using the kick drum, high-hat, and snare drum. Students also learned about audience expectations and theme and variation by watching My Neighbor Totoro.
SEL	This week at Morse, 2/3 and 4/5 all continued learning on how to solve problems using S.T.E.P. K and 1 have been practicing more ways to say a problem.
Garden	Planting season is well on its way! Students started more seeds in the greenhouse including various winter squashes. We're practicing keeping voices low and feet quiet on the crushed rock as we're finding sound amplifies in there!

## **RSU 3 Public Forums**

Please join the RSU 3 Administration for our upcoming Public Forums

Tuesday, May 9th
Community Safety Night
6:00pm

\*Presented in partnership with Waldo County
Sheriff's Office

Wednesday, May 17th
Facilities Evaluation Report
6:00pm

Wednesday, May 24th Public Budget Hearing 6:30pm

All public forums will be held at the MV Complex