



**Sheepscoot Valley RSU 12**  
**February 2018**  
**Superintendent's Report**  
**Information, Recognitions, and Celebrations**

**Superintendent Report**

Reading for fun and Reading to children is an easy and enjoyable way to build a foundation of lifetime learning. In order to celebrate and encourage reading and reading to children, all of RSU 12 is participating in the State of Maine's **Read to ME Challenge** from Maine Department of Education during the month of February. What is the Read to ME Challenge? The Read to ME Challenge is an opportunity to contribute to a child's literacy growth by reading aloud to one or more children for at least 15 minutes. The steps for taking the challenge are listed below and you can access resources to promote the challenge at the link below. You can also read about how the challenge is spreading across Maine by visiting the Read to ME Challenge articles.

Steps for Taking the Read to ME Challenge:

- Read to and/or have a child/children read to you for at least 15 minutes.
- Read an engaging book, chapter of a novel, newspaper or magazine article, comics, nursery rhymes or poetry.
- Capture a photograph or short video (15-30 seconds) of yourself reading to the child.
- Use #ReadtoME or #ReadaloudME to post the photo or video on social media with your challenge to others to read aloud 15 minutes to a child or children they know.
- Recommended social media platforms include: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Youtube.
- If you live a distance from a child you'd like to read to, use Skype or Facetime to read aloud via digital means.

Also consider:

- Donating a book to a school or public library, a food cupboard, a homeless shelter or a little free library near where you live.
- Volunteering your time at a library.
- Singing to or having a conversation with a child (these methods build language, too).

The Department of Education is encouraging families and organizations, including schools, to promote reading to a child for at least 15 minutes, take pictures or video and share on social media with **#ReadtoME** or **#ReadaloudME**. Our district has already registered and will advertise on our website, but any info about this you could share to spread the word (and promote literacy) would be helpful.

More info is available at <http://www.maine.gov/doe/readtome/>

**Curriculum and Technology Report**

Staff participated in professional development sessions at their buildings on Friday, January 12. In particular, they worked together to refine their response to intervention systems and further develop instructional practices related to the Habits of Mind. This work supports staff ability to personalize learning experiences for our learners, supporting them in their challenge areas and helping them build upon their strengths.

On January 19, the Director of Curriculum and Technology was able to attend a workshop presented by the Maine Department of Education on Growth Mindset. A significant portion of the day was spent on the research behind the importance of cultivating a growth mindset in staff as an integral part of the successful ability to cultivate a growth mindset in our students. There was opportunity to practice specific strategies to facilitate this work. These strategies were then shared with the administrative team with plans to bring this learning back to educators at each school.

A cohort of RSU 12 teachers and administrators began a second course in the 4-course Proficiency-Based Learning certificate program offered by the University of Maine at Farmington. This course - Instructional Leadership - focuses on organizational change theory and the development of leadership skills at all levels of

leadership (teacher leaders, principals, district leadership) for the purpose of driving our ongoing change towards a more personalized, proficiency-based learning system for our learners.

We continue to work to refine our new website and ensure consistent and frequent communication through our app. If you haven't checked it out yet, please see our new website at [svrsu.org](http://svrsu.org), and download the RSU12 app at [RSU 12 for iPhone](#) or [RSU 12 for Android](#).

**Westport Island Student Count Information**

	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Brunswick School Department													1		1
9-12 Lincoln Academy											2			2	4
9-12 RSU 01													1		1
9-12 Wiscasset School Department										2	4	1	3		10
K-8 Center for Teaching and Learning		1	1	1			2	1	2						8
K-8 Chewonki Semester School						1									1
K-8 Damariscotta Montessori School		1							1						2
K-8 Edgecomb School Department	1			1			2								4
K-8 Great Salt Bay CSD						1	1	3		1					6
K-8 Juniper Hill School					1										1
K-8 MSAD 51					1										1
K-8 RSU 01						1	1			1					3
K-8 Wiscasset School Department			1	2	1	2	1	4	1	3	3				18
Maine School of Science and Mathematics											1				1
Grand Total	1	2	2	4	3	5	7	8	4	5	8	4	3	5	61

**Alna Student Count Information**

	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Boothbay-Boothbay Hbr CSD												1	1		2
9-12 Erskine Academy											1				1
9-12 Lincoln Academy											1	2	5	6	14
9-12 Waynflete School												1			1
9-12 Wiscasset School Department											1	4	1	2	8
Chelsea Elementary School							1								1
K-8 Brunswick School								1	1						2

Department															
K-8 Center for Teaching and Learning		1	2	2	2	1	4		1	2					15
K-8 Chewonki Semester School						1	1	1	3						6
K-8 Damariscotta Montessori School		1		1			1			1					4
K-8 Edgecomb School Department	4			1			1								6
K-8 Great Salt Bay CSD			1	1	1	1	4	3	1	4					16
K-8 Juniper Hill School		2	7	1	2										12
K-8 North Yarmouth Academy								1							1
K-8 Riley School			1				1								2
K-8 RSU 01								1							1
K-8 RSU 02				1		1									2
K-8 Sheepscot Valley Children's House		2													2
K-8 Wiscasset School Department		2		3	1	1	4	1	1	4					17
Spurwink													1		1
Whitefield Elementary School	1				1			1		1					4
Grand Total	5	8	11	10	7	5	17	9	7	12	3	8	8	8	118

**Somerville Student Count Information**

	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Erskine Academy											3	3	4	1	11
9-12 Lincoln Academy											2				2
9-12 RSU 11/MSAD 11														1	1
9-12 RSU 40/MSAD 40											1			1	2
9-12 Wiscasset School Department												1	1		2
Palermo Consolidated School							1	1	1	1					4
Somerville Elementary School	4														4
Windsor Elementary School	1	7	4	3	6	5	9	2	5	6					48
Grand Total	5	7	4	3	6	5	10	3	6	7	6	4	5	3	74

### **Chelsea Elementary School Report**

The town of Chelsea held a contest to create a seal for the town and Chelsea's 7th graders designed a new town seal as part of their art class. The winners are still top secret and will be announced at the next middle school PRIDE assembly. The town manager and one of the selectmen will be here to make a presentation. The winner's design will become the new TOWN SEAL FOR THE TOWN OF CHELSEA!

Chelsea has been working on the habit of mind skills of Setting Goals and Quality Standards. Students set goals when they came back from Christmas break and monitor these. Students also are learning what quality work looks like and the amount of perseverance it takes to do quality work. Student work that meets quality standards will be posted for students to see.

February brings vacation and all the fun things that come before it. Students will have their monthly pride assembly and the PEP Rally for our basketball teams who will be competing in the championships on Sat., Feb 9th. Chelsea will also have its annual Staff/Student basketball game on the Friday before vacation. I wonder who will be the winner this year? Guess it depends on who the refs are!

Our grade 8 students have started thinking about where they will go to high school. Shadowing has been scheduled and Miss Kim is working with the local high schools to create a handbook for students and parents which will highlight history and expectations for entry. This handbook will help families make more informed decisions.

Chelsea pre-k program has made the news! A member of the Maine Public Broadcast came to Chelsea to look at the impacts of Pre-K programs on the school program. Our pre-k teachers were gracious enough to open their doors and let them have a peek at our wonderful program. The students who attend this program are much more ready to learn when they enter our kindergarten program. Check out the news release at this web address.

<http://mainepublic.org/post/dozens-maine-school-districts-launching-new-or-expanded-public-preschool-programs#stream/0>

### **Palermo Consolidated School Report**

All students in grades 4-8 participated in a classroom Geography Bee. The two winners from each classroom participated in a school wide Geography Bee. The students are asked questions (sometimes really difficult questions) until we had a winner. This year's winner is Riley Reitchel. Richard Mahoney came in 2nd place and Atilio Delgado came in 3rd place. Riley will take an online test to qualify for the state Geography Bee. Congratulations to all participants!!

The Spirit Assembly was held on Friday, January 26th for students in grades K-4. Students are given panther paws when they are found being safe, responsible and respectful. They put these paws in a classroom bucket in the office as they are earned. At the assembly, Miss Crystal chooses 6 winners. These kiddos have a choice of picking from different things, computer time, helping Nick, having lunch with a staff member, etc. During the assembly the class with the most Panther Paws is honored. After a classroom receives 100 paws, they are given a ROAR AWARD.

On Tuesday, January 30th, Haley Fallon from New Hope for Women came in to discuss gender, gender stereotypes, how "Unique doesn't mean Freak", and tolerance, among other things, with our students in grades 5-8. She did two separate age appropriate presentations, one for 5th and 6th grade kiddos and the other for 7th and 8th grade kiddos. Kathy Hollicker, our 8th grade teacher, was so impressed with her presentation, she is hoping to invite her back at a later date for further discussion.

Carnation Sales are going on. Our student council are split into groups and go into each classroom and check in with all staff to see if anyone would like to purchase carnations. They come in red, white, pink and surprise. The carnations will be delivered on Valentine's Day.

One of our 8th grade kiddos has unfortunately been diagnosed with leukemia. He is currently a patient at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in Portland, although Jacob was able to "visit" and will continue to "visit" to participate in school and some outside of school activities, with the help of Grahamtastic Connection. We have a few fundraisers going on to help support the family during his recovery. Our student council held a Benefit Dance on Friday night and raised \$912.53 to go to the family. We are also selling Pray for Jacob/Seigars Strong #40 bracelets, Temple Academy has given us some decals to sell for them, and Shawn Porter, our boys basketball coach, is taking orders for Seigars Strong t-shirts. Check out the facebook page, Pray for Jacob that was set up by his family, for other fundraisers that are taking place in our local communities. We wish Jacob all the luck in the world while he is navigating through his recovery.

On a side note, if anyone would like to purchase any of the above, the bracelets are \$3.00 each, the decals are \$5.00 each and the t-shirts are \$12.00 each. Please contact Palermo School at 993-2352 for more information.

### **Whitefield Elementary School Report**

Basketball season is almost to the end! The Varsity tournament will be on February 10th, 12th, 13th, and 15th. It will be hosted by Erskine Academy in China. If you are interested in helping during the tournament and or donating any concession items please let Mr. Jordan know or just stop by any of the tournament dates. Good luck to all the teams participating!

The Whitefield National Junior Honor Society prepared 136 meals to be distributed to members of the community. The meals were cooked by staff members and assembled by NJHS members and some younger students to be delivered. A note was included thanking people for being a part of our community and wishing them well.

Join Us at Aunt Gin's Restaurant on February 7th from 4:30-7 pm for Benefit Pizza and Pasta Buffet (included in price is pizza, pasta, and soft drinks \*\*alcoholic beverages must be purchased separately\*\*)

Price: \$10 per adult -- \$ 5 per child (up to grade 8) -- \$25 per family group  
ALL proceeds will be donated to Whitefield Elementary School's class of 2018.

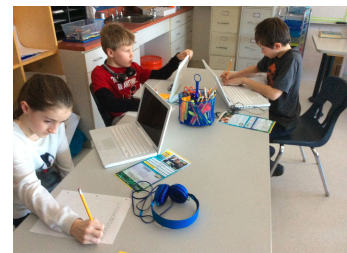
### **Windsor Elementary School Report**

In an effort to blast the winter blues several staffers are getting together on Tuesdays after school in the cafeteria for some exercise videos. They will Youtube a variety of exercise videos as well as adding weights and mat work. First off will be a Leslie Sansone Walk at Home video!

Grades 3-5 will participate in winter carnival week February 10-16th. If the weather cooperates, they will be taking groups snowshoeing for our "Winter Carnival." Teachers will be offering enrichment courses, for students, in the morning from 8:45-9:45, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. They will also offer a clothing theme for each day, and will end our 'carnival' on Friday, where they will take all the kids out on the the soccer and softball fields to play, build snowmen, make forts, etc. etc.....just outdoor snow fun.



During the last week of January, Windsor's 5th grade students attended Labventure! at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland, Maine. This project is fully funded by sponsors of GRMI, so students are able to become scientists for a day! At GRMI, students are immersed in inquiry based experiments as they study the complex systems of the Gulf of Maine. Learning that happens at GRMI doesn't stop after we get back



to school. With the help of technology they are able to access all of their data from the experience and use it to complete additional activities at school as part of their ecology unit.



"Can we check books out of the library?" Students in Grade 4 were treated to a trip to a different type of library. At the Margaret Chase Smith Museum and Library, they got to tour the senator's home, look at displays in the museum, and visit the library and learn about the importance of archives. A powerful lesson about how one person, despite the odds, can make a difference. This trip was part of their Maine Studies unit.

Carolyn Blomerth is explaining to the students that these artifacts are like the modern day Facebook



Our yearbook is now off to the printer. This is the cover. The right hand side is the front, and the left is the back. Congratulations to 7th grader Damon Wilson for the winning cover!

8th Graders just finished their Pioneer/Westward Movement Simulation. Students are grouped together to form a Wagon Train in Missouri and from there they must meet challenges along the way and work together to overcome some of the challenges (scorpion bites, diphtheria, loose cattle, crossing raging rivers, etc.) Sorry to say, none of the members made it to Oregon. Many of the Wagon Trains got caught in the Rocky Mountains and did not survive the three feet of snow and blizzard conditions.

7th graders are continuing with Maine Studies and we are so PROUD of Saber Hannington who placed 1st in the Secretary of State's Native American Essay Contest this year! Alexis Alcott, Damon Wilson and Olivia Hutchinson were runners up as well! The 7th grade will be taking a trip to the State House to be recognized and to tour the State House as well as listen in on some of the House of Representatives proceedings.

Windsor is the lucky recipient of 50 Kindle Fires for the library. Many thanks to the Cole Foundation for their generous grant.

The teachers at Windsor conduct a reading challenge each month with a volunteer teacher taking ownership of the prize. January's theme was a book with a main character who exhibited a growth mindset. The prize was a winter survival kit. This month's reading challenge is 'Color.' What this means is you need to read a book(s) that have a color in the title. For example, The Green Mile, Green Eggs and Ham, Blue Bloods...etc.



Our pre-K is in every way an integral part of our school community. Here are two enjoying a book during their regularly scheduled library time.

Cory King and Maggie Allen participated in the Maine Anti-bullying Policy Study interview conducted by the University of Minnesota Research Center. It was an honor to have been asked to be involved in such an important research project.

Eighth graders are gearing up to decide where they want to go for high school. Below is the current shadowing schedule:

**Hall-Dale Shadow**

Tuesday, February 13th

Open House: February 27th (more info to follow when available)

**Gardiner Shadow**

Thursday, February 8

Drop off: 7:30 Pickup: 1:55

**Cony Shadow**

Thursday, February 8

Drop off: 7:00 Pickup: 1:45

**Snow Pond Arts Academy**

Monday, Feb 12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017

Contact: Maggie Allen

207-445-2356

**Windsor Elementary School  
Announces Fast Track Grant**



WINDSOR – Windsor Elementary School is excited to announce that their Title One program received a generous grant from the Perloff Family Foundation and the Maine Community Foundation. The goal of the grant is to support engagement of both



students and parents/caregivers in the love of reading. The grant awarded fifteen LeapPads and sufficient apps to provide a variety of resources. This project is especially important as it is encouraging adult role models to show them fun ways to read. Twice a month, children will receive a take-home bag containing the tablet, associated materials, and a parent contact form for the weekend. Parent involvement is an essential part of Windsor's Parents as Partners program. The LeapPads were unveiled at a parent night and another is already scheduled. Linda Farwell and Mary Clark, our Title One educators, were instrumental in gaining this award.

Early reading and language skills build a critical foundation for learning. LeapPads include games, activities, videos and eBooks designed to build important early reading they need to become confident readers. New enhanced eBooks feature a vocabulary glossary and highlighted, clickable text that children can tap on to hear each word for more practice. Children raised in homes that promote family literacy grow up to be better readers and do better in school than children raised in homes where literacy is not promoted. We know that promoting family literacy is important to future reading and school success. Windsor School is grateful to the Maine Community Foundation for the support for this important endeavor.



We love it when Lyndsay Cranes, from the Maine MLTI project, comes to our school.



Students used a virtual reality website, Cospaces.edu, to create a virtual reality world on their LTs. They then added speech. Their virtual creations were based on the settings of the book they recently read.

All 7th Grade students will be attending a field trip February 8th to the State House and Red Robin. The trip to the State House is to attend the award ceremony of Saber Hanington winning the State Native American Essay. We will also have a state house tour and visit the Archives. Students will need to dress professionally. If boys own ties, it's always nice, if they wear them. We will most likely be recognized by the House, so appropriate dress is essential.

The Windsor 8th grade had an opportunity to meet and speak with one of the runners in the upcoming Boston Marathon on Wednesday, January 24th. Jala Jamison Tooley of Camden, Maine, spoke to the class about running, and her journey to qualify for the Boston Marathon. The presentation was part of a series of speakers planned to address Habits of Mind. Jala's talk focused on Setting and Monitoring Goals (setting goal times, tracking progress, making modifications to training), Persistence (keeping to a schedule and pushing although fatigue and pain), and Managing Impulsivity (training in -34 degrees versus staying warm inside). Students had an opportunity to share their own goals and to ask questions about marathon running.





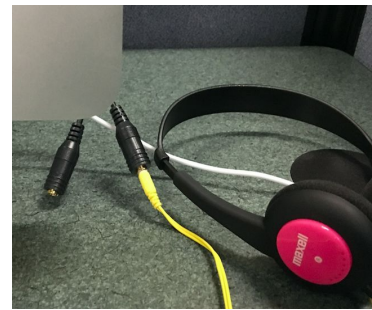
Windsor will be celebrating reading on **Read Across America day, March 2nd**. Although it's not affiliated with Accelerated Reader and Renaissance Place, we will still have students take as many Accelerated Reader quizzes as possible that day, just like on ReadQuest days. Grade level teams will work together to plan the day

Read Across America toolkit and promotional resources:

<http://www.nea.org/grants/61668.htm>

This event nicely bookends another reading event, the **Read to ME Challenge** from Maine DOE during the month of February. This event kicks off on Feb. 1st and runs through March 2, Read Across America day. The purpose of this month-long event is to promote childhood literacy. The Department of Education is encouraging families and organizations, including schools, to promote reading to a child for at least 15 minutes, take pictures or video and share on social media with **#ReadtoME** or **#ReadaloudME**. Our school has already registered and will advertise on our website, but any info about this you could share with your parents would help spread the word (and promote literacy). More info is available at <http://www.maine.gov/doe/readtome/>

We've just installed headphone splitters into the headphone jacks on the iMacs in the computer lab. Students can plug their headphones into the splitter shown in the photo to the right. This is in the category of "why didn't I think of this before?" If headphone jacks break, they will break off in the splitter (which only costs a couple of bucks). Plus there's another jack in the splitter if that does happen! This should prevent the problem of losing the audio completely if a headphone jack breaks. The only downside is that it will take two hands to plug in and take out. But the other plus is that the students won't have to move the computer or reach behind to see where the headphones plug in. Plus two students can listen to the audio on one computer by each plugging into a jack.



During the January assembly, we unveiled our monthly Habit of Mind for focus. Thought you would enjoy the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NG3HxrW1qZk>

Alida Ciampa is participating in this year's Reading Round Up, an annual conference for Maine librarians. It includes four workshop sessions, review of best books, and winners of ME book awards.

The sixth graders participated in the Legacy Project's 18th annual Listen to a Life Story Contest, the 6th graders interviewed a person, other than a parent, who is over 50. The interviews were done in person, by phone, or skye. This is an international contest T in which the young person writes a 300-word essay (maximum) based on the interview. This is an important activity because when young and old come



together, they can change each other's lives, their community, and even the world. Big things happen when you listen to a life – you travel time, learning from the past for a better future.

Title one hosted a literacy Night January 30th. The theme was Five Little Monkeys. The students watch and listened to the book projected on the wall and then had fun taking a short quiz using the program Kahoots. After the quiz, there were several fun stations including making a dish using their "monkey" thumb prints, finding different kinds of monkeys throughout the world, and matching games. Banana bread and milk were served and families enjoyed the photobooth of their children (dressed in pajamas).

