



**Sheepscot Valley RSU 12  
December 2017  
Superintendent's Report  
Information, Recognitions, and Celebrations**

### **Superintendent Report**

Recently, I have been partaking in a “residency” at a school in RSU 12. A “residency” is a series of 4-5 full days I spend at a school in order to observe the exciting and creative learning that takes place in our schools. The idea of a residency is new this year and will continue into the future in our schools. I look forward to reporting out what I learn.

My residency this December has been at Whitefield Elementary School. At Whitefield, the school is using a strategy called *Restorative School Practices*. Educators have received training in this popular approach to creating a safe environment for all students. Whitefield Educators will continue to receive training throughout the year.

I attended various restorative circles with different ages of students. I was extremely impressed with the empathy that develops between students as they circle every day for 20 minutes.

You can find out more about this research-based approach to creating a safe school environment for all students at [Restorative School Practices](#).

Congratulations to Whitefield Educators for taking on this challenge to benefit our RSU 12 students.

### **Curriculum and Technology Report**

In late November, the Superintendent and I attended a two-day conference at Bates College on Student-Centered Coaching. We learned how to use coaching strategies to work with teachers in a collaborative examination of student learning data, goal setting based on that data, and deliberate practice for improved student learning. We learned some specific strategies for improving teacher practice and, thereby student learning. Among these was a practice called instructional rounds, which is modeled after the medical approach to learning wherein a group of medical students collaborate in the analysis of a medical issue and treatment plan. Instructional rounds allows a small group of educators to observe several learning experiences focusing on student learning as evidenced through student behaviors and discourse. The group of educators then meets to discuss what they observed and the implications for learning and for instructional practice. We plan to bring our learning back to the district in a couple of ways. First, we intend to design of professional development on this topic for administrators to help them be more effective in the support and development of their teachers. Second, we intend to form a cohort of educators who serve in coaching roles (both formal and informal) with their peers so that we can share this professional development and allow them to support each other in their work with their colleagues.

- Here is a [link to a Harvard Education Letter](#) that provides a more detailed description of Instructional Rounds for those who are interested.
- Learn more about Student-Centered Coaching at <https://dianesweeney.com/>.

RSU 12 is working with the Maine Cohort for Customized Learning (MCCL) to apply for a Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Education Services (FEDES) grant from the Maine Department of Education. The goal of this grant application is to fund the development of a digital reflection and self-assessment tool that would then inform expanded professional development opportunities to support implementation of proficiency-based, customized learning. The expanded professional development opportunities would

include leadership development and coaching, online learning modules, a summer institute for teachers, and digital credentialing.

**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											2	4	1	2	9

Department															
Chelsea Elementary School							1								1
K-8 Brunswick School Department								1	1						2
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		1													1
K-8 Wiscasset School Department		2		3	1	2	3	1	1	4					17
Spurwink													1		1
Whitefield Elementary School	1				1			1		1					4
Grand Total	5	7	11	10	7	6	16	9	7	12	4	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**

**PTA:** A huge thank you to our PTA for the community dinner they prepared and served. Much fun was had by all. This activity coordinated nicely with the beginning of an annual tree lighting ceremony and visit with Santa. In addition to the free spaghetti dinner for community members, the PTA served up cookies and hot chocolate during the tree lighting ceremony.

**Classroom News:** In **grade 5**---Writing & SS In November, we have been learning about Westward Expansion In Writing and Social Studies class, we have been working on Westward Expansion. The students have been busy researching topics and taking notes on sticky-notes. They then organized those notes into categories. Next they will write paragraphs based on the organization of their notes.

**Grade 2** visited Maine General Hospital and learned about the procedures involved in being admitted to the hospital, or having lab work done. These types of visits seem to take the fear out of visiting such a place when sick.

**Grade 3**---Math - We have entered the world of Multiplication in 3rd grade! We understand that repeated addition of equal groups is multiplying. Our next steps are to learn helper facts, and identify strategies to help us solve unknown facts. We also continue working on skills such as adding and subtracting within 1000, rounding to the nearest 10 and 100, and telling time to the nearest minute. We have frequent “time checks” throughout the day

**GRADE 1 SENDS HOME WAYS FOR PARENTS TO HELP STUDENTS AT HOME. Ways to help your child:** Continue to encourage your students to read at home. This builds fluency, which is so important at this time. Counting forwards and backwards from 120 is also a skill that some students struggle with, which helps them significantly when adding and subtracting. Counting backwards seems to be tricky for many so encourage them to practice when you can!

**Middle School:** RtI This year, the students have a 45 minute period of concentrated math skills practice. Our group is currently creating RubeGoldberg machines. Middle school also had a field trip to Auburn to see The Christmas Story.

The school is currently working with Togus and the Modern Woodmen to raise money for the food pantry. Modern Woodmen is will to math what we and Togus raise up to \$1000.

Grade 8 science class build models for the egg drop contest. Eggs had to be enclosed in a structure that would support it being thrown from a rooftop. Three groups of students passed the first two tests of strength and were honored with having their creation dropped from the roof. Two of the structures withstood even the throw from the room. The following link is to the video create.  
<https://youtu.be/Lw0LYN7v2Eg>

Christmas concert: Chelsea's annual Christmas concert will be held Dec 12 PreK-2 will perform at 5:15 and grades 3-8 will perform at 6:30. I have been hearing some of the songs being song and believe it will be a fantastic show. We hope that you all will be able to attend.

For the past two months students have been working on two habits of mind; persevering and managing impulsivity. Students show their learning through student work, posters and being safe, responsible, and respectful. For the next two months Chelsea students will be working on **Meeting Quality Standards and Setting Goals**.

### **Palermo Consolidated School Report**

The Annual Palermo Turkey Trot was held on Tuesday, November 21. The entire school assembled in the gym for the scooter races. Many parents and relatives came to watch. Students in grades K - 4 pushed students in grades 5 - 8 on scooters in grade level races. Students in kindergarten pushed their grade 5 book buddies. Students in grade 1 pushed their grade 6 book buddies. Students in grades 2, 3 and 4 picked students in grades 7 and 8 to push. There were numerous heats in each grade and the winners of each heat completed for the grade level championship. The grade level champions competed for the school championship. Winners received medals and prizes and everyone who participated got a treat. Between grade level heats dance music was played and many students enjoyed dancing. After the student races were over parents were invited to have their children push them on a scooter. It was a fun afternoon for all.

The monthly Spirit Assembly for students in grades K - 4 was held on Friday, November 30. Many students and staff came in Palermo clothing or Palermo colors, royal blue and white, to show their school spirit. Students who have December birthdays lead the group in the Panther Pledge. Then the kindergarten students sang the Learners' Song that is sung in Second Step classes. The six monthly winners plus the teacher winner were drawn and awarded medals and prize certificates. All classes reached the 100 Panther Paw goal and received their prize certificates. Grade 3 received two special awards. They received the award for the most Panther Paws for the month and they received the Golden Panther Award from Mr. Edward for physical education. Miss Crystal discussed the theme for December which is kindness and respect and students gave examples of what they could do.

On Saturday, December 2 the Palermo Boy Scouts held a benefit supper and auction at the school for Pam Page, a parent of a Boy Scout and a Palermo student, who was seriously

injured in a car accident on Route 3 a few weeks ago. The event raised \$2600. A highlight of the evening was that Pam, who is still recovering and wheelchair bound, was able to attend the event.

The Palermo Christmas Concert will be held on Monday, December 11 at 6:30. Ms. Sparrow and her art classes have been working hard on decorations for the concert. The eighth grade students created a gingerbread house mural for the wall at the back of the stage. Plus they coordinated the annual school wide hand printing murals. It has become a tradition for the Christmas Concert that handprints of everyone at school are used to create a mural as part of the decorations in the gym. We have had wreaths, trees, snow people, gingerbread people, reindeer, polar bears and this year it is snowflakes. On Thursday, December 7 grade 8 students brought each classroom down to the hall outside the art room so every student could add their white hand print to the large snowflake murals. At the concert all of Mr. Robinson's music classes will perform a couple of songs. Then the whole school will participate in the traditional sing along with the audience.

On Wednesday, December 13 The NED Show will be coming to Palermo School. The NED Show is a character education program that centers around three important messages that have lifelong relevance: Never give up, Encourage others, Do your best. During the assembly, students will learn about NED's three messages while also enjoying storytelling, magic, humor and yo-yo tricks.

### **Whitefield Elementary School Report**

**Restorative Practices:** During the week of December 4<sup>th</sup> three Whitefield staff attended two Restorative Practices conferences. The focus of the December 5<sup>th</sup> conference was; restorative discipline, methods to conduct effective responsive circles (by grade levels, including staff circles) and student accountability for both behavior and attendance.

The December 7<sup>th</sup> conference focused on practices and implementation tools to achieve personal, climate and cultural changes within a school.

Training for all staff will be twofold. Upcoming early release Wednesday time will be dedicated to restorative practices, as well observations conducted during morning circle time in the classrooms.

**Peace Poster Contest:** Winners of the Peace Poster Contest with their art teachers, from left, are Holly Hilton and Jenna Perkins, Whitefield; Rachel Richmond and Abby St. Cyr, Jefferson; Sandy Dunn and Liberty Kimball, Chelsea; and Damon Wilson and Jenny Keller, Windsor; and Lion Barry Tibbetts.



**Coding Club:** Thank you to Mrs. Howard for her quick response to our need for after school programs. Mrs. Howard developed and is now hosting a Coding Club for students in grades 3-8.

**Gardening Club:** Mr. Willigar and Mr. McNaughton are currently in the planning phase for a Garden Club with the 4H Youth Development Professional group from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension office for Knox and Lincoln Counties. This STEM based program is aimed at utilizing our aquaponic greenhouse to provide after school programming for students.



**Holiday Concert:** Thank you to Mr. Morgan for once again providing our students and their families with a great holiday concert that showcased the singing and musical talents of our students.

**Food Pantry:** Thank you to everyone who has been donating to our pantry. A recent outreach effort has identified several more families that our pantry will support. If you wish to donate, our pantry is in need of boxed or canned meal type foods, as well as hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant.

**Staff Announcements:** Please welcome Linda Ciampa as the newest member of our Pre-k team and Amy Perkins to our front office. Amy has been hired to fill the position vacated by Sue Laflamme. We thank Sue for her many years of service to Whitefield and wish her well as she spends time with her family.

**Windstorm Damage:** The early November windstorm certainly got that month off to an interesting start. Our school owes a big thank you to Mr. Shorey, who utilized his personal generator to save all the food in our freezer. The school did suffer the loss of food in the refrigerator, one tree and the dugouts on the baseball field. One of the two dugouts collapsed during the windstorm. The second dugout sustained damage and collapsed during the rain and wind we received on December 5th. Efforts to rebuild the dugouts will begin in the spring.

**Basketball:** This year's turnout for basketball was strong. Whitefield is hosting four teams, a girls and boys junior varsity as well as a girls and boys varsity team.

Please check our Facebook page to see photos from the basketball exhibition by Jason “White Shadow” Gibbons! Jason hosted students from Chelsea, Palermo and Whitefield for a morning assembly to showcase his skills and speak to students about Habits of Mind. The evening event was filled with trick shots, a dunk contest, a community award presentation and prizes. Thank you to Mr. Jordan and Mr. Gibbons for organizing this great event.



### **Windsor Elementary School Report**

During the afternoon of December 6th, the fourth and fifth graders had a special treat. A representative from King Arthur Flour came to our school and demonstrated how to make bread, pizza, pretzels and cinnamon rolls. The students clapped as she unveiled the techniques. It was like a magic show!



Two students were chosen at random to help demonstrate. Who knew how easy it is to toss pizza dough once you learn the technique?!?

Then they went home with their canvas bags with all the necessary tools, recipes, and ingredients. They baked one loaf for the family and one to bring back to school...

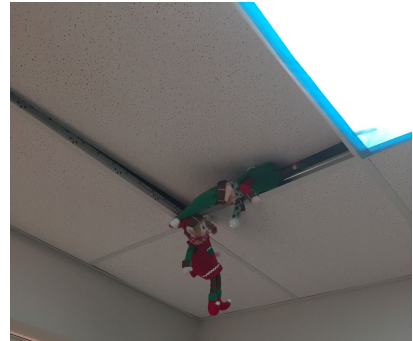


...to donate to the Windsor Food Pantry.



On December 22, the entire middle school is going to the Bank of Maine Ice Vault to skate. This is an annual event and part of the physical education program to support lifelong exercise.

We have a custodian with a great sense of humor in the K-2 wing. Here are some fun pictures of places in which he has placed the elves on the shelves...



Rebecca Malinowski got married last month! Her team got together and gave her a surprise celebration at school!

Carolyn Blomerth and Karen Wilcox will be hosting a "Formal or Frumpy" meal on Thursday, December 21st with a snow date being the following day. They bring in the glass plates and the cooks serve their meals on them. Linen tablecloths and etiquette lessons round out the meal.

Here is an important article about the current status of principals in Maine. Note that Great Beginnings (the course that Dr. Allen teaches) and the 2016 Legislative Report of the Task Force on School Leadership (Dr. Allen also served on the Task Force and contributed to the report) are cited:

<http://bangordailynews.com/2017/12/04/mainefocus/what-its-really-like-to-be-a-maine-principal-and-why-so-many-dont-survive/>

Students are gearing up for the December 12 Holiday Concert at 6:00. The lineup includes: PreK Let it Snow, K Up on the Housetop, 1 Santa is Coming Down the Chimney, 2 Toys, 3 Jolly Gent who Jingles, 4 Recorder Song, 5 Class Composition, 6 Jingle Bell Rock, 7 Jolly Old St Nicholas (with Ukles, they are doing well), 8 12 Days of Windsor Christmas. Mr. Robinson taped himself performing the playlist and sent the videos to the classroom teachers to help them practice.

On December 8, we had our monthly assembly to celebrate student success in the month of November. Recognitions included: students of the month, top Accelerated Readers, math masters, winners of the Daughters of American Revolution essay contest, students caught being good, and classroom success for the food drive. The assembly ended with a funny cartoon clip to unveil the December Habit of Mind focus: Think before you act.

Many thanks to Goggle for their \$300 donation to Mrs. Beesley's class! So excited to get that to help provide some organizational bins for her kids.

The Hour of Code was this week, December 4 - 10. From one-hour coding activities for all ages to longer coding courses, everyone can participate. Students in library classes next week will be participating at the [hourofcode.org](http://hourofcode.org) link (see below). Middle school teachers, if your classes are participating and you'd like my help or in-class support, please let me know.

One-hour activities for all grade levels  
<https://hourofcode.com/us/learn>

Coding courses (multi-session)  
<https://studio.code.org/courses>

The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries.

We made the news for our national writing winner Jacobey Furrow

<http://www.centralmaine.com/2017/11/14/jacobey-furrow-earns-honorable-mention-in-essay-contest/>

The second grade will be going to the Peary MacMillan Arctic Museum December 14th. The field trip is a culmination on a unit of study.



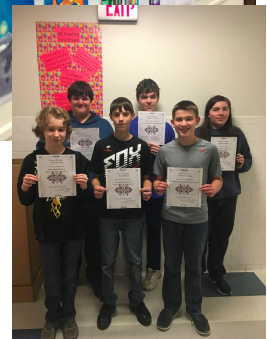
Windsor School hosted their annual Barnes and Noble fundraiser November 16 this year. The store was invaded by students and their families. Students sang carols, shared their artwork, and participated in many games and activities. A portion of the money spent on that evening went to buy more books for the school library.



A  
photo of the winners and mentions for the Daughter of



honorable  
the American



Revolution annual essay contest. Most of their parents were able to come to the assembly and lots of photos were taken. I was thrilled to see these boys so excited about a writing piece. The theme this year is World War I and how it transformed America. Also, one of the moms works for the Veteran Administration and she's bringing some of the stories to them to read and putting their picture up.

### **Facilities and Transportation**

November came and went rather quickly. The food service staff was busy planning and serving Thanksgiving meals, Windsor had more than forty people come in and eat with the children. We also had a very productive meeting with the food service staff at the end of the month, discussing how we could better serve our children. In the transportation department we are researching camera systems for the buses, some of them are already equipped. There is a new law in place that states all new buses will need to be equipped with a four camera system, we are researching pricing of different systems to be prepared for the budget. The facilities are running smoothly, we are finishing up getting things back in order from the damage the wind storm caused. I have met with a couple generator companies, getting pricing and looking at the size we will need, and location at the three facilities, Whitefield, Palermo, and Somerville, Thankfully, its been a fairly warm fall, saving on oil. The custodians, bus drivers, and food service staff in each building have completed a series of safety training that we have put in place to keep them safer and thinking about safety while performing their daily tasks.