



**Sheepscoot Valley RSU 12
December 2021
Superintendent's Report
Information, Recognitions, and Celebrations**

Superintendent Report

The Importance of In-Person Learning

The RSU 12 team including educators, support staff, administrators, and the school board have been focused on achieving the vision of keeping all students in school and doing in-person learning as much as possible during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This is grounded in the belief that students are better off in school. Recent studies have shown that students make more gains with in-person learning. To this end, RSU 12 has implemented many protective measures that help keep students in school. Below is a list of our protective measures.

- Improved air filtration systems including ionization filters
- Universal masking for all staff and students during the school day
- Masking for all visitors to the building
- Increasing the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine to students
- Pooled testing
- Contact Tracing and quarantining of close contacts

These measures are not foolproof. We need the community's help. Please do everything you can outside of the school day to protect yourselves and your students.

If you have not signed your student up for pooled testing, then you may sign up at any time.

Curriculum and Technology Report

The district's Educator Advisory Committee on Curriculum and Professional Development (EAC) drafted a survey to gather feedback about staff wellness and ideas for improving our ability to meet all student needs. The EAC met to review that feedback and will be working to draft recommended changes to practice, which will then go to the administrative team for review.

A team of teachers has resumed a review of the district's Social Studies standards that was interrupted by the demands of COVID. The review is designed to ensure that our standards reflect the State of Maine's recent revisions as well as recent Maine laws mandating specific instruction in Social Studies related content.

Westport Island Student Count Information

	-1	0	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Boothbay-Boothbay Hbr CSD										1		2		3
9-12 Lincoln Academy										3	4	2	2	11
9-12 RSU 01										1		2		3
9-12 Waynflete School										1		1		2
9-12 Wiscasset School Department										4	1	1	1	7
K-8 Boothbay-Boothbay Hbr CSD						1	1	2	1					5
K-8 Center for Teaching and Learning			2		1	1	2							6
K-8 Chewonki Semester School				3	1	1		1						6
K-8 Edgecomb School Department	3	2	1											6
K-8 Great Salt Bay CSD					1				1					2
K-8 RSU 01					1			1						2
K-8 Sheepscot Valley Children's House		1												1
K-8 Wiscasset School Department		2	1		2	1		1	1					8
Grand Total	3	5	4	3	6	4	3	5	3	10	5	8	3	62

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											2	2			4
9-12 Brunswick School Department													1		1
9-12 Gould Academy											1				1
9-12 Lincoln Academy											6	2	1	6	15
9-12 Maine Coast Waldorf School												1			1
9-12 North Yarmouth Academy												1			1
9-12 RSU 40/MSAD 40												1			1
9-12 Waynflete School													1		1
9-12 Wiscasset School Department											1	4	4	1	10
K-8 Boothbay-Boothbay Hbr CSD								1		1					2
K-8 Brunswick School Department												1			1
K-8 Center for Teaching and Learning		2	1	4	3	2	3	2	3	1					21
K-8 Chewonki Semester School			1		1		1	1		1					5
K-8 Damariscotta Montessori School		2		1	1	1	2	1							8
K-8 Edgecomb School Department	4	1	3	2	4	1	1	3							19
K-8 Great Salt Bay CSD		1		2	1	2	1	2	2	2					13

K-8 Wiscasset School Department			1			1	1	1	3	1		1			9
Grand Total	4	6	6	9	10	7	9	11	8	6	10	13	7	7	113

Somerville Student Count Information

	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Augusta Public Schools													1		1
9-12 Erskine Academy											7	3	3	6	19
9-12 Lincoln Academy												1			1
9-12 RSU 40/MSAD 40												1	2	1	4
Chelsea Elementary School		1													1
K-8 RSU 40/MSAD 40		1													1
Palermo Consolidated School			1												1
Somerville Elementary School	1														1
Whitefield Elementary School								1							1
Windsor Elementary School	1	6	8	4	5	2	3	6	5	4					44
Grand Total	2	8	9	4	5	2	3	7	5	4	7	5	6	7	74

Chelsea Elementary School Report

It is hard to believe that it is December already! The students and staff have all been keeping busy learning as much as they can. While COVID is very much present at this time, we are doing the best we can to keep everything as normal, fun and engaging for our students as possible. We miss our students when they are out due to exposure, and we are always so happy to have them back when they return healthy!

Pooled testing has been a great resource at allowing students to remain at school even when being identified as a close contact. I know teachers, students and families are all grateful their students get to continue learning at school because of it. We are starting to see an increase in numbers of families signing up for pooled testing as it becomes more familiar and routine.



Sarah Lavallee, our Foodcorps service member, has started a couple buckets for worm composting and has been teaching the students about it. This week, both second grade classes and Ms. Michonski's third grade class had a guest come in to teach about how to set up a worm composting bin and about the benefits of adding worm castings to a garden. Our guest, Jock Robie, donated 5 more composting bins and materials to the school. This means we now have 600 worms working hard to break apart our food scraps so that nutrients can be recycled back into the ground. We will be able to cut down on our

food waste from lunches by composting it and returning it to the soil instead of throwing it into the trash!

Palermo Consolidated School Report

The month of December is proving to be very busy. Students and staff have planned many activities and events leading up to the winter break. Our students who work with Holly Hilton, our Gifted and Talented teacher, are working to raise funds to help animals that are.... The students have organized a pajama day and also a drawing to become “Principal for the Day!” They plan to continue their fundraising efforts throughout the rest of the school year. Lastly, We are continuing our tradition of holding a food drive to support our local food bank.

Our pool testing seems to be a big help in keeping our students and staff safe. Last week we had a positive result and we identified the student with Covid right away. We are hearing about many cases throughout the community. Everyone is doing a great job following the protocols which is helping keep students at school.



Our special education staff held a friendsgiving event for students who are learning about the social skills and expected behaviors related to being a good friend. Students shared some sweet treats and fun times with their friends.

Whitefield Elementary School Report

Throughout the district there are established committees formed to address a variety of topics. We have Attendance / Dropout Prevention, PBIS / Restorative Practices, Vertical Curriculum Alignment, Safety / Wellness and the Sunshine Committee. I want to report on the efforts of the WHES Sunshine Committee whose charge is to address the building and / or maintaining of positive staff and student morale. Clearly, in the time of COVID, this is a most needed and important charge and I am pleased to report that the WHES Sunshine Committee has been fully engaged in keeping everyone’s spirits up. October saw the group sponsoring a staff dessert bakeoff, using either apples or pumpkin as the featured ingredient, with student representatives serving as the judges. At the end of the month there also was a pumpkin decorating contest that students voted for their favorites. The committee sponsored a staff Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner in November that was extremely well received by all and the month of December is loaded with spirit-building activities for students and staff alike. This time in history can be very challenging and much has been researched and written about individuals’ mental health. The WHES Sunshine Committee is activated to present a buffer from the many difficulties out there in the world and I wanted to alert you folks about their work and publicly acknowledge their supreme efforts.

Windsor Elementary School Report

The Windsor School held a very successful food drive leading up to Thanksgiving. We feed 25 families each week out of our food closet, and we needed to replenish our supplies. Over 1,600 items came in from our families, with more added from the local food bank. Together with the local Girl Scouts and a few family donations, we had Thanksgiving baskets for about 20 families.

We were grateful to the Whitefield Lions Club for donating their time to do vision screenings for our entire student body. Smiles for Miles also came in to give dental care to our children.

December brings on traditions that our school enjoys and looks forward to. As a staff, we celebrate the “12 Days Before Break” with fun activities, treats, and games to keep staff morale high. Our staff also sponsors several children for Christmas gifts, and we get together to wrap the presents just before break. One of our favorite traditions is the k-2 wing snowball fight with our very own Elf on the Shelf (snowballs are cotton balls).

With all of this going on, our teachers continue to meet students where they are at, challenge them to move forward, and engage them with developmentally appropriate activities. For example, in the Learning Commons, first through third grade students learned about the history of the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade, and made balloon floats of their own.