

Ella P. Burr School Newsletter

February 2022
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Principal: Peter J. Loiselle
School Website: <https://www.rsu67.org/o/ella-burr-school>



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2021-22 Concerts

- Gr. 2: Feb. 10
- Gr. 3: Mar. 10
- Kinder: Apr. 7
- Gr. 1: Apr. 28

Principal's News Mr. Loiselle

The cold of January is behind us and we are one month closer to warmer weather...I hope. Much of January has been so cold students have been unable to go outside for recess, but everyone has managed to keep a positive attitude and make it work (Nobody really likes indoor recess.). We are bringing back some of the activities that had to be put on hold because of the pandemic. Next week our third graders will have math club with Mrs. Gulesian and Mrs. Stevens, where they will have a chance to play math games and work on strengthening their math skills. The first concert in over two years happens next week! We are excited to see and hear our second graders perform for parents. Finally, starting after vacation the second and third graders will have afterschool homework club two days a week. Paperwork will be going out soon. It's exciting to be able to offer these events and activities, which provide students with extra opportunities to learn and grow. If you have any questions about these events or anything else, please send me an email or call.

General Reminders

- Please use the parking next to the building when dropping off and picking up students. The front lot is busy with bus arrival and departure and staff parking. The handicap spots are for people with proper handicap identification. Please help keep all our students safe and prevent them from walking through a busy parking lot.
- Music concerts begin this month and we are very excited. In order to keep students, staff, and families safe, there will be several expectations:
 - Attendees must be seated in the chairs provided.
 - No standing in the back.
 - Everyone five and older must wear a mask.
- Literacy/Math Night is planned for March 31 after a two year absence. Mark your calendars and there will be more information coming in the next Newsletter.
- Second and Third Grade homework afterschool club will be starting after February vacation. Be on the lookout for sign up sheets.

Pre-K News Mrs. Barrows and Mrs. Leighton

PreK is starting our unit on Wind and Water. We will be exploring wind and water using observations, experiments, and books to learn more about such topics as evaporation, weather, temperature, insulation, rain, and snow. Through the Story Time books, we are hearing about a boy playing on a windy day, baby rabbits and kittens finding shelter in storms, a child playing in the snow and a silly hen trying to keep warm in winter. In addition to listening to stories, we are increasing our listening and speaking vocabulary and continuing to learn about rhymes and identify letters and sounds.

Kindergarten News Mrs. McCarthy, Miss. Crockett, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Larlee, and Mrs. Peters

The month of January has been a busy one in Kindergarten! We kicked off the new year with some great discussions about Martin Luther King Jr. and the impact that he continues to have on our world today. The importance of kindness and peaceful problem solving were emphasized throughout our daily lessons as these topics are key in helping make Kindergarten such a fun place to be! We concluded our MLK Jr. unit with an experiment where we compared a brown egg and a white egg and how they differed on the outside, but were the same on the inside. It was very powerful, but taught in a way where littles could understand it easier. We had a kindness breakfast celebration in his honor when the lesson concluded. We have also officially began reading groups and take home reading bags, so please make sure your child is doing their reading homework as this will help them develop stronger skills that we have been working on in the classroom. Finally, we will be learning about penguins in our remaining days of January which is always a favorite among the kids. As February is fast approaching, we will soon begin learning about Groundhog Day, shadows, dental health, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and we'll celebrate Valentine's Day and the 100th Day of School! Just a gentle reminder that we still have children coming to school without winter jackets, ski pants, hats and mittens. Please make sure your child has these items with them every day as it can be very chilly during their time out at recess. Thank you!

First Grade News Mrs. Olsen, Mrs. Cuccinello, Ms. Croce, Ms. Ocana

First grade has been learning about hibernation and what different animals do to hibernate during winter. We are going to continue this discussion by talking about polar animals that adapt in the winter to better survive in their environments. We have been working on "ways to make 10" and are moving onto learning addition strategies and addition facts. We learned about Martin Luther King Jr. and the importance of accepting one another regardless of what we look like. We are currently learning about word endings and long vowels (specifically CVCe words) and they are doing really well with this.

Second Grade News Mrs. Hallett, Ms. Sherman, Mrs. Gardner, and Mrs. Himes

The second graders have been busy! You probably heard your kiddo talking about an animal research project. Each student had to pick an animal to research, then they had to put that information into a book. Eventually they are going to make a poster about their animal and present it to their class. This project allows us to tie in learning goals for reading, writing, and speaking/listening. It's also a lot of fun! Feel free to ask your second grader what animal they are researching, and you might get to hear a ton of cool facts about it too!

Third Grade News Mrs. Thornton, Mrs. Manzo, and Mrs. Brawn

January has certainly been a chilly month! Third graders have been working on the following units. In Reading, they have begun a book titled The Molasses Flood that took place in Boston and they are continuing to write personal narratives with Mrs. Manzo. In Math, students are working on learning their multiplication facts. We will soon be beginning multi-digit numbers times one-digit numbers. Students are currently finishing up the Body Systems unit in Science and will be starting our FOSS science kits. The students always enjoy the experiments that go along with the kits. Mrs. Brawn will have students learn about Communities in Social Studies. Miss Lee has finished her student teaching with Mrs. Thornton. The students are so happy to still be able to see her, when she is subbing at our school! Hopefully, February will bring some warmer temperatures!

Physical Education and Health Mr. Lindsay

WinterKids Challenge is here!

In the first week we had a slow start to our outdoor activities due to the extreme cold. The feels like temp has to be 10 or above, and we only reached it once last week.

This week we are concentrating on nutrition and each of our students received a WinterKids water bottle! The activities will mostly take place in school this week, however next week is Family engagement week where we are asking adults and students to participate in Winter BINGO, Winter Charades, Winter Trivia and creating a Family or Team Pennant. All the activities can be found in the WinterKids Playbook that all the students received in week 1.

Thank you for all of your help with this, it has been great seeing all the kids enjoying the incentives and activities we have completed!

Also, a huge thank you to the sponsors of the WinterKids program!!

Music and Art Mrs. York

January has been a clay month in art! We spent time learning and practicing 3D building skills in preparation for making a small sculpture that will get painted and sent home. Please be aware that the clay is air dry quality, so if anything breaks, it can be glued back together. February brings weaving with paper and yarn as well as pattern building.

Music is a mixed bag of various stages. Some grades are getting ready for their concert,(Grade 2 is on February 10!!!!) while others are playing and learning about the notes of the staff. February brings Instrument sounds and the four families (groupings) in an orchestra.

Guidance Mrs. Turner

Please remember we have an EPB Fuel Fund at our school and we are very happy to help families in need with support to heat their homes. We also have a School Food Pantry that offers snacks for students to have at school and a bag of food sent home on Thursdays. We ask that the blue and black reusable bag gets sent back to school every week so we can fill it back up. If you have signed up in the past and have lost your bag, please reach out with a note or phone call and we will gladly get you a new one. If you have not signed up for the EPB food pantry and now want to, please feel free to send a note or call.

We will be learning strategies to calm ourselves down when our emotions are intense including belly breathing and naming our feelings. We also will be learning about problem solving when there are conflicts with our friends. Then we will be learning about personal safety.

Please feel free to call me any time with any questions or concerns. Thank you and please take gentle care of you and yours.





Literacy Interventionists Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Harper, and Mrs. Murchison

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Twenty minutes a day is all it takes to build key reading skills. Here are ways to help your child become a better reader.

- Create reading routines and read together every day.
- Snuggle up close with a book.
- Talk about the pictures and ask questions.
- Share different kinds of books.
- Read with expression.
- Read favorite books again and again.

**Empowering
Learners, Today
and Tomorrow.**

Math Interventionists Mrs. Gulesian and Mrs. Stevens

We've been busy here in the Math room! Each grade level has been working on special activities geared towards their individual needs. Kindergarten continues to work on counting, number identification, number formation, and fun games with those goals. First graders are working hard on addition, 2-digit place value, number order, and number identification to 120, among many other fun activities and games. Second and third graders are working on larger place value, addition and subtraction, and even some multiplication! We're so proud of everyone's progress. We recently received some 100-board 'pop its' for the math room and they've proven to be a valuable and fun tool for all our students!

Staff Member Spotlight: Lynn Faulkner, Special Education Teacher

I am originally a Ct. native and have lived in Maine since about 1993. I have lived in Springfield, Maine, for the last 15 years with my husband Ollie, who is a Math Teacher at Woodland High School in Baileyville, and the last of the three grandsons, Cayden age 13 that we have raised. I have four adult children, 3 girls, a stepson, and 9 grandchildren. I have always known working with children would be the direction I would go in life and after raising my adult children I became a social worker helping children and families navigate obstacles. When the grandsons moved in I again became a stay-at-home mom, volunteering in MSAD 30 in Lee, running rec programs, and transporting the three boys to numerous sporting activities, often 2 in one evening. When the boys were all in school, I began as an ed-tech and worked my way up to a Special education teacher finally finishing this year at the old age of 60! I transferred to Ella P burr this year and am excited to work with so many supportive staff and students.

The purpose of education is to replace and empty mind with an open one. Malcom S. Forbes