



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

Superintendent Report

RSU 12 had a successful and exciting opening of school. The theme of the staff opening day was the importance of explicitly teaching the Habits of Mind as well as research around Motivation; what motivates us and our students. Staff were also encouraged to participate in the district Wellness Program which is called Online Health sponsored by MEA Benefits Trust. The RSU 12 School District supports promoting a healthy workforce. This helps our students, our staff, and reduces health insurance costs. It is a win-win for everyone.

The Habits of Mind are lifelong skills which will be incorporated throughout our curriculum. See below for the Twelve Habits of Mind:

1. Understanding your own Learning Style
2. Cultivating Creativity and Imagination
3. Maintaining a Growth Mindset
4. Responding to Feedback
5. Meeting Quality Standards
6. Persevering
7. Setting and Monitoring Goals
8. Managing Impulsivity
9. Working Toward Team Goals
10. Listening and Understanding with Empathy
11. Seeking to be Understood
12. Resolving Conflicts

PreK Expansion Continues!

The Pre-K programs at Windsor, Chelsea, Somerville, and Whitefield opened their doors on Monday, August 29th. We have added another PreK program in collaboration with the Edgecomb Eddy School. PreK students are bussed to all programs. We currently have 61 students fully registered in our Pre-K programs with more currently completing the required paperwork.

Curriculum and Technology Report

RSU 12 staff have been engaged in many different learning opportunities over the past month as they prepare for and navigate the start of school with students. This learning has helped energize and focus us as we model the skills of lifelong learning and continuous improvement.

On August 14-16, preschool and kindergarten teachers and administrators from the district attended the Maine Department of Education's Early Childhood Education Conference. Preschool staff learned how young learners construct mathematical understanding and practiced implementing a new Math curriculum resource that will be used in the district's preschool classrooms this year. Kindergarten teachers, meanwhile, explored a new assessment tool called Teaching Strategies Gold, which allows educators to calibrate observations of student learning indicators addressing a variety of areas including physical, social-emotional, language, mathematics, and more. The assessment is also used in preschool

classrooms and will allow for analysis of student growth over time and for comparisons between students who were involved in our preschool programs before kindergarten and those who were not.

On August 17-18, teachers and administrators in RSU 12 engaged in a review and practice of the writer's workshop and implementation of the Lucy Calkins Writing curriculum resource. This was a very rewarding learning opportunity that allowed for roleplay and application of learning to refine our teaching practice in the area of writing across all grades.

On August 22, teachers and administrators participated in day 3 of a 3-day training to improve our understanding of how to design curriculum and learning experiences that are personalized for student need, interest, and learning readiness. Emphasis was on designing a viable learning continuum.

On September 7, new teachers from across the district gathered for intensive training in proficiency-based, personalized learning, use of our Jumprope reporting system, and implementation of our writing workshop model of instruction through use of the Lucy Calkins writing curriculum resource. This was a great opportunity for new teachers to support each other, ask questions, and practice new skills.

Westport Island Information

Student Count

	1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Brunswick School Department										1		1
9-12 Lincoln Academy									1		1	2
9-12 RSU 01										1		1
9-12 Wiscasset School Department									4	1	4	9
K-8 Boothbay-Boothbay Hbr CSD			1									1
K-8 Center for Teaching and Learning	1	1		2	1	2		1				8
K-8 Chewonki Semester School			1									1
K-8 Damariscotta Montessori School						1						1
K-8 Edgecomb School Department				2								2
K-8 Great Salt Bay CSD			1	1	2			1				5
K-8 RSU 01			2	1			1					4
K-8 Wiscasset School Department	2	4	3	1	5	1	2	6				24
Grand Total	3	5	8	7	8	4	3	8	5	3	5	59

Alna Information

Student Count

	0	1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Erskine Academy									1				1
9-12 Five Town CSD											1		1
9-12 Lincoln Academy										4	4	6	14
9-12 Miss Hall's School										1			1
9-12 Waynflete School										1			1

9-12 Wiscasset School Department										6	2	2	10
Chelsea Elementary School				1									1
K-8 Brunswick School Department					1	1							2
K-8 Center for Teaching and Learning		2	3	1	4		1	2					13
K-8 Chewonki Semester School				1	1	1	3						6
K-8 Damariscotta Montessori School			1		1			1	1				4
K-8 Great Salt Bay CSD				2	3	2	1	4	1				13
K-8 Juniper Hill School		6	1										7
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	1	1	4	3	4	2		4	2				21
Spurwink											1		1
Whitefield Elementary School						1		1					2
Grand Total	1	11	10	8	15	9	6	12	5	12	8	8	105

Somerville Student Count

Student Count

	0	1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Erskine Academy									3	3	5	2	13
9-12 Lincoln Academy									1				1
9-12 RSU 11/MSAD 11												1	1
9-12 Wiscasset School Department										1			1
Chelsea Elementary School									1				1
K-8 RSU 40/MSAD 40									1				1
Palermo Consolidated School					1	1	1	1					4
Somerville Elementary School	3												3
Windsor Elementary School		4	3	6	8	2	4	5					32
Grand Total	3	4	3	6	9	3	5	6	6	4	5	3	57

Chelsea Elementary School Report

Chelsea Elementary school is off to a great start. The building looks fantastic, thanks to Jim, Tim, April, Rick and Brian. They definitely put their heart into making sure we shine. They also have worked nonstop helping teachers move and organize. Thanks to our fantastic crew.

Grades pre K-2 started the year off with a group open house before classes started. As we move to proficiency based instruction and grouping practices, we want parents to see that students have many teachers, not just one. This group will be sharing students and working together as a team to have all students meet learning targets prior to leaving grade 2.

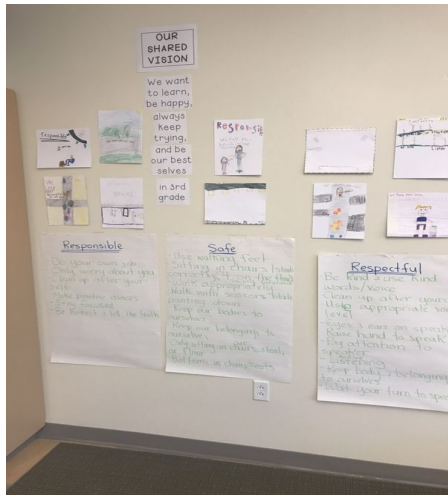
Grade 2 held a curriculum night for parents. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Beckel discussed PBE and strategies that parents could use at home to help their children meet standards. Parents were made aware of end of kindergarten expectations and the ABC's of school.

Grade 3--Mrs. DelGallo's classroom is starting to look like an animal farm. In one corner she has an ant farm where the students can watch the ants build their homes and travel. In another corner is a fishtank with many tadpoles and in the last corner the students are watching the stages that butterflies go through. Below see a butterfly that hatched and was released.

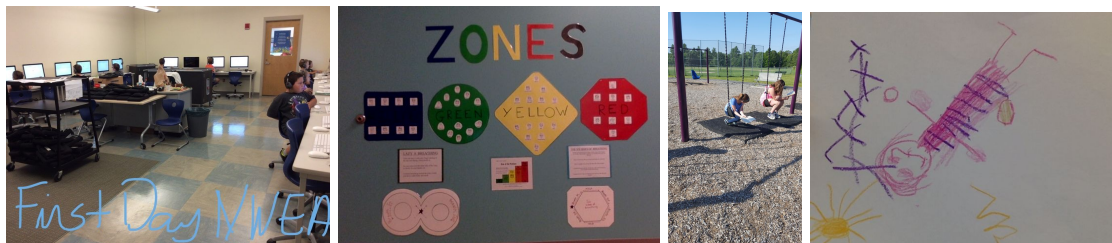


Grades 3-8 also had their open house this past week. Thank you to all the parents who were in attendance.

All classes are working on PBIS expectations in all areas of the school. Students are drawing pictures, modeling expectations, writing out rules and practicing the expectation. I have seen a ton of Chelsea PRIDE being shown in our school. Classrooms are also working towards their code of cooperation and standard operating procedures.



The staff are piloting a new program called Seesaw. Seesaw is a digital portfolio where students can highlight their best work for their teacher and parents to see. Students can take pictures, upload videos of themselves, write stories and even draw on this program. Students will learn how to choose their best pieces and how to write for audience. It is our hope that this process will lead to student led conferences as opposed to Teacher led conferences. The classroom teacher will have to approve anything the students do prior to posting. For the month of September, teachers are acting as students and have to post about what is going on in their classroom. Staff will continue this throughout the year, but will also have students of their own. Below are some sample posts.



For professional development, the staff is reading “The Iceberg is Melting”, a short text that looks at how groups work effectively as a team. Other goals that we have for this year include:

- Grouping and regrouping
- Using the Habits of Mind schoolwide
- Integrated RTI
- Math curriculum work
- Using data to inform instruction

A big thank you to Carol Belanger for sprucing up our outside garden areas and creating bulletin boards for the school. We want parents and community members to know who are and what makes us when they walk into our building and this is a great start.

To date we have had enrolled 20 new students and 17 students have moved to new schools.

Palermo Consolidated School Report

It has been a busy start to the school year. The staff and the students have been very flexible as we have adjusted schedules because the new gym floor is in the process of having the final coats of finish applied and we have not yet hired a Library/Technology Educational Technician. Thank-you to the staff and students for their positive attitude and patience. A highlight of the start of the year has been the new playground and gaga pit.

Palermo Open House was held Thursday evening, September 7. Parents and students came to school to visit classrooms and talk with teachers. Many students also took their parents out to see the playground. Mrs. Gardner's kindergarten students were given a scavenger hunt to do with their parents. They all had big smiles on their faces as they showed their parents around the school.

Jill Rauch, a Palermo volunteer, ran a fun contest "Can You Match The Staff Member With Their Little Known Fact?" for the staff and students the first week of school. She asked all staff members to give her a little known fact about themselves. She then created a list and a bulletin board with all the "facts" and staff pictures. Students and staff submitted their guess and a prize was awarded to the winning student and staff member. All the correct answers are now posted on the bulletin board. Parents and students enjoyed checking their answers at Open House! Thank-you Jill!

The Palermo Focus Leadership Team attended a day long workshop in August presented by the Maine Department of Education entitled The Maine Event: Supporting Our Schools - High Impact Instructional Strategies to Support Growth Mindset. Education consultant Sue Bergman of *Learning is Contagious* provided growth mindset tools/strategies and explained how and why growth mindset plays a critical role in student motivation, achievement, and success. Attendees learned by doing and left with a "toolkit" of language, lessons, and resources to adopt a growth mindset culture. We have purchased copies of **The Growth Mindset Coach** A Teacher's Month-by-Month Handbook for Empowering Students to Achieve by Annie Brock and Heather Hundley, one of the resources given to us at the workshop, for the entire Palermo staff to use as we work to adopt a growth mindset culture at Palermo School.

Palermo has just enough players to have both girls and boys soccer teams this fall. They all have been working hard at practice and are excited for their first game on September 12.

Whitefield Elementary School Report

This year is off to an exciting start. Thanks to our summer crew, Mr. Shorey, Mr. Cook and Mrs. Peaslee, our school looked great for opening day.

PBIS: The teachers this year are challenging our students, through our PBIS program to be the best-behaved class by having the fewest office behavior referrals. A winning class will be announced at each month's assembly along with individual students, bus, and teacher PBIS awards. With our September assembly only a few weeks away, we have many classes that have no office referrals yet. Great job!

Open House: Thank you to all who attended our open house on Wednesday September 6th.

Hidden Valley Nature Center (NVNC): Mr. Trask's fourth grade class will once again be visiting HVNC each month for the Classroom in the Woods Program. This years curriculum includes; dendrology (study of trees, plants, lichens, fungi and mosses), ornithology (study of birds), the study of animals in winter, tracking, the study of animals in spring, vernal pools and water systems. We are very thankful to HVNC and all their supporters for funding and allowing us to attend this great program.

KIEVE: Our sixth grade students have begun fundraising for their Kieve trip by hosting Cow Chip Bingo. Tickets are \$10 each. The event will be held on October 21. Contact the main office to purchase your tickets; this year's prize is \$500!

Restorative School Practices: This year Whitefield students and staff will be piloting the Restorative School Practices program. This program, through the use of circle discussions and in conjunction with the Second Step program, will teach students the following:



For additional information about restorative school practices please visit:
<http://schottfoundation.org/sites/default/files/restorative-practices-guide.pdf>

Helping those in need: Our Kindergarten and first grade students, along with help from our National Junior Honor Society Members are taking up collections to send to schools in Texas and Florida that have been hit by the recent hurricanes.

Windsor Elementary School Report

The school year has been busy, busy!! We have 25 new students that enrolled this fall and 40 kindergarten students!

We held our Open House Thursday August 24th. Having the open House before schools starts lets the children see their room, cubbies, and desks before they arrive. We have found that an early Open House relieves much anxiety for both the students and their caregivers.

Accelerated Reading Challenge We had 26 staff members reading approximately 30 million words over the summer. That's a great start toward our school goal of 350,000 words read. Here are the top ten readers:

Genevieve Keller	3,072,100
Debbie Demos	2,561,975
Helen Beesley	2,365,373
Stephanie Miller	2,192,750
Lori Urquart	2,096,718

Melanie LaJoie	1,997,500
Mike Praschak	1,749,500
Helen Williams	1,449,577
Carol Birch	1,362,250
Maggie Allen	1,316,850
Mary Clark	1,303,446

Monday, September 18th is **Constitution Day** this Year. Alida Ciampa, our media and technology integrator, and Jana Diket, our middle school social studies teacher shared not only several books, but a very cool website: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/constitutionday.html>

Teachers are thrilled to be using <https://newsela.com/> this year. Check it out! The best part is that it links with Google classroom. You can assign readings on the same topic that are leveled based on the student's Lexile. This means that students discover the same topics, but at their own individual reading level!!

The fourth graders are all excited that they are now learning how to play recorders! Thank you, Mr. Robinson for giving them this opportunity to learn how to play an instrument.



This is our yearly mural. Each student followed a pattern designed by our art teacher, Genevieve Keller, for their individual square.

It follows our theme for this year: Windsor, a great place to be!

September 30th – 4th Annual Windsor PAWS 5K Road Race (Race starts at 8:30 a.m.) Official timing provided by 5K Sports Race Management. Register online at: www.running4free.com

Once again, 8th graders are selling community calendars. They are 10 each and you get 5 free listings (\$.25 each additional listing over 5). We have Ad space available. If you would like to take an Ad out, please contact Miss Diket jdiket@svrsu.org for more information. Ads run \$40 w no graphic, or \$55 with graphic. We usually sell over 275 calendars each year, so this is a great investment. Ads also get a FREE calendar.

Windsor has three teams for fall sports: Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer and Cross Country.

Title One received a Fast Track Grant from the Perloff's. They received \$2,295.00 and will be purchasing Leappads to lend to our Title 1 children. We are so excited and know the kids will be too. Thank you Mary Clark for getting this all together.

Helen Beesley earned funding from DonorsChoose.org for a classroom entitled Lighting Up Our Classroom. The resources include lighting valued at \$150.

April Spencer earned funding from DonorsChoose.org for a classroom entitled Let Them Wiggle! The resources include three wobble chairs valued at \$70.

The middle school has marked out their writing across the curriculum team units for September and October. 6th grade topic is How Technology Affects Me. 7th grade will focus on geoscience and 8th grade will work on a World War I narrative. Students will have an opportunity to also choose an extra standard to add to the teacher-directed ones.

It's always fun to show off how staff decorates:

Each month, we have a challenge to read a book with a special theme. This month, we are challenged to read a book related to an important Habit of Mind: perseverance



Seen outside of the library



Middle School Resource Room



RSU 12 Operations

What a wonderful and productive summer it was. Projects all around the RSU were completed with the help of our maintenance and custodial departments. All the schools received a huge facelift that included patching sheetrock, painting, and all the floors were refinished. At Whitefield we had an underground tank removed that will soon be replaced by two above ground tanks. Crack sealing was completed on the outdoor basketball court and new pavement now covers the parking lots including additional parking. Also lots of improvements inside the school took place. A new walk in cooler was installed for cold storage of food. Other improvements throughout the building include permanent wiring for air conditioners. Palermo also had huge improvements take place above and beyond normal summer cleaning and maintenance. A new gym floor was installed, lined and refinished. New carpets were replaced in two classrooms. Also five new windows were installed. Outside of Palermo a new electrical pole will soon be set into place to improve the location to plug in the busses during cold weather. At Windsor the biggest project of the summer was to move the generator onto a cement pad and will soon have a permanent roof installed over it. Tile was replaced throughout the school and also tile was installed around the serving line in the cafeteria. In Chelsea general maintenance was more than enough to get the school ready for the year. Last but not least the superintendent's office also saw plenty of improvements take place. All the floors were redone, painting and sheetrock took place inside. Outside we continue to work on the painting and roof over by the boiler room.

In transportation new busses are on the way to improve our fleet. Also all of our busses were serviced and inspected to ensure we were ready for the year. Also I attended classes at the Annual Student Transportation Safety Conference at Sugarloaf Mountain. It was a great learning experience and I look forward to attending next year.

In food service we are implementing a new program that will surely be more beneficial for record keeping and user friendly. I was very happy with the improvements on all of our buildings this summer and look forward to a great school year.