

Laura E. Richards School

MONTHLY

NEWSLETTER

Principal's Notes

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! We have been enjoying getting to know your children, as we finalize schedules and get into routines here at LER!

We have a few new staff members here with us this year. Bruce Palmer, Diane Kidder, and Nicole Pare have joined our STEPS program. Mrs. Viens has transferred here to us from Teresa Hamlin school and is teaching kindergarten. Mrs. Plummer has transferred back to us from River View school and is teaching Grade 2. We welcome all our new staff to the LER family!

I want to thank all our First Day of School guests who joined us for our parent "Meet and Greet" time prior to our school assembly. My sincerest thank you to Katherine Kollman who has partnered with me for the past 10 years to contact community resources, organize the gym set up, and assist with our first day of school assembly. This event would not be possible without her help! Many thanks as well to Mike Miclon, Executive Artistic Director of Johnson Hall, who presented at our First Day assembly. We all enjoyed his message and performance!

Our first monthly school assembly will be on September 27th at 8:45 am and our second grade classes are presenting. Families are always welcome to join us. I will also be putting a calendar of the assemblies and classes presenting on our website and facebook page as well to help you plan ahead!

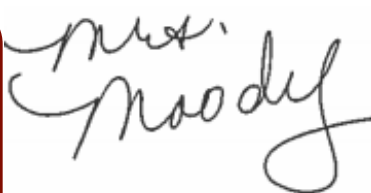
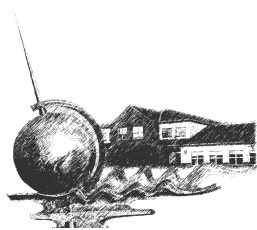
We had our first Walking School Bus event today! We had 24 children walk to school with staff and parents. Many trucks, cars, and buses honked to greet and encourage us as we made our way up to school! We will continue Walking School Bus on Mondays until just before Thanksgiving break.

Again, welcome to our new school year! If you ever have a question, concern, or need to chat, please be sure to call, email, or set up a time to meet with your child's teacher. If you ever need to speak with me, the office number is 582-3612. I am very excited to be starting my 10th year as Principal of Laura Richards School!

Yours in the service of children,

Welcome to Our New Staff!

Bruce Palmer, STEPS Teacher
 Nichole Plummer, Grade 2 Teacher
 Deb Viens, Kindergarten Teacher
 Nicole Pare, Ed Tech
 Diane Kidder, Ed Tech

Upcoming Events

September

- 14th: GEPTA meeting, 6:00 at the Gardiner Common (*We will meet at LER if it is raining!*)
- 18th: Walking School Bus! Meet at 7:55 at the Common
- 25th: Walking School Bus, 7:55
- 26th: Picture Day!
- 27th: Assembly, 8:45 in the LER gym, *Grade 2 presenting*

October:

- 2nd: Walking School Bus, 7:55
- 6th: Workshop Day, no school for students
- 9th: Columbus Day, no school
- 12th: GEPTA, 6:00 at RVCS Library
- 14th: GEPTA October, 11:00 - 3:00 at the Gardiner Common
- 18th: Early Release Day, Parent-Teacher conferences (*More info to follow!*)
- 16th: Walking School Bus, 7:55
- 23rd: Walking School Bus, 7:55
- 25th: LER Assembly

Helpful Phone Numbers

Laura E. Richards School	582-3612
Superintendent's Office	582-5346
Transportation Office	582-6663
Boys & Girls Club	582-8458
Special Education Office	582-7366
LER fax	582-3175
River View School & fax	582-3402

For safety reasons:

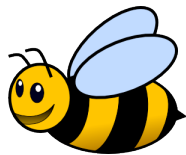
Please do not drop your child off at school before 8:10. There is no supervision inside or on the playground until then.

Please remain in the lobby when dropping off or picking up your child.



The Laura E. Richards School community will nurture, guide, and encourage students. We will provide a safe environment, rich in learning experiences, to foster respectful, caring, independent learners.

Visit us often at msad11.org, check out our Events Calendar, and "like" Laura E. Richards Elementary on Facebook



Remember to collect and send in your empty printer cartridges, Hannford Helps certificates, and BoxTops for Education!



Ongoing Fundraisers

Box Tops for Education - Our school receives 10 cents for every "Box Top" logo cut from packages of General Mills, Ziploc, Pillsbury, and many other products. Collection sheets have gone home with students, but feel free to send your Box Tops to school in baggies, envelopes, or whatever works best for your family. LER families collected over \$1000.00 last year! Thank you to everyone who helps by cutting and saving these valuable logos for us! Our school uses these funds to provide enrichment activities for all of our students during the school year. We look forward to another great year!

Printer cartridges - We participate in a program in which we collect printer cartridges of all types and sizes, which are redeemed for cash. Please send us your empty cartridges!

Hannaford Helps Schools - Now through December 2nd, shoppers will receive school dollar certificates at the register with the purchase of participating products, which Hannaford will redeem for cash for our school. Please be sure to send these valuable certificates to school.

Picture Day

Mark your calendar for Picture Day, Tuesday, September 26th. Order forms have been sent home with students, or you may order online at mylifetouch.com. Use Picture Day ID LG017154Q0.

Walking School Bus on Mondays!

Students and parents are invited to join Mrs. Moody and other staff at the Gardiner Common at 7:55 each Monday morning, weather permitting, as we walk to school together!

Coin Drive for Hurricane Relief

LER will be holding a coin drive to provide relief to a school in Texas which suffered losses in the recent hurricane. Students who would like to participate can bring in coins through Tuesday, October 10th.

School Calendar Update

Please note that Wednesday, October 18th and Thursday, March 29th will be Early Release Days. These were added to provide additional time slots for families to schedule Parent-Teacher conferences. An updated school calendar will be available soon.

GEPTA News

- **Tuesday, Sept. 14th-** GEPTA Meet & Greet meeting 6:00 pm at the Gardiner Common (*or LER library if it is raining*). We will have light refreshments and a door prize. All are welcome!
- **Saturday, October 14th-** Octoberfest Family Fun Day on the Gardiner Common, 11:00-3:00. We are looking for vendors and volunteers for this event!
- **Tuesday, October 18th-** GEPTA meeting, 6:00 pm at RVCS. Please join us!

First Day of School "Thank You"!

Our sincere thanks to these businesses whose generous donations made our First Day of School event such a success, as well as our presenters who shared their information with our school community:

Healthy Communities of the Capital
 Out of My Head Designs
 Food for Thought
 Boys and Girls Club of Kennebec Valley
 Gardiner Public Library
 Gardiner Police Department
 Johnson Hall
 Gardiner Main Street
 Girl Scouts
 Gardiner Food Co-op
 GEPTA
 Gardiner Federal Credit Union
 Box Tops for Education
 Life Touch
 MSAD #11 Adult Ed & Nutrition Services
 Spurwink
 LER School Nurse
 LER Music, Guidance, Title I Staff
 Ainslie's Market
 Dunkin' Donuts of Gardiner
 Frosty's Donuts

An extra special thanks to Mike Miolon of Johnson Hall for a hilarious and inspiring presentation to our students.

Many, many thanks to Katherine Kollman who again spent a great deal of time and energy organizing this event! Thank you ALL for helping to usher in another fantastic year at LER!