

Alton Elementary and Viola Rand Schools

December 17, 2018 Report for the RSU34 School Board



AES Winter Concert- "5 Golden Rings" December 6, 2018

Winter Concerts

Alton Elementary School and Viola Rand School have held their winter concerts. Erin Murphy lead children in very cute and fun shows! Alton's fourth grade band students are learning fast and played well for the audience. They also participated in the concert at OTEs this past Tuesday evening. Both schools had separate songs sung by combined classes, followed by a finale performed by all of the students together. Older students in each school used Boom Whackers for one of the songs. It was evident that students enjoy using those percussion instruments! All of the classes from pre-k on up had wonderful performances of holiday music to help kick off the season! "The 12 Days of Christmas" and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" were the final songs sung beautifully!



VRS Winter Concert—BoomWhackers! November 27, 2018

Events

December 18

Penobscot Theater - "Elf- The Musical" for both schools

December 20

Key Club Ornament Fun @ VRS after school

December 20

Final day of "Fruit Science" After School Science Program at AES

January 8

First Book Study group meeting for staff—book choices:

The Kinesthetic Classroom: Teaching and Learning Through Movement OR

Last Child In The Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder

February 11

NAEP test for 4th Grade @ AES



Gingerbread House Decorating

On the evening of December 12th, families came to the Viola Rand School to decorate gingerbread houses. An amazing cadre of 12 volunteers visited the school Monday morning, putting together 70 graham cracker houses to prepare for the event. They completed the task in a record one hour work session! Heidi Gifford and Jenn Goodwin helped the session go smoothly by pre-cutting the graham crackers.

Families came and helped children decorate their houses. A snack of milk and ginger snaps was provided for all. There was a bit of munching on house decorations happening also! It was a fun, community event for everyone and we appreciated all of the goodwill and assistance from community members.

Food Science Class @ AES

Ms. Fox has been running an after school program with a curriculum provided by the UMaine 4-H program. They typically send students out to run the program, but that wasn't possible this semester, so Ms. Fox borrowed the kit and has been proceeding with the program after school on Thursdays. The students have a free snack through the food service program, a bit of exercise time, then the science content. Week 1 allowed students to look at germs under UV light and explore how bacteria speeds up the process of food spoilage. In week 2, students took a look at the life cycle of an apple and collected data on apples and how they taste. Students explored how to slow the browning process in apples during week 3. Students used healthy choices to create a personalized, healthy trail mix in week 4 and in week 5 studied the question "Can dried fruit be brought back to life?". The class winds up the program in week six with students building a simple battery using an unexpected energy source ... FRUIT! Students learn to identify the basic parts of a battery and explain how it works. This has been a great experience for students!

Penobscot Theater

In the morning on December 18th, students and staff from both schools will be attending the Penobscot Theater Company's production of "ELF—The Musical". This has become an annual event that helps bring the arts alive for our students. This is the first such experience for many of our students and they are very much in awe of every aspect of the show!

University of Maine Art Museum



In November, students in grades 2-4 from AES visited the art museum in Bangor. After viewing the exhibits, they created black and white paintings on canvas.

Fun This Season!



Irvin slicing apples



Connor and Lilly load the dehydrator

-AES After School Program-



AES band



VRS Gingerbread Night



VRS Winter Concert ...And a Partridge in a Pear Tree!