

Ella P. Burr School Newsletter

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



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2018-19 Concerts

- Gr. 1: Jan. 17
- K: Feb. 7
- Gr. 2: Mar. 14
- Gr. 3: Apr. 4

Principal's News

Greetings from a snowy elementary school. Back in January I commented on how the weather had been quite eventful and we were in hopes February would bring some relief, but that was not the case. We added to our snow day totals and now have an extra seven days to add on to the end of the school year. Once the weather becomes a little less frightful, the decision will be made on how or if we will make them up. On a more positive note, the RSU 67 app is available for download for both Apple and Android devices. You can keep track of all the going's on throughout the district and get notifications for upcoming events. Also, check out our new website which has all the same information as the App. We've hit the big time! March brings the second grade concert and the production *Cry Wolf*, so make sure you put the dates on your calendar. Let's hope March is a month of kinder weather and continued success for all of the EPB community.

Mr. Loiselle

Parent Reminders

There are several things that will help keep us informed and our learners safe. If you could help us by following these expectations it will ease the confusion for each learner.

1. **Box Tops for Education:** Collect, Send and Earn. Clip physical **Box Tops** from hundreds of purchased participating products. Send your collected **Box Tops** to an enrolled school of your choice. ... Each valid **Box Tops** is worth 10 cents to each enrolled and active school if the **Box Tops** is properly submitted in accordance with these Official Rules.
2. If you would like to volunteer in the school, please fill out the volunteer paperwork which is available in the district office. RSU 67 conducts background checks on all volunteers as a safeguard for our schools and children.
3. Please watch your children's use on the internet. MOMO Challenge, as defined by Wikipedia: "The 'Momo Challenge' is a hoax Internet challenge, which was spread by users on Facebook and media outlets. It was reported that children and adolescents were being enticed by a user named Momo to perform a series of dangerous tasks including violent attacks and suicide"

Children's Stage Adventures

Thanks to a Bailey Grant, our school has the opportunity to have two actors/directors/teachers joining us for the last week of March. They will be producing a musical called "*Cry Wolf*" and up to 50 of our students get to star. There will be two rehearsals a day and in the end two productions, one for the school and one for the public. I have been at a school where this group performed and it is an amazing opportunity for your youngest learners to be introduced to the performing arts. Performance date will be Friday, March 29 at a time to be determined.

Pre-K News Ms. Sherman and Ms. Tash

Here's what's happening in the world of four and five year olds in Pre-K! We have finished Unit 4, (World of Color) in our OWL curriculum, "Opening The World of Learning", and are finishing "Our Color Alphabet Big Book". On Valentine's Day we celebrated friendships by having a Frozen Yogurt Social based on the Dramatic Play Theme of ice cream and ice cream truck. We continue to build on new vocabulary words and phonemic awareness skills, (playing with word sounds and knowing how words work.) We are focusing on counting, creating and extending patterns, and recognizing and writing names. We are learning new songs and word plays and are learning about the Post Office and writing letters. Soon we will begin Unit 5, "Reflections and Shadows".

Early K/Kindergarten News Mrs. McCarthy, Miss. Crockett, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Olsen, and Mrs. Peters

Believe it or not spring is in sight, and our kindergarten friends are ready for it! March will see us celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with a week of themed literacy activities, ending with our traditional green eggs and ham breakfast. We also will begin checking in on the Decorah Eagles in anticipation of our annual service learning project "Quarters with Eagles", and of course some Leprechaun fun will appear as we continue learning about coins, measuring, and sight words.

First-Grade News Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Cuccinello, Mrs. Harper, and Mrs. Larlee

First grade students have started opinion writing during writers workshop. They are learning the difference between a fact and an opinion and understanding that it's okay to have different opinions from their friends.

Teachers in first grade would like parents to know that for the week of February 25th and March 8th we will be conducting BAS reading assessments for all of our students. For this reason we will not be able to meet with our guided reading groups on a regular basis like normal. Students will not be bringing home as many new reading books as usual during this time. Once the testing is complete we will go back to our normal schedule and have a better look at where first graders are with their reading and what reading strategies need to be worked on. Thank you for your understanding during this time.

Second-Grade News Mrs. Hallett, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Gardner, and Mrs. Morse/Mrs. Himes

We hope you all are staying warm during these cold days! We are looking forward to Spring! Here is what's new for 2nd grade in the subjects. In Reading, we're starting a big unit on Nonfiction text features. In Writing, we will be creating our own published books! Be on the lookout for more information coming home...the kids are excited to become published authors...for real! In Science, we're learning about Forces and Motion. In Math, we are moving on to Double-Digit Addition. Think Spring! :)

Third-Grade News Ms. Tolman, Mrs. Thornton, Mrs. Manzo, and Mrs. Brawn

Third grade is finishing up multiplication and our habitat presentations. This month we will be working on division facts and some long division, as well as midyear BAS reading levels. We will be having MEA's beginning at the end of the month. Please make sure learners are well rested during that time. More information will be forthcoming, as we get closer to that time. Stay warm and think Spring!

Food Pantry and Backpack Program Mrs. Turner, School Counselor

Just a friendly reminder that we continue to accept families in our Ella P. Burr Food Pantry and Backpack program. You can call or send in a note anytime to join. On Monday students get snacks for the week to enjoy at school. Every Thursday some food is sent home, Fridays milk and juice is sent home. In the Fall, Jordan's Farm provides us with fresh produce! Please feel free to join this program, every little bit helps!

Morning Math Mrs. Gulesian and Mrs. Goslin

Morning Math Club continues to go well. Our questions of the day are getting more complex and are challenging the learners. They are using all four operations to help them solve these problems. Please encourage your third grader to attend every morning!

23 Reasons to Read Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Leighton, and Ms. Murchison

As teachers we want learners to read, the following are just some of the reasons that motivate us to read. Check this out !

To escape. To imagine. To travel. To understand. To connect. To dream. To laugh. To learn. To cry. To know. To compare. To discover. To meet. To empathize. To build vocabulary. To deepen. To relax. To think. To adventure. To motivate. To grow. To focus. To write. Why do you read ?

Imaginationsoup.com

Physical Education/Health Mr. Lindsay

The time is here, kind of... We are snowshoeing in PE class for the next two weeks, as long as the weather cooperates. This means that students will need to be prepared to go outside for class when the temperature is above 10 degrees. I will be in contact with teachers to let them know if their class will be going outside during their PE time.

Also, where it works, given the number and sizes of snowshoes we need, I will be doubling up on classes to allow for a 60 minute class instead of a 30 minute class. This extra time will allow the students to not feel rushed during their classes and to get a longer more relaxing walk

Parent Survey

Attached you will find a short parent survey from Penquis, who is assessing the needs for early care in the Lincoln area. Please return them to school by Friday, March 15. Thank you for your help.

Art and Music Mrs. York

Kindergarten and First Grade have been seeing, touching and getting to try real instruments in Music classes. Imagine a kindergartener marching with a trombone and this is the joy of the unit! Second and Third grade are working hard to get ready for their concerts. Reminder!! Second Grade's is on March 14th at 1pm.

Recess choir is gearing up for their part of the grade 3 concert as well with solo assignments coming soon.

Art had been learning with a growth mindset that anyone can make a cartoon! Comic books are in progress and the stories will entertain everyone! Let the creativity flow!

From the Clinic Mrs. McIntyre



Ella P. Burr Elementary
23 Ella P. Burr St.
Lincoln, ME 04457

Phone:
(207) 794-3014

Fax:
(207) 794-2602

E-mail:
ploiselle@rsu67.org

Unfortunately, we continue to see confirmed cases of influenza in our community and school district, please stay alert to the signs and symptoms of influenza in your learners. If your learner does come down with influenza (or any other communicable disease) please call the school and let the clinic know. If your child is sent home with a fever please refer to our fever free policy and do not send them back to school until they are fever free without a fever reducer for 24 hours. We also ask that if your child has vomited in the middle of the night or in the early morning before school, please do not send them to school. Practice good hand hygiene at home and limit the amount of time spent around individuals who are sick. A friendly reminder to parents that learners are **not** allowed to bring medications into school, those need to be brought in by a designated parent/guardian with the proper paperwork filled out. Thank you for your help and understanding in this and let's all think spring!

“Play Is Not a Four-Letter Word

Empowering
Learners, Today
and Tomorrow.

Over the past month, the staff has been involved in a book study involving the book “What if Everybody Understood Child Development? Straight talk about bettering education and children’s lives.” Last month I shared a clip on the importance of sleep for our learners and this month it is the role of “play” in child development.

“...it bears emphasizing that the adult personality is built on the child’s play. Among the social skills learned are the ability to share, cooperate, negotiate, compromise, make and revise rules, and to take the perspective of others. Play provides opportunities for children to meet and solve problems—the number-one ability they will most assuredly require in this rapidly changing world. It helps children express their thoughts and feelings and to deal with stress. To cope with fears they can’t yet understand or articulate. Through play, children acquire literacy, mathematical, and creative skills, which in turn have been linked to greater academic success than IQ has. Self-regulation skills also help children with self-control and with managing stress while learning. Moreover, if children don’t learn to play as children, they aren’t likely to discover its value as adults. And just think about what a dreary, deadening existence daily life will become without a playful attitude.

Stuart Brown, MD, founder of the National Institute for Play, and psychologist and play researcher Dr. Peter Gray are among the experts who link play deprivation with hostility and depression among children, youths, and adults. They point out that as opportunities for children to play have lessened, aggression and depression have increased.”

*“A child’s life is
like a piece of
paper on which
every person
leaves a mark.”*

Chinese Proverb

Rae Pica, pg. 62