

Viola Rand and Alton Elementary Schools

April 12, 2019 Report for the RSU34 School Board

Dino-Mite Book Fair

The theme for the spring Scholastic book fairs this year was dinosaurs. Viola Rand School had their book fair week the last week in March. There were two breakfast events, for parents and for grandparents, but most people waited for the Thursday evening event. That night, there were an assortment of food items, from meatballs and pizza to “dino bones” and “dino claws” with lava juice to drink. Mr. Walker and Mrs. Salley were two of the readers in the ‘caves’ in the library. Dino yoga was happening in the kindergarten room. High school STEM students made volcanos in another classroom. The pre-k classroom had dinosaur puzzles, stencils, stamps, fun facts, fossil discovery and a dinosaur dig in the sandbox. There was plenty to do in addition to shopping at the book fair and having a hearty snack! It was a successful event that sent lots of books into homes.

MEA EmPowerMe Testing

Alton third and fourth grade students have completed the state testing for this year. It was a very smooth process! The time allowed for each session was reasonable and students finished in the allotted time. It seemed pretty painless. Now we wait for results...

Enrollments

	<u>VRS</u>	<u>AES</u>
Pre-k	15	8
K	11	4
1st	8	8
2nd	12	9
3	—	6
4	—	6
Total	46	41

Kindergarten Registration

The screenings for next year's kindergarten students were held the week before vacation. We have healthy numbers in each school. Alton screened 12 students and Viola Rand screened 16 students. We start the process early in the smaller schools to help us get a better idea of enrollment numbers for the following year. It works better some years than others, but it does give us “at minimum” numbers to work with.

Events

April 5

AES Caring Assembly

April 10

Kindergarten

Screening AES

April 12

Kindergarten

Screening VRS

April 23

Bus Driver

Appreciation Day

April 24

Administrative

Professionals Day

April 11

VRS Knowledge

Assembly

April 26

Progress Reports go home

May 28

VRS Spring Concert
6:00

June 6

AES Spring Concert
6:00

BOKS-Building Our Kids Success

From January 29 through April 11, students at the Viola Rand School have enjoyed an extremely well organized before school exercise program. This pilot of a Reeboks sponsored program to get kids moving and improve their focus and engagement in class. Sam Lenson, a grad student at the University of Maine in the Admissions Department, was passionate about bringing this opportunity to students in this area. BOKS originated in his home town in Massachusetts, so he had a strong appreciation of the benefits. The Viola Rand School was chosen to be the pilot site due to the arrival time of most students and the manageable numbers. We ended up with 98% of our students participating and the ones who were uncertain about doing it in the beginning sport some of the biggest smiles now. The first thing Sam needed to get this program up and running was a dedicated crew to show up at the school three mornings a week at 7:00AM. He recruited four amazing education majors– Estella, Carigan, Maggie and Bailey who have been remarkably committed and wonderful with the elementary school students. Sam has been training them to hopefully take on a school of their own and do his job of scheduling and planning. They have all been planning and managing activities throughout this program. On April 18th, they will all be recognized at a Banquet for Volunteers at the Buchanan Alumni House.

Sam was a football player at UMaine and used his connections in the athletics department to recruit guests to the program. Usually twice a week, University students representing different teams and groups came to help run activities and encourage kids. Football, cheering, hockey basketball, Senior Skulls, and several sororities and fraternities participated. They were all amazing ambassadors for their respective groups! Sam also had support from his professors and mentors from his undergraduate classes in PE and Kinesiology. They visited and provided feedback.

On the final day of BOKS, VRS staff provided a breakfast to show our appreciation for the commitment and integrity the coaches all showed. Each of the coaches also received a "Small School...Big Footprints" tee shirt and Sam got a VRS hoodie. There were actually a lot of tears and emotions. Some wonderful relationships were forged over the last three months. This would be a tremendous program to expand into other schools! VRS has had a terrific experience with it!!

