

Ella P. Burr School Newsletter

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2018-19 Concerts

Congratulations to all the learners and Mrs. York for a great concert season.

Principal's News

What a great month of April for the EPB community. Literacy/Math night was a big success, with lots of fun and Legos for all. Then we had Mrs. Turner get recognized with the Martin Gallant Distinguished Counseling Professional Award, and two weeks later Mrs. Murchie was awarded the Maine Principal's Association Secretary of the Year. Just further evidence of what a great school we have. Now that we are on to May, the end of the school year is in sight and lots of learning is still going on. There is the spring STAR testing (fall, winter, and spring), which provides us data on each learners growth for the year and identifies areas we will want to concentrate on next year. Here's to an end of April showers and a beginning of May flowers.

Mr. Loiselle

Snow Days and Makeup Days

Due to EIGHT snow days this year, the school board has decided to make up two of those days on Saturday, which will make the last student day Friday, June 14. On May 11 and June 1 staff and students will have an early release schedule, which means a regular start time and dismissal at 11:30 am. Students will be dismissed after lunch, just like our regular half days. Pre K will not be attending school on these days. If you have family plans on either of these days, please contact the office or send in a note letting us know, otherwise it is considered an unexcused absence. Staff is working on planning a Field Day for June 1, so I hope your child will be able to join us on this fun-filled day.

RSU 67 Phone App

Have you downloaded the new RSU #67 App? It's available for both IOS and Android and it is a great resource for information. Just like most apps, you can get notifications regarding upcoming events, emergent issues, and other announcement and there is an abundance of information on the app itself. Please consider downloading it on your phone, you won't be sorry.

Lost and Found

Please take a moment to check out the Lost and Found table by the gym. It's loaded with hats, mittens, sweatshirts, and other valuable clothing items. If you are missing a Fitbit, please see Traci in the office.

Pre-K News Ms. Sherman and Ms. Tash

We had fun studying "Shadows and Reflections" in OWL Unit 5! We made shadow puppets and did experiments with reflections. We kicked off OWL Unit 6, "Things That Grow", by sprouting bean seeds and growing grass. We are learning about life cycles, what living things need to grow in their environment, and that some animals are born alive and some hatch from eggs. A few favorite books include, Bigger by Daniel Kirk, Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey, and Raccoon on His Own by Jim Arnosky. We are also reading many non-fiction books. We went to the Junior High School to read and have snacks with our sixth-grade friends and then went outside for Earth Day Activities. We are also visiting Tash Family Greenhouses this Thursday, May 2nd, and The Enfield Fish Hatchery on May 9th!

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

Spring has sprung in Kindergarten! We have been busy learning about Earth Day and the many ways we can help take care of our home. Our learners had a chance to get outside this week and clean up the litter around the schoolyard. They took pride in knowing they were doing something to beautify our planet. We will soon be learning about plants and the life cycles of frogs and caterpillars which ties in perfectly with our lessons on the Earth and nature. In math, we have been continuing our practice with addition and will wrap up our year by learning how to subtract. Learners are also becoming familiar with coins and will learn how to identify them along with their values. We have been saving quarters for our service learning project to help support the Decorah eagles. So far, we have had great support from families as the kids continue to add to our collection. We will be wrapping this up very soon and hope that our class donations will help to improve their cameras so that we can continue to learn more about this amazing raptor. We were also lucky enough to receive a visit from Machias Savings Bank to give us a lesson on saving and spending!

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

In Math, First Grade has been telling time and counting money as well as practicing our addition and skip counting fluency. In reading, we continue to use those strategies of sounding right, looking right, and making sense as we read daily during our Guided Reading Workshop Lessons. We have had Community Visitors come in to show us Dental Health and Banking Services. We are hoping all these April Showers will bring May Mother's Day Flowers!

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

Welcome, Spring! The school year is winding down, and here is what Grade 2 will be working on. In Reading, we are learning all about why authors write; to persuade, inform, or entertain the reader. We're also continuing our work on fluency, grammar goals, and speaking and listening goals in reading. In Writing, we will continue with opinion writing and poetry will be coming up soon! In Math, we are learning all about the different types of graphs and how to analyze them. In Science, we're heading into a big unit on the different types of habitats! Fun, fun stuff!

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

April was a busy month for third grade with MEA's, the play Cry Wolf, our music concert, and April vacation! In May, we will be studying the following topics. In Math, we will be learning about measurement, fractions, and elapsed time. We are also continuing to practice multiplication and division facts. We are finishing up leaders and communities in Social Studies and will be beginning learned and inherited traits in Science. Learners are working on opinion writing and will soon begin learning about prefixes and suffixes, as well as determining the moral of stories in ELA.

Great Websites for Practicing Math at Home Mrs. Gulesian and Mrs. Goslin

Using technology at home can be a great way to help reinforce math concepts. Here are some that we recommend:

- [*www.prodigy.com](http://www.prodigy.com) (This is set up like a video game. Learners solve math problems to win battles and earn points and pets. The difficulty adjusts based on progress through the game)
- [*www.aaamath.com](http://www.aaamath.com) (This site is divided up by grade level and/or math topic. It's great for practicing math fact fluency)
- [*www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com) (This site is divided up by grade level and has games for all subjects, including math).
- [*www.mathplayground.com](http://www.mathplayground.com) (This site is also divided up by grade level. Some games are for members only, but many are free)

Good Reads for Your Child Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Leighton, and Ms. Murchison

Choosing good books to read to your child can be a challenge, so we have put together a list of books and authors for you to choose from. Some of these books may be familiar to your child.

For young children:

- Andra Brown writes short books, including *Moo*, *Baa*, *La La La!* and a personal favorite *Barnyard Dance*. They are fun to read and children love to hear them over and over!
- Eric Carle does some awesome illustrations and writes about animals. *The Grouchy Caterpillar*, *Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See?* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* are a few of his books.
- Dr. Suess is a favorite author for all readers. His books can be read by early readers or are great to read at bedtime. Some of his books include *The Cat in the Hat*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, *Horton Hears a Who* and *The Lorax*.

Other picture books include:

- *Where the Wild Things Are* By Maurice Sendak
- *If you Give a Mouse a Cookie*, *If You Give a Pig a Pancake*, and *If You Give a Moose a Muffin* by Laura Jothe Numeroff.
- *Little Blue Truck* and *Little Blue Truck Leads the Way* by Alice Schertle. She also writes other books about Little Blue Truck.

Good chapter books include the following:

- *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox* and *Matilda* by Roald Dahl
- *Because of Winn Dixie* by Katie Dicamillo
- *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little* by E. B. White
- Children also enjoy The Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne.

You can always get books to read at the local or school library. If you want to purchase books to keep then check out www.amazon.com or www.thriftbooks.com/

Hope that this helps you in choosing a good book!



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**Empowering
Learners, Today
and Tomorrow.**

*"A child's life is
like a piece of
paper on which
every person
leaves a mark."*

Chinese Proverb

Physical Education/Health Mr. Lindsay

We are planning to do our annual Field day on Saturday, June 1st in hopes that it will make students a little more excited to come to school on a Saturday. As plans are being made, we will do our best to keep you updated. Also, as a reminder, as the warmer weather comes (we hope) please try to remember that flip-flops, sandals, and Crocs do not make for proper PE shoes.

Art and Music Mrs. York

Music classes will be jumping in headfirst into musical notation. Lots of musical ABCs and careful looks at all those lines and spaces. Art has started color theory with Rainbow order with lots of painting! Stained fingers will be the norm.

Apologies Mrs. Turner

A school day is very busy. The children in our school are busy too and accidents happen every day. Someone might bump into someone else as everyone lines up for recess, someone might step on someone's fingers as they are sitting on the rug for group time, someone runs into someone as they running around at recess, etc. I have spent some time explaining how to apologize and how to accept an apology. It is important for young children to learn that when they apologize it needs to be honest and sincere. It is important to take responsibility for your actions. It is not enough to say "I'm sorry." It is especially hard if the child is forced to apologize by an adult, it is hard on everyone because the victim knows it is not an honest apology. Children need to learn to say "I am sorry I bumped into you, it was an accident, are you okay?" This apology shows responsibility and remorse. At the same time, I encourage the child receiving the apology not to say "That is okay." It is really not okay to be pushed, knocked down, etc. I explain to them that it is better to say something like, "I accept your apology," or "I do forgive you, I know it was an accident."

I understand that this may seem a little over the top to be so formal about apologies but it is more about taking responsibility for our actions and standing up for ourselves concerning how we are treated.

May is Better Speech and Hearing Month Mrs. Cloran

With speech and language disorders ranking among the most common disabilities in children, parents and caregivers are encouraged to learn the signs—and seek an evaluation—if they have concerns about their child's ability to communicate.

The development of strong communication skills is extremely important. Good communication skills are critical, helping with behavior, learning, reading, social skills, and friendships. It is much easier, more effective, and less costly to treat speech and language disorders early—and May is a great time to educate parents on this important point.

Speech and language disorders are evaluated and treated by speech-language pathologists. *Speech* is the ability to produce speech sounds using the mouth, lips, and tongue. A child may say sounds the wrong way, repeat sounds and words, or be otherwise difficult to understand. *Language* is the ability to use and put words together—and to understand others' words. A child may have trouble understanding questions, following directions, or naming objects. Early speech and language treatment sets a child up for future school and social success.