



Bobcat Beat: October 2022

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

We are a month into the 2022-23 school year and, like a family starting out on a road trip, we are all on board and settled in for the ride. We intend to make it a great one!

A highlight of the first month of school was Open House on September 22. It was wonderful to welcome families into the school for the first time in two years!



Something the pandemic taught many of us is that community is not so much a matter of where you are physically but what values you share with others. Though I do not live in Richmond, I feel right at home among the practical, interested, and fun people of this town. I enjoyed getting to know more of you at Open House. If you could not attend but would like a tour of the building, to see your child's classroom, or to just say hello, give us a call!

I hope you enjoy this first edition of the 2022-23 Bobcat Beat Newsletter. It features articles and information to help you support your child and our school.

In Partnership with You,

Mary

Principal, MBES

P.S. Here's a link to the [Student and Family Handbook](#), in case you haven't had a chance to read it.



Dates to Remember in October (see calendar next page)

Thursday 6—School Board meeting

Friday 7—No school for students

Monday 10—Indigenous People Day Holiday:
No school

Tuesday 11—Fire Safety awareness day

Wednesday 12—Dental Hygienist

Wednesday 12—PTG, 6:30 PM. Contact Mary
Novack for information.

Monday 17—Withdrawal meeting, MBES, 5:30 PM

Tuesday 18—Flu vaccine clinic

Wednesday 19—Unity Day; wear orange

Thursday 20—Infinite Campus Parent Information
Night (more information will be provided closer to
event.)

Friday 28—Early release day, Pick-up at 11:40
AM; buses at 11:45 AM




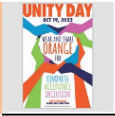


October 2022

Calendar

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Your source for calendars

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	Bullying Prevention Awareness; Fire Safety Awareness Month; NWEA Testing					1
2	3	4	5	6 RSU 2 School Board Meeting, at Marcia Buker Elementary School, 6:00 PM	7 No school for students; teacher workshop day	8
9	10 Holiday: Indigenous People Day 	11 Fire safety awareness day at school 	12  Dental Hygienist at MBES PTG, 6:30PM, MBES Library	13	14	15
16	17 Town of Richmond Withdrawal Meeting (MBES)	18 Flu Vaccination Clinic (Call nurse MacFarland for information)	19 	20 Infinite Campus MBES Parent Information Night 5:30-6:30	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Early Release Day (Pick-up 11:40; buses 11:45)	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5



[Click to play](#)

Community-School Partnerships



Crocus, Daffodils, Tulips! Oh My!

The MBS Garden Group is organizing an Autumn Bulb Drop to beautify the North Entrance, a bright welcome to all who enter Marcia Buker School. We invite you to donate crocus, daffodil, and/or tulip bulbs to be dropped off at school by October 21st. Students will plant the bulbs during the last week of October. Any bulb donations will be happily received by your child's classroom teacher.

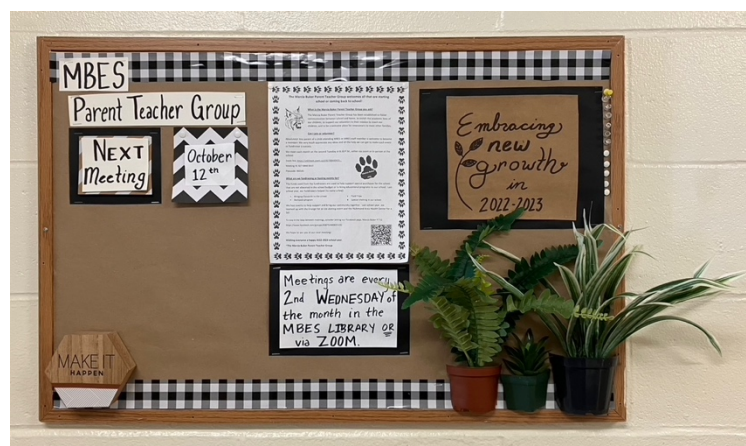
Much Gratitude,


MBS Garden Group

Outdoor Learning with Emma Lorusso

Emma is the Project Director of Androscoggin Valley Soil & Water Conservation District. Through a grant, the organization is providing an environmental education series cost free to schools in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties. Currently, Emma is providing an insect study for our K-2 students. It's wonderful to see so many students choose to spend their recess time in the gardens.

Parent Teacher Group Information





From the Nurse's Office

Hello Bobcat Families!!

I wanted to reach out and make you all aware that we are having our Flu Shot Clinic here at school on Oct 18, 2022. Permission forms have already been sent home and needed to be returned to the school by Sep 23, 2022. If you have not received this form and would like your child to participate, please reach out to Kerry or Deb in the main office.

We are working on having a COVID-19 vaccination clinic here at school as well, but the details are in the early stages right now; I hope to have more information to share in the near future.

I would like to thank all of you who have supplied the school with the needed medical paperwork allowing the nurse to care for your child. If you have not yet turned in your child's paperwork, please do so as soon as possible. This information includes the Annual Health History & Update; prescribed medications including the doctor's orders; the Parental Permission to Treat form allowing administration of the medication; and any needed shot records for your student.

We are off to a great start here at school and I am looking forward to working with students and parents throughout this school year. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions, or concerns, or just stop and say hello if you see me in my office when you are here at school. I can be reached at (207) 737-4748 or smacfarland@kidsrsu.org.

Thank you!
Nurse Sammi



From the School Counselor's Office

Dear Families,

October is bullying prevention awareness month at MBES. One learning objective for this month is for students to learn the importance of unity and coming together as a class (or group), a school, and a community to prevent bullying.

What is bullying? According to the American Psychological Association, "*Bullying is a form of aggressive behavior in which someone intentionally and repeatedly causes another person injury or discomfort.*" In order to be classified as bullying, the 3 P's must be present - Purpose (intentional), Pattern (repeated), and Power (imbalance).

In addition to classroom and guidance lessons, everyone is encouraged to wear **orange on Unity Day, Wednesday, October 19th, 2022** to visibly show your support for kindness,

acceptance, and the inclusion of others, and convey the message that no child should ever experience bullying.

Thank you,

Kolleen O'Donnell
MBES School Counselor

Teaching and Learning in the Spotlight



What is Title I? Title I was first enacted as part of the 1965 federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act that sought “to provide all children significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps.”

(Maine Department of Education)

A majority of students do well with general classroom curriculum and instruction, but regular instruction does not always meet the needs of all students, especially our students who experience socio-economic disadvantage. Title I funding helps us meet the needs of all students’ at the individual and schoolwide level.

- **Individual Learning Support:** Each day at Marcia Buker School, students who are struggling in reading and math get focused, individualized instruction from our talented Title I Intervention Team—Rebecca Cassidy, Deb Burke, and Tina Wood. Classroom teachers, Title 1 educators, and the Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Team work together, using multiple data points, to identify students who can benefit from Title 1 intervention. Students receiving Title I services are monitored closely to ensure that they are making progress. The gains students make with Title I instruction are often profound.
- **Schoolwide Learning Support:** Title I funds are used to supplement the regular program with instructional materials and professional development that the local budget does not provide; to engage families in their children’s education; and to support extended learning activities, such as Family Night and summer reading programs.

How is the Title I program funded? The federal government funds Title I programs in schools where the overall family poverty level meets certain percentage criteria. In Maine, a school community’s poverty level is determined partly by the percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced price

meals on the Household Application for Free and Reduced Meals that is sent home at the beginning of the year.

If school meals are free now, why is the state still using the F&R Meal Application?

The State of Maine has made regular school breakfast and lunch free to all students, but this is only true for a few states so the F&R application is still in use. The federal government does allow other ways to determine income levels, but the Free and Reduced Meals application remains a good way to obtain the needed information, especially for households that do not already receive other state or federal assistance. This is why we repeatedly ask families to complete that application! We have had a great return on the forms this year! On behalf of our students, thank you!



World Languages

Dear RSU 2 Families,

Hola, Konnichiwa, Bonjour!

We are Sachiko Clough and Chris Milliken, your World Languages teachers at the elementary school level. We would like to take a moment of your busy day to introduce ourselves. We look forward to the 2022-2023 school year with your students, and we hope that World Languages find their way back to your homes in some small way.

Every child in grades kindergarten through 5 receives World Language education once a week for 30 to 50 minutes, depending on grade level. Our program is designed to expose elementary students to the sounds of French, Japanese and Spanish at an early age. Research supports this exposure because at a young age the brain is most receptive to learning new sounds. To that end, our program includes play, games, skits, and songs that allow our students to try on a different language. This is not about mastery but rather exposure to other languages and cultures. World language mastery begins in middle school.

The benefits to your child of our program include:

1. Developing a better understanding of self through the understanding of other cultures and customs
2. Familiarity with the sounds and patterns of world languages
3. Learning the basics of global geography
4. Enhanced awareness of English through the comparison with other languages
5. The reinforcement of general literacy skills through French, Japanese, and Spanish

We look forward to an exciting year with the students of Marcia Buker School, and we always welcome feedback and communication with parents and guardians!

Kind regards,

Sachiko Clough and Chris Milliken



Click the image for an example of Mr. Milliken teaching

Appreciation and Recognition

A Champion Among Us

Congratulations to Tina Wood, MBES Title I Educator, for being named a Clean Water Champion by the Natural Resources Council of Maine!

Tina is the founder of [Upstream](#), "a local non-profit dedicated to restoring sea-run fish to Cobbossee Stream." As an educator in our elementary school, Tina has developed, through school and community partnerships, an astounding and ever-expanding outdoor education and environmental stewardship program for our students. To learn more about the work for which Tina was recognized today, check out the video [Keystone: Voices for the Little Fish](#), and this MBES [student-produced video](#), which tells the story of the Classroom to Stream, trout-raising project that Tina brought to our 4th and 5th graders last year.

Tina, you are a remarkable, joyful, and humble champion.

Congratulations and thank you!



Flagpole Flower Garden



We would like to thank Cora Gardner for the seasonal floral displays she plants at the base of our flagpole. Thank you, Cora! That little bit of beauty at our main entrance makes our school feel special.



Becca Redman, Technology Integrator and Takuji Kobayashi, Assistant Director of IT for RSU 2

Thanks to our tech team for their nearly round-the-clock work getting student devices ready for deployment amid shortages in IT staff and during high-demand time.

Becca and Takuji, we appreciate your hard work, friendliness, and expertise!

Marcia Buker Backpack program High school volunteers from Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG)

I can't thank these students enough. They have started walking here to Marcia Buker on Thursdays to help pack the bags that go home with 33 children in need of food for the weekend.

I would like to say a big Thank you to Badji Diakite and Bailey Caraway for coming on 9/15 (in the pouring rain) and also to Koleman Kroesser and Lauren Roinestad for their help on 9/29.

I believe that we have many more students lined up to volunteer and I am very thankful for their help.

~ Kerry Gardner, Backpack Program Manager



Badji Diakite and Bailey Caraway, RHS JMG



Koleman Kroesser and Lauren Roinestad, RHS JMG

Photo Gallery



Plant a Seed Days Spring 2022



Going on a bear hunt: Field Day, spring 2022



Our custodians made our school beautiful this summer!!



First grade reaping the fall harvest



Students serve families during open house 2022-23.



PreK working in their Fine Motor Journals



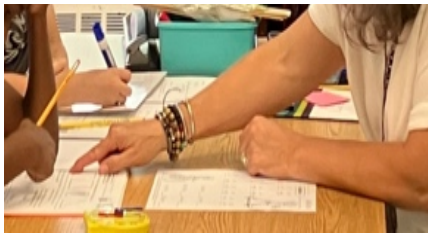
New science and engineering kits; grant from Maine Environmental Education Association



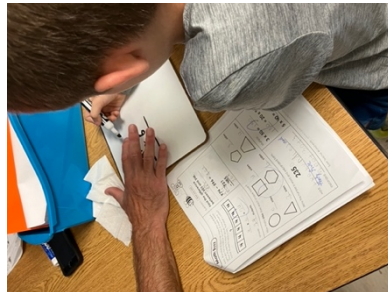
Grade 5 "Guess Who I am!" portraits for open house.



New meal scanner makes accounting more efficient.



Hard at work after summer break.



Students love the library time hands-on activities.



*Basil bouquets and pumpkins planted by students;
Deb and Kerry in the background holding down the fort*



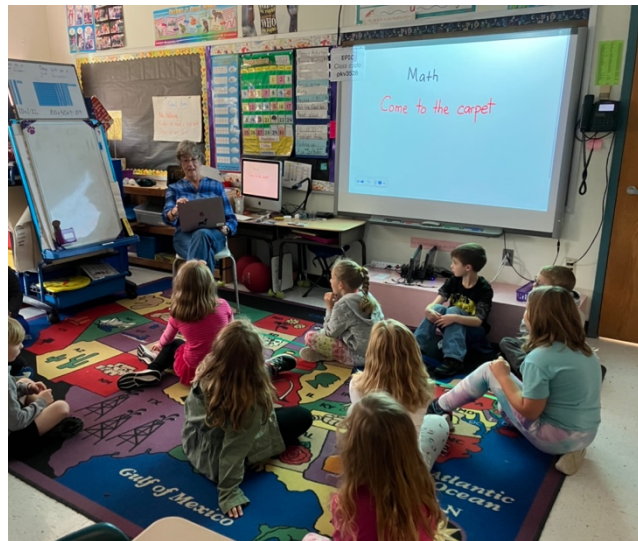
Getting ready for the third graders!



Teachers learning to use Infinite Campus



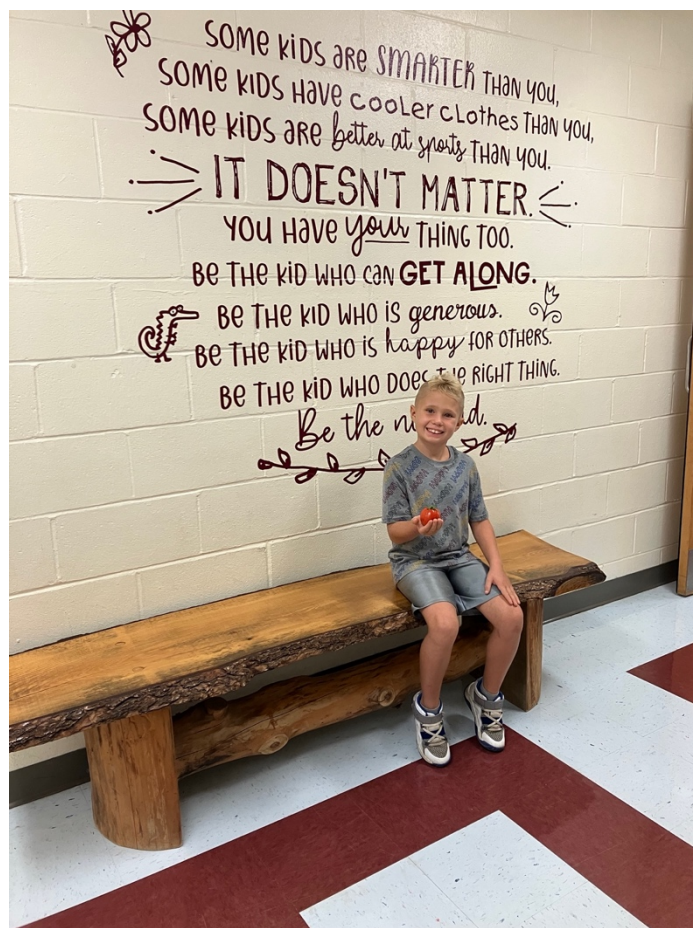
Kindergarten learning the letters of their names



Math in First and Second Grade



Discussing Class Norms in Grade 3



The Garden Brings Smiles to All!



Successful First Day of PreK! "See you tomorrow!"