

Bobcat Beat: November 2022

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

November is here, and with it the season of Thanksgiving. I am personally thankful for the simple pleasure I have each month of saying hello and sharing news and information from Marcia Buker with the families and friends of our school.



October was a productive month at MBS. Students completed state tests and other fall assessments teachers use to figure out where each child is on the grade-level learning progressions and provide the instruction they need to grow from where they are.

We know that in order to access that instruction, students need to be part of an engaging learning community and to know that they are valued within that community. Along with academics, we continue to teach social emotional skills through individual and small group work as well as through schoolwide community-building activities. You can read about one such activity—Project Connect—in Counselor O'Donnell's column.

We usher in November with Spirit Week and our first-ever Day of Respect on November 1st. Our spirit weeks are a fun way to express both unity and individuality. Each student has a chance to be noticed and to notice others. (The adult bobcats enjoy the fun as well!) On the Day of Respect, students will participate in activities that align with our Bobcat Code—Respect yourself, Respect others, Respect the environment. Along with the routine academics of the day, classes will participate in raking (and leaf pile jumping!), reading buddies, and fall gardening activities. I thank the MBS team for creating a school culture that supports students academically, socially, and emotionally. I thank our families for supporting our efforts.

The MBS team and I wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving season.

In partnership with you,

~ Mary



Dates to Remember in November

Mon-Fri 31-4	Spirit Week
Tuesday 1	Day of Respect
Thursday 3	School Board Meeting (Monmouth)
Friday 4	Grade 5 Electrical Safety Presentation by CMP
Sunday 6	Daylight Savings Time ends (set your clocks back an hour)
Monday 7	*Lockdown Drill
Tuesday 8	Voting Day (RHS); MBS will be having school
Friday 11	Veterans Day; No school
Tuesday 15	Picture retake day
Wednesday 9	Parent Teacher Group (PTG); 6:30 MBS Library
Thursday 17	*Parent Teacher Conferences; 3:00PM-7:00PM
Wednesday 23	No school; teacher workshop/comp day
Thursday 24	Thanksgiving Day
Friday 25	No school; Day after Thanksgiving
Wednesday 30	First Trimester Ends

* **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Please look for sign up information in a separate email that will be sent later this week. We will be using the same program, PTCFast, that we used for remote conferences last year; however, the conferences will be in person.)

* **Lockdown drill:** Please be advised that on November 7, we will be conducting a schoolwide lockdown drill. The purpose of the drill is to teach students what to do in the event of a threat inside the school. Most of our teachers have prepared students for a lockdown drill many times and know how to do it in an age-appropriate way that does not cause fear. Even so, we will be on the lookout for signs that a child is feeling anxious or afraid after the drill. We ask you to do the same and let us know of any concerns. Our counselor or social worker can help.



Community-School Partnerships

We need your help with...

1. **Notifying us of absences:** When your child is absent, please notify the school secretaries on the day of the absence via phone or email. Schools are required to record reasons for absences, and Kerry and Deb spend hours each day trying to reach parents to find out why

students are absent. We thank those parents who do already notify the office of their child's absences. As always, we ask that you make illness the only reason your child misses school, but whatever the reason, a phone call or email is greatly appreciated!

2. **Keeping track of RFD cards:** We are seeing a fairly large number of lost RFD Cards. These are the ID cards students scan upon boarding and exiting the bus and that are used to account for school meals. Each child should have their card attached to their backpack. We ask that you help **make sure your child's RFD card is attached, and if you notice it is missing, please let Deb or Kerry know.** Also, please encourage your child not to play with the retractable cord. It's fun to pull the cord, but it's worn out or broken cords are causing many cards to go missing.

Parent Teacher Group

- 🐾 Family Bingo Night is Back!
 - Candy Bar Bingo Night was a great success! The multipurpose room was full!
 - We are hoping to host Cookie Bingo Night in December. Stay tuned!
- 🐾 The PTG is working to decide on its first fund raiser of the year. We will keep you posted.
- 🐾 Teacher Potluck: The PTG is organizing a potluck supper for teachers on the night of conferences. Be watching for a Sign-up Genius if you would like to contribute to the table.
- 🐾 Our November meeting is on the 9th, in the MBS library at 6:30. Hope to see you there!

Donations Needed for Children's Bazaar

The Marcia Buker PTG is hosting their annual Holiday Bazaar for grades PreK through 5th. We are in need of donations for the students to purchase. If you have any items that are new or gently used that you would be willing to donate, we're happy to accept them at school. Please do not include stuffed animals or clothing items.

Students who choose to participate will bring a dollar to purchase 2 items each for family members. The children will be assisted with shopping and wrapping their gifts. Donated gift bags are always needed.

If you would like more information, contact the school at (207) 737-4748.

The bazaar is always a huge hit with the children. This year's event will be on Monday, December 12th.



Much Appreciation,

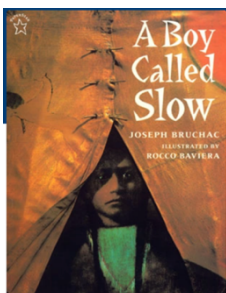
MBES
MBES PTG

Letter from the MBS Student Garden Keepers

Dear Parents and PTG,

Thank you for your donations of bulbs! They will be good for the environment and helping kids learn about plants. We think the kids will have a lot of fun learning about nature. We are very grateful for your donations. There are 365 bulbs!

Sincerely,
The Garden Keepers



Our new story walk book, *A Boy Called Slow*, features the inspiring true story of Sitting Bull, a Lakota Sioux. This fascinating story, located on the Tiny Forest Trail behind the Bobcat Den (modular building), celebrates Indigenous People's Day (October 10) and MBS's Respect Day on November 1st.

Please come walk our inviting trail with your children and enjoy reading outside!

Outdoor Learning

Autumn is an abundant time of color, textures and joy in the gardens as we harvest our tomatoes, pumpkins, herbs, potatoes, carrots, cucumbers, collect the seeds for next spring and weed the beds. The garden produce is available in the lobby for students to sample and enjoy.

On November 1st, Day of Respect, classrooms will be putting to bed our gardens and planting our new spring bulb Welcome Garden by the north entrance to celebrate respect for the environment. All students will be planting milkweed seeds around our school on Respect Day to build a better habitat for pollinators and the monarch butterfly.

Tina Wood
Title I Tutor
Environment and Garden Advisor





Halloween mystery! The Jack 'O Lantern family came to greet us on Halloween morning. We think the Great Pumpkin must have brought them to us!



From the Nurse's Office

In case you didn't see this in your email last week:

Attention all families: MaineHealth [Let's Go!](#) is conducting our annual brief survey with the families of our partner schools. The survey is about awareness and knowledge of Let's Go! and 5-2-1-0. We will keep the survey open for four weeks from **October 11 through November 4.**

Please take the 5-minute survey from MaineHealth linked below. Even if you completed the survey last year, we need your participation again!

Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a prize drawing and five lucky winners across the state will each receive a \$100 Amazon gift card for their personal use AND if you win, our school will receive \$1,000.

Other schools are participating, so the more families from our school who complete the survey, the greater our chance of winning \$1,000!

Contact information for the prize drawing will be collected at the end of the survey and will not be connected to your survey responses. All survey responses are anonymous.

Click the following link to begin the survey: <https://redcap.link/2022FamilySCH>

Thank you!

Nurse Sammi Jo



From the School Counselor's Office

Dear Families,

October was filled with Bullying Prevention Awareness activities throughout the school. One favorite schoolwide activity was "Project Connect." For this project, each student created anti bullying messages on individual strips of orange paper. These strips were then linked together to make individual paper chains. Students connected their individual chain with another student's chain, who then connected to another student, and another, until the entire classroom was linked together with the message of inclusion and unity. On Unity Day, each classroom carried their linked paper messages outside to connect with another classroom until all of the classrooms were connected for a schoolwide message of standing united against bullying. Each link is as important as the next one, and all are needed in order to make it complete. The Unity Chain now wraps around the entire multi-purpose room where students and staff can see and remember that when we stand together, nobody stands alone. Enjoy the photos of Unity Day in the Photo Gallery.

Kolleen O'Donnell
MBES School Counselor

Teaching and Learning in the Spotlight

Infinite Campus, Library program highlights, and Responsive approach to discipline

Infinite Campus

At the end of October, you should have received information on how to login to our new student information system, Infinite Campus (IC). Infinite Campus is replacing a system called Empower that parents could access; however few parents did, and many teachers created their own progress report cards to send home. With the switch to IC, there are two important things parents need to know at this time.

1. **The Standards:** With the shift to IC, the RSU has elected to use the Maine Learning Results, as they are written, in IC and in progress reports. For each subject, the MLRs include main Standards and grade-level Performance Expectations for each Standard. Parents may be used to seeing simpler language describing the learning targets than they will see in the MLRs. Teachers will be able to help explain what the language means if needed.
2. At the elementary level, work is still underway in the RSU to identify the Standards and Performance Expectations that students will be taught in each of the three trimesters. This means that for the time being, parents of PreK-5 students will not yet see the Standards or scores. Parent conferences on November 17 will be an opportunity for parents to talk with teachers about their children's progress. And parents are always encouraged to reach out to their child's teacher if they would like to check in.

Library Highlights

One joy of the school library program is sharing and reading award nominated books. Maine has two programs for students from kindergarten to grade five to experience some high quality books.

The Chickadee Award program is Maine's program for children in kindergarten through fourth grade to read or hear 10 lovely picture books and then vote on a favorite. Over 21,000 children voted in the 2021-2022 school year to pick *Fussy Flamingo* by Shelly Vaughan James and illustrated by Matthew Rivera. A committee of librarians, teachers, and early literacy professionals select the titles, and the project is funded by the Maine Association of School Libraries. For the 2022-2023 school year, our library has 2 copies each of all 10 nominees. You will see the 10 books with a search in the library catalog online at <https://mbe-rsu2.mimas.opalsinfo.net> with the phrase: Chickadee Award Nominee, 2022-2023.



The Maine Student Book Award is designed to expand literary horizons of students in grades 4-8 by

encouraging them to read and enjoy a selection of new books and to choose a statewide favorite with a vote in the spring. The winning book is selected from a reading list that is compiled by the MSBA committee. Any interested readers - student, teacher, parent, librarian - may submit a book review for the committee's consideration for any fiction or nonfiction title published in the current year. Of the complete 40-title MSBA list, the 13 titles selected for students in grades four and five that we now have in the library are set with the common subject field: Maine Student Book Award Nominee, 2022-2023.

From November to mid-March, some library visits will focus on the different nominee books of the two reading programs. Activities for extending the reading experience of the Chickadee books are still in the planning stage. As an example, for *The First Blade of Sweetgrass: A Native American Story*, a small package of actual sweetgrass will provide a see/touch/smell/hear-the-rustle opportunity for all. Students in grades four and five will compete in the Great Maine Book Tournament. As the students read from the MSBA nominees in our library, they complete online Kahoot quizzes. The class with the highest points will move to the next round to represent Marcia Buker against students in other area elementary schools. The tournament is just for enjoyable bragging rights, and the online quizzes provide a fun competition.

Betsey Noble, MLS
Library Media Technician

Responsive Approach to Discipline at School and at Home

The Code of Respect mentioned in my opening letter has been part of many classroom codes since MBS adopted the Responsive Classroom approach to student discipline in 2019. Part of our Tier III School Improvement plan is making sure we create the conditions that are conducive to learning. Respect is certainly one of those conditions. Starting this year, we are making the Code of Respect schoolwide. As the year goes on, we will help students understand what it means to “respect” oneself, others, and the environment.

The Responsive approach teaches us that punishment and scolding rarely, if ever, work to change a child’s behavior. It makes perfect sense that they would not; and yet, we adults often default to such strategies. The same goes for bribes. The best we get from such approaches is a sometimes grudging and always temporary change in behavior. The worst we get is children who feel discouraged and bad about themselves. A discouraged child is not motivated to try harder—any more than a discouraged adult is—and may even exhibit worse behavior in the end.

The Responsive approach tells us that clear communication of expected behavior; reinforcing those behaviors with recognition and praise; reminders; and logical consequences, when needed are together the most effective approach to motivating students and helping them learn how to be successful. Rather than focusing on behavior that is *not* expected, we find ways to notice behavior that *is* expected (Admittedly, sometimes we have to be creative!).

This month, we encourage you to find ways to reinforce the concepts we are teaching at school by noticing times when your child shows respect: “I noticed that you respected yourself this evening when you finished your homework before playing your video game. Now you will feel more prepared tomorrow!” “Thank you for respecting your brother’s need to be alone for a while. I bet he will play with you later.” “Was it you who cleaned up the table? Thanks for making our home environment more pleasant!” Noticing and thanking kids for respectful behavior not only teaches them what respect means, but it also builds their motivation, confidence, and self-esteem.

Respectfully Yours, Mary

Appreciation and Recognition

Shoes for kids

Thank you, Elissa Emmons, for the generous donation of several pairs of new sneakers for our spare clothing closet. Whether for a child who has outgrown their shoes or one who has “accidentally” jumped in a puddle at recess, an extra pair of shoes is always welcome!



Coaching Excellence



Congratulations to the [“winningest coach in Maine high school girls soccer history.”](#) Troy Kendrick, Grade 5 Teacher, for reaching the 400th win in high school girls soccer!

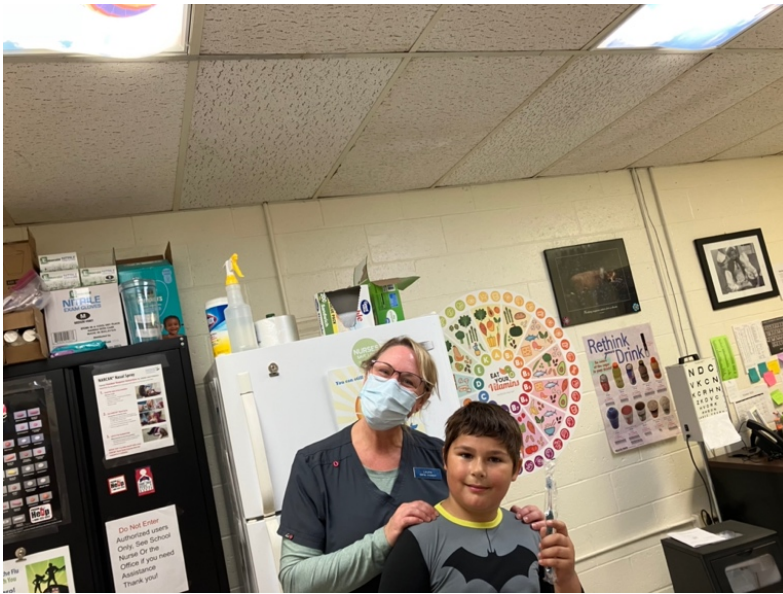
Congratulations to Rebecca Cassidy, MBS Title I Teacher, for coaching her boys cross country team to the Capitol-Area League X-Country Invitational championship!



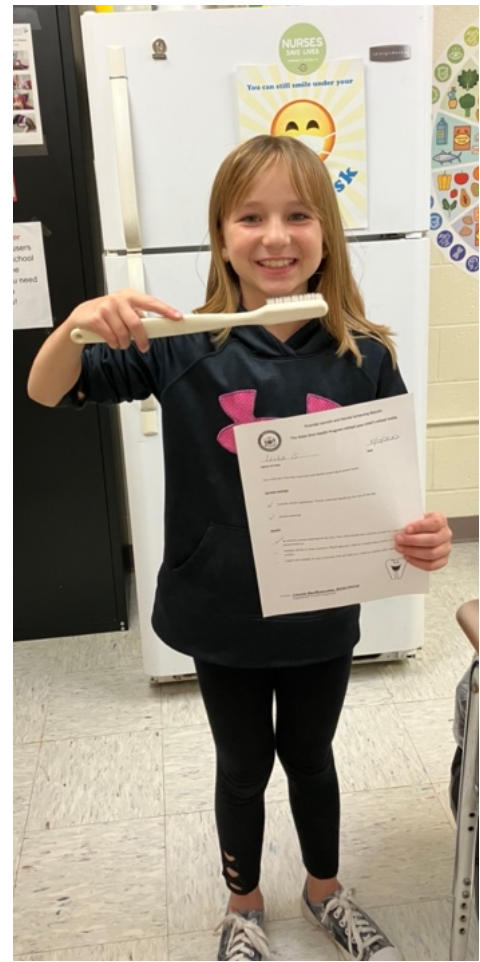
Photo Gallery



Family Candy Bar Bingo Night



Students get a dental checkup and a new toothbrush from the visiting hygienist.



Talking with the fire department about fire safety



A moment of friendship



and silliness



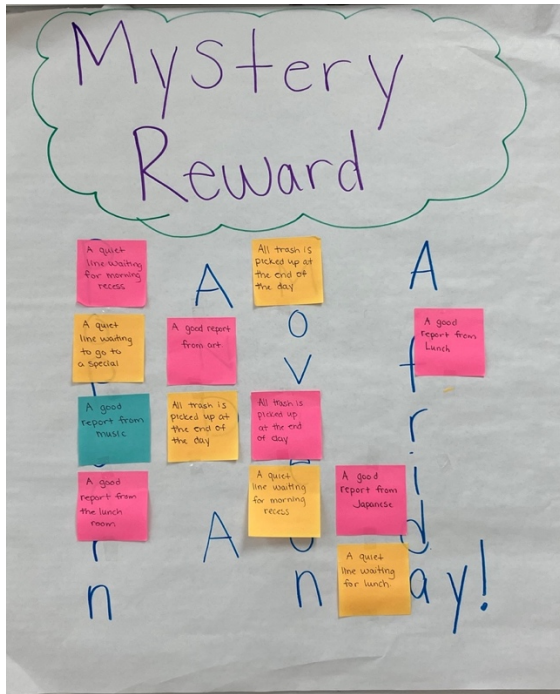
Teacher risks OSHA citation to make students feel welcome!



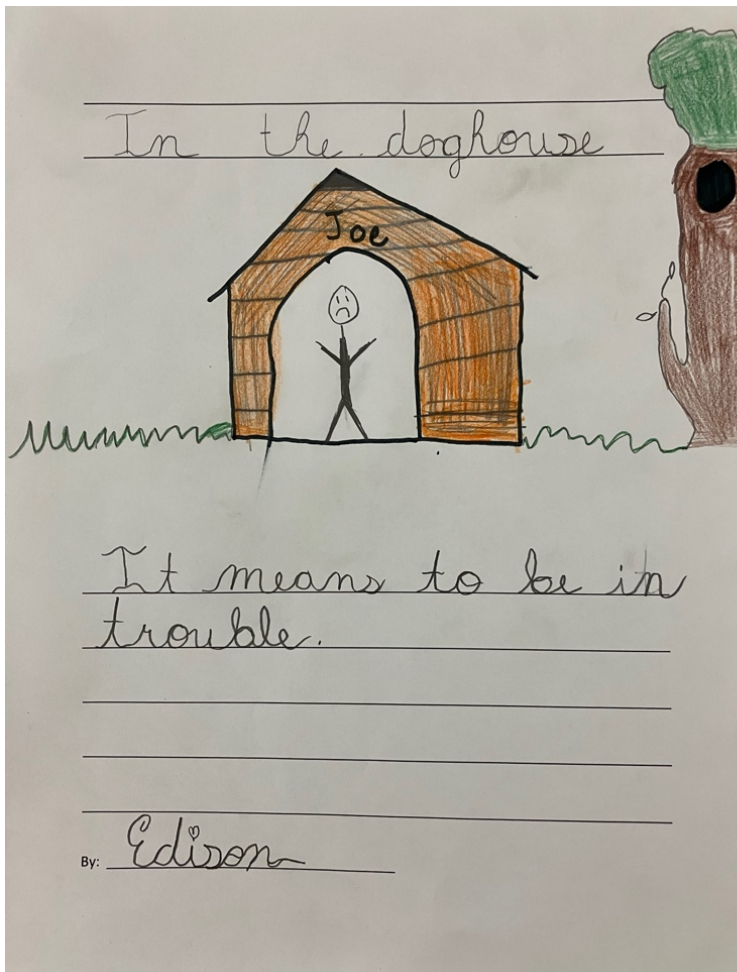
A little comic relief during workshop day



3:30 PM on a Friday afternoon and these teachers are working on curriculum.



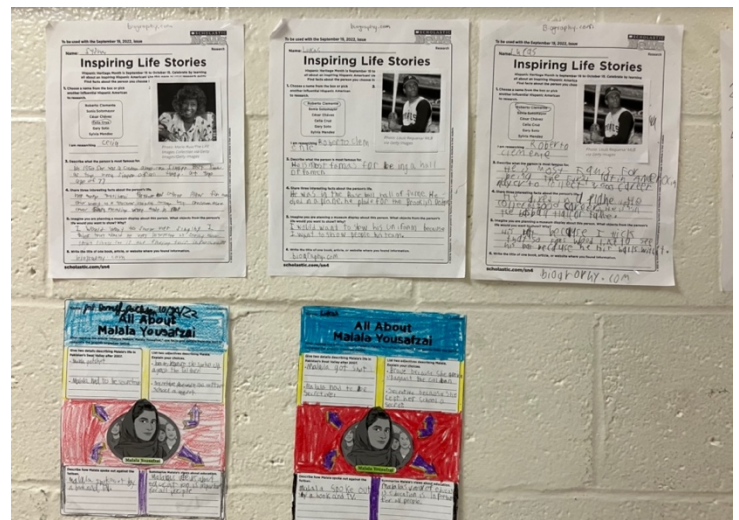
A great way to teach expected behavior!



Learning the meaning of common idioms (Impressive cursive!)



Helping students learn multiplication through visual representations



Fourth grade reading and writing about Hispanic Americans who made history during Hispanic American Heritage Month.



*Excitedly waiting for the photo drone liftoff!
Thanks for the fun Mr. Johnson!*

Unity Day 2022!



There's more than one way to get an aerial photo! Thanks Mr. Farias!!