



Bobcat Beat: December 2022

Principal's Message

Season's Greetings Families,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

For a short month, we sure fit a lot into November at school! The kick-off and one of the highlights was our first-ever Day of Respect. Teachers planned activities for their classes that helped students practice respect for self, others, and the environment. It was a service-oriented day as students worked putting the gardens to bed, planting bulbs and milkweed, and being Reading Buddies to younger students.

I'll admit, I worry sometimes that events like Day of Respect will take precious time away from academics. And then, as the day unfolds, my worries evaporate. I see teachers instilling in our students work ethic, creative problem solving, love of the written and spoken word, appreciation for simple pleasures, caring for others, forward thinking, teamwork, and the desire to be part of something bigger than themselves. Many years in education and my own grown children have taught me that these life-long qualities and skills are just as important as any academic ones we might teach. They are what society, families, employers, customers, and this world need more of. So, here's to a new tradition at Marcia Buker!

Another highlight was Parent-Teacher Conference night on the 17th! We estimate that between 80 and 85 percent of our families came to talk with teachers. And we know that those who couldn't make it have connected with their child's teacher in some other way. That connection, whether in-person or through a phone call or email, tells our kids that the adults in their lives are working together to help them become their best selves.

One thing I love about the holiday season is that it gives us so many opportunities to be our best selves. It's a time to teach children that the true meaning of the season is giving, to come together as a community to lift up those in need, to receive gifts and blessings with gratitude, to decorate and sing, to share special meals, and to celebrate with one another.

In the spirit of the season, the Marcia Buker Team wishes you Happy Holidays!

~ Mary

Mary Paine
Principal, Marcia Buker ES
School (207)-737-4748
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Calendar

December 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|----------------------|
| | | | | 1 School Board MDHS | 2 Town Tree Lighting 5:30 Waterfront Park | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Rehearsal 9:30 for Grade 4/5 | 7 Grade 4/5 Concert Dress Rehearsal For School 1:00 | 8 Grade 4/5 Concert & Band For Parents 1:00 | 9 Early Release NO PREK 11:40 Pick Up | 10 |
| 11 | 12 PTG Holiday Bazaar for students | 13 | 14 PTG 6:30 | 15 | 16 PTG Cookie Bingo Multipurpose Room 6:30 | 17 |
| 18 Hanukkah Begins @ Sundown | 19 | 20 | 21 Winter Begins | 22 Early Release NO PREK 11:40 Pick Up | 23 Winter Break Begins | 24 Christmas Eve |
| 25 Christmas Day | 26 Have A | 27 Great Winter | 28 Break! | 29 See You in Jan. 2023! | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve |
| 1 New Year's Day | 2 HOLIDAY | Dates to Remember: January 5th - School Board @ RMS January 13th - Early Release Day January 16th - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday | | | | |



Community-School Partnerships

Want to help the school with supplies and snacks (but don't have time to shop)?

A parent in the community who feels just that way recently suggested that we set up an Amazon wish list. We think it's a great idea, especially to help keep our snack program pantry stocked. Of course, we do not want anyone to feel obligated, but if you would like to check out the list, it can be found here: [Marcia Buker School Wish List](#).

Parent Teacher Group

- 🐾 The December Family Bingo Night on December 16th will be a food drive for the school backpack program. **Suggested items:** canned tuna or chicken, mac & cheese (boxed or microwave), baked beans, spaghetti & sauce, beef ravioli, SpaghettiOs, rice (instant or regular), fruit cups, applesauce, cereal (small boxes), oatmeal, any non-perishable meal items.
- 🐾 The December PTG meeting is on the 14th, in the MBS library at 6:30. Hope to see you there!

In and Around the Garden

~ By Tina Wood

We have so much!

Thank you to MBS parent volunteer and expert gardener, Elaina McDaniel, for inventorying our garden resources, organizing the garden shed, and creating a master plan of care and vision for the future. Elaina outlined the care needed to upkeep our garden shed and how to keep our gardens healthy, vibrant and vital for the Marcia Buker School Community.

We received 3 grants this fall to support outdoor learning at MBS, from the 5210 program and Maine Environmental Education Association. Elaina's plan will help guide our decisions on how to build our outdoor resources. Thank you, Lisa Wells, Education Liaison for RSU#2, and Nurse Sammi Jo McFarland for your excellent grant writing which benefits us all!

Garden Keepers- MBS students want more! More gardening that is! Organized by 4th grade student, Kinsley, an exuberant student, the Garden Keepers program has begun! Students Welcome Garden for the bulb drop, completed gardens to bed, coiled the hoses, and harvested seeds for our spring flower packets. Watch as our and our Garden Keepers generate their unique outdoor learning.

Tina Wood
MBS Title 1 Tutor



prepared the putting the sunflower gardens grow ideas for



Teaching and Learning in the Spotlight

Information and Guidance on Trimester I Report Cards

If all goes as planned, MBES will be sending report cards home with students on December 9th. This is the first progress report produced with Infinite Campus (IC), the new grading system adopted by the RSU. It is also the first report card that uses the Maine Learning Results exactly as they are written. The information in this document is being provided to help you interpret your child's report.


The Maine Learning Results (MLRs)

1. The MLRs form the basis of instruction and learning.
2. They are made up of Strands, Standards, and Performance Expectations.
 - a. Strands are overarching subjects.
 - b. Standards describe what students should know and be able to do.
 - c. Standards span multiple grades.
 - d. Performance expectations describe what students should know and be able to do to achieve a standard at each grade level.

The Report Card

1. The report card is generated by a template in IC. We will continue to refine the report as the year progresses and more is learned about how IC functions.
2. **Scores**
 - a. The report card shows scores on the performance expectations that have been taught and assessed to some extent.
 - b. At this point in the year, a score on performance expectation tells us how a student has performed *up to this point*. There may still be work left to do on any given performance expectation.
 - c. Progress is scored on a scale from 1-4. The chart below provides information on how to interpret each of the four scores a student might receive on a standard.

| 1 | 2–2.5 | 3–3.5 | 4 |
|--|---|--|---|
| <i>The student isn't yet able to approach the learning at the expected pace and level.</i> | <i>The student is making adequate progress: gaining knowledge; developing comprehension; and practicing application of skills in familiar contexts, or in new contexts with assistance.</i> | <i>The student is achieving the standard: demonstrating the ability to think analytically about concepts from multiple angles; and independently applying knowledge and skills with success in new contexts.</i> | <i>The student is exceeding the achievement expectations: demonstrating exceptionally unique and inventive ways of thinking about and applying concepts and skills.</i> |
| <i>The student may benefit from further assessment of skills to determine instructional level.</i> | <i>With more instruction, and practice, the student is expected to develop the independence and skill required to achieve the standard.</i> | <i>The student will continue to succeed and grow with further practice with higher-order thinking processes and application.</i> | <i>The student will continue to grow with further opportunities to interact with the content at this level.</i> |



Lost and (not yet) Found

If any of these items look familiar, ask your child to pick it up from our Lost and Found!



Appreciation and Recognition

We would like to thank the many community partners who generously contributed to the Thanksgiving baskets. Many families were able to partake of the bounty.

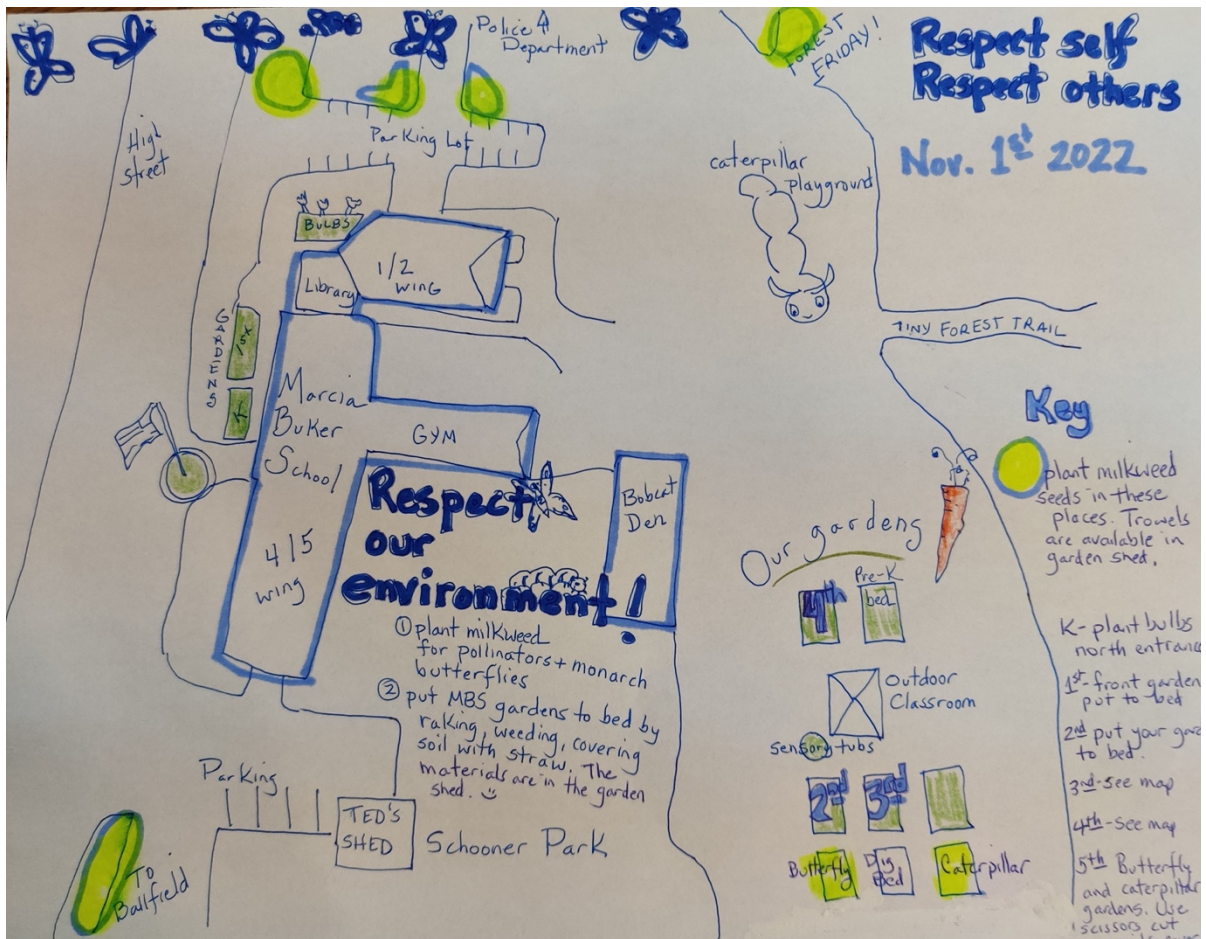


From the Marcia Buker Teachers: Thank you, PTG for the stunning potluck supper on conference night. The dishes were delicious, nourishing, and so appreciated!

Holiday Bazaar: Thanks also to all who have donated items for the bazaar, to be held on December 12th. We will gratefully accept donations of new or regiftable items (please, no clothing or stuffed toys) through December 9th.



🐾 Photo Gallery



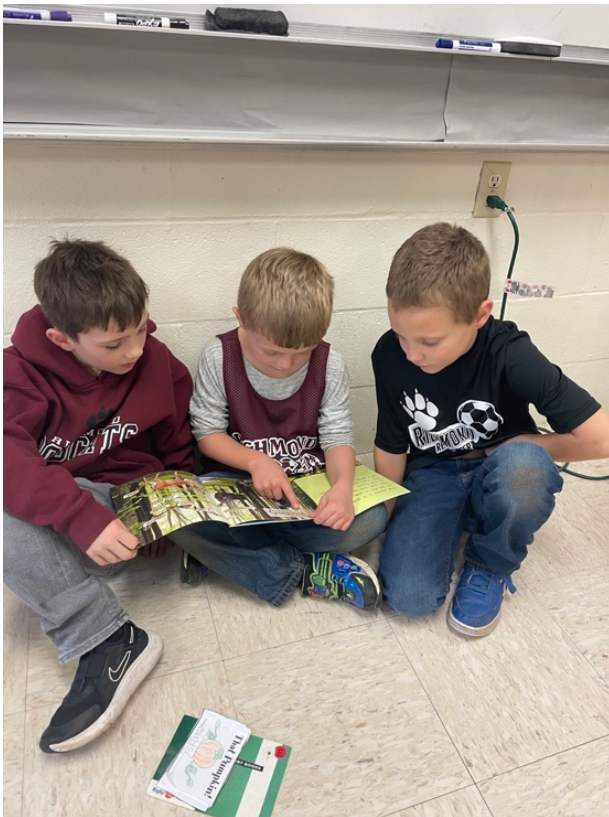
Wonderful map of our grounds to guide Day of Respect Activities ~ Created by Tina Wood

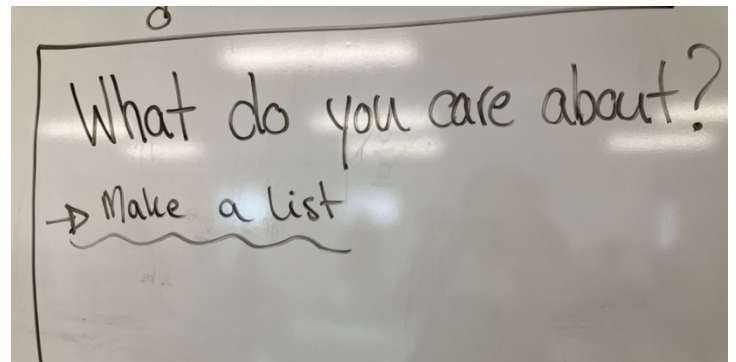


The gardens have been put to bed for the winter.

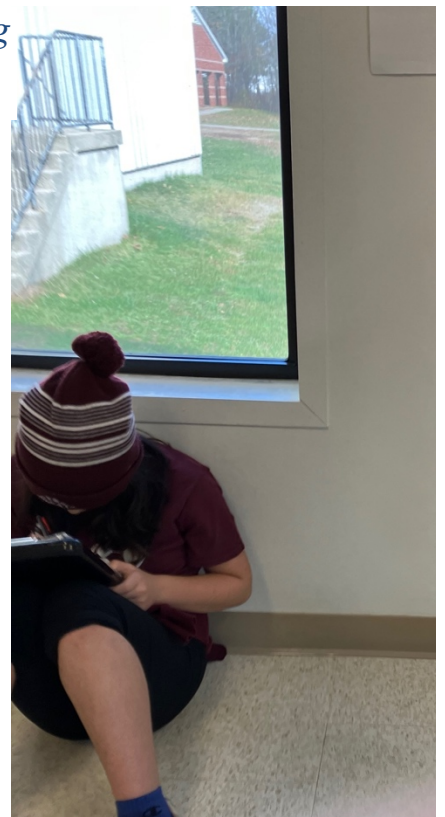


Reading Buddies on Day of Respect revived a pre-pandemic program that now occurs bi-weekly!

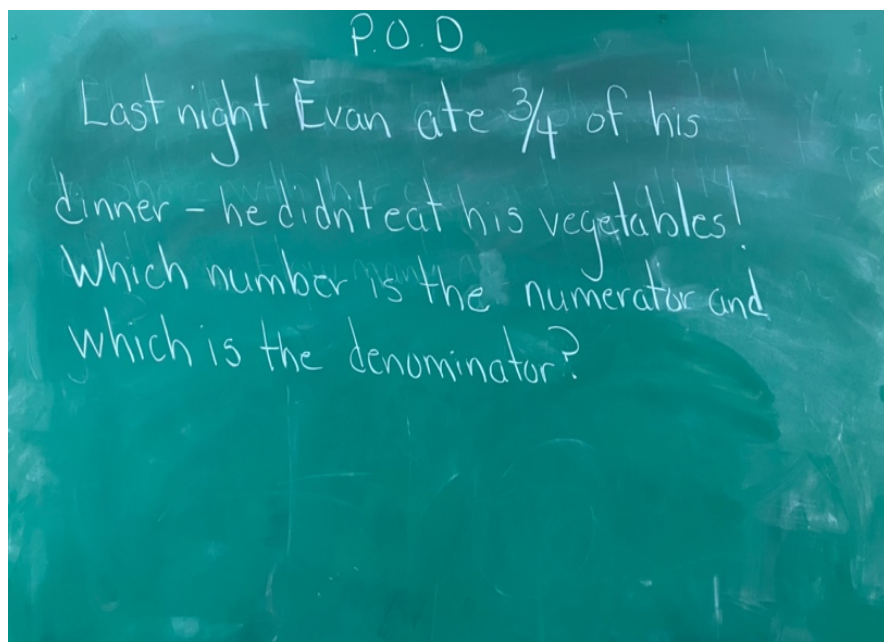




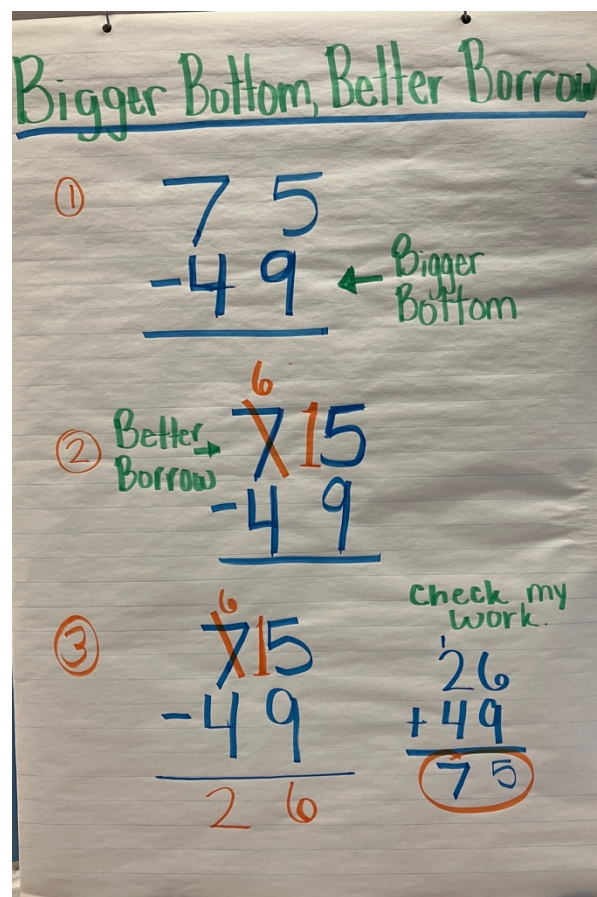
Telling Room Resident Writers kicking off this year's project.



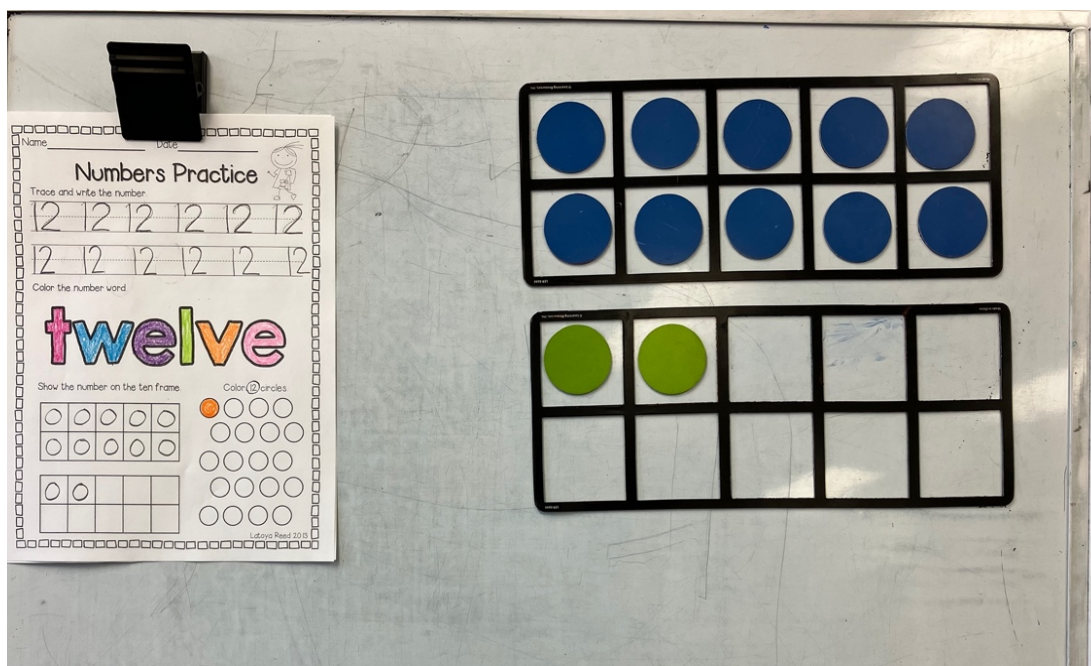
Mathematics, all in a day's work!



Mr. Kendrick's Grade 5 Math (and dietary) Problem of the Day



A memorable subtraction hint for fourth grade



Two-digit numbers in kindergarten



Thanks to the auxiliary Novak Grounds Crew who helped out Day of Respect. That's the crew leader there in the overalls.

Leaf jumping on Day of Respect

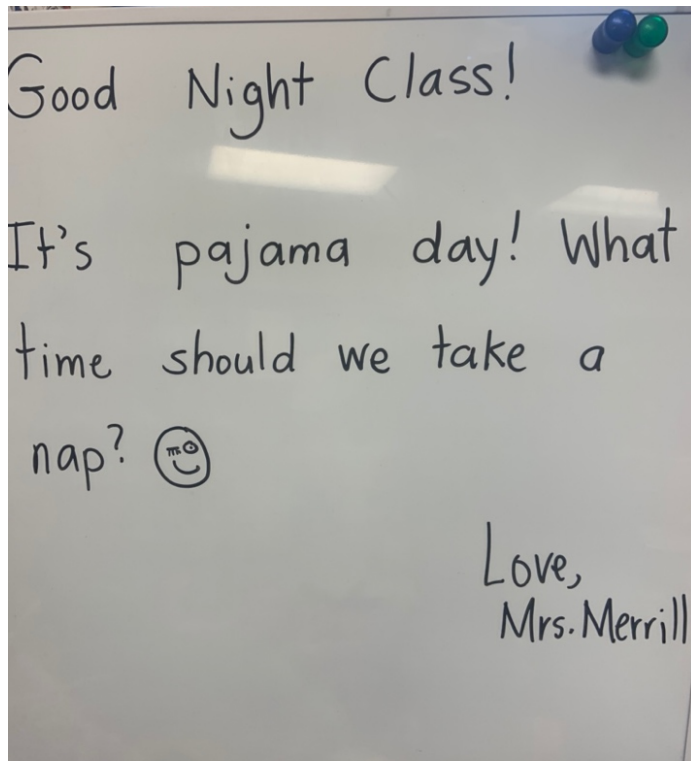
At Marcia Buker we believe in working hard and playing hard!

(Nice mid-air shot, Mrs. Cliffe!)





Assembling cheeseburgers to practice sequencing in PreK



It seems that First-Grade Teacher, Jen Merrill, made the most of PJ Day during spirit week!

