Bobcat Beat: April 2023

Principal's Message



Quinn MacFarland urges listeners to "Save the Turtles."

Dear Families and Friends,

Happy spring! As usual, March was a little "mad" around school, but it was a fun month, full of activity.

Highlights for the whole school were educational presentations from Chewonki and the Northern Stars Planetarium show. The month ended with the launch of the grades 4 and 5 book, *Maybe You Could Be the Hero.*

Right on cue for the end of March, the Chewonki folks recently sent us news that their spring lambs have arrived. You can watch the Chewonki youngsters on the <u>Lamb Cam!</u>

We are entering what is likely the busiest time of the year. The April calendar on the next page will help families keep track of all the goings-on.

Thanks to all who were able to come out for Family Reading Night and Parent Teacher Conferences. It means so much to our students when parents find ways to show interest in their child's education.

One great way to show your interest without ever leaving your home is to read the Bobcat Beat with your children! This month begins a change to a video slideshow photo gallery. I hope you enjoy reading and viewing with your families as much as we enjoyed creating the moments with our students.

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Mary Paine Principal, Marcia Buker ES 28 High Street

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April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						April Fools' Day
2	3	Special Town Meeting MBES, 6:00 PM	5	6 RSU 2 School Board @ RHS PTG Family Bingo Night 6:30 PM MBES	Grade 3 Parent Concert 1:15	8
9 Easter	10	11	12 PTG Meeting 6:30	13 K-1-2 Parent Concert 1:00	Teacher Comp Day; No School	15
6	Patriots Day Holiday	18 VACATION	19 WEEK	20	21	22 Earth Day Cobbossee Watershee Cleanup (Grade 4 and 5 Invited
23	24	25	26 Administrative Prof.Day	27	28	29
30		Dates to Remember: May 7th - Teacher and May 11 - Grade 4/5 School Concert May 12 - Grade 4/5 Parent Concert 1:00 May 14th - Mother's Day May 16th - Frogtown Puppets 1:00 "The Banana Kid"		If Support Staff Appreciation Week May 18th and 19th - Tooth Protectors Here May 19th - Early Release Day May 26th - Grade 5 Boston Trip and Day of Caring May 29th - Memorial Day Holiday		

MBES Student and Family Handbook 2022-23

Marcia Buker School Wish List— For anyone interested in donating goods to MBES (Purchase directly from Amazon or use list as reference. We often find better prices elsewhere.)

Community-School Partnerships

Parent Teacher Group (PTG)

Calendar Raffle: Be watching for information coming home with your child soon about ticket sales and purchases. This year will feature a friendly sales competition among our grade 3-5 classes. Sales will take place during the month of April, and drawings will take place throughout the month of May.

Family (Easter) Bingo Night at MBES is on Thursday, April 6 at 6:30!

April Super Snack Sponsor: Thanks to the Gardner Hannaford Supermarket for the generous donations of fresh fruits that students sampled on March 31st.

Thanks also to the staff and community volunteers who prepared the 200 sample plates!





Grade 4-5 Community Events

~ Grade 4 and 5 Team

The Telling Room Book Launch for the 4th and 5th Graders was on Thursday, March 30th. The students have worked very hard writing pieces for their book entitled *Maybe You Could Be the Hero*. The celebration included students reading poems, short stories, and letters to an audience of fans.

The 5th Grade Fundraiser for the trip to the Boston Museum of Science was very successful. Thank you to all who supported us by donating or purchasing items. With your help we met our goal and are very excited for this trip in May.

The Great Cobbossee Watershed Clean-Up, 2023: On Saturday, April 22, 4th and 5th grade students and their families are invited to join volunteer teachers to clean up Peacock Beach in Richmond. This event is part of The Great Cobbossee Watershed Clean-Up. It is not a school sponsored event, but several MBES teachers will be on site. The goal of the cleanup is to remove trash within the watershed to make the water and environment cleaner and safer. Last year, participants collected over 75 pounds of people-generated trash. On the 22nd, we will arrive at the beach at 10:00 am and clean until about 11:00 am. This is a great way for Marcia Buker Bobcats to celebrate Earth Day and respect the environment! We hope you can join us! GCW Clean-Up Flyer



Last Year's Clean-up crew

Grades 3, 4, and 5 April Vacation Opportunity

Cobbossee Spring Nature Day Camp: Link to information and registration form

In and Around the Garden

~Tina Wood, Title I tutor and outdoor educator

As our world wakes up to spring, we again begin to explore our gardens and the Tiny



Forest Trail for changes that spring brings to our little corner of the earth. On Friday, March 24th, the dynamic and engaging Program Director for Androscoggin Soil and Water Conservation, Emma Lorusso joined the 3rd and 4th grade Garden Keepers for an invigorating hike on MBES trails behind our gardens. What did we discover? Our forest and all life hidden and apparent.

Emma guided us in the discovery of conifers and deciduous trees. We found tiny mushrooms, shiny moss and felt our way among the beech, oak and white pine using all our senses. Could we identify a tree blindfolded? Why, yes we could! Thank you, Emma, for the engaging walk through the Tiny Forest Trails and teaching us about the wonder and beauty right at our feet!







Teaching and Learning in the Spotlight

~ Principal Paine

It takes a village (and the outdoors) to teach a child!

Last week, I was listening to an interview with a man who had formerly lived in another country. During a recent visit to his homeland, the man was saddened by the terrible pollution that he had seen. He described air too dirty to breath and palm trees with soot blackening every leave. My first response was the kind of distant shock one feels when hearing of something bad in a faraway place. But then I realized that any place, even "vacationland," can be ruined by pollution, from garbage, ground chemicals, air emissions, noise, light...

I am filled with gratitude for our growing community of outdoor education supporters—the parents, educators, and organizations who have made it possible to provide unique and exciting learning experiences for our students that teach them about the natural world and how to value clean air and water; bird song; native plants and pollinators; seeing the stars at night. This month, I would like to shine the spotlight on the contributors to outdoor learning, locally powered nutrition, awareness, and stewardship for our young scholars.

- Maine Agriculture in the Classroom--School Garden and Greenhouse Grant—\$1700.00
- Maine Healthy Communities 5210—Super Snack program—\$650.00
- Maine Environmental Education Association— Plant a Seed Day, recycling program, Super Snack program—\$1500
- Maine Environmental Education Association— \$1500
- Oakhurst Kindness Grant, Reduce and Recycle—\$500.00
- The Wild Seed Project donated 4 native plant species seeds to our Garden Keepers program to do winter planting and create native habitats for pollinators. While not a cash donation, it was a valuable contribution to our outdoor learning initiative.
- Tender Soles Farm
- Goranson Farm and Six River Farm—donated many pounds of vegetables for the March Super Snack.
- Androscoggin Valley Soil & Water Conservation District—providing cost-free, year-round outdoor education lessons
- Gardner Hannaford

- Tina Wood
- Lisa Wells
- Danielle Beck
- Deb Burke
- Taylor Burke
- Jessie Chalmers
- Haley Christie
- Ashley DeWever
- Elizabeth Ladner
- Emma Lorusso
- Katelyn Lavallee
- Sammi Jo MacFarland
- Vickie Merrill
- Elaina McDaniel
- Jennifer Merrill
- Mary Novak
- Kolleen O'Donnell
- Mary Paine
- RHS JMG
- Many community helpers during events

Team Spotlight

Meet our newest team members!



Ms Meadow, Tutor

Meadow Merrill joined the MBES team in January. In her role as tutor she provides academic and socialemotional supports to students in PreK-5. Meadow is a local writer and teacher who recently completed her M.Ed. in Literacy for Writing and the Teaching of Writing at the University of Maine at Orono. Blessed with six children, she and her husband Dana have deep connections to Richmond, where Dana's grandmother Josephine Merrill once cooked from-scratch meals for Marcia Buker students and later worked in the superintendent's office. Their home currently includes two Billy goats, eleven chickens, and a rescue pup named Fable, who will beg, sit up, lay down, shake hands, and high-five (sometimes all at the same time) for a piece of popcorn. Their youngest son, Ezra, is in fourth grade at Marcia Buker.

Shirley Humphrey, aka Miss Aggie, joined MBES in February as our new general education Ed Tech. Shirley most recently worked as a Faculty Liaison for the University of Maine System. For the past 16 years, Shirley has been a stay-home-mom, tutoring her two sons and volunteering at a local elementary school. She enjoys gardening and has fostered over 170 kittens for the Kennebec Valley Humane Society. She relishes time with her husband of almost 25 years and two sons, when they're home from college, chatting by campfires in their backyard and camping each year in Otis, Maine. Shirley tries to walk 2-3 miles, most days, in her woods. "Miss Aggie" is very appreciative of the warm welcome she has received from all here at MBES!



~ Miss "Aggie" Ed Tech III

Photo Gallery

Click to view the new video slideshow on YouTube!