

Viola Rand and Alton Elementary Schools

May 10, 2019 Report for the RSU34 School Board

Days and weeks are flying by. There are so many things to complete this school year and already the planning for next year is evolving.

- ◆ I believe that the Viola Rand and Alton Elementary schools will feel the least impact from the proposed change in bussing. For me, the greatest benefit goes back to where we started last year. With fewer buses transporting our students, we will require fewer drivers. The longer runs will give drivers more hours. This combination should enable us to have high quality drivers who treat our students well. They are the first school related adults students see in the morning and the last ones in the afternoon. It is important that those drivers represent us well in their care for students and the relationships they build with them. The cost savings of providing transportation on this schedule will shift to nice opportunities for children. The promise of a late bus for students who participate in after school activities will open up some interesting possibilities. A shift in the school day to earlier start and end times will help with how late staff meetings go when Alton and Bradley staff are combined, which we do a couple of times a month. We aren't able to gather until about 3:15, so meetings are sometimes pushing 5:00 when we finish. An earlier start to meetings will be welcome. I will likely be facing the fewest challenges with this change, and I believe there will be benefits for all students, so I am fully on board with it.
- ◆ Alton Elementary third and fourth grade students have been monitoring salmon eggs as they hatched and developed enough to be released into Hemlock Stream. They counted 154 fish to release from an original 200+. The government shut down impacted how they were cared for before we received them, so they were expected to have a high attrition rate. Ms. Fox's class did well!
- ◆ Ms. Fox, (now Mrs. Hermansen), had her students create a racetrack for which they would use magnetism to move the vehicles they were racing. Most groups used attraction from north and south magnetic poles. One group used repelling from two north magnets in a variation on the approach. They found that magnetism worked through their hand!
- ◆ Ms. Lees, Mrs. Wilcox and Mrs. Gasaway are all exploring life cycles with seasonally fun things! Butterflies, lady bugs, pollywogs are all growing and changing much to the delight of the students. They take daily notes, using magnifying glasses and a word wall to get their observations on paper. It is as fascinating to watch the students amazement as to watch the amazing force of nature!

Events

May 17

Acadia Rangers visit VRS

May 23

Dental Screenings AES & VRS

May 28

VRS Spring concert 6:00

May 29

RSU34 Annual Budget meeting

7:00 OTHS Cafeteria

May 31

AES K,1 Field Trip to Orono Bogwalk

June 6

AES Spring Concert 6:00

June 11

AES 4th grade Step up day to OTES

June 12

VRS 2nd grade Step up day to OTES

June 13

AES visit to Orono Commons to perform Concert songs

June 14

AES AM Field Day and Cookout

VRS Awards Assembly 1:30

June 17

AES/VRS Career Day at AES

June 18

AES Awards Assembly 10:30 AM

VRS Field Day

- Kindergarten and second grade have teamed up in Bradley to learn about how plants grow and thrive. They have planted seeds and are experimenting with growing conditions such as salt water, dark location v. sun lit location and the effect of love on plant growth. Kindergarten named their love plant Leo and have been taking him out to recess. One morning they spontaneously all settled down for a quiet reading time with Leo. Their teacher was quite impressed



- Every two months, at an assembly, we recognize students with perfect and outstanding (1 absence) attendance. We have had good numbers of kids being recognized in this way. At the end of the year those with perfect attendance all year will be recognized, but in doing these shorter windows, students have a chance for a certificate and pencil even if they had a sick spell earlier in the year. Here are students in Alto with their certificates.



Perfect attendance for March and April



Outstanding attendance for March and April