

Ella P. Burr School Newsletter

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School Website: <https://www.rsu67.org/o/ella-burr-school>



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2019-20 Concerts

Kindergarten: Feb. 6
First Grade: March 5
Second Grade: April 2
Third Grade: May 7

Snow dates are one
week later.

Principal's News

October is over and we are into November. The end of October into the beginning of January is a very busy time for all of us and it's important we continue to work together to help each other. Things start right off this week with parent/teacher conferences. If you have not scheduled a time to meet with your child's teacher, please call the school ASAP so you can get a time. If you are unable to meet this week, reach out to the teacher and they will do their best to find a date and time that will work for your family. Picture retakes are November 14, so if you would like your child's picture retaken or s/he missed the original date make sure the school knows your wishes. Finally, the end of the month is Thanksgiving Recess with school on break from the 27th through the 29th, then it's on to December, but let's get through November before we worry about that. Stop in to see me when you're here for conferences, I'd love to see you.

Mr. Loiselle

Attendance Matters

1. Good attendance helps children do well in school and eventually in the workplace. Good attendance matters for school success, starting as early as prekindergarten and throughout elementary school. By middle and high school, poor attendance is a leading indicator of dropout. Developing the habit of attendance prepares students for success on the job and in life.

2. Excused and unexcused absences easily add up to too much time lost in the classroom. • Students are at risk academically if they miss 10 percent of the school year or about 18 days. Once too many absences have occurred, they can affect learning, regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused. • Sporadic, not just consecutive, absences matter. Before you know it - just one or two days a month can add up to nearly 10 percent of the school year.

3. Chronic absence, missing 10 percent of the school year or more, does not just affect the students who miss school. If too many students are chronically absent, it slows down instruction for other students, who must wait while the teacher repeats material for absentee students. This makes it harder for students to learn and teachers to teach.

4. We need to monitor how many days each student misses school for any reason— excused, unexcused or suspensions— so we can intervene early. Districts and schools use data to identify how many and which students are chronically absent so they can target extra supports that can improve attendance and interrupt a pattern of chronic absence. Families should track how many days their children have missed so they are aware of when they should be concerned and take action. Absences represent lost opportunities to learn in the classroom.

Pre-K News Ms. Sherman and Ms. Tash

We are finishing our work in Unit 2 of our OWL curriculum, themed "Friends". We are continuing to learn how to be good friends, working on resolving conflicts, and helping one another. In a few weeks, we will be starting our new unit on Wind and Water. We will be exploring such topics as Evaporation, Weather, Temperatures, Rain and Snow. Through stories, we will be learning about rhymes and identifying letters and letter sounds. In mathematics, we will be working on basic geometric shapes, and counting accurately with one to one correspondence. We will also enjoy using tangrams to compose shapes.

Early K/Kindergarten News

Mrs. McCarthy, Miss. Crockett, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Olsen, and Mrs. Peters

We have had a busy month in Early K and Kindergarten! We began the month focusing on autumn and all of the fun that comes along with the changing of the season. We learned about the life cycles of apples and pumpkins, took a closer look inside of them while discussing their different parts and even got to make some yummy treats using them as the main ingredient. We celebrated Fire Safety week by having a visit from the Lincoln Fire Department and talked about all the important ways to stay safe if there ever was a fire. We also had a visit from Mrs. Morse's husband, "Professor Justin", as he talked to our learners about trees and leaves which we have been learning about in our new Science program. Last of all, we got to complete the closing of the month with the celebration of Red Ribbon Week and of course a little Halloween fun!

First-Grade News Mrs. Cuccinello, Mrs. Harper, and Miss Croce

First-grade has been busy wrapping up their small moment writing unit. Students have worked on this for a few months and are getting to be strong writers when writing about something that has happened in their lives. We will soon be moving on to information writing, starting with How-To books. Each classroom teacher has placed their students into guided reading groups. The students have been placed in a group depending on their reading level, comprehension, what reading strategies they are using and what strategies they need to use more of. The students have already made gains in their reading, it's amazing to see! First-grade has been working on place value during the math block. They will be moving into addition soon.

Second-Grade News Mrs. Hallett, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Gardner, and Mrs. Himes

It's been a busy month in Grade 2. Here's what's new! In Reading, we are learning about story settings and plot. In Writing, we are finishing up personal narratives. We're also working on beginning a sentence with a capital letter and ending a sentence with the correct punctuation. In Math, we're focusing on a big unit on place value and we're continuing fact fluency. In Social Studies we are beginning a unit on school and community leaders, as well as citizenship! We'll also be doing a fun Thanksgiving unit later in the month. Our parent/teacher conferences are the first week of November!

Third-Grade News Ms. Tolman, Mrs. Thornton, Mrs. Manzo, and Mrs. Brawn

October has gone by so fast and November is here already! Third-graders have been learning many new things. In ELA, we are reading Stone Fox and working on comprehension. We are continuing to work on personal narratives and learning how to punctuate dialogue. In Math, we have just finished our addition and subtraction unit and are beginning multiplication. In Science, we are continuing to learn a lot about habitats and how animals depend on other animals and plants for food and shelter. We look forward to seeing you at parent/teacher conferences this week.

Morning Math Club Mrs. Gulesian

For October, we have had an average of 30 third graders for morning math each day. Overall they are improving with word problems. They also participate in a variety of activities to reinforce Math Facts.

Building Reading Skills Mrs. Crane, Ms. Murchison, and Mrs. Eyles

Here are some ways to help build readers at home:

For Beginning Readers:

- Point out and read words in natural settings - stores, streets, etc.
- Memorize sight words
- Ask questions before, during, and after reading
- Don't immediately tell an unknown word to your child. Instead, ask them to get their mouth ready for the first sound and think about what would make sense, break the word into parts, find a known part, and use the picture for clues
- Make the reading sound smooth, like talking

For Advanced Readers:

- Notice interesting, new vocabulary words and make it a challenge to use them in conversation
- Read with expression
- Explore non-fiction books and their text features (diagrams, table of contents, etc.) along with other genres as well
- Compare and contrast books
- Make connections ("This makes me think of...")

Explore multiple books from the same author

Physical Education/Health Mr. Lindsay

PE class has seen some fun times in October and November is gearing up to be more fun in the gym! We have been mixing TAG games with some foundational skill-building to give students a variety of skills to work on. I have been introducing Disc Games and Disc golf along with a couple of invasion tag games to end the month. As November progresses we are looking at some colder temperatures, so please try to remember to send in shoes on those cold days your child comes in with boots.

From the Clinic Mrs. McIntyre

We are now entering flu season, and with that means illness. I want to remind parents that if your learner has been ill and is running a fever, please keep them home. Anything 100.0 degrees or higher is considered a temperature in the school setting. I ask that if they are ill, you keep them home until they are 24 hours fever free without a fever reducer (such as Tylenol or Motrin). I also want to remind parents that if your child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease, such as strep throat, please call into the school and let us know. And last but not least, let's talk about lice. Lice are teeny tiny little bugs that feed off the scalp of their host. Some helpful hints are to wash your learner's hair every other day, use products like dry shampoo to "clean" their hair on days you don't wash it and use products that contain tea tree oil. If you do find that your learner has lice, please call and let me know. I also want to add that RSU No. 67 has a no live lice policy, meaning that if your child has live lice, they are not allowed to be in school. On the other hand, if they have nits (the eggs the adult lice lay), they are allowed to stay. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me. We do monitor cases and do classroom checks if warranted. Here is a link with some more information regarding lice; <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>.

Picture retakes will be November 14.



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**Empowering
Learners, Today
and Tomorrow.**

*“A child without
education is like a
bird without
wings.”*

Tibetan Proverb

Art and Music Mrs. York

We're busy plugging away at color and all the different things we can do with it in Art class. From rainbow order to color mixing, to warm and cool. We're covering it all.

Music classes have been visited by the “Rhythm Fairy” and are starting to learn to read rhythms and recognize quarter notes eighth notes and rests.

Family Support Mrs. Turner

The cold weather will be here before we know it and that is a great time to remind you of our Ella P. Burr Fuel Fund. Students and staff can wear hats and/or sunglasses every Friday and donate 50 cents towards the fuel fund for doing so. We will change it up a bit soon to include a pajama day! Ella P. Burr families can call the school to ask for help heating their homes this winter. We can't do a lot but we can certainly do our best!

The food pantry had 63 students originally signed up at the beginning of the year. The request was for the bags to be returned so they could get filled again. The bags are orange from Machias Bank and we had some blue ones from Bangor Savings. We are not getting the bags returned and are not filling 63 bags each week. We have the food, we just need the bags to fill them.

In guidance throughout the school, I am teaching the students Zones of Regulation, a program written by Leah Kuypers. This helps the students tune in to their bodies and emotions. We are learning strategies to regulate our emotions including taking a pizza breath, magic mustache, quiet lap, and self-hug. These are all strategies students can do at any time and anywhere. To be honest, I find myself using some of these strategies too! Never too old to learn you know!

Meet Our New Library Media Specialist—Mrs. Pelletier

Mrs. Pelletier has a degree in Early Childhood Education and began working for RSU 67 in 2004, in the special education department. During her employment, she worked as a 1:1, resource room and community integration educational technician at MJHS and MA, and in 2011 she was transferred to the Superintendent's office as the District IEP Coordinator. She also holds a second job as a Residential Life Supervisor for Lee Academy. After being transferred to the Superintendent's office she missed her true love of working directly with children and has been waiting for the right time and opportunity to present itself so she could return to a position that allowed her to do what she loves. When the Library/Media position at EPB was posted this summer, she applied and was fortunate to have been selected to fill the position. She is very excited to be working directly with children again and the exceptional staff at EPB. Currently, she lives with her husband of 27 years and her yellow lab. She also has two adult children, a son and a daughter whom she loves spending time with. She loves the beach and lake life, especially at her favorite place of all, Silver Lake.