

# Viola Rand and Alton Elementary Schools

November 15, 2019 Report for the RSU34 School Board

## Halloween Fun and Telescope Night

On the evening of Friday, October 25, the school in Alton was packed with students and their families! A couple of parents worked with me to come up with some seasonal activities for kids and their families to enjoy at the school. To make things even better, High school STEM Leaders came to provide an opportunity for our families to use the telescopes. Unfortunately, it was a cloudy night, but these students had ideas for using lights to help our kids see something! They were great representatives of OTHS! Inside, kids decorated small pumpkins, searched for bones in a (fake) leaf filled pool, bowled, pinned the face on the pumpkin, felt creepy, ghoulish "body parts" hidden in boxes, and the apparent favorite –eating doughnuts off a string! There were lots of refreshments and it was a fun time for families to come together at the school.

One of my goals this year is to increase the sense of community. This was a great start! The next parent group meeting after this had a lot of new faces and we continued making plans for future events. Exciting!

## Events

### November 18 & 19

VRS Pre-k Parent conferences 3:00—6:00 PM

### November 20

Elementary Ad Hoc meeting @ OTES ~7:30 PM

### November 22

Report cards go home

### December 2

VRS Winter Concert @ OTES 6:00 PM

### December 4

VRS parent group meeting 6:00 PM

### December 5

AES Winter Concert and Scholastic Book Fair 6 PM

### December 9

Elementary Ad Hoc meeting @ VRS 6:30 PM

### December 10

AES parent group meeting

### December 19

AES Family Holiday evening

### December 16—20

Holiday Theme Week

### December 23—January 1

Christmas Vacation

## Theme Week December 16 - 20

*Monday—Plaid Day*

*Tuesday—Red & Green Day*

*Wednesday—Festive or Fun Sweater Day*

*Thursday—Glitter & Sparkle Day*

## **A Tribute to our Heroes" Day at Viola Rand School**

Viola Rand School students honored Veteran's on November 7th with an afternoon assembly and refreshments. Community veteran's were invited to the assembly for which students had prepared a song and cards. First grade students made centerpieces with Mrs. Bosse as favors for the guests. We have done this for several years now and it is fun to see the veteran's come back each year and to have parents of our students be honored as well. This year, we were able to hear from Captain Paul Dumont about the trip he made to Washington DC with the Maine Honor Flight for veterans. He was further honored there by being asked to hang a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier! Jef Hamlin has helped him to create a power point documentary about his life while he was in the military. He does the voice over of the slides himself. It is a fascinating video that we played during the refreshments part of the afternoon. Each of the other honored guests told a bit about themselves also. The students are too young to understand the significance of the different wars, but it was interesting for the adults to hear about! One of my favorite parts of the afternoon was when the students lined the hallway with waving flags and said thank you as the veterans passed through. This has become a nice tradition!

## **Dental Hygienist Visit**

The schools in Alton and Bradley have been involved in a fluoride program for many years. Most, if not all, residents in these towns have well water, so they do not have fluoride in their drinking water like what is in city water. The program used to be called 'Swish' and once a week kids would have a small container of flavored liquid fluoride to swirl around their teeth. A couple of years ago, it changed to a process where the school nurses painted on fluoride and did a general oral screening. Beginning last spring, the state has provided a dental hygienist who visits each rural school in the program and does a more thorough screening and fluoride application. This dental hygienist saw students at Alton Elementary and Viola Rand schools the first week of November. It has been a good way to help children get dental care earlier than they might otherwise. The school nurses follow up on the referrals for dental care which result from these screenings.

## **Playground Equipment for AES**

Parents in Alton have been fundraising for a number of years now in the interest of updating the playground, which is original to the school's construction in 1991. With the help of a grant and use of some of the funds the school brought with it when we entered the RSU, we were able to order a new set of equipment. We are now looking at a spring installation. This choice was made with an eye toward building students' strength and coordination. There are a few add on pieces that we may work to add at a later date, but this will be a face lift as well as a boost to student fitness on that playground. The colors will be sky blue, blue and metallic. It is a pretty spiffy looking set!



