

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

The first trimester ended in November and report cards come home on December 6. That means we are one-third of the way through the school year, where does the time go?! As we move into the winter months there are several things I want to remind you about. On days when there is a two-hour delay, the morning is pushed back two hours. That means bus runs are delayed two hours, the doors open at 9:00 and the school day begins at 9:45, nothing else changes. Also with the winter months comes the need for outdoor attire. Please send your children in with a winter hat, mittens/gloves, boots, jacket, and snow pants (if they plan on playing in the snow). We have some mittens/gloves, but hats will not be shared due to the possibility of lice. We go out for recess if the feels like temperature is 10 degrees or higher and if students are well enough to attend school, they are well enough to go outside for the twenty-minute recess. Have a wonderful holiday season and enjoy the winter break, which begins December 23.

Mr. Loiselle

Attendance Matters

This is a continuation of a list of reasons attendance is important to all of us.

5. Chronic absence is a problem we can solve when the whole community, along with parents and schools, get involved in improving attendance. All of us can make a difference by helping students and families feel engaged in learning and their schools, setting the expectation that school attendance matters and working together to identify and help families overcome barriers to getting to school. Community partners are especially important for helping schools and families.

6. Relationship building is fundamental to any strategy for improving student attendance. Students are more likely to go to school if they know someone cares whether they show up. Trusting relationships - whether with teachers, mentors, coaches or other caring adults - are critical to encouraging families and students to seek out help to overcome barriers to attendance.

7. Reducing chronic absence can help close achievement gaps. Chronic absence especially affects achievement for low-income students who depend more on school for opportunities to learn. Because they are more likely to face systemic barriers to getting to school, low-income children, have higher levels of chronic absence starting as early as prekindergarten. Chronic absence data can be used to trigger interventions so high-risk student populations receive the supports they need, ideally before they fall behind academically.

Pre-K News Ms. Sherman and Ms. Tash

Our Pre-K students have finished “shopping” in our grocery store. We learned about classifying healthy foods, using cash registers, making decisions, using social skills, comparing prices, (math), and re-stocking store shelves. Nutrition continues to be a focus in our program. We are learning to accept and try new foods through our school-wide fruit/veggie tasting, and by beginning our lessons with our new SNAP-ED (nutrition) teacher, Miss Deb. To supplement the book, *Hooray, a Pinata!*, by Lisa Kleven, children also designed our classroom piñatas soon to be filled with treats. The staff has been trained in phonemic awareness so we will be playing with sounds within words. We look forward to our next unit on Wind and Water.

Early K/Kindergarten News

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

The month of November zipped by for EK & Kindergarten. We started the month off by learning about Veterans Day. Many of the classrooms made placemats for Region 3 who sponsored a Veterans Day Breakfast. We then moved on to Thanksgiving. We learned about the life of a Pilgrim and we did a great deal of comparing what they had vs. what we have today. Most agreed we have a much easier life today. The highlight of the month was our annual Thanksgiving Feast. Classrooms talked about sharing a meal with family and friends. Each room took on different aspects of the meal. Turkeys were cooked and over 200 people came to enjoy our feast. To show our students understood the concept of giving, several students brought in extra cans of food to donate to our school backpack program. Certainly warms the heart.

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

I don't know about any other grade but time sure flew by in first grade during November!! First graders were busy learning about life during the first thanksgiving and how it compared to our life now. The students were able to discover the kinds of toys pilgrim kids played with and what kinds of chores they had. It was eye-opening for the boys and girls to see this. There was also a lot of conversation about growing all of their food and making all of their food. The students learned that there were no grocery stores to go to. From this conversation came the idea of making our own applesauce. It was a long process and hard work but the students did it! We all agreed that it tasted better than the store-bought applesauce.

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

We have been hard at work here in 2nd Grade. Here is what we are learning during December. In Reading, we will finish up Plot, and move on to Problem/Solution soon. In Writing, we will work on a silly Christmas story! In Math, we are working on place value and will be moving onto odd and even numbers and money. In Social Studies we'll take a look at holiday traditions around the world. We are also doing a service-learning project called "Pennies From Angels"...send in any loose change you can find to donate to a great cause. We will collect money until Dec. 13th, roll the coins, and go SHOPPING for toys at Walmart for families from the surrounding community in need of assistance this holiday season. Please watch for the permission slip to ride to Walmart on Dec. 19th in a few weeks. We hope you have a wonderful holiday break!

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

November flew right by and it's December already! Third graders will begin their unit on informational writing, as well as finishing verb tenses. In Science, we will be finishing up our habitats unit with projects and oral presentations before December break. In Math, we will continue working on basic multiplication and division facts. We will also start to work on multiplication of three and four-digit numbers by a one-digit number. We'll send home more information about any December activities if we need to. Have a restful December break!

Morning Math Club Mrs. Gulesian

Morning math for third graders is going well. We are averaging about 26 learners each day. They are improving on the one-word problems required to do each morning. Also required is one problem from their daily journal. Then their time is spent on math games/activities. One activity a lot are choosing is GumBall Subtraction Facts. When the 12 levels are completed, students will earn a small prize.

Sight Words Mrs. Crane, Ms. Murchison, and Mrs. Eyles

Sight words are words that do not fit standard phonetic patterns and must be memorized. High-frequency words are words that readers will encounter regularly in text. These words appear in print about 50% of the time. We want our students to be able to read them without hesitation because it improves their reading fluency. Improved fluency can mean improved comprehension-our ultimate goal. Your child's teacher can provide you with the list of words that your child is expected to read and write. Practicing at home can make a big difference.

Physical Education/Health Mr. Lindsay

We are continuing to explore the gym and learn new ways to move through different games and activities. We just finished up learning to use lollipop paddles, to control a ball which is the first step in learning to play games like tennis, badminton, and pickleball. As we get colder weather please remember to send in shoes with your student on PE days.

Pet Supply Drive

A unique holiday tradition at Ella P. Burr is our December pet supply drive. Each year, super-volunteer Genia Dill organizes and sets up a table by the upper entrance for pet supplies. During the week of December 16-20, we will be collecting blankets, pet food, litter, or any other pet supplies, and on the afternoon of the 20th Mr. Washburn will deliver all the donations to the animal shelter here in Lincoln. Thanks, in advance, for your support.

Art and Music Mrs. York

Music in December will consist of taking our blue Jello rhythms to another level. Next, we will be playing them along with reading them out loud. Two things at once! We will also take time to appreciate storytelling through parts of the Nutcracker Ballet.

Art class just finished a 100 Color challenge where learners could mix colors as they wished and "invent" new colors! Coming up will be blending for value changes and the result, fingers crossed, will be a lovely scene with a moon.

From the Clinic Mrs. McIntyer

Parents, we have seen quite a few cases of pink eye here at school. If your child is complaining of itchy eyes, if they have drainage or if there is yellow/green "goop" keeping their eyes closed when they wake up, please get them seen to make sure it isn't pink eye. Remind your child not to touch their eyes, and practice good hand hygiene. If your child does get diagnosed with pink eye (conjunctivitis) please let us know here at school. Speaking of good hand hygiene, flu season is upon us and while we haven't seen any confirmed cases of influenza, we still want to be practicing good hand washing, covering our sneezes/coughs, staying home when ill, and not giving medicine before school because they don't want to miss out. I understand that some illnesses don't present until the middle of the school day, and those are instances we can't control, but if you know your child has been ill the night before, or even the morning of, we ask that they stay home. And on my last note, I would just like to remind parents that students are not allowed to bring in medication, or bring it home on the bus. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me during school hours.



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**Empowering
Learners, Today
and Tomorrow.**

Family Support Mrs. Turner

School Snack and Food Pantry: Just a reminder that we offer a School Snack and Food Pantry. Students are offered snacks for the week and some food is sent home on Thursdays and milk and juice are sent home on Fridays (check their backpacks please). You may sign up anytime, just call and a quick easy paper will be sent home-pretty easy!

Community Support: Our local Machias Bank surprised us and honored us with a \$1000.00 check for our Food Pantry. This will such a huge help. Walmart generously offers its recyclable bottles and cans to help support the snack part of the program. The Historical Society also sends in snacks. Machias Bank and Bangor Savings have both donated bags for the Food Pantry Program. We are so very grateful for the support of our community.

Ella P. Burr Fuel Fund: Please remember to support our EPB Fuel Fund. Every Friday staff and children donate fifty cents that allows them to wear a hat or sunglasses or \$1.00 for both! This kind gesture helps others to heat their homes during the cold winter months ahead. This helps all of us feel warm inside!

Toys for Tots Forms: I have Toy for Tots forms if anyone needs one, please call or send me a note. I will be glad to make copies. We are not responsible for this program, just trying to help share the information.

Kindness Celebration: On Friday, Dec 6 we will have our first Kindness Celebration. As a school, we strive to be safe, respectful, responsible and above all kind. Each classroom has a pail that says "We Are a Bucket-Filling Classroom." This is based on the book, "Have You Filled a Bucket Today" by Carol McCloud. Children and staff fill the bucket with a coupon when they show kind, safe, respectful and responsible behavior. When the classroom pail gets full it is put into a larger school-wide bucket in the gym. When that is full we have our celebration.

The celebration includes meeting in the gym to celebrate together. The amazing Mr. Manzo who shares a wonderful DJ experience that is full of amazing music, reminders of kindness and respect, and lots of moving around!! He is such a gift to us and the kids LOVE HIM! We also have board games, climbing wall, Legos, etc. The students are celebrated for their efforts in making our school a fun place to grow and learn together!

*"A child without
education is like a
bird without
wings."*

Tibetan Proverb

Guidance lessons are going well and this month we learned more about regulating our emotions as well as using our manners to show respect to others. We are also learning that not everyone feels the same about the same situation and that is just fine. We are also learning how to notice how others might be feeling. This allows us to develop the lifelong skill of having empathy for others.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with those you love and adore! Thank you for being a part of our Ella P. Burr Community and for all the support you have shown us!

***From the Ella P. Burr family to yours, May your days be filled
with love, joy, and peace this holiday season and in the new
year.***