

Ella P. Burr School Newsletter

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



Principal's News

Where did February go?! March is here and the second trimester comes to a close on Friday, which means the school year is two-thirds over. So many great lessons and events have happened so far and we have several more coming up this month. The annual Literacy/Math night is on March 24, the Scholastic Book Fair runs the week of March 23, and our third-graders will be taking the Maine Educational Assessment. While we have had much to celebrate, there's so many lessons, more learning and fun to go. Here's hoping for a great third trimester and the spring season.

Mr. Loiselle

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Important Reminders

Please help keep our school a safe place for all by reviewing these important reminders.

- Students who are experiencing a fever should not be sent to school until they are fever-free for 24 hours **without the use of fever-reducing medications**. If your child is vomiting, they must be vomit-free for 24 hours before returning to school. This will assist us in preventing the spread of germs during the flu season. The Clinic will be rechecking students who have returned to school after an illness.
- When dropping your child off in the morning, please do not drop them off before 7 am (7:15 am is the preferred time). The staff does not arrive until that time, and those who are at school at that time are preparing for the day's lessons.
- If you choose to park and walk your child in to school, please park beside the building and avoid the front parking lot. The front lot is for staff and (staff is not permitted to park along the side of the

Maine Author, Tim Caverly, and Illustrator, Frank Manzo Visit EPB

Tim Caverly and Frank Manzo visited our classes on February 28 and March 1 to inspire reading and encourage learning about Maine's natural world. Thanks to the following sponsors, every student will be taking home one of their books. What a great community we live in!

- Dr. Libby
- Dr. Thibodeau
- Knights of Columbus
- Mr. and Mrs. Leo Loiselle
- Lincoln Federal Credit Union
- Tim Caverly and Frank Manzo

2019-20 Concerts

Kindergarten: Feb. 13
First Grade: March 5
Second Grade: April 2
Third Grade: May 7

Snow dates are one week later.

Pre-K News Ms. Sherman and Ms. Tash

On Monday, March 2nd, we are beginning our OWL unit entitled “Shadows and Reflections”. Children observe, experiment, and read books to learn what makes a shadow and a reflection. Children hear stories about a girl playing by a still pond, a puppy who thinks he’s a kitten, a crocodile collecting reflections in a pail, a sleepy boy who sees a shadow save a cat, and a raccoon who has an adventure with only his reflection for company. The children make shadow puppets and put on an informal show using the lit-up screen. They continue to learn about letters and sounds, and counting concrete objects. They also participate in many other mathematics, science, music, poetry and art activities related to this theme. We are planning two field trips for late April and early May. We will visit greenhouses and the fish hatchery in Enfield, so if you would like to go, please make sure that your paperwork for volunteering is approved at the main office. Join us in watching for signs of spring!

Early K/Kindergarten News

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

In Early K dramatic play has switched from a vet hospital to a dentist office. They have enjoyed learning how to keep their teeth and gums healthy. Learners are looking forward to the Dr. Seussical experience. We have many fun and exciting learning activities planned around Dr. Seuss's Birthday on March 2nd.

This is an exciting month for kindergarten! We will kick off March by Celebrating Read Across America week with some fun Dr. Seuss activities, including a delicious breakfast of Green eggs and ham. We also will begin our service-learning project “Quarters for Eagles” as mama Eagle has laid her first egg, check out this magnificent family at <https://www.decoraheaglecamalerts.com> Other March units will include learning about coins, addition and subtraction, weather, and strengthening writing and reading skills during writer’s workshop and small reading groups. And of course don’t forget to wear green on March 17th, while we celebrate St. Patrick's Day and look for some lucky leprechauns!

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

Wow, I can’t believe we are 2/3 of the way through the school year! First grade has been plugging away at learning their sight words! Many have even learned how to read and spell all 50 of them! They will continue to work on them every day to get as fluent as they can at them. First grade has been learning some songs for their concert on March 5th. They can’t wait to preform for all their family and friends!

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

Finally, the end of Winter is in sight! Here's what 2nd-grade learners have been up to. In Reading, we're continuing to learn about non-fiction books and text features. We're finding that you don't have to read a non-fiction book cover to cover! Sometimes, you just need to read one section or flip through to find what you're looking for. In Writing, we're making some pretty cool animal research booklets...stay tuned to see the final product. We will be sharing these books with another class! We were excited to spend some time in February with Maine author, Tim Caverly and his illustrator, Frank Manzo! They showed us an amazing slideshow of an adventure through the North Maine Woods into the Allagash Wilderness Waterway...which led to some amazing books. We learned about the writing process. It was a wonderful visit! In Science, we're moving on to Forces and Motion. In Math, we're working on multi-digit addition and subtraction. Welcome, March!

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

Third graders have been getting back into the routine after February vacation. We have continued to work on informational texts in Reading, as well as writing their own informational pieces. In Science, we are still working on our FOSS Motion and Matter. The learners are enjoying the experiments that go along with this unit. We have begun graphing in Math and will be starting measurement soon. We will also start MEA testing by the end of the month. We will be sending out more information about testing days, as we get closer to that time. Pop tabs have been piling up! Thanks so much for your support of this project!

Morning Math Club Mrs. Gulesian and Mrs. Gordon

Early morning Math Club continues to have close to 30 learners every day. We are working on word problems and have added division into the mix. They also have a new bulletin board that they are trying to fill up. This activity consists of hot chocolate and marshmallows. Each cup of hot chocolate (paper) has so many marshmallows (cotton balls). They have to color a certain fraction of the marshmallows. The learners continue to work hard but at the same time are having fun.

National Reading Month Mrs. Crane, Ms. Murchison, and Mrs. Harper

March is National Reading Month, a month aimed at motivating people of all ages to read while having a bit of fun in the process. We encourage you to celebrate National Reading Month by spending some time reading with your child.

Most parents recognize the importance of reading aloud to young children. It helps them develop spoken language, recognize letters and words, and get ready for kindergarten. Here are 6 great reasons to continue reading to older children even after they can read on their own:

- It builds vocabulary.
- It improves comprehension.
- It improves listening skills.
- It helps with discussing difficult issues.
- It's a wonderful way to bond with your child.
- It creates a lifelong interest in reading.

Physical Education/Health Mr. Lindsay

The time has come!! We will be getting the snowshoes out once again next week and learning how to put them on and take them off. The week after, we will be going outside and snowshoeing along the walking trail behind the school. Students will need to be in full winter gear to go outside. I know the weather is warming up, but I would rather them be a little warm as opposed to a little cold. Let's keep our fingers crossed that the weather cooperates!!!

Art and Music Mrs. York

Kindergarten managed to have their lovely concert despite the weather trying to keep us at bay. Next up is Grade One on March 5 at 1 pm. When not practicing for a concert, learners are exploring and listening to the instruments of the orchestra. Soon they will get the opportunity to touch and even play a small selection in a "petting zoo".

Art is almost done with the Elements of Art (line, shape color for example) and will soon be diving into the Principles of Design (pattern, contrast symmetry for example).

Family Support Mrs. Turner



Ella P. Burr Elementary
23 Ella P. Burr St.
Lincoln, ME 04457

Phone:
(207) 794-3014

Fax:
(207) 794-2602

E-mail:
ploiselle@rsu67.org

Empowering
Learners, Today
and Tomorrow.

Kindness Celebration - The students and staff continue to take Mr. Loisel's challenge seriously! We will have our Kindness Celebration NEXT FRIDAY, March 6! Mr. Manzo will come in to be our DJ! He is AMAZING and the kids and staff LOVE HIM! The Kindness Celebration reminds all of us the importance of demonstration behaviors of safety, respect, responsibility and above all KINDNESS! The staff and students are very excited to see Mr. Loisel get his head shaved in front of the entire school before April vacation! The challenge remains to fill the bucket one more time! I know we can do it!

EPB Backpack Program - Just a reminder that you are more than welcome to sign up for our Backpack Program at any time, just send in a note or call the school.

EPB Fuel Fund - We continue to raise money for our EPB Fuel Fund by wearing hats and/or sunglasses on Fridays. We bring in 50 cents for each item. If you need of fuel, pellets, kerosene, wood, etc. to heat your home, please feel free to call any time and we will do our best to help you out. We want to keep each other warm all winter long!

Dr. Suess Week - March March 2-6. In honor of Dr. Suess's birthday, we will wear wacky clothes every day. A paper will be sent home to explain in greater detail the daily attire! It is just a fun way to celebrate such a wonderful author!

Guidance - This week in guidance in some classes we spent a long time talking about safety and our responsibilities to ourselves and others. In other classes, we talked about accidents that happen at school and the importance of not assuming incidents are done on purpose. We also talked about our reactions when someone apologizes to us after an accident like a push for example. I talked to the students about not saying "It's okay." I want them to show more self-respect and say something like, "Thank you for letting me know it was an accident" or "I accept your apology" or "Accidents happen, I understand." This may sound petty, but I do feel it is important to learn to show self-respect even at a young age.

I also spoke about the importance of admitting when they have accidentally hurt someone and taking responsibility by saying what they did and not just "I'm sorry." We also talked about making amends and trying to help the person we hurt. Please feel free to call me at any time with any questions or concerns you may have.

Exciting Events!

Some exciting events happening between now and the end of the school year. Please add them to your calendar.

- Scholastic Book Fair: March 23-27
- Literacy/Math Night: March 24
- Children's Stage Adventures is returning and working with our students for the production of *The Princess and the Pea* during the week of June 1 - 5 and the public performance will be the evening of June 5.

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

Tibetan Proverb

***A word of encouragement during a failure is worth more than
an hour of praise after success.***