



## Principal's Message The Origin of Meanness

*Twice this week the staff and I have intervened in situations that reflected individuals making clear choices to be mean to classmates. Interestingly, when questioning the individuals choosing mean behaviors, the students couldn't fully explain the choice that they made. It made me think: What is the origin of meanness? What motivates a student to choose a behavior that is clearly harmful to another individual, especially when there is no apparent precipitating event? Is mean behavior ever an accident or is it always deliberate? I have been in education for over four decades and I still have not arrived at a definitive answer to those questions. I have created theories reflecting some individuals having low self-esteem, extreme self-centeredness and an inability to generate empathy. There are times when those theories do apply to circumstances we encounter, but the theories do not always apply. What I can tell you is that when meanness is displayed from one student to another there is always harm. There is obvious harm to the individual who is the target of the meanness but, I believe, there is also an element of harm to the individual making that choice to be mean, creating a negative thought process that does not enhance the individual's status or self-worth.*

*I would challenge all parents to discuss with their children the concept of meanness; What they see in their school lives that reflects mean choices and why they think some students make the choice to be mean. I'd love to hear what comes from those conversations.*

**Office:** Please remember to send your child to school with a note if they are going to a different destination on the bus after school. It helps to avoid last-minute phone calls to the school, which can make dismissal very chaotic. We appreciate the advance notice and thank you for not calling with these changes after 2:00 p.m.

## **\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\*\*\***

### School Calendar Change

March 20, 2020 will be a Student School Day in RSU 12. The RSU 12 Board of Directors will be deciding at the March 12th Board meeting to make March 20th a student day instead of a Teacher Workshop Day. This is due to the excessive amount of storm days we have had this year. We want all RSU 12 families to be notified of this likely decision, so that you can make plans for your student to attend school on March 20th.

**Food Pantry:** Our pantry is looking beautiful thanks to all the donations!!

**Health:** PLEASE if your child is sick with fever, cough, and sore throat keep them home! Remember good handwashing is the BEST way to prevent the spread of illness.

### Grades Pre K- 2

**Pre K:** Pre K has been busy, busy, busy this week! We are still exploring our colors and working on AB & ABC patterns. We also had read with me with Ms. Maria and the children brought home the book “Sugar White Snow and Evergreen” Please be sure that children have a spare set of clothes because the playground is pretty wet!

**Beck:** The K Krew has been working again this week on Estimation. We have estimated legos, unifix cubes, mini erasers and pompoms. We are working on spelling last names this week too. **PLEASE SEND A SNACK EACH DAY with your child.** We could use baby wipes in the classroom for cleaning up after snack/art projects. Have a great weekend!

**Lamothe:** Spelling words are sent home on Mondays. Please be sure you are practicing them with your child. We are starting a new unit in Math with fact families. Comprehension is heavily stressed during our literacy block. Congratulations to Gabi, Connor and Nieko! They were recognized last week at our February Awards Assembly. Star Student this week was Ellis. We are in need of baby wipes for the children to use for cleanups.

**S. Brewer:** Many students are forgetting their snacks. The office only has a limited supply. Please make sure your child has a snack every day. I hope the students are practicing their +2 facts at home. We are counting pennies, nickels and dimes. We began our new literacy groupings this week. The kids seem excited to have new teachers. We are in need of paper towels and extra snacks. Thanks in advance.

### Grades 3-5

**Northrup:** A review packet for chapter 4 was sent home today. Please take a few minutes and go over this with your child. We will have the chapter 4 TEST in math on Monday. Thank you to all that contributed wipes and tissues to the classroom. Student of the Week- Blake

**Trask:** Next week the class will visit HVNC. They will be looking at the structures of animals and how they help the animal survive in the wilderness. There will be discussions about carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores. Please have permission slips in by Wednesday, March 12, 2020.

**M. Brewer:** It has been a busy week in 5th grade! Students completed their chapter 4 assessments in Math. Our next chapter will focus on adding and subtracting decimals. We also began our next writing unit on research-based argumentative essays. In Literacy, students have been busy reading biographies and preparing to complete non-fiction book talks to the class.

### Middle School News

**McCormick:** 7th and 8th grade are finishing WW1 in social studies and are about to start WW2!! In science, 8th graders are learning about potential and kinetic energy with a roller coaster unit!



**Greenhouse Update:** The greenhouse will be covered (hopefully) in March for a spring crop. The new lettuce seedlings should be ready to add shortly. Stay tuned for more info about our spring seedling sale in May!

**Capen:** We are starting our historical fiction unit in 7th and 8th grade.

The 6th grade is starting their non fiction unit!

**Crowell:** 6th graders are exploring the geography of Egypt and the Nile River. They will also be having a poetry slam tomorrow to end our poetry unit.

7th graders are working on proportions and percentages while 8th graders have been reviewing for their unit test.

### Resource News

**Brann:** We have some students who are not completing their nightly homework and class projects. Please check-in with your child and assist with getting the work done. Thank you!

**Grady/Richards:** *“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.”— Dr. Seuss,*

*Have a wonderful weekend!*

## Art - Learning Commons - Music - PE

### **Martin: ART SHOW AND PIZZA NIGHT AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL**

6th and 7th grade has learned about the many different roles an artist might have in today's society.

Our class has taken a look at an environmental debate impacting the largest salmon run in the world located in Bristol Bay, Alaska.

Students were then asked to make a clay salmon which will be displayed at the Sheepscot General as part of a talk about the current issues Alaska is facing now.

**Opening night - March 6th 5-6pm** with the talk starting at **6pm**.

The Art show will be available to view in our gallery until **March 29th**.

**Howard:** Students participated in Digital Breakout learning games - similar to Escape Rooms. Breakout games have students using deductive skills in opening various locks (i.e. numbers, colors, shapes, etc.) based on specific concepts - this week we did the Magical Dictionary (using what they know about using a dictionary) and Lights, Camera, Newton (understanding Newton's 3rd law: For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction). First and second grades did a boat challenge (how many pennies will sink an aluminum boat).

In the Learning Commons, middle-level students selected nonfiction books and historical fiction books for ELA class. Lower grades were read rhyming stories and poetry - this helps in language development, creativity, and self-expression.

**Please click the following link to go to the Whitefield Town Library's homepage! <https://whitefieldlibrary.org/>**

**Simpson:** Our jump rope unit has **begun in K-4. Be on the look-out for fundraising packets coming home with your child as we "Jump Rope for the PTA!"**

**Morgan:** I have started recorders with the 4th grade. All the new recorders should be in next week for all students. I will also have a packet of songs for 4th grade students to bring home to practice next week.