

School Board Report for OTEs

April 2019

Garden Clean Up and Art Fair on April 27th

We will have our annual garden clean-up day on April 27th from 9 am to Noon. This annual event is a great community service project for our families to support our school. Each year we work to clean out the gardens, spruce up the playground, and tend to the curb appeal of our school. We have partnered with the University of Maine students to support this event and have been struck by the number of young people willing to get involved and be part of this day.

This year, we are adding our annual ART FAIR into this experience. This is a first, so we are not sure how it will go, but changing things up and getting new ideas is a great part of being in an active school. The art fair will feature several "ART INSTALLATION" projects they have completed in the school year.

KINDERGARTEN: Installation of colored rock features

FIRST GRADE: Created plant labels for our gardens

SECOND GRADE: Cloth Dyeing project woven through the fence

THIRD GRADE: Ceramic pieces to hang in the raised beds

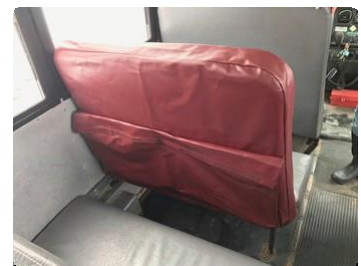
FOURTH GRADE: Five Banners to be attached to the fence

FIFTH GRADE: Ceramic mosaic cinder blocks in the garden area.

We will be giving families tours of the gardens and grounds as part of the ART Fair experience.

Books on the Bus

In the fall of 2018, Dave Wollstadt gave me an article about a program called Books on the Bus. The concept behind this program was to provide our students with books to have on the bus while riding to and from school. Over the course of the school year, I've been working with CyrBus to get this program off the ground. We contacted Hampden Public Library to gather some information about their Books on the Bus Program and to see how they had developed this initiative at their site.



We have pulled many pieces together to get a pilot program started on Bus B (one of our longest bus rides in the district) and to begin seeing how we can expand the experience for other buses in our district. We will start to have our students experience the books on the bus program after April Vacation.

We are pleased to have some partners in our project. The Rotary donated \$240 for the seat covers to hold the books while they are on the bus. In our pilot program, we are only covering 6 seats at the front of the bus to start. We have received donations of books from various sources and have been extremely excited about the variety of books to place on the bus.

If all goes as planned, we will try to expand this initiative in the next school year to give other students an opportunity to look and read books on the bus.

5th Grade Celebration

We have a great group of parents pulled together to help with the organization of the 5th Grade Celebration.

The parents have been meeting to do a little fundraising to support this event and to brainstorm ideas of the celebration. We are planning to have the celebration on June 11th with a rain date of June 12. We will give you more information as the plans come together for us at OTES.

Summer Plans Taking Shape

We have lots of planning to do heading into the final stretches of the school year. A major undertaking is planning for our summer school experience. We are hoping to offer another Regular Education Summer School experience for our students at OTES. This program fosters continued growth for our students in the month of July. Many of the students we identify for this program are just barely meeting the standards and may not have a chance for continued reading and math practice in the summer.

Last year, we teamed with the Special Education Program to offer transportation and meals for these students. We also developed some fun learning themes for the four weeks we offered summer programming. These themes really sparked students engagement and attendance at the summer school experience. We are looking forward to having the school used and students being in our hallways.

Other projects: Virtual Summer School will begin again this year. This supports learners in the grades 3-5. Students are assigned lessons or writing prompts through Google Classroom and work on those lessons throughout the week. The students gain points throughout the week and the summer to enter in for prizes at the end of the summer learning season.

Our teachers are submitting several projects for continued Professional Development Activities throughout the summer. The activities are usually connected to their goals in their PG and PE evaluation process.

Upcoming Events at OTES

April 22: MEA SCIENCE TESTING 5th Graders

April 26: 4th Grade Trip to Augusta

April 27: Garden ART FAIR and Clean Up

May 1: 4th and 5th Grade Chorus Concert

May 2: PTC Meeting

May 3: World of Work Day



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