

# Community Connections

**RSU 34**  
Alton • Bradley • Old Town  
**AUG 2022**

*The Choice  
is Clear*

## OLD TOWN HIGH SCHOOL

# 78%

of the Class of  
2022 intends to  
enroll in college

# 2.2

million dollars  
awarded to Class  
of 2022 graduates

# 210

online Early  
College credits  
earned

# 420

college credits  
earned in-house

# 96.7

out of 100 GOLD  
score for Old Town  
Jazz Ensemble

# 15

consecutive years  
JROTC "Honor Unit  
With Distinction"

See inside for more school and city news!



### OTHS

4

Humanities  
Symposium  
Research Partners  
Literacy  
JROTC

### LMS

8

King Grant  
Band Camp  
Challenger  
Center  
Curriculum Night  
Summer School  
Poetry Workshop  
LMS Teaching  
Team

### OTES

14

Snowshoeing  
Summer Library  
Learning Garden  
World of Work  
Sugarbush  
Pre-K Patterns  
Book Characters

### AES

20

Recycled Paper  
Literacy Night  
UM Soccer Visit  
Chopsticks

### VRS

23

Girls Who Code  
Emera Center  
Sugar Shack  
Leonard's Mills  
Math & Science

### CITY

30

City Manager  
Project Updates  
Dewitt Field Wings  
& Wheels  
Public Safety  
DTOT Development  
OT Library  
Dept. Updates

**BUS ROUTES - PG 36**

# Superintendent Matt Cyr: 'Embrace the Change,' and 'It feels good to be home!'

Dear students, staff, families, and community members,

Happy August to the RSU #34 community! While I am not wishing away the beautiful Maine summer we have experienced, I have to admit I am looking forward to regularly seeing students in and around our schools! I may be aging myself a bit, but Glen Frey's 1984 hit single, "The Heat is On," has been the weather theme of our summer. I sincerely thank all of our summer programming staff and students for making the best of extended school year opportunities. I was able to visit each program at least once during the month of July and was thoroughly impressed with levels of engagement! There is much to be excited for as we look ahead to the start of our 2022-2023 school year in RSU #34, but before I get to that, I want to take a moment to introduce myself.



Matt Cyr

\* \* \*

My full name is Matthew D. Cyr, but I usually go by Matt (however, I do remember a few times as a kid when my mother used my full name :). I was born and raised in the northern Maine town of Fort Kent. Fort Kent embodies a similar 'work hard and be kind' ethic as all RSU #34 communities, which is one of the main reasons I chose this district as a place to build a home and raise a family. I began my teaching career in Howland, Maine, as a middle school math/science teacher. Commuting from Old Town made it difficult for me to access my graduate work at University of Maine. Fortunately a great opportunity brought me a bit south to teach math/science at Leonard Middle School in 2000. During the next 6 years at LMS, my role shifted to a focus on technology after earning my master's degree, and again towards leadership after earning an advanced certificate. In 2006 I began my administrative career as Assistant Principal at Old Town Elementary School. I thoroughly enjoyed 9 years at OTES. I was then ready for a new challenge and accepted the position of Principal and Superintendent in Veazie. Talk about a full circle.....7 years later, I'm right back in RSU #34 and couldn't be happier!

\* \* \*

### Embrace the Change

During my first interview with the RSU #34 Superintendent search committee, I was asked to share my vision for the district. My presentation (titled "Embrace the Change") included 5 primary areas of focus: Communication, Policy, Capital Planning, Rebranding/Marketing, and Strategic Planning. Work on this plan started in early spring, long before my first official start date of July 1st. I collaborated with many individuals including then Superintendent, Mr. David Walker, district administrators, association representatives, municipal officials, and other staff members to share this plan, and in some cases, begin work on this vision of 'embracing the change.' The incred-

ible support I have received during this transition allowed us to literally hit the ground running! While some of our goals will be accomplished rather quickly—such as cleaning up calendars—other goals may take several months and possibly years to complete, including strategic planning and policy work. Regardless, we are moving forward!

\* \* \*

Communication will be a primary area of focus during the next year. We are closely looking at all facets of how we communicate as a district. Our website will soon be 'under construction' with the goal of giving it a 'reboot' while both streamlining content, creating consistencies from school to school, and ensuring that our website serves as an intuitive resource for current and prospective families. Building principals will be engaging families to make sure we have current email addresses and phone numbers on file as anything and everything that is critical and/or important will be shared via email and/or text. We are also looking to establish a coordinated and intentional PreK - 12 communications plan that helps to tell "our story."

One simple example will be doing our best to publish weekly school newsletters on different, but scheduled days, so that parents with kids in multiple schools do not receive all of the newsletters on the same day, which can sometimes make it a challenge to read these important documents. As a district, we are also looking to streamline internal and external communications including email servers, web-based calendars, and how we utilize social media.

\* \* \*

Our School Board has already begun work on a complete policy review using support from Maine School Management Association (MSMA). Looking ahead to next spring, we hope to begin several projects focused on rebranding and intentionally marketing RSU #34 as the amazing PreK - 12 district we all know it to be.

\* \* \*

Capital projects have been underway all summer in every building.

- The Old Town High School gym will soon have an air exchange system that will improve the comfort level and air quality of that space.
- Alton Elementary School will be receiving new, more energy efficient boilers along with improved air exchange systems.
- Viola Rand School and OTES will also be receiving improved air exchange systems for parts of their buildings.
- The Leonard Middle School cafeteria project is (finally) near completion, and the LMS gym floor received a new surface, making it a much brighter place to learn.
- We are also in the early planning stages of redesigning the playground at Old Town Elementary School.
- Our special education offices are no longer located in the white portable building adjacent to LMS. For at least the next two years, we are renting office space for our Special Education team at the former 'Box of Maine' building on Stillwater Ave. This will more than likely be a short-term location while we closely examine facility needs at Leonard Middle School and determine whether it makes sense to have a central office located in this building, or would it better serve our district to have a single central office building that is not taking up valuable teaching and learning space in a school. Managing five schools can be complicated, which is why another project we will be working on in the near future will involve engineers developing a 5 - 15 year capital improvement plan for the district. All of this work—and more—will eventually tie into a



Superintendent Matt Cyr started off Day 1 of his new job with an RSU 34 shirt and a Coyotes hat.

RSU #34 Strategic Plan, a living document that will guide programming, budgeting, and critical decision making for the future. I look forward to engaging stakeholders throughout this process.

\* \* \*

Beginning in September, I will be publishing a newsletter on the last Thursday of each month. This newsletter will briefly share positive stories happening throughout our district. I will also share memos and important announcements as needed. All of these communications will be shared through email. Critical announcements will be accompanied by a text asking families to "check email for an important announcement."

\* \* \*

### District Office Restructuring

During its July meeting, the RSU #34 School Board made an important decision for the future of our district. Dr. Jon Doty received a transfer in title, and is now Assistant Superintendent of RSU #34. To be clear, we are not hiring a third individual to serve as director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Dr. Doty will continue to have all of those responsibilities. We are working to position our district leadership team to build from strengths, identify and act on things to hone, and create resilience to help us sustain through known and unknown challenges that lie ahead. This model will create greater flexibility and opportunity in the operations of RSU #34 while also providing sustainability when looking to the future (at a time when regional district leadership turnover is happening at alarming rates). This is not a new idea, in fact many districts in Maine have a similar structure. For many this transfer in title does not come as a complete surprise, as Jon has been a highly respected and dedicated district leader for many years—highlighted by his critical role during the pandemic. I am excited about the opportunities this will create for our district and am proud of our School Board for placing great emphasis on future stability of RSU #34. Congratulations, Dr. Doty!

\* \* \*

On a parting note, I want to express sincere gratitude for the incredible support I have received during my transition. The many letters, notes, and kind words of encouragement have meant a lot to my family and I—THANK YOU!!! I look to the future of RSU #34 with great optimism. At a time when change is unprecedented and seems to be the norm, we are committed to 'embracing change.' It feels good to be home!

Sincerely,  
Matthew D. Cyr  
Superintendent of Schools, RSU #34

**RSU 34 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**  
is published by Regional School Unit 34 for the citizens of Alton, Bradley, and Old Town.

**Matthew D. Cyr, Superintendent of Schools**  
**Dr. Jon Doty, Assistant Superintendent of Schools**  
**David C. Wollstadt (www.schoolnewsletters.net), Editor**

Many thanks to the teachers, administrators, students, and parents who contributed to the successful publication of this issue with articles and photos. To persons unidentified we apologize. Each contribution is greatly appreciated. Cover design by Corina Larsen.

*"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."*  
—Socrates

# LMS, Challenger Learning Center collaborate on 'Cube Satellite' program to launch student-designed payloads into atmosphere

Leonard Middle School and the Challenger Learning Center of Maine collaborated on a 12-week after school program last spring that will result in student-designed payloads being launched high into the atmosphere in the spring of 2023.

The Cube Satellite Afterschool Club met for 12 weeks from March to June 2022 at LMS, with 24 students and four teachers from LMS participating. They were joined by a dozen students and two teachers from grades 6-8 at Glenburn Elementary School.

Kirsten Hibbard, executive director of the Challenger Learning Center, and several other staff members from the center participated. Sponsors for the afterschool program were the Perloff Family Foundation, the Maine Space Grant Consortium, and the Cole Land Transportation Museum.

Both the LMS and Glenburn students designed payloads, which will include:

- a power source
- an SD memory card and sensors
- a 6-axis accelerometer measuring g-force



Club member with GoPro 3D camera

- a light sensor measuring in lux
- a temperature sensor (thermometer)
- a barometer.

The payloads will be able to collect information from all these sensors for the entire launch and land sequence. Both the LMS and Glenburn student payloads have been completed and will be mailed directly to bluShift Aerospace/Max-IQ for the spring 2023 launch.

Ms. Hibbard said many students expressed particular interest in temperature and light information. "These two sensors [for tempera-



The whole cube satellite club!!

ture and light] are what they chose as a group to study when they took the sensors home to collect data," she said. "Our first big focus was to learn and understand how sensors are used and that they have limitations that need to be accommodated, such as response time. Thus the group set up a good foundation for when we receive data back from the launch and compare it to data the students collected back on earth, including from their own homes and schools."

Students participated in a variety of activities during the club's weekly meetings, including learning how to use a 3D pen to make 3D objects.

The club members were split into three teams—a 3D Printing Team that worked on designing and printing ground mounts for sensors; a CubeSat Sensors Team that worked on making a plan for which sensors to use on the payload and worked with the 3D Printing Team on mount designs; and a VR/Communication Team that filmed intro videos for the group's VR documentary.

The Sensors Team also built a rocket that was launched with sensors during week six to test the 3D sensor mounts. The mission was a success as the mounts held the sensors in place.

During Week 9, the LMS and Glenburn students enjoyed a field trip to the University of Maine



The rocket was tested successfully on launch day.



Two club members showing off the results of their 3D Pen print challenge

campus to see UMaine's inflatable lunar habitat and Wireless Sensing  
(Please turn to page 10)

## Nominations due Oct. 14 for Old Town Achievement Hall of Fame

The Old Town Achievement Hall of Fame Committee is accepting nominations for the upcoming honorees for the Spring of 2023.

If you know an Old Town Graduate that should be honored for their contributions to our community or stands out in their field, please visit the RSU 34 Home Page to fill out the nomination form or visit our Facebook Page at Old Town High School Achievement Hall of Fame. We have so many incredible people to be proud of in our community.

The deadline for nominations is October 14.



**DAVID WALKER HONORED AT RECOGNITION BANQUET**—As part of the 109th Annual Commissioner's Conference for Superintendents, David Walker was recognized twice during today's Recognition Banquet. His first award was a Special Recognition Award for his years of service. The second was a Distinguished Service to Education Award. Mr. Walker retired June 30 after 17 years as Superintendent of Schools in Old Town and RSU 34, and 46 years in education.

# Substitute Teaching in RSU #34

Have you ever thought of being a substitute teacher in Alton, Bradley, or Old Town?

Here is a short list of some of the benefits:

- **A second income** that can certainly come in handy for the upcoming heating season.
- **Flexibility:** You get to pick

the age level of the students, and which days you'd like to work!

- **An excellent opportunity** to gain experience in the teaching field—especially if you are considering teaching as a career.

You will quickly become immersed in the school community and truly have an impact on the lives of children.

There is no better job reference than one that involves experience working with children.

RSU #34 kids are amazing!!! Applications are available at [www.rsu34.org](http://www.rsu34.org) or at the Superintendent's Office located at Leonard Middle School.

Call 827-7171 for more information.

OLD TOWN HIGH SCHOOL  
Scott Gordon, Principal, 827-3910



## Principal's Message: OTHS to offer 'UTC Explorations' course

Greetings from Old Town High School!!!

I hope you all had a great summer. The faculty, staff, and administration at Old Town High School are excited about the upcoming school year. Like every summer before this one, the summer days have come and gone much too quickly. Our custodial staff is currently in the process of cleaning the entire building and the school will look great for day one as it always does. This summer, we had a significant renovation done in our gymnasium, as ventilation duct work has been added to the roof and ceiling of MacKenzie Gymnasium. This will significantly improve how air circulates in that space and we should feel the difference when the gym is packed for basketball games this winter or graduation next spring.

\* \* \*

Our Freshman Orientation Day will be on Thursday, September 1st and will be a half-day for grade 9 only. The day will begin at 8:30 am and will end at 12 noon. This day gives a chance for our newest high school students to become acquainted with the building, the teachers, and many of the nuances of high school life. They will run through an abbreviated schedule, take part in some planned activities, have lunch and by the end of their day it is our goal that they leave feeling very comfortable in their new surroundings. Students who are in need of transportation should contact the Old Town High School Main Office at 827-3910.

On Tuesday September 6th, we will have our first full day for all students.

\* \* \*

We are very excited to be offering a new course, which is open to all students in grade 9 & 10 and is designed to serve as a pre-requisite for students who wish to

attend the United Technologies Center during grade 11 and/or 12. The class is called UTC Explorations and will provide students with some hands-on skills that they can take to any program at UTC. The class will be offered at OTHS in our shop and should equip our students with knowledge that will enhance their experience at UTC, but also provide them with knowledge that should last them a lifetime.

\* \* \*

Old Town High School will welcome two new teachers this year. Mrs. Laura Bean and Mr. Jordan Simpson will join our Social Studies department. We are impressed with the knowledge, energy, and passion that each of them will bring to our teaching staff. They are solid people and will be positive additions to an already talented staff of educators.

\* \* \*

The first class of the day at Old Town High School begins at 8:30 am. The front doors will open at 8:00 am and students may begin moving to their first class by 8:10am.

Students who are attending UTC in the AM will need to be at school by 8:05 am to be on time for the bus. Students who wish to drive their personal vehicle to and from UTC need special permission to do so. Permission forms can be picked up at UTC. Old Town High School will dismiss students at 3:00 pm.

\* \* \*

As in years past, we continue to emphasize attendance as a crucial step for success at Old Town High School. The data proves repeatedly that students who are in attendance and on time every day find success much more readily than students who are frequently absent or arrive at school late

on a consistent basis. We feel that this is an important lesson for students to learn as they are building habits which are going to remain with them into post-secondary school, the military, or the workforce. We will go over everything students need to know about attendance when we meet with classes during the first week of school. In addition, I will send an email home to parents as we get closer to the first day describing the procedures that you need to know for attendance purposes at OTHS.

\* \* \*

Our fall sports programs are gearing up for another exciting season, and we are super excited about our first home contests. We would love to see our community come out and support all our Coyote teams. We encourage our students to take part in our wide variety of activities, whether it be one of our 16 sports teams, our widely renowned band program, our JROTC battalion, which regularly garners the "Honor Unit with Distinction" accolade, or our highly competitive Robotics team, there is something to offer everyone and *involved students are better students.*

\* \* \*

We are looking forward to the 2022-2023 school year! We are proud of all that our school and our students have accomplished, yet we remain committed to working hard and improving every day. Best of Luck to all students in RSU 34 as we embark on a new and exciting school year.

Scott W. Gordon  
Principal

## Telling The Story of Tonight: Old Town High School Pilots Humanities Symposia

Last year a team from OTHS worked to design a new diploma of distinction which focuses on the humanities.

This endeavor was supported by the school board and as of September 2021 has been added to the options students may pursue in addition to the standard Old Town High School Diploma.

One of the key components of the Humanities Diploma is participation in Humanities Symposia. The idea behind the symposia offerings is to explore a topic using a variety of the disciplines which the humanities encompass.

This spring History teacher

Michael May and English teacher Natalie Davis, with the assistance of Brenda Gardner, planned and taught a pilot symposia on "Hamilton: An American Musical".

The musical, which opened on Broadway in 2015 and was added to Disney+ in 2021, focuses on the story of Alexander Hamilton as an immigrant who was integral in shaping the United States of America.

The musical, composed primarily by Lin Manuel Miranda, stars a ground-breaking diverse cast and features songs ranging in genre from American musical standard to hip-hop.

The symposia included view-

ing the musical as a class while students generated questions on everything from the relationship between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton to why a mic was visible on some actors but not others.

Discussions were guided by student questions and interests with the ultimate goal of looking at the story this musical tells as a historian, musician, performer, audience member, and artist.

When asked what they most valued about the experience, one student reported ... "[I liked] looking at a lot of different parts. Not just looking at it through English class." Another shared, "I like how it's very

unique. It's not like any other class we typically take. It's just fun."

Other sentiments included appreciation for the depth of our study and the way in which the unit presented our founding fathers.

While this pilot symposia will certainly be revised and strengthened, it has provided students with a high-interest, interdisciplinary unit of study. In the future, OTHS hopes to offer a variety of symposia co-taught by other members of the faculty.

For more information on all of the diplomas of distinction please visit: [tinyurl.com/othsdiplomas](http://tinyurl.com/othsdiplomas)



The soil respiration trap collects carbon dioxide all winter



Ethan Mushero and Killian Pottle measure tree buds to track the status of mud season

## OTHS students collaborate with UNH, UMaine scientists on 'Mud Season' project

By Ed Lindsey, Old Town High School

Climate Change is a global term that means different things to people who live in different parts of the world. What about Maine? The state has an iconic coast, the Appalachian Mountains, rivers with seasonal schedules, fish

and wildlife with habits and habitats tuned to the rhythm of the seasons. Maine's habitats and cultural habits have been tuned to distinct seasons. An apt nickname for one of these seasons is "Mud Season."

A group of scientists led by University of New Hampshire researchers Alix Contosta and Liz Burakowski chose Mud Season as the cultural focal point for their research into changing seasonality in the Northeast Forests, where we live and recreate. Specifically, if Mud Season begins when the snow is gone and ends when the leaves of forest trees are fully expanded (and the trees are pumping water from the ground) we can track the duration of Mud Season. Will Mud Season get longer?

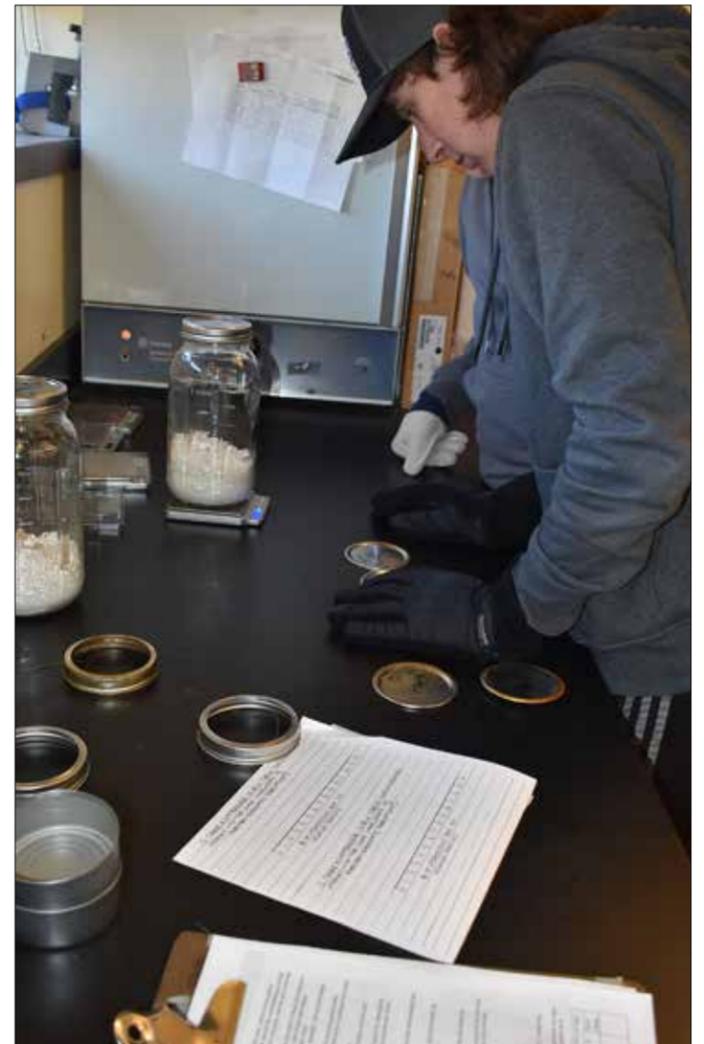
What happens when earlier snowmelts change the timing of spring river flows? What happens when the soil is frozen for a shorter time? Or freezes and thaws erratically? Or stays muddy for a longer period of time? These are live ecological and cultural questions.

The research work performed and maintained by OTHS students helps to produce data streams that can address these questions. UNH organizes the work, which occurs in the University of Maine's Dwight B. DeMeritt research forest. Data are produced using equipment with price tags that span four orders of magnitude, from tens of thousands of dollars to tens of dollars.

Some of the instruments feed data to a public site at this url: [https://ot-vernal-windows.shinyapps.io/OT\\_Shiny\\_App/](https://ot-vernal-windows.shinyapps.io/OT_Shiny_App/). It is hard work performed in often uncomfortable conditions. The data must meet the specifications of the professional researchers to be useful at all. Practical problem solving and the need to maintain professional communications are part of the daily grind.



OTHS-UNH research supported by UMaine



Keegan Plourde measures the mass of trapped carbon dioxide



Jocelyn Wang poised to cap the soil breath trap as Wyatt Madden removes the bucket



A winter's soil breath trapped by soda lime.



Wyatt Madden lugs the soil respiration buckets back to the lab, passing the solar panels that power the equipment.



**Congratulations to the Old Town High School Class of 2022**

## What can we do for struggling readers?

By Megan Woodard, OTHS

According to the 2019 NAEP Reading Assessment, a test given to fourth, eighth, and twelfth grade students, 65% of students nationwide do not read proficiently. In the years since that test administration, our nation has been ravaged by the COVID-era. Our schools were shuttered, and staff and students needed to learn entirely new platforms of online and hybrid learning to even access an education. So while 65% is already a staggering number, we all fear what that number will be the next time around with clear deficits and inequities in the ability to educate and a student's ability to learn.

At Old Town High School, we are taking huge strides toward attacking these numbers. We have started by incorporating a literacy interventionist to our staff in January. This change has allowed us to provide smaller group instruction to ninth and tenth grade students who were already identified as needing additional assistance with reading and writing. It has also allowed two additional small groups of students to receive supplementary instruction in reading and writing as their credit recovery option for English classes that were not passed.

At this point, this intervention includes instruction on foundational skills in letter sounds, breaking syllables apart to read longer words,

spelling, and vocabulary within the reading of longer texts. These major foundational skills can wreak havoc on a student's ability to work independently and read high school level texts. Luckily, the research examined by the American Federation of Teachers estimates that by using explicit, evidence-based instruction in foundational reading skills, 95% of students can be successful and proficient readers.

As we further incorporate the new literacy interventionist, create summer tutoring opportunities, and develop a school-wide multi-tiered system of support, we feel that the future of literacy looks bright at Old Town High School.

## JROTC Coyote Battalion hosts 2nd annual Rogers Challenge

The Coyote Battalion hosted the Second Annual Rogers Challenge on May 27th. This year the event was moved to the Friday prior to Memorial Day, the Cadets hope to keep this as a recurring day to commemorate the holiday. The purpose of the challenge is to promote physical fitness and remember those who sacrificed for our nation. The Rogers Challenge consist of three separate events, participants chose one event to test their mettle.

Robert Rogers is the namesake of the challenge. In 1756 he organized nine companies of colonist to fight for the British during the Seven Years War. These were the first Ranger units and the cornerstone of our modern special operations forces. Each of the three events within the challenge is named after key historical figures in Ranger lore from World War II. Lieutenant Colonel William O. Darby led the 1st Ranger Battalion, also known as "Darby's Rangers", in operations in both North Africa and Italy. Lieutenant Colonel James E. Rudder led the 2nd Ranger Battalion during the D-Day invasion, storming Point du Hoc on Omaha Beach. Brigadier General Frank Merrill led a provisional regiment, "Merrill's Marauders", roughly 750 miles through the Burmese jungles. The Ranger Regiment motto is the Latin phrase "Sua Sponte", meaning, "to their own accord." It recognizes the fact that Rangers volunteer for the challenges of their chosen profession. In turn, the Rogers Challenge is an optional event for motivated individuals willing to push their limits.



From left: Hayna Francis, Kyle Paradis, and Brady Paradis were the top three finishers in the Darby event.

Each of the events started and finished on the OTHS track with the wooded loop behind the campus being negotiated as well. The Darby consisted of a two-mile course. Throughout the course were stations with various exercise that participants negotiated under the weight of a 25lbs rucksack. The Rudder and Merrill events were 5K and 10K forced marches that participants executed with a 25lbs rucksack. The Rogers Challenge is part of a bigger program called the Coyote Challenge. The Coyote Challenge is a series of physical

challenges with multiple levels that Cadets can complete throughout their time at OTHS earning various awards. In addition to Cadet awards earned during the Rogers Challenge, top participants were awarded medals for their efforts.

This year the Rogers Challenge was opened to all students and staff at Old Town High School. The top three male finishers for the Darby were Kyle Paradis (Class of '22), Hayna Francis (Class of '24), and Brady Paradis (Class of '25). There



Michael May (left) was the top finisher in the 10K; Cadence Freeman was top female finisher in the 5K.

were no female Darby participants. The Rudder saw Miles Felcman (Class of '25) as the top male finisher and Cadence Freeman (Class of '24) as the top female finisher. The first male and female finishers crossing the line in the Merrill was Michael May (Class of '96) and Keeara Dutton (Class of '23). The battalion will host the Mogadishu Mile in October.

# JROTC Cadets Complete Camp Dirigo 2022

June 20th to the 24th Cadets of the Coyote Battalion set up camp at the Penobscot Outdoor Center base-camp located on the edge of Baxter State Park to participate in the annual JROTC Leadership Challenge (JCLC), Camp Dirigo. They were joined by Cadets from the Bangor, Hermon, Nokomis, and Sacopee Valley JROTC programs for a week of challenge and adventure.

Throughout the week the Cadets learned valuable leadership and teamwork skills. They spent the first day participating in round robin training where they applied decision making and problem-solving skills learned in the classroom to scenarios that tested their leadership capabilities. Cadets from all five programs were integrated into three platoons further challenging their leadership skills as they negotiated obstacles while assessing the strengths and weaknesses of their team to accomplish the task at hand. They also were able to practice first aid skills learned earlier in the year. Both individual and team confidence grew throughout the day. "JCLC challenged me to do things I never did before. It also taught me about leadership, and how to work in a team to accomplish a goal," Kevin Murray, Class of 2025.

A hike up Doubletop Mountain in Baxter State Park was also on the agenda. The roughly six-mile roundtrip proved to be both physically and mentally challenging for the Cadets. The view at the top made the effort worth it, and the stories around the campfire were confirmation of the sense of accomplishment many of them had.

Their final challenge was negotiating the West Branch of the Penobscot River on a guided rafting trip. The Cadets under the direction of Penobscot Outdoor Center guides negotiated Class 3, 4 and 5 rapids! They successfully made it through the gorge and Exterminator Hole and tackled the Cribworks, New England's most challenging rapids. For most this was their first experience of whitewater rafting. Many were apprehensive at first, but by the end of the day they had gained confidence in their equipment, their team, and themselves.

On the way home, the Cadets stopped in Lincoln to visit the Master Sergeant Gary Gordon Memorial. MSG Gordon posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his actions during Operation Gothic Serpent in Mogadishu, Somalia in 1993. Prior to COVID the bat-



Cadets absorb the impact of Class IV rapids on the West Branch of the Penobscot River.



Cadets practice their triage skills.

alion participated in fund raising for the memorial to honor him and the service members who sacrificed during that mission. This was the first opportunity they had to see the fruits of their labor.

JCLC is an annual event that en-

rolled Cadets can choose to participate in free of cost to them. It is a great opportunity for young leaders to tap into their potential and test their mettle. Keeara Dutton, Class of 2023, reflected on this year's camp, "I have gone two times now

and I had a blast both times. I was able to challenge myself mentally and physically, as well as work with Cadets from other schools. It was an awesome experience and I hope every Cadet in the program takes advantage of going."



Back row (l. to r.) LTC(R) Steve Szewc, Colby Hatch, Dan Desmond, Jesse Bouchard, and Kevin Murray; front Row: Lilly Mitchell, Janice Green, Cadence Freeman, and 1SG(R) Joel Peaslee. In front: Keeara Dutton



Cadets construct a "trailer" to transport supplies using various materials such as odd shaped tires, rope, poles of various lengths.



Cadets negotiate one of the challenging rapids on the Penobscot River..

# LEONARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dr. Gert Nesin, Principal  
827-3900



## ***LMS Principal's Message***

### **This year, we are energized to move beyond the pandemic**

By Dr. Gert Nesin

I became a principal two years ago, during the pandemic. I came into this opportunity with so many ideas of how to lead a charge forward for Leonard Middle School. The ideas came from reading, research, past experience, and graduate work. Even more, though, they were developed over the 10 years I taught at LMS. They came from thoughtful teachers and colleagues who care very much about our students, as people and as learners. They came from parents and families who know their kids and always want what is best.



Dr. Nesin

Most importantly, though, the ideas came from our students. Middle school students—young adolescents—are unique. They are no longer the children they were in elementary school, and not yet the young adults they will be in high school. They are becoming, and figuring out themselves and the world along the way. They are sweet and thoughtful, snarky and impulsive, desperate to be unique but horrified that they might stand out. They fiercely fight for independence, and snuggle with their parents when no one is looking. Most of all, they seek connections, largely with peers. Their

social world dominates their thinking, emotions, and actions. Sometimes, families see these changes in their children, and wonder what we are doing at the middle school to bring about such challenges. We promise, though, it is part of the normal development at this stage.

Our purpose is to serve these rapidly developing humans. Other than infancy, these are the years of most change. The difference is that in middle school, the students are keenly aware of these changes. They ponder and worry about them. Physically, they grow and develop into adults. They become aware of the world around them, of big questions and injustices. They worry about who they are, how they will fit in, and with whom. They begin thinking about complex ideas and concepts. The challenge is their diversity, because they all develop at their own rates—physically, intellectually, and socially.

We now emerge from the pandemic—or endemic—ready to move ahead to best serve our students. We will strengthen our themes at each grade level, built around helping students understand themselves and the world, from their own perspective. Deep learning of the standards will be essential in building that understanding. All teams will learn through the established themes—one per trimester—helping students find and use their voice. We are expanding our Unified Arts offerings to ad-

dress the range of development.

The pandemic complicated student relationships. Face-to-face interactions decreased while online interactions exploded, especially on social media platforms. We know that social media is not always a kind, polite, civil place to interact. Those often-hurtful interactions became the norm during the pandemic, and spilled over into face-to-face interactions in and out of school. It is our goal to help students recognize, respect, and appreciate their common experiences and differences, and to create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

We realize that learning was not “normal” for two years. Students and teachers had to be absent and/or remote, some for long and repeated periods of time. This year we return to finding our academic footing. In addition to our core and special education teachers, we also have two interventionists at each grade level—one focused on math and the other on literacy. Federal pandemic funds helped us to provide the extra help at just the right time.

This year, we are energized to move school experience and learning beyond the pandemic. We are ready to guide our students through the possibilities of all of the changes and challenges of young adolescence. Together, we—families, teachers, and students—will help them to become.

## **LMS Library receives \$10,000 grant from King Foundation to support ‘LMS Big Read’**

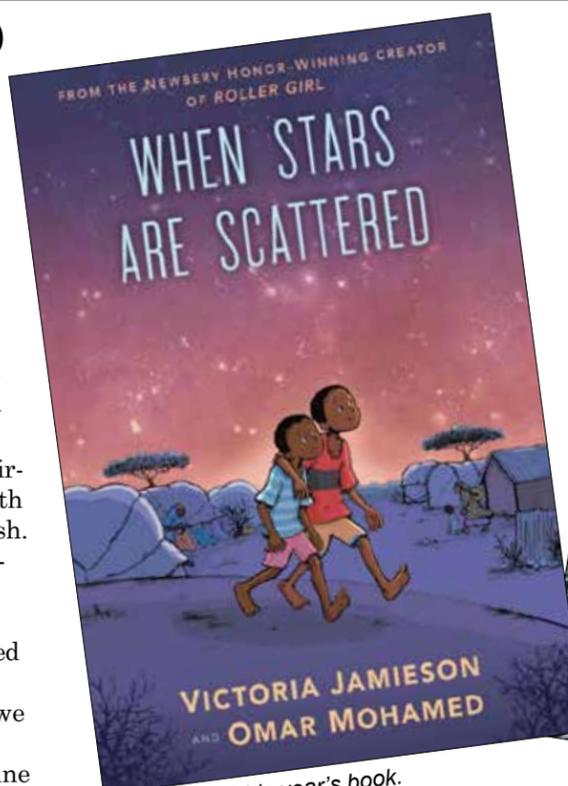
LMS Librarian Alexandra Hinrichs has received a generous \$10,000 grant from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation to fund the LMS Big Read this year, as well as a \$1,000 Maine Arts and Humanities Grant.

In its second year, the LMS Big Read uses a single book to launch community building discussions and activities.

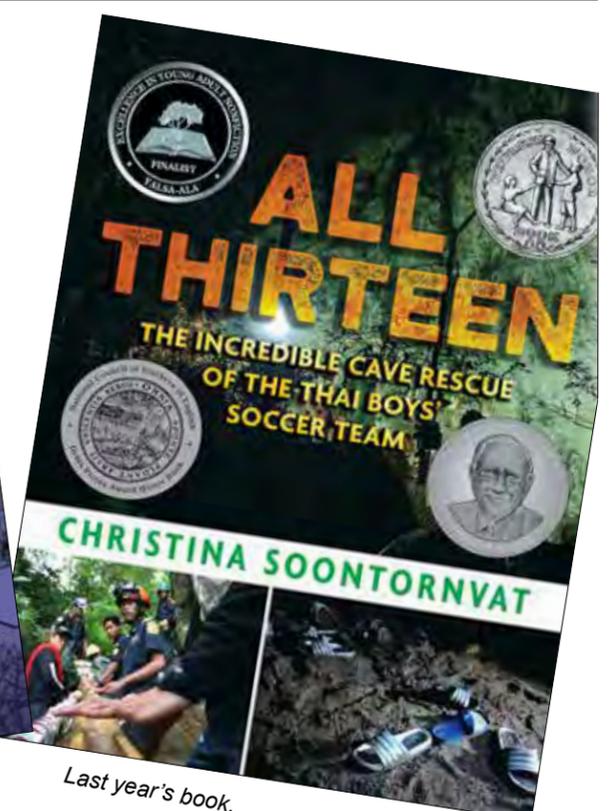
Last year, the book was *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys Soccer Team*, by Christina Soontornvat. All students and teachers at LMS received a copy of the book to keep. Highlights included eighth-graders leading a virtual question and answer session with Soontornvat for 5th-8th grade students, and a Thai cooking workshop led by Chef Josh.

This year, the book will be *When Stars Are Scattered*, by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed. All students and teachers in grades 5-8 will receive a copy of the book and can look forward to an in-person author visit, as well as many other activities centered around the book and its themes.

This is an amazing opportunity for our community, and we are grateful for the funding from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, the Maine Arts Commission, and the Maine Humanities Council.



This year's book.



Last year's book.



## Old Town Summer Band Camp returns after 2-year absence

The Old Town Summer Band Camp was an annual tradition for close to 30 years before the pandemic. After missing it for the last two summers, the camp was back this year!

More than 120 students in grades 4-12 spent a week rehearsing in the morning, enjoying recreational activities in the afternoon, and treating their families to a performance on the final evening.

Bravo!





Club members participating in the 3D Pen print challenge in Week 2 had to create something three dimensional (ie, a cube, a figurine, etc)



Club members practice with Oculus VR headset during Week 3 in preparation to make their own VR creation

## LMS, Challenger Learning Center collaborate on after-school club

(Continued from page 3)

Laboratory (WiSe-Net Lab). During the field trip, a UMaine graduate student gave a presentation on space station safety, how sensors are used on space stations, and how new technology is able to sense small leaks on space stations. The graduate student also gave the club members a tour of an inflatable lab that represents an air-tight unit.

LMS students in the Cube Satellite Afterschool Club were Olivia Barthelemy, Winfield Billings, Ryleigh Caduto, Hunter Carlow, Logan Fitzgerald, Jackson Graham, Owen Graham, Isaac Hasselbrack, Chloe Henry, Caleb Horne, Koston Hurley, Raelyn Knights, Tyler Lilly, Aria Mason,



The VR team works on their VR creation during Week 4.

Mason McCann, Ciera McCash, Jack Murphy, Alex Roach, Braiden Rolfe, Hayden Rozek, Jahsun Simpson, Mirabella Stockstill, Vivian Tyndall, Zach Wilson.

Teachers advising the club were Melissa Zabierek, Hannah Dickinson, Derek Bizier, and Nicole Guido.



During Week 9, the club toured UMaine's WiSe Net Lab. Above, a grad student showed club members how they test the sensors they have created.



Giant map of Asia in the LMS cafeteria

## LMS summer school: math, ELA,

Summer school is in full swing. We have a great group of kids this summer and our teachers are doing some fantastic activities. Each morning the kids come in and get breakfast and enjoy some social time before breaking into their morning groups focused on math and ELA skills. The kids rotate through two or three different stations throughout the morning playing games and working on skills. We have been fortunate enough to have a group of literacy professionals from the University work with

groups of kids in the library each day in addition to our summer-school teachers.

Another highlight has been the geography lessons on the giant maps. These maps take up nearly the entire cafeteria and the kids walk around answering questions and solving clues based on the continent of the week. Mr. Schlafer and Ms. Letourneau have highlighted a new region each week—Week 1, Maine; week 2, Europe; week 3, Asia; and week 4, Africa.

The kids have dealt with some



LMS tour of the Old Town Historical Museum



LMS students get a pictorial view of Old Town.



Field trip to the Old Town Animal Orphanage



## geography, field trips, and lots of fun

adversity with the hot weather in week two. We provided plenty of fans and popsicles to beat the heat as well as a few trips to Perkin's Park and the splash pad. Of course, some kids really wanted to eat lunch outside and play four square. Finding a shady place to relax required some creativity, but the kids were up for the challenge.

In the afternoon the kids are exploring a number of topics with activities and hands-on exploration. Mr. Kirkland and Mrs. Mauger have kids on virtual scavenger hunts using Google Maps on the large smart boards. The kids navigate through foreign cities getting virtual tours and locating attractions.

Ms. McConnell has worked with circuits and electricity, Mr. Barker even jumped in one day to talk about density and why eggs float in saltwater but sink in fresh. And Mrs. Mauger and Mr. Haddow got the kids in the kitchen to make dumplings to everyone's enjoyment.

Towards the end of summer school, the kids went on two field trips; one walking trip downtown to the Old Town Museum and the other to visit the Old Town Animal Orphanage. Next week they are looking to go on one more trip.

Thanks to Mr. Schlafer and all the teachers



Kids making circuits during a science lesson



Kids finding shade between rounds of 4-square and lunch

for organizing these trips and making it happen.

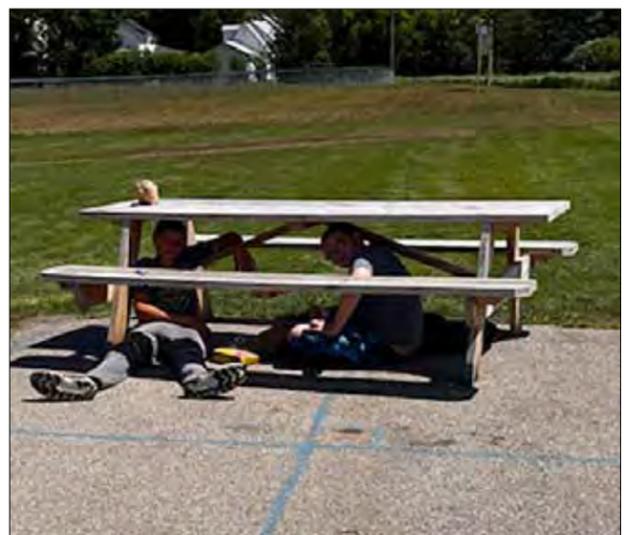
Thanks to all the kids that attended, and we are gearing up and looking forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks for the start of another great school year.

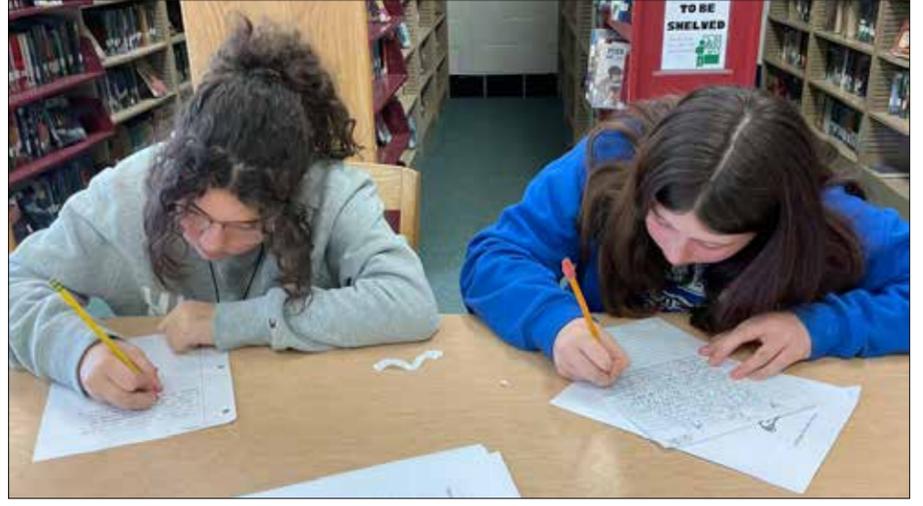


LMS students enjoy a cooking lesson



LMS summer school at the Old Town Historical Museum





## Samara Cote Doyon leads poetry workshop with LMS students

Students at LMS had the opportunity to take a poetry workshop with award-winning poet Samara Cole Doyon on April 29th.

Ms. Doyon, author of *Magnificent Homespun Brown* and *Magic Like That*, joined us from Lewiston and led engaging workshops on crafting and extending metaphors for each grade.

Students of all experience levels attended; some who already loved writing poems and refined their skills further, and some who didn't think of themselves as poets but were open to trying.

The latter group surprised themselves with the discovery that they, too, could write and enjoy poetry!

Here is an example of one 7th grader's first poem, written during the workshop:



## Untitled

by Sophia Cox

Walking into a classroom full of people

is like falling off a cliff with only a small chance of someone catching you.

Your heart kind of just stops for a moment. that feeling where it's hard to breathe and you feel like everyone is looking at you.

Falling and falling as you walk through the room over to your desk. You finally sit down and the falling goes away. That small chance of someone catching you has become a big chance.

It feels sort of safer.



## Who's Who at Leonard Middle School?

We have many changes at Leonard Middle School, plus a team structure that sometimes confuses families and community. This table shows the organization of our school, and the people who make it happen. *Names in italic* are new to LMS, or new to their position. The positions with asterisks (\*) are new positions, fully paid through federal funds.

Team	Name/Area(s) of Expertise
Grade 6 Fox Team	Alicia Stafford/Math and Science Lori Townsend/ELA and Social Studies
Grade 6 Bird Team	Nicole Guido/Science <i>Sara Miller/ELA and Social Studies</i> Tracie Murchison/Math
Grade 7 Loon Team	<i>Katie Letourneau/ELA and Social Studies</i> <i>Sonya Wedge/Social Studies, Math, and Science</i>
Grade 7 Puffin Team	Doretta Callahan/Science and Social Studies Melinda Kenny/Math Shelly Tuttle/ELA
Grade 8 Pamola Team	Derek Bizier/Math and Science <i>Amy Clement/ELA and Social Studies</i>
Grade 8 Eagle Team	Ciera Colvin/Math and Social Studies Hannah Dickinson/Math and Science Jay Meigs-McDonald/Math and ELA
Unified Arts	Luke Grinnell/Physical Education Lynn Nickerson/Art <i>*Maija Overturf/World Languages and Cultures</i> Shianne Priest/Music <i>Andrea Roberts/Health</i> <i>Melissa Zabierek/Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM)</i>
Support	Nicole Daigle/Grade 6 Special Education Miranda Mauger/Grade 7 Special Education Monica Nelson/Grade 8 Special Education Tracey O'Connell/School Counselor Curtis Robertson/Grades 6 - 8 Special Education Nancy Reichow/Speech and Language <i>Danny Schlaefer/Gifted and Talented</i> Kristi Swartz/Occupational Therapy <i>*Erica Tweedie/School Counselor</i>
Interventionists	Robin Cacace, Steve Goulette, and <i>*Dana Maxim/Math and General</i> Nicole Kennedy, Jantha Henry, and 1 other/Literacy/General
Custodial	Steve Chappelle, Deb Hambrock
Office	Shane Barker/Assistant Principal Tara Ford/Secretary Vanessa Koch/Nurse <i>Julie Monk/Clerk</i> Gert Nesin/Principal



Mrs. Wilcox (along with Mrs. Costello and Mrs. Beaulieu took students biking after school this past spring!



## LMS holds 2nd annual Poetry Contest in honor of National Poetry Month

LMS held its second annual Poetry Contest in honor of National Poetry Month! Ms. Tuttle and Ms. Hinrichs hosted the contest.

Guest judges Dakota Wright and Kevin Cass spent 2 hours reading and deliberating over nearly 50 entries and were wowed by the number of creative poets here at LMS.

A big congratulations to our winners and runners-up in each grade, who won gift cards to The Briar Patch and Dairy Queen!

Thank you to LMS Student Council for our prizes.

**Grade 6**—Winner: Emilie Lawrence. Runner-up: Alex Roach.

**Grade 7**—Winner: Lindy Danielson. Runner-up: Mirabella Stockstill.

**Grade 8**—Winner: Anna Parsons. Runner-up: Ray Parker.

A sampling of poems:

### Untitled

By Alex Roach

When I'm in the water I feel calm  
I dip and dive  
swim and flip  
when I'm in the water I feel calm

When I'm in the sky I feel calm  
I swoop and soar  
twist and turn  
when I'm in the sky I feel calm

### Haikus

By Ray Parker

Skill of Assassins  
My Life on the line  
There is a knife to my throat  
My knife through their back

Thundering lightning  
The thundering storm  
Roaring loudly through the sky  
Makes light in the night

Childrens Great Big Life  
Dinosaurs roaring  
Spaceships soaring and shooting  
And then bedtime comes

The Hot Desert Trip  
My phone is half charge  
Heat is excruciating  
I really need help

## Why Don't You Just Listen?

By Lindy Danielson

When making friends, the first thing you ask is, "Who are you?" or "What's your name?"

This information embeds in your brain: a thought to never be forgot. You learn her name, her favorite color, everything important.

Now, it's a couple years later. She tells you that she is actually they; and the name you know them by, isn't what they prefer.

You answer with an, "okay" and a, "got it."

Even though you answered as if you listened, you still call them "she" and you still talk to them with their given name.

Did you not listen like you did before?

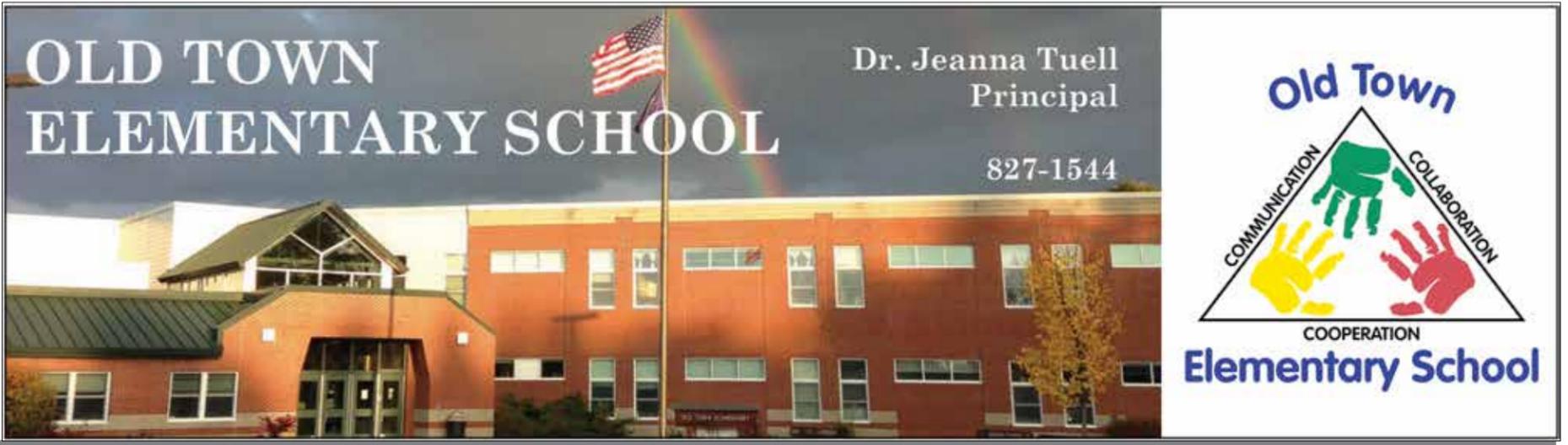
They correct you over and over, but you still can't be bothered to pay attention to their words.

It's become weeks since they talked to you about it; now they won't talk to you at all.

"What did I do wrong?", you ask yourself, confused by the sudden silence.

Why didn't you listen like you did before?

Why be bothered to learn them once, but not again?



## Welcome back to a new school year at OTES

Dear Parents, students, and community members,

I am happy to welcome you back to a new school year! As we close the chapter on the 2021-2022 school year, it's important to reflect back and consider those important lessons we were able to learn and walk away with in our toolbox of options.

First, when considering all the changes to COVID rules and regulations, I was very pleased with the overall response we received when talking and working through issues with our families. Some situations were more stressful than others, but I felt we always worked together to assure our students were receiving the best education possible. In speaking with colleagues around the area, family support for the school wasn't always at the forefront. So, thank you for continuing to be strong advocates for your children and working with us to better serve the students.

The staff at OTES has always been a united team. Throwing a pandemic in our path didn't change our core values, beliefs, and attitude--Well, at times I would say the weight of COVID 19 challenged us, but it NEVER broke us. We continued to have the health, safety, and student well-being in our decision-making and experiences at OTES. And most importantly, we continued to find creative ways to provide the best possible educational experience for our students. Staff members continued to offer many of our traditional experiences, but we also found opportunities beyond the established experienc-



Dr. Tuell

es and broadened our students' definition of the classroom by using the many excellent resources in our community to educate the whole child.

A few years ago we embarked on a journey to rethink our Vision Statement at OTES and to make this statement a more central focus for our students, staff, and families. We went through all the steps, revisions, and adoption of the statement only to be hit with a pandemic and we lost sight of this important document as we dealt with all the incredible challenges we faced over the past two years. It's time to reimagine, rethink, and return to the many concepts that make our school so magical. The use of our shared vision statement will be part of this look back and focus of our work together this year.

\* \* \*

Vision Statement: At Old Town Elementary School, our vision is to partner with families and our community to foster students who:

- Work hard at both their behavior and learning,
- Are kind and respectful to themselves and others,
- Take personal responsibility for their decisions and actions, and
- Are building independence to take on opportunities and challenges.

We poured a lot of energy into making our vision a clear, focused, and shared inspiration to help shape what we do in our school and community. This seems to be a good place to start building back from two years of dealing with a pandemic. Let's get back to our roots and stay grounded in our school's deep traditions of excellence for the sole purpose of providing our students with endless opportunities for growth and learning.

\* \* \*

Welcome to new staff members:

- **Tiffany Palmer:** Although Tiffany has been a long-standing member of our school, we are welcoming her to her new position as Art Teacher. We are excited to see her talents, passions, and instructional skills inspire our students as artists and observers of the world.

- **Erin Daigneau:** Erin will fill one of our 2nd-grade positions at OTES and provide some incredible professional skills in the area of literacy. Erin's knowledge as a literacy specialist and reading recovery teacher will be an asset to her students and classroom.

- **Alicia Jimenez:** Alicia is familiar with our school and provided math interventions in grades 3-5 last school year. This year she will join the 2nd-grade team and her positive energy will be a great fit for those students and her team.

- We are excited to offer World Languages at the Elementary Level and have hired a highly qualified teacher in Kristen Tagg. Kristen comes to OTES with several years of experience in teaching Spanish at the Elementary level. Her professional expertise will be useful as we start to build this program in our district.

We still have a few pending positions to fill in the days leading up to the school year, but feel confident that these positions will attract great candidates to work with our students this fall.

\* \* \*

We look forward to a new school year with all of you as our educational partners. Let's continue to connect, build a strong team, and give our students the best possible chance at a successful year and future.

Sincerely,  
Jeanna Tuell, Principal at OTES

## OTES snowshoe adventure was special, even without snow



Third grade students at OTES joined Ms. Berry and a few UMaine volunteers for an afterschool snowshoeing adventure.

However, mother nature had different plans in store for them. Even after all of their snow dances in hopes of a

storm all the snow melted, making for less than ideal conditions for snowshoeing. But this did not phase them. They persevered on and still went outside on a new adventure with a different focus.

Students went on nature walks learning how to identify trees, plants and even leaves. They then used these skills on the last day of the program



and worked together to build shelters (pictured above) in the woods behind OTES.

The groups talked about how to pick a safe spot, what materials to use and how to be respectful to nature. Though they didn't get to use snowshoes they were able to make the most of the situation and still go on a fun adventure.

# Summer Fun in the OTES Library!

This summer, students had some fun in the library! Students going into 1st-5th could come and enjoy some theme-centered art, STEM, and hands-on activities and read-alouds, as well as check out books. Students attending summer school also had a library experience—checking out books and enjoying some fun in the library. Students beginning Kindergarten in the fall also had the opportunity to come to OTES four times this summer and hang out with Mrs. Reesman and a rotating Kindergarten teacher to read fun stories, sing songs, create some neat things, as well as explore different parts of the school at the same time!



**OTES CIVIL RIGHTS TEAM**—The Civil Rights Team was able to meet live and in person this year. The group consisted of fifth graders only with separate team meetings in the yellow and red communities. Our

membership averaged about 20 students per week, and we worked hard to focus on our mission of having every student feel welcome, safe, and respected. Leonard Middle School is fortunate to get so many

awesome leaders! One of our projects was creating the “Everybody’s Welcome” bench for your garden. The mission of the CRT is work to make sure everyone at OTES feels SAFE, WELCOME AND RESPECTED!

## Old Town Elementary School 'Learning Garden' Becomes an Extension of the Classroom

When Old Town Elementary School started a school garden many years ago, the purpose was to beautify the school grounds and give students a chance to explore and play in a more natural setting. Since then, the garden concept has literally "grown" as the school has started to use the garden as an opportunity to integrate the space into the day-to-day curriculum. In conjunction with the Cooperative Extension Staff at the University of Maine, the school has developed a Legacy Curriculum, with each grade growing and caring for different crops.

Starting in kindergarten, students grow apples and sunflowers. They plant their apple trees in the spring and watch as they blossom and grow different apple varieties, which they can taste in the fall. They also plant their sunflowers in the spring and use them for a kindness project, where they gift the flowers to people to brighten up their days.

First graders make seed tape indoors with carrots and radishes. A month before school ends, they plant their radishes and have a harvest on the last day of school. To demonstrate that different plants take different amounts of time to develop, they plant their carrots in the last week of school and harvest them when they come back to school in the fall, when they have taste tests with different dips and cooking methods.

Second graders grow pumpkins. They weigh and measure the circumference of their pumpkins and collect seeds to cook as well as to plant. They learn how to prepare pumpkin in a healthy, easy, low-cost way that they can bring home to family. On the last day of school each year, they compare their pumpkins' growth rates.

In third grade, students grow various microgreens indoors under a grow lamp. They can taste test the different greens and vote on their favorites. After the votes are collected, they graph and analyze the results to see which one was the most popular.

Finally, when students reach fourth grade, they grow single seed potatoes. They cut them in half – planting one half in the school



garden and one half in a container they bring home to care for over the summer. Once the potatoes are ready, students harvest them and prepare multiple healthy potato recipes and vote on their favorites, which they then graph.

Old Town Elementary School educators say they have seen a great sense of pride and joy with their students and their role in the growing their grade level's product. Since this change in the curriculum, the students and staff see the garden as an extension of the classroom. Students take pride in planting and harvesting the bounty, even creating an opportunity on Tuesday afternoons to contribute to the school's farm stand. The farm stand, which is open to both Old Town Elementary School families and the public, has created a great opportunity for the school to impact their citizens and provide a great resource to be proud of, a resource that would not be possible without their learning garden.

*This article and photos originally appeared in the Maine DOE Newsroom, published by the Maine Department of Education. Reprinted with permission.*





U.S. Army JROTC Battalion



Griffin Dill, entomologist from UMaine



ER Dr. Andrew Erhard



Old Town Public Safety (EMT, Fire and Police)



Kelsey Gagnon, NICU nurse and crafter



Christina Lannan gardener and crafter

## The World of Work is Back!

Live and in person, we were able to host over 15 presenters during the week of May 23-27th. Each grade level was able to see at least a few presenters this year. Thank you to all the community members who shared their talents and careers!

Chris Blackie, Ranger pilot for the Maine Warden Service, arranged for another Warden Service to land the helicopter and on the OTES playground.



Maine Warden Service helicopter, piloted by Lincoln Mazzei.



Mark Horton restaurant owner/chef



David Fiacco, Elizabeth Downs, and Olivia Barboza, bee keeping and pollination



Dan Pelletier (Maine Guide)



Old Town High School JROTC



Amanda Hatley with outdoor education



**PLANTING FLOWERS ON A RAINY DAY**—Mrs. Keane's Second Grade class took advantage of the rainy weather to plant some flowers in the Greenhouse! With a brand new floor recently added, this is an excellent space for students and teachers to gather! Second graders were excited to plant new Spring flowers and still be "outside" even on a rainy day!



## Mrs. Sullivan's 4th Grade class taps maple trees at OTES

**By: Holly Kehoe,  
4th Grade Student**

Mrs. Sullivan's 4th Grade class recently went to the Old Town Elementary School's Maple Syrup Classroom to tap four maple trees. Mr. Sullivan, Mrs. Sullivan's husband, helped the students drill and tap into the trees.

They had to wait until the night time temperatures were in the twenties and the day time temperatures were in the forties to have sap run from the trees.

The 4th Graders tapped the trees in five steps.

- First, they drilled a hole into

the tree.

- Second, they cleaned the excess saw dust out of the hole.

- Afterwards, students lightly tapped the spile into the tree with a hammer.

- Next, they hung the bucket from the spile.

Lastly, 4th Graders put the lid on to protect the sap from getting bugs, grime, and rain water in it.

The class had fun tapping the trees with Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan! They hoped all students would enjoy collecting the sap from the Maple Syrup Classroom throughout the spring.



### Pre-K students find patterns are everywhere

Patterns are everywhere in our world. Pre-K had the task of finding the patterns that were in their classroom and on their outside play area. We made patterns using a variety of learning manipulatives; shapes, unifix cubes, colored dinosaurs and anything else that our creative minds could find. Patterning skills are so important for our math and literacy learning. We are finding new patterns in our world everyday.



## Book Character Day in Pre-K

Book Character Day brought out some new students to Pre-K. We had superheroes, Pete The Cat, Olivia the Pig, princesses of many forms and dinosaurs just to name a few.

We had the chance to talk about our characters, read their stories and walk the red carpet.

Thank you Mrs. Reesman. We had a blast!!



# ALTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cheryl Leonard, Principal  
394-2331



## Principal's Message: Facility upgrades make for busy summer

By Cheryl Leonard, Principal  
Alton Elementary School

September 6th is fast approaching and I am excited to welcome staff and students back for that first day of school!

This has been another busy summer for RSU34 and the Alton Elementary School in particular! An extensive facility upgrade has been taking place in the form of the installation of new boilers and also air exchangers throughout the building.

Almost every room in the building has had the ceiling pulled down for the replacement of the air exchangers. This has slowed down custodial access to the school, which in turn has hindered teachers in getting their rooms all ready. Elementary school teachers tend to be pretty excited to get their classrooms ready to roll when the calendar turns to August, so they have been texting daily for progress reports! We have a lot to accomplish in the next few weeks!

An additional pre-kindergarten teacher and ed tech were added to the budget this year, so both Alton Elementary and Viola Rand School will now have their own full day pre-K programs, instead of sharing a teacher! Beth Bilodeau will be the teacher in Alton, and she is excited to be back after a year away! We are in the process of hiring an ed tech for the pre-K classroom as well. There are still openings for students in this full day program!

\* \* \*

This year the Alton School will have classes from pre-kindergarten through 5th grade! It makes it a very full building, but we are thrilled to be providing the opportunity for students to stay here with us until they move up to middle school.

Staffing changes at the school will include Mrs. Dunphy, who is retiring from Old Town Elementary School but will be coming to work part time as the art teacher extraordinaire for students in Alton and Bradley! We are very pleased to welcome her!

Jennifer Pickard, from Orono, will be the new library assistant to provide library services to students at both Alton Elementary and Viola Rand Schools. She is excited to bring more library experiences to students!

Kristen Tagg has recently been hired as a new world cultures teacher for the elementary students in the district. We will provide more information about that as the program develops! It is an exciting initiative to bring language opportunities and a greater awareness of the cultures and traditions of other countries to our students.

It will be nice to have all of our classroom teachers back this year, lending to smooth transitions for students moving up to the next grade!

\* \* \*

On August 30th, pre-kindergarten students will be coming in to do a screening with Mrs. Bilodeau. This is required by the DOE and gives her information to start the year. That same day, first grade students will be coming to the school to do a literacy assessment that also provides information so that teachers will be able to hit the ground running to make every day count! Mrs. Gasaway and Mrs. Vafiades will be doing these with first grade students. Parents will receive letters with appointment times for that day.

At the Alton Elementary School, we are fortunate to have exceptional support in the areas of speech and occupational therapy for students,

math and literacy coaching for teachers, a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) coordinator for the elementary level, our new world language and cultures position, gifted and talented supports at the elementary level, interventionists for both literacy and math support for students, a school counselor, a nurse and strong supports for students receiving specially designed instruction. We focus on the character traits of Respect, Responsibility, Caring and the pursuit of Knowledge day in and day out.

The 5-2-1-0 wellness plan is one we are trying hard to promote in school and at home. This suggests that 5 fruits and vegetables a day, 2 hours or less of any type of screen time, 1 hour of physical activity and 0 sugary drinks each day is a healthy lifestyle for all of us. Our goal is to make our school a fun, safe, interesting and healthy place to come to each day!

\* \* \*

Teachers are planning an open house for families on September 20th from 4:00-6:00 pm.. Please save the date to come see the teachers, check out the classroom and see what your child has been working on to start the year!

The office staff is busy preparing for the beginning of another school year! New student registrations should be done at the Superintendent's office at Leonard Middle School, 156 Oak Street, Old Town. The office at the Alton Elementary School will be open from 7:30-3:00, August 29 – September 2.

We look forward to students returning to school on Tuesday, September 6th. The school day will begin with the first bell at 7:40, tardy bell at 7:50 and walker dismissal will begin at 2:20.

Enjoy these last weeks of summer!



### Alton students study recycling, learn how paper is made

During our recycling inquiry, we learned how paper is made. We decided to make our own version using shredded, recycled paper. We made pulp, used screens to strain out the water, and then let it dry. We drew pictures on our own homemade paper.



### AES hosts 'Family Literacy Night' for Alton, Bradley students, families

Family Literacy Night was planned and presented by The University of Maine School of Learning and Teaching students on April 13<sup>th</sup> and hosted by Alton Elementary School for all RSU #34 K - 5 students. Families participated in many great activities including Reading Radio: Tell It Your Way, Let's take a climb up the Word Ladders, Wordle: It's a BLAST, Sight Word Treasure Hunt, Inquiry Charts for Research, Terrible Tim's Tongue Twisters, and Hink Pink Think Riddles. Students also had the opportunity to play literacy games recently



purchased by RSU #34 Family Engagement Funds in Mrs. Vafiades' room and Nursery Rhyme Fun with Mrs. Dalessandro.





### UMAINE WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM VISITS AES

In April 2022 Alton Elementary School welcomed the UMaine Women's Soccer Team back to our school for a fun morning of reading. Third graders at AES loved seeing them again and having the opportunity to read with them as well. We hope to continue working with them in the future.



### 1st graders at VRS hatch chicks in classroom incubator

First graders at the Viola Rand School learned about oviparous animals during the month of May!

The highlight of the unit was hatching chicks in our classroom incubator! Students learned about the life cycle of a chick and how they develop inside the egg over 21 days, until hatching.

After 7 days, the class candled the eggs and looked for an eye spot. This is a very exciting time, as it determines the likeliness of the chicks hatching properly!

They also wrote informational books about an oviparous animal of their choice, that include many nonfiction features, such as captions, labels, diagrams, table of contents, etc. Happy spring!



### Congratulations, VRS graduates!

Front row: (left to right): Chloe Albert, Madelyn Emerson, Kilee Braden, Makayla Brooks, and Abigail Shorette; back row: Lexi Thibodeau, Connor McCannell, Isaac Hayes, Julie Preble, and Michael Eastman.



FLAG DAY AT VRS—Students at Viola Rand School gather around the flagpole for a flag-raising ceremony.

## VIOLA RAND SCHOOL BRADLEY

Cheryl Leonard, Principal  
827-2508



### Welcome back, VRS staff and students

By Cheryl Leonard, Principal  
Viola Rand School, Bradley

September 6th is fast approaching and I am excited to welcome staff and students back for that first day of school! This has been another busy summer for RSU34 and the Viola Rand School in particular!

The front pathway has been paved and looks very nice. There was a lot of inside painting this year and some work on air exchangers, too. A heat pump was installed in the office area, and the multipurpose room part of the building has a new roof.

The busiest part of the summer was having Alton and Bradley students in the building for summer school. For four weeks, students spent three days a week at the Viola Rand School. Three teachers, two tutors and three ed techs provided a fun summer schedule. The mornings were devoted to individual and small group work on literacy and math topics, with information from the past year's teachers as a guide. The afternoons were devoted to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) lessons provided by Hirundo for week one, the Children's Discovery Museum for week two, and the Challenger Learning Center for week three. The last week of summer school, students spent an afternoon field trip at each of those locations!

Aside from having the hottest summer in several years, it was a terrific experience for these students. I thank the summer staff for their commitment of time and experience: Mrs. Vose, Miss Burris, Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. Daniel, Mrs. Vafiades, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Romero. They were a stellar staff!

\* \* \*

This year, an additional pre-kindergarten teacher was added to the budget, so both Alton Elementary and Viola Rand School will have their own full day pre-k programs now, instead of sharing a teacher! Darlene Ploch has been hired to be the pre-kindergarten teacher at the Viola Rand School. Darlene is from Old Town and has a long history of pre-school and pre-kindergarten work with students. She is coming to us from the Helen

S. Dunn School in Greenbush. Prior to that, she was the early childhood director at the YMCA. Another addition to our teaching staff this year is Wendy Zubrick, who will be teaching kindergarten. She comes from Presque Isle, where she also taught more recently at the Limestone Community School. Wendy also has lots of early childhood experience including providing literacy interventions in her last position. We are excited to welcome both of these veteran teachers to our staff!

Other staffing changes at the school will include Mrs. Dunphy, who is retiring from Old Town Elementary School but will be coming to work part-time as the art teacher extraordinary for students in Alton and Bradley! We are very pleased to welcome her!

Jennifer Pickard, from Orono, will be the new library assistant to provide library services to students at both Alton Elementary and Viola Rand Schools. She is excited to bring more library experiences to students!

Kristen Tagg has recently been hired as a new world cultures teacher for the elementary students in the district. We feel fortunate to have someone with the level of knowledge and experience that Kristen brings to the position! More information will be shared as the program develops! It is an exciting initiative to bring language opportunities and a greater awareness of the cultures and traditions of other countries to our students!

With ESSER (Covid Relief) funds, we were able to hire Ethel Hill as an interventionist specifically to support students in math. We are happy to be welcoming back a former substitute teacher who was loved by students, staff and parents alike to fill this position!

\* \* \*

This year the Viola Rand School will again have classes from pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade! All available spaces are occupied, but we are thrilled to be providing the opportunity for students to stay here with us for five years before moving on to another school!

On August 30th, pre-kindergarten students will be coming in to do a screening with Mrs.

Ploch. This is required by the DOE and will provide her with information about each student to start the year.

That same day, first grade students will be coming to the school to do a literacy assessment that also provides information so that teachers will be able to hit the ground running to make every day count! Mrs. Berube and Mrs. Dalessandro will be doing these with first grade students. Parents will receive letters with appointment times for that day.

\* \* \*

At the Viola Rand Elementary School, we are fortunate to have exceptional support in the areas of speech and occupational therapy for students, math and literacy coaching for teachers, a STEM coordinator for the elementary level, our new world language and cultures position, gifted and talented supports at the elementary level, interventionists for both literacy and math support for students, a school counselor, a nurse and strong supports for students receiving specially designed instruction. We focus on the character traits of Respect, Responsibility, Caring and the pursuit of Knowledge day in and day out.

The 5-2-1-0 wellness plan is one we are trying hard to promote in school and at home. This suggests that 5 fruits and vegetables a day, 2 hours or less of any type of screen time, 1 hour of physical activity and 0 sugary drinks each day is a healthy life style for all of us. Our goal is to make our school a fun, safe, interesting and healthy place to come to each day!

\* \* \*

The office staff is busy preparing for the beginning of another school year! New student registrations should be done at the Superintendent's office at Leonard Middle School, 156 Oak Street, Old Town. The office at the Viola Rand School will be open from 7:00-2:30, August 29 – September 2.

We look forward to students returning to school on Tuesday, September 6th. The school day will begin with the first bell at 7:40, tardy bell at 7:50 and walker dismissal will begin at 2:20.

Enjoy these last weeks of summer!



### 'Girls Who Code' find fun ways to learn about computer science

The Girls Who Code club at Viola Rand School is a place where 3rd through 5th grade students get to learn more about computer science together through games, read-alouds, problem solving challenges, and coding online.

Each week we work on building up the concepts from the previous week to slowly understand more clearly how to talk to computers and bring the kids' ideas to life.

~River Marie

Girls Who Code—From left: Irallynn Bachelder, Ben Lundstrum, Mx. Marie, Grayson McDade, Andraya Pettit, and Karlee Pettit



### Mrs. Berube's 1st graders learn about the Solar System

Mrs. Berube's first graders have been learning about the Solar System. Students were challenged to a home reading incentive to travel from planet Neptune to the Sun.

They were asked to read three books each evening as fuel to get them to each planet. When all students reached the sun, they had a "Sun Party," where they enjoyed eating Sunchips, drinking Sunny Delight and watching Jimmy Neutron!

The class also visited the Emera Space Center, enjoying an interactive show that taught facts and information about the so-

lar system. This was a great way to culminate our unit!

Finally, Mrs. Berube's first grade practiced and performed a play called "Our Solar System."

It was a full house on the night of the performance, with parents and extended family packing into the VRS cafeteria.

The students did a wonderful job with making costumes and scenery. They also impressed everyone by not even needing a script to read from, as they all were able to memorize their lines!



### Players from UMaine women's soccer team read with students during visit Viola Rand School

Viola Rand School students got a special visit as part of a community outreach program.

Hannah Bamford, the captain of the University of Maine soccer team, organized some of the players to come and read with students.

They spent time in each classroom doing read-alouds and listening to students read from their book boxes.

In the fall, members of the soccer team visited our school to talk about good nutrition and exercise as well.

They enjoyed the culture of our wonderful learning environment and wanted to keep the connection going!

Thank you for coming and spending time with us!



**VRS 3rd graders enjoy UMaine Sugar Shack**—In April, third grade had so much fun going to the University of Maine Sugar Shack to learn and experience how to tap maple trees, turn it into maple syrup, and the production process that follows.



**VRS Field Day**—The PRIDE group sponsored a hot dog cookout out during Field Day. The students enjoyed water games, an obstacle course, a color run, bean bag game, a cookout and Spencer's Ice Cream.



**VRS News—Grades Pre-K, K, 2 and 3 went on a field trip to Leonards Mills.**



# Viola Rand School hosts Summer School, Math & Science Night for Alton, Bradley students



## Summer School

This year, summer school was developed with the focus on mitigating any gaps caused by quarantine situations over the last school year. We also had students who signed up for the fun of it! The 27 students who attended the program were a combination of Alton Elementary and Viola Rand School students. Mornings were designed to provide a lot of individual and small



group attention to students in the areas of literacy and math. Afternoons were devoted to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities. The first week, Gudrun from Hirundo visited and provided activities for each afternoon. The second

week, Trudi came from the Children's Discovery Museum and left very cool kits for each student to use in the afternoons. The Challenger Learning Center came each day of the third week with activities the students had great fun doing! The fourth and

last week of summer school, students went on field trips to the Children's Discovery Museum and the Challenger Learning Center. The last day, we had planned to visit Hirundo, but school was dismissed early due to the high heat and humidity. Mrs. Daniel and Mrs. Vafiades were tutors for the program as well as Lauren Taylor as part of her coursework as she is pursuing a MS degree at the University of Maine in literacy. Teachers Mrs. Vose, Miss Burris and Mrs. Walsh each had a classroom. Mrs. Soucier, Miss Romero and Mr. Henderson worked in an ed tech capacity and over saw the afternoon activities. They were all fabulous and provided a super experience for the students!



## Math & Science Night

Viola Rand School hosted a Math & Science Night for Alton and Bradley students on April 27th. The math and science students enjoyed a variety of fun activities, including BEE BOTS, WEE DOS, VR goggles, making slime, cup tower challenges, marble runs, math games, dash robots, snap circuit and legos, and planting a marigold seed.

Many RSU #34 staff and students volunteered to make this a very fun evening for all.





## Health Information

**Emergency Information:** It is vital that the school have the phone numbers for parents and other emergency numbers in case we cannot reach you. Please notify the main office immediately if there is a change in address, phone number, or emergency numbers. It is very difficult to care for an ill child when no one can be reached. If your child has a chronic condition (asthma, diabetes, seizure disorder, etc.), please make sure the school nurse is informed of the specific emergency procedure for your child.

**Health Records:** Each child was issued a health record when they entered Pre-K or Kindergarten. This record is part of their cumulative school record for the duration of their school years. It is very important that all information is accurate and up to date. Whenever there is an important change in your child's health status (asthma diagnosis, diabetes, fractures, surgery, etc.), or if your child has been placed on long-term medication, please call and let the school nurse know so this can be added to their record. When a student graduates from high school, this health record, in regard to immunizations and health issues, is an important source of information for them, as many colleges, employers, and the military require immunization information.

**Immunizations:** Students enrolled in Maine public or private schools in grades PreK through 12 are required to be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, polio and varicella. Additionally, all students enrolled in grades 7-12 must be immunized against meningococcal disease. In May of 2019, LD 798 was signed into law which removes both philosophical exemptions and religious exemptions from the exceptions to immunization requirements. Medical exemptions are still allowed and there is an exception for those students with an Individualized Education Plan and either philosophical or religious exemption that is in place prior to Sept 1, 2021.

**All required vaccines must be received prior to the first day of school, September 6, 2022.**

Required for Kindergarten entry:

- 5 DTaP (4 DTaP if 4th is given on or after 4th birthday)
- 4 Polio (3 Polio if the 3rd is given on or after the 4th birthday)
- 2 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- 1 Varicella (chickenpox)

Required for PreK entry:

- 4 DTaP
- 3 Polio
- 1 MMR

Required for 7th grade entry:

- All previously required vaccines
- 1 Tdap
- 1 Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4)

Required for 12th grade entry:

- All previously required vaccines
- 2 MCV4 (only one dose is required if the 1st dose is given on or after 16th birthday)

OR

- Medical exemption for one or all vaccines
- Laboratory evidence of immunity to specific diseases or reliable history of disease documented by a physician or other primary care provider

Philosophical or religious exemptions are only allowable for students with an IEP and exemption in place prior to September 1, 2021.

**Medications:** The administration of medications, including both prescription (requiring doctor/dentist order) and/or over the counter (non-prescription) is permitted only when failure to take such medication would jeopardize the health of the student. If a student needs to take medication while in school, please request a Permission to Administer Medication at School form from the school. Read the form very carefully and follow all guidelines before any medication may be administered. The medication must be in the original container and must be brought in by the parent or designated adult. Only enough medication for one month (20 days) should be brought to school. All medications must be stored in the locked cabinet in the main office/clinic.

Exceptions:

1. Inhalers and Epi-Pens may be carried by students only if the medication permission forms are completed and appropriate use has

been demonstrated to the school nurse. The student must have their epi-pens for field trips, and/or outdoor school activities/classes.

2. If you would like your child to have acetaminophen (Tylenol), a written parental permission form must be signed annually.

**Illness:** If a student becomes ill at school and it is necessary for him/her to go home, a parent or emergency person will be contacted either by the school nurse, office, or teacher. If a student becomes ill at home and the illness will require several days absence, please notify the school. If the student becomes ill with a communicable disease (chickenpox, etc.) please let us know. Please do not send your child to school with fever, vomiting, congested cough, undiagnosed rash, suspected "pink eye", etc. Please provide the school with a written physician note if they were sent home with question of a communicable disease (strep throat, skin rash, etc.) and when they are permitted to return to school.

**Head Lice:** If a student has eggs, the parents are called, and a treatment plan is discussed with the nurse. If a student has live lice, the student's parents are called to pick up the child and a treatment plan is discussed with the nurse. Students with lice may not return to school until the school nurse or designated school official has checked to be sure the lice have been treated. If a family has experienced chronic lice, the nurse will check the student more frequently to be sure the student is clear. Teachers can recommend a student be checked for lice if they are observing excessive head scratching. Full classroom checks are only conducted if the class is experiencing several outbreaks and excessive absences are occurring.

## Regional School Unit #34, Alton, Bradley & Old Town Special Education Record Destruction

Regional School Unit #34 plans to destroy special education records of former students whose birth dates are between January 1, 1995 and December 31, 1995. Any records prior to 1994 not already posted will also be destroyed.

Parents/Guardians and/or former students may obtain their records before October 31, 2022. Records not picked up will be destroyed. Proper identification will be required. For more information please contact: Regional School Unit #34 Special Education Office at (207) 827-3921.

## Americans with Disabilities Act Notice

RSU 34 does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. RSU 34 does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices. This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of RSU 34 are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator. This notice is available in large print or audio from the ADA Compliance Coordinator. Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to RSU 34's designated ADA Compliance Coordinator:

— Kimm Kenniston  
RSU 34  
156 Oak Street  
Old Town, ME 04468  
Phone number: Voice: (207) 827-3931  
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Parental Notice Regarding Physical Restraint and Seclusion - 2022-2023

The Board has adopted a policy/procedure JKAA/JKAA-R addressing Restraint and Seclusion of Students. The policy/procedure can be accessed on the district's website at: [www.rsu34.org](http://www.rsu34.org), in school offices and the Superintendent's Office. Any parent with questions about the policy/procedure should discuss the issue with a building principal, the Special Education Director or Superintendent.

## ANNUAL NOTICE OF STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS AND INFORMATION RIGHTS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

- (1) School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- (2) Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- (3) Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- (4) Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- (5) Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- (6) Accrediting organizations;
- (7) To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- (8) Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- (9) State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

For additional information, you may call 1-800-USA-LEARN (1-800-872-5327) (voice).

You may also contact Kimm Kenniston, Director of Special Education, at (207) 827-3921. Individuals who use TDD may use the Federal Relay Service. Or you may contact the following address: Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202-8520

## Child Find Information

The purpose of this notification is to ensure that Regional School Unit #34 is in compliance with Chapter 101 Maine Unified Special Education Regulation, Birth to Age Twenty. "Each SAU shall maintain and implement policies and procedures to ensure that all children residing in the jurisdiction between the ages of 3 and 20 years, including children with disabilities who are homeless children, are wards of the State or state agency clients, children with disabilities attending private schools and receiving home instruction, highly mobile children (including migrant or homeless), children who have the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences or 7 consecutive school

days of unexcused absences during a school year, and children incarcerated in county jails, and who are in need of special education and related services, even though they are advancing from grade to grade, are identified, located and evaluated at public expense."

It is the stated intention of Regional School Unit #34 to provide any eligible special education student for whom it has responsibility, a "genuine opportunity for equitable participation" in special education programs.

Section 504 Child Find Notice: Children eligible for Section 504 Accommodations or services include those children who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.

If you suspect your child has a disability and may need special education services or 504 Accommodations, or if you would like additional information, please contact your child's teacher or call the District's Special Education Director, Kimm Kenniston at (207)827-3921.

## School and District Data Available

Certain RSU #34 testing data is available to the public, including the "Report Card" required under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. To access this data, visit [www.rsu34.org](http://www.rsu34.org) and click "ESEA Report Card", or contact the Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jon Doty, at [jon.doty@rsu34.org](mailto:jon.doty@rsu34.org), 827-3932, or at 156 Oak Street, Old Town, ME 04468

ESEA requires all school districts to provide two years of academic information for the public in the ESEA Report Card. These report cards include assessment information about all students in the grades tested in the district and information about all students tested in each school in the following academic areas: reading/language arts, mathematics, science.

Information about the academic achievement of the students in each school is compared to the district academic assessment results and to the academic assessment results of students in those grade levels in the State of Maine. This information is also disaggregated by the following subgroups: gender, racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, students with limited English proficiency, economically disadvantaged students.

In addition to the academic assessment information, each Report Card includes information about attendance percentages of students in grade 3-8 and about the high school's graduation rate.

ESEA also requires each district to provide the public with the following: qualifications of teachers in the district's schools, the percentage of teachers in each school with each of the professional degrees (i.e. Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, Certificate of Advanced Studies, Doctorate), and the percentage of teachers in each school who are teaching with emergency or provisional credentials.

## Non-Discriminatory & Civil Rights Information:

In accordance with Federal civil rights laws and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State and local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cus.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cus.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit

your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Maine Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination because of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, religion, ancestry, or national origin. Complaints of discrimination must be filed at the office of the Maine Human Rights Commission, 51 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0051. If you wish to file a discrimination complaint electronically, visit the Human Rights Commission website at <https://www.maine.gov/mhrc/file/instructions> and complete intake questionnaire. Maine is an equal opportunity provider.

## Annual Integrated Pest Management Notice Pest Control

Because pesticides pose risks, the school uses an alternative approach to merely applying pesticides. Control of insects, rodents, and weeds at our schools focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed. Through maintenance and cleaning, we will reduce or eliminate available food and water sources and hiding places for the pests. We will also routinely monitor the school area to detect pest problems and prevent the pests from becoming established. Some techniques we will use include pest monitoring, sanitation, pest exclusion, proper food storage, pest removal and – as a last resort – pesticides. This holistic approach is often called Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

**Pesticides Use:** Sometimes pesticide use may be necessary to control a pest problem. When that happens, the school will use the lowest risk products available. If higher risk pesticides must be used, notices will be posted at application sites and parents, guardians, and staff have a right to know.

**Your Right to Know:** Parents, legal guardians, and school staff will be notified of specific pesticide applications made at the school. Notification will be given at least five days before planned pesticide applications during the regular school year. In addition, for pesticides applied anytime during the year, notices will also be posted in the school and on school grounds two working days before until 48 hours after the application. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law to pose little to no risk of exposure to children and staff. The school also keeps records of prior pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used. You may review these records, a copy of the School's Integrated Pest Management Policy and the Pesticides in Schools regulation (CMR 01-026 Chapter 27) by contacting our IPM coordinator, Brent Fournier, at 827-3902.

If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Cyr, Superintendent of Schools. For further information about pests, pesticides, and your right to know, call the Board of Pesticides Control at 207-287-2731 or visit the Maine School IPM website at [www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm](http://www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm).

## Public Notice Education Rights of Children and Youth that are Homeless

This public notice provides information about the rights of children, youths, and unaccompanied youth that are homeless to attend a public school or public charter school. An unaccompanied youth is a youth that does not live with a parent or guardian. This notice includes information to help you know if you or someone you know is considered homeless and is eligible for services from our school district. Children or youths that are homeless have rights that include the right to attend public schools. If you need assistance understanding this letter, please contact Kimm Kenniston (McKinney-Vento Liaison) at [Kimm.Kenniston@rsu34.org](mailto:Kimm.Kenniston@rsu34.org) or (207) 827-3921. Do you need an interpreter? Please tell us and we will make sure one is available. Our school district actively enrolls and

provides services for children and youth that are homeless. If you are homeless or know of a child, youth, or unaccompanied youth that may be homeless, please contact the person listed here for help: Kimm Kenniston (McKinney-Vento Liaison) at [Kimm.Kenniston@rsu34.org](mailto:Kimm.Kenniston@rsu34.org) or (207) 827-3921.

### Who is “homeless”?

Children or youth (including children of migrant workers) who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence are homeless. Fixed means the home is connected to the ground and is not easy to move. Regular means a place where the child sleeps every night. Adequate means the home meets modern standards of living. Children who are sharing someone else's housing because they lost theirs or because they cannot afford their own housing are homeless.

Children and youths who are homeless may be living in: motels; hotels; camping grounds because they do not have an adequate home; emergency or transitional shelters; trailer parks (this does not refer to a mobile home (trailer) park, this refers to a type of camping ground for fifth wheel camper trailers or other types of movable campers); or are abandoned in hospitals.

Children and youth who are homeless may have a place they usually sleep that is a public or private place not meant to be a regular place for people to sleep. They may also be living in: cars; parks; public spaces; abandoned buildings; substandard housing (housing that does not meet modern standards of living); bus or train stations; or other similar settings.

If you are not sure, please contact the person listed on this notice.

### What are the education rights of children and youth that are homeless?

Our schools provide the same educational services to all students without regard to their living situation. Children and youth who are homeless also have rights that include:

- Based on what is best for the child or youth, the child or youth can continue to attend the “school of origin” or be immediately enrolled in any public school where the student now lives. This includes any school that students who are not homeless attend that is in the area where the child or youth now lives.
- Being given services without delay, such as transportation and meal programs.
- Other appropriate services and programs, such as programs for: gifted children; children with disabilities; English learners; career and technical education; and preschool.
- Help in school through the district's federally funded Title I program. A student that is homeless can receive Title I services even if the student is not attending a Title I funded school.
- School activities for parents or guardians.
- Participation in athletics, fine arts, or other extra-curricular activities.
- Being treated the same as students who are not homeless by school personnel.

### What is the “school of origin”?

‘School of origin’ means the school the child or youth attended before becoming homeless or the school the child or youth last attended, including a preschool. When the child or youth completes the final grade level of a school of origin, then ‘school of origin’ means the school the child or youth would attend at the next grade level. The district must consider what is best for the child or youth when making a decision about which school the student will attend. Placement at the school of origin must be a choice unless doing so is not what is best for the student or is against the wishes of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.

### What if there is a disagreement about school placement?

If the district places a student in a school that is not the school of origin or a school requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, then the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth may appeal (ask to change) the placement decision. The student will be immediately enrolled in the school that the student or parent asked for while an appeal is being considered. The district homeless liaison listed on this notice will provide information and assistance to appeal a placement decision.



## Riverside Adult Education: We are here for you!

**RSU 22, 26, 34**

**High School Completion–Higher Education/  
Certificate Program Support–General Education**

**What are your goals this fall? We are excited to support you!**

**Have you heard the news about FREE college? Contact us or find information here: <https://www.mccs.me.edu/freecollege>**

**Our academic services are tailored to your needs and schedule.**

**All academic services are always free of charge to Maine residents!**

**Contact Rebecca Cross at [rcross@rsu26.org](mailto:rcross@rsu26.org) for program information.**

### Academic Support and High School Completion

Build your foundational math and reading skills to enhance your job performance or achieve an academic life goal. You can work with a tutor one on one or join a class (location can be virtual or may be at a partner site). Earn your high school diploma through class work or by passing the HiSET test (formally the GED). Prepare for higher education career training or college with our experienced and encouraging staff. Whatever your academic goals may be, we are here to help you!



*David Walker, Superintendent of Schools, RSU 34, presents an OTHS diploma to Martha Newell, a 2022 RSU 34 Adult Education graduate. Mr. Walker retired June 30 after 17 years as RSU 34 Superintendent.*

### Maine College and Career Access

Our College Readiness and Support Program is designed to help students successfully prepare for college or the workforce. We help adult learners who are earning their high school diploma or their HiSET certificate successfully transition to college. We also help students who already have a diploma prepare for their college experience. We can even provide support if you're already enrolled in college but need help finding your groove!

### Interested in becoming a certified CNA or a Behavioral Health Professional?

Contact us to learn about these certificate programs, available at low or no cost.

### Community Enrichment:

Fall community enrichment catalogs will arrive via USPS in October 2022. Until then, check out ongoing courses through our *distance learning partners*:

#### Ed2Go (<https://www.ed2go.com/enrichment/>)

This fall, check out nearly 500 interactive personal enrichment online courses through our partnership with Ed2Go. All classes are instructor-led (via email), fit into convenient six-week formats, and are affordably priced. Popular courses include: Drawing for the Absolute Beginner, Photography Suit, Intro to Guitar, Alternative Medicine, Accounting, Microsoft, Cloud Computing, Security, Languages (Spanish, French, Sign Language) and many more. Browse the site for a full list of courses!

#### UGotClass (<https://lern.org/ugotclass-course-offerings/>)

Develop professional skills through certificate classes in an online course with UGotClass. Browse <https://lern.org/ugotclass-course-offerings/> for information on certificates and education in Business, Health, Human Resources, Management, Leadership, New Media, and more.



## City Manager: Stillwater Bridge, fiber network, CDD landfill, City Brook pipe; City pool, and cemetery drainage updates

By Bill Mayo  
City Manager

The City is continuing to work on some major projects and will begin implementing some of those in the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

### Llewellyn Estes Bridge (Stillwater Bridge) / Center Street

The Llewellyn Estes Bridge project is being revisited.

At this time, the plan is to bid out the road portion only of the bridge project. That proposal will go out to bid in mid-September and awarded for a 2023 construction start if the bids come in at MDOT estimates. This project would replace both the College Avenue/Stillwater Avenue and Bennoch Road/Stillwater Avenue intersections.

The project would replace curbing, sidewalks, and traffic lights/control boxes. These 2 intersections have some of the oldest control boxes in the area, so the upgrade is needed and hopefully comes in at MDOT estimates for cost.

The bridge itself has been posted to a 30-ton weight limit and MDOT is looking at a couple different options to try to get this project back to their estimated cost for replacing the bridge. When the project was bid in the spring with the road and bridge project together the cost was roughly \$40 million, almost double MDOT's estimate.



Bill Mayo

### Fiber

The City is working with the Town of Orono, UM, and GONETSPEED in establishing a fiber network in the City beyond the initial 6 miles of fiber that have been installed.

GONETSPEED is currently working on running an additional 39 miles of fiber in Old Town and should be available in September of 2022. There are grant funds available that the City is applying for in trying to bring fiber to the entire community. There is also bond money the City has available for fiber.

There are areas, that when built out in rural Old Town, may have gaps. We are working on funding opportunities to try and fill between these service areas. The project has been slowed due to some unforeseen pole permit delays and the availability of getting fiber.

### CDD Landfill

The City has received a permit with DEP to move the unlined CDD landfill at the transfer station on Gilman Falls Avenue to the Juniper Ridge Landfill. This is an approximately \$800,000 project that will be cost shared with the State of Maine. When it is complete, this 3-acre site will be remediated and become available for use for future development. This project will begin in November 2022.

### City Brook Pipe

The City had this storm water line videoed last fall and it is being analyzed for structural integrity and areas to be repaired. The

line begins by the football field at the high school and winds down through the City to an outfall by the Wastewater Plant on Congress Street.

This is an approximately 48-inch pipe and carries a large volume of water in the spring. This line was put in around 1965 so it is time to establish the condition of it before there are failures.

The City will receive in total \$746,000 in American Recovery Act funds. This is a project the City Council is considering funding with these dollars. There are some material issues in finding the same size pipe. The engineers looking at this project are considering using concrete structures in the replacement area and that material could be made over the winter and available for construction in the spring.

Also, the City is working on defining the right of way that the drainage pipe crosses.

### City Pool

The City has had Weston Sampson conduct a review of the swimming pool. The pool was built in 1968 and there are some maintenance/operational issues that are starting to reoccur on a frequent basis. After a request for qualifications was conducted in May to assist in the location and construction of a pool, the Council chose to move forward with Weston Sampson to look at 3 possible sites in Old Town for the pool to be located. Also, the City is including the University of Maine in this discussion and the possibility of having an additional

partner in the potential construction of a new pool in Old Town.

### St. Joe's/Lawndale Cemetery

The City has done a request for proposal on drainage projects on each of these cemeteries in the summer/fall of 2022. These 2 cemeteries have water issues in the spring. After having the drainage plan completed in each of the cemeteries, this will remove the ponding water issues that currently take place each spring in these cemeteries. This will make the cemeteries much more accessible in the spring.

The cost of these 2 projects is \$301,000 and will be funded from the Cemetery Reserve Fund. The projects have not started at this time due to supply chain issues on piping, but the contractor awarded the project is working to acquire the pipe.

### 2022-23 Budget

When the final budget was approved by the Council in June, the tax rate dropped from \$21.70 to \$21.00. The City Council and Department Managers worked diligently in trying to find savings and additional revenue to facilitate the tax rate going down. With the rate going down, this will be going into the fifth consecutive year of either flat or lower tax rates in Old Town. This year was very difficult in accomplishing that as inflation continues to hover at 8% so every commodity purchase or utility cost for the City is impacted in the same manner as any business or homeowner in the community.

## City gets \$274,842 grant from Northern Border Regional Commission for downtown improvements, including more pop-up shops, seasonal farmers market, retail space, and power upgrades

The City of Old Town will receive \$274,842 from the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) to make improvements in the downtown, near and adjacent to Binette Park.

These funds will be used to relocate the existing "pop-up shop" village, located on Main Street and expand the number of shops available to small business owners and local artisans.

The total project will cost \$343,590 and blends existing green space to improve amenities and recreation infrastructure at Binette Park. The project will develop a seasonal farmers market and retail incubator space, add more pop-up shops, install and upgrade power, make improvements to sidewalks, and add a crosswalk near the splash pad to create a safer pedestrian crossing.

This project will compliment a project proposed on the site of the former factory site of Old Town Canoe. A formal announcement for this large development project is expected in early fall of 2022.

Established by Congress in 2008, the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is a partnership between the federal government and the States of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. The mission of the NBRC is to fund economic development and infrastructure projects throughout designated counties in its four-state service area. The NBRC partnership provides investments to job-creating projects that help reduce poverty, unemployment, and outmigration.



NBRC grants will provide funding for downtown improvements, including more pop-up shops.



## DeWitt Field hosts 2nd annual Wings and Wheels event

It has been a busy and exciting summer here at DeWitt Field. In June we had our second annual Wings and Wheels event. The following are a few highlights of events during the fly-in. We had over 140 cars registered, at least 30 aircraft visit from throughout the state and many vendors who sold aircraft memorabilia, car and truck parts, live music by a local favorite, Koostix. Trophies were awarded for different categories of cars and planes. It was a tremendous success, and we would like to thank our sponsors and those who came to spend the day. We are already gearing up to make it an even better event next year.



Lance Farrar

Another exciting project at the airfield is the addition of a parallel

taxiway. This will enhance a safer flying environment for the pilots with takeoffs and landing by eliminating back taxing on the main runway. Maine Earth of Hampden was awarded the project and will be starting construction in late September and finishing up in the spring of 2023. Another project we are hoping to start this fall is the development of our last available lot on the airport road. This will be a 5-hangar development for both private and business leases. We are also looking to start this project in the early fall of 2022.

\* \* \*

I would like to recognize the passing of Robert LaGasse. Better known as Bobby, he spent 25 years as a heavy equipment operator for the City of Old Town Public Works before coming to the airport. Bobby took much pride in his work. He maintained over 90 acres of mowing and grooming of the airport grounds. He will be dearly missed here.



## OTPD: 2 new police officers; watch out for school children, buses

The Old Town Police Department would like you to help us welcome 2 new Patrol Officers who joined our force earlier this summer, Officer Ryan Tuthill and Officer Garrett Watt.



Scott Wilcox

As summer winds down that means autumn is approaching and the days are getting shorter. When driving turn on your lights when the early or late afternoon sun is low and when it's foggy or raining. Be sure pedestrians and other drivers see YOU! Wet leaves or early morning ice can make roads slick, especially in shaded areas. Know the road conditions and drive accordingly. Bridges do freeze before most road surfaces!

Autumn also means back to school time again. School days bring congestion: school buses are picking

up their passengers, kids on bikes are hurrying to get to school before the bell rings, and parents are trying to drop their kids off before work. It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention in school zones and residential areas – especially before and after school.

Old Town Police would like to remind you of a few safety tips:

- **When traveling in a School Zone**—Know the speed limit, put down the phone, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing in the crosswalk or intersection, go slowly past parked cars. Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign.

- **Share the Road with School Buses**—Always maintain a safe



Officer Ryan Tuthill



Officer Garrett Watt

following distance. In traffic, avoid “cutting” in front of a bus. Never pass a stopped school bus from behind or from either direction if it is stopped to load or unload children. Yellow flashing lights on a school bus mean slow down, don't speed up because the bus is preparing to stop. Red flashing lights mean stop and wait at least 20 feet behind the school bus because children are getting on or off. Stay stopped until

the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving.

- **Share the Road with Bicyclists and Younger Pedestrians**—Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians and bicyclists to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic. When passing a bicyclist, proceed in the same direction slowly, and leave 3 feet between your car and the cyclist. Watch for bicyclists turning in front of you without looking or signaling; children especially have a tendency to do this.

\* \* \*

Back-to-school time is busy for parents, children and bus drivers, so each one must do their part to help make the roads safer and look out for others around them.

The City of Old Town wants to support Pedestrian/Bicycle safety and what better way than to make you more visible. Just stop by Public Safety at 150 Brunswick Street to pick up your safety vest today.

## Downtown Old Town (DTOT), development grant, Bird Electric Scooters

By EJ Roach  
Economic Development  
Director

Downtown Old Town (DTOT) is a group of business owners, residents, educators, elected officials, and staff focusing on the re-development of Downtown Old Town.

DTOT has been working since December of 2021 with the Maine Development Foundation and the Maine Downtown Center to continue its efforts on revitalizing Downtown. By using the 40-year-old Main Street

Four-Point Approach®, DTOT is focusing its efforts on economic vitality, design, organization, and promotion.

\* \* \*

Downtown Old Town recently partnered with Maine graffiti artist, Mike Rich, of South Portland to create art on two traffic light control boxes located in Peace Pole Park,



EJ Roach

just south of Center Street, between Water Street and Main Street. Funding for this project was provided by a grant the Maine Development Foundation and matching contribution from local business owner Alex Gray.

"I have seen Mike's work in other parts of Maine and wanted to help bring some art to my hometown," says Gray, owner of local restaurant Kanù. "I see these lightboxes throughout town and know with a little creativity you can make a plain, industrial-looking control box become a piece of art people will notice and start to appreciate". This project comes in the wake of other initiatives to bring more art to Old Town. Recent projects include:

- A mural design and installation project in Peace Pole Park, via a collaboration with the Penobscot Nation, Leonard Middle School, the Old Town Museum, and Maine Artist Abigail Gray Swartz.
- A mural created by students at Leonard Middle School on a mechanical shed located at the Perkins Avenue playground.

DTOT, was awarded a second

grant from the Maine Development Foundation to secure the services of Downtown Redevelopment Services, based out of Ravenna, Ohio, a company solely focused on providing communities with actionable plans that will build local capacity and create critical assets necessary to facilitate a community-based downtown revitalization process. Their team of architects, planners, landscape architects, and economic development professionals will work with the community to build a framework for the short-, mid-, and long-term future.

Part of their work will involve



Maine graffiti artist Mike Rich decorated two traffic light control boxes in Peace Pole Park just south of Center Street between Water Street and Main Street.

seeking public input related to Downtown Old Town. Staff from Downtown revitalization services will be in Old Town the last week of September seeking public input. If you would like to be included in our mailing list for this project, please email [eroach@old-town.org](mailto:eroach@old-town.org).



Waterfront Park



Stillwater Ave.



Library



Peace Pole Park (downtown)

## Old Town becomes first city in Maine to partner with Bird Electric Scooters

The City of Old Town will partner with Bird, a leader in environmentally friendly electric transportation. The eco-friendly transportation option can be activated through Bird's free mobile phone application and used to replace gas-powered car trips when going to the store, meeting up with friends, exploring the community and taking many other daily trips.

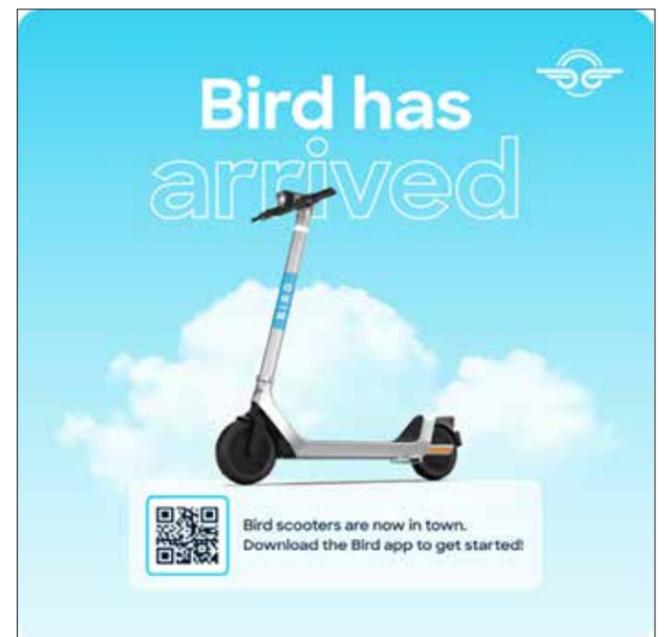
"We are thrilled to welcome Bird to Old Town, and look forward to offering community members a new, eco-friendly and fun way to get around. We expect the arrival of the scooters to bring economic impact to our city, with riders more likely to shop at local businesses." - EJ Roach, Director of Economic and Community Development.

Bird aims to make cities more livable by reducing car trips, traffic and carbon emissions. The company's scooters, developed by an in-house team of leading engineering and

vehicle design experts, also provide a naturally socially distanced way to get around and offer residents without cars another transportation option.

Bird's inclusive Community Pricing Program offers a 50% discount to low-income riders, Pell grant recipients, select local nonprofit and community organizations, veterans and senior citizens. Those who qualify can sign up by downloading the Bird app, creating an account and emailing proof of eligibility to [access@bird.co](mailto:access@bird.co).

To recognize the individuals whose work continues to be so crucial to the health and safety of our communities, Bird offers free rides to healthcare workers and emergency personnel. Those who qualify can sign up by e-mailing a copy of their medical identification card, name and phone number to [together@bird.com](mailto:together@bird.com). Eligible riders receive two free 30-minute rides per day.



## Old Town Fire Rescue: fall fire safety tips

Old Town Fire Rescue would like you to remind you as summer turns to fall, it's a good idea to refresh your memory on fall fire safety tips.

- Make sure that you have a sufficient quantity of fully functioning smoke and carbon monoxide detectors installed in your home.



Scott Wilcox

Daylight Savings Time ends; this ensures alarms don't fail when you turn the heat on in your home. This is also a good time to check that all fire extinguishers are in proper working order.

- Before the cold weather gets here, teach your family how to respond in the event of a fire. Make sure younger children know how to dial 911. Create a fire escape plan and practice it regularly.

Say a fire breaks out at 2 AM and your smoke alarms wake you and your family up – what do you do? This is when the fire escape plan comes into play.

Designate an escape route for each area of your home and establish a meeting place outside. Practice escaping your home while staying low to avoid breathing in smoke. Also practice escaping through windows using emergency ladders.

Some safety tips are the same regardless of the time of year, but many safety concerns are seasonal, particularly those that involve keeping your home warm. Old Town Fire Rescue suggests you fully check and service your homes heating devices before cranking up the heat:

Have a qualified professional in-

spect and clean your heating system annually. Check the area around your furnace or boiler. Keep trash, paint and other flammable materials far away from your heating system. Many heating equipment fires are a result of flammable materials and substances being kept too close to the furnace.

If you have a fireplace or woodstove hire a professional chimney sweep to inspect and remove creosote or other obstructions, such as animal nests, from the chimney. Inspect your chimney cap regularly. If it's damaged, repair or replace it.

(Continued in next column)

## Library: Story Walk, park passes, Library of Things, many children's activities

Want to enjoy the last few days of Summer with some free activities?

Come check out State Park Passes and Botanical Garden Passes!

The Story Walk in the garden around the library is updated monthly, so be sure to stop by and see the new story. We also have Maine State Park passes available to check out with your library card.

Our Library of Things collection is circulating! We have ukuleles, Giant Jenga, Yardzee, and several other indoor and outdoor games and things available to check out with your library card.

Visit the library for more details.

\* \* \*

Thursdays are about to get busier!

In September, the Who Dunit Mystery Book Club and our Cribbage, Cards, and Games events will be resuming.



Cassandra Pool,  
Library Director

Who Dunit meets on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30pm, and Cribbage, Cards, and Games happens every Thursday from 10:00-12:00.

At the end of the month, stop by the library during Riverfest to get some great deals at our book sale!

\* \* \*

Our hours of operation are Monday and Tuesday, 10am-7pm; Wednesday-Friday, 10am-5pm; and Saturday, 10am-1pm.

Feel free to come in and browse the collection or use our public internet access computers.

We are still offering curbside pickup service for those who would prefer it. Utilize our catalog to request items, or give us a call, and we would be happy to help with your selections (207-827-3972).

\* \* \*

We are offering in-person programming in our downstairs meeting rooms.

Toddler Time, intended for children ages 1-3, is on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30am.

The after school Club Library will be starting back up mid-September, and will be held from 2:30-4:30 on Wednesdays (PreK – 2nd grade) and Thursdays (3rd – 5th grade).

Also back by popular demand, Lego Club (for children K-5th grade) will be starting back up in September and will be held from 3:00 – 4:30 on the 3rd Monday of the month during the school year.

Contact Ms. Cindy at the library for more details on children's events.

\* \* \*

Our popular monthly Tuesday Forum has started up again for the year and is being offered in-person and virtually.

Visit us the third Tuesday of each month for musical performances, author visits, and more while enjoying light refreshments.

Folk musician Bill

Folk musician Bill Berlinghoff will be playing at the Library from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20.

Berlinghoff will be putting on a concert for us in September.

In October, we will have a visit from Maine poet Gary Rainford.

Stay tuned for information on our November Tuesday Forum.

Our DIY Book Crafts nights will also continue this fall. We will use recycled books to create fall themed crafts and decorations while we enjoy conversation.

Contact the library for more details on any events mentioned above.

\* \* \*

Our "Virtual Branch" is still available to find video streaming, eBooks and e-Audiobooks, online learning, genealogy, and other data base resources, tickets to theatre events, and more.

Some highlights include:

- **Comics Plus** - With Comics Plus, you have unlimited access to over 20,000 digital comics, graphic novels, and manga from more than one hundred publishers. Every title is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on your computer, tablet, or phone—no holds or wait lists required.

- **Kanopy** – the popular on-demand film streaming service. Use your OTPL card to access more than 30,000 of the world's best films, which can be streamed from any computer, television, mobile device or platform by downloading the Kanopy app for iOS, Android, AppleTV, Chromecast or Roku. Made possible with James Gilman Memorial Funds, Kanopy also offers a wide array of Great Courses, and a large collection of enriching, educational, and entertaining content for children.

- **cloudLibrary** – Want to expand your reading experience with eBooks and e-audiobooks? All you need is an OTPL card to gain access to the digital content you want to read. CloudLibrary's easy one-click borrowing is available for your smartphone, e-reader, or computer, and you can use advanced filtering to create customized "shelves", for optimal reading preferences. Now with access to 80,000+ more e-audiobooks!

- **Ancestry Library Edition** – available for use in the library. The world's most popular consumer online genealogy resource, this collection holds billions of records in census data, photos, directories, vital records, and more.

- **Digital Maine Library Resources** - a "one stop shopping" experience for information on all kinds of subjects. You will find thousands of magazines, newspapers, and references available through this expansive online resource.

- **Story Time & Simple Crafts with Miss Cindy** – a great way for young people and their families to stay connected with beautiful books, craft activities, and Miss Cindy. Visit our YouTube channel and enjoy lots of great story time offerings. Use our website for more information about what's going on at the Old Town Public Library (old-town.lib.me.us) and follow our Facebook and Instagram accounts for reading recommendations, lists of new items added to our collection, and upcoming programming announcements.

— Old Town Public Library  
207-827-3972  
otpl@old-town.org  
<http://old-town.lib.me.us>



## Old Town Fire Rescue

(Continued from preceding page)

If your chimney doesn't have a cap at the top, have one installed fitted with wire-mesh sides to prevent debris or animals from entering the chimney.

Always position logs in the back of fireplace/woodstove and clean out after every fire. Install a mesh metal screen around fireplace to keep sparks and fire debris inside the fireplace. Keep flammable materials at least three feet away from woodstove/fireplace. Never use gasoline to start a fire or leave a fire unattended.

Space heaters should always be plugged directly into a wall. Do not use an extension cord or power strip as they can overheat and cause a fire. Keep heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials like

paper, trash bin, furniture, drapes or carpet. Even though electric space heaters do not have an open flame, the heating elements of some types of electric heaters are hot enough to ignite nearby combustibles. It's also important to check surrounding objects periodically to see if they feel hot. Never leave space heaters unattended or run them overnight while you are sleeping.

**Outdoor Fire Risks** – As you do your fall yard cleanup be sure to clear your roof, gutters and downspouts of unnecessary buildup of debris, such as pine needles and leaves around your home, make it a habit to remove them periodically. Prune trees and rake up leaves and twigs. Remove fuel from lawn mowers before storing them for winter. Don't store fuel in your home or garage.

## Update on projects that are underway (or completed) in Old Town

By David C. Russell  
Code Enforcement Officer

As the summer of 2022, rapidly passes by, just know that there is still plenty of time and cooler weather to

complete the projects you have started, or even begin a new one.

- The construction of two new three-unit apartment buildings on Brunswick Street. (Buildings are up, rough plumbing and electrical are completed with drywall beginning)



David Russell

- The conversion of the old Jefferson Street School into a thirteen-unit apartment building. (Framed up with rough plumbing and electrical completed)

- Renovations at the old Louis Stairs School. (Completed and fully occupied)

- The demolition of a dwelling on Perkins Avenue and a remodel of a dwelling on Wilson Street. (Done) The developers are reconfiguring lot lines to allow for the construction of two new apartment buildings. (Project received Planning Board approval in July)

There is also a five mega-watt solar array to be constructed on the Airport property. (The property has been cleared and the underground electrical conduits are being installed)

I am also anticipating the start of at least five new dwellings on

Pushaw, including three on Woodland Avenue and two on Lakeside Lane. (Three dwellings have had a final inspection. The others are still under construction)

A project that was site-developed a number of years ago has been sold to new owners. They have come in and received the first four permits out of twenty for six unit buildings to be constructed.

The solar farm on airport property has been completed with the exception of some ground work.

With the afore mentioned and all of the unknown projects that are sure to begin this fall, I will continue to stay busy.

\* \* \*

So, if you are in the early stages of planning a project or want to have your project shovel read for this fall or next spring's construction season, please contact me with any questions you may have. I would like to reiterate the same advice once again as I offered in the last quarterly. While this information may seem redundant, I feel it is important to remember:

I always suggest that you give me a call before you get to far along in the planning stages to determine whether a permit is required and if your project is even feasible/ allowed. I pride myself in 99% of the time finding a way for your dream to become a reality. For some construction projects, such as siding, roofing, and fences there are no permits required. However, do you know if the siding you are going over is asbestos, or how many layers of shingles are permitted to be

shingled over. Do you really know where your property line is and if it is true that you must put the good side of the fence facing your neighbor's property? What size does my new bedroom window need to be to meet egress standards. How high does the railing on my new deck have to be and do I even need a railing on it? Is a permit for a deck or a shed required? The list goes on and on. Most accessory structures, decks, sheds, and garages require a building permit. Set back distances from property lines vary between zoning districts and upon an accessory structure being attached or detached to the primary structure. These are important items to find out before venturing too far into a project.

\* \* \*

Our permit fees are very reasonable and are assessed based upon the type of construction you are doing. For instance, remodeling fees, with no additional square footage added are based on the following:

- <\$1,000 of construction costs = \$25.00
- \$1,000 - \$4,999 of construction costs = \$35.00
- \$5,000 - \$9,999 of construction

costs = \$50.00

- \$10,000-20,000 of construction costs = \$65.00
- Over \$20,000 of construction costs the fee is \$4.00 per thousand of cost.

Permit fees for additions and accessory structures are based on the square footage of the addition / structure. We also require and issue both internal and external plumbing permits, electrical permits, sign permits as well as permits for all commercial applications.

\* \* \*

**\*\*\*Important new legislation!**—Fuel Gas detectors are required to be installed in all new and existing multi-family dwellings and commercial buildings beginning January 1, 2022. **Call for information.\*\*\***

\* \* \*

As you can see it is an easy one stop shopping department for all your permitting needs. Please do not hesitate to pick up the telephone and let me help you get your project under way. I look forward to lending you any assistance you may require. You may contact me, David Russell, at 827-3965 ext. 205.



This is a picture of a clump of rags/wipes that the Old Town Pollution Control Staff removed from our influent channel. This clump is not all wipes, but what happens is once the wipes start balling up, other material that normally would pass through our system clings to it.

## Pollution Control: cleaning, flushing, repair

By David Smith  
Pollution Control  
Superintendent

For the rest of the summer the Staff at the Pollution Control facility will be focusing on road work.

There is a lot of paving going on in Old Town. Staff will be replacing and adjusting manhole covers for the various Paving Crews. We have spent some time



David Smith

on Center Street and Stillwater Avenue along with other streets in town. We will continue this until these streets are completely paved. This is part of the Spring to Summer paving schedule.

Once these streets are finished, we will focus on the Summer to Fall Street Paving schedule. Staff has also identified other manhole covers throughout the city that need work

and adjustments. These manhole covers will be repaired.

Once the road work slows down the Pollution Control Staff will focus on work at the Pollution Control facility. Mostly preventive maintenance. We will start by cleaning, prepping, and painting the secondary clarifiers. We are also in the middle of prepping and painting the ten motors and gear reducers for our RBC units.

Staff is also performing flow monitoring in the sewer collection system. We have four portable flow meters in manholes throughout town. This is part of our CSO Master Plan and will continue for a few more years.

Just a reminder. Please do not flush baby wipes, clorox wipes, paper towels, or flushable wipes. These items should never be flushed. These items do not break down and they cause problems such as sewer blockages, not only in the city's main sewer lines but also in homeowners private sewer lines.

## City elections, absentee ballots dog licensing

By Laura Engstrom, City Clerk

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer!

Upcoming reminders are:

- **NOMINATION PROCESS** for City Council, School Board, and Warden and Ward Clerk elections:

—**City Council**: two 3-year terms expiring November 2025; 25 signatures needed (registered Old Town voters only)

—**School Board**: two 3-year terms expiring November 2025; 25 signatures needed (registered Old Town voters only)

—**Warden and Ward Clerk**, one position each, 2-year terms expiring November 2024; 10 signatures needed (Registered Old Town Voters only)

Nomination papers for these elections will be available at the City Clerk's office, City of Old Town, 265 Main Street, from August 29, 2022 through September 9, 2022. Nomination papers must be returned by 4 p.m. on September 9, 2022.

**Election day will be Tuesday November 6, 2022, to fill these seats.**

\* \* \*

- **ABSENTEE BALLOTS** will be arriving the first week in October for the Regular and Local Election. You may request an Absentee Ballot in several ways:

—online at <http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>

—Phone call to the City Clerk's office 827-3965

—Mail in request

—Or stop into City Hall, 265 Main Street, during business hours, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday-Friday

\* \* \*

- **DOG LICENSING** for the 2023 year will start on Oct. 15, 2022.

—\$6.00 if spayed/neutered; \$11.00 if not.

We now offer dog licensing services online. Reminder to have updated Rabies information.

\* \* \*

Any questions please feel free to contact me—Laura Engstrom, City Clerk, [lengstrom@old-town.org](mailto:lengstrom@old-town.org), 207-827-3965, ext. 122.



Laura Engstrom

# April Buchanan new City Assessor; mill rate stable

**By Travis Roy  
Assessor and  
Assistant City Manager**

Old Town has a new City Assessor.

April Buchanan has been hired as the City Assessor as of August 8, 2022. April comes to the City with a lengthy background in both real estate appraisal and municipal assessing work in Maine.

We are excited to add April to our team and look forward to working with her.

April can be reached at the Assessor's office or by email at [abuchanan@old-town.org](mailto:abuchanan@old-town.org).

\* \* \*

## Property Tax Happenings 2022 – The real estate rollercoaster

We have gone from a real estate market where you list your house for set price to a market where you set a date that the bidding war ends, and now we are starting to settle back towards whatever the new normal will be.

Prior to the pandemic it was common to have a home listed on the market for 30 to 60 days before a sale occurred. During the height of the market surge the average days on market in this region was actually 1 to 15 days, with most homes under contract in 3 to 10 days.

Interest rates are climbing and we are seeing homes listed for up

to 30 days for the first time in two years. No one can be sure where the market will settle, but it seems like we are not going to find out until sometime in 2023.

## Old Town Mill Rate History –

Old Town's mill rate demonstrates stability for 5th year in a row. The commitment process was completed in Old Town on August 4, 2022 for FY2023. The process resulted in a mill rate of \$21.00 per \$1,000 in value. This is a reduction in the mill rate of 70 cents per \$1,000 in value, or about a 3% reduction.

The mill rate was the same in FY19, 20 and 21. The mill rate was reduced \$1.16 in FY22 and now is reduced an additional \$.70 for FY23. Stable mill rates is a trend that we believe will continue in years to come.



Travis Roy



April Buchanan

## New property tax control measures for seniors – Property Tax Deferral Program

The State Property Tax Deferral Program is a lifeline loan program that can cover the annual property tax bills of Maine people who are ages 65 and older or are permanently disabled and who cannot afford to pay them on their own. The loan program allows Maine's most vulnerable community members to age in place and ensures that property taxes are still delivered to municipalities, requiring repayment of the loan once the property is sold or becomes part of an estate.

To be eligible for the program, you must be at least 65 years old or unable to work due to a disability. In addition, all owners must have combined liquid assets of less than \$75,000 (\$50,000 if a single owner) and combined income of less than \$40,000.

Once a property is accepted into the State Property Tax Deferral Program the homeowner DOES NOT have to reapply each year. The application and guidance are available through the assessor's office.

## Property Tax Stabilization Program –

Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens, also known as

the Property Tax Stabilization the "Program", is a State program that allows certain senior-citizen residents to stabilize, or freeze, the property taxes on their homestead. As long as you qualify and file a timely application each year, the tax billed to you for your homestead will be frozen at the amount you were billed in the prior tax year. Eligible residents who move may transfer the fixed tax amount to a new homestead, even if that new homestead is in a different Maine municipality.

To be eligible for the Program, an individual must meet all of the following as of April 1 of the property tax year for which they are requesting stabilization (so for applications due December 1, 2022, qualifications must be met as of April 1, 2023):

- 1) at least 65 years old,
- 2) a permanent resident of Maine,
- 3) have owned a Maine homestead for at least ten years, and
- 4) be eligible for a homestead exemption on the property they are placing in the Program.

If your homestead is owned by more than one individual as joint tenants, only one owner needs to qualify for the Program to participate. There are no income or asset limitations to qualify.

## City website offers payment options

**By Danielle Berube  
Finance Director**

The City's website offers citizens the ability to re-register vehicles, pay taxes and sewer fees, purchase hunting and fishing licenses, and re-register ATV, snowmobile, and boat registrations with the on-line portals.

## Upcoming due dates:

2023 Tax bills have been mailed. The due dates are September 14, 2022 and March 8, 2023.

December 8, 2022 is the last day to make payments on 2021 tax liens filed on 06/8/2021, automatic foreclosure notices will be sent in October/November.

## 2022 Waste Water Pollution Billing schedule:

Service dates	Due dates
January-March	April 30
April-June	July 31
July-September	October 31
October-December	January 31

## General Assistance Office

General Assistance is a service administered by the municipality for the immediate aid of persons who are unable to provide the basic essential necessities to maintain themselves or their families.

The General Assistance office operates by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. General Assistance can be reached by telephone at 827-3991, ext. 107, or by email at [otwelfare@old-town.org](mailto:otwelfare@old-town.org).



Danielle Berube



Public Works crews pave Center Street.



## Public Works crews maintain city infrastructure

It has been a busy summer of paving and reconstructing sidewalks throughout town again this year and we hope to tackle some more road projects later this fall. Late September will be time to start thinking snow so we will be stockpiling winter sand in the coming months and snowplow equipment will be in the shop being prepared for the coming snows.



John Rouleau

Crews will be out trimming trees and brush from the roadside right of ways to make room for snow and improve visibility.

A fall curbside leaf pick up will happen from November 7th to the 18th this year. All leaves must be in paper leaf bags for collection.

Public works crews will be setting up for this year's Riverfest after a two-year hiatus so be sure to come out and support our community.



Spring Street project included new curbing, sidewalk and street paving.

# RSU 34 SCHOOL ROUTES 2022 – 2023

**All times are approximate. As we settle in, times will be adjusted. Please plan to be at your stop 5 minutes early.  
THANK YOU!!**

## ALTON RUNS—MORNING

This route covers Bennoch Rd from Moulton Lane, Argyle RD to I 95. Meets Bus F on the Old Bennoch RD to Exchange Students. Bennoch RD to The Alton Elementary School.

### —All K-5 students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants

6:45 AM Bennoch RD @ Moulton Lane  
6:51 AM Bennoch RD @ Bradford Station RD  
6:56 AM Bennoch RD & Charles Lane  
7:00 AM Streets Home Park  
7:03 AM Bennoch RD between I 95 & Gardiner RD  
7:05 AM Old Bennoch RD (exchange Students with Bus F & the Argyle Bus)  
7:08 AM Bennoch RD @ Gardiner RD  
7:10 AM Bennoch RD @ Streets Park  
7:12 AM Bennoch RD @ Doliff RD  
7:16 AM Bennoch RD @ Quarry RD  
7:17 AM Bennoch RD between Quarry RD & Charles' Lane  
7:20 AM Bennoch RD @ Charlie's Lane  
**7:25 AM Alton Elementary School**

### —Middle and High School Students

7:37 AM The Blue Cross Gospel Church (LaGrange)  
7:39 AM Bennoch RD @ Moulton Lane  
7:44 AM Bennoch RD @ Bradford Station RD  
7:48 AM On the Argyle RD  
7:55 AM Tannery RD  
7:57 AM Bennoch RD & Charles Lane  
8:00 AM Bennoch RD @ Doliff RD  
8:01 AM Bennoch RD @ Streets Park  
8:02 AM Bennoch RD @ Gardiner RD  
8:08 AM East Coiley RD  
**8:20 AM OTHS**  
**8:25 AM Leonard Middle School**

## ALTON RUNS AFTERNOON

This route covers; Argyle RD, Bennoch RD & Tannery RD.

### —K-5 Students

2:20 PM LEAVES The Alton School Bennoch RD to Moulton LN  
2:25 PM Bennoch RD & Moulton LN  
2:35 PM Bennoch RD to East Coily RD  
2:40 PM Bennoch RD to Gilman Falls Avenue

### —Middle and High School students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

3:10 PM LEAVES THE LMS  
3:15 PM LEAVES OTHS  
3:20 PM On the East Coiley RD  
3:25 PM On the Old Bennoch RD  
3:27 PM Tannery RD  
3:30 PM Argyle RD area  
3:40 PM Bennoch RD & Moulton LN  
3:45 PM LaGrange Full Gospel Church (Blue Cross)

## RUN A MORNING

This route covers Lakeside RD, Woodland Ave, Poplar Street, Kirkland RD, Colonial Circle, and Bennoch RD from Kirkland RD to Stillwater Ave.

### —All K-5 students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants

6:40 AM Lakeside RD @ Beachwood Ave  
6:45 AM Woodland Ave (both sides)  
6:55 AM Woodland Ave @ Poplar Street  
7:00 AM Poplar ST  
7:02 AM Poplar ST Wickett Hill Area  
7:03 AM Poplar ST between Wickett Hill & Kirkland RD  
7:10 AM Kirkland RD; Poplar Street side (800 area)  
7:14 AM Kirkland RD @ Bennoch RD  
7:15 AM Bennoch RD between Kirkland RD & Stillwater Ave  
Bennoch RD @ Stillwater Ave  
**7:20 AM Old Town Elementary School**

### —Middle and High School Students

7:48 AM Lakeside RD @ Beachwood Avenue  
7:53 AM Woodland Ave (both sides)  
7:59 AM Woodland Ave @ Poplar Street  
8:02 AM Poplar ST  
8:05 AM Poplar ST Wickett Hill Area  
8:06 AM Poplar ST between Wickett Hill & Kirkland RD  
8:10 AM Kirkland RD; Poplar Street side (800 area)  
8:15 AM Colonial Circle  
8:17 AM Kirkland RD @ Bennoch RD  
8:20 AM Bennoch RD between Kirkland RD & Stillwater Ave  
8:21 AM Bennoch RD @ Stillwater Ave  
**8:25 AM OTHS**  
**8:30 AM Leonard Middle School**

## RUN A AFTERNOON

This route covers Bennoch RD, to Kirkland RD, Kirkland RD, Colonial Circle, Poplar ST, Woodland Ave, Lakeside RD, to Beechwood Ave.

### —K-5 Students

**2:20 PM LEAVES OTHS**  
2:25 PM Bennoch RD to Kirkland RD  
2:26 PM Kirkland RD to Colonial Circle.  
2:30 PM Kirkland RD out to the 800 area.  
2:40 PM Poplar ST  
2:45 PM Woodland, Lakeside to Beechwood Ave  
3:00 PM The other side of Woodland Ave

### —Middle and High School students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

**3:20 PM LEAVES OTHS**  
**3:25 PM LEAVES LMS**  
3:32 PM Bennoch RD to Kirkland RD  
3:37 PM Kirkland RD to Colonial Circle.  
3:42 PM Colonial Circle Area.  
3:47 PM Kirkland RD out to the 800 area.  
3:52 PM Poplar ST  
4:00 PM Woodland, Lakeside to Beechwood Ave  
4:10 PM The other side of Woodland Ave

## RUN B MORNING

This route covers Argyle Southgate RD, Edinburg RD, & Argyle RD. Old Bennoch RD between the I95 overpass to East Coily RD

### —All K-5 students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants

7:00 AM Corner of Bennoch Road & Southgate RD  
7:05 AM Southgate RD between Argyle RD & Old Town Line  
7:08 AM Southgate RD between Old Town Line to Argyle RD  
7:10 AM Edinburg RD @ 2727  
7:15 AM Edinburg RD between Bear Claw RD & Argyle RD  
7:15 AM On the Argyle RD  
7:20 AM Wolf Lane Area  
**7:25 AM Alton Elementary School**

### —Middle and High School Students

7:46 AM Edinburg RD near Hemlock Stream  
7:53 AM Edinburg RD @ Hoyt Brook (Tree Farm RD)  
7:56 AM On the Argyle RD  
8:00 AM Southgate RD between Argyle RD & Old Town Line  
8:05 AM Southgate @ Bennoch RD  
8:06 AM Bennoch RD between Southgate RD & Old Bennoch RD  
8:09 AM Bennoch RD between Old Bennoch RD & East Coiley RD  
8:10 AM Bennoch RD @ East Coiley RD  
**8:20 AM OTHS**  
**8:25 AM Leonard Middle School**

## RUN B AFTERNOON

This route covers Bennoch RD; from East Coiley RD. to Old Bennoch RD, Southgate RD, Argyle RD, and Edinburg RD.

### —K-5 Students

**2:20 PM LEAVE ALTON ELEMENTARY**  
2:25 PM Argyle RD  
2:30 PM Edinburg Road to Bear Claw RD  
2:35 PM Southgate RD (Argyle RD to Bennoch RD)

### —Middle and High School students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

**3:05 PM LEAVES OTHS**  
**3:10 PM LEAVES LMS**  
3:35 PM Southgate RD to Argyle RD  
3:40 PM Edinburg RD  
3:45 PM Argyle RD and Wolf Way  
3:50 PM Argyle RD to Bennoch RD

# RSU 34 SCHOOL ROUTES 2022 – 2023

**All times are approximate. As we settle in, times will be adjusted. Please plan to be at your stop 5 minutes early.**

**THANK YOU!!**

## RUN C MORNING

This route covers the Main Road from Fourth Street to the Orono Line. Brunswick Street between Bowdion Street & Perkins Avenue.

—All K-5 students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants

6:55 AM	Main ST & Brunswick ST
6:56 AM	Main ST & Wood ST
6:56 AM	Main ST @ Stillwater Avenue
6:57 AM	Main ST @ Goldsmith Lane
6:57 AM	Main ST @ Middle Street
7:00 AM	Downtown Area
7:02 AM	Main ST @ Willow Street
7:02 AM	Main ST @ the Funeral Home
7:04 AM	Main ST @ Pine ST
7:06 AM	Main ST @ Cooper Street
7:08 AM	Main ST @ Dartmouth
7:07 AM	Main ST @ Park Street
7:09 AM	Main ST @ Bowdoin Ave
7:07 AM	Main ST @ Penny RD
7:08 AM	Main ST @ Spaulding Street
7:09 AM	Main ST @ Taylor RD (Regency Park)
7:10 AM	Main ST @ Old Town Orono Line
7:11 AM	Main ST @ Penobscot Street
7:12 AM	Main ST @ Highland Avenue
7:14 AM	Highland Ave @ Hamel Lane
7:15 AM	Hamel LN @ Bowdoin ST
7:15 AM	Bowdoin ST @ Brunswick ST
7:17 AM	Brunswick ST @ Carroll ST
7:19 AM	Perkins Ave & Bradbury
7:21 AM	Perkins Ave & Hillard St
7:24 AM	Jefferson ST & Center
<b>7:25 AM</b>	<b>OTES</b>

—Middle and High School Students

7:45 AM	Main ST & Brunswick ST
7:45 AM	Main ST & Wood ST
7:46 AM	Main ST & Stillwater Avenue
7:46 AM	Main ST & Goldsmith LN
7:48 AM	Downtown Area
7:50 AM	Main ST @ Willow Street
7:50 AM	Main ST @ the Funeral Home
7:52 AM	Main ST @ Pine ST
7:53 AM	Main ST @ Cooper Street
7:55 AM	Main ST @ Bowdoin Ave
7:56 AM	Main ST @ Penny RD
7:57 AM	Main ST @ Spaulding Street
7:58 AM	Main ST @ Taylor RD (Regency Park)
8:04 AM	Main ST @ Old Town Orono Line
8:09 AM	Main ST @ Penobscot Street
8:10 AM	Main ST @ Highland Avenue
8:11 AM	Highland Ave @ Hamel Lane
8:12 AM	Bowdoin ST @ Brunswick ST
8:15 AM	Brunswick ST @ Carroll ST
8:17 AM	Perkins Ave & Bradbury
8:19 AM	Perkins Ave & Meadow Lane
<b>8:20 AM</b>	<b>Leonard Middle School</b>
<b>8:25 AM</b>	<b>OTHS</b>

## RUN C AFTERNOON

This route covers; Jefferson ST, Perkins Ave, Fourth ST: from Middle ST to Stillwater Ave. Main ST; from N. Fourth ST to the Orono Line. Highland Ave, Hamel LN & Brunswick ST to Perkins Ave.

—K-5 Students

<b>2:20 PM</b>	<b>LEAVE OTES</b>
<b>2:25 PM</b>	Main ST @ Willow ST
2:27 PM	Main ST Near The Holy Family Church
2:28 PM	Main ST & Burnham ST area
2:30 PM	Main ST & Taylor RD (Regency Park)
2:35 PM	Old Town & Orono Townlines
2:37 PM	Main ST & Highland Ave.
2:38 PM	Hamel Lane area
2:40 PM	Brunswick ST; Bowdion ST to Prentiss ST
2:43 PM	Perkins Ave & Jefferson ST area.

—Middle and High School students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

<b>3:05 PM</b>	<b>LEAVES OTHS</b>
<b>3:10 PM</b>	<b>LEAVE LMS</b>
3:15 PM	Stillwater Ave Brunswick ST
3:17 PM	Brunswick & Main ST
3:20 PM	Main ST & Wood ST
3:21 PM	Main ST Near The Holy Family Church
3:23 PM	Main ST & Burnham ST area
3:29 PM	Main ST & Taylor RD (Regency Park)
3:31 PM	Old Town & Orono Townlines
3:36 PM	Highland Ave.
3:36 PM	Hamel Lane area
3:41 PM	Brunswick ST; Bowdion ST to Perkins Avenue
3:46 PM	Perkins Avenue Area

## RUN D MORNING

This Route cover College Ave Ext, Bennoch RD, Spring ST, Stillwater Ave, College Ave & University Park.

—All K-5 students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants

6:50 AM	College Ave Ext. (Gilman Falls side)
6:55 AM	Bennoch RD (May meet #605 on East Coiley RD)
6:56 AM	On Littlefield Lane
7:00 AM	On Youngs Lane
7:05 AM	On Spring ST
7:06 AM	Bennoch RD (Orono side)
7:10 AM	Stillwater Ave (Orono to College Ave.)
7:11 AM	College Ave Ext (U of M Forestry)
7:16 AM	University Park Bus Stop
7:18 AM	799 Stillwater Ave (Pine Haven)
7:19 AM	Corner of Stillwater Ave and Pembroke DR
7:20 AM	Stillwater Ave (College Ave to OTES)
<b>7:25 AM</b>	<b>OTES</b>

—Middle and High School Students

7:40 AM	Stillwater Ave (OTES to College Ave)
7:46 AM	College Ave Ext (U of M Forestry)
7:49 AM	University Park Bus Stop
7:51 AM	Stillwater Ave (College Ave to Bennoch RD)
7:52 AM	Bennoch RD (Orono side)
7:54 AM	Stillwater Ave at the Orono Townline
7:56 AM	On Spring ST
8:01 AM	On Youngs Lane
8:06 AM	On Littlefield Lane
8:09 AM	Bennoch RD
8:11 AM	College Ave Ext. (Gilman Falls side)
8:14 AM	Gilman Falls Ave & Leonard Lane
8:15 AM	Gilman Falls Ave & Sargent DR
<b>8:20 AM</b>	<b>OTHS</b>
<b>8:25 AM</b>	<b>Leonard Middle School</b>

## RUN D AFTERNOON

This route covers Stillwater Ave; from OTES to College Ave, College Ave Ext, University Park, Stillwater Ave from College Ave to Spring ST, Bennoch RD to Gilman Falls Ave, College Ave Ext Gilman Falls Ave.

—K-5 Students

<b>2:20 PM</b>	<b>LEAVE OTES</b>
2:22 PM	Stillwater & Pembroke DR
2:23 PM	799 Stillwater Ave (Pine Haven)
2:25 PM	College Ave EXT (U of M Forestry Buildings)
2:30 PM	College Ave area
2:31 PM	University Park Bus Stop
2:35 PM	Stillwater & Michael ST
2:37 PM	1270 Stillwater Ave.
2:40 PM	Spring ST
2:45 PM	Bennoch RD
2:48 PM	Youngs' LN area
2:50 PM	Littlefield LN
2:55 PM	College Ave EXT
2:58 PM	Gilman Falls Ave

—Middle and High School students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

<b>3:05 PM</b>	<b>LEAVE OTHS</b>
<b>3:10 PM</b>	<b>LEAVE LMS</b>
3:14 PM	Stillwater & Pembroke DR
3:15 PM	799 Stillwater Ave (Pine Haven)
3:20 PM	College Ave EXT (U of M Forestry)
3:25 PM	College Ave area
3:28 PM	University Park Bus Stop
3:30 PM	Stillwater & Michael ST
3:33 PM	Spring ST
3:35 PM	1270 Stillwater Ave Area
3:40 PM	Bennoch RD
3:42 PM	Youngs' LN area
3:45 PM	Littlefield LN
3:50 PM	College Ave EXT
3:55 PM	Gilman Falls Ave

# RSU 34 SCHOOL ROUTES 2022 – 2023

**All times are approximate. As we settle in, times will be adjusted. Please plan to be at your stop 5 minutes early.**

**THANK YOU!!**

## RUN E MORNING

This route covers Gilman Falls Ave, Main St, Front ST, Bosworth St. Oak ST, Lincoln ST, & Abbott ST Areas.

—All K-5 students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants

7:00 AM Gilman Falls Avenue @ Leonard LN  
 7:01 AM Gilman Falls Avenue @ Sargent Drive  
 7:02 AM Gilman Falls Avenue @ Fourth St  
 7:03 AM Fourth ST  
 7:04 AM Fourth ST & Stillwater AVE  
 7:05 AM Fouth ST & Middle ST  
 7:06 AM Center Street @ Front Street (French Island)  
 7:07 AM Front Street @ River Street  
 7:07 AM Front Street @ Union Street  
 7:08 AM Front Street @ Heald Street  
 7:09 AM Bosworth Street @ Bodwell St.  
 7:10 AM Bosworth Street @ Union Street  
 7:10 AM Bosworth Street @ Hayes Street  
 7:11 AM Bosworth Street @ Howard St.  
 7:11 AM Bosworth ST @ Chapman Street  
 7:13 AM Center Street @ Shirley ST.  
 7:15 AM Center ST @ Brunswick ST  
 7:18 AM Oak ST  
 7:20 AM Jefferson Street & Lincoln ST  
 7:21 AM Lincoln ST & Shelter Lane  
**7:25 AM Arrive @ OTES**

—Middle and High School Students

7:35 AM Stillwater Ave; from OTES to Center ST.  
 7:38 AM Stillwater & Abbott ST area  
 7:40 AM Stillwater Ave; Center ST to Veazie ST  
 7:43 AM Gilman Falls Avenue & Fourth St.  
 7:44 AM Corner Gilman Falls Avenue & Leonard LN  
 7:45 AM Main ST & Brunswick ST  
 7:46 AM Main ST & Wood ST  
 7:46 AM Main ST & Goldsmith Lane  
 7:50 AM Center Street & Front Street (French Island)  
 7:51 AM Front Street & River Street  
 7:53 AM Bosworth Street & Bodwell St.  
 7:54 AM Bosworth Street @ Hayes Street  
 7:55 AM Bosworth ST & Chapman Street  
 7:58 AM Center Street & Shirley ST.  
 8:00 AM Center ST & Brunswick ST  
 8:00 AM Oak ST Area to Middle School  
**8:05 AM Leonard Middle School**  
**8:10 AM OTHS**

## RUN E AFTERNOON

—K-5 Students

**2:20 PM Leave OTES**  
 2:22 PM Abbott ST & Shelter LN area, Lincoln ST.  
 2:25 PM Jefferson ST to Oak ST, Oak ST, to Brunswick ST.  
 2:30 PM Front ST, Nadeau ST, and Bosworth ST areas.  
 2:35 PM Middle ST and Fourth ST  
 2:40 PM Fourth ST and Stillwater Ave  
 2:45 PM Fourth St & Main ST

2:48 PM Gilman Fall Ave & Sargent DR  
 2:50 PM Gilman Falls Ave & Leonard LN

—Middle and High School students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

**3:05 PM LEAVES OTHS**  
**3:10 PM LEAVES LMS**  
**3:16 PM** Corner of Center & Seventh ST  
 3:20 PM Front ST, Nadeau ST, and Bosworth ST areas. (FRENCH ISLAND)  
 3:30 PM Middle ST & Fourth ST  
 3:33 PM Fourth ST & Stillwater ST  
 3:35 PM Fourth ST & Gilman Falls Ave  
 3:36 PM Gilman Falls & Sargent DR  
 3:37 PM Gilman Falls & Leonard LN

## BUS F MORNING

### Alton & West Old Town

Tannery RD, Kirkland RD, West Old Town RD, Stage Coach RD, West Coiley RD, Winter Rd, & Bennoch RD.

—All K-5 students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants

6:50 AM Tannery RD & Gerry Lane  
 6:53 AM Hudson RD to Pushaw Stream  
 6:55 AM On the Kirkland RD  
 7:00 AM West Old Town RD @ Stage Coach RD  
 7:05 AM West Coily RD  
 7:10 AM West Old Town RD & Winter RD  
 7:25 AM **Alton Elementary School**

—Middle and High School Students

7:58 AM Tannery RD & Gerry Lane  
 8:08 AM Hudson RD to Pushaw Stream  
 8:10 AM On the West Old Town end of the Kirkland RD  
 8:11 AM Corner West Old Town RD @ Stage Coach RD  
 8:13 AM Corner West Coiley RD  
**8:20 AM OTHS**  
**8:25 AM Leonard Middle School**

## BUS F AFTERNOON

This route covers Bennoch RD, East Coiley RD, West Old Town RD, Kirkland RD, Hudson RD & Tannary RD.

—K-5 Students

2:20 PM Leave Alton Elementary School  
 2:23 PM Tannery RD  
 2:30 PM Tannery RD & Gerry LN  
 2:35 PM On The Kirkland (West Old Town side)  
 2:40 PM West Old Town RD & The Stagecoach RD  
 2:45 PM West Old Town RD & West Coiley RD  
**2:47 PM Stop at Winter Road**

—Middle and High School students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

**3:05 PM LEAVE OTHS**  
**3:10 PM LEAVE LMS**  
**Check for OTES late Students**  
 3:25 PM Gilman Falls Ave & Winter RD  
 3:30 PM West Old Town RD & West Coiley RD

3:35 PM West Old Town RD & The Stage Coach RD  
 3:40 PM On The Kirkland (West Old Town side)  
 3:45 PM Tannery RD & Gerry LN

## BRADLEY LONG ROUTE

### MORNING

This route covers the Main Road (RTE #178) between the Eddington Line & Boynton ST. Penny Lane, Highpoint & Carterwoods.

—All K-5 students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants

6:50 AM Main Street @ Eddington Line  
 6:53 AM Main Street @ Penny Lane  
 6:55 AM Penny Lane @ bus Stop  
 6:56 AM Main Road between Penny Lane & Government Road  
 6:58 AM Main Road @ The Government Rd  
 7:00 AM Main Road between the Government Rd & Highpoint Drive  
 7:05 AM Main Road @ Highpoint Drive  
 7:08 AM Highpoint Drive between Main Road & Cul-de-sac  
 7:10 AM Main Road between Highpoint Drive & Goss Road  
 7:10 AM Main Road @ Goss Road  
 7:11 AM Main Road between Goss Road & Carterwoods  
 7:15 AM Carterwoods Park  
 7:20 AM Main Street @ Elm Street  
**7:20 AM Viola Rand School**

—Middle and High School Students

7:35 AM Main Street @ Eddington Line  
 7:38 AM Penny Lane @ bus Stop (Near the Mail Boxes)  
 7:40 AM Main Road @ The Government Rd  
 7:50 AM High Point Place between Main Road & Caulder-sac  
 Turn right onto High Point Place  
 7:53 AM Main Road @ Goss Road  
 8:00 AM Carterwoods Park  
 8:05 AM Boynton ST & Cross Road  
**8:20 AM OTHS**  
**8:25 AM Leonard Middle School**



Budding chefs in Pam Burnham's OTES cooking class cut their veggies and taste the dips.

# RSU 34 SCHOOL ROUTES 2022 – 2023

**All times are approximate. As we settle in, times will be adjusted. Please plan to be at your stop 5 minutes early. THANK YOU!!**

## BRADLEY LONG ROUTE AFTERNOON

This route covers Boynton St, Main RD, High Point PL, Penny LN & Main RD to the Eddington Townline.

### —K-5 Students

- 2:20 PM LEAVE OTES with the others**
- 2:25 PM Pick up at the Viola Rand School, leave when signaled
- 2:30 PM Stop at the corner of Main Road & Elm St.
- 2:35 PM Boynton St. to Cross Road area
- 2:40 PM Drop off around Carterwoods Loop
- 2:45 PM Main Rd. to High Point Place
- 2:50 PM Main Rd. to Penny Lane
- 2:55 PM Main Rd. to the Eddington Town Line

### —Middle and High School Students

- 3:05 PM LEAVE OTHS**
- 3:10 PM LEAVE LMS**
- 3:30 PM Stop on the Corner of Bradley and Pine ST  
Stop at the Bradley Redemption Center.
- 3:35 PM Turn Left onto Cram Street Stop on the Corner of Highland, turn right onto Highland Avenue. (turnaround in School Driveway) back to a Left onto Cram Street. Check to see if you have students for Deer Run Dr.
- 3:40 PM continue on Cram St to Baker Lane, Baker LN turns into Ten Road follow with stops as needed to the End Turnaround and head back to the Bradley RD. Turn left cross the bridge.
- 3:50 pm Main ST & Boynton ST
- 3:55 PM On Bonyton ST
- 3:56 PM In Carterwoods
- 3:56PM On High Point Place
- 4:00 PM Penny LN
- 4:05 PM Main RD to Eddington townline

## BRADLEY SHORT ROUTE MORNING

This route covers from the Bradley-Milford line, Boynton ST, Cram ST, Deer Run LN, Baker LN, Ten RD. Highland Ave, Bullen ST. Center ST & Stillwater Ave.

### —All K-5 students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants

- 6:35 AM Main Street @ Bradley Line
- 6:35 AM Main Street & Pine Street
- 6:36 AM Main Street & School Street
- 6:40 AM Cram Street
- 6:40AM Cram Street between Main Street & Deer Run Lane
- 6:45 AM Deer Run between Cram Street & Caulder-sac.
- 6:50 AM Cram Street between Deer Run Lane & Baker Lane.
- 7:00 AM Baker Lane to Ten Road
- 7:06 AM Ten Road between Baker Lane & Caulder-sac.
- 7:10 AM Ten Road @ Cram Street
- 7:15 AM Cram Street @ Highland Avenue
- 7:20 AM Viola Rand School (Drop off & Pick up Students for OTES)**
- 7:21 AM Bullen Street
- 7:25 AM Center ST & Howard Lane
- 7:27 AM Center ST & Stillwater Ave.
- 7:30 AM OTES**

### —Middle and High School Students

- 7:40 AM Cram Street
- 7:45 AM Deer Run between Cram Street & Caulder-sac.
- 7:50 AM Cram Street between Deer Run Lane & Baker Lane.
- 7:56 AM Ten Road between Baker Lane & Caulder-sac.
- 8:02 AM Ten Road @ Cram Street
- 8:07 AM Cram Street @ Highland Avenue
- 8:08 AM Bullen Street
- 8:20 AM Leonard Middle School**
- 8:25 AM OTHS**

## BRADLEY SHORT ROUTE AFTERNOON—ELEMENTARY

This route covers Stillwater Ave, Center ST, Bradley RD, Highland Ave, Cram ST, Baker LN, & Ten RD.

### —K-5 Students

- 2:20 PM PICK UP @ OTES Leave**  
Drop off along Stillwater Avenue, Center St and Main St (Bradley)
- 2:25 PM PICK UP @ Viola Rand School**
- 2:30 PM Bullen ST area
- 2:35 PM Cram ST
- 2:40 PM On Deer Run LN
- 2:45 PM On Baker LN
- 2:50 PM On Ten RD

### —Middle and High School Students

- 3:10 PM LEAVE LMS**
- 3:15 PM LEAVE OTHS**
- 3:25 PM Stop on the Corner of Bradley and Pine St.
- 3:28 PM Turn left onto Cram Street Stopa need to Highland Avenue
- 3:30 PM Turn left onto Highland Ave (turnaround in School Driveway) back to a Left onto Cram St.
- 3:35 PM Check to see if you have students for Deer Run Rd
- 3:37 PM Cram St. between Deer Run and Baker Lane
- 3:40 PM Left onto Baker Ln turns into Ten Road follow with stops as needed to the cul de sac. Turn around.



The LMS 6th grade Eagle Team.

## LMS 6th grade Eagle Team works on Kindness project

The 6th grade Eagle Team worked on a kindness project. They started with a book of their favorite quotes. Some even came up with original quotes about kindness. They compiled a list of random acts of kindness they did in the month of May. The goals was to complete 40 acts.

Some of their ideas include making comfort bags for foster kids, donating board games to a nursing home, ordering things they know their classmates will like and leaving something in their locker, and giving compliments.

Although they know most kindness is free, they have also started fundraising for their 40 acts. In the photo at left, they are wearing their “Be Kind Always - Do Your Part” bracelets, which they were selling to raise money for kindness.

While ordering bracelets, some students saw a blue and yellow bracelet and wanted to order those to raise money to support Ukraine. They all had a hand in the design and decided on a peace symbol with “I Stand With Ukraine” in English on one side and Ukrainian on the other.

These middle schoolers have shown a lot of inclusion, cooperation, and compassion throughout this project. Reach out to a 6th grader you know and get your bracelet of support and be kind always.



Team Ossipee cleaned up Dover's Center Theatre for a community service project during their camping trip at Peaks-Kenny State Park



Team Stillwater in Chinatown in Boston.

## River Runners enjoy a busy summer

It's been a busy summer for River Runners—from team building to community service to college preparation, we've done it all. Our cohorts had camping trips to state parks, trips to Portland and Boston, rock climbing adventures, and a hike with goats!

River Runners is a mentoring program designed to raise the post secondary aspirations of rural Maine youth. We are one

of six sites in Maine operating under the Aspirations Incubator, and a joint partnership between RSU #34 and the Old Town-Orono YMCA. We are always looking to add more caring adults from the community as mentors—if you'd like to volunteer to be a part of our incredible journeys together, please reach out to Gretchen Leithiser at [gretchen.leithiser@otoymca.org](mailto:gretchen.leithiser@otoymca.org)



Team Stillwater touring Boston University



Team Stillwater at the New England Aquarium



Martie LeClair and Will Nichols at the Boston Museum of Science



# 9 Bus Stop Safety Tips

1. Be on time.
2. Never run to or from the bus.
3. Stand back from the curb.
4. Don't push or shove.
5. Always cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
6. Look left, right and left again before crossing the street.
7. Never crawl under a school bus.
8. Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before getting off.
9. Never walk behind the bus.