



# Community Connections

## AUG 2023

### This Issue Dedicated With Deep Gratitude in Memory of David Wollstadt



David was a long-time, humble servant of our community and a School Board member for decades. Among many other lifetime efforts you will read about on page 3, Dave was instrumental in initiating and sustaining our Community Connections newspaper. We mourn David's passing, and fondly remember and appreciate his contributions and civic engagement.



### Old Town High School Amazing Stats!

**591**

college credits earned by OTHS students in 2022-2023

**37**

different college courses taken by 94 OTHS students in 2022-2023

**\$2.3**

MILLION DOLLARS in scholarships awarded to OTHS students in 2022-2023

OTHs students have LOADS of ways to earn college credits and get a leg up on higher education!

### Old Town Coyote Baseball Crowned Class B State Champions!

Final score: Old Town 1, Yarmouth 0.



### City of Old Town News

- Four new charging stations for electric vehicles in downtown Old Town!
- City project updates: paving, bridge repair, new sidewalks
- Upcoming Events: City Council and School Board elections, Riverfest, and MORE!

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# Welcome Back to a Brand New School Year!



Matt Cyr

I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer. As we prepare for the 2023 - 2024 academic year, I want to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome

to all our returning students and families, as well as to those joining the RSU 34 family for the first time. Together, we are embarking on a journey of learning, growth and community building. Last year's district-wide theme, 'Choose Happy,' set a positive tone for staff and students which could be seen on posters, newsletters, district spirit days, and most importantly, the smiles on faces. This growth mindset helped us to tackle challenges and achieve goals. We will continue to 'Choose Happy' while embracing a new district theme for the upcoming school year—'Believe!' I encourage everyone to embrace 'Believe'—believe in our schools, believe in our students and in turn, our students will believe in themselves.

One year ago, I shared a list of goals and objectives for our district. Those areas of focus were: Communication, Policy, Capital Planning, Marketing/Re-Branding and Strategic Planning. I am happy to share that with your support, along with collaborative efforts and dedication of the RSU 34 staff and school board, we have made great progress in each of these areas.

**Communication:** The administrative team updated websites and placed great emphasis on what and how we communicate. We intentionally split the Old Town High School website and social media into two sites—OTHS, and OTHS Athletics. This was done so that the pride and achievement of both academics and athletics can be seen without one overshadowing the other. Our district office infrastructure was closely reviewed to look for ways to create efficiencies, improve collaboration, and when possible, save money. I also greatly enjoyed meeting and showcasing incredible RSU 34 students through monthly student spotlights.

**Policy:** the RSU 34 school board began a complete policy review and has updated and/or added more than 60 policies in the past 12 months. Policy review is time-intensive therefore I anticipate this review work will continue for the next couple of years.

**Capital Planning:** the engineers at Carpenter Associates have begun a series of facility audits this past summer. The important findings obtained from these studies will help to guide decisions on the future of RSU 34 facilities. We formed the RSU 34 Facilities Long-Term Planning Advisory Committee last fall to make sure that each of our communities (Alton, Bradley, and Old Town) are represented while discussing considerations for

the future. In addition to facility studies, we are closely monitoring enrollment trends within RSU 34 and other communities who have traditionally tuitioned students to OTHS. With Maine being the oldest state in our nation, many Maine school districts, including RSU 34, are facing enrollment declines. Assistant Superintendent Jon Doty and I emphasized this during budget development for the current school year with great attention given to 115 fewer students in grades PK - 6 when compared to three years ago. In addition to considering ways to maintain and update our schools, we have hopes of someday having our 'central office' staff all working in the same location (as recently as last year, RSU 34 'central office' staff were spread out between three different schools and an additional rented office space).

**Marketing/Re-Branding:** A team of current and former parents, administrators, and school board members

collaborated with Sutherland Weston Marketing Agency to develop a new RSU 34 logo and begin work on a marketing plan for Old Town High School (whose annual enrollment consists of more than 25% tuition students choosing to attend OTHS over other area high schools). Design experts used a combination of informational surveys and group discussions to develop the new RSU 34 logo seen on this page. Every component of this new logo was designed with intent beginning with the placement of the letter 'U'.....'U' is/are the center of RSU 34. The small graduation cap shows that we are an educational institution. The two blue 'swooshes' underneath the logo represent the Stillwater and mighty Penobscot Rivers—two historically significant and celebrated bodies of water that surround our communities. To the far right the image of a bridge represents how our communities are physically connected, and also shows how our schools place great emphasis on transitions. And finally, one arm of that bridge reaches to the stars.... which is where we hope to guide our students. The three stars represent our communities—Alton, Bradley, and Old Town. Our Marketing/Re-Branding project is still underway, but the new logo is now 'official' and we have begun work on this logo transition, including shirts, stickers, and signage.

**Strategic Planning:** Assistant Superintendent Jon Doty had begun collecting data from students, parents and community members at the onset of the pandemic, and in the past year, provided opportunity for further input through online surveys. Over the course of the past school year I conducted a 'listening tour' with RSU 34 staff.

And, this summer, Jon and I have been meeting with school board members to discuss short and long term goals and areas of focus. Over the course of the next school year, we will begin aggregating this information into areas of focus to be used to develop a 5-year strategic plan. Our goal is to have this work completed and ready to share before the start of the next school year.

While we focus energies on the above district goals, great things continue to happen within each of our schools. Three major areas of focus for the 23 - 24 school year include student achievement data work, school safety and work in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. We celebrate the rich diversity that makes our school community unique and believe that by embracing our differences, we can cultivate a culture of understanding, empathy, and unity.

If you happen to visit our schools this summer you may have noticed a lot of work going on! Our summer learning programs were very well attended and successful thanks to the incredible team of educators at the helm! Staff and students alike welcomed the new air conditioned

spaces within the OTES, LMS and OTHS cafeterias (thanks to help from Efficiency Maine Grants).

The 'big kids playground' at Old Town Elementary was replaced and looks fantastic—I even saw Dr. Tuell testing out the new slide! The Leonard Middle School playground pad was replaced and expanded to include two new basketball hoops.

We are also relocating the bus dismissal lineup to be adjacent to the locker room doors so that we create clear separation from dismissing students and the parking lot. The retaining wall behind the OTHS Victory Field press box is being replaced, with a stronger and safer option that will help with both drainage and ADA accessibility of our athletic facilities. You might have also noticed the impressive field signage at OTHS! Go Coyotes! Viola Rand and Alton Elementary schools are both receiving some ADA work, but the availability of contractors and materials has delayed progress of these projects. Regardless, all of our schools will be ready for the first student day thanks to our incredible staff!

Once again, welcome back to school! I 'Believe' in the students, staff, and communities that make-up the great RSU 34. Thank you for your support as we strive for continuous improvement and excellence in education.

Sincerely,  
Matthew D. Cyr  
RSU 34 Superintendent



## 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  
Corina Larsen, Gossamer Design - Design & Layout

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.

# David C. Wollstadt - June 14, 1941 – June 26, 2023

(reprinted with permission)

David Carl Wollstadt of Old Town passed away June 26, 2023, at the Maine Veterans Home in Bangor.

David was born June 14, 1941, in Rockford, Illinois to Paul Wollstadt and Elzada Rogers. He graduated from Millburn New Jersey High School, Class of 1959. David was also a graduate of Bowdoin College, Class of 1963 with a degree in government. He received his Master of Arts Degree in Political Science at St. Mary's, San Antonio, TX.

David began his long journey in journalism at the tender age of fourteen. While still a high school student where he also was editor of his school newspaper he wrote for the local newspaper of Millburn and Short Hills, New Jersey, "The Item". During his time at Bowdoin, he was editor-in-chief for the school newspaper "The Bowdoin Orient". During this time, he was also a reporter for The Brunswick Record. David was covering a Topsham, Maine selectman's meeting for the Brunswick Record and testing new changes to "Freedom of Information Act". The Topsham selectmen were not pleased with David's presence at their meeting and threatened to send David "flying through the window" and gave him the choice to leave under his own power or be forcibly thrown out.

David worked as a re-

porter for The Hartford Times, Connecticut, 1963-64. In 1970-71, he was a reporter at the Rockford Morning Star, Illinois. David was a copy editor for the Baltimore Sun, Maryland, in 1971-1972. In 1972-74, he was employee communications writer and editor for Pfizer, Inc., New York, New York.

From 1964 to 1970, David's journalism career was on pause while he served in the military. He was a captain in the Air Force serving at Kelly AFB in San Antonio, TX, Shu Lin Kou AS, in Taiwan and Tan Son Nhut AFT in Saigon, Vietnam. For his service in Vietnam David received the Bronze Star while serving with the 377th Security Police during the Tet Offensive of December 1967 to December 1968.

Ever since his college years at Bowdoin, David had always wanted to return to Maine. His opportunity came in November 1974 when he purchased the Penobscot Times in Old Town. David owned the Times from 1974 until 2002. Under his

stewardship, the Times was the recipient of many award-winning articles and advertisements. Dave himself received several awards for excellence in writing.

David has also been a freelance writer since the 1980's until 2023, specializing in business, community, and school district newsletters. He has written for paper mills, banks, construction businesses, and cities, towns, and school districts from Aroostook County to upstate New York.

For David, his work and his family have always come first and he has always had a passion for community service and has been an avid supporter of the Maine Ice Hockey Teams. Over the years, he has served on the Area United Way Board, YMCA board, Maine Press Association board and, more recently, Old Town Rotary and Old Town School Board.

David was predeceased by his parents and his brother Roger Wollstadt. He is survived by his



wife Genie, daughters; Andrea and her husband Noah and their children Stella, Luke, Peyton and Lana, Saco, Maine; Alexis and her husband Younes and daughter Zahra, of Davenport, Florida; Rebecca of Old Town; Rachael of Old Town; Mary of Brewer; and special sister-in-law Mary Nadeau, Corinna. David is also survived by his twin brother Loyd of Rockford, Illinois and nieces Lynn Wollstadt, Illinois, Laura Patterson, Colorado and nephew David Wollstadt, California.



## RSU 34 School Calendar 2023-2024

August				
M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30-IS	31-IS	

September				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4-H	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

October				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6-IS
9-H	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

## 2023-2024 School Hours

- AES 7:40 - 2:10
- VRS 7:55 - 2:25
- OTEs 7:45 - 2:15
- LMS 8:35 - 3:05
- OTHS 8:30 - 3

Please be on time, every day!

November				
M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10-H
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22-IS	23-H	24-H
27	28	29	30	

December				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25-H	26-V	27-V	28-V	29-V

January				
M	T	W	TH	F
1-H	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15-H	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

IS	In-Service Day--No Students
H	Holiday--No Students
V	School Vacation Day
	First/Last Day of School
	OTHS Graduation--June 7th

February				
M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19-H	20-V	21-V	22-V	23-V
26	27	28	29	

March				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15-IS
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

April				
M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15-H	16-V	17-V	18-V	19-V
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

### Important Dates to Note

- Freshman Only Half-Day: Thu., Aug. 31, 2023, 8:30 - Noon
- First Student Day: Tue., Sep. 5, 2023
- Last Student Day: Mon., Jun. 10, 2024

### Staff In-Service Days

- August 30 & August 31, 2023 (No students)

May				
M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27-H	28	29	30	31

June				
M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19-H	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

July				
M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4-H	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

\*Additional days will be added at the end of the school year to adjust for snow days or unexpected school cancellations.

\*Parent-Teacher Conferences are in the fall, and scheduled on a building-by-building basis.

# 2023 Achievement Hall of Fame

The Achievement Hall of Fame was developed in 2018 as a way to recognize the amazing achievements of our Old Town High School Alumni. The Achievement Hall of Fame is a subcategory of the RSU 34 Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created to provide our current students with new opportunities as they grow as learners and leaders in our community. The Achievement Hall of Fame was established to honor the accomplishments of our graduates, but also, to inspire the current students to achieve their own goals and dreams. The Achievement Hall of Fame inducted another impressive class in May of 2023. Aron Gaudet Class of 1992, Kirk Francis Class of 1987, Tom Thornton Class of 1968, Bette Garceau Hoxie Class of 1964,

Jody Kenniston Staruk Class of 1998, Jacqueline Utercho Class of 1988, John Weber Class of 1988.

The Achievement Hall of Fame has a small committee to read through the recommendations and submissions presented to the group each year. The inductees must be beyond high school by ten years and has accomplishments in their field of study, position, or passion to be recognized by the Achievement Hall of Fame. Visit our RSU 34 Achievement Hall Of Fame

Website at <https://rsu34-achievement.org/>





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

## Greetings from Old Town High School!

I hope you all are enjoying a great summer in Maine!

The faculty, staff, and administration at Old Town High School are very excited about the upcoming school year and welcoming Old Town High School's Class of 2027 to our building. Our custodial staff is currently in the process of cleaning the entire building and finishing up some minor repairs. The school will look great for day one, as it always does.

Our first school day will be on Thursday, August 31st and will be a half-day for grade 9 only. 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, and have lunch in the cafe. It is our hope

that by the end of their day they leave feeling very comfortable in their new surroundings. On Tuesday, September 5th, all students in grades 10 through 12 will join them in our first full day of school for all students.

Old Town High School will welcome three new teachers to our staff this year. Mr. Frank Sternberg will be teaching science, Ms. Kora Hunter will be a new English teacher, and Ms. Kristen Thompson will be joining our math team. Each of these three young people brings a breadth of content knowledge and energy for working in our building with our amazing student body. We look forward to welcoming them this summer and getting them off on the right foot as teachers.

As we continue to move past the issues that the pandemic left us with, we are going to put a bit more

emphasis on attendance this year. We know that students who attend regularly succeed in the classroom much more readily than students who do not. Attendance means being at school every day, on time and attending all classes. At the high school level, students are developing habits that will remain with them into and perhaps through early adulthood. Being in attendance and on-time will continue to be important at the post-secondary level, in the workplace or in the military. We will share more with students and parents through mail, email and on social media regarding our on-going expectations for student attendance.

In addition to attendance, we also know that involved students function much better in the classroom and succeed at a higher rate than do students who are not involved.

We are proud of the myriad of opportunities that are available to our students. In addition to a plethora of fall sports, we have a highly successful and regionally recognized music program, a JROTC battalion which regularly garners the "Honor Unit with Distinction" accolade, a Robotics program and a brand-new Esports program set to launch this year. All of this is in addition to an amazing staff of dedicated teachers to help you achieve your educational goals.

I firmly believe Old Town High School is the place to be in the 2023-2024 school year. I cannot wait to get started and get to know all of you. Enjoy the remainder of your summer.

*Scott Gordon*  
Principal

## OTHS Students Expand Long-term Climate Study

by Ed Lindsey

In November 2018 Old Town High School students joined University of New Hampshire scientists to establish two climate research sites in the UMaine Dwight B. Demeritt research forest. (In a twist of pedagogical good fortune this research forest shares a long border with OTHS.) Timing of snowfall, snow depth, snow water equivalent, insulative value of the snowpack, soil moisture, temperature and frost depth, timing of budburst and the date hardwood leaves reach their maximum size... These are all climate variables. So, how are winters and the transition to spring changing in a typical Maine forest? The quest for data goes on.

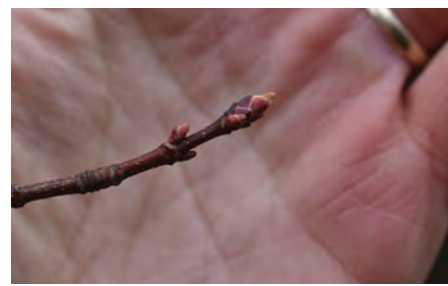
Managing all the data has become a challenge. The time to employ coding to manage the crush of data has probably arrived. Mr. Lindsey will be advancing his skills in this

area concurrently with the students. Learning how to solicit guidance from experts in the community is a course outcome.

This year we also want to fully develop the watershed aspect of the study system. The LIDAR map shows that the study system is a very small sub-watershed of the Penobscot River. Old Town Public Works channelized the outlet stream and installed a flow gauge just where the water enters the City's storm water system. UMaine donated a spectrophotometer to



OTHS. After students figure out how to produce impeccable measurements, we should also be able to track elements such as phosphorus in the watershed's discharge. Another next step? Learn how changing winters could alter the transfer of nutrients to the river.



## 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.

## Parental Notice Regarding Physical Restraint and Seclusion 2023-2024

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.

## 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 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 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.

Develop Solutions.

Gain Experience.

Lead Change.

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## OTFD Field Trip

Mrs. Bousquet's rec fit class got to visit with OTFD on June 2, 2023 to finish the year with some fun activities.



## Coyote Battalion Change of Command

On May 18th, Norah Sanborn assumed responsibility of the Coyote Battalion as the 22nd Cadet Battalion Commander. The transition of authority happened between her and Keeara Dutton. The ceremony also served as a spring awards ceremony, recognizing Cadets who contributed to the battalion throughout the school year. Mr. May donned his Cavalry Stetson and represented the administration during the passing of the Battalion Colors.



Mike May, Norah Sanborn (incoming commander), Keeara Dutton (outgoing commander), and Kevin Murray (Cadet/Command Sergeant Major)

Keeara successfully led the battalion the past school year overseeing the growth of the extra curricular activities and spending countless hours mentoring the younger Cadets, preparing them for future leadership roles. Keeara led with distinction. Not only did she set the standard high academically and physically, her personality, her charisma, the example she set, challenged the Cadets to achieve excellence. Her absence from the battalion will be felt as she leaves to attend the University of Maine and pursue her goals of earning a commission and becoming an Army

Nurse.

Norah Sanborn is a competent young leader who has played an active role in the Student Council and served as Class President. She is also a Representative on the Maine State Student Council. Norah has been a member of the OTHS cheer and track teams and competed with the Coyote Battalion's Raider Challenge team. Additionally, Norah is a member of the National Honor Society, and she is a mentor with the River Runners. She will lead the battalion during their upcoming accreditation inspection and continue the tradition of Honor Unit with Distinction.

## Rogers Challenge

In May the Coyote Battalion hosted Cadets from Nokomis and Bangor to compete in the Rogers Challenge. The event is named after Lieutenant Colonel Robert Rogers, who in 1756 organized nine companies of colonists to fight for the British in the Seven Years War. These were the first Ranger units and the cornerstone of our modern special operations forces. The competition is a combination of both military and physical skills. Each school had a team of nine Cadets competing in three events.

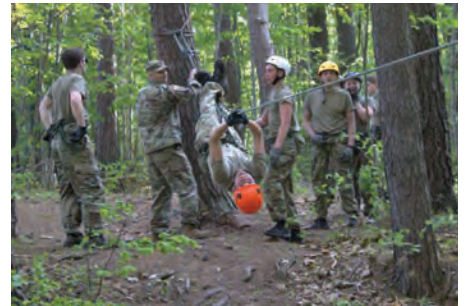
The first event was marksmanship. This was done at their home school with Cadets shooting air rifles using the Civilian Marksmanship Programs three-position-air rifle rules. They shot in the prone, kneeling and standing positions. The Coyotes finished first in Marksmanship. The second event was a fitness challenge that involved a two mile cross country course with a series of exercises and obstacles along the way. The Coyotes were a strong second in the fitness challenge. Finally, they competed in a one rope bridge. The Coyotes edged out Bangor by one second for the victory. Overall, the Coyotes took home the first place trophy representing OTHS with pride.



Miles Fleckman buddy carries Anna Parsons



Sadie Phillips executes rucksack flutter kicks



Dan Desmond negotiates the one rope bridge

## Coyote Battalion Honors Veterans

This past Memorial Day the Coyote Battalion Partnered with VFW Post 3381 to honor local Veterans. The week started by visiting Forest Hill and St Joseph's Cemeteries and placing over 900 flags on Veterans' graves. The Cadet leadership planned and organized the event with the help of the local VFW members. Cadets learned the different ways to identify Veteran graves ranging from annotations such as

GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) to medallions from the Veterans Affairs.

Cadets also provided the Color Guard at wreath laying and flag ceremonies in Bradley, Milford, Old Town and on Indian Island. These Color Guards have been a long standing tradition and partnership between the Coyote Battalion and the VFW. The battalion also provided the Color Guard for the Old

Town Memorial Day Parade.

In addition to these service opportunities, the Cadets had classroom assignments related to the history of Memorial Day. They shared projects with their peers ranging from timelines to visual presentations. They learned of some of the early Memorial Day celebrations recognizing Civil War Veterans, from the freed slaves honoring the fallen in Charleston, South Carolina

in 1865 to General Logan's celebration at Arlington Cemetery in 1868 to the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1971 establishing the last Monday of May as the official day of the celebration.

Some Cadets shared personal family traditions that honor their relatives and the sacrifices they made. The Cadets gained a greater appreciation for the holiday beyond barbecues and going to camp.



# Non-Discriminatory & Civil Rights Information

## Civil Rights Statements and Information

The Civil Rights statements must be included on all program materials. This includes menus, eligibility notification letters, food service newsletters, home page of the school's website and verification notification letters. Program information must be available in different languages including in part web pages, applications, parent letters. Translation services from a certified translator must be available at no cost to participant.

### Non-Discrimination Statement

The following statement is to be included on all materials regarding USDA Programs that are produced for public information. The statement cannot be modified:

#### Federal Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible State or local Agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or

(2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or  
(3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.  
(Federal statement updated 5/18/2022)

### State Non-Discrimination Statement

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 an intake questionnaire. Maine is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Camp Dirigo 2023

Army JROTC Cadets from across the State of Maine gathered at Bog Brook near Gilead for the annual JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (JCLC) – Camp Dirigo. This weeklong camp provides Cadets the opportunity to share best practices and to learn from their peers. It provides leadership opportunities while challenging them mentally and physically.

This year, Cadets from Old Town, Bangor, Brewer (Air Force JROTC), Hermon, Nokomis, and Sacopee Valley represented their schools at Camp Dirigo. Each day Cadets were given leadership opportunities allowing them to hone their skills as they prepare for the upcoming school year. Many of the participants will be in key leadership and development roles for their schools. The camp gives instructors an opportunity to assess the performance and potential of their Cadet leadership as well as to mentor them through the process.

Cadets were able to challenge themselves on an obstacle course, a low ropes course, and a 40-foot rapel tower. They tested their knot tying skills on the one rope bridge. Traveling to Mount Washington, Cadets hiked to Tuckerman's Ravine, with a third of them summiting the 6,200 foot mountain. The

camp finished with a 17 mile canoe paddle down the Androscoggin River. Each night finished with a round robin volleyball tournament.

The Maine Army National Guard (MEARNG) provided outstanding support to the camp. In addition to the camp having exclusive use of the Bog Brook Training Facility, the MEARNG provided additional camp staff, and provided certified rappel instructors. A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter visited camp on day two, giving Cadets the opportunity to "kick the tires" and ask questions to the flight crew.

JCLC instills self confidence in individuals while developing camaraderie through teamwork in a challenging but safe environment. Cadets get an opportunity to practice leadership skills in an unfamiliar environment while living and interacting with peers from other schools in a military setting. In addition to the hands on opportunity and practical application of skills learned in the classroom, Cadets are able to participate in adventure training not normally available on campus. There is no charge to the Cadets to attend. Cadets are selected based on their merit and contributions to the battalion throughout the school year.



Isaiah Buxton with Mr. Beswick

## OTHS Students Earn UTC Recognition

At the United Technologies Center's annual Academic Awards Night on May 23rd, the following OTHS students will be honored:

- Zachary Anthony, Horticulture & Outdoor Recreation: Outstanding Student
- Jamey Badger, Construction Engineering Technology: Most Improved Student
- Natalie Blockburger, Culinary Arts / Hospitality: Outstanding Student
- Matthew Brawn, Electrical / Connectivity: Outstanding Student
- Danica Brown, Emergency Medical Services: Community Service Certificate
- Isaiah Buxton (pictured), Horticulture & Outdoor Recreation: Most Improved Student
- Evan Closson, Diesel Equipment: Most Improved Student

- Brendan Mahaney, Plumbing & Heating: Outstanding Student
- Noah Nickerson, Digital Arts & Software Development: Most Improved Student
- Emma Sirois, Medical Assisting: Outstanding Student
- Hunter Theriault, Video & Audio Production: Community Service Certificate

Additionally, the following OTHS students are honored by membership in the National Technical Honor Society: Zachary Anthony, Aidan Black, Natalie Blockburger, James Dumond, Alexandria McCrossin, Clay Slauenwhite.

Finally, James Dumond graduates this year with both an OTHS diploma and an Associate's Degree! Congratulations to all of our fantastic OTHS / UTC students!





# LEONARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dr. Gert Nesin, Principal  
827-3900



## Principal's Message

I have a great answer this year for the back-to-school question, "What did you do this summer?" I was hiking The Owl mountain in Baxter State Park, right beside Katahdin, enjoying the quiet solitude. I hiked the 3.7 miles up and savored the beautiful view, even though it was 94 and humid. On the way down, I slipped on some wet roots. I broke one ankle, and sprained or broke the other. I did feel that acute, sharp pain of immediate injury and rolled on the ground. After less than a minute, I decided I'd better get myself down the rest of the mountain. I got up and, with the help of my trekking poles, I hiked the remaining 2.5 miles down, and drove home. It was hot, tiring, and hard, but I did it.

Although my adventure was alone, my challenge and response are representative of how we have come to approach teaching and learning in schools—educators in general, educators in RSU #34, and our faculty and staff at LMS. We have faced many challenges.

We all know about the three years of the pandemic, with increased—often required—absences of students and teachers. Remote and hybrid school slowed down learning and development for many children, despite the significant, persistent efforts of our teachers. At the same time, the influence of the internet and social media exploded in our kids' lives, often taking the place of face-to-face interactions. Our society became divided over many issues, with empathy, understanding and kindness taking a back seat. Use of substances grew, and many children were drawn into that world. We have all dealt with these issues, in and out of school.

Our challenges specifically at LMS have been significant. As with many middle school aged children, this can be a rough and unpredictable time of development for many students. They question everything from school to teachers to parents to society, and mostly themselves. They are trying out different personalities and approaches, and asserting their independence while trying desperately not to stand out too much. Friends become everything, and lack of friends can be devastating. Friendships end and shift, and often not in a thoughtful way. This has always been the way with middle school students. We only have to think back to our own experiences to know that it's true. These are our challenges as middle school educators. We choose to teach this level because we love these kids, with all of their joys and chal-

lenges. These are our people—the adults and the kids.

The past three years have thrown many wet roots in our way, and we have occasionally slipped. But we adjust, get up, and keep going. The difference from my hike is that we all do it together. For every time someone slipped or was out, there was a team of people jumping in to help—other teachers and staff, families, and students. Together, we made it down the mountain and are ready for the next.

We start with an excellent and dedicated faculty and staff. We have three new educators joining our team of returners this year; they are experienced and excellent educators (more on them in one of the articles). LMS had a busy summer of professional and school development.

Thirteen teachers and administrators attended the Summer Middle Level Institute in June. All of our math teachers and ed techs participated in one or more professional development opportunities at LMS

and/or the University of Maine. In August, 25(!) teachers attended Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) training for two days. Our Leadership Team met at the beginning and end of summer, and the ELA team met several times. Every core team met to plan for the coming year. The dedication and commitment of the educators in RSU #34 is impressive, and not typical of all school districts.

During all of our meetings, we focused on three main themes.

1) Making LMS a safe, respectful, and welcoming place for all children and adults. This includes building classroom and team communities that make them conducive to learning and personal growth. It also means common behavior expectations that every adult and student will follow, and building Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).

2) Creating common, effective vision and practice for mathematics and ELA teaching and learning. We are already on our way from progress started the past year and this summer. The work will be led by LMS staff, in conjunction with outside experts and consultants. We will look at data regularly to guide our course.

3) Engaging students in meaningful and challenging learning. Teachers and administrators have learned about different aspects of this through all of the professional development from last year and through the summer, in subject area classes and through integrated themes.

To achieve these goals, we have new and old supports in place. We will continue and expand on our collaboration with Penquis. We have a literacy specialist, a literacy interventionist, and also a literacy professor from the University of Maine embedded with us the first six weeks of school. Our math consultant from the Research in STEM Education Center will expand her work with us.

Our case managers and clinicians will continue their work with us. We have an \$80,000 grant to redefine our BARR work to further engage students and support their growth. BARR provides us with a school coach throughout the year.

On my hike, I had the determination to get the job done. Our team at LMS has that kind of resolve. Unlike my hike, we are not alone. We are all supporting each other. It's true that we may hit a slippery root now and then. The middle school years are filled with slippery roots, and the times we're in make them more treacherous. But educators, families, students, and the community working together can assure that we all make it safely to the end of the trail, especially our children.

Dr. Gert Nesin, LMS Principal



Dr. Nesin at the summit



Tricky trails and slippery roots



The view from The Owl

## Middle Level Education Institute (MLEI)

How dedicated are our teachers? On June 26 -28, 11 of our LMS faculty spent three FULL days learning at the Schoodic Education and Research Center. On June 27, another 3 teachers joined us. Of the 7 core and UA teams at LMS, 5 were represented at this excellent PD opportunity. It was the first MLEI since 2010, hosted by the University of Maine, and specially designed for LMS and Bucksport Middle School.

The MLEI was planned and run by middle level expert, Dr. Nancy Doda, and Maine Teacher of the Year, Kelsey Stoyanova. We were also instructed by middle level expert Ed Brazee, service learning coordinator Connie Carter, and

Pennsylvania integrated curriculum leaders Mark Springer and Jon Savitch. Our days/evenings were packed with instruction and activities. We had time to plan in teams, with focused consultation from our leaders.

The main themes for the MLEI were...

- 1) Building communities where everyone is safe, welcome, and respected
- 2) Engaging, challenging learning
- 3) Organization and structure to support the first two.

Our teams were inspired, and tired. Our new AP, Abby Marvin, said it was the best PD she has ever attended.



## Fun With Fractions!

Fractions! Whoever thought four days of professional development about fractions, from 8:30-4:30 would be on a teacher's summer to-do list, but let me tell you, this was some of the best math professional development that I have ever received. The RISE center at the University of Maine, Orono offers summer Content Immersion around various math concepts (I am hoping next year is all about geometry). This year the focus was K-8 Problem Solving and Sense-Making: Fun with Fractions and More.

The presenters, Dr. Franziska Peterson and Jennifer Fronczak put together fun, interactive sessions starting with kindergarten concepts and working up through the concepts that a student learns in middle school. Part of each session had some new to me concepts, such as a 3-Act Math Tasks, Number Talks, and Building a Thinking Classroom (some math lovers at LMS will be doing a book study this upcoming year about Building Thinking Classrooms, so you will hear more about that as the year progresses). We simplified fractions using pattern blocks and Cuisenaire rods, as well as added, subtracted, multiplied and divided! We also learned about using strip diagrams, Origami paper (did you know you could use Origami paper to show how to multiply fractions?), and bar models, as well.

As the week went on we started

to understand the need to teach concepts before procedures. When the big ideas or concepts became more challenging we asked ourselves, "Are we sharing something? Are we trying to fit something into something? Are we taking something of something? Or are we making piles of something?" (did you know those are questions that you can think of when multiplying or dividing fractions?!). We were tasked each day with new groups that were created randomly, solving the day's problems and understanding the why. We worked together on whiteboards, which covered every inch of the walls, aside from the TV's that were there, and would share out with the other groups. At the end of each day we would reflect on what we learned and connect with the very first group that we were in.

Overall, this opportunity made me excited (I cried at the end feeling so thankful) to get back into the classroom and teach fractions! Though I am not trying to rush summer, I am excited to share with my kids what I learned. As next year comes to a close I encourage you to look for the upcoming Content Immersion and, if it pertains to you, sign up because you will not regret it!



## First Impressions From a New Assistant Principal...



I want to start by saying thank you! I have been overwhelmingly welcomed into the RSU 34 community by staff, students, and parents alike. It is abundantly clear to me why this is such a great place to be, and I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to begin my formal leadership journey here. I also want to thank the administrative team for their support thus far—especially Dr. Nesin. I have already learned so much, and feel lucky to have such amazing mentors in my corner.

I'd like to introduce myself—My name is Abby Marvin. I grew up in Orrington, attended John Bapst Memorial High School, and received my undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Maine in Orono. I currently live in Brewer with my new puppy, Gus—he has certainly kept me busy this summer! I taught fifth grade in RSU 22 for 8 years. During my time as a

teacher, I was able to try on a variety of informal and formal leadership roles, and found myself gravitating towards more experiences to flex those muscles. I have always wanted to work with children. To me, there is nothing more fulfilling than helping students be engaged with their learning, achieve their goals, and feel success.

I was initially struck by the commitment of the staff. It is apparent that they are champions for kids. This summer, I have had the opportunity to work with many teachers and support staff in a variety of ways. In June, I attended the Middle Level Institute at Schoodic Point with 11 team members. This three-day, intensive work was powerful! During July, I was able to meet with ELA teachers to engage in professional conversations about how to best serve our students as critical consumers in an information era, and how to incorporate best literacy practices in EVERY class, not just ELA. In August, I attended a math professional development day with the sixth grade team, and a book study bash with even more staff members. Additionally, our entire school underwent two days of BARR (Building Assets Reducing Risks) training in mid-August. After attending a two-day PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) conference, I was able to meet with even more staff members to create a plan for reinforcing expected behaviors in our school. I know there were also many other groups who met this summer to support our students and to prepare for an amazing year,

and I am blown away by their eagerness to do this important work. To say that these staff embody "lifelong learning" would be an understatement.

As we look ahead to next year,

I am energized. We have some incredible things in place to help foster a positive school climate and support our students' success. Thank you for the opportunity to work with your students!

## Undivided Attention

by Taylor Mali

A grand piano wrapped in quilted pads by movers,  
tied up with canvas straps—like classical music's  
birthday gift to the criminally insane—  
is gently nudged without its legs  
out an eighth-floor window on 62nd street.

It dangles in April air from the neck of the movers' crane,  
Chopin-shiny black lacquer squares  
and dirty white crisscross patterns hanging like the second-to-last  
note of a concerto played on the edge of the seat,  
the edge of tears, the edge of eight stories up going over—  
it's a piano being pushed out of a window  
and lowered down onto a flatbed truck!—and  
I'm trying to teach math in the building across the street.

Who can teach when there are such lessons to be learned?  
All the greatest common factors are delivered by  
long-necked cranes and flatbed trucks  
or come through everything, even air.  
Like snow.

See, snow falls for the first time every year, and every year  
my students rush to the window  
as if snow were more interesting than math,  
which, of course, it is.

So please.

Let me teach like a Steinway,  
spinning slowly in April air,  
so almost-falling, so hinderingly  
dangling from the neck of the movers' crane.  
So on the edge of losing everything.

Let me teach like the first snow, falling.

Mali, Taylor. "Undivided Attention." *What Learning Leaves*. Newtown, CT: Hanover Press, 2002. Print. (ISBN: 1-887012-17-6)

## Saying Goodbye to the Best

Leonard Middle School had to say goodbye in June to some of the people who were our heart and soul. We wish them much happiness and fun adventures in their retirement. When we open our doors in September, we will feel your absence. Thank you for sharing so many years with us.

**Tracey O'Connell:** Tracey was the School Counselor at LMS for 21 years. Tracey cared about every student and family in our school community, and often worked overtime to make sure that everyone was connected and got what they needed. She started the Civil Rights Team and led us in our participation of Operation Breaking Stereotypes, in addition to building and running our school garden and organizing the Health Fair and UTC Career Fair. In 2021, Tracey was awarded the Maine School Counselor Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. Just this Spring, Maine Counseling Association presented her the Distinguished Counseling Professional award. In her retire-

ment, she plans to travel and visit her daughters.

**Lori Townsend:** Lori taught 6th grade at LMS for 25 years. She was a constant learner, always looking for ways to do her job better and contribute to the school. She was a literacy leader and was a steady and important member on the LMS Leadership Team. She earned her certification in Gifted/Talented Education, and helped set up and support those services. She attended the Middle Level Summer Institute numerous times with her team, and brought it back to the school. Lori took pride in doing every aspect of her job thoroughly and to high standards. She often arrived first in the morning and had her room set up first in the summer. Lori will appreciate the time to relax and spend time with grandchildren.

**Dana Maxim:** Many in our community have a story that starts, "I remember when Mr. Maxim was my teacher, and..." Early in his 31-year career in Old Town / RSU #34, Dana landed at LMS.

He was a science and math teacher, and many former students remember the trips he led to Science Camp every fall. In addition to coaching, he also took on leadership roles. He started as Assistant



LMS says goodbye and thank you!



LMS Retirees: From left, Lori Townsend, Nancy Reichow, Tracey O'Connell, Dana Maxim

Principal/Athletic Director several years ago. When he returned to the classroom, he (thankfully!) kept the role of AD. He returned to that role during the last trimester of this year, always looking to help out in any way he could. Dana lived the motto "WE > ME". We will miss our daily "Gooooood Morning, Leonard Middle School!!" After helping us in September, Dana is looking forward to adventures with his family.

**Nancy Reichow:** Nancy has served as a Speech and Language Therapist for 33 years in RSU #34 schools. We were lucky to have her spend most of her time the last several years at LMS. If you have driven by school late in the evening or over the weekend and seen a familiar car parked there, it was probably Nancy. She was at school gathering resources, doing paperwork, planning lessons, or just finding something nice to do for someone. Nancy was a tireless advocate for her students, and looked out for all students. She also kept a caring eye on

her colleagues. Many adults found little gifts from Nancy on our desks or in our mailboxes—just a little something she remembered someone mentioning or thought they might like. When a student, family, or colleague was in need, Nancy was first on board to offer food, gifts, or donations. Everyone needs a Nancy! Nancy hasn't yet figured out her next steps, but she's exploring.

In addition to our retirees, we also said goodbye to a few other people. Elizabeth Bickford, our interventionist and long-term substitute, will be working in Lincoln as an interventionist and instructional coach. Shane Barker, AP, will be teaching 7th grade science at Troy Howard Middle School in Belfast. Nicole Guido, 6th grade teacher, will be a federal bird biologist, working out of Wells. Lily Comeau-Waite, Chapter 104 Ed Tech, is moving away and exploring possibilities.

## And, Let Us Introduce Our New Faculty...



**Charity Robbins, Grade 6** Charity is so happy to be a part of the RSU #34 school community. She currently lives in Enfield and graduated from Penobscot Valley HS, EMCC, and the University of Maine. She is an avid reader and writer in her personal life. She loves writing poetry, reading historical fiction, and anything by Louise Erdrich or Christina Baker Kline. She has two boys, one in 8th grade and the other going into high school. She loves being outdoors, gardening, swimming, snowshoeing, and combing the beach. She also enjoys watching local sports, baking, and playing guitar in her free time.



**Kelly Cyr, Grade 7** Kelly is excited to be teaching math and science at LMS this year. She will be going into her 12th year teaching middle school students, a group she thoroughly enjoys. She moved back to Maine from Florida two years ago and she is loving every minute of it! She enjoys spending time with family and going up north camping in her hometown of St. Agatha. She is looking forward to meeting all of her students and their families, and working together to have an amazing and successful school year!



**Rachel Beckwith, Grade 8** Rachel lives in Hampden with her husband, Chris, and her two daughters, Caroline (20) and Charlotte (17). Other than spending time with her family, she loves reading (her favorite YA author is Neal Shusterman), cooking (she's vegan!), and cuddling with her three cats. All 16 years of her teaching career have been in middle school, because "it hits different--no cap!"

## Teams at LMS

Our teams this year are mostly the same as last year, with a few shifts and additions.

### Grade 6

Team 1 (To be named): Sara Miller and Alicia Stafford  
Team 2 (To be named): Tracie Murchison and Charity Robbins  
Support: Nicki Daigle

### Grade 7

Loon Team: Kelly Cyr and Katie Letourneau  
Puffin Team: Doretta Callahan, Melinda Kenny, and Shelly Tuttle  
Support: Miranda Mauger

### Grade 8

Pamola: Rachel Beckwith and Derek Bizier  
Eagle: Ciera Colvin, Hannah Dickinson, and Jay Meigs-McDonald  
Support: Monica Nelson

### Unified Arts Team

Luke Grinnell, PE and AD; Lynn Nickerson, Art; Maija Overturf, World Languages; Shianne Priest, Music; Andrea Roberts, Health; Melissa Zabierek, STEM

### Schoolwide Support

Curtis Robertson, Special Education; Kristi Swartz, Occupational Therapy; Jantha Henry, Librarian and Chapter 104 Coordinator; Danny Schlaefer, Chapter 104 Support; Amy Clement, Literacy Specialist; Robin Cacace, Math Interventionist; Erica Tweedie, School Counselor

## LMS Extended School Year (ESY) program

The Extended School Year (ESY) program at LMS this summer has been busy! We've had many days of math, reading, writing and play, but a highlight of the program this year was our mini service learning project focused on animals. Students have participated in many activities where they are practicing literacy skills while learning about the world around them.

One activity was a fact finding scavenger hunt to learn about animal shelters across the US - the good, the bad, and the very surprising! Did you know that one out of every four dogs in a shelter is a purebred? This activity opened up a great discussion about why animal shelters are needed and how they help animals find homes.

Students took what they learned and wanted to help get some of the animals adopted from the local shelter right here in Old Town. We took a trip to the Old Town Animal Orphanage and students were enthralled. They read all about the cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, and even a ferret that was there! They were

so enthusiastic to gather all the information they could about the animals and how they are being prepared to be adopted; the staff at the Animal Orphanage get a big thank you from us for answering all of their questions with patience and kindness - Thank you! They even allowed one cat to be named by a student while we were there!

The academic goal of our trip was for students to take diligent notes about one or two animals and make a poster or letter from that animal's

point of view, persuading the reader to adopt them. When we returned to school, Ms. Henry used the mentor text, "Can I be your dog?" by Terry Cummings to demonstrate to students how they take on the point of view of the animal.

It was a great read, and a perfect pairing with the lesson. Keep an eye on Facebook and community bulletin boards for the posters, maybe you could find your next companion.



The LMS ESY students with the donations we brought to the animal orphanage.



Curtis Green holds King Ferdinand the Fourth at the Old Town Animal Orphanage



Mrs. Henry reading, "Can I be your Dog?" to the ESY students.

## Partnership with Penquis

During the 2022-23 school year, we built a collaborative partnership with Penquis. The partnership is funded by a grant obtained through Penquis, to serve and support communities affected by substance use. Documented incidents and needs in the region related to substance use qualify us for a wide range of supports, in and out of school.

Our partnership with Penquis provided Leonard Middle School with several services, and these services will continue and expand. Here are some opportunities they have offered to our students and families:

1) Supervision on the playground and in the cafeteria, starting at 7:15 A.M. This will be offered all 5 school days this coming year, expanding from 3 the past year.

2) SAY (Substance Affected Youth) groups once per week for each grade level. With parental permission, students can join these groups with no questions asked. Participants may have substance use issues in their own lives, or support peers or the community in helping to solve these issues.

3) In School Support (ISS), with

parental permission/notification

a) As an alternative or part of an out of school suspension, with the purpose of supporting school work and processing through the behavior, and make a plan to act differently in the future

b) Students or teachers choose to have students work with our Penquis team for some part of the day, to focus on work or help with a concern

4) Outside of School Opportunities: cookouts, games, and activities announced ahead of time. All community students and families are invited. They offered weekly gatherings in Perkins Park, throughout the summer.

Our Penquis team is well qualified to work with our students in all of the aspects listed above.

Who is on the Penquis team?

**Joe Costello:** A graduate of Bangor High School and University of Maine Augusta. He has two decades of experience in mental health case management, predominantly with children and teenagers. Additionally, he is a certified Community Mental Health and Rehabilitation Technician and is also trained as

a Recovery Coach. Before joining Penquis Joe provided case management to Maine's Veterans who had unmet housing and mental health needs. He is well-versed in what programs and resources are available in the area. When he's not helping kids you're likely to find Joe on the Penobscot in his boat, camping at his secret spot, or riding an ATV along a dusty trail.

**Nick Feero:** A graduate of Old Town High School and University of Maine, where he majored in Psychology with a concentration in abnormal/social behavior and minored in Childhood Development and Family Relations. Before working for Penquis, he worked at Acadia Hospital and the Bangor Regional Program helping youth with behavioral, medicinal, and psychological situations. Nick is a very empathetic and down-to-earth person. He tunes into the work he does with great care and caution as he helps navigate people through life's challenging times. When he's not at work, you can find Nick playing video games, hiking, or hunting for deals at thrift and surplus stores.

**Mike Gray:** A graduate of Hampden Academy and California



Penquis Team Members Joe Costello and Nick Feero

State University, Chico. He served for 20 years in the US Air Force in the fields of military intelligence and command and control. Mike has also worked as a teacher in an alternative school for at-risk youth, a patrol deputy in rural Idaho, and a case manager for Veterans in Crisis. He has a range of experience with youth in diverse circumstances, ranging from war zones to rural Idaho. This background has provided him with a vast tool kit to deal with any scenario. When not working, Mike enjoys duck hunting or remodeling something on his home.



## Summer Band Camp 2023

125 young musicians gathered the week of July 24th for the 27th annual Old Town Summer Band Camp. Students in grades 4-8 were campers, while high school students volunteered as mentors. Each day, the students spent the morning rehearsing and the afternoon relaxing at the pool, movies, or beach. A final concert was presented for family and friends at the end of the week. Encore!



## Principal's Message

Where has the time gone? It seems like just yesterday Mr. Avila and all the teachers from Old Town were moving boxes from the smaller schools to the hallways of OTES. Now 20 years later I think about the incredible experiences and opportunities that have been part of our OTES school story since opening in the fall of 2003. Although only 10 or 12 original staff members roam the halls of OTES, the legacy and vision the citizens of Old Town had for the children of the community remains.

Old Town Elementary continues to strive to be on the cutting edge of education. We are always looking for the ways to provide the best educational opportunities for the students and still keep our students grounded in the fundamentals of staying connected to the natural world they live in. Our teachers Renee St Peter and Lisa Harvey, as our Chapter 104 teachers, are always helping us explore the greater outside world that surrounds our school grounds and, with the support and partnership with the University of Maine, helps our students connect with the forest, wetlands, and agricultural aspects of their community. The citizens of Old Town understood the importance of building this facility near

the University land and connecting both with the natural and professional opportunities that benefit both students and emergent professionals.

Over the years our school continues to expand the opportunities and programming for our students. With the library built in the center of the building and featured as the "heart of the school," Michelle Reesman, our school's librarian, has taken the library services to new and exciting levels. She has worked with classroom teachers to truly integrate the curriculum and use the library resources to expand the learning vision. The library is considered the school's hub and provides our students with excitement about books that help to line their childhood with memorable characters and stories.

We know having a strong parent organization has been a huge reason our students are excited about our school. The Parent Teacher Club (PTC) has always dedicated their efforts to supporting the "extra" events that provide educational spark. From field trips to author visits, the PTC works hard to set measurable goals that mirror OTES programming and plans. The PTC throws their collective support behind some of the incredible initia-



*Serving as Administrators of OTES over the past 20 years. Chris Avila, principal from 2003 to 2006, Jeanna Tuell, assistant principal from 2003 to 2006, principal from 2006 to 2023, Maggie Mitchell, assistant principal from 2015 to 2023, Matthew Cyr, assistant principal from 2006 to 2015, currently the superintendent in RSU 34.*

tives at OTES. The gardens, the musical, and the arts programming have all benefitted from our dedicated parent organization.

This year we plan on celebrating the past 20 years at OTES, but also continue to look for ways to expand and get better. We are cognizant of the power our professionals make in the lives of our students and their families. We have the best staff at OTES. They are positive, hard working, professional, astute, and put the needs of their students as a

priority. As we welcome new members from Alton and Bradley, we are confident these families will observe the power of our programming and feel the kindness from our school as they transition from their smaller school settings.

Cheers to 20 years and may the road to the next 20 be paved with exciting educational adventures and opportunities for our students!

Dr. Jeanna Tuell, OTES Principal

## Invasive Insect Sculptures Project

by Tiffany Palmer

Inspired by the giant trolls at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, fifth grade students at Old Town Elementary School built larger than life sculptures of four Maine invasive insects. Led by Old Town Elementary art teacher Tiffany Palmer, students began in March researching facts about each insect, studying their anatomy, and drawing and sculpting the insects with clay. Work began in April to construct the sculptures using reclaimed wood donated from local sources. Students got to use power tools and hand saws during construction, some students had never even touched a power tool or hand saw before. When construction was complete, it was time to put the final touches on the insects. To color

the insects, students used beeswax colored with mica powder, and created stain using steel wool and vinegar.

Sticks were used for the legs and small granite stones were used for the white spots on the Asian Long-horned beetle. The creative process was challenging at times and a lot of hard work, but students persevered and the end results are amazing. About the project one student commented, "I really loved how the project combined art and nature; my two favorite things! And using the wax paint



was fabulous!" Included with each sculpture is a metal sign with facts about each insect that the students collected earlier in the school year. These sculptures will be displayed in the school's outdoor classroom and in the community forest surrounding the school grounds. A special thank you to our donors, volunteers, DaVinci Signs in Hermon, the University of Maine, and all of the staff and students who worked hard to make this project a reality.



## Bright futures begin with good school attendance

We understand that getting students up and out the door each morning can be challenging, but it is also critically important. Attending school every day, as early as kindergarten, has a direct connection to learning and achievement. Did you know that children who miss as little as 10 percent of their school days are less likely to learn to read by third grade and graduate from high school? That's only 2 days a month or 18 days a year. Missed days here and there can quickly add up!

Below are some ways you can help your student arrive on time to school every day and steps to take if attendance becomes a problem. Our goal is to partner with you and make sure your student's needs are met in school, every day!

### Why is attendance important?

- Young children thrive off routine, including arriving at school on-time each day.
- Students who attend school regularly feel better about school and themselves!
- Attendance is directly tied to learning. Missed days can snowball into frustration, lower reading levels, and even dropping out.
- Students who attend school regularly tend to build stronger friendships.

### How can you help your student?

- Know what day school starts: Tuesday, September 5, 2023.
- Know what time the bus arrives and when school starts: NEW this year, OTES doors open at 7:20 and arrival after 7:45 is considered tardy.
- Attend Open House so your student knows their teacher and classmates ahead of time.
- 3rd-5th grade, Wednesday, August 30th 4:30-6:00
- Prek-2nd grade, Thursday, August 31st 4:30-6:00
- Have a regular bedtime routine, lay out clothes, and pack the night before.
- Have a regular morning routine, get up, get ready, and plan for breakfast at home or free breakfast at school.
- Have a back-up plan for getting to school when something comes up.
- Have your child stay home only when truly sick (fever, vomit, or diarrhea within 24 hours).
- Schedule appointments for after school whenever possible. Asking for a better time never hurts.
- Plan extended trips for school breaks.

If your student does need to be absent, please call 827-1544 and use option 2, which is a 24/7 attendance voice mail. Let us know why your student is absent as this helps us support them.

### What do you do when attendance becomes a problem?

- Recognize the problem and know that it can happen to anyone!
- Reach out to your student's teacher, school counselors Mrs. Lunn or Mrs. Wilcox, principal Dr. Tuell or assistant principal Mrs. Mitchell.
- Reach out to Nurse Cloutier if you have non-emergency medical concerns or need advice.
- Be honest about what could be causing these issues and explore both school and home factors.
- Work with us to make a plan to improve attendance or on-time arrival. We have lots of strategies to support students and families!

***We look forward to seeing your student learn and grow every day at OTES!***



## Ms. Jimenez's 2<sup>nd</sup> graders during World of Work Week

Phil Dunn, an engineer, came and presented to the students about what engineering is and what they do. These photos were taken after

they all made bird houses using panels of wood and a pipe cleaners to hang them up. They had such a blast!



Ms. Jimenez's 2nd grade class planting seeds with Mrs. Goodwin during World of Work Week.

## World of Work

On April 2023 OTES celebrated our annual World of Work and Earth Day by having over 30 guests sharing their careers and interests. Thanks to all who participated!



## Pre-K is Changing to a Full Day Program

Pre-k at Old Town Elementary will now be a full day program; having the same hours as K-5 students. We are excited to implement this change and look forward to all of the wonderful learning opportunities that this will provide for our 4 year olds. More time to read, write, count, explore and play. Hooray!!! We will keep you posted on the many new adventures. Families can contact the office if a morning-only experience is preferred for their child.

## Learning is Sweet!

Mrs. White's class visiting the Sugarbush sugar shack operated by the University of Maine in March. They learned all about the whole process of Maple syrup production from tree to bottle!



## 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

## School Nutrition Highlights for the 2023-2024 School Year

RSU #34 School Nutrition provides healthy meals in compliance with state and federal guidelines. We use local products and regionally local products whenever we can and hope to add more in the coming year.

- **Breakfast and Lunch will be provided at no charge to all students.**
- We are now a Provision 2 school district, which means that applications will not be accepted this year, and there will be no verification this year. However, **we do ask that you please complete the socioeconomic forms that are sent home. These forms will help us to continue to provide programming and benefits for all students in RSU 34.**
- Milk or Lactose Free Milk (when requested with documentation) is free with lunch. When a student takes milk outside of the free meal, the cost is \$.50. Lactose Free Milk outside of the free meal, is \$1.25. Students must have funds available in their accounts in order to make these or other a la carte purchases. Milk is the

only a la carte item at AES, LMS, OTEs, and VRS.

- At Old Town High School there will be beverages and snacks, as well as second meals or single entrees available for sale. There is no charging for anyone.
- Medical forms should be submitted before school starts if you have a student with special dietary needs. They must be completed by their medical provider, so plan ahead. The forms on our website must be used to notify us of special dietary needs and to request Lactaid. You may also call our office and we will mail them to you.

Contact us...Our office phone number is 207-827-3908 and our fax number is 207-827-3925. Our website is <https://www.rsu34.org/page/food-service>. You can find menus there and on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/rsu34.org>. Also, on our web page you may access medical forms mentioned above plus information about things going on in our kitchens and cafeterias.

*In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible State or local Agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or **(2) fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or **(3) email:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov) This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

*(Federal statement updated 5/18/2022)*

*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 an intake questionnaire. Maine is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# Kindergarten ABC Countdown

by Stacy Henry

Each year the kindergarten students at OTES spend the last 26 days of kindergarten participating in an ABC countdown. The days are filled with alphabet-themed activities to review and wrap up the year in an engaging and fun way. The countdown begins with Airplane design and ends with Z for zipping up your back pack to zoom off for summer vacation! In the middle, bubbles, insects, lemonade taste tests, pushes and pulls, ramps and so much more help to fill the days and keep all students happy and learning until the last day of school. This is a favorite tradition for both kindergarten students and teachers!



Jaxon Wright on Insect day



Zachary Hussick on Insect day



Kaiden Luna on Farm day



Phoebe Russell on Farm Day



Mrs. K-S's students, Aubrie, Brielle, Aws, Griffin, and Zaine exploring pushes and pulls with scooters



Students in Mrs. Henry's class enjoyed a visit from a special giant unicorn on U day.

## Tree Dedication 2023

Each year we have invested in our students, school, and the outdoor garden. We try to make sure our students experience the importance of getting outside to play, grow things in our garden, and surround themselves with the beauty of nature. As part of our 5th grade celebration week, we have purchased a different tree each year to plant on the playground of OTES to remind the students that their educational roots were started and planted here at OTES. Our future hope is when the students come back to our school as Old

Town High School Graduates, they will find the tree they planted and see how the tree has grown throughout the years and be a symbol of

their own growth as students and human beings. The tree dedication line starts at the west side of the playground and lines the pathway

in the direction to the middle school, this also sends a message of the journey the students are on as they leave OTES and head toward LMS.



Lainy Folsom, Cassie Smith, Noah Scribner, Tripp Murray, Sydney Mahan, and Addelyn Barthelemy help to plant the Pussy Willow Tree

## Virtual Summer School Returns to RSU 34

by Todd Rand

Summer break is a time for fun and relaxation, but it doesn't mean that learning has to take a back seat. The Virtual Summer School program was brought back to RSU34, and it was an engaging and rewarding experience for 3rd-5th graders. This online educational initiative has been a hit in the past,

and after a brief hiatus due to the pandemic, it returned this year, offering an opportunity for students to stay educationally engaged during the summer months.

Virtual Summer School was designed to be a flexible and enjoyable program for young learners. Students had the freedom to complete their assignments at their own pace,

making it perfect for those who wanted to balance learning with other summer activities.

Participants dove into various subjects, including reading, writing, science, and math. Mr. Rand and Mrs. Feero provided feedback and online support for students enrolled in the program.

One of the most exciting aspects

of Virtual Summer School was the chance to win amazing prizes. Recognizing the importance of motivation, students earned points by completing their weekly assignments, and those points earned them some great prizes. Participants celebrated the end of the program with an ice cream social where the various prizes were given away.



# Summer Spanish in the Garden at OTES



Second and third grade students made bilingual garden banners at the end of the school year



"Purple"- An example of one of the many Spanish garden signs



Families enjoyed shaved ice at the end of each lesson. Students asked for their syrup color in Spanish.



Mallory and Graham do a color scavenger hunt in the garden



Jennifer Goodwin and Christina Lannan assist students in making their own salsa made from fresh garden veggies.



Students plant beans in the OTES garden beds.

Summer is the perfect time to explore, learn and make connections to the world around us. The Old Town Elementary Learning Garden was excited to partner with RSU#34 Elementary Spanish teacher Señora LePard this summer to offer Spanish in the Garden on Tuesday nights for six weeks. This learning series was the brainchild of Volunteer Garden Coordinator Christina Lannan and would not have been possible without her and RSU#34 Community Liaison Jennifer Goodwin's tireless dedication and efforts.

Children and families came together for a fun hour of Spanish instruction through games, songs, cooking, crafts and books. Some of the activities included planting beans and sunflowers, a garden color scavenger hunt and making corn husk flowers. Students also made and ate salsa, tortillas and Mexican popsicles called "paletas." We finished each evening with sweet icy treats and time to play.

Families went home with more fun activities, fresh fruits and veggies from the weekly farmstand, recipes, and copies of the bilingual book "Green is a Chile Pepper" thanks to Title 1 funding.

It was so nice to see our community come together to cook, sing, play and laugh in the garden all

while learning. We are so lucky to have this new elementary Spanish program and are looking forward to integrating it even more in our outdoor spaces. It's always amazing to see kids enjoying the garden and our new Spanish signage is a hit!

**Christina Lannan, Volunteer Garden Coordinator**

Students at Old Town Elementary School got to understand and explore how the garden can also make connections to other cultures and what they learned in the classroom this year by participating in our Spanish in the garden program. Families came and interacted with the garden during various activities and learned Spanish phrases and sentences with their children. We hope they enjoyed learning with each other as much as we did. Thank you to the families that came out and the volunteers that made this learning series a success.

**Jennifer Goodwin, RSU#34 Community Liaison**

Thank you for doing Spanish in the Garden! It has already benefited Mallory in so many ways, especially getting a little more comfortable at the school and meeting some other kids that go there. She isn't quite as nervous to start Kindergarten as she was. She is enjoying everything

and you are all wonderful with the kids. I appreciate it so much.

**Beth Larkin, parent**

When Christina Lannan approached me this spring with her idea for Summer Spanish in the Garden I was immediately intrigued. After a successful first year of the new elementary Spanish program at RSU#34, I was excited to continue teaching in the beautiful garden. I enjoyed seeing some of my students from the past school year as well as meeting new ones. I am looking forward to a continued partnership with the Learning Garden.

Submitted by Kristen LePard, RSU#34 World Language and Cultures teacher



Enjoying a game of "salsa bingo" to learn the Spanish ingredients.

The Spanish in the Garden Summer learning series concluded on August 15 with a potluck fiesta including a piñata filled with Mexican treats.



## Passport to Space

By Cathy Stoup

With spring testing coming up soon, I wanted to do a fun, but interesting informative writing assignment with some fifth grade students. Each student researched a planet of his or her choice, built a passport and created an alien that could live on that planet. They researched the way it looks, its atmosphere, temperature, distance from the sun, etc. Information was transferred onto pages of an 8 1/2 x 11 passport book that they put together. Their planet was on the front page, hand colored by using images they obtained from NASA sites.



Next, using the information they learned, each author wrote a paragraph about how their alien would be able to survive and defend themselves. This one paragraph turned into many paragraphs and two pages long. I was impressed! Some students found ways for their aliens to survive when the planets could not sustain life, such as underground caves on ice planets, on one of the planet's moons, impenetrable skin, ways to obtain food and various breathing methods.

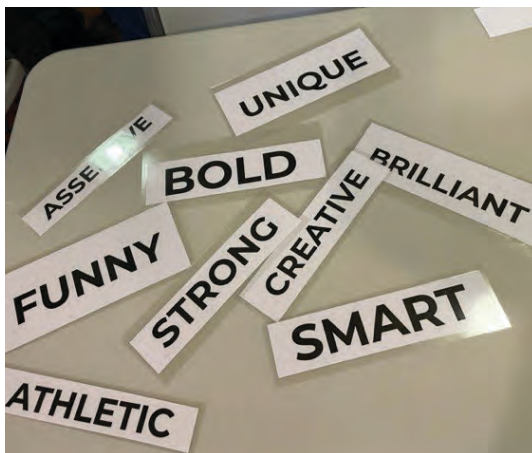
Finally, each student created their own unique alien. So much thought went into their work. Deciding how they breathed, ate, moved, defended themselves, and protected their skin from extreme heat and cold temperatures required them to be very creative and use their imaginations. I saw so much communication, cooperation, and independence during this writing project and I was proud of each one of them and the hard work they put into it. I know some fourth grade students who saw these students working said that they want to do this next year. Great job, Layla, Gavin, Levi, Joey and Bentley!

## Hardy Girls!

A group of fifth grade students participated in the HARDY GIRLS workshops at Camp Jordan in April to celebrate the end of the 2022/2023 school year. The mission of the Hardy Girls/Healthy Women project since 2000 is to...

- Ignite curiosity
- Foster critical thinking
- Build Coalitions
- Challenge the status quo

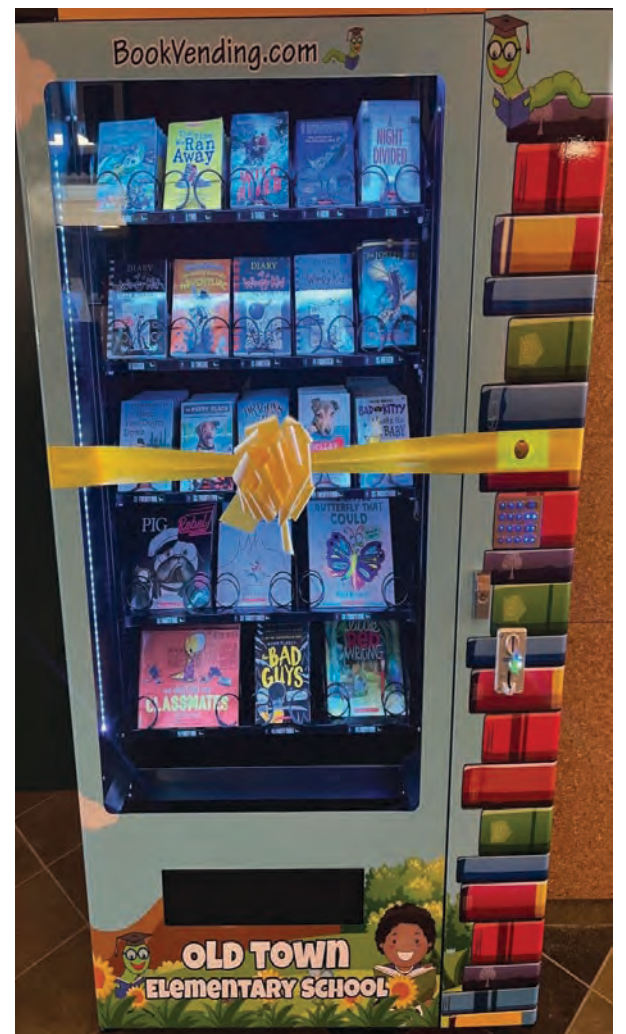
We had a great day with many other students from all over Maine.



## Best. Vending Machine. EVER!

by Michelle Reesman

OTES has something new in the halls! Thanks to the Parent Teacher Committee (PTC), the library was able to get a book vending machine, which is now the center of attention as you walk down the main hallway! With earnings from the big spring book fair, Mrs. Reesman purchased new book sets to fill the vending machine. Throughout the year, students can earn a book token by demonstrating good character and by working hard and being kind! With this token, students can put it in the machine and select a book of their choice to keep. This vending machine is one of many engaging and fun reading initiatives the library is putting in place throughout the year to get kids loving and reading books!



## 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 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 ap-

plications 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). 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).

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## ALTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cheryl Leonard, Principal  
394-2331



### Principal's Message

Welcome to Alton Elementary School! At the AES, 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, world language and cultures exposure with instruction in Spanish beginning at kindergarten, gifted and talented supports at the elementary level, a school counselor and strong supports for students receiving specially designed instruction. We are excited to welcome our students to school! This fall Alton Elementary School will serve grades PreK through 3. Mrs. LaFrance will return to Old Town Elementary School to continue teaching fifth grade there. Miss Burris will also be transferring to teach at OTES, in the fourth grade, with Mrs. Ouellette switching to teaching third grade here in Alton.

Mrs. Paradis will be picking up speech services in Alton this year; Mrs. Michaud will be out on mater-

nity leave and then working part-time.

Mx. Marie was hired as the library ed tech starting at Leonard Middle School this fall. Nurse Hannah will be moving to Old Town Elementary School to fill the nurse position there. Mrs. Koch will be back to providing nursing service at Alton Elementary like she has in years past! Mrs. Soucier, who has been an ed tech at Viola Rand School, transferred to Alton Elementary to fill an ed tech vacancy in our full day pre-kindergarten program.

On August 22nd, 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. On August 24th, Bradley resident Christy Perkins, is again hosting the Back To School Expo for Alton Elementary School (and Viola Rand School) students. The Expo will take place from 4:00- 6:00 pm on Thursday, for the Alton students.

Students are warmly encouraged to come to the Expo at the school! Each student will be able to choose a backpack and then proceed to fill it with school supplies. There will be fun and treats provided! Christie prepares supplies to have enough for all students at the schools! We hope to have all of our students and parents stop by to take part! If anyone would like to volunteer at the expo or make a donation, please contact Christy at: Perkins738@hotmail.com or (203)400-0046. This has been a highly appreciated event for several years now! I hope our families are all able to attend!

There will be an open house for students and parents to come see classrooms and meet teachers on August 31st from 3:30-5:00 PM.

We focus on the character traits of Respect, Responsibility, Caring and the pursuit of Knowledge as part of our daily conversations at AES. The 5-2-1-0 wellness plan is one we are trying hard to promote in school and at home. This sug-

gests 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 Alton Elementary School will be open from 7:30-3:00, August 28 – September 1. We look forward to students returning to school on Tuesday, September 5th. The school day will begin with the first bell at 7:40, tardy bell at 7:50. Enjoy these last weeks of summer!

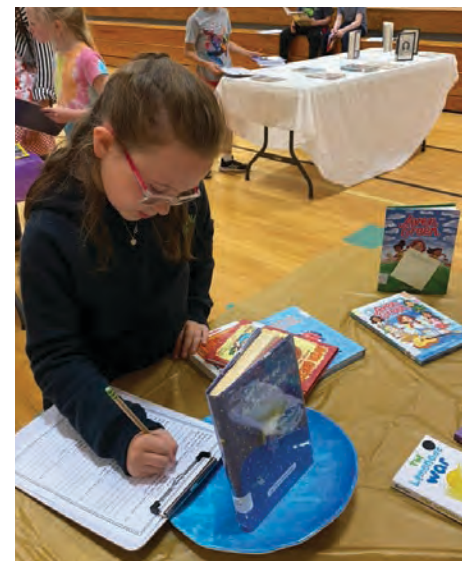
Cheryl Leonard  
AES & VRS Principal

### 3rd Grade Attends a Book Tasting!

In May, Alton Elementary third graders were in for a treat as they attended a tasting, a book tasting! Third grade teacher Amber Burris initiated the event and led the tasting dressed up as a chef. Students wandered around four tables, each table home to a different genre (fantasy, historical fiction, biography and non-fiction). Many books came from the third grade classroom and the library. Students looked through the books and filled out a short form designed to help them determine books they wanted

to read. It was nice to see some students identify and choose several books to read and many ended up

signing books out that day. It was hard not to be reminded of the saying- "Reading is food for the brain."



### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Kayaking Trip



In June, Alton Elementary 5th graders went to Grindstone on a kayaking trip. They learned boating safety and working as a team.

*Clockwise from top left: Jackson; Brandon, Cole, Julia; Dipper; Brandon, Cole; Christian; Julia, Andraya; Irvin, Jackson*

### 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) 827-3921  
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Egg-citing News!

First grade students at the Alton Elementary School loved learning about chickens and hatching their own chicks. Students learned about each stage of development as they counted down the days, waiting for the chicks to hatch from the incubator. It was really exciting when they finally got to see the first little chick hatch out of its egg. A special thank you to Owen and Belinda Arey for providing our class with the eggs. In addition to the chicken eggs, students also raised lady bugs and painted lady butterflies.



## Field Trip Day!!

Our last field trip of the year was at the City Forest/Bog Walk. While we walked, we went on a scavenger hunt to find bugs, plants, and animals. We ended our trip at the Old Town City Playground for lunch. The Old Town Police Department came down and passed out ice creams for us!!! Thank you to them for that special treat!



## Outdoor Forest Fridays

Every Friday the Pre K, Kindergarten, and First grade classrooms at Alton Elementary get to spend mornings in our outdoor classroom. We conducted experiments, did math problems, sang songs, cooked in our mud kitchen, read stories, explored the forest, went on na-

ture walks, and learned how to be scientists. On our last Forest Friday of 2022-2023 we celebrated with a campfire and s'mores! The Alton Fire Department came and helped us out. A big thank you to them! We are looking forward to another year of exploring!



## 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, 1996 and December 31, 1996. Any records prior to 1995 not already posted will also be destroyed.

Parents/Guardians and/or former students may obtain their records before October 31, 2023. 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.

## Bangor Humane Society Visit

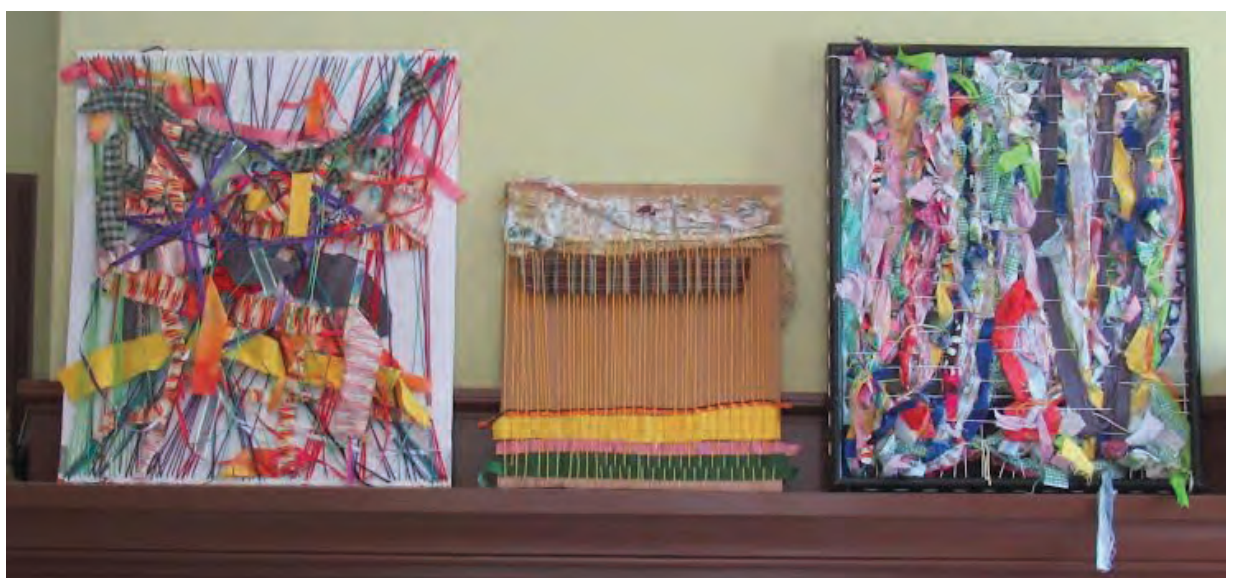
Second graders at Alton Elementary did a service-learning project where they raised items and money for the Bangor Humane Society. Students were able to go to the Bangor Humane Society and give the donations to them. Students were able to tour the facility and play with some of the animals.



## Weaving at Alton Elementary and Viola Rand Schools

by Pam Dunphy, Art Teacher

Weaving started as a second grade art lesson in which the students looked at weaving from South America. As time went on all of the grade levels added their own touches if they had time to work on it. Some students worked on them after they ate their lunch. Please enjoy these beautiful works by Lincoln, a 2nd grader from Viola Rand School. Good job everybody!



## VIOLA RAND SCHOOL, BRADLEY

Cheryl Leonard, Principal  
827-2508



### Principal's Message

If you are an annual reader of the Viola Rand School article within the August issue of Community Connections, you know that there is often a change in grades served by the school from year to year. This year is no different in that respect! The 2023-24 school year will have a full day pre-kindergarten class, a kindergarten class and a first grade class at VRS. The same teachers, Mrs. Ploch, Mrs. Zubrick and Mrs. Berube, return to those classrooms. Mr. Wohlgeomuth will be providing Title 1 supports in addition to his special education role. Mrs. Hill is back to assist in the Title 1 educational technician capacity. There are no changes to the staff who provide specials (music, art, physical education, library, school counseling, Spanish) for our students. Mrs. Caron will be on call from the high school in the school nurse position. While Mrs. Michaud is out on maternity leave, Mrs. Brooks will ease into her retirement from Old Town Elementary School, by covering her position. We are excited to welcome her to our school for a few weeks! Mrs. Swartz, occupational therapist and Jenn Goodwin, RSU34 School - Home Liaison, will be continuing with us as usual!

Mrs. Dalessandro, with her new

literacy degree, has started working at Old Town Elementary School to bring her expertise to a whole new group of lucky children and teachers! Mrs. Friedman will be teaching fourth grade at OTES and Mrs. Harper will be teaching second grade there also. Our former students will see many familiar faces at their new school this fall! Mrs. Soucier has also transferred schools. Her move is to Alton Elementary School as the pre-k ed tech with Mrs. Bilodeau, who taught that class at VRS two years ago!

I would like to congratulate pre-k ed tech Jesse LaBreck on his new pre-kindergarten teaching position at the Ella Burr School in Lincoln! Those congratulations also go out to Audrey Buzzell, who worked at our school all year as an educator accelerator student and as a student teacher. She has been hired as a fourth grade teacher at the Asa Adams School in Orono! Our loss of these two exceptional young educators will be the gain of those schools.

We will sincerely miss all of these staff members and wish each of them the very best!

Bradley resident Christy Perkins is again organizing a Back To School Expo for Viola Rand School

(and Alton Elementary School) students. The Expo will take place from 4:00- 6:00 pm on Wednesday, August 23rd. Students are warmly encouraged to come to the Expo at the school! Each student will be able to choose a backpack and then proceed to fill it with school supplies. There will be fun and treats provided! Christie prepares supplies to have enough for all students at the schools! Teachers will be at the school for an open house to welcome their students, meet parents and guardians and give a peek at the classroom! We hope to have all of our students and parents stop by to take part! If anyone would like to volunteer at the expo or make a donation, Please contact Christy at: Perkins738@hotmail or (203)400-0046. This has been a highly appreciated event for several years now! I hope our families are all able to attend!

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, world language and cultures exposure with instruction in Spanish beginning at kindergarten, gifted and

talented supports at the elementary level, a school counselor and strong supports for students receiving specially designed instruction. We focus on the character traits of Respect, Responsibility, Caring and the pursuit of Knowledge as part of our daily conversations. 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!

The office staff is busy preparing for the beginning of another school year! The office at the Viola Rand School will be open from 7:00-2:30, August 28 – September 1. We look forward to students returning to school on Tuesday, September 5th. The school day begins promptly at 7:55; please be on time! The dismissal process begins at 2:25. Enjoy these last weeks of summer!

New student registrations should be done at the Superintendent's office at Leonard Middle School, 156 Oak Street, Old Town.

Cheryl Leonard, Principal

### Flag Day at VRS

Students of VRS gathered around the American Flag on Flag Day. Nora Racine helped Mr. Arey raise, lower, and fold the flag. The third grade students received flag tokens from Mr. Arey for helping him with the flag each day this year. The students also sang "Yankee Doodle" and said the Pledge of Allegiance.



## VRS Has a Blast on Field Day

Field Day was so much fun! Students enjoyed lots of outside games, relay races, bowling, color run, getting cooled off in the giant hydrant sprinkler, and a hot dog cookout on the last day of school.



## Giant Geography!

Students in RSU #34 Use Our Collection of National Geographic Giant Maps for BIG Learning!



## 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 5, 2023.

- **Required for PreK entry:** • 4 DTaP • 3 Polio • 1 MMR • 1 Varicella (chickenpox)
- **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) • 2 Varicella (chickenpox)
- **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 Regional School Unit #34, Alton, Bradley & Old Town 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.



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## Juggling Show!

The students and staff watched an amazing show performed by Jason Tardy. He performed a high-energy juggling, physical comedy, and an anti-bullying presentation all in one.



## Library News

By Jen Pickard

The elementary libraries at VRS and AES were open on Wednesdays in July. Pictured is a group of students who took advantage of the library being open at VRS. Kudos

to all who signed books out in the summer library program and if you still have books signed out, please remember to bring them back when school starts up.



## VRS Mileage Club

As a whole school, students walked 4,164 laps around the mileage track equalling 260.24 miles.



Mileage Club Top Walkers (L to R): Gabriella Layman - 17.83 miles, Nora Racine - 12.12 miles, Salem Ouellette - 11.66 miles



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[umaine.edu/edhd](http://umaine.edu/edhd)



**Shannon Turgeon and Rachel Martin** are two great examples of the hard-working, multi-talented staff serving our students! In addition to educating our community's kids, they're fantastic photographers who each help out documenting some of our district's special events. Further, they often pitch in to help with facilities needs to keep the whole enterprise running.

# RSU 34 SCHOOL ROUTES 2023 – 2024

All times are approximate. As we settle in, times will be adjusted. Please be at your Stop 5 minutes early.

## RUN B MORNING

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

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

6:55 AM Corner of Bennoch Rd & Southgate Rd  
 6:58 AM Southgate Rd between Argyle Rd & Old Town Line  
 7:03 AM Southgate Rd between Old Town Line to Argyle Rd  
 7:05 AM Edinburg Rd @ 2727  
 7:10 AM Edinburg Rd between Bear Claw Rd & Argyle Rd  
 7:15 AM Wolf Ln Area  
 7:20 AM ALTON ELEMEN. SCHOOL-(Transfer 4th & 5th grade to Bus F)

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 LMS

## RUN A MORNING

This route covers Lakeside Rd, Woodland Ave, Poplar St, 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 St  
 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 St 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 Ave  
 7:53 AM Woodland Ave (both sides)  
 7:59 AM Woodland Ave @ Poplar St  
 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 St 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 SCH.

## 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 OTES

2:25 PM Bennoch Rd to Kirkland Rd  
 2:26 PM Kirkland Rd to Colonial Cir.  
 2:30 PM Kirkland Rd 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 Cir.  
 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 AFTERNOON

This route covers Southgate Rd, Argyle Rd, and Edinburg Rd.

K-5 Students  
 2:15 PM LEAVE ALTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
 2:25 PM Old Bennoch Rd (Receive 4th & 5th grade Students from Bus F, OTHS)  
 2:30 PM Southgate Rd between Argyle Rd & Old Town Line  
 2:35 PM Southgate Rd between Old Town Line to Argyle Rd  
 2:37 PM Edinburg Rd @ 2727  
 2:42 PM Edinburg Rd between Bear Claw Rd & Argyle Rd  
 2:45 PM Wolf Ln Area

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

3:05 PM LEAVES LMS  
 3:10 PM LEAVES OTHS  
 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

## ALTON RUN A1 —MORNING

This route covers Bennoch Rd from Moulton Ln, Argyle Rd to I 95.. Bennoch Rd to ALTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

All K-5 Students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program  
 6:40 AM Bennoch Rd @ Moulton Ln  
 6:46 AM Bennoch Rd @ Bradford Station Rd  
 6:51 AM Bennoch Rd & Charles Ln  
 6:55 AM Sts Home Park  
 6:58 AM Bennoch Rd between I 95 & Gardiner Rd  
 7:00 AM Old Bennoch Rd  
 7:03 AM Bennoch Rd @ GaRdiner Rd  
 7:05 AM Bennoch Rd @ Sts Park  
 7:07 AM Bennoch Rd @ Doliff Rd  
 7:11 AM Bennoch Rd @ Quarry Rd  
 7:12 AM Bennoch Rd between Quarry Rd & Charlie's Ln  
 7:15 AM Bennoch Rd @ Charlie's Ln  
 7:20 AM ALTON ELEM. SCHOOL-(Transfer 4th & 5th grade to Bus F)

Middle and High School Students  
 7:37 AM The Blue Cross Gospel Church (LaGrange)  
 7:39 AM Bennoch Rd @ Moulton Ln  
 7:44 AM Bennoch Rd @ Bradford Station Rd  
 7:48 AM Argyle Rd area  
 7:55 AM Tannery Rd  
 7:57 AM Bennoch Rd & Charles Ln  
 8:00 AM Bennoch Rd @ Doliff Rd  
 8:01 AM Bennoch Rd @ Sts Park  
 8:02 AM Bennoch Rd @ GaRdiner Rd  
 8:08 AM East Coiley Rd

8:20 AM OTHS  
 8:25 AM LMS

ALTON RUN A1 —AFTERNOON  
 This route covers Old Bennoch Rd to Moulton LN

K-5 Students  
 2:15 PM LEAVES ALTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Bennoch Rd to Moulton LN  
 2:25 PM Old Bennoch Rd (Receive 4th & 5th grade Students from Bus F, OTHS)  
 2:35 PM Old Bennoch Rd to Sts Park  
 2:50 PM Sts Park to Moulton Ln

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

3:05 PM LEAVE OTHS  
 3:15 PM LEAVE LMS  
 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 C MORNING

This route covers the Main Rd from Fourth St to the Orono Line. Brunswick St between Bowdoin St & Perkins Ave.

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 Ave  
 6:57 AM Main St @ Goldsmith Ln  
 6:57 AM Main St @ Middle St  
 7:00 AM Downtown Area  
 7:02 AM Main St @ Willow St  
 7:02 AM Main St @ the Funeral Home  
 7:04 AM Main St @ Pine St  
 7:05 AM Main St @ Cooper St  
 7:06 AM Main St @ Park St  
 7:07 AM Main St @ Bowdoin Ave  
 7:09 AM Main St @ Taylor Rd(Regency Park)  
 7:10 AM Main St @ Old Town Orono Line

7:11 AM Main St @ Penobscot St  
 7:12 AM Main St @ Highland Ave  
 7:14 AM Highland Ave @ Hamel Ln  
 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 & Bradford St  
 7:21 AM Perkins Ave & HillaRd St  
 7:24 AM Jefferson St & Center  
 7:25 AM OTES

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 Ave  
 7:46 AM Main St & Goldsmith LN  
 7:48 AM Downtown Area  
 7:50 AM Main St @ Willow St  
 7:50 AM Main St @ the Funeral Home  
 7:52 AM Main St @ Pine St  
 7:53 AM Main St @ Cooper St  
 7:55 AM Main St @ Bowdoin Ave  
 7:56 AM Main St @ Penny Rd  
 7:57 AM Main St @ Spaulding St  
 7:58 AM Main St @ Taylor Rd (Regency Park)

8:04 AM Main St @ Old Town/Orono Line  
 8:09 AM Main St @ Penobscot St  
 8:10 AM Main St @ Highland Ave  
 8:11 AM Highland Ave @ Hamel Ln  
 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 Ln

8:20 AM LEONARD MIDDLE SCH.  
 8:25 AM OTHS

## RUN C AFTERNOON

This route covers 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  
 2:20 PM LEAVE OTES  
 2:25 PM 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 Ln area  
 2:40 PM Brunswick St; Bowdoin St to Prentiss St

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

3:05 PM LEAVES LMS  
 3:10 PM LEAVES OTHS  
 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 Ln area  
 3:41 PM Brunswick St; Bowdoin St to Perkins Ave  
 3:46 PM Perkins Ave Area

## RUN D MORNING

This Route covers 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  
 6:56 AM On Littlefield Ln  
 7:00 AM On Youngs Ln  
 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)  
 7:25 AM Drop OTES

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 Ln  
 8:06 AM On Littlefield Ln  
 8:09 AM Bennoch Rd  
 8:11 AM College Ave Ext. (Gilman

Falls side)  
 8:14 AM Gilman Falls Ave & Leonard Ln  
 8:15 AM Gilman Falls Ave & Sargent Dr  
 8:20 AM OTHS  
 8:25 AM LMS

**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  
 2:20 PM LEAVE OTES  
 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  
 3:05 PM LEAVE LMS  
 3:10 PM LEAVE OTHS  
 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

**BRADLEY LONG ROUTE MORNING**

This route covers the Main Rd (RTE #178) between the Eddington Line & Boynton St., Penny Ln, Highpoint & Carterwoods.

All K-5 Students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants  
 6:50 AM Main St @ Eddington Line  
 6:53 AM Main St @ Penny Ln  
 6:55 AM Penny Ln @ bus Stop  
 6:56 AM Main Rd between Penny Ln & Government Rd  
 6:58 AM Main Rd @ The Government Rd  
 7:00 AM Main Rd between the Government Rd & Highpoint Dr  
 7:05 AM Main Rd @ Highpoint Dr  
 7:08 AM Highpoint Dr between Main Rd & Cul-de-sac  
 7:10 AM Main Rd between Highpoint Dr & Goss Rd  
 7:10 AM Main Rd @ Goss Rd  
 7:11 AM Main Rd between Goss Rd & Carterwoods  
 7:15 AM Carterwoods Park  
 7:20 AM Main St @ Elm St  
 7:20 AM VIOLA RAND SCHOOL

Middle and High School Students  
 7:35 AM Main St @ Eddington Line  
 7:38 AM Penny Ln @ bus Stop (Near the Mail Boxes)  
 7:40 AM Main Rd @ Government Rd  
 7:50 AM High Point Place between Main Rd & Cul-de-sac - turn right onto High Point Place  
 7:53 AM Main Rd @ Goss Rd  
 8:00 AM Carterwoods Park

8:05 AM Boynton St & Cross Rd  
 8:20 AM OTHS  
 8:25 AM LMS

**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  
 6:45 AM Tannery Rd & Gerry Ln  
 6:48 AM Hudson Rd to Pushaw Stream  
 6:50 AM On the Kirkland Rd  
 6:55 AM West Old Town Rd @ Old Stage Coach Rd  
 7:00 AM West Coiley Rd  
 7:05 AM West Old Town Rd & Winter Rd  
 7:08 AM 1600 Bennoch Rd area  
 7:18 AM ALTON ELEM. SCHOOL—(Transfer 4th & 5th grade to Bus F)  
 7:20 AM Depart for OTES with 4th & 5th grade Students  
 7:40 AM Drop Students at OTES Middle and High School Students  
 7:58 AM Tannery Rd & Gerry Ln  
 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  
 8:25 AM OTHS  
 8:30 AM LMS

**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 Ave @ Leonard Ln  
 7:01 AM Gilman Falls Ave @ Sargent Dr  
 7:02 AM Gilman Falls Ave @ 4th St  
 7:03 AM Fourth St  
 7:04 AM Fourth St & Stillwater AVE  
 7:05 AM Fourth St & Middle St  
 7:06 AM Center St @ Front St  
 7:07 AM Front St @ River St  
 7:07 AM Front St @ Union St  
 7:08 AM Front St @ Heald St  
 7:09 AM Bosworth St @ Bodwell St.  
 7:10 AM Bosworth St @ Union St  
 7:10 AM Bosworth St @ Hayes St  
 7:11 AM Bosworth St @ HowaRd St.  
 7:11 AM Bosworth St @ Chapman St  
 7:13 AM Center St @ Shirley St.  
 7:15 AM Center St @ Brunswick St  
 7:18 AM Oak St  
 7:20 AM Jefferson St & Lincoln St  
 7:21 AM Lincoln St & Shelter Ln  
 7:25 AM Arrive @ OTES Middle and High School Students  
 7:50 AM Stillwater Ave; from OTES to Center St.  
 7:53 AM Stillwater & Abbott St area  
 7:55 AM Stillwater Ave; Center St to Veazie St  
 7:58 AM Gilman Falls Ave & 4th St.  
 7:59 AM Corner Gilman Falls Ave & Leonard LN  
 8:00 AM Main St & Brunswick St  
 8:01 AM Main St & Wood St  
 8:01 AM Main St & Goldsmith Ln  
 8:05 AM Center St & Front St  
 8:06 AM Front St & River St  
 8:08 AM Bosworth St & Bodwell St.  
 8:09 AM Bosworth St @ Hayes St  
 8:10 AM Bosworth St & Chapman St  
 8:13 AM Center St & Shirley St.  
 8:15 AM Center St & Brunswick St  
 8:17 AM Oak St Area to Middle Sch.  
 8:20 AM LMS  
 8:25 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 LMS  
 3:10 PM LEAVES OTHS  
 3:16 PM Corner of Center & 7th 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 AFTERNOON**

This route covers Bennoch Rd, East Coiley Rd, West Old Town Rd, Kirkland Rd (West Old Town side), Hudson Rd & Tannery Rd.

K-5 Students  
 2:15 PM Leave OLD TOWN ELEMENTARY with 4th & 5th graders  
 2:25 PM Old Bennoch Rd (Deliver 4th & 5th grade Students to Bus A1 & B, K-3 AES Students come aboard)  
 2:41 PM West Old Town Rd, Winter Rd & West Coiley Rd  
 2:45 PM West Old Town Rd & The Stagecoach Rd  
 2:51 PM On The Kirkland (West Old Town side)  
 2:56 PM Tannery Rd & Gerry Ln  
 Middle and High School Students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants  
 3:05 PM LEAVE OTHS  
 3:10 PM LEAVE LMS  
 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 & Old Stage Coach Rd  
 3:40 PM On The Kirkland (West Old Town side)  
 3:45 PM Tannery Rd & Gerry Ln

**BRADLEY SHORT ROUTE AM**

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  
 6:35 AM Main St @ Bradley Line  
 6:35 AM Main St & Pine St  
 6:36 AM Main St & School St  
 6:40 AM Cram St  
 6:40 AM Cram St between Main St & Deer Run Ln  
 6:45 AM Deer Run between Cram St & Cul-de-sac.  
 6:50 AM Cram St between Deer Run Ln & Baker Ln.  
 7:00 AM Baker Ln to Ten Rd  
 7:06 AM Ten Rd between Baker Ln & Cul-de-sac.  
 7:10 AM Ten Rd @ Cram St  
 7:15 AM Cram St @ Highland Ave  
 7:20 AM VIOLA RAND SCHOOL (Drop off & Pick up Students for OTES)  
 7:21 AM Bullen St  
 7:25 AM Center St & Howard Ln  
 7:27 AM Center St & Stillwater Ave.  
 7:30 AM OTES

Middle and High School Students  
 7:40 AM Cram St

7:45 AM Deer Run between Cram St & Cul-de-sac.  
 7:50 AM Cram St between Deer Run Ln & Baker Ln.  
 7:56 AM Ten Rd between Baker Ln & Cul-de-sac.  
 8:02 AM Ten Rd @ Cram St  
 8:07 AM Cram St @ Highland Ave  
 8:08 AM Bullen St  
 8:20 AM OTHS  
 8:25 AM LMS

**BRADLEY SHORT ROUTE AFTERNOON—ELEMENTARY**

This route covers Jefferson St, Perkins Ave, 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 Ave, Center St and Main St (Bradley)  
 2:23 PM Perkins Ave & Jefferson St  
 2:25 PM PICK UP @ VIOLA RAND  
 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 PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants  
 3:05 PM LEAVE OTHS  
 3:10 PM LEAVE LMS  
 3:25 PM Stop on the Corner of Bradley and Pine St.  
 3:28 PM Turn left onto Cram St Stopaneed to Highland Ave  
 3:30 PM Turn left onto Highland Ave (turnaround in School Drway) 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 Ln  
 3:40 PM Left onto Baker Ln turns into Ten Rd follow with Stops as needed to the cul-de-sac. Turn around.

**BRADLEY LONG ROUTE PM**

This route covers Boynton St, Main Rd, High Point PL, Penny LN & Main Rd to the Eddington Town Line.

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 Rd & Elm St.  
 2:35 PM Boynton St. to Cross Rd area  
 2:40 PM Drop off Carterwoods Loop  
 2:45 PM Main Rd. to High Point Place  
 2:50 PM Main Rd. to Penny Ln  
 2:55 PM Main Rd. to Eddington Line  
 Middle and High School Students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program  
 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 Ctr.  
 3:35 PM Turn Left onto Cram St Stop on the Corner of Highland, turn right onto Highland Ave.  
 Turn around in School Driveway  
 Back to a Left onto Cram St. Check to see if you have Students for Deer Run Ln.  
 3:40 PM continue on Cram St to Baker Ln, Baker LN turns into Ten Rd, follow with Stops as needed to the end, Turn around and head back to the Bradley Rd.  
 Turn left cross the bridge.  
 3:50 pm Main St & Boynton St  
 3:55 PM On Boynton St  
 3:56 PM In Carterwoods  
 3:56 PM On High Point Place  
 4:00 PM Penny LN  
 4:05 PM Main RD to Eddington line



## Old Town City Manager

The City is continuing to work on some major projects.

By Bill Mayo, City Manager

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

The Llewellyn Estes Bridge project is in process. The latest bridge activity is starting to construct the temporary bridge in July 2023 and finishing that bridge for traffic in December 2023. The clearing of trees has started for the temporary bridge. The new bridge construction is scheduled to begin in 2024. The temporary bridge will be 575 feet long, 2 lanes, and a sidewalk separated with a curb. The highway portion of the project has been bid separately. The highway portion is the reconstruction of the Bennoch Road / College Avenue and Stillwater Avenue intersections and approaches to the bridge. The project will involve new traffic lights, controls, sidewalk replacement and ADA compliant crossings at both intersections. The highway portion has been awarded, is mobilizing and work will start this fall as that part of the project. Please try and stay aware of the message boards by the bridge as they will have updates as to delays or traffic flow changes that will happen over the next several years.

### City Brook Pipe

The City had this storm water line video recorded last fall (2022) and it was 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 a 48-inch pipe and carries a large volume of water in the spring. This line was installed around 1965 so it is time to establish the condition of it before there are failures. The City has received in total \$746,000 in American Recovery Act funds and those will be used to fund this project. There is a section of pipe between Perkins and Pine Street that has failed and will be replaced. The rest of the line is in good working condition currently. The City Council has authorized the contract (\$159,000) and now the project can move forward for replacement during the 2023 construction season.

### 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 qualifica-

tions 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 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. During the fall Ballard & King conducted a market study for the pool and the initial draft was reviewed by the Council in February. Ballard and King are currently working on cost associated with the pool and programming that would be used to promote activities at the pool and generate revenues to offset operating costs. There is going to be a meeting with UM, Ballard & King, and the City in the next couple of weeks to discuss the findings.

### Downtown Traffic Lights

The traffic lights at the intersections of Main / Water Street and Center Street are going to be replaced this summer. The lights/poles were damaged in a fall windstorm in 2018. This project will be a cooperative agreement between MDOT, BACTS, and the City. The project cost is \$944,365 and will replace all traffic poles/lights, controls, sidewalk, and ADA com-

pliance issues at both intersections. The materials for the project have been ordered and mobilization is starting on the project.



### Fourth Street Sidewalk

Engineering and bidding have been completed to build a new sidewalk/drainage from Gilman Falls to the Klitch Community Park (Fourth Street Boat Launch). Versant is going to move power lines/poles from the east side to the west side of the street as part of the project. Project cost is \$623,864.00 and \$408,000 will be paid for with American Recovery Act Funding.

### College Avenue Extension Culvert Project

The City is replacing a large culvert that has been an issue for years. The culvert is located about five hundred feet from where the pavement begins on College Avenue Extension (North End). This will be a 4-foot concrete culvert. Project cost for new culvert will be \$110,000. Funding for this project is coming from Maine DEP and American recovery Act funding.

## Old Town Municipal Airport: Dewitt Field



Lance Farrar

Summer has been a challenge here at the airport. Every event or project has been a struggle in its own right. June 10<sup>th</sup> we held our annual wings and wheels event. It was a great time with over 350 registered cars and 60 planes

in and out throughout the day. The event was held to provide support for two Veteran charities. The support from the local communities, sponsors, volunteers' food vendors and the Texas crew was overwhelming. There was sky diving, cornhole, raffles, food and a war bird that flew up from Texas. We lucked into one of the best days of June.

During June and July Maine Earth Corp. built our new taxiway. Again, with the weather it was a

challenge to complete. The project is now complete and provides a safer route for aircraft to exit and enter the main runway.

The airport continues to expand. Just in the last few months four new businesses have either purchase or leased property from the airport/city. Each business brings with it new facilities and

employees. We wish them all success and a big thank you for choosing Old Town. We encourage the residents of Old Town to come out and visit your airport.





Danielle Berube

## City Finance

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

#### Property Taxes

2024 Tax bills will be mailed next week. The due dates are September 13, 2023, and March 13, 2024

December 6, 2023 is the last day to make payments on 2022 tax liens filed on 06/6/2022, automatic foreclosure notices will be sent in October/November.

### 2022 Waste Water Pollution Billing Schedule

Service dates	Due dates
January-March	April 28
April-June	July 28
July-September	October 28
October-December	January 28

### 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).

## Economic and Community Development

### City Purchases Manufacturing Facility

In June of 2023, the City of Old Town purchased the 17,000 square foot manufacturing facility occupied by Global Secure Shipping from Blanchet Logging, Inc. Global Secure Shipping manufactures the only ISO certified secure intermodal shipping container that provides six-sided intrusion detection, real time tracking, door opening alerts, and secure global communication and weight-reduction. GSS's Global Secure Container technology was originally developed at the University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center with funding from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Advanced Research Projects Agency (HSARPA). The six-sided intrusion detection system was developed by the Georgia Tech Research Institute, also through funding from DHS HSARPA.

In addition to leasing the existing manufacturing space to GSS, the City has agreed to finance, build, and lease back to GSS, an additional 15,000 square feet of manufacturing space to assist GSS in meeting its recently awarded DHS Contract. It is anticipated that over the next three years, GSS, which currently employs approximately 40 people, will grow to over 150 employees to meet the demand for these containers. Once fully operational, the City will sell the entire property to Global Secure Shipping.

### Community BBQ's Bring Large Crowds to Downtown

Justin Russell, you may know him as the "Old Town Grinch", wanted to find a way to meet more of his Downtown neighbors and enjoy a meal together. A post on the Community Action Old Town Facebook page set things in motion. Justin and a handful of Downtown Residents met with city staff to develop a plan to host three community BBQs over the summer. The team decided to combine the BBQs with the Downtown Old Town (DTOT) summer concerts and outdoor movies in the park. With the addition of some lawn games and some good Maine weather their efforts have been a great success!

By EJ Roach

The plan moving forward is to host these BBQ's monthly in the Summer of 2024. The City of Old Town thanks Justin for his willingness to help create community and helping bring more residents together. If you are interested in being part of the volunteer efforts for these events, please email [eroach@old-town.org](mailto:eroach@old-town.org).



EJ Roach

### Riverfest 2023

Riverfest 2023 will be held Friday September 22nd and Saturday September 23rd. Plan on fireworks, food, and live entertainment in the park Friday night. Saturday will include the morning parade. Followed by activities, food and vendor booths, demonstrations, crafters, and a car show. Saturday evening will be host to a line-up of local food trucks and a free concert from Maine's ultimate disco party band, Motor Booty Affair. For more information, please contact the planning committee via email at [riverfestoldtown@gmail.com](mailto:riverfestoldtown@gmail.com). We are always looking for partners, volunteers, and sponsors to help make this memorable event happen each year.

### Downtown Old Town is Looking for Volunteers

As DTOT completes its application to become a Maine Downtown Affiliate, we are always seeking volunteers. If you live or work in the City of Old Town and have an interest in seeing our Downtown develop and grow, please contact EJ Roach, Director of Economic & Community Development at [eroach@old-town.org](mailto:eroach@old-town.org) or (207) 827-3965. DTOT is a group of business owners, residents, educators, elected officials, and staff, focused 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.

## Old Town Public Works

I don't want to be the one to say it but... Summer will be over soon, and cooler weather will be here before you know it ushering in the inevitable winter.

It has been a busy summer at public works with several street paving and sidewalk construction projects being completed and a new street being constructed just off Stillwater Avenue connecting Sanford Ave. This dead-end street now has an outlet and will be completed in early September. Additional street paving is planned on French Island in September as well.

The road portion of the Stillwater River bridge replacement has begun, and construction of the temporary bridge is now underway. Stay tuned to the City's website and social media outlets for updates about the bridge construction.

A major culvert replacement project for College Ave extension is planned for late August and will shut the northern portion of College Ave extension down to local traffic only for approximately two weeks.

The public works department will collect bagged leaves the weeks of November 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Place your bagged leaves curbside and we will be around to collect them.

A new trash and recycling collection contract will be in effect this fall, Contact City Hall for details regarding the new curbside collection program.



John Rouleau

## Assistant City Manager

Travis Roy, Assistant City Manager

The City of Old Town, with the assistance of local contractors, completed the installation of a total of 4 electric vehicle charging stations in the downtown area.

The cost of the charging stations was 90% covered by grants from Efficiency Maine.

Each of the stations has two plugs to charge cars, for a total of 8 plugs available throughout the downtown. These charging stations are now activated and available for public use. The charging stations can be located using the PlugShare app. PlugShare also tells you if someone is using the charger, when it is available and will even alert you when it becomes available. The chargers are accessed by using the PlugShare app or using a common debit or credit card.

There are several options for fee schedules. The City chose the option of a flat rate of \$2/hr for the first 8 hrs, and \$5/hr after that to encourage use of the charging stations, but discourage long time or overnight parking in these spots. The idea is

that the chargers become available for other users in reasonable amounts of time.

The addition of the car chargers is an important component of the overall downtown improvements plan that we hope will attract more people to the area for the restaurants, and entertainment.

As electric cars become more numerous, we hope that these chargers will provide a resource for people looking to visit downtown Old Town.

The chargers are in; the Riverfront parking lot, the Robbins Block/Sewall Company parking lot, the Main Street comfort station parking lot and the Old Town Public Library lower parking lot.

While not all visitors or residents of Old Town will utilize this resource, we truly hope that it will be seen as an added resource and will help draw people to the area to support the businesses and events in our community.



Travis Roy



# Old Town Public Safety

## Old Town Fire Department

### 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. **Change batteries when Daylight Savings Time ends**, ensuring 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 inspect 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 wood burning stove, 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. 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/wood stove 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 wood stove/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.

## Old Town Public Library



Cassandra Pool

Want to enjoy the last few days of Summer with some free activities? Come check out Maine State Park Passes and Botanical Garden Passes! The Story Walk in the gar-

den around the library is updated monthly during Spring, Summer, and Fall, so be sure to stop by and see the new story. 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. New to the collection this year are 2 kayaks from Old Town Canoe. Kayaks are available to borrow starting late May through early October. Visit the library for more details.

Our children's programming has been very busy 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 3:30– 4:30 on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month during the school year. Contact Ms. Cindy at the library for more details on children's events.

Thursdays are about to get busier! In September, some of our adult programming will start back up. Sit 'n Stitch is a group that meets from 1-3 on Thursday afternoons for knitting, sewing, and other handicrafts. Our Book Craft Night is another fun program that is held quarterly. The Who Dunnit Mystery Book Club meets on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. On September 23rd, from 10-1, stop by the library during Riverfest to get some great deals at our book sale! Look out for more information on upcoming

## Old Town Police Department

As summer winds down the Old Town Police Department would like you remind you there are several reasons why streets and highways can be more dangerous in autumn. There are fewer daylight hours (and earlier evening hours) due to shorter days. The darker it is, the tougher it can be for a driver to avoid causing a crash. 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 frost 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.

### Back to School 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 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 bicyclist turning in front of you without looking or signaling; children especially have a tendency to do this.

### Safety Vests Available!

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.



Scott Wilcox



Tuesday Forum programs.

Our hours of operation are Monday & 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).

For more information on any of our events, be sure to check our website for more information about



what's going on at the Old Town Public Library ([old-town.lib.me.us](http://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 Pollution Control

Old Town is a CSO community which means heavy rain affects us by increasing the amount of wastewater flow that enters the facility. The more rain the more flow. Sometimes when the flow reaches a certain level it causes issues for us. June was a very rainy month with some intense downpours. This large amount of



David Smith

rain did not affect the Pollution Control Facility or any of our seven pump stations. The main reason is because for the past 10 to 15 years the City of Old Town and the Staff at the Pollution Control Facility have been concentrating on our sewer collection system in order to reduce unnecessary flow.

As summer comes to an end the Staff at the Pollution Control Facility will concentrate on finishing any outside roadwork projects. The spring paving season has come and gone, and all the affected manholes were either replaced or repaired

to match the grade of the roads. Staff is prepared for the fall paving season. The Llewellyn Estes Bridge project has begun. There are 20 manholes that are in the scope of the project. These manholes have been contracted out to be included with the project.

There will be some sewer line flushing this fall. Staff has scheduled around 10,000 linear feet for flushing. Staff will also continue with our sewer flow monitoring. There are five portable flow meters throughout Old Town recording flow data and how rain affects it. The

flow monitoring is working as we have found a few areas where excess water was entering our system. These have been repaired.

As always please do not flush anything that should not be flushed. Baby wipes, Clorox wipes, paper towels etc. should never be flushed. Some of these items say flushable but they still should not be flushed. They only cause problems for homeowners and the city. It is a good practice to check your home for water leaks. Including your toilets. This will save you money.

## Old Town Code Enforcement

With 2023, slowly coming to a close, although we all know it will be here quicker than we think, it is not too late to begin your smaller projects or wrap up those in progress. In fact, if you are planning any sort of projects that will require professional trades people, you will need to start lining them up now as most contractors are booked months in advance. Below is a follow-up on projects that were ongoing this past summer.

### Project Updates

The conversion of the old Jefferson Street School into a twelve-unit apartment building. (Widows are all installed and being trimmed out. Kitchen cabinets and counter tops are nearing completion, Hardwood floors have been sanded down and refinished, new flooring, where required is installed) The owner of this property, Andy LeClair, is doing an exceptional job with this renovation, re-purposing project. I look forward to every inspection, or impromptu visit I make.

There are four new dwellings in various stages of construction on Poplar Street. (Two new modular homes are done, one dwelling almost completed and one home is now being built.)

A new dwelling is being constructed on Woodland Ave.

A large remodeling project is underway in the old, Old Town Canoe building that housed the store. This will be utilized as office space, conference rooms and lab texting new products. (Completed.)

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, six-unit buildings to be constructed. (There are thir-

teen buildings in various stages of construction. Two are occupied, two are nearing completion, one is being dry-walled, two are ready for rough electric and plumbing. There are also four foundations in the ground with three of these having underground plumbing installed.)

A new owner bought the property at 1123 Main Street and has received Planning Board approval to relocate four, four-unit buildings from University Park to be put on new foundations. This project has taken on a new direction. After much thought the owner has decided to build all new buildings. There are four buildings, with four one-bedroom apartments in each.

### Home Project Planning

With the afore mentioned and all of the unknown projects that are sure to begin this fall and winter, 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 ready for this fall/winter or even 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 too 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 lay-

ers 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.

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.



David Russell

### Preventing Rodents

The city is seeing a dramatic increase in rat and rodent populations. A large cause of this is due to the illegal keeping of chickens, as the feed is also a source of food for the rats. **Chickens are not allowed on Marsh Island/Old Town proper.** The only zoning districts chickens are allowed is in the R-3, R-3A, Rural Residence Zoning District.

**The feeding of feral animals is another reason for the increase in the rat population,** as rats are not picky eaters. They require and search out any food source available. **DO NOT LEAVE OUT ANY FOOD FOR FERAL ANIMALS.**

**Open compost piles** are another source of food and shelter for rodents. All composting must be undertaken utilizing an enclosed compost bin. Placing your trash curbside early and not in required trash cans is yet another reason we are facing this challenge. Please place trash curbside the morning of your collection date and in a trash receptacle.

David C. Russell, Code Enforcement Officer  
Tel: 207-827-3965 x 205 Cell: 207-570-6798 Fax: 207-827-3966  
[drussell@old-town.org](mailto:drussell@old-town.org)

## Old Town City Clerk's Office

### Elections

State of Maine Referendum Election and City of Old Town Municipal **Election Day is November 07, 2023.** Voting place is the Elk's Lodge, 37 Fourth Street.

Polls will be open from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

### Nomination process

- City Council - three expiring seats
- School Board - three expiring seats

(Three-year terms for both Boards)

Nomination papers for these terms will be available at the City Clerk's office, City of Old Town, 265 Main Street beginning August 21, 2023, return deadline of September 01, 2023, at 4:00 pm.

25 signatures needed (Registered Old Town Voters only) to qualify to be put on the ballot.

### Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots should be arriving mid October for the Referendum and Local Elections. You may request an Absentee Ballot by:

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

[maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl](http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl)

- phoning the City Clerk's office 827-3965, ext. 122
- mailing in request, or
- stopping into City Hall, 265 Main Street, during business hours. Monday – Friday, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm

### Dog Licenses

Dog Licensing for the 2024 year will be starting Oct. 15, 2023. \$6.00 if spayed/neutered and \$11.00 if not. We now offer dog licensing ser-

vices online. Reminder to have updated rabies information.

Any questions please feel free to contact me.



Laura Engstrom

Regards,  
Laura Engstrom, City Clerk  
[lengstrom@old-town.org](mailto:lengstrom@old-town.org)  
207-827-3965, ext. 122

# Old Town High School Has Turned Out Amazing Graduates

for well over 100 years. This summer, we decided to profile some of them from a variety of classes in a series called "Where Are They Now?" Here is a sampling of what appeared on our social media accounts from OTHS.



Our first edition has us looking back to 2018, when Oliviah Damboise graduated from OTHS as one of our most decorated Track & Field athletes in school history. She went on to U-Maine to be a student-athlete studying Biomedical Engineering, while also on the Track & Field team. In 2022, she graduated with her bachelor's degree and was named the Most Outstanding Senior Biomedical Engineering Student. After graduation, she made the decision to follow her passion and pursue a career in real estate. Currently, she is a real estate agent at NextHome Experience, where she takes great pride in helping her clients navigate the real estate world. Oliviah's future aspirations entail further scaling her real estate business and venturing into investment opportunities as well. Best of Luck Oliviah! We are proud of you!

Church and serves as the Deputy Director of the Virginia Lottery. Prior to joining the Lottery, he served as the Confidential Assistant and Traveling Aide to Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin. Best of Luck in the future, Lee! We are proud of you!



In our next installment of "Where Are They Now?" we check in on a young lady who was the captain of our 2016 Cheerleading State Championship team and went to cheer at the University of Maine, Ms. Julia Van Steenberghe! In 2019, Julia won Miss Maine USA and represented our state by competing at Miss USA! Julia obtained a bachelor's degree from UMaine in 2020 in Elementary Education & Child Development and Family Relations. In 2022, she completed her master's degree in Human Development and she was named Outstanding Graduate Student in her program. She lived in Italy for a summer working as an Au Pair for a family of four boys teaching them English. She is returning to the area full-time in August as she continues her work for the University of Maine in a new role as Assistant Director of Academic Advising, Recruitment and Student Success at the Maine Business School. Keep up the great work, Julia! We are proud of you!



Let's turn back to 2012 for our next edition of "Where Are They Now?" Today, the spotlight is on Lee Jackson. After graduating from OTHS in 2012, Lee began studying political science at the University of Maine. In 2013, Lee was elected to the Old Town School Board. In 2014, Lee was named a Rising Star by the Republican National Committee. In 2016, Lee was named Crew Member of the Year by the McDonald's Corporation and was presented a Key to the City of Old Town. After leaving Maine, Lee traveled around the country working for the Leadership Institute to mentor young people, helping them strengthen the leadership skills necessary to engage with their local communities and transition into the professional world. Lee currently resides in Richmond, Virginia, where he is an active member of City



Today we turn the "Where Are They Now?" spotlight back to 1990 to check in on Clem Labree. After graduating from Old Town High School in 1990, Clem studied Announcing and Production at the New England School of Communications. That led to a 24 year career in sports talk radio in which he became one of the most recognized voices in our area. Truth be told, while he had to be careful not to show partiality during his broadcasting days, he continued to bleed green and white the whole time. In 2014, he shifted gears and graduated from the University of Phoenix with a BS in Healthcare Admin-

istration. Currently, Clem works for Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center as the Manager for Walk-in Care, Endocrinology and Diabetes, and the Anticoagulation Clinic. He has continued to stay involved with Old Town High School and RSU 34, as a major player for both the Athletic and Achievement Halls of Fame. Clem, thanks for all that you have done for OTHS & RSU 34! We are proud of you!



Today's Old Town High School "Where Are They Now?" subject is Garvey Melmed. Let's take our Time Machine back to 2014. Specifically, let's start the story on February 22, 2014. The Old Town Coyotes boys' basketball team has made their way to the Eastern Maine Class B Championship. They are playing an excellent Caribou team and the game is close all afternoon. While the game plan called for Garvey Melmed to primarily be a defender, he was needed for more offense and he stepped up. He scored the final eight points of regulation and overtime, including two game winning free throws with 22.6 seconds left in overtime to lift OT to a 43-41 victory. This was OT's first championship since 1991. They would go on to defeat Poland a week later to win the Class B State Championship. After leaving OTHS, Garvey went on to UMaine for Mechanical Engineering. If that was not enough, he also walked on to the men's basketball team playing all four years and playing against schools that he grew up idolizing. After graduating from U-Maine, he started at BAE Systems where he has worked numerous roles in Operations, Engineering, and Program Management, and where he remains today. Garvey also moved to Upstate NY for work after graduation. He highly recommends checking out the finger lakes region for some very cool waterfall hikes! Not too long after the move, Garvey married Old Town legend, Sarah White! (He'd like to thank Mr. Priest for band class - where he met Sarah) While working, Garvey decided to return to school online and get his MBA focusing in Leadership and Management from Kansas (Rock, Chalk, Jayhawk) Then after

about 4 years in NY, he and Sarah moved to Austin, TX where they've been enjoying the best breakfast tacos and daily doses of sunshine. (What is sunshine?) :) A move back to the state of Maine is in the plan for this fall! Exciting news! While he no longer competes for State Championships, you can still find Garvey at a local men's league shooting hoops or training for the next big event (Boston Marathon in 2024) Congratulations Garvey (& Sarah) We are So Proud of both of you!



In today's edition of "Where Are They Now?" we are climbing a mountain or rafting a river and traveling the world with 2017 OT graduate, Alex Blackie! Directly after graduation, Alex started rafting guiding in the Forks, Maine. He did that for 3 seasons (2017 - 2019) For the last 4 summers (2020-present), he has been working for Maine state sea kayak as a sea kayaking guide. He even worked his way into the head guide position. Alex went to the University of Maine at Machias and earned a degree in Recreation and Tourism Management graduating in December of 2020. Alex has done a lot of traveling as well. He went to Chile for whitewater kayaking in 2017, went to Nepal to hike into Everest base camp in 2018 and he has visited Costa Rica a few times. (2021 and 2022) He also went to Argentina to climb Aconcagua (tallest mountain in South America) He has rafted the Grand Canyon twice once for fun and once working as a baggage boater in May of 2023. He has lived in Utah for the past two winters working as a snow cat operator at Park City Mountain. (Winters of 21/22 and 22/23) If all of that is not enough for you thrill seekers out there, he plans to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro in February of next year. Congratulations, Alex that is an amazing list of experiences. Keep up your traveling adventures! We are So Proud of You.

Tune in to the next edition of the Community Connections for stories of more amazing graduates in "Where Are They Now!"

