



## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,

I hope you enjoy this edition of our district newsletter. The past several weeks have been trying and challenging. These uncertain times and new routines undoubtedly create new stressors in our lives. The silver lining in all of this is the overwhelming sense of community demonstrated through the challenges.

I am proud of the RSU 1 team for their incredible efforts to stay connected, plan for a different delivery of learning, prepare and deliver approximately 400 meals per day, and thoroughly clean and disinfect all of our buildings. Life has changed drastically for all of us within the last couple of weeks, and I greatly appreciate how open and flexible the staff has been to try new things and get creative to best support students and families.

Although remote learning is not an optimal situation, we know everyone is making the best of this new form of learning. We realize it is not easy to assist or monitor your child with remote learning along with juggling your other responsibilities. Thank you for doing your best to support our students. Our goal is to provide some continuity of learning to all of our students. Our staff is communicating with students and parents as much as possible, but please reach out to us if you need additional support or have questions/concerns. We are here to support you as much as possible.

Our meal service continues to serve many students in the district. Our food service department is providing “Grab and Go” breakfast and lunch bags for children at Dike Newell, Fisher Mitchell, Phippsburg, and Woolwich on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Also, we are offering a delivery service on bus routes in Bath, Phippsburg, and Woolwich. See page 3 for more details.

We miss our employees, our students, and our families greatly and will continue to maintain close connections during this crisis. This is a challenging time, but it has been refreshing to see so many acts of kindness, compassion, and generosity happen in our community. Take

Online at [RSU1.org](http://RSU1.org)

 @rsu1schools

Download the RSU 1 app!



care, and stay safe. I am confident that we will persevere through this difficult time together.

Sincerely,



Patrick Manuel  
Superintendent of Schools

## RSU 1 Receives Youth Development Award at Feb. 27 YMCA Annual Meeting

Judy Metcalf and RSU 1 accepted the Youth Development Award at the Bath Area Family YMCA's annual meeting on February 27 for the Frazier Metcalf Memorial Swim for Health Program.

The swim education program, which enables all third graders in the district to attend six weeks of free swim lessons at the Y, is named for RSU 1 student and avid swimmer Frazier Metcalf, who died in 2010. Through the program, children are taught important water safety skills and, as they advance, are given lessons in stroke mechanics. Regardless of skill level, all students come away from the program with respect for water and an introduction to the lifelong sport of swimming.

Frazier's mother, Judy Metcalf, continues to spearhead fundraising for the program, which is dependent upon private donations. Judy was joined by RSU 1 Superintendent Patrick Manuel, Phys Ed & Outdoor Classroom Teacher Mary McCauley, and Central Office Administrative Assistant Annmarie Harkins in accepting the Youth Development Award on the 27th.



## New National Board Certified Teachers of Maine

Congratulations to Woolwich Central School Librarian **Abbie Luchies** (4th from left) and School Board Member **Megan Fuller** (5th from left) for achieving National Board certification. Here they are being recognized with other Maine teachers at a luncheon with Governor Janet Mills.

## Closure Contact Information

In an effort to mitigate and slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep our students, staff, and families safe, RSU 1 will be closed through April 26th.

As of Wednesday, March 18th, Central Office staff will be working remotely from home until further notice. Staff will be checking their email on a regular basis and accessing their voicemail messages from home.

For any general questions, please contact Veda Ferris at [vferris@rsu1.org](mailto:vferris@rsu1.org) or Annmarie Harkins at [aharkins@rsu1.org](mailto:aharkins@rsu1.org). Special Education questions should be directed to Victoria Warner at [vwarner@rsu1.org](mailto:vwarner@rsu1.org)

## RSU1 Food Service Resources

RSU1 Food Service is running a Grab & Go meal program to serve our students who are being hardest hit by the closure and experiencing food insecurity at home. Any child under the age of 18 may use this program, they do not have to be a student or school age. Unfortunately, due to the nature of this program, we cannot provide meals to adults.

### Meals Available

RSU1 Food Service will be providing Grab & Go Breakfast and Lunch bags for children during the closure. Meals will be available at 4 sites: Dike Newell School, Fisher-Mitchell School, Woolwich Central School, and Phippsburg Elementary School.

Hours of service for each location are as follows:

Dike Newell School	Tuesday & Thursday		10:30AM - 12:30PM
Fisher Mitchell School	Tuesday & Thursday		10:30AM - 12:30PM
Phippsburg Elementary School	Tuesday & Thursday		10:00AM - 12:00PM
Woolwich Central School	Tuesday & Thursday		10:30AM - 12:30PM

### Bus Run Meals

Select bus routes will run in Bath, Phippsburg, and Woolwich staffed with a Food Service Member who will be handing out meals.

#### BATH ROUTES

**Monday, Wednesday, & Friday | Run begins at 10:30AM**

- Bus #51, driver: Jenny Leeman. York & High St., Crescent & York, parts of Washington, Maritime Apartments, Oak & Washington.
- Bus #32, driver Karen Hawkes. North Bath locations, Aspen Lane, Oak Grove Commons, Bedford & Lincoln, Walker & High

#### PHIPPSBURG ROUTE

**Tuesdays & Thursdays Only | Run begins at 10:00AM**

10:00 at Pit Road/Clifford Road; Pine Tree Service Center; Sam Day Hill Road; Small Point Church; Sebasco Post Office

#### WOOLWICH ROUTE

**Tuesdays & Thursdays Only | Run begins at 10:30AM**

River Road; Chopps Cross Road; Middle Road; Old Stage (Sect. 2); Back to Middle Road; Old Stage Road (Section 3 & 4); Mountain Road; Meadow Road; Hockomock Road.



News From

MORSE HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Shipbuilders

## Success in JMG Program Prepares Morse Senior for Life After High School

When Konnor Rosano transferred to Morse High School as a Freshman he applied for JMG - a unique, one credit elective class taught by recently-awarded Fulbright recipient Maria Morris. Now a Senior, Rosano can reflect on the program that has provided him with the skills and confidence to be successful after graduation.

"I started out timid," Rosano said, describing his introduction to JMG. "Before JMG I had no idea what I wanted to do (post high school), but now I'm narrowing it down to a few options."

JMG, which stands for "Jobs for Maine's Graduates" but is more commonly known by its acronym, has 143 programs across Maine which partner with public education and private businesses to ensure that all Maine students graduate, attain post-secondary credentials, and pursue meaningful careers. JMG's programming is carried out by embedded school specialists like Morris, who has been teaching at Morse since 2008.

This past summer, Rosano was one of only 25 students in the state to gain acceptance into JMG's Summer Academy at Thomas College in Waterville. He took the weeklong personal finance course, worth three college credits, under the tutelage of JMG alumnus Professor Ryan Wheaton. Rosano, describing himself as an introvert, said that staying at the college was the first time he'd been away from home on his own, and that he was initially concerned the coursework would be too difficult. Facing these fears and his ultimate success in the class led him to more than a confidence boost - it also led to his selection as a speaker at the Morse JMG Opening Ceremony on November 14.



Konnor and Maria Morris

"Each year at the Opening Ceremony we have student speakers," Morris explained. "This year we had a storytelling theme, and Konnor was chosen to be one of the speakers."

Rosano decided to write about his week at Thomas College. He wrote the speech, practiced, rehearsed, and, in Morris' words, "knocked it out of the park." "I'm just so incredibly proud of Konnor," she said. "When he came he was so quiet. But he bought into the program and set a goal to make the honor roll." - A goal which he achieved.

As graduation approaches, Rosano is considering several possible career paths, including authorship. To help him and other students gauge interest in different jobs, Morris is finishing out the year with a career planning unit and has arranged for Rosano to meet and interview a Maine author.

No matter what path he decides, Morris is confident of his future.

"Doing everything he has done to challenge himself, I'm really confident that he will leave here in June in a good place," she said.



## Morse High School Playwrights Learn from the Pros

From student-written plays to workshops with renowned playwrights, Morse High School's theater program has been brimming with activity and opportunity during one of its last seasons at the Montgomery Theater.

Students in Kevin O'Leary's playwriting class enjoyed two unique opportunities to work with industry pros. In January, the class was invited to join Tony Award nominated Maine playwright John Cariani (author of *Almost, Maine*; one of the most frequently produced plays in the United States) for a playwriting workshop in Portland.

Morse High School was also one of only two schools in the state chosen to participate in an intensive four week play workshop organized by Acorn Productions (producers of the Maine Playwrights Festival) and funded by a grant from the Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust. Under the mentorship of professional writers, directors, and producers, O'Leary's five student playwrights will each develop a 10-minute play which will be performed at The Studio Theater at Portland Stage in April.

Daniel Burson, the Maine Playwrights Festival Artistic Director and dramaturg, co-teaches the workshop alongside professional playwright Travis G. Baker. He said that schools are selected for participation based on a strong history of student playwriting; Morse High School is the only Class A drama program in the state to bring student-written plays to the Maine Drama Festival every year, since 2002.

Burson said he hopes that the program will encourage a new generation of playwrights.



*John Russell and Kevin O'Leary pumped up for My BSF!*

"This is the way we're going to get Maine stories in the future. We're thrilled to have the Morse students take part and see themselves as writers and playwrights," he said.

### ***My BSF!* Playwright John Russel Cited for Excellence in Playwriting**

Regional competitions for the Maine Drama Festival took place on March 6 and 7, earning senior John Russell a citation for "Excellence in Playwriting" for his original play, "My BSF!" In addition, Olivia Cunningham and Isaac Ensel, stars of the play, made the all-state cast and Morse was given a special award for one of "My BSF!"'s innovative scenes.

Amidst all the excitement in his department, O'Leary is also mindful that Morse's Montgomery Theater is approaching its final season. The school is preparing to relocate to a new building next year and will have to leave the beloved theater behind.

"Leaving Montgomery Theater is bittersweet," said O'Leary. "This is where I began my program. This theater has so many memories. The 'sweet' is that it's always nice to begin anew."



*Coaches Jay Morissette (L) and Todd Marco (R) at the Edwin Gamble Aquatic Center*

## **Morse High School/YMCA Partnership Produces Outstanding Swim Athletes**

Community partnerships in close-knit cities like Bath provide opportunities for residents that would not otherwise exist. Take the relationship between Morse High School and the Bath Area Family YMCA, for example, and their tag team coaching of young swim athletes like Olivia Harper and James Wells.

Harper and Wells have risen into the spotlight as 2020 Olympic hopefuls, having recently competed at the U.S. Open Swimming Championships. Harper, a senior at Morse High School, and Wells, a 2010 Morse graduate who came back to Bath after college, have had the benefit of swimming for two teams at once: the Morse Swim Team (coached by Todd Marco), and Long Reach Swim Club (coached by Jay Morissette) at the Bath YMCA's Edwin Gamble Aquatic Center.

"I love racing for both LRSC and Morse High School," said Harper. "I practice for both teams every day."

Jay Morissette began coaching for the Y in 1985. Thanks to his efforts, LRSC has become one of the highest ranked teams in the state and has

produced 31 state championship teams. The Bath Y has won 37 state team titles all time. USA Swimming, the National Governing Body for the sport of swimming in the United States, awarded LRSC the highest level of achievement in their Club Recognition Program.

Despite prestige, LRSC does not monopolize the Edwin Gamble Aquatic Center – they share it with the Morse. Practices and meets are coordinated between Morissette and Marco so that students who want to swim for both teams can do so.

"We've known each other for 35 years," said Morissette. "I coached Todd when he was younger, and then he became my assistant coach for a year before becoming coach at Morse."

Morissette and Marco pride themselves in working well together. They even design their daily workouts to complement so kids who swim for both teams get a balanced exercise routine.

"We have this swim center here as a direct result of the successes of the LRSC and Morse swim team," said Morissette, who explained that the pool, originally designed with six lanes, was constructed with eight lanes eight to accommodate the growing popularity of the programs.

Harper shared that all her coaches have played a role in her success. "It has been a blessing to have the opportunity to be coached by Todd, Jay, and Sponge (LRSC assistant coach Brian Savage). Their different coaching styles allow me to have "different training opportunities that complement each other and help our team grow together and improve each year."



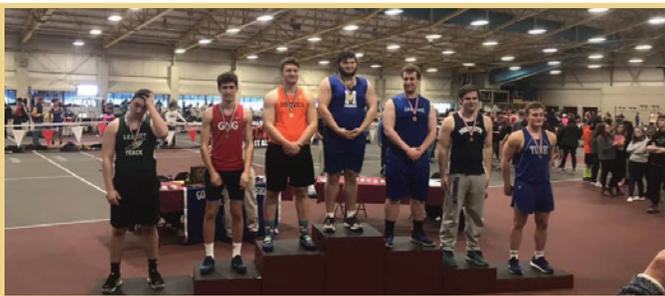
## CONGRATULATIONS are in order!



Congratulations to **Haily Harper, Olivia Harper, and Evan Willertz** on their selection to the 2020 Varsity Maine All-State swim teams! Additionally, Olivia was selected as Varsity Maine Swimmer of the Year!



Congratulations to the **Morse boys' basketball team** for winning the MPA Class A South Good Sportsmanship Award this year! They were recognized at the Class A State Championship on February 29.



Congratulations to **William Carrolton**, MPA Class B State Champion in shot put! William went on to earn 7th place at the New England Interscholastic Championships on February 29.



Congratulations to **Deja Douglas** (center), MPA Girls State Wrestling Champion in the 220 class! **Delani Rector** took 3rd and **Reese Hesseltine** took 4th in their respective classes. Congratulations to all!

View athletics schedules!  
Order personalized school gear!  
Cheer on Morse Athletes!

ONLINE AT  
**MORSESHIPBUILDERS.ORG**



## Student-built house finds home in Bath, to become affordable housing

Story by Kathleen O'Brien, Times Record

A house built by students from the Bath Regional Career and Vocational Center (BRCTC) carpentry program was delivered Wednesday to its permanent home on Chestnut Street in Bath where it will become affordable housing.

Bath Housing, which provides safe and affordable housing to seniors, disabled households and families in Bath, purchased the house from Bath Rotary Charitable Trust and contracted with Vaillancourt Builders LLC to oversee the sitework, building move and finish work.

The house will go on the market early this summer and will be sold to a family at or below 80% of the area median income. In 2018 Bath's median income was \$50,160, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

"We're incredibly excited about this project," said Bath Housing Executive Director Debora Keller. "We're continuously working to find ways to bring more affordable, and appropriately located, housing to the area."

The student-built home is 720 square feet with two bedrooms, one bathroom and an open floor plan with cathedral ceilings in the kitchen and living area. It's the ninth modular home built by the Bath vocational students designed to move to its permanent site after construction.

"There's such a lack of people in the trades right now, and we need more young people learning the trades," said Keller. "That this brand new home was built by students who are actively developing trade



*Nichole Brazee, left, and Amber Mixon, right, two students at the Bath Regional Career and Vocational Center, watch as the house they helped build is lifted up to be placed in its permanent home on Chestnut Street in Bath. The house was purchased by Bath Housing and will be sold as affordable housing. Kathleen O'Brien / The Times Record*

skills to this community is an added bonus."

Students worked on the home throughout the two-year carpentry program in which they were taught how to frame the home, build risers, install interior trim, sheetrock, roofing and siding. They were also responsible for installing cabinetry, windows and doors.

"It's surreal because not too long ago we were looking at photos of our class framing the floor," said Amber Mixon, a student in the program. "Now this is a home that somebody is going to live in, raise a family in and make memories in."

"I can't wait to drive past this with my kids one day and say 'I built that house,'" said Nichole Brazee, another carpentry student.

Mixon and Brazee agreed the most difficult part of the project was cutting and building the rafters in the roof. However, while it was difficult and frustrating at times, they agreed they're proud of their work



and want to build another house someday.

Ray Bernier, a carpentry instructor, said the rafters and roof are his favorite part of the house as well because he watched the students work through the challenge of designing and constructing it piece by piece. However, he added he loves watching the students when the house is lifted into place.

“(The students) know they’re the ones who built it, and I love watching their faces and eyes as they watch the house get moved,” said Bernier. “That’s the satisfying part of it all for me.”

## **Carpentry, Engineering, Graphic Design, and More! “Experience Day” Introduces 8th Graders to Program Offerings**

Busloads of 8th graders from local middle schools arrived at the Bath Regional Career and Technical Center (BRCTC) in January to explore program opportunities at our career and technical education high school.

“Experience Day” started in the cafeteria where BRCTC Director Julie Kenny introduced students to the school and its purpose: to provide students with the proper job skills and training to be career-and-college-ready directly after high school, all while accruing post-secondary credit.

Students were allowed to select three of BRCTC’s nine programs to sample for an hour apiece. Some donned protective glasses and learned how to use a handsaw in Ray Bernier’s carpentry class; some grabbed a chair in Kelly Brochu’s computer lab and explored the world of graphic design; others learned how to put a baby down for a nap in early childhood education with Gretchen Parlin.

“The 8th grade experience days were developed to give students earlier exposure to career planning,”

said Kenny. “There are some students who have never been exposed to some of the career skills that BRCTC has to offer. This day helps students make a more informed decision on what their high school experience may look like as they begin to meet with a high school counselor in the spring.”

BRCTC accepts students from Morse High School, Wiscasset Middle High School, Boothbay Region High School, and Lincoln Academy. Students who are accepted into the programs spend half of their day at BRCTC (either morning or afternoon) and the other half at their high school earning the core credits.

Although BRCTC’s current programs are geared toward 11th and 12th graders, Kenny said she is





looking for ways to engage younger students in career and technical education (CTE) experiences. BRCTC's Summer CTE Bridge Program, for example, which is open to incoming 9th and 10th graders, allows students to participate in two programs over the course of two weeks in June while earning high school credit.

"I look forward to working with students, families, and staff as we collaborate to make a positive impact and prepare students for the workplace and post-secondary education," Kenny said.



### **BRCTC Summer Bridge Program Now Accepting Applications**

BRCTC Summer Bridge is accepting applications from students entering 9th or 10th grade to participate in an exciting summer experience. Summer Bridge will give students an opportunity to participate in career and technical opportunities with a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) focus.

This program will run from Monday, June 22 through Thursday, July 2. You will have the opportunity to participate in two programs, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

For more information and to fill out an application, please visit [www.brctc.rsu1.org](http://www.brctc.rsu1.org).



### **New Welding Booths Being Built - By Students!**

How often do students have the chance to help in the construction of their new classrooms? Welding students at BRCTC have been working this year to build the new welding booths that will be installed in the new Morse High School which is currently under construction. On February 26 the first of the completed booths were loaded onto a flatbed and taken to be installed in the welding area of the new high school.



## **Sustainable Seas Project at Bath Middle School: An Interdisciplinary Learning Success Story**

A project which has been a keystone of 7th grade student learning at Bath Middle School (BMS) since 2013 has been highlighted as an exemplar of extended interdisciplinary learning. “Sustainable Seas” was one of only seven case studies chosen from 404 submissions to be included in the 2019 Census of Community-Based Environmental Learning in Maine, a joint project of Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance and Maine Environmental Education Association.

Sustainable Seas rose from a need addresses an issue which is particularly relevant to coastal Maine: green crabs. The invasive species has been plaguing shellfish (like blue mussels and soft-shell clams) for over a century.

BMS science teacher Monica Wright said she was blown away by the decimation of native populations because of green crabs, but saw a silver lining: with a classroom of students already invested in the coast (whether they grew up going to the beach or eating seafood, or their parents were fishermen),



*Declan and Monica Wright (3rd and 4th from Left) at the Maine Hall of Flags.*

this was an engagement opportunity. In 2013 she reached out to the area’s land and wildlife conservation organization, the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (KELT), and asked if they would be willing to help her and her students study the crabs. With KELT’s support, Sustainable Seas was formed, and students began studying green crab populations in the field.

Every fall, Wright’s students head to beaches like Reid State Park, Robinhood Cove, and Fort Popham to collect data according to procedures outlined by the Vital Signs program, a statewide effort to document and address invasive species. By studying the crabs within a 1-meter square plot over the course of two days, students are able to estimate the population of crabs in the area and gather metrics on their size, color (not all green crabs are green!), and sex.

As each year passes, students have more information to analyze when they finish their research. Wright was particularly proud when two of her students were published last year in Findings from the Field, a middle school journal of scientific research published by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. “Crab Per Trap to Year and Location 2013-2017” by Adriana Gonzalez and “Effects of Climate Change on Green Crab Population in Maine Coast” by Riley Dunn explore the negative impacts of the crabs and how their population has changed since the first class of students recorded their findings in 2013.

## **BMS “Shark Tank” pushes students to get inventive about ocean sustainability**

Already a successful project from a science perspective, Wright elevated Sustainable Seas to



an exemplary level by inviting BMS teachers to use the theme as a platform for interdisciplinary learning. English Language Arts (ELA) teacher Adelle Carter was quick to hop on board.

“It’s really been a motivation for me,” she said. “I’ve become a marine-based thinker.”

Carter was key in developing the idea for a 7th grade Shark Tank this past December – a convention where students were asked to invent and present a product that would benefit the ocean environment. Students presented their products, which ranged from seaweed wrappers (an all-natural substitute for plastic food bags) to biotive fuel technology (a diesel substitute made from algae), to a panel of four teachers (“sharks”). Some students even found uses for green crab, which currently have no viable commercial market, by turning their meat into tasty empanadas and their shells into jewelry.



*Declan Wright demonstrates his biotive fuel invention in front of around 300 guests at BMS’s Community Night.*

“I think that the Shark Tank was a great way for kids to take [Sustainable Seas] to the next level: to think critically and be inventive,” said Carter. “I had really high expectations – [the students] had to memorize their pitch and make a commercial to advertise their product,” which they did with the help of technology coordinator Bob Jordan.

Carter said that the Shark Tank not only aligned perfectly with the 7th grade rubric but also elevated student engagement. “When you get excited about something, it’s not about the grade anymore,” she said.

Winners from the teacher-judged Shark Tank convention went on to present their products at BMS’s Community Night at the Patten Free Library – Wright’s son, Declan, with his biotive fuel invention, won the overall competition. Wright said he has continued his algae research as a passion project even though Shark Tank is over.

Wright became aware of the ownership change in her students when they went from talking about Sustainable Seas as just “a school assignment” to discussion about “my green crabs, my school article, and my data.”

“It was rewarding to see the kids write that much – to push them,” said Wright, describing the journals and reports that accompanied Sustainable Seas and the Shark Tank convention. “It’s rewarding to see that kind of growth in them.”

Looking ahead, Wright hopes to be able to add another layer of independence for future classes: overnight field trips designed to provide students with immersive experiences. She will also be brainstorming new studies if her green crab project ever “runs out of steam.” No matter what shape it takes in the future, though, Sustainable Seas has established itself as an integral part of the 7th grade experience.

“It’s a common experience that brings [students] together,” said Carter. “It’s part of their identity at BMS.”

Read more about Sustainable Seas in the 2019 CBEL Report [HERE](#)



News From

# WOOLWICH CENTRAL SCHOOL

Relationships, Rigor and Perseverance



Students brainstorm "What is drama?" and how to resolve it.

## Kindness Day

On January 9, WCS 7th and 8th graders participated in Kindness Day. Our purpose was to challenge our students to be leaders and take ownership over their actions and reflect on how they want to be viewed as they get older.

We began with an introduction from Chuck Reece, Morse High School's School Resource Officer, and then transitioned into a clear definition of what it means to be rude, mean or a bully. With these clear definitions in hand, the students worked in small groups for an hour and a half together to discuss different scenarios and honestly reflect on their own individual actions. These groups were led by an adult facilitator and two high school students from Hyde or Lincoln Academy.

Staff members were amazed at the level of honesty, engagement and respect students gave each other and the activities. Way to go, Wildcats!

## Go2Science Brings Faraway Lands into Woolwich Classrooms

How can schools take advantage of the ever-expanding digital world? With iPhones and other devices popping up in the hands of more students, it can be tempting to see screens as a distraction from learning, but Woolwich Central School (WCS) has found a way to make the Internet a tool for engagement.

In Kimberly Plummer's kindergarten classroom, students sit in a circle and watch closely as their teacher produces a pitcher filled with dirty water, a handful of straw, a coffee filter, and a square of padding. They are about to learn about water filtration and take some guesses about which filter material will produce the cleanest water. It's a step-



### VIDEO UPDATES DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE

Be sure to visit [www.woolwich.rsu1.org](http://www.woolwich.rsu1.org) or the [Woolwich Central School Facebook page](#) for video updates from Mr. Libby and other WCS teachers during the school closure! We hope to see our students back in the classroom soon.



pingstone to that day's online Go2Science class, where they will help scientists in Kenya select a site to dig a community well.

Go2Science is a web-based community of teachers dedicated to engaging PreK-2 students by involving them in real science missions from across the globe. Their real-time classes give students the chance to provide feedback and answer questions that will make a difference in how the mission is carried out.

Plummer first learned about Go2Science alongside WCS's other kindergarten teacher, Sarah Sample, at an Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine conference. They attended a session led by the organization's co-founder, Beth Heide-mann (a graduate of College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor) and were hooked.

"The structure of Go2Science is such that a teacher can do a little or a lot," said Sample. "[Beth] has aligned all of our missions to the Common Core State Standards. You could literally cover every piece of the curriculum with just this one program."

Thanks to a grant from the Perloff Family Foundation, Go2Science was a "go" for WCS.

The current mission, "Water in Kenya," takes students to a rural, highly impoverished area of Africa where the schoolchildren of the local academy do not have access to a reliable, safe source of drinking water. Mrs. Plummer's class and classrooms from around the world are watching as Go2Science investigates the hydrology of the area to find groundwater, drills a well, and installs an electric pump that the school and community can use. Not only are they able to learn about a part of the world that's very different from their own, but they are also able to see how science and technol-



*Mrs. Plummer pours dirty water through a coffee filter.*



*Students share their Go2Science field journals.*

ogy can be used to achieve a greater good. Before the mission even began, last year's WCS kindergarten classes stepped up to support the project; they collected \$244 to help fund the drilling of the well and installation of the electric pump; funds which this year's classes can see in action.

Sample said the whole process has been eye-opening for her students, who now understand the importance of water and how it can be taken for granted.

"None of [my] students knew where their own water comes from and were floored when I told them - right down over the hill in Nequasset!"



Go2Science carries out three missions a year. In the fall, students learned about tigers in Thailand. They kept journals about the project, and even printed out 3D tiger paws using the school's new 3D printer, another generous gift from the Perloff Family Foundation. As Water in Kenya comes to a close, students will start on a new mission, Biodiversity, where Go2Science will take them to the island of Borneo to test a hypothesis about forests.

"I think the value of Go2Science goes on forever," said Sample. "The understanding of our larger world and that what we can do as such a small part of the world can make such a huge ripple effect."

## **Woolwich Central School Celebrates National Read Across America Day with a Week of Activities**

Between door decorating contests, special trivia, "Dr. Seuss Café," and a chance for students and teachers to dress up as their favorite book characters, Woolwich Central School (WCS) had more activities for National Read Across America Day than they could squeeze into a single day, so they expanded the celebration to a whole week.

National Read Across America Day, an annual event celebrated on the birthday of whimsical children's book author Dr. Seuss (March 2), is part of Read Across America, an initiative on reading created by the National Education Foundation. Like other RSU 1 elementary schools, WCS invited community members to read aloud Dr. Seuss books to students on March 2, but that wasn't quite enough Seuss for Woolwich! Activities stretched through the week, ending on Friday with "Dr. Seuss Café," a partner reading exchange organized by the school's 5th graders for younger students.

Fifth graders selected their favorite Dr. Seuss stories and brought Dr. Seuss-themed snacks for



*Fifth graders Charli (L) and Oscar (R) during Dr. Seuss Café.*



the younger grades. They arrived wearing red-and-white "Cat in the Hat" inspired headwear and read aloud two books apiece. Fifth grader teacher Jackie Olsen said the exchange was helping her students with fluency and promoted literacy – she thought it was a great way to build partner reading in the school.



News From

**DIKE NEWELL SCHOOL**

THINK. CARE. ACT.



*Mt. Abram Ski Club receives a ski quilt from Dike Newell.*

## Annual Ski Trip Takes Dike Newell Students to the Slopes

It's been a relatively mild winter for the coast of Maine, so Dike Newell Elementary School is chasing the snow all the way to Mt. Abram. For the fifth year in a row the school has received support for the Mt. Abram Ski Club to send second graders to the popular ski resort in Greenwood for a day of snow sports education.

"We wanted a way to get kids outside in the winter," said second grade teacher Sue Michaud. "It's such a great experience for them. We bring ski equipment into the classroom ahead of time so they can see what it looks like and show them videos from previous years."

Students arrive at the mountain in the morning and receive their passes and equipment; students with adaptive needs are paired with their own instructors. Not yet coordinated enough on their skis for the chair lift, students ride the "magic carpet" to the practice slope. They are given an hour and a half of instruction, followed by lunch and free time to practice their skills.

"They start off where they can't even stand on the skis," said Michaud. "They work so hard and get looks of excitement on their faces as they start to get it. They really encourage each other."

Students raise money for the trip with a walkathon in the fall, but a large portion of the cost is covered by a grant from the Mt. Abram Ski Club. This year, Dike Newell found a way to give back to the club by donating a special item to their annual live auction fundraiser: a ski quilt.

"I have a volunteer – Wendy Ulmer – in my classroom who is a quilter," explained Michaud. "She brought in materials and the kids helped cut and sew some pieces together, then they all signed the quilt. Deb Boucher of Tea Rose Quilting quilted snowflakes onto it. It was so beautiful."

Students presented the quilt to ski club president Laurie Fitch and board member/ski instructor Shauna Schussler during their lesson; Schussler herself purchased the quilt at the auction.



Dike Newell Principal Jennifer McKay says that the ski trip is one of the many successful ways her staff are encouraging health and exercise in students, and hopes the tradition continues.



Teacher Kelli O'Brien looks on as students practice their reading.

## Dike Newell's Second Year of Book Buddies

Last year Dike Newell School's Whole School Activities Committee jump-started a new reading program called "Book Buddies." Every classroom in the school is paired with another classroom of a different grade level, and the students meet once a month to read stories to each other.

"Book Buddies was developed to promote reading and to build school community," said First Grade Teacher Kelli O'Brien. "It focuses on bringing students together across grade levels."

O'Brien is a member of the school's PBIS committee, which took over responsibility of Book Buddies this year. Her students have been reading their favorite stories with Kindergarteners.

"Book Buddies has been a successful program and we hope to continue using it to promote positivity throughout our school," she said.

## Dike Newell School Library Receives Donors Choose Grant for Design & Play STEAM Materials

Thanks to generous donors at Donors Choose, the Dike Newell School Library has received 100 Design & Play STEAM Boat kits and 100 Design & Play STEAM Plane kits as well as materials to embellish their creations.

The Design & Play STEAM Boat Kits will give students the opportunity to engineer their own mini wind powered sailboats. Using pre-cut pieces, students will build their boats and be able to customize them using craft materials. Through testing and fine-tuning they will create a vessel that sails. The Design & Play Plane Kits will allow students to engineer their own gliders, which they too will build with pre-cut materials and customize with craft materials, creating a flying glider.

Thank you, Donors Choose!





## 2020 Book Fair and Family Fun Night

During the evening of Thursday, February 27, students and families gathered at Dike Newell School for Family Fun Night and 2020 Book Fair, presented by the Bath Elementary PTA Literacy Committee and The Mustard Seed Bookstore.

In addition to physical activities like jump rope and bowling in the gym, families could sit down at STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) stations and build with Legos, create popsicle stick mazes, and make art. To further promote literacy, every child who participated was sent home with a free book.

Thank you to our generous sponsors, Bath Savings Institution and First Federal Savings, for making this evening possible!



Fun with Legos.



Students pick out a free book to take home.



Books galore!



### UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE

Be sure to visit the [Dike Newell School Facebook Page](#) for video updates, read aloud stories, and activity ideas from Dike Newell teachers during the school closure! We hope to see our students back in the classroom soon.



## Dike Newell School Earns Gold from Let's Go! Wellness Program

Dike Newell School (DNS) in Bath has achieved gold level distinction from Let's Go!, a physical health wellness program of the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center.

The accolade comes during a time when the state at large is struggling with physical wellness, having been recently identified as the most obese New England state according to data from the 16th annual State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America report (released in September by the Trust for America's Health).

According to the Maine Department of Health and Human Resources' website, Let's Go has 14 different partners statewide to work with child-care programs, school districts (like RSU 1), and health-care practices to implement evidence-based strategies and develop policies that nurture a routine of healthy eating and active living. Funding for the program is provided by Maine Prevention Services, a branch of the Maine Center for Disease Control.

In Sagadahoc County, Mid Coast Hospital is the community partner working with Let's Go to oversee the dissemination of the program. DNS has been working with the hospital through Coordinator Jessie Chalmers to evaluate and improve their wellness practices.

"Dike Newell has done a really great job of setting and attaining goals," said Chalmers during a meeting with Dawn Dill, School Nurse, who has played a pivotal role in rallying the school around the program.

Dill represents DNS on the District's Wellness Committee and also organizes the school's local Community Wellness Committee, a group of seven faculty members who help the school stay on track



Photo: (L-R): Ed Tech Lisa Hardman, Let's Go! Coordinator Jessie Chalmers, Nurse Dawn Dill

with its goals. Together they educate staff about the Let's Go! Strategies for Success, which include limiting unhealthy choices for classroom snacks and celebrations, encouraging water over sugary drinks, prohibiting the use of food as a reward, providing daily opportunities for physical activity, and limiting recreational screen time.

"We don't want to make anyone feel bad," said Dill. "Having a treat is OK. What we want to do is make the healthy choice the easy choice."

DNS is currently promoting several programs and activities, for both students and staff, that have contributed to their gold level distinction, including the Fresh Fruits and Veggies Program and SNAP-Ed, USDA programs which introduce students to fresh produce and teach nutrition. School policy changes, like allowing water bottles in classrooms to encourage drinking water as a healthy habit, prohibiting recreational screen time, and granting teachers in-school breaks to refresh, have made Dike Newell a model school for Let's Go!.

"We can't control what happens when (students) go home, but giving them the opportunity (to make healthy decisions) at school can help offset (unhealthy choices) at home," said Chalmers. "I feel like we owe it to kids to give them a healthy start." this evening possible!



News From

# FISHER MITCHELL SCHOOL

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## A Ragin' Cajun Party Spices Up Reading at Fisher Mitchell School

The “Blizzard of Books,” a three-week reading program at Fisher Mitchell School (FMS), is taking on Cajun flavors this year.

Third grade teacher Joan Newkirk-Shute landed on the theme when she realized that one of her student’s grandparents were members of the local Cajun band JimmyJo and the Jumbol’ayahus. She then recalled a book she’d read that would match the Cajun theme: *Petite Rouge* (a Cajun rendition of Little Red Riding Hood), by Louisiana author Mike Artell.

“I knew they [Jimmyjo and the Jumbol’ayahs] were fun and would liven up our winter celebration,” she said. “I wanted to connect the theme to a book that third to fifth graders would enjoy. I remembered reading *Petite Rouge* years ago and thought it would be a good fit. The author was willing to do a virtual visit with the entire school and we were off and running!”

The virtual session, organized by Library Ed Tech Meg Barker, gave students a chance to interact with Artell, and learn how he became a children’s author/illustrator.

“He saw an ad to write jokes in the paper,” explained 5th grade student Junuh Hays. “He kept doing it, and then asked them, ‘What if I write pictures for you too?’ That’s how it started.”

Each student at FMS has a Blizzard of Books 100s chart (modified with developmentally appropriate goals per grade level) which they will try to complete within the three-week program. Readers



Cutting into a decorative “Petite Rouge” themed cake.

are incentivized with small rewards as they fill in the chart, but the school is banking on interactive experiences, like Artell’s virtual presentation, to help hook students’ interest.

If there was any concern about momentum, JimmyJo and the Jumbol’ayahus kept up the beat with their January 30 “Ragin’ Cajun Party” performance. Swinging tunes and simple harmonies transformed the FMS gymnasium into a Cajun dancehall; families who weren’t dancing were making alligator puppets in the craft corner, or enjoying cake decorated like a Louisiana bayou. At the end of the night, several copies of *Petite Rouge* were raffled away by Principal Ross Berkowitz.

“I’ve had several past students say that it wasn’t until Blizzard of Books that they really started reading,” Berkowitz shared with the crowd. He hopes that this year’s program inspires even more students to spice up their reading.



## Artists of the Week

Fisher Mitchell School (FMS) is promoting young artists! Each week they select one “Artist of the Week” and share their work in the school and online at [www.fms.rsu1.org](http://www.fms.rsu1.org).

Check out some of the most recently featured artists below! Captions by Holly Spence, Administrative Assistant.



### Artist of the Week March 11

“The student I am choosing to recognize this week is a pleasure to have in the art room. They take their time, but make progress each day. A few years ago, they were one of our first students recognized as student artist of the week. Perhaps you remember their very creative illustration of cats scuba diving? Well they’ve done it again, creating one of the most creative hand puppets I’ve seen this year. Check out this amazing cactus and her friend Olivia’s puppet Cam!

Congratulations GE and OC in Mrs. Wheeler’s 5th Grade Class, Student Artists of the Week!”



### Artist of the Week March 4

“I have only known the student that I am recognizing this week since the start of the school year. They are quiet but contribute in class conversations and seem to have a lot of friends in their grade.

This student has participated in Enrichment (or “Extra”) Art many times and have recently been finishing up a piece that they invited some of their friends to help complete. The powerful female figures they created have wings, animal parts, and connections to the earth. When I look at them I see a powerful group that represents love, diversity, and community.

Nice Work G.K. in Ms. Newkirk’s 3rd Grade Class, Student Artist of the Week!”



## Maine Author/Illustrator Matt Tavares Visits Phippsburg Elementary

Inviting Maine authors to share their writing process and personal stories with students has become a beloved tradition at Phippsburg Elementary School (PES); this year they were joined by children's book author-illustrator Matt Tavares.

Tavares grew up surrounded by books and reading. For his senior project at Bates College he wrote and illustrated a story which, three years later, would become his first published picture book: *Zachary's Ball*, about a boy who caught a magic foul ball at a Boston Red Sox Game. *Zachary's Ball* went on to win a Massachusetts Book Award Honor and was named one of Yankee Magazine's 40 Classic New England Children's Books.

Tavares has since gone on to illustrate nineteen more books, nine of which he also wrote, and recently began experimenting with a new medium: graphic novels. Attentive students in the PES library watched Tavares share his drawing technique: first roughing in the shape of a character using simple shapes, then filling in the details.

"I've started using more and more digital techniques," he shared. "*A Ben of All Trades* (a biography of Benjamin Franklin's boyhood written by Michael J. Rosen and illustrated by Tavares) was all digitally illustrated. I started with a pencil drawing and finished it on the computer."

PES Principal Sandra Gorsuch-Plummer hopes that learning from Tavares has encouraged her students' love of writing. She explained that one of the curricula her staff look at when choosing an author is whether their stories are interesting to all

grade levels.

"During our school assembly he talked to the kids about wanting to combine his love of baseball and writing and drawing," she said. "They can definitely make the connection to his artwork."

Although visiting authors spend most of their day with students, staff are invited to join them for lunch. "It's just as much fun for us adults," said Gorsuch-Plummer. "We got to connect with him as well."

Funding for the annual author visit is provided by the PES PTA.



Matt Tavares gives a presentation at PES.

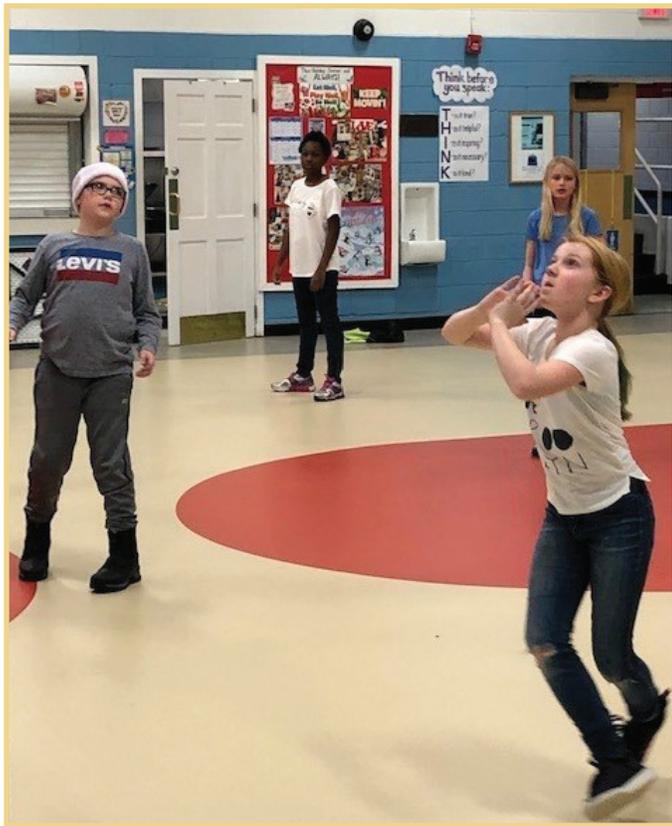


First grade students emulate Tavares's work.



## Congratulations to 5th Grade Math Team!

In their very first showing at the Southern Maine Elementary Math League competition, the Phippsburg Elementary School (PES) 5th Grade Math Team placed 15th! Thank you to coach Patty McLaughlin for volunteering to work with this group each Wednesday.



## Parents vs. Students Volleyball Game

For the 10th year in a row, Phippsburg Elementary School 5th graders challenged their parents to a good-natured game of volleyball. Students have been practicing against other grades to hone their skills. Special thanks to Coach/Official/PE Teacher Mary McCauley for making this event possible.

This year parents took the match winning 3 out of 3 sets!

## PES Celebrates Community Readaloud

PES Celebrated Community Readaloud and Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2.

Here are a few pictures of the wonderful volunteer readers sharing their love of reading.



## IMPORTANT DATES:

**MON**  
**APR. 06** RSU 1 School Board Meeting  
Remote - details TBD  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all other district events are suspended until further notice.



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Thank you for reading!

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