
BRES WILDCAT NEWS

Kindness

Responsibility

Self-Control

Greetings BRES Families,

It's hard to imagine that we are in the last quarter of this school year already. As the world continues to swirl around us, BRES staff continue to be hard at work preparing learning opportunities for your child(ren). While we are preparing activities, lessons, and providing virtual opportunities for children to check in, we are also researching and determining how to move forward. Since this is the first time this has happened in our lifetime, as educators and parents, there is no rule book to guide us. We are making decisions by reaching out to other educators across the globe, we read current educational articles, and watch lots of webinars. We then take all of that information and we apply it to our school and community and what's going to work best for our unique circumstances.

A question that has been asked by many is what we are doing about grading in the fourth quarter. We continue to be at varying points with the usage of Genius Bag materials, Google Classroom, and equitable access to our learning offerings remain an issue for some of our families. Therefore, we have joined the many other schools in the Midcoast area, and made the decision to not grade assignments for the fourth quarter. We will continue to provide engaging learning opportunities for your child to access. We will continue to provide feedback on the assignments that your child (digitally) submits and help guide your child through this time academically and emotionally. We are committed to remaining a part of your child's daily rhythm, until the end of school.

While our teachers are missing your children and feeling saddened by not being able to watch them grow and celebrate a year well done in the traditional sense, we will not be holding students back. This means at the start of the 20/21 school year your child will progress to the next grade, as planned. As a staff, we are discussing ways to bring closure to this year and celebrate the successes we had before we move on to "next year". We are also discussing what 8th grade promotion will look like. We remain in brainstorming mode around these topics due to the unknown of when our "stay at home" order will be lifted by our governor and what parameters we will have when it is lifted.

We know that when we do return back to school, we will likely need to back our curriculum up to March 13th 2020. We will take time this spring and summer to do that work to anticipate and prepare where we will start our curriculum and how we will move forward to ensure each child is closing this learning gap. This is our job to figure out, not yours. We do not want you to worry about the gap that might be created due to this unprecedented closure. We have a lot of variables to plan for and the caring and competent staff at BRES is ready for the challenge.

After April vacation, teachers will be in touch with you on what to expect for the remainder of the school year. They will share their learning plans with you and how they plan on routinely checking in with you and your child(ren). If you have concerns or questions, if you need more or less from teachers, as stated in my last letter, please be direct. Let the teachers know what you and your child(ren) need from us.

Additionally, BRES guidance counselors Kim Dionne and Sarah Gordon along with Nurse Kate are here to help in any way they can. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us, for any need you and your family may have. We have lots of connections to local resources that we are happy to help you with.


I know that our families are in very different spots and needing varying things from us right now. I want to thank you all for your continued patience and hanging in with us, even when it's easier to ignore the email or call from school. We appreciate knowing you and your family are safe and well. I'm thankful for each and every one of you and the support you have shown our school. I hope you are able to enjoy a bit of this spring season during "vacation" next week.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO ARE SERVING ON THE FRONT LINES.

You are in our prayers, thoughts, and hearts.

Be safe! We will get through this stronger than ever!

With gratitude, care, and concern,
Shawna



**How deep is the mud?
Depends on who you ask.**

WELCOME TO MUD TO SEASON

If you have ever been stuck in the mud, then you know it can be hard to get out sometimes. You might need a push or a pull, but with a little help you can always get out.

When the mud gets too deep, please let our school counselors help figure a way out. Contact Sarah Gordon at sgordon@aos98schools.org or Kim Dionne at kdionne@aos98schools.org or reach us by phone at (207) 633-5097.

We all go through the same stuff differently.

POETRY NOW!

All Ages | March 30 - April 30

April is National Poetry Month. Since the record of the Epic of Gilgamesh (~1800 BC), humans have used poetry to communicate, cope with, and create our life stories. BHML invites the entire community, young and older(!) to honor the art, the craft, and the power of poetry. Send us your submissions and help write, record, and define today's world with your words.



Illustration by Chema Skandal for The Poetry Foundation

The Specs:

- 3 Entries Max (3 Poems).
- Include your Name, Town, Title, & Poem for each submission (anonymous & pseudonymous accepted).
- We are taking the "broad view" of poetry: if you prefer prose, and simply want to share your thoughts to be included in this collection, we welcome your words.
- All Ages: 0-999!
- Submissions accepted through April 30; three ways to submit:

<p>1) Submit your entries online at: bbhlibrary.org/poetry-now</p>	<p>2) Mail your entries to us: BHML Attn: POETRY NOW 4 Oak Street Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538</p>	<p>3) Take a spin down to BHML and drop your entries in the book drop! Put them in an envelope, or folded up, and addressed to " POETRY NOW"</p>
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Note: All entries will be published in the final compilation. Some submissions may be published online, on the website, or other outlets from March 30 - April 30 to advertise the event. By submitting your poetry you agree that BHML may use your entry in any way it sees fit for library purposes for the rest of time! Works should be previously unpublished and/or written for this compilation.

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