

RSU 34

Alton • Bradley • Old Town



Community Connections

Our Extraordinary Community Responds Spectacularly to Out-of-the-Ordinary Times



On the Cover

- Clockwise from top left:
- Pre-K student Julia watches Mrs. Young-Talon read Pete the Cat.
- Brantley conducts an investigation at home.
- Alexis works in her math journal.
- RSU #34 food service produced and distributed 12,000 meals weekly to kids.

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TO THE CITIZENS OF REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT No. 34:

Regional School Unit #34 Board members, at their meeting held on May 20, 2020 adopted a budget plan for the 2020-2021 (FY21) year. The budget recommended by the Board totals \$21,280,000.00 as compared to the current year spending plan of \$20,425,000. We have seen increases in fixed costs, similar to those being felt by local homeowners as well as increases in salary and benefits as outlined in the negotiated agreements with employees. Health insurance premium costs, shared between employees and the RSU, increased 0% for the fifth year in a row which was welcome news as we had seen much higher premium increases in years prior. I applaud the efforts of all staff for their participation in our wellness programs resulting in lower loss ratios and taking control of health care insurance premium rate increases. In preparing the FY21 budget we have attempted to limit the impact on students while attempting to minimize the impact on the property taxpayers in our communities.

Funding for the proposed \$21,280,000 budget will come from multiple sources. We project \$2,014,287.63 in tuition revenue, \$301,973.68 in reimbursements and revenues for other educational services, and \$22,739.33 in adult education subsidy. General Purpose

Aid for Education provided by the State of Maine as calculated using the Essential Programs and Services Funding model based on the Governor's proposed budget will provide \$10,996,391.18. In order to receive this funding from the State of Maine, all towns must raise though a local property tax a required local share. The required local share is set by the State this year at 8.18 mils (based on the total property valuation of each member community) for the coming year. Using this formula, Alton will be required to raise \$349,149.66, Bradley will be required to raise \$916,978.00 and Old Town will be required to raise \$3,700,768.34.

Finally, local additional funds will be assessed to the member communities through the cost sharing formula that was developed as a part of the organizational structure of the RSU adopted by voters in January of 2008. This local assessment will raise \$2,227,712.18 to balance the FY21 budget. Two factors are critical in the computation of State subsidy as well as local additional cost sharing. They are total local property valuation and student population. Increases or decreases in the total local assessment to the member communities of the RSU are rarely equal as they are the result of relative changes

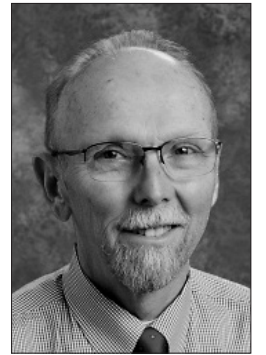
in student population and property valuation of the member towns. The total amount assessed will decrease by \$42,073.63 or a net decrease of .58% in assessments to our member communities.

Overall, we feel this budget reflects a responsible effort to maintain quality educational programs while recognizing the extreme pressures on the local property tax base and the impact on the local communities. The Regional School Unit #34 proposed FY21 budget will require NO increase in assessments to our communities.

Included in the warrant is an article that seeks voter approval to utilize previously approved capital reserve funds to complete major facilities repairs. This year we will continue renewal/renovation at Leonard Middle School. Leonard Middle School was built and opened in 1965 and is due for renewal in order to meet the educational needs of our middle level population today. As a result of consistent fiscal management and facilities planning, we are able to complete these important facilities projects with NO impact on the annual budget and therefore on the amounts assessed to member communities.

The annual school budget meeting for Regional School Unit No. 34 will be held on Wednesday evening, June 24th at 7:00pm at the Old Town

High School Cafeteria. We will be following current Maine Center for Disease Control recommendations including physical distance and all attendees will be required to wear a mask.



David Walker

The warrant of articles for discussion at this meeting are included in this edition of Community Connections. Copies of the proposed budget are available from the Superintendent of Schools office at 156 Oak Street.

Current statute requires that the action taken at the annual budget meeting be validated at a referendum. This year that validation referendum will be held in conjunction with the state-wide referendum held on July 14, 2020.

On behalf of the students, staff, and Board of Directors of Regional School Unit No. 34, we thank you for your ongoing support and ask that you support the 2020-2021 budget as presented.

David A. Walker, Superintendent of Schools
Jim Dill, Regional School Unit #34 Board Chair

Finding our "New Normal"

This issue of Community Connections spans early 2020 through early May. You will find a mixture of normal school activities, and a potpourri of the ways in which educators and families supported safety

and student learning during physical school closure caused by the COVID19 pandemic. Many thanks to those who contributed pictures and articles, and apologies that many images are not attributed.

We live in an extraordinary community, and have much to be proud of. Staff and volunteers pitched in, in countless ways, to address kids' physiological, social, and emotional needs, to deliver meals, to get kids connected, to rapidly revamp how we deliver instruction, and to help those on the front lines address community needs and slow

the spread of COVID19. And our parents are learning to be teachers amid the stress of a pandemic.

Our community has faced numerous challenges: ice storms, mill closure, windstorms, global crises. Again and again our community proves resilient, and one of the best places in the world to be a kid.

District Five Jazz Festival

Congratulations to the Old Town High School Jazz Ensemble for receiving a 95 out of 100 and a Gold rating, and congratulations to the Old Town High School Jazz Band for receiving a 89 out of 100 and a Bronze rating at the District 5 Jazz Festival held this winter!

Thank You!



Much thanks to the RSU #34 food service staff, bus drivers, other staff, and volunteers who made a massive weekly food delivery possible for our community's children! Throughout the COVID19 challenge this spring, our team prepared and delivered approximately 12,000 meals each week.

A student wrote this spring in a book response, "Another event that happens in the book and is happening now is food loss for families. Lots of families, including mine, rely on school lunches. But we've been lucky that schools are so generous to help us out and I'm beyond grateful."



Thanks to Miss Hamlin and Mrs. Zabierek's hard work, we've 3d printed and distributed hundreds of face shields and "ear savers" to our local healthcare workers! LMS 8th graders Ethan and Ian have been great tech support with 3d printing needs and prototyping, and VRS 1st grader Lucas prints ear savers and face shield frames.

8th Graders Answer "What Do You Miss Most About Your Life Before the Pandemic?"

Based on an opinion piece, "What Do You Miss Most About Your Life Before the Pandemic?," teachers asked students to write one or two lines about what they miss most about life before the pandemic.

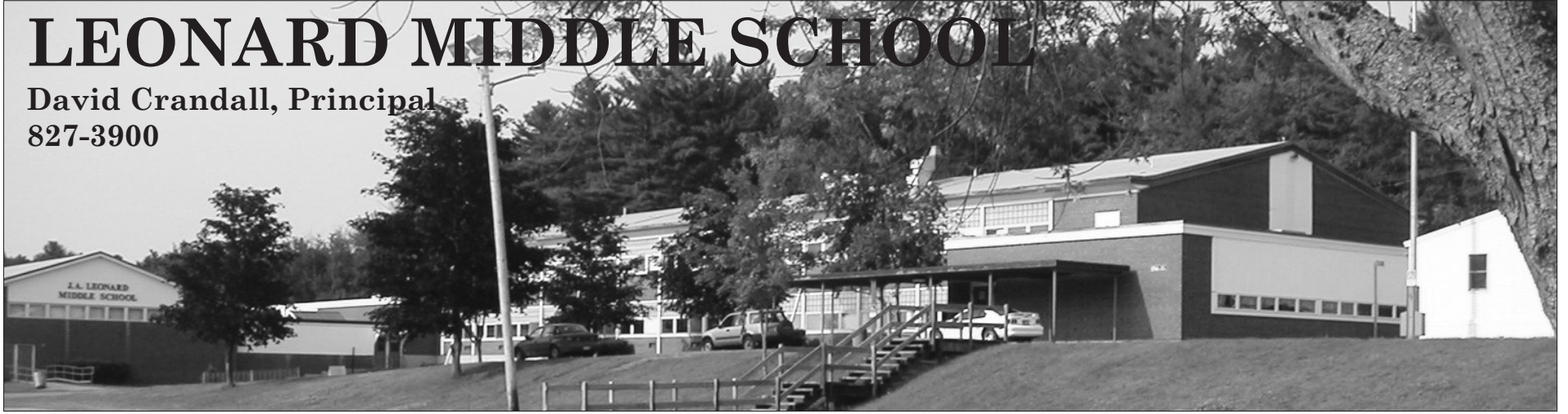
Mr. McKinley sorted through the student submissions, and, following the model of Kwame Alexander, crafted this crowd-sourced poem.

What We Miss Most

- I miss going to a grocery store, a restaurant, grandparent's or friend's house, or even school.
- I miss going to the movies, sleepovers and celebrating birthdays
- I miss seeing my friends.
- I miss eating inside a restaurant: the anticipation of waiting for your meal and the smell of the food right at your fingertips, destined for your stomach.
- I miss seeing my friends.
- I miss visiting stores without waiting in long lines outside and visiting places without a mask or gloves.
- I miss stepping outside freely...
- I miss seeing my friends.
- I miss playing sports the most -- track and swim, basketball and baseball;
- I miss getting out of the house for exercise and playing video games together...
- I miss seeing my friends.
- I miss just talking to people, having a good conversation face to face, just hanging out.
- I miss physical contact with anyone other than my family:
- I miss seeing my friends.
- I miss school, My teachers, lunch and talking about random subjects,
- I miss recess and playing football, basketball and four-square;
- I miss laughing and having fun -- I haven't truly laughed in over a month...
- I miss seeing my friends.
- I simply miss giving a high-five to my friends
- Seeing family who live far away, To see other faces...
- I miss seeing my friends
- Because I want to celebrate, to play, To laugh, to share stories Together.

LEONARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

David Crandall, Principal
827-3900



Secretary of State Dunlap visited Hogan Marquis' class to discuss vexillology and the State of Maine Bicentennial Flag.

Bicentennial Project

Eighth grade students on Team Pamola planned to celebrate Maine's bicentennial by partnering with individuals, groups, and organizations in the Old Town Area. Students identified an area of interest for their project ideas: designing a flag for their community, creating a mural highlighting the history of the area, or developing exhibits based on materials at the Old Town Museum. Students also selected one of three narrative writing pieces: feature profile of a community member, memoir about an important person or place connected to their lives, or a historical fiction story connected to an event in the community.

The goal of these projects intended to help students relate their learning to the larger outcomes of Maine's bicentennial celebration: "to discover the challenges experienced, and contributions made by, a diversity of the people—racial/tribal, geographic, gender, and socioeconomic—who have made and continue to make these communities what they are today."

Even though students did not create a final product, they knew that these projects would have a lasting impact on their community and that they deepened their connection

to their towns. Ultimately, they understood the importance of learning about this history of the town and discovering the stories of the people who have shaped the past and the present through their commitment and dedication to this area.



Brayden Porter (left) and Noah Nickerson (right) discover World War I artifacts in storage at the Old Town Museum



Students listen their guide, Jennifer, at the Penobscot Nation Museum.



Phil Dunn of the Old Town Museum talks with students about their exhibits.

LMS Invention Convention



Melissa (Lewis) Zabierek, 7th Grade Math/Science Teacher Team 7 held our annual LMS Invention Convention on Thursday, March 12, 2020. Student innovators presented their backboard presentations to fellow students and visiting judges. We are so proud of all of our students for their hard work and perseverance through this project. The top ten innovators selected

by judges will be competing in the state convention, and the top 3 also competing in Big Gig, Jr. through Junior Achievement of Maine.

In the front row is Amara Francis, Madison Cram, Miles Felcman, Kylee Murray, and Abbie Richmond. In the back row is Jack Marquis, Liam Murphy, Tegbaru Coiley, Gabe Curtis, and Jesse Bouchard.

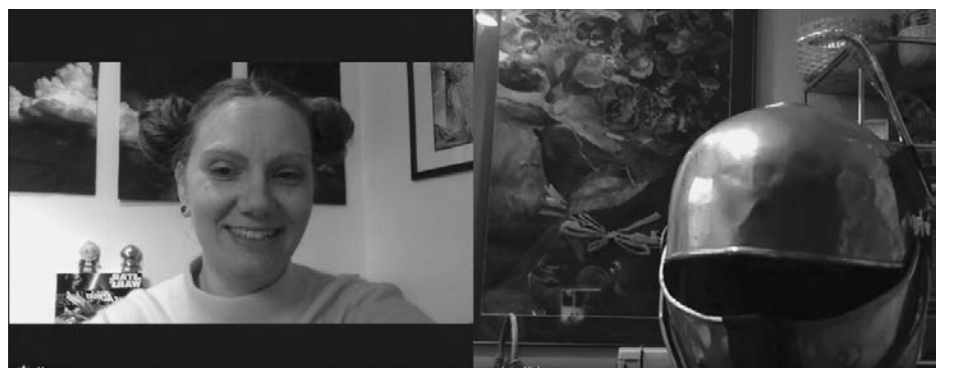
Pandemic Playlist 19 Songs to Endure COVID-19

Eighth grade students could select from their learning board the following activity: *Create a playlist of songs to give listeners a boost of energy, courage to deal with their situation, or focus on positive ideas. Make your list of 10 or 12 songs, briefly explaining why you chose each one.*

Based on this learning activity, students submitted a song to create a playlist--to inspire, energize, and bring people together. The following nineteen songs were randomly selected as a playlist for you.

1. "Oceans (Where Feet May Fall)" by Hillsong UNITED
2. "If We Have Each Other" by Alec Benjamin
3. "Too Young to Burn" by Sonny and the Sunsets
4. "When Will I See You Again" by The Three Degrees

5. "The Campfire Song" by SpongeBob
6. "In Summer" from Disney's Frozen
7. "Level of Concern" by Twenty One Pilots
8. "Revolution" by The Score
9. "Astronomia" by Vicetone and Tony Igy (Coffin dance song)
10. "Finish Line" by Skillet
11. "Most People are Good" by Luke Bryan
12. "Whatever It Takes" by Imagine Dragons
13. "Sunday Best" by Surfaces
14. "I Can See Clearly Now" by Johnny Nash
15. "Alone" by Alan Walker
16. "Almost (Sweet Music)" by Hozier
17. "Still Breathing" by Green Day
18. "Sparks" by Coldplay
19. "I Miss The Days" by NF



Mrs. Fitz and Mrs. Nickerson at LMS Dressed up for Star Wars Day (May the 4th)

A Special Place by Cameron Jones

I am grateful to have my grandparent's house. When I am at their house I feel the nice breeze and warm air. I hear birds, the crickets chirping, dogs barking wildly in the background, and maybe an airplane overhead. I look around and see the trees making shady areas to cool off in. I carry my bags up to the porch. I turn my head to see the beautiful garden. Bright yellows and dark purples with shades of blue and orange are the colors that stand out most. I look beyond the wonderful garden to see the pool where we play and sit next to when we eat lunch. I put my things down on the porch and open the door. I am hit with the chocolatey smell of baking cookies and I am pummeled by loving hugs and questions from Ahma and Poppy. All of my family is here, in the house and by the pool. We join them and it is a delightful time. I am grateful to have my grandparent's house and hope we can visit them soon.

7th Grade Writing

A Special Place by Callie Honnell Cronin

I am thankful that I am able to spend time at my grandmother's house. Some things that make my grandmother's house special are her farm animals, her dog and cat. She has one special chicken that I love. She is a big, white chicken with black speckles and fluffy white feathers on her feet. I named her Rebecca Donaldson, after Aunt Becky in Full House.

My grammy always has creamy, tasty ice cream bars that are covered in crunchy, sweet delicious chocolate. I used to eat the chocolate off the outside and have a little ice cream, then I would give the

rest of my ice cream to the chicken. Becky would eat it right off the wooden stick. It is very funny to watch a chicken eat an ice cream. I used to feed her sweet potatoes, watermelon and spaghetti strings too. The spaghetti looked like wiggly worms. My grammy and I laugh a lot. We always watch fun movies and eat junk!!! She is the one person that loves to make slime with me! She always says "Oh Callie, how can you like this? It is all ooky, pooky, and sticky!" We also make experiments that mostly fail but are still fun! This is why my grandmother's house is my special place.

A Poem by Sam Cote

Spring is Here
Snow melting slowly
Lush green grass is visible
Spring is authentic

A Poem by Mackenzie Fickett

Spring Morning
Fresh dew on the grass
Birds chirping all around me
Flowers are blooming

A Poem by Amara Francis

The Sun
Golden sun shining
Warms the cold muddy ground up
Lights up my windows

LMS Students Explored United Technology Center's Programs A Great Local Opportunity for Students!



How to Design Your Own Remote Learning Space

By Danica Flewelling and Jenelle Sanchez, LMS 8th Graders

Some people don't have the privilege of having a work space that is quiet and just for them. Here are a few tips to help you!

1. Find a place quiet and free of distractions.

2. Fix a spot where you can sit comfortably to work.

3. Set up the place how you want: materials you need for work, water, snacks, music, lighting, and so on.

4. Keep the area clean and tidy because a messy workplace

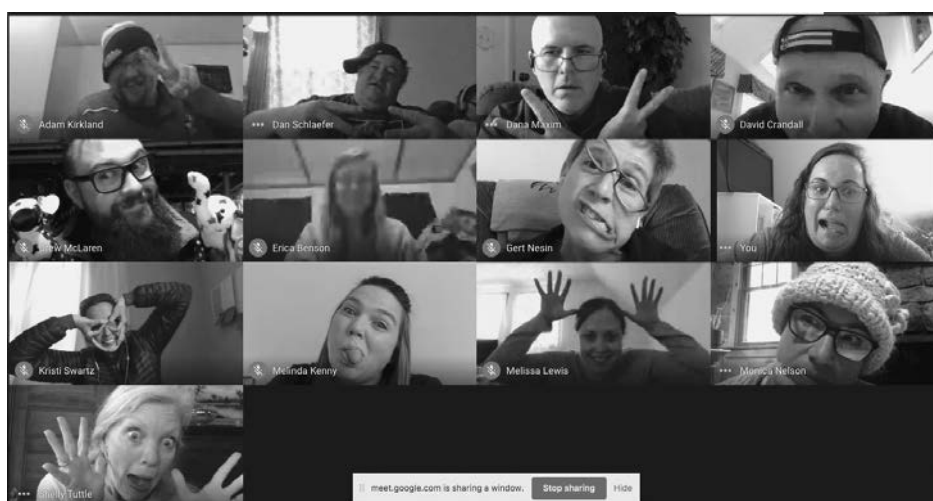
could add to your stress or distraction.

5. Relax. When you start an assignment, try to stay calm about understanding the directions and material.

6. Create a schedule or routine: plan your day and prioritize

your work.

7. Make a plan with your family and talk with them about protecting a quiet time and space devoted to your learning.



A recent 7th grade virtual meeting. We may be sad that we can't be with each other and our students at LMS but we can still have fun in our virtual meetings.



It's Beach Day for the LMS Band!

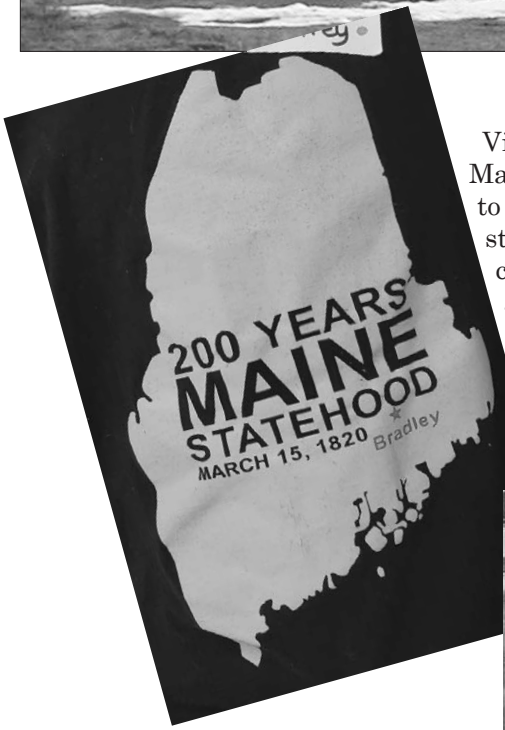
VIOLA RAND SCHOOL, BRADLEY

Cheryl Leonard, Principal
827-2508

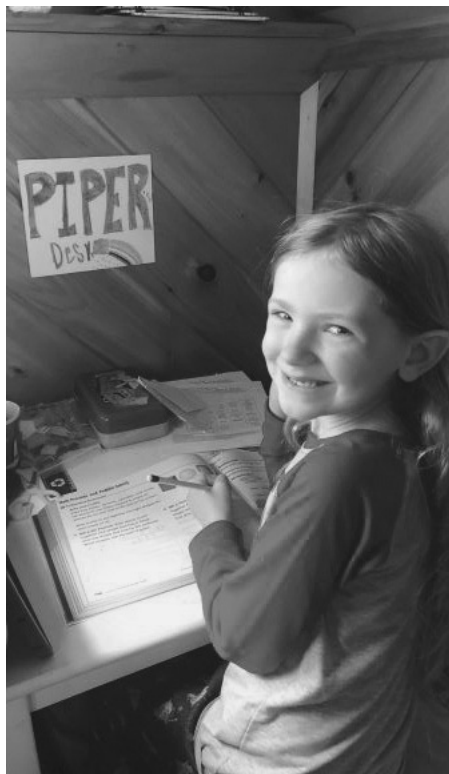


Maine Day

Viola Rand School had a Maine Day celebration on March 11 for our students. Mr. Wade and PRIDE offered to jointly fund the purchase of tee shirts for each of our students which they were very excited to wear for our celebration! Dr. Doty brought a huge map of Maine and did activities with students in the morning. In the afternoon, Mrs. Delaware and Mrs. Doane came and spoke with the students about some of the history of Bradley and then the students had a parade through the school. We finished up the day with some tasty Maine blueberries for a snack!



Braylynn Mitchell, 1st Grade



Piper Clukey, 1st Grade



Hailey Dubois and Lilly



Lily Avery, Kindergarten



Gunner Thibodeau, Prek



Cora Ashley, Pre-K



A PRESCHOOL SONG

“THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER, TOGETHER, TOGETHER.
THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER THE HAPPIER WE’LL BE.
FOR YOUR FRIENDS ARE MY FRIENDS AND MY FRIENDS
ARE YOUR FRIENDS.
THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER, THE HAPPIER WE’LL
BE.”

This song certainly plays over and over in my mind as the school year comes to an end. Having to teach my beautiful preschool children remotely certainly had it’s challenges, but when we worked together we made wonderful learning happen. Thank you to everyone for pulling together to make it happen. I do so look forward to when we can all be together again; the happier we will be. Here are some great photos of being together in the classroom and the happiness that it brings. More great memories to come. Have a safe and beautiful summer.

Marion Talon, Pre-K Viola Rand School



Congratulations to Cassandra Brooks for being the “top” walker of the Mileage Club, completing 11.75 miles this year at VRS.



VRS students were buddy readers for Dr. Suess Week!

VRS Book Tasting... YUM!



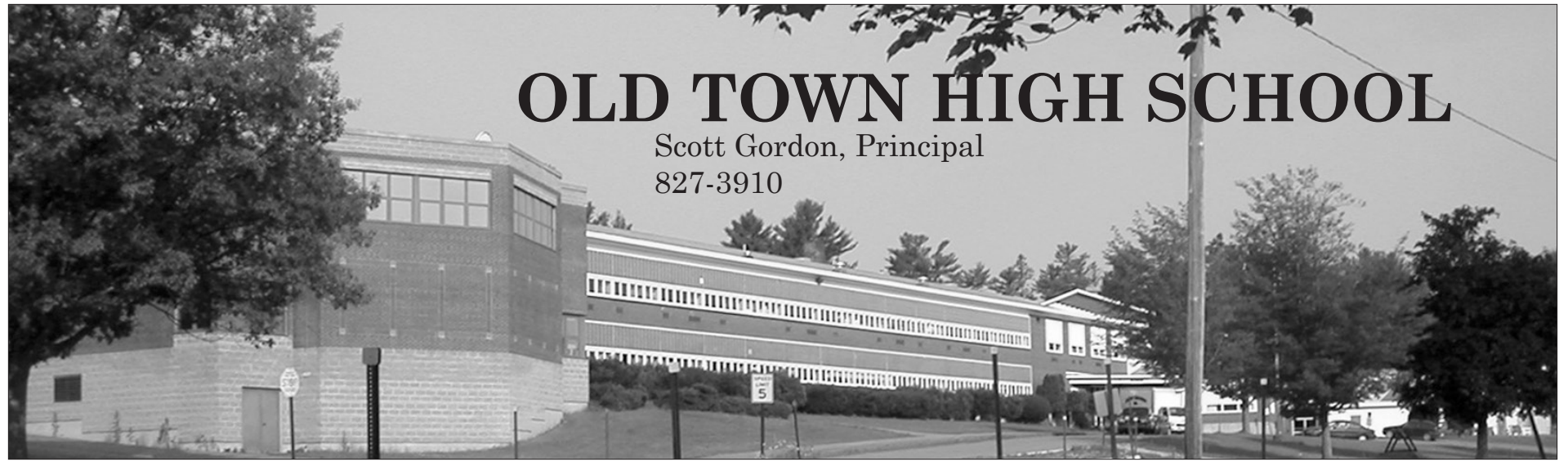
First grade students at Viola Rand School having a book tasting this past spring. We enjoyed apple juice in fancy cups and took a peek at all of the new books in the library. They wrote down the names of books they were interested in on their menu and used this as a tool for picking books out in the library.

BOKS - Build Our Kids Success

BOKS returned to VRS on January 27th for a 6 week run! Tomo Ebihara ran the program this year, after being one of the favorite instructors last year! Sam Lenson, who brought the before school exercise and nutrition program to VRS last winter, started a middle school version of the program at

LMS this year. We are excited to have Jacob Ketch and Johanna Burgason, both OTHS grads joining the crew of instructors at VRS. Students thoroughly enjoyed the Monday, Wednesday & Friday early morning attention from all of the UMaine students who helped run the activities!





OLD TOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Scott Gordon, Principal
827-3910

Coyote Battalion End of Year Recognition

Submitted by
First Sergeant (Retired) Joel Peaslee

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Steve Szewc

Normally this time of year the dust has settled on our annual Military Ball, we have recognized deserving cadets and their support of the battalion, and we are preparing for the Raider season. Additionally, we transition authority from our outgoing Battalion Commander to the newly selected commander. Obviously, due to COVID-19, nothing is normal, but that doesn't mean we cannot recognize the accomplishments of our cadets and the battalion.

Gracie Sanborn has successfully led the Coyote Battalion the past twelve months. Her leadership has contributed to a thirteen percent increase in the cadet population with an end of year enrollment of 84 cadets, the highest in the program's eighteen-year history. She also oversaw a Service-Learning Project that raised \$1,500 to donate to the Master Sergeant Gary Gordon Memorial. The groundbreaking for the memorial will occur in October 2020. Gracie's enthusiasm and relational skills have renewed interest and competitiveness on both the Drill and Marksmanship teams. These teams have seen growth this past year and have set the stage for future success. In addition to being active in JROTC, Gracie has been involved in athletics and student government. She played field hockey and ran both indoor and outdoor track. Gracie found herself at the top of the podium during the 2019 track season as the State High Jump Champion. Gracie will attend Nottingham Trent University in England to study Zoo Biology. Her goal is to become a primate keeper.

When we return to school in the fall the battalion will conduct an Assumption of Command Ceremony welcoming Garrett Engstrom as



Garrett Engstrom

the nineteenth Coyote Cadet Battalion Commander. Garrett brings with him a strong background in leadership having served three years as Class President. During his three years in the battalion, Garrett has competed with the JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl teams as well as the Drill Team. He has also served as Company Commander during the current school year. Garrett is a member of the Varsity Tennis and Swim teams. After high school Garrett plans to attend the United States Military Academy and commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Army.

Due to the cancellation of our Military Ball we were not able to properly recognize our seniors and their accomplishments. The battalion has thirteen graduating seniors this year; Rodney Barnett, Matthew Brooks, Joseph D'Angelo, Samuel Koch, Kira Morlock, Alexandra Nash, Mathew Pelletier, Jetta Ruark, Gracie Sanborn, Gage Smith,

Desmond Soucier, Colby Spencer, and Alexander Wilson. Each one of these cadets has contributed positively to the battalion and helped to make it better than when they arrived. Their leadership will be missed. Below is a list of seniors receiving recognition for their commitment to excellence.

Rodney Barnett is awarded the American Legion Medallion for Military and Scholastic Excellence.

This award recognizes JROTC cadets in the top of their JROTC class who demonstrate outstanding qualities in military leadership, discipline, character, and citizenship.

Matthew Brooks is awarded the AMVET's Diligence Award. This award

recognizes diligence on the discharge of duties and the willingness to serve God and Country for the mutual benefit of all.

Kira Morlock is awarded The Daughters of Founders and Patriots Award recognizing outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing, and excellence, thus exemplifying the high ideals and principles, which motivated and sustained our patriotic ancestors.

Matthew Pelletier is awarded the Sons of the American Revolution Award recognizing outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing, and excellence, thus exemplifying the high ideals and principles, which motivated and sustained our patriotic ancestors.

Desmond Soucier is awarded the Southern Maine Chapter Military Officer's Association of America Award for demonstrating exception-

al potential for military leadership as a member of the Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps.

Alexandra Nash is awarded the United States Army Recruiting Command Award for demonstrating potential as a Scholar-Athlete.

Gracie Sanborn earned the Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award recognizing the top cadet in each LET Level based on academics and contributions to their JROTC Battalion.

Each year the battalion awards two replica sabers to cadets who demonstrate leadership and who have made lasting contributions to the battalion.

Gracie Sanborn is the deserving recipient of the Leadership Saber, and Desmond Soucier has been a fixture of the battalion these last four years and rightfully earned the Outstanding Cadet of the Year Saber.

Congratulations to all the seniors and their accomplishments during their time in the Coyote Battalion. Our freshman, sophomore, and junior cadets will receive their spring awards in the fall during the Assumption of Command Ceremony. Organizations providing these additional awards are the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Military Order of World Wars, and the National Sojourners.

The Coyote Battalion would also like to thank Five Guys, Old Town Dairy Queen, and VFW Post 3381 for their support during our fundraising campaign for the MSG Gordon Memorial. Additionally, Old Town Archery, Pepsi, and Slipping Gears for donating prizes to support the Military Ball raffle. Mahan's Redemption Center for supporting our returnable program. The Maine Army National Guard and the University of Maine Army ROTC for providing opportunities for our cadets to excel. Finally, a special thanks to the community and family members who faithfully support the program and allow your cadet to participate in this unique high school experience.



Grace Sanborn



JMG students visited Job Corps in Bangor, ME



Nick Letourneau won the Anne Norton Sportsmanship Award for Winter Track

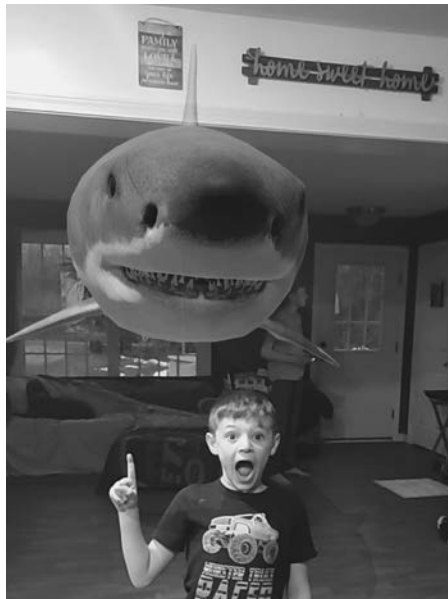
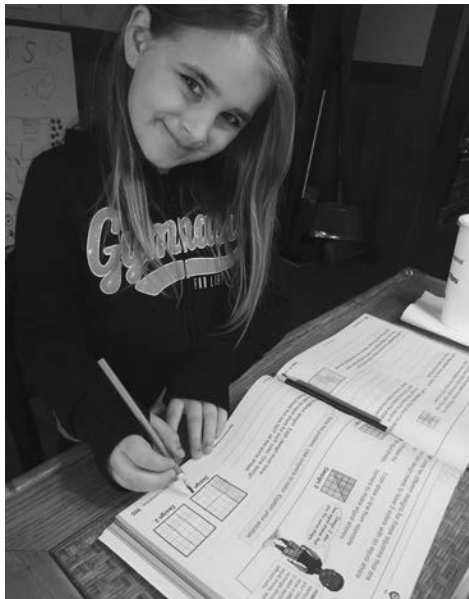
Scenes From Home... ...School!



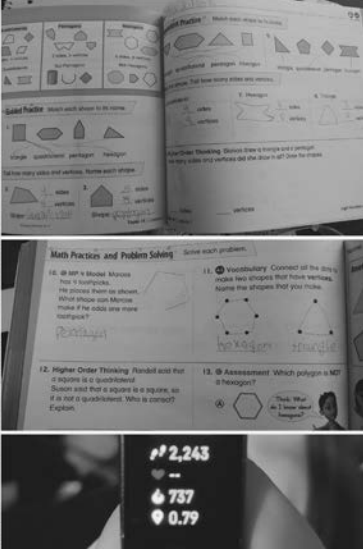
Emma Sirois (8th grade) and Alyx Sirois (kindergarten) stargazing as part of their remote learning



Mrs. Dexter's students show off their work!



Mrs. Keane's 2nd Graders Learning from Home
Alexis working in her math journal, Edith in the garden, Gage invites a shark to his house, Ivan on the computer, Jasper with a chick, Jaxon planting seeds, Max with his Hearts Around the World, Nolan and his BINGO Board, Madelynn reading with Grammie. Madison has done lots of work!

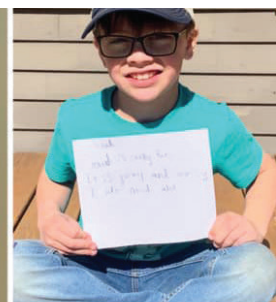
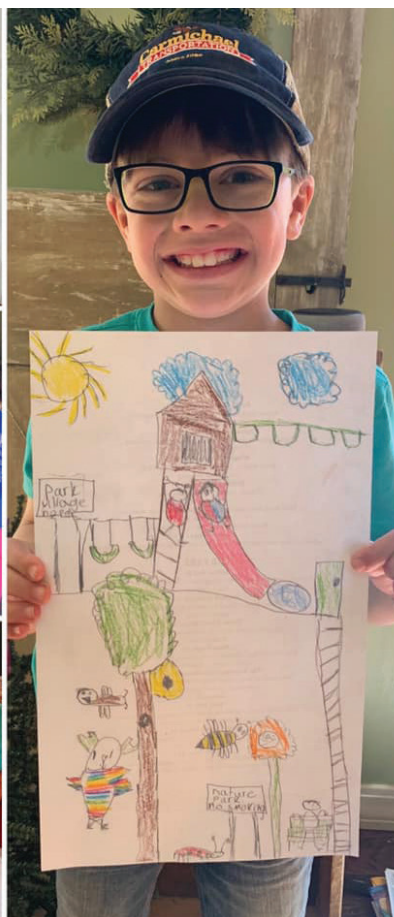
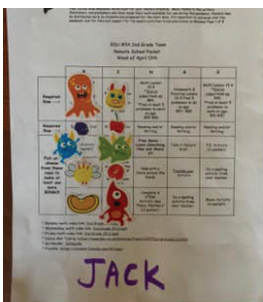
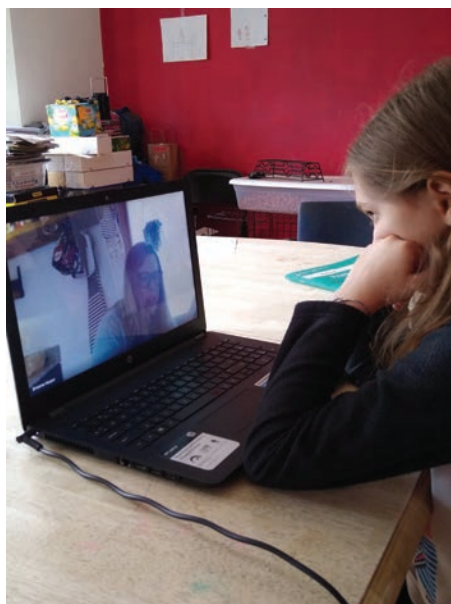
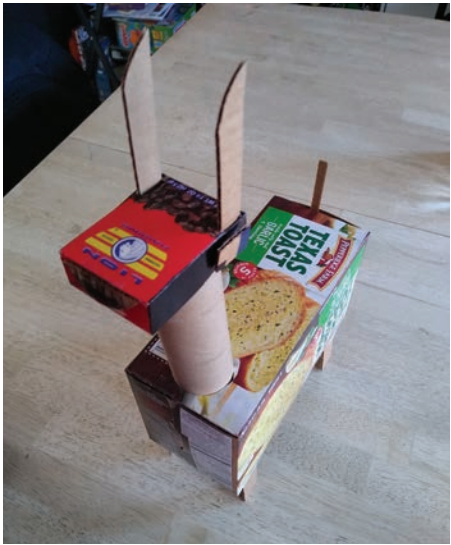
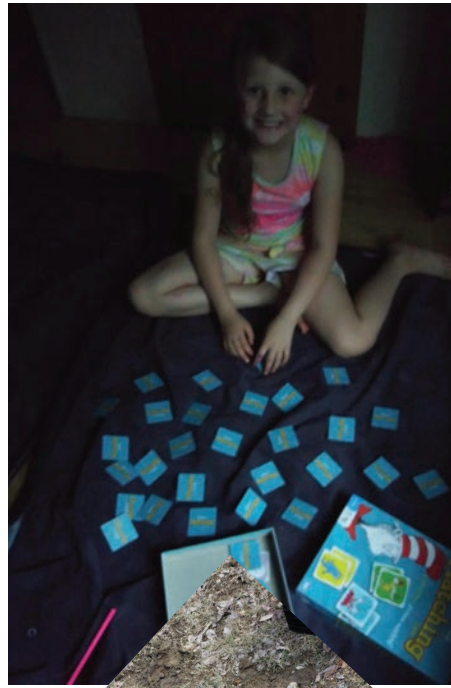


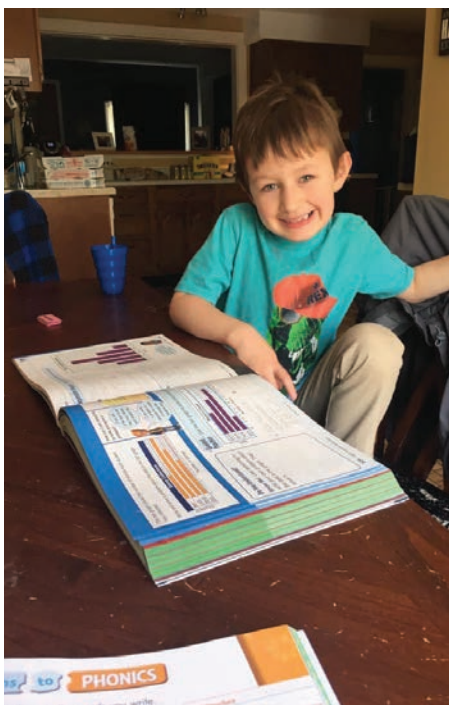
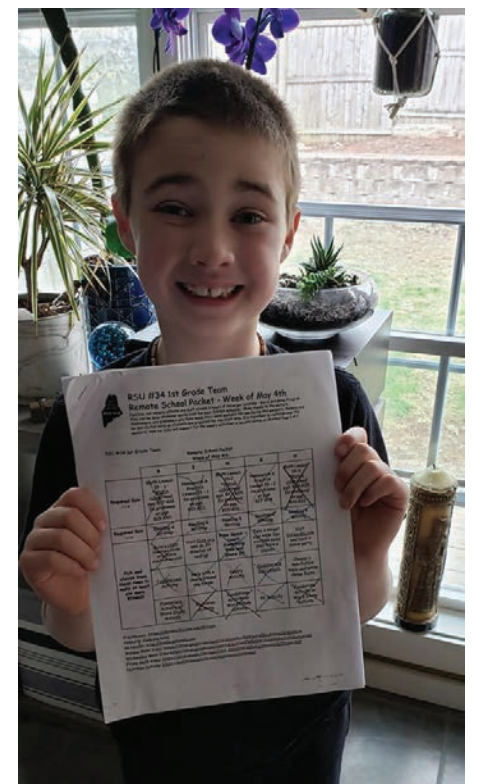
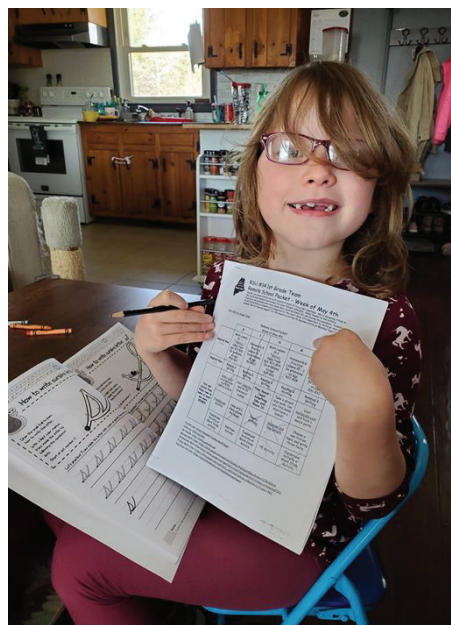
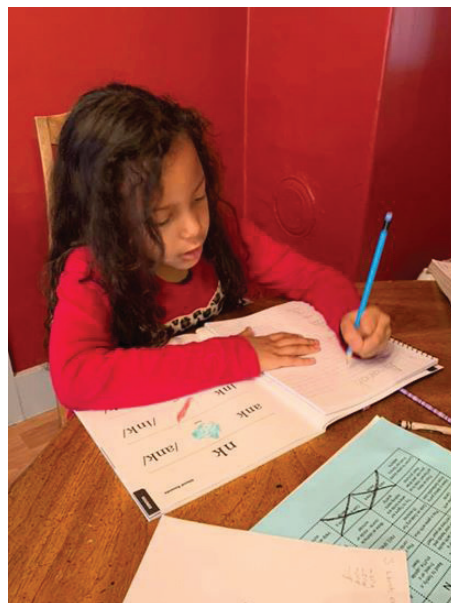
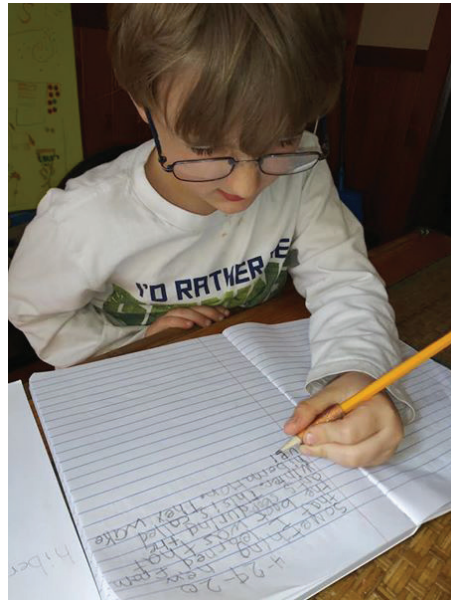
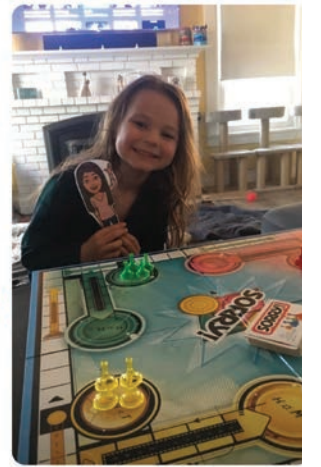
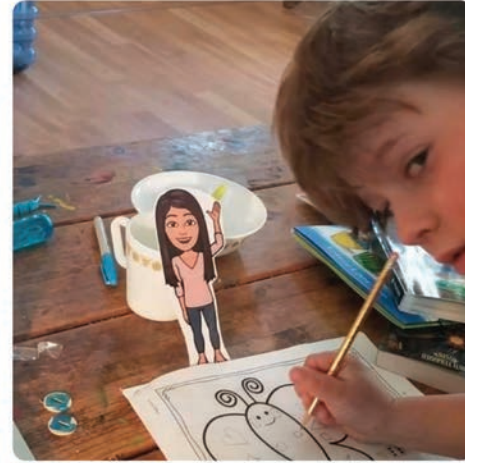
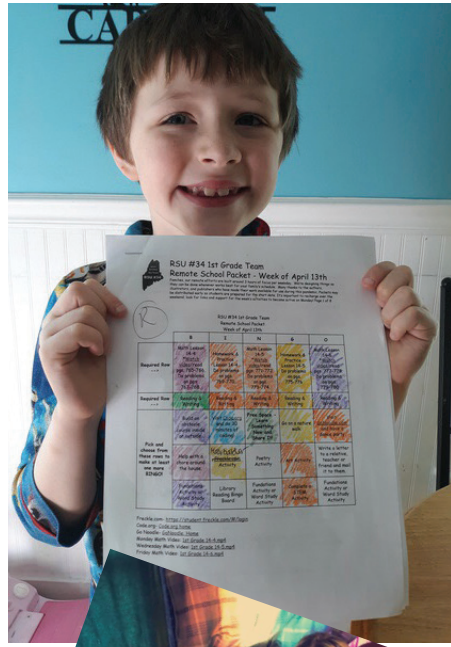
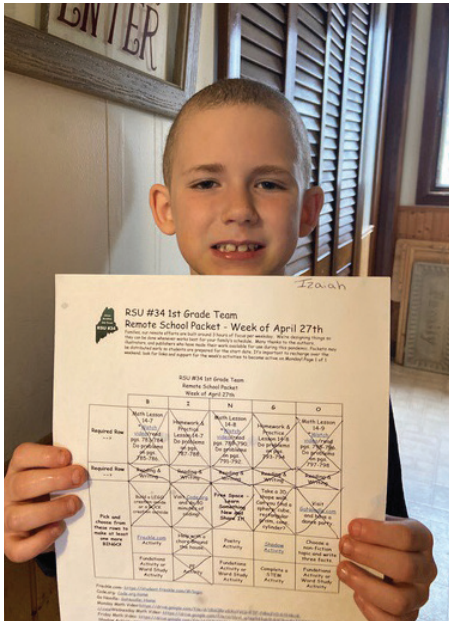
RSU 34 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

David Walker, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jon Doty, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

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.





When I shot my turkey

ON MAY 7, 2020 G-RAM AND I WENT TO TURKEY HUNTING. I SPENT THE NIGHT AT NANA AND GRANDPA'S HOUSE. IN THE MORNING G-RAM AND I WOKE UP AT 6:00 AM. WE GOT DRESSED AND WALKED UP ON THE HILL.

NEXT WE GOT READY. WE WAITED LIKE AN HOUR THEN TWO TURKEYS CAME. ONE HAD TWO BARK AND THE OTHER HAD ONE. I SHOT THE BARKER ONE.

WE TOOK PISHERS THEN WE WENT HOME. WE SHOWED NANA. THE TURKEY WAS BONY. THE DOGS TRIED TO EAT IT. MY TURKEY IS IN BANGOR DAILY NEWS.COM.

James and the giant peach

Who is your favorite character?

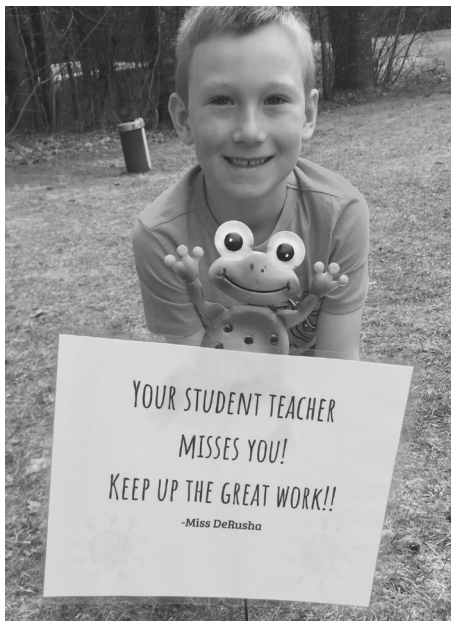
James
he is brave like me.
he is smart like me.



Gabriel Gifford, 9th grade, OTHS doing a science experiment



Ms. St. Peter's students were challenged to draw something other than a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. This student drew "Mr. Rolls"



EIGHTH GRADE Remote Learning 2020

ACROSS

3. Current classroom, gym, cafeteria...
6. _____ the Spread.
7. Long inits. of OT middle school.
9. Like Zoom, but for students: Google _____.
10. Scrapy canine.
12. The best OTES sign message.
13. Boggy RSU34 town.
15. 200th Anniversary.
17. Part moose, part eagle.
18. We miss seeing our _____.

DOWN

1. How to "Stop that awful echo!!"
2. Remember _____ (Crocs/Hydroflasks)?
4. Canoe City.
5. Unofficial stay-at-home uniform.
8. Waterfowl.
11. The big bad bug.
14. Home of Viola Rand.
16. Message to RSU34 community and frontline workers.

GOOD LUCK IN HIGH SCHOOL!

CLASS OF 2024


Email hogan.marquis@rsu34.org for answers.



OLD TOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dr. Jeanna Tuell
Principal

827-1544



**Old Town
Elementary School**

Technology is keeping teachers and Kindergarteners connected!

Kindergarten has definitely taken on quite a different look in the last couple months. One thing that is the same is how much kindergarten teachers love and care about their students—and miss them terribly!

Fortunately, technology is keeping kindergarteners and teachers connected. Aside from multiple daily posts to connect with parents, Kindergarten teachers meet with students in individually tailored 1 on 1 social emotional/academic learning chats and also have group video chats which gives students the opportunity to continue to connect to their classmates on some level.

Activities that students do in the



Jase Cyr chatting with Mrs. Henry and classmates.

group chats may be a class show and tell, scavenger hunts led by the teacher, chatting and checking in with friends, or playing fun and educational computerized team games as a group. Individual sessions may be a check-in, talk about the week and how things are going, instructing topics

tailored to students—especially certain areas students are struggling with at home, or enrichment activities.

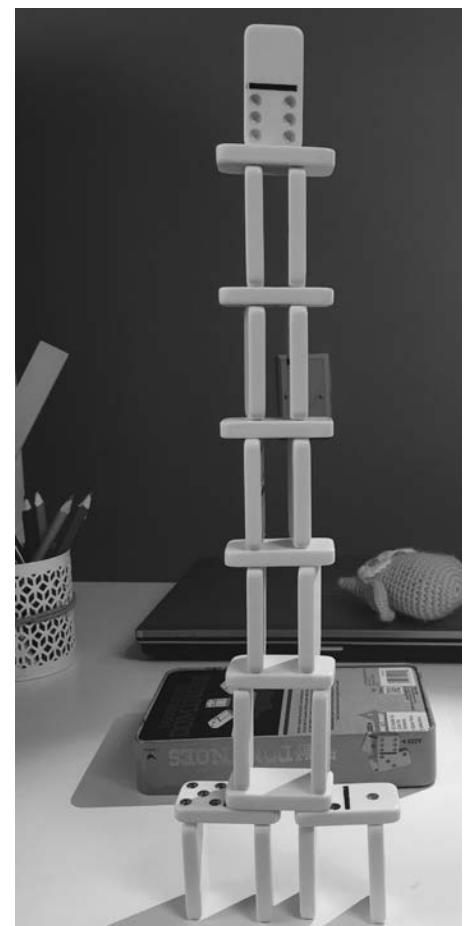
It's certainly not what a typical kindergarten day would look like, but the Kindergarten team is making the most of the situation at hand and all enjoy seeing the smiling faces of their students on the screen.



4th Graders go to Microgeens Field Trip at UMO greenhouse



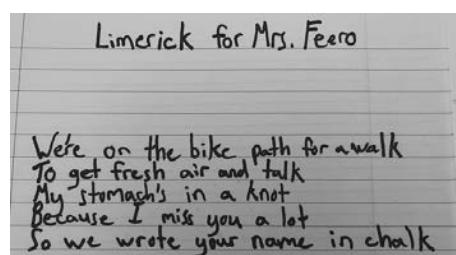
Students were given the fun challenge of creating a peanut butter and jelly sandwich on vacation.



Students were challenged to make a tower out of items they found around



5th grader Tyler Priest has an assignment from his teacher, Mrs. Feero, to write a limerick during remote learning. This is what he came up with.



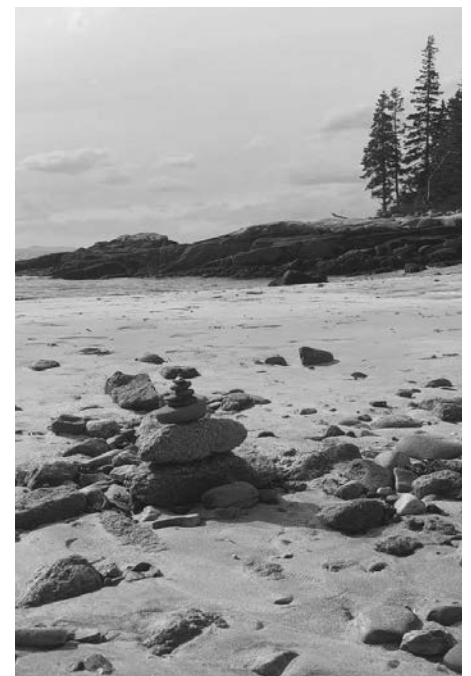
Jordyn Larrabee recording herself reading a book to share with others.



Jack Stevens Doing Word Work watching Wheel of Fortune!!



Charlie Degrasse doing homework at home



OTES LIBRARY CREW



Our Library Crew of fifth graders have been meeting online with Mrs. Mayer and Mrs. Palmer.

They were asked to create a poem about libraries, books, and reading. Each student wrote just one line of the poem, and then all lines were combined. Here is the finished product. Enjoy!

Library Bash

The library is a place to find the book for you, from poetry, fiction, mystery and haiku.

You pick a book and then, you fall into a world of adventure and friends.

Books are red and books are blue, but you will find the left one just for you!

The books in the library have many different thoughts and feelings rushing out of them.

Books make you feel like you want to read anywhere, anytime.

Books are red, books are blue, books are perfect for you.



Madelynn completing a reading lesson before she rides her bike.



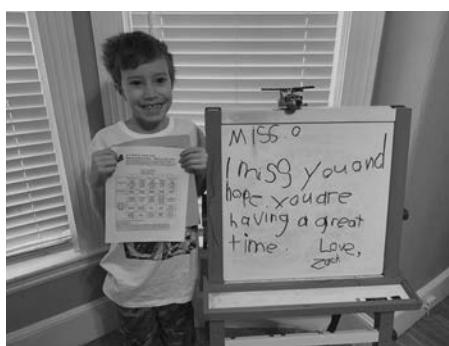
Brookelynn Dahlbergh doing a science experiment with her Grammie Brenda



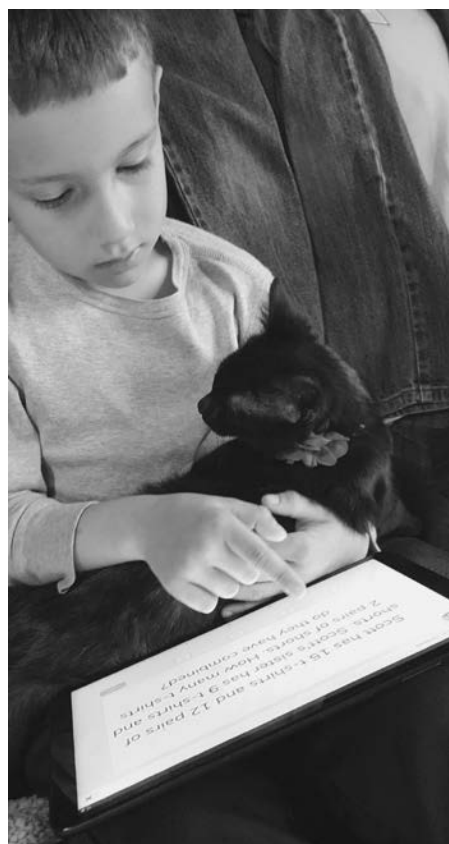
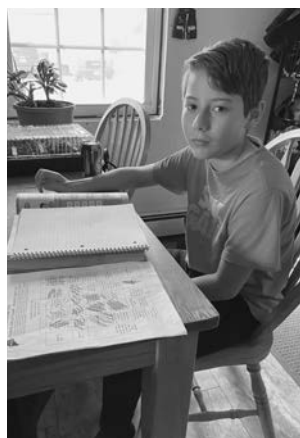
Zakia Johndro reading at home



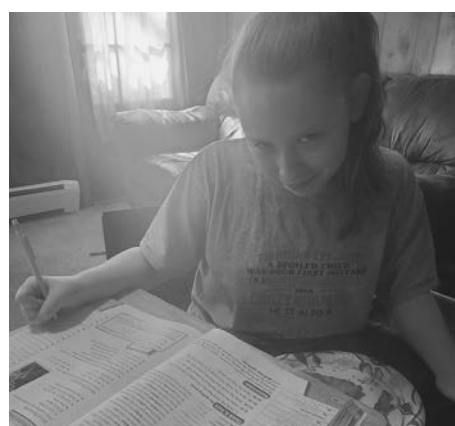
Elizabeth Preble, 5th Grade



Ms. LaFrance's 5th Graders, clockwise from top left: Will studying, Colin's Lego project, Kason doing math, Lexi studying spelling, Colin reading, Molly's sweater made out of candy.



1st graders are working hard and having fun! So much fun learning at home and such kind messages. OTES students rock!



Addi Clukey, jumping her horse!

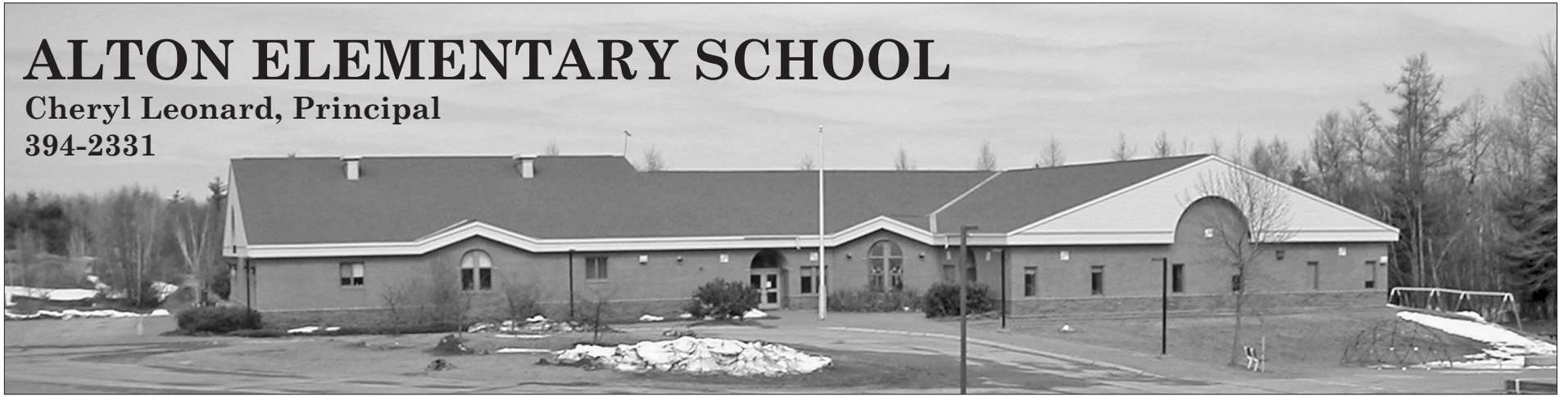


Chloe Thibodeau, 3rd Grade



ALTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cheryl Leonard, Principal
394-2331



AES Students Explored Europe Through One of RSU #34's Giant Maps



Alton Elementary School hosted a Family Dance on February 29. Shawn Leland donated his "To the Moon and Back" DJ services for the event and that made it a terrific event! Chris Carroll and Alton Grocery donated pizzas and many parents brought snacks and drinks. It was a good time of year to get out and socialize with other families. Little did we know that it would be one of the last weekends for any socializing at all!

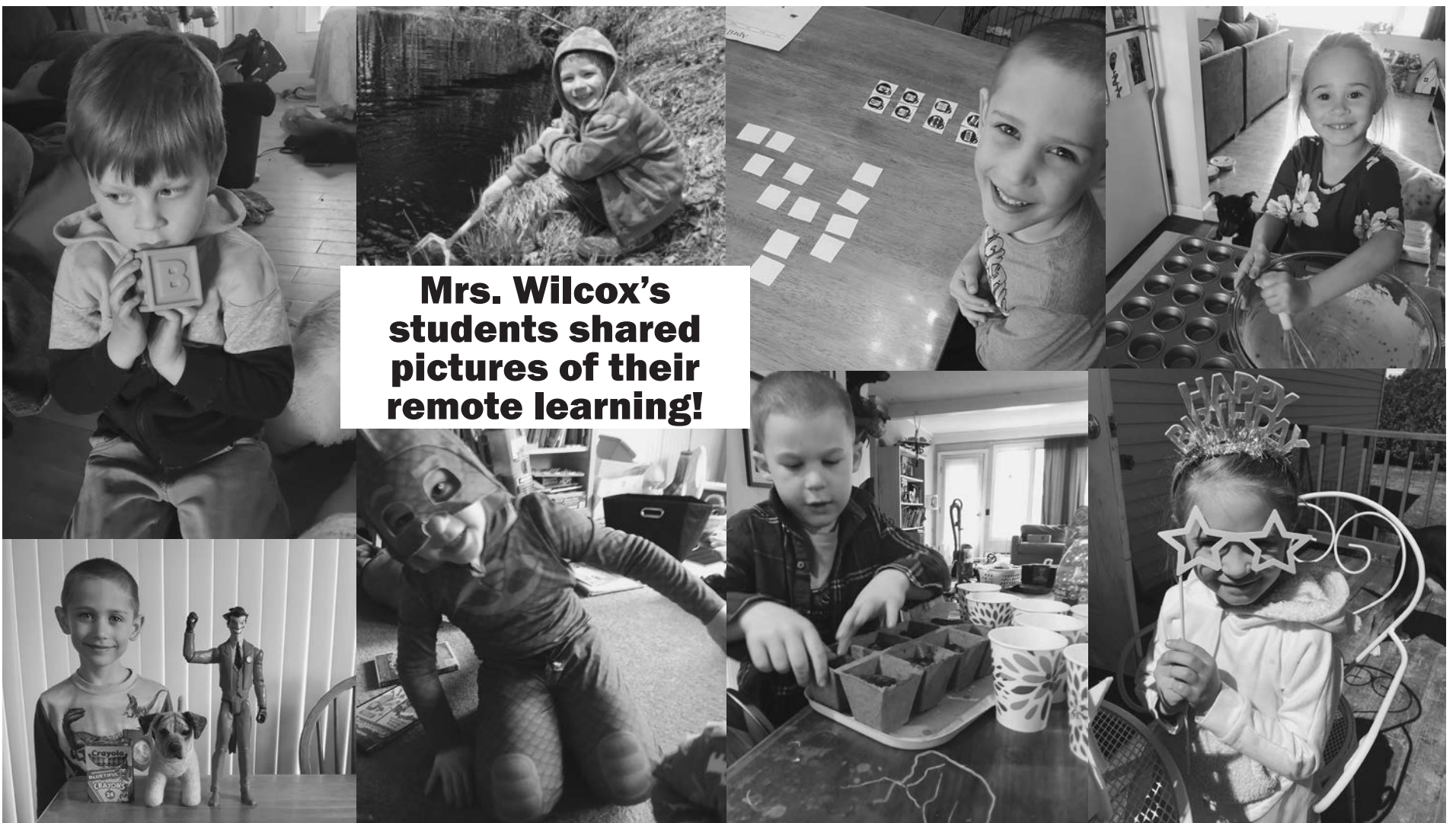
Alton first and second grade papier-mâché puppy fish.

Alton Elementary students participated in Chewonki's owls presentation. Real owl artifacts: talons, skulls and wings were on display. Wildlife educators brought live Barred, Great Horned, and Saw-Whet Owls.





Celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss in the library at Alton Elementary School. We had a photobooth, Cat in the Hat Drawing and playing with Oobleck, and reading his books!



WARRANT FOR DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING
REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO.34

To John Lodge, resident of Maine Regional School Unit #34 in the County of Penobscot and State of Maine:

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of Maine Regional School Unit #34, in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in Regional School Unit #34 affairs, to meet at the Old Town High School Cafeteria in the City of Old Town on June 24, 2020 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening, then and there to act upon the following articles to wit:

Article I: To elect a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Board of Directors	\$ 83,977.00
Office of the Superintendent	\$186,411.73
Business Office Functions	\$241,038.33
Employee Wellness	\$ 1,000.00

Article II: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for Regular Instruction.

Explanation: The Regular instruction account includes expenses directly related to classroom teaching and learning such as salaries for teachers, substitutes, para-professionals, classroom instructional equipment, materials, supplies and textbooks. Also included are expenses related to Alternative Education, English Language Learners and Gifted and Talented / Chapter 104 Programs.

PK-5 Regular Instruction	\$3,490,684.10
6-8 Regular Instruction	\$1,791,201.96
9-12 Regular Instruction	\$3,213,379.30
Alternative Education	\$ 105,287.12
English Language Learners Instruction	\$ 75,275.28
Gifted & Talented / Chapter 104 Instruction	\$ 298,584.32

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$8,974,412.08

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$512,427.06

Article VIII: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for School Administration.

Explanation: The School Administration account includes expenses for the direction and management of the individual schools.

Alton Elementary School	\$105,561.76
Viola Rand Elementary School	\$ 93,591.13
Old Town Elementary School	\$331,498.76
Leonard Middle School	\$307,429.33
Old Town High School	\$456,152.54

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$1,294,233.52

Article III: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for Special Education.

Explanation: The Special Education accounts include expenses for direct support of Special Education Programs.

K-5 Special Education:	\$1,662,372.59
6-8 Special Education:	\$ 789,320.99
9-12 Special Education:	\$ 936,545.78
Out of District Special Education:	\$ 448,734.00
Summer School Special Education:	\$ 53,631.24
Special Education Administration:	\$ 308,928.32

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$4,199,532.92

Article IX: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for Transportation.

Explanation: The Transportation account includes expenses for the contracted service for busing of students to and from school each day and special education transportation services.

Transportation Contract (to and from school)	\$516,175.00
Special Transportation	\$100,416.00
Homeless Transportation	\$ 5,000.00
Board of School Directors Recommend:	\$621,591.00

Article X: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for Facilities Maintenance.

Explanation: The Facilities Maintenance account includes maintenance of all school buildings, grounds, minor capital renovation/construction projects, insurance, utilities, equipment and supplies.

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$2,065,786.49

Article IV: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for Career and Technical Education.

Explanation: The Career and Technical Education account includes all expenses directly related to Career and Technical (Vocational) Education Programs.

United Technologies Center Assessment \$0.00

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$0.00

Article XI: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.

Explanation: The Debt Service account includes expenses for the State approved / State reimbursed capital debt obligation at Old Town Elementary School and local debt for OTHS Art & Science Wing.

State Approved/Reimbursed OTES Debt -	\$451,562.05
OTHs Art & Science Wing -	\$375,995.37

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$827,557.42

Article V: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for Other Instruction.

Explanation: The Other Instruction account includes expenses for After School Program, Summer School, Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular programs.

After School Program K-5	\$ 5,240.50
After School Program LMS	\$ 6,812.65
Summer School K-5	\$ 10,147.18
Summer School LMS	\$ 5,240.86
After School Program OTHS	\$ 3,144.30
Summer School OTHS	\$ 10,793.47
Co-Curricular OTES	\$ 3,229.50
Co-Curricular / Extra Curricular LMS	\$138,038.50
Co-Curricular / Extra Curricular OTHS	\$509,271.59

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$691,918.55

Article XII: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for All Other Expenditures.

Explanation: The All Other Expenditures account includes the local expense for food service operations.

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$100,000.00

Article VI: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for Student and Staff Support.

Explanation: The Student and Staff Support account includes expenses such as guidance, health (school nurses), libraries, staff training, student assessment and instructional technology.

Guidance Services	\$543,836.23
Library Services	\$366,027.35
School Health	\$241,075.90
Staff Training	\$224,091.94
Student Assessment	\$ 92,985.43
Instructional Technology	\$400,094.88

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$1,868,111.73

Article XIII: To see what sum the RSU#34 will appropriate for that portion of the cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the RSU#34 will raise and assess as each municipality's contribution to that portion of the cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, Section 15688 (Recommended amount set forth below):

Town	E.P.S. Allocation	E.P.S. Amount Raised/ RSU Assessment
Alton	\$ 1,268,411.55	\$ 349,149.66
Bradley	\$ 2,549,586.20	\$ 916,978.00
Old Town	\$ 12,058,686.09	\$ 3,700,768.34
Total	\$ 15,876,683.84	\$ 4,966,896.00

Explanation: The Regional School Unit #34's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by State law to be the minimum amount that the RSU#34 must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of State dollars.

Article VII: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for System Administration.

Explanation: The System Administration account includes expenses for the Board of Directors, the Office of the Superintendent and Business Office functions.

Article XIV: Shall the RSU#34 raise and appropriate \$ 375,995.37 for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the legislative body for non-state funded school construction projects, or non-state funded portions of school construction projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12.

Explanation: Non-State funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on long term debt for major capital renovation/construction projects that are not approved for State subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters.

2011 OTHS Art & Science addition	
Principal:	\$331,568.62
Interest:	\$ 44,426.75

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$ 375,995.37

Article XV: Shall the RSU#34 raise and appropriate \$100,000 in additional local funds in support of the food service program.

Board of School Directors Recommend:\$ 100,000.00

Article XVI: Shall the RSU#34 raise and appropriate \$ 1,704,026.91 in additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, §15671-A (4), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$ 1,704,026.91 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Directors.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the RSU#34's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment of non-State funded debt service that will help achieve the RSU#34's budget for educational programs.

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$ 1,704,026.91

Article XVII: Total Budget: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, from the Regional School Unit #34's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, additional local funds for educational purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, Section 15690, the RSU#34's share of the Vocational Region Programs, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, State subsidy, and other receipts for the support of schools.

Explanation: This is a summary Article. The amount recommended is the gross budget of the RSU#34. This Article does not provide money unless the other Articles are approved.

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$21,155,570.77

Article XVIII: To see if RSU #34 will appropriate \$124,429.23 for adult education and raise \$47,689.90 as the local share; with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program.

Explanation: The Adult Education account includes expenses to operate the local Adult Education Program and the assessment for the Regional Vocational Adult Education Program at United Technologies Center.

Local Adult Education Program	\$120,251.42
Regional Vocational Adult Education Program (UTC)	\$ 4,177.81

Board of School Directors Recommend: \$124,429.23

Article XIX: Shall the Regional Vocational Operating Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 be approved in the amount of \$3,105,184.26

Explanation: Approval of the total Regional Vocational Operating Budget by member units is required. Regional School Unit #34's assessment is included in Article # IV. This article is not subject to amendment from the floor. It may be either accepted or rejected by the voters.

Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.

Article XX: Shall the Regional Vocational Adult Education Budget as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 be approved in the amount of \$316,945.91

Explanation: Approval of the total Regional Vocational Adult Education Operating Budget by member units is required. Regional School Unit #34's assessment is included in Article # XVIII. This article is not subject to amendment from the floor. It may be either accepted or rejected by the voters.

Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.

Article XXI: In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the RSU#34 Board of Directors be authorized to expend other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.

Article XXII: Shall the Board of Directors/School Committee be authorized to expend up to \$1,500,000.00 from the School Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of completion of the following projects:

Project	Estimated Cost
PHASE 2 LMS renovation	\$ 1,500,000.00

Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.

Given under our hands this 20th day of May 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
MAINE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO.34

James Dill	David Wollstadt
Kelly Hasselbrack	Laura Sanborn
John Milligan	Lauree Gott
Howard Jack	Moriah Geer
Hunter Umphrey	

OFFICER'S RETURN

Penobscot, ss
State of Maine

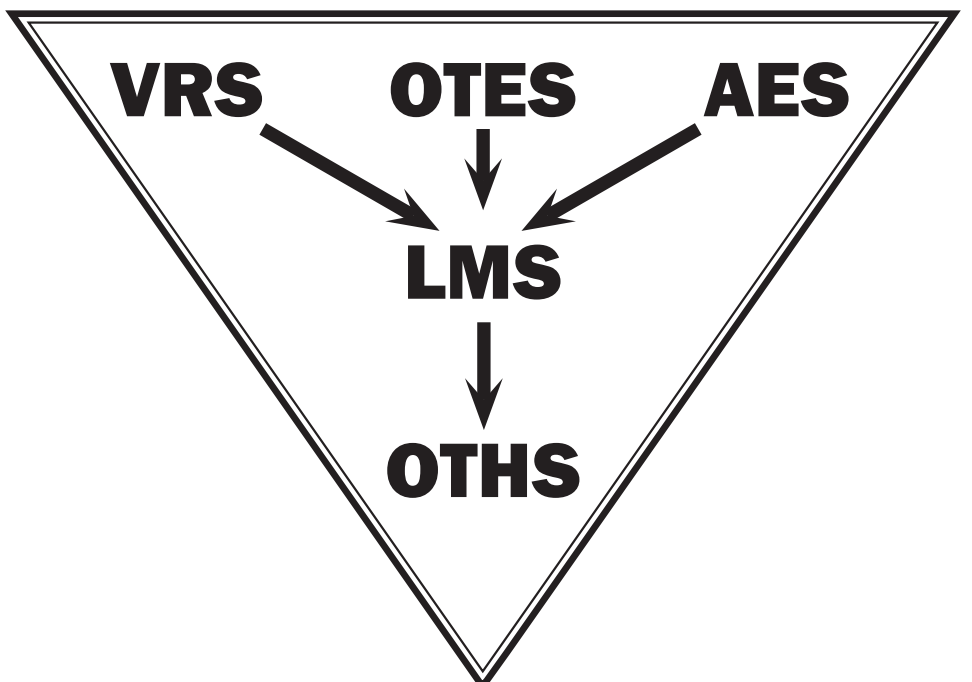
I certify that on _____, 2020, I notified the voters of Maine Regional School Unit No.34 of the time and place of said RSU#34 Budget Meeting by posting an attested copy of the foregoing Warrant in the following conspicuous places in each of the municipalities within said Regional School Unit#34:

In Alton, Maine at the Alton Elementary School and the Alton Town Office.

In Bradley, Maine at the Viola Rand School, the United States Post Office and the Bradley Town Office.

In Old Town, Maine at the Old Town Elementary School, the Leonard Middle School, the Old Town High School and the Old Town City Offices.

Attest: John Lodge



Flattening the Curve...and the Teachers!

Kindergarten teachers at OTES hand-delivered some goodies to students this month including some plant growing projects, fun things like bubbles and chalk, and Flat teachers! All students received a colored Bitmoji looking like their teacher, and students are tasked with taking pictures with their Flat teachers and sharing them with the class! Oh what fun the “teachers” are having at home with all their students! Flat Mrs. Reesman, Waterman, Henry, Rhoades, and McCrea are having a blast with Julian having fun, doing work with Griffin, building a deck with Annie, doing science with Lorelei, and Lyric climbing trees.



Little Free Libraries

Many donated books to help our students keep reading! Much thanks to Literacy Volunteers of Bangor, Stillwater Montessori School, Old Town - Orono YMCA, Chief Wilcox, Clem LaBree, Kellan Doyle, and others for helping get books into our students' hands!



Final Salute

Submitted by First Sergeant (Retired) Joel Peaslee
Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Steve Szewc
Old Town High School Army JROTC Cadets often invest substantial time and effort in service to their school and local communities. Cadet Major Desmond Soucier has earned over 100 community service hours during his time in the Coyote Battalion. Desmond has been a key figure the last four years; directly contributing to the success of the battalion and helping to maintain the Honor Unit with Distinction designation. As he completes his senior year, he has also completed 110 service hours directly related to JROTC activities. These activities include Color Guard events supporting community activities such as the River Fest Parade, Bangor Savings Bank's "Greenlight a Vet" campaign, annual parades at Orono Commons, and visits with veterans at The Meadows and the Penobscot River House. Desmond has participated in "World at Work" days at Old Town Elementary, as well as Color Guard demonstrations and flag folding classes for elementary students in Bradley, Milford, and Alton. Desmond has been a part of multiple Service-Learning opportunities including spring maintenance at OTHS and Sara's House in Holden. Desmond has honored our veterans during Memorial Day wreath laying ceremonies at local war memorials, Pearl Harbor commemoration events, and Veterans Day functions at the local elementary schools.



Desmond Soucier

Academic Bowl (JLAB) Team, and the Marksmanship team. He is also a member of the Maine Army National Guard. Desmond plans to continue to serve in the guard full time until he becomes a Maine State Trooper, then plans to do both simultaneously.

For his demonstration of exceptional potential for military leadership, Desmond received the Southern Maine Chapter Military Officer's Association of America Award. Desmond was also the recipient of the Outstanding Cadet Saber. The saber is a replica of an 1860 Cavalry Saber and is awarded to one cadet yearly based upon academics, service to the battalion, and contributions to the school community. The Coyote Battalion will miss Desmond's dedication and loyalty as well as his commitment to excellence. As a final note, we would like to thank Desmond's family for supporting him in his endeavors. They have been an asset to the battalion. It is difficult for a high school student to be so involved, without the support of family!

Students at the Alton Elementary School and Viola Rand School were able to go ice skating after school at Alford Arena three times this winter. The two schools were able to share the cost of the ice time and staff at the arena were as supportive as ever. The schools have been doing the ice skating trips for several years now and the students really enjoy it! It is fun to see the progress kids make in learning to skate from one visit to the next. They really enjoy the opportunity to learn a new skill and have fun with friends!

