

Ella P. Burr School Newsletter

May/June 2022
Volume 5, Issue 5

Principal: Peter J. Loisel
School Website: <https://www.rsu67.org/o/ella-burr-school>



Principal's News Mr. Loisel

It's hard to believe we are at the final six weeks of the school year. Thinking back to September we were talking about wearing masks and contact tracing and now here we are in May mask free and with no contact tracing. My, how things have changed. The good news is students have made great progress and continue to make gains every day. During these final weeks, students will be completing NWEA assessments and BAS assessment (reading level), which not only provide teachers with gains made this year but also provide next year's teachers starting points for individuals to start the new school year.

Thank you to everyone who voted for the building projects, which were approved. The hope is to start, maybe finish, construction this summer. The thoughts of a new space for breakfast and lunch, providing more PE time, and group instruction. The possibilities are endless.

This will be the final newsletter of the year and with that, we will be saying thank you and goodbye to several longtime staff members. Mrs. Smith (kitchen), Mrs. Cloran (Speech/Language Pathologist), and Mrs. Turner (School Counselor) have dedicated many years to our school and district. We thank them for all they have done and wish them well in retirement.

Because this is the final newsletter of the year, I want to thank all the parents, guardians, volunteers, substitutes, and staff for all the efforts in making this year a special year. While the challenges were great, the successes were even greater. So, a little early, thank you for being such a great school community.

Contents

Principal's News	1
Curriculum/Title 1	1
Final Day	1
Pre-K News	2
Kindergarten News	2
First Grade News	2
Second Grade News	2
Third Grade News	2
PE, Music, Guidance	3
Mrs. Faulkner's room	3
Literacy Interventionists	4
Math Interventionists	4

Curriculum/Title 1 Update Dr. Heather Rockwell

Last Day of School

Wednesday, June
15 @ 11:30

As the end of the year winds down, it is amazing to see how far students have grown over the course of the year. During the month of May, teachers are reflecting with students on how far they have come and are thinking of ways families can help support growth throughout the summer. As always, the best way to encourage learning is to find time to read with your child every day. Another great idea is to play games with dice and cards that help reinforce math skills learned throughout the year. We will be offering summer school learning opportunities for students in grades K-12. Invitations will be coming soon for those who are eligible to participate in this wonderful opportunity. The program will start July 11th and will run for four weeks, Monday-Thursday from 8-12:30. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Pre-K News Mrs. Barrows and Mrs. Leighton

Our final Pre K unit is Things That Grow. Children synthesize skills and concepts they have learned during the previous five units as they explore the life cycle and learn how both plants and animals grow and develop. Children study, observe, plant, and nurture a variety of seeds, and children continue using their skills as researchers to research oviparous animals and gardens growing around the world. Children examine their own development from babies to capable, independent children in the context of considering how much they have grown from the beginning to the end of the school year. Opportunities to reflect on children's academic, emotional, social and physical growth are emphasized in this unit as a way of bringing the idea of 'things that grow' to a point of personal and immediate connection for children.

Kindergarten News Mrs. McCarthy, Miss. Crockett, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Larlee, and Mrs. Peters

EK/Kindergarten has been very busy this spring despite the cold weather. This next stretch of the school year will be filled with lots of fun learning activities and it will go by very fast.

Our caterpillars have arrived and we have begun to study the life cycle of the butterfly. Soon we will begin learning about the life cycle of plants. In honor of Earth Day which was on April 22nd, the kids have been discussing the ways we can all take care of our Earth each and every day. May 5th is Cinco de Mayo and we will learn about the importance of this celebration to the Mexican-American culture and maybe there will be some yummy food involved. We are also looking forward to our school-wide Kindness Celebration. Thanks Mrs. Turner! On May 13th we will be going over to the high school to see a performance of Beauty and the Beast.

First Grade News Mrs. Olsen, Mrs. Cuccinello, Ms. Croce, Ms. Ocana

First grade had a wonderful April concert! Everybody practiced very hard and we are so proud of them. We are ready to take on the rest of the school year (which is approaching fast)! The bikes for books program was a hit and the first graders loved participating. In math, the first grade is primarily practicing money, time, and shapes until the end of the year. If you'd like, you can practice these topics with your first graders at home by identifying and counting like coins, finding 2D and 3D shapes at home, telling time (to the hour and half hour), etc. In reading, we are learning about the differences between authors vs. narrators when telling a story. To incorporate these topics at home, you can have "book talks" where you reflect on what you're reading together! In science, first graders are currently learning about light/sound and patterns in nature. There are so many patterns in nature that you can find together! You can explore light and sound more by trying to find ways to communicate with one another using light or sound. These first graders have come a long way and we can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings! :)

Second Grade News Mrs. Hallett, Ms. Sherman, Mrs. Gardner, and Mrs. Himes

This spring, the second graders have been participating in the Books For Bikes program and reading up a storm. Each time a child finishes a book, they get to fill out a ticket. During the beginning of May, the teachers are going draw one girl and one boy to win a brand new bike. This has been a great incentive for kiddos to read as many books as they can!

Third Grade News Mrs. Thornton, Mrs. Manzo, and Mrs. Brawn

Spring is finally here! Hopefully the weather will warm up soon! Third graders are in the middle of presenting their "Book in a Bag" projects. They will then continue with small group instruction, start Opinion writing, and begin the book Frindle. In Math, students finished our measurement unit before April vacation. We are now learning about Fractions. Students have been enjoying our Engineering unit in Science by designing and building cars with limited materials. They will soon be reviewing past Social Studies and Science units to end the year. It will be here before we know it!

Physical Education and Health Mr. Lindsay

As spring approaches we are going to get outside as much as the weather lets us. With that being said, If you could please have your child bring a sweatshirt, hoodie or light jacket on PE days, that would be greatly appreciated! The temps in the morning are still a bit chilly and I would like to make sure everyone has something on to keep them warm if we decide to venture outside.

I am hoping once the weather is warmer we will be using the community walking trail, getting the bikes out and hopefully introducing some of the classes to Rollerblading (Huge thank you to the Bailey grant for gifting us the funds for the rollerblades.)!

Music and Art Mrs. York

As the end of the year looms, art and music move to the explore phase. Lots of review games, activity choices, performance making and behind the scenes!

Guidance Mrs. Turner

Guidance News: During our guidance lessons this last month we have been learning about safety. I am using two different programs, "Lures" and "Second Step Child Protection." The programs help children understand safety with guns, knives, water, etc. We also talked about lures people may use in-person or online. We also discussed the importance of personal safety.

We will have our "Kindness Celebration" on Friday, May 6. We are hoping to have a pig for Mr. Loiselle to kiss for accomplishing the challenge of filling our Kindness bucket!

Mrs. Faulkner's Classroom

The resource room students have been working very hard this trimester on their individual goals including

- Math: addition/subtraction of multidigit numbers, place value, Greater than /less than, time and money. They enjoy competing against each other in time and money games as well as helping each other determine the correct answers.
- ELA: Our students have been working on reading comprehension, Phonics through the SPIRE program and Sounds Sensible program. We have focused on retelling the beginning, middle and end of each story. The last few weeks we will be concentrating on letter writing as a refresher course.
- For Social groups we are working on our Zones of regulation including building a toolbox to put their learned resources in, that will help in social settings when they need to use them. The students have also learned to work together as a team, turn taking, and expected and unexpected behaviors in the classroom.

We have loved working with all our students this year and are very pleased with the growth each student has made.

Suggestions for summer:

- Read every day, reading practice strengthens all other skills.
- Practice correct letter formation, capitals and punctuation, as these skills slide over the summer.



Ella P. Burr Elementary
23 Ella P. Burr St.
Lincoln, ME 04457

Phone:
(207) 794-3014

Fax:
(207) 794-2602

E-mail:
ploiselle@rsu67.org

**Empowering
Learners, Today
and Tomorrow.**

Literacy Interventionists Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Harper, and Mrs. Murchison

Your child has worked very hard this year! Research indicates that children who do not read over the summer consistently lose 2 months of reading performance and that those losses accumulate each year during the elementary grades. This means that by middle school a student can be up to 2 ½ years behind! Below are a few simple ways to keep your child engaged with learning during the summer.

- Visit your local library.
- Be sure your child reads at least 20 minutes a day. According to research, a child who reads only 1 minute a day outside of school will learn 8,000 words by the end of sixth grade where a student who reads 20 minutes outside of school will learn 1,800,000 words! That's huge!
- Set a good example. When your child sees you reading and enjoying a book or a newspaper article, you are sending a message that reading is important and valuable.
- Read to your child. When you read to your child, he/she hears the rhythm of language. Be sure to read with expression! Changing your voice for the different characters in the story and increasing volume for exciting parts are only a few ways to make reading interesting.
- Read with your child. Explore different types of reading like poetry. For our little ones, poetry is great way to improve phonemic awareness skills as poetry often incorporates rhyme. For our older children, poetry is a means of improving fluency.
- Read for different purposes. Reading directions for a recipe or directions for assembling a toy are fun ways to incorporating reading.

Here's to making this a summer of reading!

Math Interventionists Mrs. Gulesian and Mrs. Stevens

The year is winding down! We've had a wonderful spring learning lots of new math concepts and skills. Our Kindergarteners continue to work on counting, number ID and writing numbers. First graders are working on addition strategies, place value, and writing higher numbers. Second graders are learning about higher place value, one-step and multi-step word problems, and subtraction. Third graders are loving the Morning Math Club before school starts.

Free at-home COVID test kits are available for pickup at each school, during school hours.