



"Coffin Cares"

Coffin Courier

Vol. 5

February 2010

John E. Paige, Principal

"Coffin Cares" in Action

Our school motto, "Coffin Cares", means a lot to us. Each quarter, we all try to be sure to do something that honors the meaning of these words. For example, this Friday, February 5th, the Student Council will be collecting spare change in the lobby to support Haiti. Our donations will be given to the Red Cross to support the Haiti earthquake victims. We thank you in advance for your support. I'd also like to share with you the text of a letter we recently received:

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Brunswick

To: Coffin Elementary School

Subj: Letter of Appreciation

1. It gives me great pleasure to express my appreciation and sincere thanks for your contributions during the 2009 "Stomp-out Hunger" Food Drive held from October to December 2009.
2. With your commitment to excellence and support of this worthwhile cause, your school was instrumental to the success of the program as evidenced by the total contribution of 1,121 pounds of non-perishable items and personal hygiene products collected. These important items will be dispersed to over 250 families within the towns of Brunswick and Topsham. The heartfelt support of your students, parents, and school faculty towards the Mid-Coast Hunger Prevention Program and NAS Brunswick during this Holiday season is noteworthy. Your pride, spirit of volunteerism, dedication, and willingness to make a difference for those in need is befitting of your schools motto, "Coffin Cares."
3. You have my personal thanks for a job WELL DONE!

Wm. A. Fitzgerald

Most of our friends at BNAS are gone now; but never forgotten. Over the years they have been a great source of support and inspiration to us here at Coffin School. Even in these tough economic times, we shall not forget the lesson contained in our motto: "Coffin Cares"; it truly is better to give than receive!

Sincerely,

John E. Paige
Principal

Notes from the Nurse

February is Dental Health Month and on February 24th **Dr. Thomas Rice**, a local orthodontist, will visit the **first grade** classrooms. He will conduct a **visual** inspection of participating children's teeth to look for any obvious dental problems as well as rate your child's brushing habits. Reports of Dr. Rice's findings will be sent home with the student. This inspection is not intended to be a complete examination and your child will still need to seek dental care on a regular basis.

And a few reminders:

If your child has any of the following they should stay home:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher (and must be fever free for 24 hours with out the use of medication before returning)
- Uncontrollable cough
- Persistent thick nasal discharge
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If medications are needed during school hours a permission form for the medication must be signed by the parent or guardian **AND** the health care provider. **This is state law.** The medication must be sent in the original container in which it was purchased.

If your phone number has changed since the start of school please call the main office so your child's file can be updated.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Linda Morris, R.N.

School Nurse

319-1957

LMorris@Brunswick.k12.me.us

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

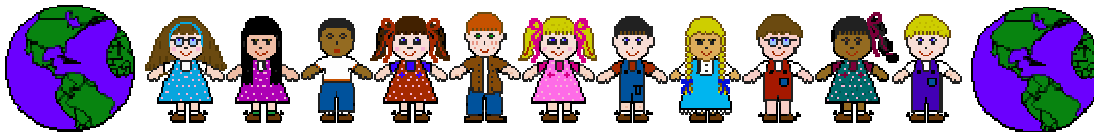
Where did January go? Zoom! Classroom guidance is in full swing in grades 2 and 3. Second graders are becoming very savvy about safety from bullying. Please ask your second grader to name some strategies to use if bullying is a problem. We are also becoming quite adept at using "I" messages when someone does something we don't like. The goal is to empower students to stand up for themselves and others as much as possible, and then to know when to ask for adult help. It can be a tricky balance. Through developmental guidance lessons, these students will grow in their skills each year.

Third graders are also exploring how to respond to bullying. So far we have used two library books by Trudy Ludwig, Just Kidding and My Secret Bully. These stories relate the experiences of both boys and girls being bullied. We are learning that bullying may take many forms, such as unwelcome teasing, put downs, and physical hurting as well as excluding, shunning, and rumors. Third graders can identify the bully, the target, and the bystanders. They are starting to figure out why sometimes bystanders are reluctant to intervene when there is bullying. In our next few lessons, we will talk about ways to be empowered bystanders.

Mr. Paige and I had a great time reading aloud to all students at lunches on January 22nd. Naturally, our theme was lunch! The younger students listened to a story with messages about respecting what others like to eat even if it is not what we like, and trying new things. The older students heard a hilarious story about school lunch that we hope helps them appreciate healthy food and the wonderful lunch crew who cook and serve them each day in our school dining room.

The Brunswick elementary counselors are hard at work crafting some parenting programs you won't want to miss. Stay tuned for news about these evenings in March and April. Possible topics are positive behavioral supports, internet safety, and bullying awareness and prevention. I hope to have details for you in the next issue of the Courier!

As always, I enjoy working with your children!
Irene Austin, School Counselor



Reading Support News

February 2010

Rereading Familiar Books

Just as fine athletes and musicians must practice daily to maintain successful performance, children must practice rereading familiar books in order to be successful readers. Rereading is an essential component to your child's reading progress. It allows your child the opportunity to read smoothly, with ease, and with good expression. Reading smoothly helps deepen the meaning of the story as well as makes it easier to predict what makes sense when "stuck" on a new or unfamiliar word. Another reason for rereading familiar books is to increase your child's exposure to print. They begin to notice more each time they reread. Finally, rereading will boost your child's confidence and interest in reading.

Remember our primary goal is for your child to enjoy reading!

The Art Corner

The kindergarteners used markers and diffusing paper to create bright and colorful sea creatures for an upcoming ocean mural, and they are now using paint and crayons to create some "rainbow fish." The first graders have finished their jelly bean jars and are working on their primary-colored Mondrian interpretative compositions.

The second graders are studying the Inuits in their classrooms, and we are finishing a mixed media project based on the book Mama, Do You Love Me? by Barbara M. Joosse. The third graders are doing a paint-and-oil pastel project based on several paintings by post-Impressionist painter Vincent Van Gogh.

The fourth graders are finishing a color mixing project using several paintings by Wassily Kandinsky for inspiration, and they will soon begin several projects based on the art of Georgia

O’Keeffe. And the fifth graders are doing Picasso-inspired self-portraits, which will be followed by the clay mask project.

The adapted art students finished papier mache snowmen and are now working on fish for the mural. And the honors art students are working on papier mache animals, wycinankis, and a unit on architecture, following a visit and presentation by Alan Kuniholm, one of the principal architects for the new school.

I hope you can always find time to come view your children’s artwork that brightens the hallways of our school. Once the winter art comes down, the famous artist projects will go up, and the kids are doing a great job with them.

Nancy Gray
Art Teacher

January Library News

It’s been another busy month in the library!

All students have been enjoying the new books that the Coffin School Library has added to the collection this year. We share new books by having circle sharing of new titles, student sharing of favorites, genre study and engaging in a variety of literature based library games.

4th and 5th graders have also been working on **RESEARCH** skills including: learning the different parts of a non-fiction book, skimming and scanning for information, using an index and glossary, interpreting charts and graphs, taking notes, and putting information into their own words. Students have also been taught how to take notes while viewing the educational video DEEP OCEAN.

All 3rd – 5th graders are being trained in the use of the **I-BOOK LAPTOPS** which are housed in the library. They will be using the laptops for classroom research projects in the coming months.

5th graders have been introduced to the **MARVEL** databases which are available through the Maine State Library. They have been using the laptops in the library to complete an informational scavenger hunt using the **MARVEL** databases. Once the scavenger hunt is completed we will enter a state wide raffle to win a new Smart Board for our school! 5th graders have also completed an activity on the laptops which requires them to analyze and evaluate student **WEBSITES** for accuracy and validity.

3rd graders have started research for the **SPACE FAIR**. Skills we have been working on in the library include learning the different parts of a non-fiction book, learning how to find useful information and taking good notes. They are learning about plagiarism, copyright and how to cite the sources they use for their research. In two weeks we will be going into the lab to find and print images for their space projects.

4th and 5th grade students participating in the **MAINE STUDENT BOOK AWARD** program are gearing up for our annual celebration which will be held on April 8th from 4:00 – 5:00 at Jordan Acres School. Information regarding the celebration will be sent home with participating students before February vacation. Coffin has more than 25 students participating this year and



The ESL Writing Club will be starting up again on **Tuesday February 2, 2010 in the Coffin School Library from 3:15-4:15**. Fourteen students are signed up to participate, and there will be Bowdoin College students back as volunteers to help the young authors. Two real authors, Charlotte Agell and Yong Fang, a Bowdoin College student who has published a book will be coming to work with the students on ideas for publishing a book of their own in the spring.

I have added a link to Google translate, and I invite you to visit the ESL website to find out more about the ESL Program at:

<http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/technology/integrator/elementary/programs/esl/index.htm>

Please contact me with questions or concerns at jobrienmerrill@brunswick.k12.me.us
Mrs. O'Brien-Merrill, ESL Teacher

National Geography Bee

Congratulations to **Nick Earle**, the 2010 Coffin School Geography Bee Champion! Nick won our contest against 57 fellow 4th and 5th grade Coffin School Students. 2nd place went to **Chris Nicholson**. 3rd place went to **Chaz Wing**. All of the contestants did a wonderful job, and many of them really knew their geography!

Our School Champion, Nick, has taken a 70 question geography test that will be scored by an official with the National Geographic Society in Washington DC. If his score is high enough, he will go to the state Geography Bee in April to compete for the Maine Geography Championship. The winner of that contest will go to the National Geography Bee in Washington DC.

Congratulations and good luck Nick!

Chess Tournament

Big News for our Chess Club. On Saturday February 6th, we will be hosting a team chess tournament. Students from Jordan Acres, Longfellow, and Coffin will be joined by students from Lisbon Elementary School. In this tournament, each person will be part of a four-person team. Each player will earn points by winning games. The team whose players earn the most points will be the winner.

Check the March Courier for news of the results.

Destination Imagination

Coffin Elementary will be represented at the Regional Destination Imagination Celebration on March 13th by two super creative teams. Team GO GREEN is **Alex Smith, Hannah Smith, Katie McKinley, Desiree Tanner, Ian Peak, Kaitlyn Prohett, and Will Labbe**. Team **FLYING PENGUINS** includes **Samuel Hedtke, Dasol Kim, Nathaniel Hunt, Marissa Petrulli, Whitney Byassee, and Nuri Rosen**.

Check the April Courier for news of their creative activities.