

Funderburk Room 18

Final Multi-Age Newsletter for the 2018-2019 School Year

“You and I will meet again, When we’re least expecting it, One day in some far off place, I will recognize your face, I won’t say goodbye my friend, For you and I will meet again.”

-Tom Petty

*We have come a long way. We have grown our emotional, physical, & academic capacity. We have worked hard all year. We have garnered new approaches to learning. We have covered so much... **IN DEPTH**, but in the end, I hope we were able to embrace flexibility, kindness, curiosity, & unique approaches to old and new ideas.*

After reviewing our slideshow from photos from this year, I thought “Wow. There is so much we do here at school that isn’t simply confined to a seat with a pencil.” Examples?

Mindfulness: Yoga, paying attention to our breath, read alouds such as *Be Where Your Feet Are*, practice of routines

Movement: Recess, walking snack, “brain breaks”, work out Wednesdays, spontaneous carpet hop challenges,

Trust: with each other and with all students that we can spontaneously walk outside while the Jr. High band marches and we can still find a way to safely “reel it back in”

Curiosity: CREA materials, playing new board games, STEM games, magnetic exploration, and exploration with poetry

Creativity: Choice time, Art Hub for Kids, Lego Challenge, LEAP visits, Guest visits (sidewalk crack Art)

Community Building

Celebrations – Writing/Feast & Festival

Celebrations – stuffy, PJ, middle name day, nap & rest time,, gum day class challenges

Community study groups

Traditions from the year before – “Mr. Funderburk, are we going to raffle classroom items like we did last year?”

Game Day after school

August gatherings for future 2nd graders

Reading with Kindergarten students

Friday announcements & School-wide events almost monthly

Choice seating for lunch, choice seating each day in the classroom

Community read alouds ,

Academic: *The joy of reading has been a real highlight. We are **ALL** readers with so many interests: Non-fiction, graphic novels, *Bella & Rosie*, *Who Would Win* series, *Fly Guy*, *Elephant & Piggie*...*Charlotte’s Web!* I’ve seen smiles on faces during our reading block. Our reading block and read aloud moments are intentional, engaging and reflective. I love the sound of stillness as the final words to a chapter end – the giggles, gasps and groans.*

I am ecstatic to know that many of you will be joining us again next year!

1st graders will return for another fruitful year by stepping into more of a leadership role, knowing what is expected, what the set-up will look like and having a chance to take charge as day 1 role models for our new first graders (see our August 15th meeting date below). Next year will be an exciting new dynamic of brand new first graders accompanying us on our adventure.. We will continue to incorporate project based learning, music, movement, and celebration into our daily routine. We have a new set of content to study next year as well.

I am saddened see our second graders bid farewell. We have had so many memories and magical moments. I hope the memories will carry on in ways that we will all truly value as we look back in the days, months and years to come.

Onward to HBS (for some)!

Upcoming Dates of Interest (we are FAR, FAR from finished)

- **CANCELED - 2nd Grade “Farewell” Gathering** –June 15th – as I finalized RSVP’s, our numbers are looking a little low, so we’ll reschedule and will do something during the school day
- **Library Books Due/Final Library visit** – Monday June 10
- **Maine State Music Theater Walking Field Trip** – *Snow White* – Wednesday June 12, 10 AM

MORE ON THE BACK ----->

- **Maine Wildlife Park Field Trip**– Friday June 14 – All Day
- **Curtis Memorial Library** – Walking Field Trip – Monday June 17, afternoon
- **Coffin School Field Day** – Wednesday June 19
- **Final Day of School** (Early Release) – Friday June 21 (1:10 Dismissal)
- **Entering 2nd Graders:** Thursday August 15, evening (time TBD) – **2nd Grade Student Meeting @ Nathaniel Davis Park** – Just Before the Movie in the Park (reconnect and set up some goals for starting the new year as 2nd graders)

The Next 10 Days – So Much Going On!

Thanks for supporting your child with consistent bedtimes and school attendance!

- Let me know soon if your child will not be here on Friday June 21. That will help us all plan and allow for proper closure with each other. We'll be sending off report cards (on Friday) and many other memories from the classroom throughout the week
- Reflection on ourselves as readers and writers
- Writing thank you notes for many volunteers (Spindleworks, High School students and Rotary Readers)
- **Little Bird's Flock** – author Q&A video – to be viewed next week from Telling Room authors, personalized for us via questions from Mrs. Stinson's classroom
- **Field Day** is almost upon us (officially on Wednesday June 19). Be sure to send your child to school with lots of water, plenty of snacks, applied sunscreen and appropriate clothing for being outdoors for roughly 4 hours
- **Summer Reading**
 - **Future 2nd graders** – my biggest reading charge to those in moving on to 2nd grade: 1. Find something you love to read and 2. Read a little each day – at the beach, before bed, early in the morning, in the car, camping in a tent...whenever! Magazines or short story reading is fine. Find books from the library or around the house, in one of many [Little Free Library Locations here in Brunswick](#) or on a Kindle – books that excite you and that you can read. Consistent reading and practice is important. Next year, I will expect more of you and you will need to expand your reading horizons.
 - **Future 3rd graders** – Many of you have already been given this challenge from me. It's now time to step up your reading game! Over the summer, discover new books from unique genres that interest you. Try something new to read. Find a new series to read over the summer. In 3rd grade, you will explore mysteries, realistic fiction, biographies and more informational books. It's OK to enjoy a graphic novel or two here and there, but **Garfield, Calvin & Hobbes, and Big Nate books should not be all** that's in your reading diet (they're like the dessert). Create your own goals for reading this summer and find the next new series that gets you excited. Finally, come back to coffin School whenever you like (next year is our last year here), visit our classroom and say "hello" anytime, especially if you have siblings who will be here
- Our classroom has had a tradition to complete **class superlatives** (best attitude, best attendance, most improved, etc.) – everyone gets a superlative and the best part – classmates get to vote for each other (an excellent way to wrap up our unit on community)

Report Card Update

- Distributed Friday June 22nd, the last day of school
- Look for the back of the RC for what was covered this year (Writing & Reading) & content covered in trimester 3 (Social Studies/Science). I hope to include spelling pattern growth, sight word growth for first graders, personalized reading and writing strengths/challenges and for some, and our writing rubrics from trimester 3 that show our writing growth throughout the year
- Math Tests and other Math work from this trimester will be sent home by Friday (for both 1st grade & 2nd grade)