

COFFIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Issue Four 2012-2013

January 2013

Dear Coffin School Families,

Happy 2013! I hope this message finds all of you well.

One thing I enjoy about the monthly newsletter is a chance to get into 'big picture' mode. While these pages include only limited snapshots, I think they represent some of the transformative work going on in all classrooms and throughout our school.

I was reminded recently that not so long ago Brunswick elementary students attended four different schools – Jordan Acres, Longfellow, Coffin and Hawthorne. Having all the kindergarten and first-graders together at Coffin is still a relatively new experience. With this in mind, it's encouraging to see the tangible gains we continue to make in creating meaningful, large-scale structures and routines that set us all up for success.

Our recently revised school wide expectations are one example. When one thinks about it, having 50+ individuals with widely varying philosophical perspectives work through and come to agreement on a common set of values is noteworthy (in under 3 months, no less). Of course, what made this not only possible, but a truly pleasant process, is the fact that everyone at Coffin School shares and acts upon a core belief – we work together to do what's best for students.

As you walk through the halls, please take a moment to take in some of the new signs you see on the walls. To draw from the President's speech yesterday, "our journey is not complete." Collaboratively and creatively, we will continue heading in fruitful directions.

Have a great month!



Mr. C.
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Coffin School Activities

January

- Monday, January 21, Martin Luther King Day - No School
- Friday, January 25 CFC Movie Night
- Wednesday, January 30, Early Release, Prof. Dev.
- Thursday, January 31, Kinderkonzert

February

- Friday, February 1, CFC Movie Night Snow Date
- February 4 - Annual Title 1 Meeting @ Hawthorne 6:00 PM
- February 1 - 8, Story Walk Week
- Tuesday, February 5, Community For Coffin Meeting
- February 10 - 15 Colors Week
 - Monday - Rainbow Colors
 - Tuesday - Yellow
 - Wednesday - Green
 - Thursday - Red
 - Friday - Orange
- Friday, February 15, Coffin Cares Assembly Walk/Bike to School
- February 18 – 22, No School, Winter Break

March

- Friday, March 1, School Concert, 9:30 or 2:00
- Tuesday, March 5, Community for Coffin Meeting
- Thursday, March 14, Grade 1, Planetarium
- Friday, March 15, NO School, Professional Development
- Friday, March 22, Walk/Bike

Welcome New Staff!!








Welcome to **Sally Conrad**
who joins us as the Coffin
Cafeteria Manager!



Welcome to **Jessica Sapp**
who joins us as a
Kindergarten teacher!



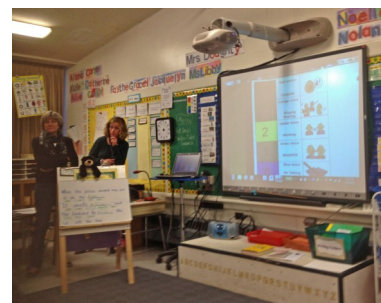
Supporting Positive Behaviors Throughout Coffin School

<p>Cafeteria</p>  <p>Eat your lunch.</p> <p>Safe body.</p> <p>Be a respectful lunch buddy.</p>	<p>Hallway</p>  <p>Quiet voice; Quiet Body.</p> <p>Walking Feet.</p> <p>Follow the traffic pattern.</p>	<p>Playground</p>  <p>Use playground (equipment) safely.</p> <p>Stay visible at all times.</p> <p>Safe body.</p> <p>Be a problem solver.</p>	<p>Bus Line</p>  <p>Sit and stay with bus buddies.</p> <p>Safe Body.</p> <p>Be responsible with your bus card.</p>	<p>Bathroom</p>  <p>Be quick and quiet.</p> <p>Wash your hands.</p> <p>Go back to class right away.</p>
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A 2012-2013 Coffin School goal is to develop common language for expected behaviors in the cafeteria, hallways, bus lines, bathrooms and on the playground. Last Friday's Coffin Cares assembly was the public 'kick-off' for this work and the culmination of many hours of inquiry, collaboration and hard work. The posters you'll see around the school are intended to be simple and straightforward reminders supporting the extensive classroom efforts to identify teaching targets and to promote ongoing reflection and affirmation of these expectations. Stay tuned - there's much more to come!



Brainstorming in large and small groups during our December staff meeting



Reviewing weeks of feedback and making final touches at our January staff meeting



A team of teachers sets up posters and other supporting signs in the hallways on Friday after school



Coffin Cares Assembly - Maraccabee Productions (that would be Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Sciacca and Mr. Larrabee) created an inspirational movie to highlight this work.



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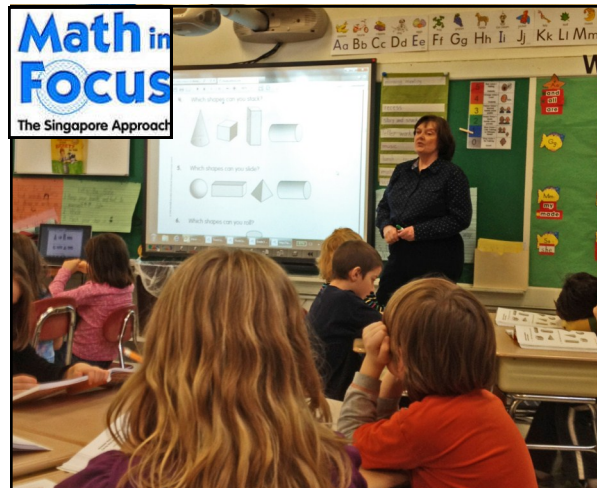
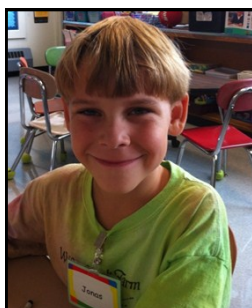
Arts are Elementary



Physical theater artist **Gretchen Berg** joins classrooms this month as part of our ongoing Arts are Elementary programming

Jonas from Mrs. Sciacca's class was chosen as the winner of the PE Word Wall Essay contest! Check out his story!

"I do the monkey bars while I breathe oxygen. I play lots of games. I walk and go jogging too. I fall on purpose but I don't mean to. I throw underhand to my friend Noah. PE is good exercise. Clean up your backyard and gymnastics are my favorite games. At recess I run, be safe, and play basketball. I like hopping, galloping, skipping, biking, swimming and swinging. I get to go horse-back riding in February on vacation. I will feed my horse apples, and vegetables. I may see a shark, cool bugs that look like walking sticks, and other creatures. I may jump in to a pond and play baseball, volleyball, football, and soccer there. I will do good exercise, eat healthy and e in a triathlon. Thank you, reader, for your good listening to my story!"



Mrs. Peters uses the interactive white board to teach a lesson on shapes.



'Red - E - Fox' joins firefighters for this month's safety lessons in kindergarten classes.



The Brunswick High School choir performed a concert for Coffin on the Friday before the vacation.



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5201 Message

from Mrs. Peck-Moad and Mr. Hutchins

Coffin Colors Week February 11th - 15th, 2013

Colors Week is an event sponsored by the 5-2-1-0 program and the Food Services Department, which focuses on healthy eating and nutrition. Coffin School kids will be encouraged to wear a different color every day, to celebrate the color of the day. Each day the lunch menu will feature a fruit or vegetable that will go along with the color of the day. Volunteers will also be passing out fruit and vegetables at lunch each day, and all students will be encouraged to sample these foods. Your student may even discover a new fruit or vegetable that he or she really likes!

The Colors Week schedule will be:

Monday, February 11th - RAINBOW COLORS
Tuesday, February 12th - YELLOW
Wednesday, February 13th - GREEN
Thursday, February 14th - RED
Friday, February 15th - ORANGE



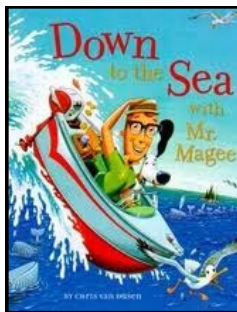
Please encourage your children to participate by wearing their color to school!

Parent volunteers are needed to pass out food samples in the cafeteria! To volunteer, please visit:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BACA72DA57-color>

If you do not have online access and would like to volunteer, please contact Jen Baldwin Mackey at 650-6049. If you have questions, please contact Jen at jalicebaldwin@yahoo.com, or PE teacher Tracey Peck-Moad at TPeck-Moad@brunswick.k12.me.us.

The other item we have coming up in February is the week of 2/4 through 2/8. It is called a Story walk and consists of weather-proof signage with the story "Down to the Sea with Mr. McGee" by Maine author Chris Van Dusen. It is a way to combine fitness with literacy and will be set up outside around our walking track for the entire week for teachers to use as they see fit and for kids to exercise to at recess.



Check out our new playground equipment boxes purchased with a 5-2-1-0 grant. Thanks to everyone who made this happen!



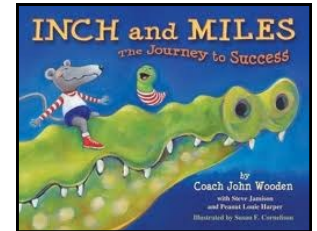
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Carl Hanscom, Head Custodian, has just retrofitted and installed the Jordan Acres public address system in the Coffin School cafeteria (left). Without missing a beat, Mrs. Heald picked up the microphone and can be seen working the morning cafeteria crowds (right). Having this PA is proving to be an exceptionally helpful tool in maintaining a greater sense of cafeteria calm, allowing students to focus on quieter conversations and eat more of their lunches.



Inspired by her class's work with John Wooden's *Inches and Miles*, Evie wrote a story entitled, "How to Succeed". She read me her book and has given it to me as a gift to keep in my office - thank you, Evie!

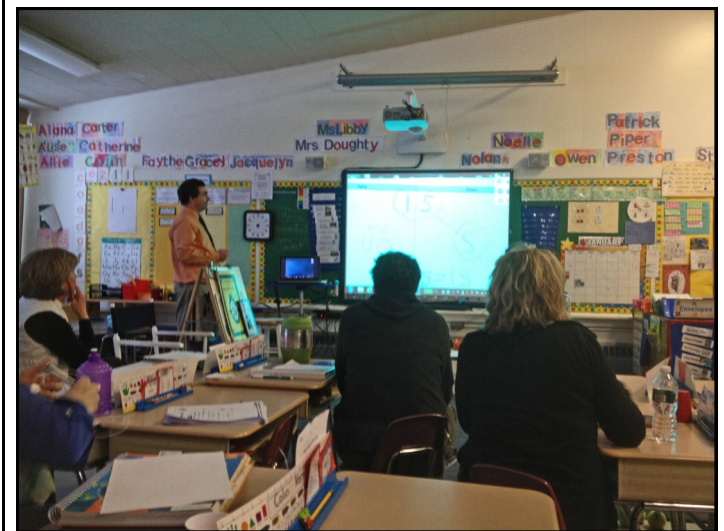


An update from Mrs. Bean, Mrs. Doughty and Mrs. Soule

The children in Mrs. Bean's, Mrs. Doughty's and Mrs. Soule's classes are all part of a friends group. Each friends group has members from all three classes. Once a week our mixed groups get together in Rooms 10, 11 and 12 to practice becoming better readers and listeners by taking turns reading books from their book boxes. A friends group is our way of building community within our team and helping to make a large school feel smaller.



Mrs. Gallagher leads a carpet lesson on beginning consonant sounds.



At a recent first grade team meeting, Mr. Larrabee shares a constructivist math game he invented to reinforce the concepts of number bonding: *Build It, Break It, Believe It*.



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Community for Coffin

<http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/cof/community-for-coffin/>



January greetings from Community for Coffin! We hope your 2013 is off to a great start! Now that a very busy and successful fall is behind us, the CFC is looking ahead to winter and spring

Thanks to the generous fundraising and volunteer efforts of our families, the CFC has recently supported and/or has plans to support:

- ~ Food and clothing donations to Tedford Housing in December (Thanks to those who participated!)
- ~ Annual contribution to Arts Are Elementary, to help bring artists in residence to Coffin School classrooms
- ~ Mitten & Glove Drive through February 1 (Drop-off box in the Coffin School lobby, thanks to Girl Scout Troop 311 for organizing!)
- ~ Coffin Family Movie Night on Friday, January 25 (storm date February 1) at 6:00pm in the Coffin gymnasium
- ~ Colors Week, February 11-15
- ~ Traveling planetarium at Coffin School in March, for first grade classes
- ~ MidCoast Hospital Teddy Bear Club project in March
- ~ National Poetry Month & Poem In Your Pocket Day in April
- ~ Scholastic Book Fair in April/May
- ~ Portland Sea Dogs baseball game with HBS on Friday, May 3
- ~ End of school festivities in June
- ~ Winter and spring Staff Appreciation events
- ~ Monthly Walk/Bike To School Days (weather permitting)
- ~ Four KinderKonzerts for first grade classes
- ~ New playground toys and outdoor storage bins (Thanks to Mrs. Peck-Moad for securing a 5210 mini grant!)
- ~ More fun events for Coffin families...stay tuned!

And don't forget our daily and weekly programs like the Snack Shack, cafeteria helpers, Helping Hands (teacher prep) and tending our gardens -- we are truly grateful for our many, many volunteers!

Although this year's primary fundraiser was our wildly popular Read-A-Thon back in October, there are still lots of ongoing ways to raise money for Coffin School. They include Box Tops for Education, Labels for Education, CLYNK (information coming soon!), and Target's Take Charge of Education (REDcard) program.

Would you like to stay more informed about CFC and Coffin School activities? Join our "Community for Coffin (CFC)" Facebook group or email communityforcoffin@gmail.com to sign up for our weekly emails with all the week's updates and reminders. Everyone is also welcome at our monthly CFC meetings. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the Coffin School cafeteria. Upcoming dates are February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7 and June 4.

Thank you all for helping to make Coffin School such a great community!



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