

# COFFIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Issue Four 2013 – 2014

December 2013

Dear Coffin School Families,

I hope this finds all of you well.

It's hard to imagine that we're approaching 2014 – the year is going by so quickly. There's a wonderful spirit-ness in the school – imagine 375 five to seven-year-olds in the midst of the holiday season – and our staff continues to do an incredible job of focusing this anticipatory energy into meaningful learning.

Knowing the winter solstice is just around the corner, I thought you might enjoy a true story from one of our kindergarten classrooms.

The teacher was leading a differentiated polygon activity and extending the lesson with the whole group. Apparently the children were building off their existing knowledge of shapes and sharing some of the more complex polygons they knew. One student raised his hand and said, "An octagon has eight sides." Another said, "I've heard of a decagon." The class figured out that a decagon has ten sides. Suddenly one student called out, "What about a crackadon?" The teacher was puzzled and responded, "Crackadon?...that's a new one. Tell me more." Without a hint of irony, the child clarified: "Crackadon – you know, when the sun comes up in the morning."

The 'crackadon' will be steadily earlier by the time we return on January 6th and I'm looking forward to more daylight. In the meantime, however you and yours choose to spend this season, we wish you all the very best.

Happy Holidays,



Steve Ciembroniewicz  
sciembroniewicz@brunswick.k12.me.us

## Coffin Calendar

### December

Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> - CFC Meeting @ 7:00 PM  
Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> - Walk/Bike to school  
Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> – Brunswick High School Chorus, 2:30-3:00

### January

Wednesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day  
Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> - school resumes from Holiday Break  
Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> – Coffin & HBS Bowdoin Hockey Game @4:00  
Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> – Walk/Bike to school  
Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> Family Movie Night & Teddy Bear Drive at 6:00 (storm date: 1/24)  
Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King Day  
Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> – CFC meeting @ 7:00  
Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup>, **Early Release @ 1:10\*** (staff development)  
All Month – A.A.E. (Arts Are Elementary - Julie Yeo) in Grade 1

### February

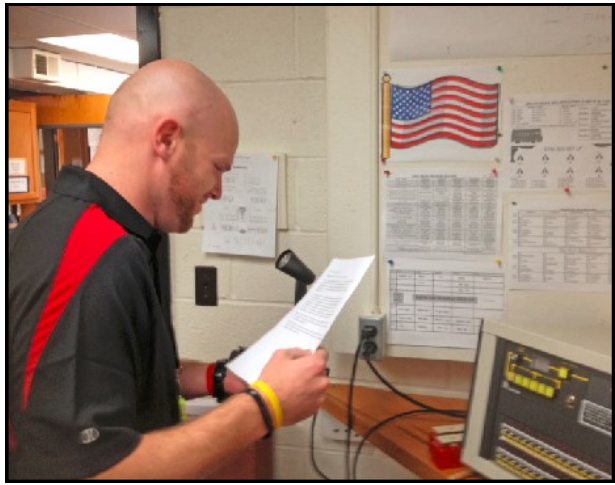
Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine's Day  
17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> - Winter Break  
Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> K-5 Trimester Ends  
Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> – CFC meeting @ 7:00  
Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> – Walk/Bike to school

**\*NOTE** - Coffin Early Release times will shift by 10 minutes to accommodate parents with children @ HBSS and Coffin. Additional reminders will be forthcoming in January.



Members of the Arrival/Dismissal Restructuring Committee meet on a Friday evening to finalize bus cards and protocols. Many thanks to all the teachers who spent long hours drafting a plan that is now succeeding in the effort to provide students with a calmer and more orderly dismissal.





Mr. Hutchings reads his weekly 5-2-1-0 message to Coffin School in which he shares healthy tips and acknowledges all the smart choices students are making. All students earn a ticket for making healthy choices and have a chance to get their names drawn for a weekly prize. It is very refreshing to see the children applying 5-2-1-0 to their everyday life at such a young age. Keep up the good work everyone! Below, Mrs. Peck-Moad leads an all-school 5-2-1-0 assembly involving lots of singing and dancing.



We are fortunate to have a number of Bowdoin College students who volunteer their time weekly, working with students and teachers (above left - talking with Literacy Teacher Mrs. Carten)

by Allison McDonald  
**50 ways to teach your child to READ**

Here's a website recommended by our Literacy Teachers

1. Read to your child.
2. Play rhyming games.
3. Sing the alphabet song with them.
4. Label things with their names from an early age.
5. Go to the library even when they are at that loud voice only stage.
6. Have non fiction books as well as fiction available .
7. Tell stories.
8. Have books all over your house.
9. Teach the letter sounds by emphasizing the sounds in words they hear often from a young age.
10. Provide fun and interesting books for them to read.

**FOR 40 OTHER IDEAS, VISIT THIS LINK:**  
<http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2013/04/50-ways-to-teach-your-child-to-read.html>



At a recent Board workshop, Landon Keck from PDT architects presented proposals for a new Pre-K to Grade 2 school on the Jordan Acres Site. At the same meeting, Paul Austin, Director of Student Services, shared information on Pre-K programs.

**Interactive Whiteboard Work in Mr. Funderburk's Class**

Mr. Funderburk's class enjoys a rigorous indoor recess during a cold December courtesy of Adventures To Fitness, promoting active and healthy indoor fitness. (bottom photo) After taking just 22 school days to earn and unite in adhering to class expectations, Mr. Funderburk's class chooses a well-deserved reward of viewing Tumblebooks. They chose Maine author, Chris Van Dusen's *A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee* and enjoyed a story linked to their genre study of folk tales with *When Turtle Grew Feathers (The Tortoise and the Hare)*.

