

# COFFIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Issue Seven 2013 – 2014

March 2014

Dear Coffin School Families,

I hope this finds all of you well.

March continues to be a busy month at Coffin School and throughout our District. At last week's School Board meeting we received the go-ahead to expand our multiage Grade 1 / 2 program from two to four classrooms beginning in the 2014-15 school year. This is an exciting shift for us and we're looking forward to having an additional 18 Grade 2 students with us at Coffin next year.

We're also in the midst of the budget season and the proposed FY 2015 Coffin budget will be presented to the Board at Wednesday's meeting. Two highlights in this proposed budget include increasing monies for targeted writing instruction, staff development and the purchase of hardcover books to continue building our library collection. These two items represent an increase of approximately \$7,500 in our total proposed Coffin School budget or about seven percent.

In addition to staffing configurations and budgets, there's a lot happening around facilities. At the March 19 meeting the Board approved the use of the former Jordan Acres School site for a proposed new school. This facilities discussion has been ongoing for about three years and will be receiving even more focus in the months to come.

Here at Coffin we are all looking forward to fewer indoor recess days and ice-free playgrounds. I haven't checked any historical statistics, but do know that when Mrs. Murphy (Coffin Music teacher and conductor of the wonderful spring choral concerts) celebrated her birthday earlier this week, she told me that it's the first time in years that she's worn a winter coat on that day. Thankfully spring has arrived, at least on the calendar, and warming days and drier playgrounds are inevitably on the horizon.

Wishing you joyful beginning of Spring.



Steve Ciembroniewicz  
sciembroniewicz@brunswick.k12.me.us

## Coffin Calendar

### March

Wednesday the 26th - Early Release @ 1:10\*  
(staff development)

Wednesday the 26th - Budget Meeting

Friday the 21st - Walk/Bike to school



### April

Wednesday the 2nd to Friday - the 4th, Book Fair

Thursday the 3 - Book Fair Family Night Event: Sparks Ark, 6:30 PM-7:30 PM

Thursday the 10, Coffin Identity Assembly - 2:45-3:05

Monday the 7th - Grade 1 Kinderkonzert

Tuesday the 15 - CFC meeting @ 7:00 PM

Wednesday the 16th - Budget Meeting

Friday the 11th Walk/Bike to School

Thursday the 17 Early Release, 1:10

Friday the 18 - NO SCHOOL, Professional Development

Monday the 21 to Friday the 25 - Spring Break

Monday and Tuesday the 28th and 29th - Helene Coffin visits

Wednesday the 30th - Poem in Your Pocket Day

Wednesday the 30th - Budget Meeting

### May

Monday the 5th - Harriet Beecher Stowe Information Night for next year's Grade 2 and Grade 3 students - 6:30 PM @ HBSS

Wednesday the 7th - A.C.E.S., 10:00-10:30

Wednesday the 7th - Teacher Appreciation Day

Tuesday the 13th - Incoming Kindergarten Open House 6:30 PM @Coffin School Gym

Friday, the 16th - Walk/Bike to School

Week of May 19th - Incoming Kindergarten Screening

Tuesday, the 20th - CFC Meeting @ 7:00 PM at Coffin Cafeteria

Wednesday the 21st - Grade 1 Kinderkonzert at Crooker Theater-

Thursday the 22nd - Multiage Feast and Festival of Learning

Monday the 26th - NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day

\***REMINDER**- Coffin Early Release times have shifted by 10 minutes to accommodate parents with children @ HBSS and Coffin.



Mrs. Burgess' class celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday by making oobleck! They got to explore it and then wrote letters home about it.



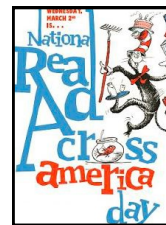
# Welcome Guest Readers



Two of our celebrity guest readers - Mr. Paul Austin, Director of Student Services (left) and Mr. Greg Bartlett, Assistant Superintendent (right) joined classrooms to share their favorite books as part of Read Across America Day.



Some of our favorite Dr. Seuss Characters came to visit from Wild Oats Bakery.



## MARCH LIBRARY NEWS

The library wishes to thank the CFC for their support of the Community Read Aloud, honoring Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the Coffin Library. We heard wonderful comments all day long about your warm welcome and the delicious treats! The readers truly felt appreciated. We are grateful for your enthusiasm and cheerful helpfulness. It was a wonderful day. Additionally, we wish to thank the CFC Helping Hands for copying all of the the March Reading Challenge charts and notices and the wonderful parents who helped us out by making the beautiful Don't Bug Me...I'm Reading posters which are displayed throughout the school.



*A community of learners founded on safety, gentleness, kindness and the pursuit of quality work.*



# Kindergarten Reading Support Services at Coffin School

An update from our Response to Intervention (RTI) team

Here at Coffin School we are very fortunate to be able to offer a variety of early intervention Reading Support services targeted specifically for Kindergarten students. Reading Support services can begin as early as September, or may be started at any point in the school year. Here are some answers to questions you may have if your child is chosen to receive extra help in reading:



## Who will provide the extra help?

We have a team of Reading Support teachers who work closely with your child's classroom teacher and will also communicate with you to make sure that your child's needs are being met.

## What do reading groups look like?

Lots of students receive Reading Support services throughout the school year! Depending on your child's strengths and areas of need, he or she will be in a group of 2 or 3 students. These groups typically meet inside or outside of the classroom, everyday, for about 30 minutes a session.

## What skills will my child be working on?

Our Reading Support teachers use data to guide their instruction and plan lessons to meet your child's individualized needs. These lessons often focus on building an awareness of print, letter identification, letter sounds, writing, comprehension, and oral language development.

## Will my child be in a reading group all year?

Your child's Reading Support teacher will closely monitor his or her progress while receiving extra help. This, combined with input from you, and the classroom teacher, will help us decide when a student is ready to be dismissed from Reading Support services. This can happen at anytime in the school year, but we usually provide students with a minimum of 6-8 weeks of instruction.

**We look forward to working with you and your child!**

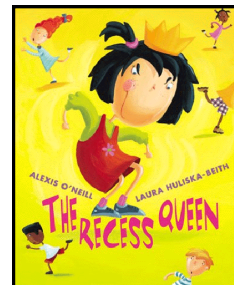


## A Message From Mrs. Bradley Coffin School Counselor

Please mark your calendars and spread the word to any parents of incoming Kindergarteners that the 2014-15 **Kindergarten Screening** will take place the week of May 19 at the Curtis Memorial Library. If a child will turn 5 on or before October 15, 2014, parents need to call the superintendent's office at 319-1900 after April 1st for a registration packet and further information; registration information can also be found on the Coffin School website at <http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/cof/>

In February and March all students in Kindergarten, Grade 1 and multiage classes learned about **what kinds of behavior are considered bullying and what they can do about it.**

After listening to a story I read, we learned the importance of students who witness or experience any behavior that feels unwelcome, uncomfortable or unsafe to report this to a trusted adult at school as soon as possible.



Children were given the opportunity to draw and write about where they felt most safe and comfortable at school and where they might have had an experience that made them feel unwelcome or unsafe at school. Some classes also identified the most welcome or unwelcome spaces in the school on a simple map outline of spaces they go each day including the bus ride. Any area of concern that was identified by a child as still ongoing has been or will be followed up.

Overall I am pleased to report the majority of students had no unsafe or unwelcome experiences at school to report and when asked to name one safe space, they named their classroom as the most welcome and safe space as well as many other learning places in our school.

To reinforce the **importance of personal safety**, students in all classes will watch a puppet presentation by a team from SASSMM of Mid Coast Maine to learn about telling a trusted adult at home or at school about any unwelcome or confusing touch. A letter about these presentations was sent home last week. Children will also be bringing home handouts after each presentation.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.



# Kindergarten 2014 - 2015

## 2014-2015 Kindergarten Students

Coffin School is preparing for 2014-2015 Kindergarten registration. If you have a child who will be five years old on or before October 15, 2014, please call the Office of the Superintendent, on April 1 or later, at 319-1900 to request a registration packet and to schedule a screening date.

Kindergarten screening will be held at  
Curtis Library the week of May 19.

Parent information night is May 13 @  
6:30 PM in the Coffin Elementary  
School gym.

## Art Corner



Coffin artists stand proudly in front of their work at the recent opening night for the All District Art Show that is on display until Friday, March 28 @ the Curtis Memorial Library. In the picture above, Coffin School Art Teacher Mrs. Crosby welcomes students and their families to the event.



Coffin Music Teacher Mrs. Murphy leads one of our FANTASTIC annual spring choral concerts. Many thanks to all of you who were able to attend and support your children - it means a lot!

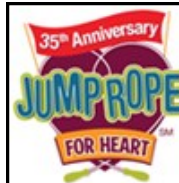


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Director of Transportation and Facilities, Paul Caron, presents the proposed facilities budget at a recent Board meeting. The proposed Coffin facilities budget for FY 2015 includes security upgrades, increased library access for Coffin School, and acoustic treatment in the cafeteria. For regularly updated information on the budget, visit this site: <http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/budget-2014-2015/>



Mrs. Peck-Moad introduces members of the South Bristol Spin Drifters jump rope demonstration team who performed at an all-school assembly to kick-off Jump Rope for Heart.



March - "Comes in with vast winds. The oaks roar loud on the bay, the elms sing high over the house all night, the sun rolls out of the ocean like a golden ox-cart wheel and March comes in like the Lion.."

- Robert P. Tristram Coffin *Coast Calendar* 1947- book images and text reprinted with permission of Down East Books



First Grade teachers Brenda Shea and Ashley Martin lead the first of three after writing instruction workshops. Mrs. Shea and Mrs. Martin both attended a Teacher's College Reading and Writing Project Kindergarten/First Grade literacy workshop at Columbia University and are sharing out some of the strategies they've learned and are implementing in their classrooms.



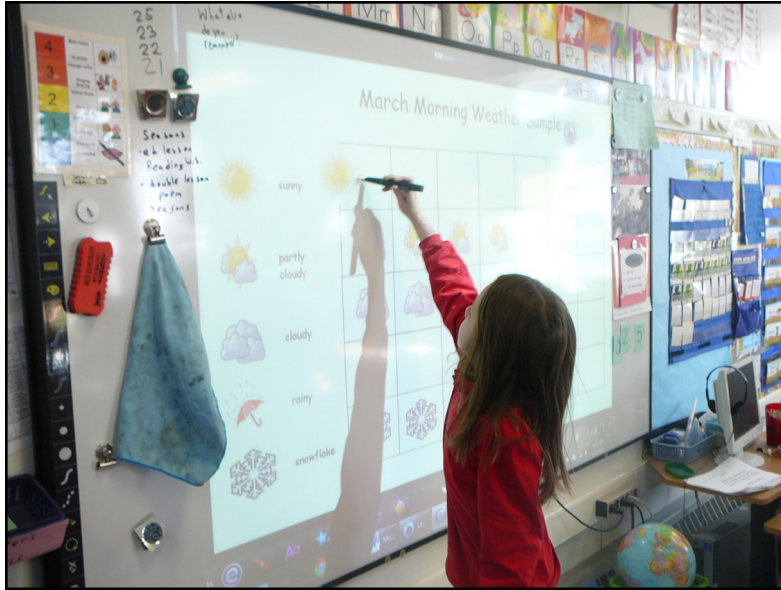
One of our Kindergarten Professional Learning Groups works is developing a 'crosswalk' between the Brunswick Curriculum and the Common Core State Standards.



Teachers, parents and students dressed as their favorite storybook characters greet families as part of the kick-off to our March Reading Challenge. The theme is, "Don't Bug Me, I'm Reading." In the coming weeks you'll notice the book characters hanging in our hallways created by our talented parent volunteers



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The  
Leader of  
the Day  
guides  
their  
peers to  
track the weather in a  
Weather Graph, part  
of synthesizing a  
Math unit on graphing  
and data.



***IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR:  
BRUNSWICK KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION***  
*If you have a child who will turn 5 by October 15  
of this year please call the Office of the Superintendent  
on April 1 or after at 319-1900.  
<http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us>*

**Please, keep our students Safe!**

The road in front of the school is CLOSED to all traffic except busses. As you know, we have students crossing all day long from our two Kindergarten classrooms, Art and Music in the mobile units. You may park in the lot behind the mobiles, or by the BJHS. Thank you for keeping our children's safety first.