# COFFIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL September Newsletter

Issue One - 2014-15 September 2014

Hello Coffin School Families,

I hope this finds all of you well.

I'd like to start by congratulating everyone on such a successful transition into the 2014-15 school year. In my conversations with students, teachers and parents it sounds like things are going exceptionally well. This is a credit to all the proactive work on class placements as well as to all the efforts on the part of families and staff to set our children up for success. Thank you all!

As of Friday, we currently have enrolled 173 Kindergarten students, 170 First Grade students, and 35 Second Grade students for a total of 378. This is 13 more students than at this time last year (makes sense as we've added one full classroom of second graders) and we expect that our numbers will increase slightly as the year evolves.

I've been visiting all our our classrooms and am continually impressed by how engaged students are already in creating the structures and routines that are essential for social and academic success. Children are exploring print and building their stamina in reading workshops, they're actively participating in interactive math lessons, they're singing, drawing, coloring, playing and are constantly learning about themselves and their peers. This is all in the context of very deliberate and collaborative planning on the part of our teachers and the positive effects are tangible.

We're well on our way and there's a fantastic year of learning ahead. We look forward to celebrating your child's progress throughout the year and hope to see all of you at our upcoming Open House on Thursday, October 2. This promises to be a fun, student-led evening when you can explore your child's classroom.

Happy Fall!

M.C.C.

Steve Ciembroniewicz, Principal sciembroniewicz@brunswick.k12.me.us

### Coffin Calendar

#### September

Tuesday, the 23 – CFC Teacher-Staff Appreciation Kick-Off Breakfast Monday, the 29th – Snack Shack Begins



#### October

Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> – OPEN HOUSE, 6:00-7:00 PM Saturday the 4th - Flu Clinic @ HBSS 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM 13th - 24th – Read-a-Thon Fundraiser with Celebrity Readers Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL, Professional Development Monday, the 13 – Columbus Day

Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> - CFC Meeting, 7:00 PM in the Coffin Cafeteria Saturday, the 25 – Coffin Harvest Festival & Winter Gear Give and Take, 2:00-4:00 PM

#### November

Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> – Veteran's Day

Saturday, the 15<sup>th</sup> – Coffin Family Gardening Day 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

The 11th -21<sup>st</sup>, Book Fair

Tuesday, the 18th - CFC Meeting, 7:00 PM in Coffin Cafeteria Tuesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> – Early Release at 1:10 PM, Parent-Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL, Parent-Teacher Conference Thursday & Friday, the 27th & 28<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Break

A very special THANK YOU to all our CFC Volunteers who helped make the start of school go so smoothly!



All K-5 staff attended an August workshop on differentiation that will continue with follow-up sessions throughout the year.





"The little library with a big collection."

The Coffin Library is tucked away in a little mobile unit near the cafeteria, but don't let the size fool you. It is loaded with

almost 20,000 books for K-2 children! With so many books surrounding them, children may find it hard to find the right book to take home. Parents and grandparents are welcome to volunteer to help children find books they will enjoy and to help keep all the books in order. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ruth Wilson at 319-1955 or at <a href="mailto:rwil-son2@brunswick.k12.me.us">rwil-son2@brunswick.k12.me.us</a> and she will contact you.



First grade and multiage children have begun to check-out one book each week. In November, they may begin to take out two books. Kindergarten children will begin their weekly check-out September 29. Please be sure to help your child return the book in the special library bag provided. These bags remind all of us to treat the books gently, away from snacks, liquids, crayons, and pets.

Each library class time is spent reading aloud great books for about 20 minutes and then followed with 15 minute browsing time, or as one wise kindergartener called it "choice time." It is wonderful to see the students so eagerly opening the books.

They are natural learners! Margy Soule, Librarian

Ruth Wilson, Library Assistant

Superintendent Perzanoski addresses the entire Brunswick School Department staff as part of the kick-



off to the year. In addition to our K-5 focus on uninterrupted blocks of high quality instructional math and literacy time, the District will be working on proficiency-based learning, teacher/administrator evaluation, and many other initiatives throughout the 2014-15 year.

## <u>Upcoming CFC Events and</u> Programs

Gardening Day at Coffin School Saturday, September 20 9:00 am—11:00 am

Snack Shack Opens Monday, September 29 before school

4th Annual Read-a-Thon Fundraiser October 13-24

Stay tuned for information about participating in our biggest fundraiser of the year by sponsoring our students to read books!

Monthly Bike/Walk to School Friday, October 17

October CFC Meeting
Tuesday, October 21
7:00 pm in the Coffin School
cafeteria
Free childcare available during the
meeting from BHS students

Coffin Harvest Festival and Winter
Gear Give & Take
Saturday, October 25
2:00 pm—4:00 pm
Free fun for the whole family!

### **KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US!**

Join our mailing list: communityforcoffin@gmail.com Join our (private) Facebook group: Community for Coffin (CFC) Check out our website: www.brunswick.k12.me.us/cof/



# Welcome to Our New Staff!



Ms. Jordan is so excited to join Coffin Elementary School as a Kindergarten teacher! She has taught in Massachusetts, Portland and Gray. She enjoys cooking, gardening and hiking in her free time.



Mrs. Carrie Thomas joins the Kindergarten team at Coffin this fall. She comes to us from the Bangor area where she has been teaching Kindergarten for the last 8 years. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her family, walking her dog and going to the beach. Carrie is honored to be part of the Coffin Community!

I grew up in Northern, NY but my Dad was from Maine and so I spent many summer vacations here. I finally decided to move to Maine three years ago and have loved every moment! Before coming to Brunswick I was working as a teacher at a special purpose preschool and



before that worked at an elementary school as an ABA therapist in Massachusetts. I am excited to be working at Brunswick and looking forward to a great year in the Connections Program!

Keira Monahan is very excited to be joining the Coffin staff as a First Grade Teacher. She has spent the last two years working as a K-3 teacher at the Center Drive School in Orrington, Maine. She is originally from Camden, Maine.





My name is Elizabeth Chabot and I was born and raised in Maine. I am a certified K-12 teacher with an Master's degree in Teaching and Learning. I most recently taught in the Westbrook School Department and am so happy to be in the Brunswick School Department this year. My favorite part of teaching is to see the excitement and wonder in student's eyes. When I am not teaching I like to travel and spend time with family and friends. I cannot wait to see what this year will bring for my Kindergarten students and me.

Rachael Bradley, Coffin School Counselor, and Lori Watson, our Behavior Interventionist, speak with incoming parents during our Kindergarten 'Family Day' about how to set children up for successful transitions into school with a focus on the beginning of the day. A special thank you to families for saying goodbye in the lobby - it's great to see so many students showing off their independence!





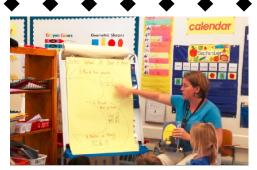




One of our school and District goals is to ensure that students attend school. Regular attendance is one of the cornerstones of school success. We are informally participating in the larger 'Count Me In' (http://countmeinmaine.org/site/) and will be more closely tracking attendance data throughout the year.

Kindergarten students participate in a 'Three Ways to Read a Book' mini-lesson.

These include read the words, read the pictures, and retell a story.





First grade students begin launching the writing workshop. During the first few lessons they learn procedures that will help them quickly grow as independent writers.





Kindergarten students participate in a whiteboard session for the second Math in Focus lesson of the year. The target here is learning how to write numbers and then matching different amounts.





First graders are engaged in guided exploration with some Math in Focus manipulatives. After identifying different shapes, their task was to make and identify new shapes by combining blocks.





After reading 'Going on a Lion Hunt', kindergarten students embark upon a 'Coffin School Hunt' in advance of writing a class book (their second this year!).

