

COFFIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

October Newsletter

Issue Two - 2014-15

October

Hello Coffin School Families,

I hope that this finds all of you well.

It was truly a pleasure seeing so many of you at our recent Open House. We hosted over 1,300 people that evening and it was a treat to see students showing off their school to so many of their extended family members.

Our school year is now well underway and daily structures and routines are in place. In particular, math, reading and writing workshops are established with a District-level initiative of 60 minutes of uninterrupted math and 90 minutes of uninterrupted literacy workshop every day (not necessarily 90 minutes in a row!). The goal of this 'uninterrupted' or 'protected' time is to ensure that classroom teachers have the majority, if not all, of their students present for direct academic instruction, every day. As you might imagine, given our Response to Intervention (RTI) programming, our Special Education programming, and the many ongoing programs (Fire Safety, etc...) that are a part of an early elementary school experience, this requires LOTS of thoughtful scheduling and collaborative planning. The fact that this is working so well is a credit to our staff's creativity and flexibility.

One of the many keys to making this so successful is thoughtful differentiated instruction. Carol Ann Tomlinson (differentiation guru...) defines this as, "[an] approach to teaching that advocates active planning for and attention to student differences in classrooms, in the context of high quality curriculums." Teachers know their students well as learners and tailor instructional experiences to match a variety of learning styles and levels of readiness. I'll plan to include additional information in upcoming newsletters, if you're interested in learning more.

We'll hope to see you at this weekend's Coffin School Harvest Festival (a fun afternoon!) and then again at our upcoming November conferences.

Happy Fall!



Steve Ciembroniwicz, Principal
sciembroniwicz@brunswick.k12.me.us



Coffin Calendar

October

13th - 24th – Read-a-Thon Fundraiser with Celebrity Readers

Monday, the 13 – Columbus Day

Tuesday, the 21st - 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

Friday, the 31st, Kinderkonzert



November

Monday, the 3rd, Picture Retakes

Tuesday, the 11th – Veteran's Day

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

The 11th -21st, Book Fair

Friday, the 21st, Walk/Bike to School

the 17th – the 26th, Parent-Teacher Conference Window

Tuesday, the 18th - CFC Meeting, 7:00 PM in Coffin Cafeteria

Tuesday, the 25th – Early Release at 1:10 PM, Parent-Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, the 26th – NO SCHOOL, Parent-Teacher Conference

Thursday & Friday, the 27th & 28th – Thanksgiving Break

December

Wednesday, the 10th, Early Release, Dismiss at 1:10

Friday, the 12th, Walk/Bike

Tuesday, the 16th, CFC

The 22nd - January 6th, Holiday Break



Students in Mrs. Martin's Grade 1 classroom work on a differentiated math challenge. They are demonstrating individual understandings on their whiteboards and testing solutions together on the interactive whiteboard.





Know	Want to know	Learned
About the season of Fall / Autumn		
Leaves fall Leaves change colors Animals come out of homes Animals look for food Acorns fall Colder than in Summer Animals get ready to hibernate	What colors are leaves in Fall? Are plants alive or dead? What foods will be ready for harvest? What will the pumpkins look like that we planted last year? How do leaves change colors? Are acorns different colors/shapes?	Tomatoes were ripe (bright red) and also green. Pumpkins are still green. Some plants are losing their leaves and look dead (blackish). Birds were looking for food (acorns?). Leaves can be pink, purple, orange and red.



Students in Mr. Funderburk's class had an opportunity to ask questions, observe, collect data and make conclusions in a study of the attributes of Fall. Their outdoor exploration included collecting seasonal items to help to answer questions posed. Also accompanying the study - A KWL chart (what we **Know**, what we

Want to know and what we **Learned**)

Welcome to Our New Staff!

Minh Canfield - One-Year .5 Title 1 Math/Literacy Teacher

Hi, this is Minh Canfield. I grew up in Hue, Vietnam, but have lived in Greater Portland since 2001. Prior to moving to Maine, I was a teacher in Vietnam. After arriving here, I finished the Extended Teacher Education Program (ETEP) in 2008 and have worked as a Math teacher in the Portland Public School District for several years. I finished my Master's Degree in Teaching and Learning in 2014. I've had a lifelong passion for teaching children, so I feel so grateful being able to work at Coffin Elementary School. You may be interested in listening to my recent interview on New Mainers Speak: www.newmainersspeak/archive-show/023-minh-canfield to know more about me.



Behavior Support: News You Can Use

Lori A. Watson, *Coffin School Behavior Interventionist*



In thinking about this quotation and how it relates to behavior, I re-worked it

...get ready to be amazed at the wordsmithing... ***Be the change that you wish to see in a child's behavior***

There's no way around it – any change requires effort, sometimes a little, sometimes a lot, but here are a few helpful steps:

Teach

Be clear and concise about your expectations

Tell & show exactly what you want to see

Check for understanding

"At the grocery store, your job is to be close enough to me that we can reach out and hold hands; show me how close we need to be."

Model

Identify the problem and what you want your child to do instead, then *model* that behavior in make-believe or real situations – let your inner-actor take the stage, explicitly name what you're doing and don't be afraid to be dramatic about what you want them to do so that it makes an impression.

"I'm frustrated! I'm going to take three breaths to calm myself. I can do it."

"It's okay for me to feel mad, but it's not okay to hurt anyone. I'm going to count to ten."

"I'm proud of myself for calming down."

Acknowledge

"Catch 'em being good"

"Wow, what safe walking!"

The amount of positive feedback should outweigh the amount of negative feedback by four to one (four positives to every one negative) so when your child follows your direction or tries a strategy you've taught them, let them know, and while you're at it, give yourself a pat on the back for *being the change*.





Library News

"The little library with a big collection."

Library News October 2014

The library is excited to announce that you will be able to buy discarded library books at the Harvest Festival here at Coffin School on October 25th from 2 - 4 PM. The books will cost \$.25 each. These books are duplicates of books coming from the consolidation of Jordan Acres, Longfellow and Hawthorne libraries into the Coffin library, books that may be slightly damaged, or books that may be above the level of our students.

We now have all of our classes checking out books. We hope you will enjoy the book that your child brings home with him/her.

Happy reading!

Margy Soule, Librarian

Ruth Wilson, Library Assistant



In the past week, Coffin School has generated \$10,228 in donations through Donors Choose with some financial assistance from U.S. Cellular. 14 teachers benefited from equipment, books, supplies, technology and resources provided through donors on this non-profit website. This is a tribute to our teachers' initiative as well as to the generosity of donors from our community and beyond.



Lyndon Keck of PDT Architects presents a variety of options for building construction and/or renovations at a recent District Facilities meeting. There will be another Brunswick School Board Facilities Workshop on Wednesday the 22nd @ 6:00 PM.



Coffin School is fortunate to host a number of Brunswick High School students who volunteer their time weekly in classrooms.



Attendance Update - Year-to-Date

District - 96% Average Daily attendance
Coffin School - 96% average Daily Attendance



A Message from Mrs. Bradley

Greetings to all K-2 parents, I have enjoyed meeting all 174 of our new Kindergarten students at Coffin and reconnecting with first and second graders during my class visits in September and now in October. Children have welcomed my puppet friend Baxter the Bear as a new or familiar furry friend. As School Counselor or more often referred to as the "Feelings Teacher" by students, I will visit each class monthly throughout the year teaching a variety of lessons based on strengthening friendship skills, communication, and problem solving skills. Children will soon be taught how to use "I messages" to express feelings and avoid conflict. Kindergarteners are learning there are many words to express feelings and that our faces and bodies tell others a lot about how we feel. First graders are learning that feeling words are great helpers. Through books and role plays students were reminded that feeling words can help adults and classmates better understand us as well as help us solve problems peacefully. Small groups for children focusing upon developing friendship skills and coping with family changes have been created through teacher recommendation and parent requests. I continue to provide short term counseling available to all children as well as ongoing consultation with parents and teachers. If you have any questions or concerns related to your child's social/emotional well-being please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me.

*Rachael Bradley M.S. Ed.
Coffin School Counselor*



Community for Coffin

Community for Coffin (CFC) would like to thank the countless volunteers and community members who have volunteered in September and October and have helped get our year off to a great start!



Upcoming CFC Events

Our 4th Annual Read-a-Thon Fundraiser has begun!

October 14-24

Thank you for participating in our biggest fundraiser of the year by sponsoring our students to read books!

October CFC Meeting

Tuesday, October 21

7:00 p.m. in the Coffin School cafeteria
Free childcare available during the meeting from BHS students!

Bus Driver and Crossing Guard Appreciation Day

Friday, October 24

Monthly Walk/Bike to School Day

Friday, October 24

****This is rescheduled from October 17****

Coffin Harvest Festival and Winter Gear Give & Take

Saturday, October 19

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Free fun for the whole family!



Coffin School receives Bronze Level of Distinction

5-2-1-0 Let's Go! To School!

Brunswick ME, October 3, 2014: We are pleased to announce that Coffin School has been awarded the Bronze Level of Distinction for the 2013-2014 school year for its success in the 5-2-1-0 Let's Go to School! program supported by Mid-Coast Hospital and the Brunswick School District.



Coffin is being recognized for its outstanding commitment to healthy eating and active living for children and their families. Schools are recognized as a Let's Go! Bronze-level Site of Distinction when they have demonstrated that they are implementing school-wide all five of the Let's Go! evidence-based priority strategies that support healthy eating and active living.

Let's Go! is a nationally recognized program designed to increase healthy eating and active living in children from birth to 18. Let's Go! is centered on the common message of "5-2-1-0". Five fruits and vegetables every day, less than two hours of screen time, one hour of physical activity and 0 sugary drinks each day are all messages Coffin School across many set-snacks for purchase each day for healthy eating, recess equipment variety of activities, Colors week for children to try, classroom non-food rewards, physical activity for all students every day and healthy food options and low fat milk in the cafeteria. Coffin participates in local, state, and national initiatives that support healthy and active living like Jump Rope for Heart and All Children Exercising Simultaneously (ACES) day. All of these activities involve the both school and district staff, The Community for Coffin parent group, parents and community partners. For more information about 5210 Let's Go! Visit www.letsgo.org.

- 5** or more servings of fruits & vegetables
- 2** hours or less recreational screen time*
- 1** hour or more of physical activity
- 0** sugary drinks, more water & low fat milk

*Keep TV/Computer out of the bedroom. No screen time under the age of 2.



At a first grade Professional Learning Group (PLG), Mrs. Sciacca, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Monahan team up with Special Education teacher, Mrs. Doherty to discuss the components of their classroom 'Literacy Toolboxes.' Below, Special Education teacher Lee Darrell joins Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Rickards and Mrs. Strait as they put the final touches on the Kindergarten writing rubrics.



Firefighter Josh teaches one of his monthly lessons to three classrooms of Kindergarten students. Combining classes for these sessions is one of the ways we're able to leverage our schedule to ensure maximum literacy and math times.



Mrs. Sapp leads her class in a math motion break. Observing her for the week is a student teacher from the University of Southern Maine.





Nurse's Notes



Respiratory Illnesses and Schools



Each year, millions of people become ill due to respiratory illnesses. Some of the more common respiratory illnesses in schools may include influenza, pertussis, and the common cold. The common cold can be caused by many viruses including enteroviruses, one strain of which (EV-D68) is responsible for several outbreaks in the United States in 2014. Schools should be aware of these illnesses, how to prevent them, and what is reportable.

Diseases:

Influenza is a viral illness characterized by a fever with a cough and/or sore throat. Everyone is at risk for influenza, but certain individuals are at higher risk of serious complications.

Pertussis is a bacterial illness characterized by coughing fits and paroxysm which may lead to vomiting or gagging.

Common colds can be caused by many different disease agents, but are usually characterized by cough, runny nose, sneezing and sore throat.

Enterovirus D68 is one of many viral causes of the common cold. This strain appears to be more severe than some of the other cold agents, and can cause wheezing and difficulty breathing in addition to the common cold symptoms.

What schools can do:

Promote vaccination among students and staff. Influenza and Pertussis are both vaccine preventable diseases, and high vaccination rates can reduce transmission within schools.

Stay home if you are sick. This applies to both students and staff.

Influenza – individuals should stay home until 24 hours after fever resolves without the use of fever reducing medications.

Pertussis – individuals should stay home until they have completed 5 days of antibiotics.

Colds – there is no standardized recommendation for returning during/after a cold. Individuals with colds are typically infectious for 4-7 days after symptoms begin.

Promote good respiratory hygiene. Encourage students and staff to cough into their sleeve, or tissues rather than hands. Dispose of used tissues in wastebaskets. Frequently wash hands with soap and water. Alcohol based hand gel is **NOT** effective against enteroviruses.

Increase environmental cleaning. Frequently clean high touch surfaces, like door knobs, desks, and light switches.

What to report:

Outbreaks. All outbreaks are reportable in Maine. In a school, an outbreak is defined as $\geq 15\%$ absenteeism when the majority of individuals out are due to illness. Outbreaks should be reported through MEDMS.

For more information on outbreak reporting through MEDMS see <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/influenza/maineflu/educators.shtml>.

Pertussis should be reported to Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821

For more information:

Influenza website: www.maine.edu

Pertussis website: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/vaccine/pertussis.shtml>

Enterovirus website: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/enterovirus.shtml>

Orderable materials: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/order-form-wn.shtml>

Disease consultation and reporting line: 1-800-821-5821

Non confidential questions and information can be sent to disease.reporting@maine.gov

