

COFFIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

November Newsletter

Issue Four - 2014-15

November 2014

Hello Coffin School Families,

I hope that this finds all of you well.

It was a pleasure seeing so many of you at our recent Harvest Festival and then last weekend at the annual All Elementary Craft Fair. Lots of fun things happening this time of year and a credit to our wonderful Community for Coffin parent group.

As you all know, it's also the season for our first round of parent/teacher conferences. I took a few moments today to check in with both students and adults about hopes for conferences. Below are a few of their thoughts.

A theme with the adults is the hope that conferences will serve as one of the many ways of strengthening all important home/school relationships. Teachers are excited for the opportunity to share those, "Look what I can do now!" moments and to continue developing understandings about where we are in our learning and where we're heading. It's all a process and I was reminded of how even though it's still very early in the developmental stages for many of our younger students, there is still so much to celebrate.

Many students told me they were most proud of specific work they wanted their families to see - writing, sounding out words, spelling, reading books - and two themes emerged. The first was how hard they'd been working (that 'growth mindset' - love it!) and the second was how far they had come since the beginning of the year. One student said to me, "I want my mom and dad to be impressed with how much I've changed...I'm doing better penmanship and I've bumped up to paper with more lines." Another told me, "I wasn't such a good writer and now I am...I've learned how to make my characters come alive." It's conversations like these that bring me a deep sense of satisfaction and gratitude for all that's happening at Coffin Elementary School.

We'll look forward to meeting with you at conferences and wish you and your families a relaxing and joyful Thanksgiving holiday.



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

Coffin Calendar

November

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 7:00 PM in Coffin Cafeteria

The 22nd - January 6th, Holiday Break

January

Thursday, Friday, the 1st & 2nd, Holiday Break

Friday, the 16th, Walk/Bike

Monday, the 19th, Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, the 20th, CFC 7:00 PM in Coffin Cafeteria

Wednesday, the 28th, Early Release, Dismiss at 1:10



Mrs. Dunn and Mrs. Sapp lead our first school wide 'Coffin Cares' assembly with an official celebration of our 'Buddy Bench.' Here's a [hyperlink*](#) to an article in the *Times Record* on Coffin School's Buddy Bench. (*complete link on page 2)

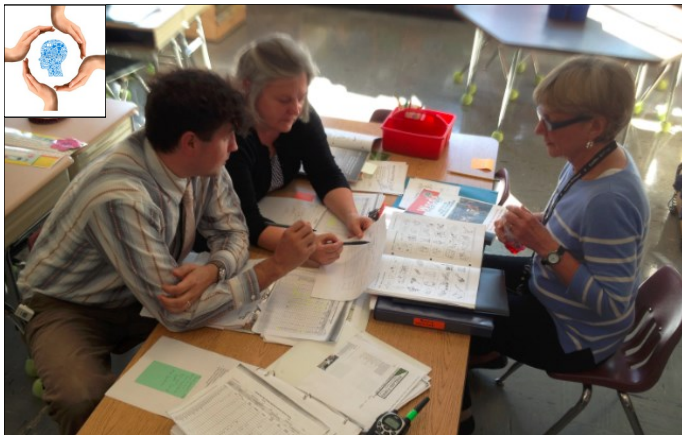




Ms. Lowe leads a lesson on animal classification in her multiage classroom.

The first grades attended their first Kinderkonzert performed by members of the Portland Symphony Orchestra on October 30th at Crooker Theater. The students enjoyed selections from Beethoven and heard stories of his life. The performance centered on woodwind instruments.

We will see three more performances throughout the year. Thank you to those of you who included extra payment to help out a student in need!



One of our first grade / multiage Professional Learning Group (PLG) teams analyzes sight word data.



Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Sciacca present their second in a series of literacy differentiation workshops based upon their work last summer at Teacher's College in New York City.



In response to teacher requests for non-Special Education classroom interventions, Tracy Dearborn, our Coffin School Occupational Therapist, has created fine motor kits for each Kindergarten class that teachers can integrate into academic environments. This early classroom-based intervention often has positive impacts on fine motor skills such as writing and self-care (jacket zipping, etc...).

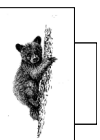


Tessa Kingsley from Coastal Pediatric Dentistry collects candy from students as part of this year's 'buy back.' This year approximately 100 students participated and 128 pounds of candy were donated to be sent to our troops. As part of this buy back, Coastal Pediatric Dentistry is making a donation of \$256 to Coffin School.



*Complete Buddy Bench link: http://www.timesrecord.com/news/2014-07-14/Local/Buddy_bench_helps_create_friendships_at_Coffin_Sch.html

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The wheels on the truck...

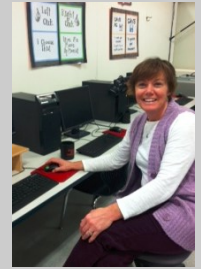


Emma Farris wins a ride to school in a fire truck as part of a Brunswick Fire Department raffle.

Welcome to Our New Staff!

Julia Campbell - Interim Technology Teacher

My name is Julia Campbell. I've spent the past fifteen years teaching Elementary technology integration in Massachusetts. I love the beautiful Brunswick/Harpswell area and decided to substitute teach for the Brunswick School system this fall. I was **more than** thrilled when I got a call to help out at Coffin School for the month of November as the Technology Integration Teacher. On a personal note - I have three children. Two have finished college, and one is a junior in college. It's amazing how the time flies and your kids all grow up so fast. Speaking of time, I just finished my third day here, and I can't wait to start day four! I hope I can continue helping out well past November, since time does fly and I won't want to leave beautiful Brunswick.



Library News

"The little library with a big collection."

Library News November 2014

A reminder to parents: If your child receives an overdue notice from the library because s/he forgot to return his/her book(s) on the regular library day, you do not need to wait until the next week's library class to return the book(s). Have your child return the book(s) as soon as possible. The library is open for students to exchange books from 9-9:30 each morning. Your child only needs his/her teacher's permission to come to the library at that time.

Happy reading!

Margy Soule, Librarian

Ruth Wilson, Library Assistant

msoule@brunswick.k12.me.us or 319-1955

Mrs. Campbell teaches a lesson in the computer lab.



What we sometimes see as
a failure to **BEHAVE**
properly.

is actually a failure to
COMMUNICATE
properly.

www.notjustcute.com

Attendance Update - Year-to-Date



District - 95.9% Average Daily Attendance
Coffin School - 95.25% Average Daily Attendance

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5 2 1 0.....LET'S GO!

In Physical Education for the last month we have been introducing 5210 Let's Go. This national initiative is sponsored by Access Health at Mid-Coast Hospital and the school department.

Let's Go! is helping kids and families eat healthy and be active. We understand it's important to have a consistent message about healthy habits where you live, learn, work and play. So we partner with teachers, doctors, child care providers, and community organizations to help share the same four healthy habits of "5 2 1 0" everyday:

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

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

We will be sharing information with you on a regular basis about the program and healthy choices you can make with your families at home and in the community. If you have any questions about 5210 Let's Go please visit their website

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**For our
students'
safety,
PLEASE
do NOT
drive in
front of
the school.**

Differentiation Update

Kristina Andren, School Psychologist

Susan Jarmuz-Smith, Psychology intern

- ◆ Teachers at Coffin Elementary School are constantly learning new ways to differentiate academic instruction, tasks, and activities in the classroom. Our students come to school with different
- ◆ levels of knowledge, skills, interests, and understanding, and these vary across time and topics. Teachers use assessment results and
- ◆ daily observations to get a better understanding of their students' readiness, interests, and learning preferences, and they use this information to adapt what and how they teach. For example, a teacher may vary the amount of
- ◆ time he or she spends reviewing a given topic, provide a demonstration and extra opportunities for students to practice a new task, and assign students to small groups to complete a project. These are all examples of academic differentiation in the classroom, and ways that our teachers are working hard to help all students reach
- ◆ learning goals.

THE DIFFERENTIATED
CLASSROOM



Playground Safety, the Coffin Way

Many of our families use the playground outside school hours and we've received several requests for the guidelines followed during the school day. Hopefully this will be helpful and thank you all for assisting us in promoting safety on our playground at all times.



BE A BAXTER'S HELPER

Be Gentle- each person is responsible for keeping others safe from physical harm. Use gentle tagging and words to remind others not to grab, tackle, and push. Use personal space.

Be Kind – take care of others feelings by solving problems using “I” statements and Rock Paper Scissors, tell the truth, and take short turns on equipment if there is a line. USE THE BUDDY BENCH! Invite others to join in games and welcome EVERYONE!

Be Safe – respect others and use equipment the right way. Follow the rules of any game/activity. Stay in the boundaries/fenced area of the playground. Alcoves are off limits, if a teacher can't see you don't go there!

Woodchips are for safety; leave them where they are put! Small sticks are OK as tools, but not weapons. Large sticks should be removed by duty teachers.

Be Responsible – pick up equipment and return it to the recess boxes, help with cleanup, use the trash cans. Use the bathroom BEFORE recess. Don't touch plants or small trees!

SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT

SLIDES – go down feet first on bottoms. No going UP slides. Make sure the end of the slide is clear before starting. If there is a large puddle at the end of the slide it may be marked off limits by teachers.



CHAINS – any number of children can go on them, the more weight the less it moves!



SILO – only 3 children at a time, feet up to the third rung down, no higher. No sitting on the top!

PULL UP BARS AND HORIZONTAL LADDER MONKEY BARS - may not sit or stand on top of either piece. On Pull up Bars MAY sit on two lower to enable climbing to hang on highest bar. No hanging by knees on the highest bar. If can't get up there

alone do NOT LIFT. Equipment is to use your own muscles!

BASKETBALL HOOPS – do not stand under the basket when others are shooting, get ball and move to the side quickly.



SWINGS – No walking in front or behind someone swinging. No jumping off swings. NO UNDERDOGS! Ok to be on belly on the swing, NO STANDING on them however.

Edited 9/17/2014

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Community for Coffin

"Making a large school feel like a small community"



It has been a very busy past few weeks for the CFC Community with our biggest fundraiser the 4th Annual **Read-a-Thon** including a week of celebrity readers, Bus Driver and Crossing Guard **Appreciation Day**, our annual celebration of autumn at the **Harvest Festival**, a **Halloween Candy Trade-In** with Coastal Maine Pediatric Dentistry, the **All Elementary School Craft Fair**, and many other activities!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped make these events a HUGE success!



Our 2014 Harvest Festival was a huge success thanks to all the efforts of our Community for Coffin parent group and countless other volunteers.



The bus drivers and crossing guards were each presented with an appreciation booklet from the Coffin students and a surprise breakfast.

