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Birch Team

Dear Parents,

Important Dates It is hard to believe we only have 19 instructional days left! As we gear for the last sprint, here are some important dates to remember. Also, please review the strike system with your child. We have completed a very successful first field trip to Bowdoin Coastal and we want the rest to be the same. We have a fantastic group of kids and we are here to help each other. As always, please contact your child's advisor if you have any concerns.



Kelly Dorr Math Advisor **Team Leader**

Wendy Arzate **Social Studies**

Advisor

Jayme Seheult Science Advisor

Carrie Sullivan Language Arts Advisor

Stephanie Hill Pete Stevens Language Arts Math Advisor Advisors

Andrew Kosak Language Arts Advisor

Richard York Special Education Advisor

Tatiana Lera World Languages Advisor **Newsletter Editor**

May Husky Herald



Language Arts

We have just started our last novel study where students have chosen one of the following books: *Flipped*, *Zach's Lie*, *The London Eye Mystery* or *Roll of Thunder*, *Hear My Cry*. Students are required to complete the assigned reading and be ready to participate in their book discussions. We are already off to some very lively discussions!

After our novel study, we begin to look at persuasive techniques in advertising in more detail including Aristotle's teachings of Pathos (emotion), Ethos (credibility) & Logos (logic). The unit will finish with student-made commercials.



Carrie Sullivan room 313 csullivan1@brunswick.k12.me.us 207-319 1930



Hello from room 302!

For the past couple of weeks, the students have been learning about poetry. The unit primarily focused on figurative language identification and usage.



We started most classes with a close reading of Sharon Creech's novels Love That Dog and Hate That Cat. Then, we analyzed famous poems referenced in the novels, in addition to some of my favorites. The students spent writing workshop time creating shape (or concrete) poems, "I am" poems, and snapshot poems, to name a few. We also conferenced and collaborated to brainstorm ways in which to revise writing to enhance the meaning or feeling of poems. The unit came to fruition in the form of a

Poem Packet.

Next up, we will be reading lqbal

by Francesco D'Adamo as a class. This is a fictional book about a real Pakistani boy named Iqbal Masih who became an activist against abusive child labor. This book will push students to confront the harsh realities of social issues and drive academic curiosity.



Stephanie Hill room 302 shill@brunswick.k12.me.us 207-319 1930

Science

We conclude our Science Exhibit projects this week and begin those presentations. We have started our Ecology Unit, which began with a trip to Bowdoin Coastal and will conclude in June with a trip to Reid State Park- this is always my favorite unit...

Social Studies

Our study of Ancient Mesopotamia continues this month. This week we focused our discussions, readings and activities on the Epic of Gilgamesh. We had lively discussions centered around heroes and elements of the hero cycle in literature. The kids had super connections with modern day heroes from their personal reading books, t.v., and movies.

Weekly Geography number 19 was completed in class this week. Later this month we'll be moving on to our study of Ancient Egypt. Enjoy the sunshine.



Jayme Seheult room 310 jseheult@brunswick.k12.me.us 207-319 1930



Wendy Arzate room 312 warzate@brunswick.k12.me.us 207-319 1930

Math



Working on percents is always fun since it brings up great conversations about loans, taxes, and discounts. Once kids realize how much a loan actually costs a person, there are many light bulb moments. We are currently learning about rates, ratios and percents. During our extra period 8 math class, we are using that time to

discuss the metric system. Making license plates is a project we tackle that involves accurate measuring using centimeters and millimeters. Who knew measuring could be so difficult!

Thank you to all who are available to come along on June 14th (rain date June 15th) on the math trail. We still have room for more! It's a great day to watch

these kids use math in every day life. Let me know if you are able to tag along. I promise, the kids do all the work. No math skills needed from adults on that day.



Kelly Dorr room 306 kdorr@brunswick.k12.me.us 207-319 1930



Meet the Team: Robyn Belanger



Hi Everyone! I'm Mrs. Belanger and I am a Math Strategist here at BJHS. After teaching 5th grade for 15 years I moved here to the Junior High last year and am thrilled to be a part of a great team of teachers. I am a member of the Birch Team but also work with students on Bailey and Great Diamond Island. I currently live in South Portland, ME but my family and I are moving to Yarmouth in the next few weeks. I truly enjoy spending time with my two boys, Aaiden and Nolan, and my husband Scott. As a family we love to travel, being outdoors, and spending time at the beach or near the water. In my free time I love to paint and be creative.

As a math strategist and math teacher it is my goal to educate our youth and bring math to life. I love when I can share how math is used in our everyday lives and see the spark of interest in the eyes of my students. Success in math and in school starts with good organization and being prepared.

I look forward to a great rest of the year!