
COFFIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Issue Five 2012-2013

February/March 2013

Dear Coffin Families,

It's the early hours of what promises to be a sunny Sunday and I've just conducted a 'Google' search to confirm the first day of spring. The dancing Irish moniker reminded me that today is St. Patrick's Day. Believe it or not, my family and all have Irish citizenship (with a last name like 'Ciembroniewicz' sometimes even I forget...).

In any case, it's amazing to me that we are now in the third trimester of the school year and that spring is peeking around the corner. Invariably, March begins an extra busy time with trimester assessments, conferences, upcoming placement and Kindergarten screening (to name a few) all taking place in the upcoming weeks. With so much activity, I hope you take a few moments to reflect on the year thus far. I trust conferences were a time for you and your child's teacher to celebrate successes. March is a wonderful time of year to see how much students have grown and to project how much more they'll learn in the remaining months of this school year.

Spring is also budget season. In short, the philosophy we're bringing into this process is the goal of building capacity while at the same time exercising fiscal responsibility. We are proposing to add a behavior interventionist at Coffin School as well as a Response to Intervention stipend (former will focus on direct intervention and professional development and latter will help with tracking academic and behavior data). At this point, all other staffing levels remain unchanged.

The coming weeks promise to be filled with budget news and I encourage you to follow the process and perhaps even attend the meetings (K - 8 programming meeting @ 6:00 PM on Wednesday, March 20). Placement information and more Kindergarten screening updates will be out the first week in April.

Tá súil agam go bhfuil lá breá agat!
(Wishing you the finest of days!)



Mr. C.
ciembroniewicz@brunswick.k12.me.us

Coffin School Activities

March

- 5 Community for Coffin Meeting - 7:00 PM
- 14 Grade 1, Planetarium
- 15 NO School, Professional Development
- 22 Walk/Bike to School
- 25 Spring Pictures
- 28 Student Services Parent Information Meeting - Paul Austin, Special Ed. Director - 6:30 PM @ Hawthorne

April

- 1 Open Kindergarten Registration - Fall 2014 at 319-1900
- 2 Community for Coffin Meeting
- 11 Early Release 1:00 PM Dismissal
- 12 Teacher Workshop - NO School
- 15-19 Spring Break - NO School
- 25 Fire Safety and Full Moon
- 26 Walk/Bike
- April 29-May 3 Book Fair

May

- April 29-May 3 Book Fair
- 7 CFC Meeting
- 9 Kindergarten Parent Info Night
- 15 KinderKonzert
- 16 Fire Safety
- 17 Walk/Bike
- 20 - 23 Kindergarten Screening at Curtis Library

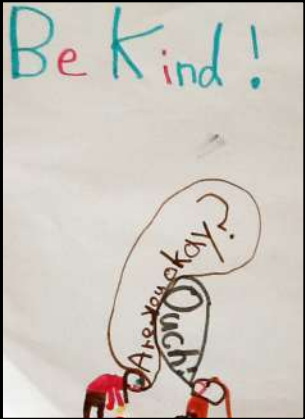


As a culminating activity for the informational writing unit, Cecilia presents her research and a diorama to her classmates, followed up by Q/A.





Supporting Positive Behaviors Throughout Coffin School



We continue to grow our school wide positive expectations. At a recent Coffin Cares assembly we rolled out our Coffin School Pride Song and common expectations for voice levels.



Mrs. Heald leads us through a highly interactive voice levels introduction.



Coffin School Pride Song

R-E-S-P-E-C-T!
Treat others as you want to be.

H-O-N-E-S-T-Y!
I shall never tell a lie.

Bax-ter, are you listening?
I'm Responsible!
I'll do the right thing!

Gentle, safe and kind—that's me!
The Coffin Way;
It's the way to be!

Mrs. Kavanaugh and Mrs. Heald lead the Coffin School Pride Song (sung to the tune of Aretha Franklin's 'RESPECT')



4	Red voice	
	Outside	
3	Orange voice	
	Singing Sharing	
2	Yellow Voice	
	Working	
1	Green Voice	
	WHISPER	
0	Blue Voice	
	No Talking	



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



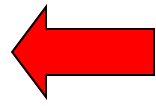
Calling for All 2013-2014 Kindergarten Students

Coffin School is preparing for 2013-2014 Kindergarten registration. If you have a child who will be five years old on or before October 15, 2013, please call the Office of the Superintendent 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 20.

Parent information night is May 9 @ 6:30 PM in the Coffin School gymnasium.

Volunteers Needed! If you'd like to help out, please call Mary Ann Wilson at 319-1950



Congratulations to Mrs. Murphy and to all the Coffin students for such a wonderful choral concert!



Superintendent Perzanoski joined the March Community for Coffin meeting to present on the FY 2014 budget, the proposed construction projects and District initiatives.

The Facilities Committee recently held a meeting at Coffin School which involved tours of Coffin and BJHS as well as a presentation by PDT Architects. There's a article on this meeting in the *Falmouth Forecaster*.

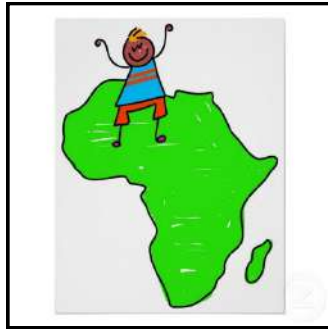




Art Room News

By Mrs. Sharon McCormack

Mrs. McCormack's art classes have celebrated the "art of giving" by sending art supplies and their art to children in a Kenyan Community. Brunswick resident, Lynn Ouellette, has been our contact with this African community. She sojourns to this welcoming community just about every year. Mrs. McCormack's classes have traveled with her through their art and Ms. Ouellette's blog about her Kenyan experience. She has communicated with our students through pictures and texts in her blog.



You can visit the blog at <http://plopsymd.com/2013/01/13/young-artists-send-greetings-from-brunswick-maine-to-kenya/>.

Ms. Ouellette's writing and pictures reveal the appreciation for the much needed art supplies and joy to have received the endearing art efforts of our students to visually communicate a joyful hello from America. Perusing through Ms. Ouellette's blogs beyond the site page noted above offers the reader wonderful insight into this community's needs, enriched lives, and the effervescent human spirit found among its people.



All first grade classes recently attended a KinderKonzert featuring Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*.



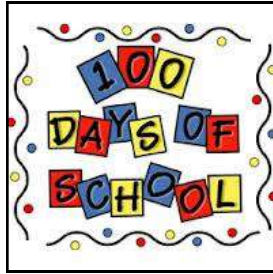
Food Service Director, Scott Smith, joins volunteer Denise Zavitz to hand out fresh fruit samples during the cafeteria's Colors Week.

Colors Week intersects with our daily Coffin Snack Shack.



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We recently celebrated the 100th day of school with a variety of fun learning activities!



Library News

Mrs. Ruth Wilson

March Newsletter - Library

Coffin School celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 4th with our Community Read Aloud. Guest readers came into each classroom to read to the students. A wonderful time was had by all! This event is sponsored by the United Way Success by 6, the Coffin library, and the CFC who provided wonderfully costumed greeters as well as tasty treats for the readers. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a great success!

We'll celebrate reading next month with our Spring Reading Challenge. The fun theme will be "Be a Smart Cookie...Read". It will run from April 22nd to May 12th. We'll have an assembly on May 17th to mark our success. Watch for student reading charts to come home, fill them out, parent(s) sign them, and return them to school. Let's see if we can meet a goal of 600 charts turned in during the three weeks!

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



Signs are delivered for our 5-2-1-0 Story Walk. Undaunted by the lack of snow, Mrs. Peck-Moad was able to creatively use the fence to hold up the pages.



5201 Message

from Mrs. Peck-Moad and Mr. Hutchins

Jump Rope for Heart will be happening the week of March 18th. This is a fundraiser for the American Heart Association and we will be partnering with HBS to do it at the same time. Here is the link to the website with information on JRH.

<http://www.kintera.org/site/c.dkLRKbOWLjK4E/b.8180513/k.BD61/Home.htm>

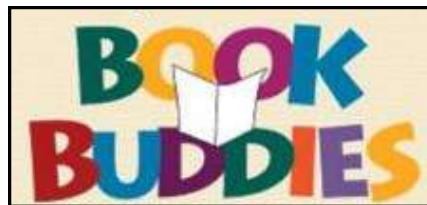
We will be showing the introductory video to classes next week and sending home the fund raising envelopes. We will spend 2 weeks during classes practicing jump rope skills, using a variety of equipment and then will have the actual event the week of March 18th during PE classes. This is not an after school event, nor is raising money mandatory. Each family can decide for themselves what level of involvement they will have. Because of the demographics of our population I will not be emphasizing a school fundraising goal or the prizes available. Parents can make this choice with their children. This is their first introduction to JRH and it will be a celebration of heart health, helping others and skill development.



I would like to invite parents to come in to their child's PE class the week of March 18th and volunteer. We always need rope turners! If you could put this information on the website and facebook page and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about this event!



Mrs. Shea's students bring their lunches to her classroom for a fun and fancy 'RAH' luncheon (that would be 'Reading at Home').



Mrs. Sampietro's students from BJHS team up with Coffin Readers as part of our Book Buddies program.



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Community for Coffin

<http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/cof/community-for-coffin/>



Community for Coffin would like to thank everyone who has participated in recent events like our Movie Night and Mitten & Glove Drive in January; Colors Week, the Teacher/Staff Appreciation team's "warming afternoon" and Walk/Bike To School Day in February; and the Community Read Aloud in March. And of course we're continually grateful for the ongoing help of the Snack Shack, cafeteria, Helping Hands, garden and other tireless volunteers. Thank you for helping to make Coffin School such a terrific community!

Speaking of our terrific community, we're going to need lots of new volunteers to take on large and small roles next year in order to keep our momentum going! It's not too early for returning parents to start thinking about how you might participate in the CFC in 2013-2014, and we encourage everyone to start talking to friends and neighbors with incoming kindergartners about getting involved. Leadership roles that we may need to fill include co-chairs for Helping Hands, Teacher/Staff Appreciation, Read-A-Thon and All Elementary School Craft Fair, as well as a few CFC board positions including a co-president. We will be happy to answer any questions and look forward to talking more about next year's CFC throughout the spring.



Movie Night

Thanks to CFC volunteers Meg Austin, Kim Bolshaw Noetzel and Hallie Prince (and A/V expert Jay Prince) for making our Movie Night such a fun family evening!



Colors Week

Colors Week was a collaborative effort of the 5-2-1-0 program, the Food Services Department, the Coffin School teachers and staff (especially our fantastic PE teachers!), and the CFC. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a fun, healthy and colorful week for our students!



Community Read Aloud

Thanks to the Coffin School staff and parents who warmly welcomed our volunteer readers for the annual Community Read Aloud!



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