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# COFFIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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Issue Six 2012-2013

April 2013

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Dear Coffin School Families,

I hope this finds you well.

The other day I was walking through this hallway and caught up with a first grader who was admiring the hanging displays. We both remarked how much we liked the characters and he said, "You know, the people who made these put in a lot of effort. We're lucky that they did this for us." Needless to say, I wholeheartedly agreed.



It's moments like this that simply lift my spirits and leave me in awe of the wisdom that surrounds me. It struck me that this young man was keenly aware both of the efforts that go into quality outcomes and the profoundly positive impacts of our supportive community.

Rushing to collate some photos and notes for this newsletter, I was pleasantly reminded how connected Coffin School is to not only our core community of students and families, but to the larger Town of Brunswick. We are fortunate to proactively collaborate with a diverse coalition of individuals and agencies - all of whom positively impact our daily experiences at Coffin and ripple out into the community. It is both reassuring and inspiring to know that there are so many people we can count upon.

We most certainly are very lucky.

Most appreciatively,

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

## Coffin School Activities

### April

- 25 Fire Safety and Full Moon
- 26 Walk/Bike
- April 29-May 3 Book Fair

### May

- April 29-May 3 Book Fair
- 1 All Children Exercising Simultaneously (ACES)
- 3 Coffin School Night @ the Sea Dogs game
- 7 Community for Coffin Meeting
- 9 **Incoming** Kindergarten Parent Info Night
- 10 Brunswick's 'All Species Parade'
- 14 All Student Art Exhibit and Let's Make Art Event
- 15 Kinderkonzert
- EARLY RELEASE DAY
- 16 Fire Safety
- 17 Walk/Bike
- 20 - 23 Kindergarten Screening at Curtis Library
- 26 Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

### June

- 4 Grade 1 Step-Up Day
- 12 Community for Coffin BBQ
- Projected Last Day of School - 1:00 PM dismissal

### September

- Monday the 2nd - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday the 3rd - First Day of School



A big THANK YOU to Craig Worth, Director of Grounds, as well as to the Board's Facilities Committee for helping us move forward with our playground fencing project. It looks great and both staff and students are appreciative.

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



The Brunswick Fire Department brought the ladder truck over the other day to reinstall the flagpole rope which was broken during strong winds. Impressive!



## Coffin School's Spring Reading Challenge Begins!



Spindleworks artists coach classes on how to carry their banners advance of the May 10 All Species Parade.



Detective Mike Andreotti from the Brunswick Police Department joined a recent staff meeting to offer feedback and answer questions about our ongoing lockdown drill practice.



Some fantastic Reader's Theater presentations going on in first grade classrooms this month



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# Kindergarten

## 2013 - 2014

### Continuing the Call 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 for incoming K students is May 9 @ 6:30 PM in the Coffin Elementary School gym.



*"When we try to pick anything out by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe."*  
- John Muir



## Library News

Mrs. Ruth Wilson

**Be a Smart Cookie....Read!**

### Spring Reading Challenge

The spring reading challenge is off to a great start! For three weeks, children are keeping track of their home reading and listening. Our school-wide goal is to have 600 home reading charts returned. We can do it!

To encourage this home reading endeavor, wonderful Coffin parents produced colorful book characters which are decorating the hallways. On April 23, students were greeted by Thing One and Thing Two, the Cat in the Hat, Little Red Riding Hood, Pigeon, and Duckling. Also, the children saw photos of some of staff's favorite books. Not to be missed is the wall display of the very contented mouse from *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*.

We'll celebrate the conclusion of the spring reading challenge with a sing-along led by our own Mr. Ciembrowicz on May 17. This enthusiastic celebration of books is all possible because of the talented Coffin parent volunteers, and because of all the caring families who share their love for books with their children. Many, many thanks to you all!

[msoule@brunswick.k12.me.us](mailto:msoule@brunswick.k12.me.us) or 319-1955



Mrs. Sciacca's class celebrated their progress as writers with a recent Author's Celebration. Each author read their published story to an audience of 27 parents, grandparents, and other important guests then shared cookies and lemonade. We concluded the event by viewing the movie we made in collaboration with Mr. Larrabee and Mrs. Martin - *The Coffin Way*. We couldn't be prouder of these young authors!



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# Community for Coffin

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



Happy spring from Community for Coffin! Since the last newsletter we've been busy collecting coins for the Mid Coast Hospital Teddy Bear Club, collecting returnable bottles and cans for CLYNK's Maine Recycles Championship, getting the school gardens ready for spring, helping to kick off the library's Spring Reading Challenge with storybook character artwork and costume clad greeters, welcoming Helene Coffin and community volunteers who shared poetry in classrooms for our annual Poem in Your Pocket Day, and safely guiding students on Bike/Walk to School Days. And don't forget our ongoing projects like the Snack Shack, cafeteria helpers, Helping Hands and Box Tops for Education.

We're looking forward to our spring Book Fair (April 29 to May 3), a Sea Dogs baseball game with our HBS friends on May 3, Teacher Appreciation Week May 6-10, Mrs. McCormack's All Student Art Exhibit and Let's Make Art Event on May 14, and other fun events to celebrate the end of the year including the Coffin School Cookout on the evening of June 12 (with a rain date of June 13). CFC funds brought the Northern Stars Planetarium to first grade classes in the Coffin School gymnasium in March, and will support field trips and special programs for every class before the end of the school year. We will also help to welcome incoming kindergarten families at Parents Information Night on May 9 and Kindergarten Screening on May 20-23.

**We could not bring all of these important and exciting programs to the Coffin School community without the tireless help of our volunteers and the strong support of Coffin School staff, families and friends. THANK YOU!**

Will you help us keep the momentum going in 2013-2014? It's time for returning parents to start thinking about how you would like to participate in the CFC next year, and we encourage everyone to start talking with incoming kindergarten families about getting involved. Please help us spread the word!



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