

COFFIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December Newsletter

Issue Four - 2014-15

December 2014

Hello Coffin School Families,

I hope that this finds all of you well.

As we approach the end of the calendar year, December has provided us with lots of opportunity for reflection and celebration. As a Coffin School staff, we're reflecting upon and sharing all the work that's been happening to-date in our Professional Learning Groups (PLG's) and how this relates to our overall 2014-15 Coffin School goals. Lots of progress is being made all around and one of the clear takeaways is the significant positive impact of working together as a school and a larger community.

It would be hard to walk into Coffin School this week without noticing the overwhelming success of our ongoing food drive to benefit Midcoast Hunger Prevention. This is one of those tangible examples of how our school and larger community team up to make great things happen. Thanks to all who have contributed (and kudos to several anonymous donors who have provided additional items on the side so all interested students can pick something up and participate).

In my Monday morning announcements, I referenced the food drive and then thanked our Coffin School Community for the many ways in which we are generous with one another with a focus on time and friendships. I'd like to extend this thanks to all of you as well. We all benefit daily from being a part of a community where people are so generous with their time and where positive and collaborative relationships are the norm.

As we head into the holiday season, I hope that you're able to enjoy the gift of time with your families and that the new year brings you and yours peace, prosperity and health.

Happy Holidays!



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

Coffin Calendar

December

The 22nd - January 6th, Holiday Break

January

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

Thursday, January 8, Mrs. Lucas parent night

Thursday, January 8, Fire Safety

Friday, January 9, Coffin Family Movie night, 6:00-8:00 PM

Tuesday and Thursday, January 13 & 15, Multiage to the Artic Museum

Tuesday, January 13, Coffin Community Circle, 5:45-7:30 PM

Friday, the 16th, Walk/Bike

Saturday, January 17, CFC Bowdoin Hockey Game, 4:00 PM

Monday, the 19th, Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, the 20th, CFC 6:30 PM in Coffin Cafeteria

Friday, January 23, snow date for Family Movie night, 6:00-8:00 PM

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

Thursday, January 29, snow date for Coffin Community Circle, 5:45-7:30 PM



Mr. Hutchings very enthusiastically makes sure students cross the road safely!



Save the date!
Concert on Feb. 12.
9:30 AM and 2:00 PM

Both performances are the same.
Please plan on attending one,
as space is limited.



secondSTEP



Above - Mrs. Hunt leads a 'Second Step' social skills lesson in her Kindergarten classroom. These lessons are part of our focus on proactive positive behavior supports.

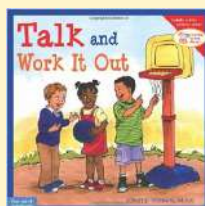
Right - School Resource Officer Tom Stanton joins us for a Thanksgiving-themed First Grade writing celebration. →

Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Emerson and Ann Schneider from MMA conduct their annual follow-up safety inspections. All reports were good!



A Message From Mrs. Bradley

During November students in Kindergarten, Grade one and Multi-age classes were introduced to conflict resolution skills - an important communication skill. Building on the theme of Friendship reviewed in October, students acknowledged that sometimes friends do not always get along. We talked about conflict as a normal part of life but learned there are choices students can make to keep their bodies and feelings safe.



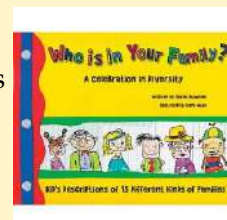
In Kindergarten we read and discussed Words are not for Hurting by Elizabeth Verdick or Hands are not for Hitting by Martine Agassi. Afterward, students role-played the many positive ways they can use their hands and words in school.

First graders listened to Talk and Work it Out by Cheri Meiners. Practicing the phrases "I Feel___", "When you___", "Next time please___" recom-

mended by conflict resolution experts, students role-played solving peer problems.

Multi - age students learned the basic steps of solving conflicts with peers: Calming down, Getting together, Taking turns Talking and Listening, Brainstorming for Ideas, Choosing a Plan and Trying it out. These skills take much practice and time to become second nature. Reinforcing peaceful problem solving at home may be helpful for your child and family. If you would like more information on conflict resolution strategies please contact me.

Currently, in December, the focus of classroom guidance visits K-2 has been on families and family diversity. Students are listening to and discussing books about families, viewing pictures of families all over the world. In a follow up activity, connections are made about the similarities and differences among their own families using miniature doll figures.



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



Title I at Coffin School

Here at Coffin School we offer a variety of reading and math support services to build and reinforce the academic skills of our students. After being referred by their classroom teacher, students can join small-groups of other students in order to work on the skills they need to be successful learners. Small-group work provides a great opportunity for our students to get specialized instruction that is specific to their needs and ability levels.



Math and Reading Support Staff: Lisa Martin, Eugenie Knowles, Doriane Asquith, Ann Havener, Minh Canfield, Larena Carten, and Lorraine Lamont

Winter Vacation Reading Tips

Reading over the winter break is crucial for your child to continue to grow as a reader. Though reading over the holidays is an enjoyable task, it's easy to get lost in the preparations and forget to keep children on a regular reading schedule during the break. Try to keep your kids reading for at least 15-20 minutes daily so that they return to school ready to read. Here are some extra ideas to work on those reading skills!



- ◆ Have your children read holiday cards when they are received in the mail, and let them write a message in outgoing cards.
- ◆ Let children read ingredients from holiday recipes while you bake together. It's a great way for them to learn measurements and temperatures.
- ◆ Set aside time for kids to "show off" their new reading skills to visiting relatives. Children love being the focus of attention, and grandparents are usually more than willing to see their progress.
- ◆ Make special winter or holiday readings a tradition. Find a special book and have each member of the family read from it at the same time each year.
- ◆ Even if no books make your child's wish list, make sure you give at least one as a gift, and encourage him to read it, or read it aloud to her.



--adapted from <http://www.osceola.k12.fl.us/>





Community for Coffin

"Making a large school feel like a small community"

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered or supported the various CFC events over the past month!



The fall book fair was a hit with parents and students alike! We earned enough scholastic dollars to give each student a \$5 voucher towards a book in the spring book fair.



Thank you to those who contributed to the Teacher Luncheon during conferences!



Snack Shack is open every morning and many students are taking advantage of the healthy snack choices!



Thank you to the many parents who helped tend our Coffin gardens on Saturday, November 22!



Upcoming Events

Friday, Jan. 9th, 6:00pm—Coffin Family Movie Night & Teddy Bear Club Drive

Friday, Jan. 16th—Walk/Bike to School Day

Saturday, Jan. 17th, 4:00pm—Coffin/HBS to Bowdoin College Men's Hockey Game

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

