

COFFIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January Newsletter

Issue Five - 2014-15

January 2015

Hello Coffin School Families,

I hope that this finds all of you well.

Administratively, January has been a month of budget preparations, facilities considerations and checking-in on our progress to-date on 2014-15 goals. At Coffin School one of our three schoolwide goals for this school year is to, *"Collaborate actively with families and the larger school community to further define and communicate our vision for Coffin Elementary School."* As part of this work, a Coffin Identity Committee has formed and they are meeting regularly to identify short-term and long-term focus areas.

One longer-term focus area that has come to fruition much sooner than expected is further establishing Coffin School's role in the larger community as a 'go-to' resource in the early childhood realm. Last week saw the first in a three-part series sponsored by our Coffin Community Circle (CCC) with a focus on behavioral strategies to support parent-child relationships. Staff hand-delivered invitations before and after school to Brunswick preschools and made LOTS of connections. The evening proved to be highly rewarding and informative for all involved.



On February 3 from 5:45 – 7:00 PM we'll be hosting the second CCC event and look forward to welcoming local pediatrician and parent Dr. Alyssa Goodwin. Dr. Goodwin will be leading an interactive discussion she's entitled, *"What's Up Doc? How Can I Make the Best Decisions for my Child Regarding Sleep and Routine?"* The evening promises to be fun and enlightening with snacks, childcare and door prizes. If you're available, please join us – we'd love to see you there.

Here's to a 2015 filled with learning opportunities!

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

*all three goals listed on page 4

Coffin Calendar

January

22-28, Arts Are Elementary Multia-
ge, Susie Westly Wren – Every
Drawing Tells a Story
Wednesday, the 28th, Early Release,
Dismiss at 1:10 PM



February

Monday, the 2nd FOOD PLAY 1:45
Wednesday, the 4th GR 1 KINDERCONCERT 9:00-10:30 AM
CROOKER
9th – 26th SASSSM, all grades
Tuesday, the 3rd, Coffin Community Circle 5:45-7:30 PM Café
& Gym. Snow date is Feb. 10.
Thursday, the 12th WINTER CONCERT 9:30 AM AND 2:00
PM - **please choose one**
Friday, February 13th, snow date Winter Concert, 9:20 AM or
2:00 PM, please choose one
Friday, the 13th WALK/BIKE
16-20, Winter Break
Tuesday, the 24th, CFC meeting, 7:00 PM
Friday, the 27th, Grade K-5, Trimester Ends

March

Tuesday the 10th, Coffin Community Circle 5:45-7:30 PM Café
& Gym
Friday, the 13th, NO SCHOOL, Parent / Teacher Conferences
March 16th – April 7th, AAE Robin Brooks – Classroom, Com-
munity and Citizenship, Grade 1
Tuesday the 10th, Coffin Community Circle 5:45-7:30 PM Café
& Gym
Tuesday, the 17th, CFC meeting, 7:00 PM



First-graders
made snowmen
by imagining
they were look-
ing a snowman
right in the eye,
and drew them
from a very close
perspective.
They painted the
background with
watercolor.



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

Art Corner

First graders made bundled-up penguins and their accessories by cutting out lots of geometric shapes! They created their



own textured paper to cut from, and also used fabric and wood pieces for adornment. They learned about tints - colors mixed with white -- and created frosty winter skies in the background.



First graders created textural owls after drawing from owl photographs. All were created to look like they were at night, backlit by the moon or surrounded by sparkly stars. Some reflect the owl's feathery texture with torn paper; others were created with styrofoam printmaking, and some were creatively embellished with oil pastel designs and patterns.

Multi-agers painted regal creatures in the style of British portraiture. They learned that a portrait is a picture of someone from the shoulders up, and focused on the face. They looked at cat and dog photos for inspiration, and chose two analogous colors.



Connecting with our Brunswick Community



As part of our Winter Celebration, the kids made cards for our local police and firefighters to let them know they appreciate their hard work in our community (link to our Social Studies unit!). We were super excited that our celebration, which included roughly 80 first graders, was a huge success!



- ◆ First-grade students work on 'how-to' books during writing workshop.
- ◆ Their yellow writing folders are a rich resource filled with drafts of ongoing stories, current writing goals in student language, pictures for inspiration, alphabet writing charts, editing checklists, personal word lists and other tools of the trade.



Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Sciacca lead the third in their ongoing series of writing differentiation workshops.



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Welcome New Staff!!

Dear Coffin Community,

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Nina Bosso. I have been working as a reading support and Language Arts teacher at the Junior High School for the last eight years. Currently, I am also working at the Coffin School as Mr. C's administrative intern. I will be working with the Coffin staff and students up until April, focusing specifically on math universal screening as part of RTI A. I am quickly learning about all the amazing things happening in the Coffin Community. I look forward to working more with the students and staff, as well as getting to know many of the families.



If I can be of assistance in any way, or if you have any questions, please feel free to email me or call.

Kind regards,
Nina Bosso
nbosso@brunswick.k12.me.us

Library News

Calling all willing volunteers/artists! We are looking for some parent volunteers who would be willing to draw a book character that we could hang up in our hallways during the Spring Reading Challenge (March 23rd through April 12th). Please check with Sign-Up Genius <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094baaab2ba4fe3-hanging> for the characters we still need and sign up for your favorite one! You may check out the book in which you find the character from our library and we will provide the white poster board and other materials if you wish. The characters should be 18"-24" tall, double sided, colorful, and signed by the volunteer. Ruth will laminate them so that we can use them for years to come. We have samples of characters which were drawn in previous years in the library if you'd like to look at some. **The due date for the hallway characters is March 16th.**

Thank you.
-Margy Soule and Ruth Wilson



Greetings students, families and staff members. My name is **Detective Tom Stanton** and I'm the new **School Resource Officer (SRO)** at Brunswick Junior High School and also supporting Coffin and HBS Elementary Schools. I have worked in law enforcement since 2004 and have been a member of the Brunswick Police Department since 2008. I received my undergraduate degree in Criminology from USM and recently completed my Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership and Human Resources at SNHU. I am a member of the BPD Honor Guard, Bike Patrol Unit, EVOC Instructor, Special Response Team member, and Special Olympics Liaison Officer. Also, since 2010 I have been involved with the YMCA sponsored eighth grade Freedom Tour trip. I am looking forward to my new assignment at BJH and welcome any question or concerns students, parents or staff may have. I enjoy spending my free time participating in most outdoor activities, especially camping, kayaking and hiking with my Golden Retriever, Rookie.

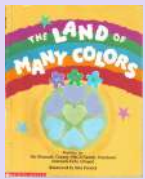
Attendance Update - Year-to-Date



District - 95.5% Average Daily Attendance
Coffin School - 94.4% Average Daily Attendance



Message from the School Counselor



This month, in honor of Martin Luther King, students are learning about diversity in all K-2 classes. In Kindergarten, we are reading The Land of Many Colors and talking about how the three different colored gingerbread characters in the story learn to stop fighting and live together peacefully only when they share and help each other. In a class activity following the reading, students begin to identify that they too have differences and similarities.

Grade One and Multiage students are listening to an interactive book, What I Like About Me, and learning to celebrate many different human characteristics (hair color, height, freckles) and preferences (food, clothing, sports). Following the reading and discussion, children in partners find their own similarities and differences and share these with the group. With help from the counselor, the importance of kindness and acceptance of differences is linked to our Coffin School expectations and the work of Dr. King.



Mrs. Bradley, M.S. Ed.
Coffin School Counselor



**Our Winter Concert
will be on Thursday,
February 12. There are
two performance times,
9:30 AM and 2:00 PM.
Please choose one to
attend, as space is
limited.**

***In case of a snow day, we
will hold the performance on
February 13.***

2014-15 Coffin School Goals

- Grow our individual and collective abilities to use effective, research-based tools and strategies in academic (RTI – A) and behavior (RTI – B) differentiation.
- Collaborate actively with families and the larger school community to further define and communicate our vision for Coffin Elementary School.
- Increase our school wide capacity to actively use academic and behavior data to generate questions, to monitor overall student progress, and to target instruction and professional development opportunities that directly increase student growth and achievement.

