

COFFIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

May Newsletter

Issue Eight 2013 – 2014

May 2014

Hello Coffin School Families,

I hope that this finds all of you well.

As we approach the end of May, I'm amazed at how quickly the school year seems to have passed. This is a time of year at Coffin School when our focus is both on our current and our future students. Relationships are at their most robust between existing students, teachers and families and as a school we're actively working with incoming families to facilitate a positive and rewarding transition into Coffin next fall.

In addition to this, teachers are working on class placements (letters will go out July 1) while taking stock of our accomplishments this year and developing plans for the year ahead.

This taking stock is happening both at the school level and at the District level. At our meeting earlier this week, principals and District administrators finally finished our shared reading (Hattie's *Visible Learning For Teachers* – frankly, a bit of a dry read, but some good information) with a summative activity focused on essential practices for improved educational outcomes. Per Hattie's research, these include:

- High expectations for all students
- Strong personal connections between students and adults
- Greater student engagement and motivation
- Rich and engaging formal and informal curriculum
- Effective teaching practices in all classrooms on a daily basis
- Effective use of data and feedback by students and staff to improve learning
- Early support with minimum disruption for students in need
- Strong positive relationships with parents
- Effective engagement with the broader community

School by school, we reflected upon our current practices, any obstacles / opportunities to further our work, and next steps. It was rewarding to collective-

ly share and hear from other administrators about all the progress we've made and that we will continue to make in these realms. It reinforced how very fortunate and proud I am to be a part of our Coffin School community. Good things are always happening!

Wishing all of you a nice Memorial Day weekend and I hope that we cross paths at some of our many events in the coming weeks.



Mr. Ciembroniewicz, Principal

Coffin Calendar

May

Thursday the 22nd - Multiage Feast and Festival of Learning

Monday, the 26th, NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 27 through Friday, May 29, Grade One Field Trips to the Coastal Botanical Garden

June

Tuesday, the 3rd, Tentative Step-Up, Grade 1 to HBSS

Friday, the 6th, Walk/Bike to School

Wednesday, the 11th, Grade 1 to the Bowdoin Music Theater

Tuesday, the 17th CFC Cookout (rain date the 18th)

Thursday, the 19th, projected last day



What do you get when you mix yellow, red, blue, and green finger paint? Finger paint mud in honor of spring -- and a chance to write words we know!



News from the School Counselor

Classroom visits by Mrs. Bradley in April were focused on promoting student Aspirations and developing students awareness of the many kinds of work that people do in a community.

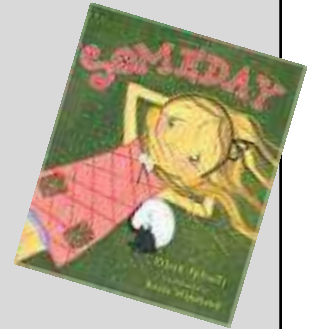
Kindergarteners learned about the many different kinds of workers we have at Coffin School who teach as well as make sure our school is a safe and comfortable place to learn. We learned that all jobs are important to have our school function well. Taking turns looking at different "tools" gathered from different staff members, children guessed the job titles and names of staff members from the nurse's stethoscope to the custodian's wrench.

In our class discussions we discovered that to do these jobs these grownups had to do a lot of learning and practice and many went to a special learning place called college?!

In the same theme of aspirations first graders looked at posters of community workers then listened to a story titled SOMEDAY by Eileen Spinelli about a child dreaming into the future. Students identified their own developing

strengths, interests and talents on a checklist then drew pictures of their dream jobs or hobbies. Many beautiful drawings described their hopes of becoming anything from firefighters and farmers to artists and rock stars.

During this month of May in my final class visits we have been focused on closure and transition to help prepare for moving on to the next grade level here at Coffin or on to Harriet Beecher Stowe. Student social growth is evident in classes as they solve Adventure Play cooperative group challenges.



Flying kites as part of our studies of motion and spring weather!



Sure signs of spring!



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

Publishing Celebrations

Mrs. Erb, Mrs. Martin, and Mrs. Sciacca hosted a Literacy Celebration to showcase their students' non-fiction writing. The students worked for three weeks to research, write and edit their teaching books and they were very proud to show off their hard work. Thank you to the families, friends and Coffin staff who took the time to come by and share in this amazing day!



A student in Mr. Funderburk's classroom reads her All About Cooking book for parents and classmates during a Publishing celebration just before spring break

Children's Book Week May 12 – 18



Children's Book Week May 12 – 18

Celebrate this special week by taking the quiz below, and best of all enjoy reading a book with your child every day. Enjoy!

-Mrs. Soule and Mrs. Wilson, **Coffin Library**

The original name of Curious George was

- A. Fifi
- B. Ringo
- C. Bobo
- C. Bob

True or False: A young Eric Carle thought of writing a book called A Week with Willy the Worm when his editor suggested he use a caterpillar instead.

True or false: Maurice Sendak was planning to write a book called Where the Wild Horses Are, but since he could not draw horses very well, he changed it to Where the Wild Things Are.

Sendak's wild things were inspired by

- A. his nightmares
- B. his love for cartoon monsters
- C. his aunts towering over him and saying they were going to eat him up

Margaret Wise Brown the author of Goodnight Moon is buried on what Maine island?

- A. Monhegan
- B. Vinalhaven
- C. Peaks
- D. Cranberry Isle

Correct Answers: 1. a. 2. True 3. True 4. c. 5. b.



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Before sharing with all staff, one of our Kindergarten Professional Learning Groups reviews the final version of a comprehensive motion unit they've developed that integrates the Brunswick curriculum and the Common Core State Standards into a Universal by Design (UBD) for-



Math in Focus

A Math in Focus trainer leads a staff development session at Harriet Beecher Stowe School during April's early release day. One major focus was on differentiation - giving students of diverse abilities multiple ways to take in information and to demonstrate their unique understandings - and another was on the importance of helping children to develop their abilities to speak the 'language of mathematics.'

Put A Poem In Your Pocket



Helene Coffin and Kathy Kerber—Poem in Your Pocket Day



NWEA
Northwest Evaluation Association

Mrs. Doriane Asquith coordinates the second-grade math

NWEA assessment at Coffin School.



Al Miller visited with Mrs. Lucas & Mrs. Hunt's Kindergarten. He shared lots of funny poems that had the children laughing and rhyming along with him. He also invited some up to read the poem they had in their pocket.



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