

COFFIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Issue One 2012-2013

September/October 2012

Dear Coffin Families,

I hope that this finds you all well.

Today is a big day in our household - my son and daughter turn ten-years-old. It's been fun to see how excited they are to move from 'single digits' to 'double digits' and it also amplifies my awareness of how quickly time passes.

Time has flown by at school, too, and it's hard to believe that we're approaching mid-October. September has been a wonderful month of building productive structures and routines while at the same time establishing hopes and dreams for the year. In my visits to classrooms I see energetic staff, engaging lessons and lots of smiles. Learning at Coffin School is ongoing and fun.

One of the many things I value about joining the Coffin Community is just that: the sense of community. The structures, routines, hopes and dreams that we create in our short time together are part of a foundation that will take our students not only through this school year, but set the groundwork for a lifetime. Strong bonds between school, family and community are the basis of that foundation and I sincerely appreciate all the communication and collaboration that keep things running smoothly. Many thanks in advance for your continued active engagement in your child's learning.

Our work together can be challenging, is profoundly rewarding and is all based upon a common commitment to our children. What a privilege it is to be here.

Please keep in touch and have a great month.

Appreciatively,



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

Coffin School Activities

October

- Thursday, October 11, Picture Day
- Saturday, October 20, Flu Clinic at HBS
- Friday, October 19, Walk/Bike to School
- October 1 to 12, Read-A-Thon
- Saturday, October 27, Harvest Festival

November

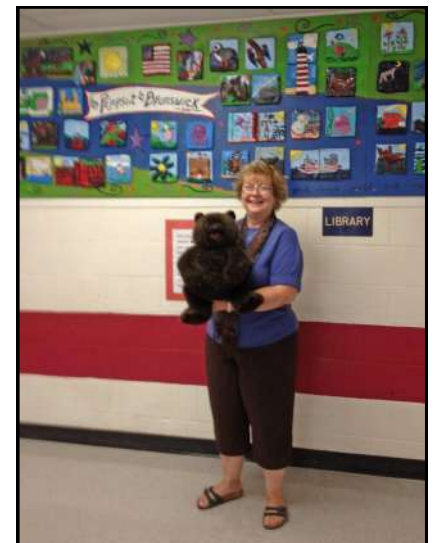
- Tuesday, November 6, No School, Election Day
- Wednesday, November 7, CFC Meeting
- Monday, November 12, No School, Veteran's Day
- November 15-21, Book Fair
- Tuesday, November 20, **Early Release**, Conferences
- Wednesday, November 21, No School, Conferences
- Thurs/Fri, November 22 & 23, No School, Thanksgiving
- Tuesday, November 27, Kinderkonzert for Grade 1

December

- Tuesday, December 4, CFC Meeting
- Wednesday, December 12, **Early Release**, Professional Dev.
- December 24—31, No School, Holiday Break



Coffin Cares



Mrs. Ruth Wilson and Baxter Bear greet arriving students as they head to the cafeteria in the morning.



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5-2-1-0 Update

Tracey Peck-Moad, Physical Education Teacher

We are pleased to announce that Coffin School has teamed up with 5210 Goes to School, a program based out of the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center and the MidCoast Hospital in Brunswick.

5210 Goes to School is designed to promote healthy lifestyle choices for children, and their families. The program emphasizes the importance of eating right, exercise, less screen time and no sugary drinks. We have many events planned throughout the year including our Snack Shack which opened October 1. Your child can purchase a healthy snack for \$.25 every morning!



Walk/Bike to school day is coming up October 19th and we are excited to start the year out on a healthy note!



Mrs. Soule stands in our temporary library annex beside several crates of themed class sets that she's put together to support teachers at both Coffin School and Harriet Beecher Stowe School.



Author and Coffin parent Kate Egan reads her newest book, "Kate and Nate are Running Late" to a first-grade class.

Coffin Library News

Margy Soule, Librarian

Is there a favorite old book or series that you would like to see in the Coffin Library?

The Coffin and Stowe librarians are weaving together collections from Longfellow, Hawthorne, Jordan Acres, and Coffin. We do not have room to keep all the books that these four school libraries had, but we do not want to discard loved books either. Last year a Coffin parent mentioned to me that her family missed finding the Billy and Blaze books on library shelves. I was happy to let her know that Jordan Acres had that series, and I was able to bring these books into the Coffin collection.

Please let me know if you have a question about some of your family's old favorite books. Thank you!

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



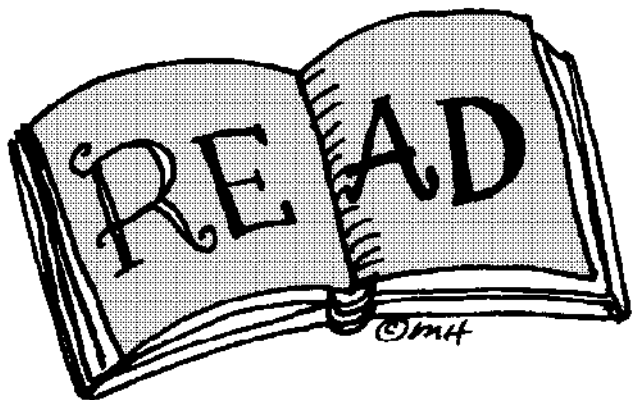
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Superintendent Paul Perzanowski delivers the Opening Day address to Brunswick School District staff. During his remarks, Mr. Perzanowski read a passage from his grandfather's 1936 book, "The Elementary School" and urged staff to, "name, create, and embrace" the opportunities that present themselves in the service of our students and our school community.

Did You Know? A Reading Tip

Berenice Knight, Reading Recovery Teacher



You must hear a word before you can say it or read it or write it. If you've never heard the word "enormous" you won't understand it when it's time to read it or write it.

A child's brain has a "word reservoir" and one of the jobs of a parent is to pour so many words into this reservoir that it overflows into speech and then into reading and writing.

By age four, children who have listened to many, many books and who have joined in many, many conversations have heard about **45 million words** from their families – and children who have not had these experiences have heard just **13 million words**. That's a 32 million-word difference equaling one year's head start for the advantaged child. *

There is no doubt that listening to books and conversations at home prepares a child for reading success in school.

*From 10 Facts Parents Should Know about Reading by Jim Trelease



Facilities Director Paul Caron, Coffin Head Custodian Carl Hanscom, Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Emerson (left to right) and myself on the annual August school safety inspection.



Mrs. Rickards works with an incoming Kindergarten student as part of the screening process. Kindergarten screening includes hearing, vision, developmental benchmarks, a parent interview and a brief observation.



Several of our staff including Mrs. Sciacca and Mrs. Hunt have had school projects funded through Donors Choose. You can learn more at: www.DonorsChoose.org



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Community for Coffin

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



Coffin parents Kate Kalajainen, Joy Prescott and Keisha Payson behind the counter at the Coffin Snack Shack. Before school, students can purchase healthy snacks here for twenty-five cents.