



Sheepscoot Valley RSU 12
March 2018
Superintendent's Report
Information, Recognitions, and Celebrations

Superintendent Report

For the passed six weeks, I have been participating with twenty-two other stakeholders from the Whitefield staff and community in an innovative approach to resolving concerns at Whitefield School. I have been very impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment to this project. Please see a press release about this project below. Thank you to Joan Morin for her voluntary commitment to this community project.

For Immediate Release

Contact: Joan Morin (joan.morin1@gmail.com)

School and Community Work Together to Resolve Concerns

The Whitefield Collaborative Problem Solving Project aims to create a cohesive group to improve school environment for students.

A new effort is underway in Whitefield to help bridge the gap and ease tensions between the community, school employees, school leadership and the school board. The ***Whitefield Collaborative Problem Solving Project*** is made up of 23 members who have agreed to a new approach to deal with community issues raised over the past few months at various town meetings and events.

Among the concerns raised by approximately 80 people at a school forum this fall: bullying, perceptions of an unsafe school environment and lack of accountability for students and staff, lack of consistency when dealing with academics and behavior, and a lack of connection to the overall Whitefield community.

The purpose of the fall forum was to have an open dialog between the school leadership, community members, parents and school personnel. The goal of the forum was to set clear priorities for the school's future and to develop a plan to achieve the goals.

Joan Morin, Whitefield resident and former school board member offered her expertise in conflict management, in hopes of bringing the groups together. "I was very concerned that the differing factions in town were beginning to draw lines in the sand, where no one was going to come out unscathed. Individuals had determined what the solutions should be without full consideration of everyone's position and interest," Morin explained.

Morin, who is a Labor Advocate with the Maine Education Association, has been promoting and encouraging districts across the state to use a proven collaborative process, when dealing with matters of conflict and disagreement.

The Whitefield community, with Ms. Morin's assistance and facilitation, has put together the ***Whitefield Collaborative Problem Solving Project***. Collaborative problem solving is a process conducted in a principled way that creates effective solutions while improving relationships and understanding.

Twenty-three project members have volunteered to be part of the project; 3 RSU 12 Administrators (Superintendent, SPED Director, Whitefield Interim Principal), the 3 Whitefield School Board members, 4 Whitefield community members, 5 Whitefield parents, 3 Whitefield parents whose children do not attend Whitefield School and 5 Whitefield School staff members.

"The collaborative problem-solving approach is an exciting, innovative way of bringing groups of stakeholders together to solve problems. It has proven to be successful in a variety of situations. We are confident that this approach will work for the Whitefield School Community. As champions of change, we are committed to embracing and implementing long-term change that will truly benefit our students," explained RSU 12 Superintendent, Howard Tuttle.

The collaborative process requires participants to be trained and to develop and agree to *Problem Solving Guidelines and Standards* prior to beginning the problem-solving process. All project participants have been trained in the process.

The process involves the participants to, identify issues, list their interest of the identified issue, brainstorm options for potential resolution and reach consensus on the desired option.

The first issue identified and agreed to was; *How, when, what and to whom do we communicate the work and progress of the project?*

The project members reached the following consensus on communication:

Project participants will hold a public meeting to provide a progress report to all constituents. This shall be done once the project members have reached consensus on a few of the identified issues. The newsprint document, minutes summary, guidelines and standards document and the list of project participants will be posted to the district's website.

After each project meeting the newsprint document and the minutes summary will be posted to the district's website. Quarterly project reports will be provided to the newspapers, town and district newsletters and the Wildcat Weekly. Newsletters will include a link to district postings.

Ben Marcus, owner of the *Sheepscot General Store and Farm*, who volunteered to be a member of the Project says he joined the project because, "The store is a hub in the community where I have the pleasure of talking to many people and the well-being of the Whitefield school is an important topic to me. I have been hearing about the school from students, parents, teachers and community members; I pick anybody and everybody's brain who is willing to have the discussion, including many people who have chosen to send their kids to other schools for varying reasons. There is a negative perception about the Whitefield school. I'm there first to understand the scope of the issues and then I am there as an active participant to help to figure out solutions and help with accountability. "

By working through this collaborative problem-solving approach, problems are seen as belonging to everyone; with hopes that ultimately, solutions will benefit all...our students, staff, and community.

Curriculum and Technology Report

Students in grades 3 through 8 are preparing for State testing. The testing window begins March 19. Students are tested in Reading, Writing, and Math. This data is examined by the State as part of the State's evaluation of school effectiveness. RSU 12 also uses evidence of learning from classroom assessments and

from district-wide assessments such as the NWEA to inform decisions about instruction, intervention, professional development, and curriculum resources.

On February 28, a facilitator from the Maine Resilience Building Network (MRBN) delivered a presentation entitled Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Toxic Stress to the administrators, teachers, and Ed Techs of RSU 12. We learned about the impact trauma has on the brain, behavior, and learning. We examined some of the State and local data about the prevalence of trauma-inducing events and risk factors in our students as well as their perceptions of their value in our schools and communities. We also learned about ways in which we can support students and help them develop resilience. Reaction to this presentation was extremely positive, and we are working to bring MRBN back to continue our work to ensure our schools are trauma-informed. If you'd like more information, visit <http://maineaces.org/wp/>. If you want to know more specifically about how communities can help assist in this work, see <http://maineaces.org/wp/community/>. In addition, there is a resource library about trauma and resilience at <http://maineaces.org/wp/resource-library-2/>.

Westport Island Student Count Information

	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Brunswick School Department													1		1
9-12 Lincoln Academy											2			2	4
9-12 Wiscasset School Department											2	3	2	3	10
K-8 Center for Teaching and Learning		1	1	1			2	1	2						8
K-8 Chewonki Semester School						1									1
K-8 Damariscotta Montessori School		1							1						2
K-8 Edgecomb School Department	1			1			2								4
K-8 Great Salt Bay CSD						1	1	3		1					6
K-8 Juniper Hill School		1			1										2
K-8 MSAD 51					1										1
K-8 RSU 01	1					1	1			1					4
K-8 Wiscasset School Department			2	3	1	2	1	4	1	2	3				19
Grand Total	2	3	3	5	3	5	7	8	4	4	7	3	3	5	62

Alna Student Count Information

	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Boothbay-Boothbay Hbr CSD												1		1	2
9-12 Lincoln Academy											2	2	4	6	14
9-12 Waynflete School												1			1
9-12 Wiscasset School Department											2	4	1	2	9
Chelsea Elementary School						1	1								2
K-8 Brunswick School Department								1	1						2
K-8 Center for Teaching and Learning		1	3	2	2	1	4		1	2					16
K-8 Chewonki Semester School						1	1	1	2						5
K-8 Damariscotta Montessori School		1		1			1			1					4
K-8 Edgecomb School Department	4			1				1							6
K-8 Great Salt Bay CSD			1	1	2	2	4	3	2	4					19
K-8 Juniper Hill School		2	5	2	3										12
K-8 North Yarmouth Academy								1							1
K-8 Riley School			1				1								2
K-8 RSU 01								1							1
K-8 RSU 02				1											1
K-8 Sheepscot Valley Children's House		2													2
K-8 Wiscasset School Department		1	1	1	2	1	2	3	2	4					17
Spurwink														1	1
Whitefield Elementary School	1				1			1		1					4
Grand Total	5	7	11	9	10	6	14	12	8	12	4	8	5	10	121

Somerville Student Count Information

	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Grand Total
9-12 Augusta Public Schools													1		1
9-12 Erskine Academy											4	3	3	1	11
9-12 Lincoln Academy											2				2
9-12 RSU 11/MSAD 11														1	1
9-12 RSU 40/MSAD 40											1			1	2
9-12 Wiscasset School Department												1	1		2
Palermo Consolidated School							1	1	1	1					4
Somerville Elementary School	4														4
Windsor Elementary School	1	7	4	3	6	5	9	2	5	6					48
Grand Total	5	7	4	3	6	5	10	3	6	7	7	4	5	3	75

Chelsea Elementary School Report

It is hard to believe that March is here. The snow will be melted before we know it. March into April tends to be a long spread but we have some exciting events happening to make it more fun. These events include pride day, Travis Mills as a speaker, the Father/Daughter Dance, high school visits, and the planetarium sponsored by the PTA:

March and April are also our MEA testing times for our 3rd-8th grade students. We are excited to see how our students have progressed in the areas of writing, language arts, math, and science. Our students have been preparing and learning for these assessments all year. To help them be do their best with the assessments parents are given these few simple tips:

1. Get a good night’s sleep and arrive at school on time each day.
2. Eat a good breakfast (we do provide breakfast for all students each day).
3. Ask the students how they did on their assessments and encourage them to do their best.

Chelsea Elementary School will be selling Little Caesar Pizza kits to raise money for technology. Wouldn’t it be great if every student had a computer to use everyday? Order forms will be going home this Friday. Adults may also order online (directions will be attached). All order forms are due back by 3/28. Delivery date will be 4/9 and parents will need to pick up kits that day. There will be a pizza and ice cream party for the class with the highest sales and a \$25 gift certificate to a place of their choice for the student with the most sales.

On Wednesday, March 14th, at 6:30 I invite parents/guardians and school board members to meet

with me in the library to talk about ways in which we can make our school even better than what it is. I value your input and would love to hear what makes our school a great place and what could make it even greater. Light refreshments will be served and a door prize will be given out.

Winner of the design contest for the new Chelsea Town Seal; **Hayden Y!**
Runner; **Mallory E.**, Honorable Mention; **Malaika I. and Liberty K.**
Pictured w/Scott Tilson, town manager and Rick Danforth selectman.



On Friday, March 6, students and staff in grades prek-2 celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday. Many activities were planned and students had a fantastic time. Students listened to the different types of stories that Dr. Seuss wrote and illustrated and then participated in activities based on those books.





Palermo Consolidated School Report

Welcome back to Ms. Haywood. We have missed her very much and are so happy she is back in the building to finish up her final year at Palermo School.

Congratulations to Riley Reitchel, an 8th grade student, who won the Palermo National Geographic School Bee. We have received word from the National Geographic Bee that Riley has qualified to compete in the State Level Competition of the National Geographic Bee. The Maine State Bee will be held on Friday, April 6th. The winner of the State Bee will compete in the National Geographic Bee Championship in Washington, D.C. in May. Good luck Riley!

On Friday, February 16th, Mr. Edward took the Palermo 5th and 8th grade students to Hidden Valley Nature Center for a day of cross country skiing and snowshoeing. This was the culmination of their winter physical education unit. Everyone had an excellent time. The 8th grade students did a great job as leaders.



This month's Spirit Assembly was held on Friday, March 2nd, Dr. Seuss's birthday. Students and staff were encouraged to dress in stripes or Dr. Seuss clothing for the day. After the spirit awards were given out, the students in grades 3 and 4 read Dr. Seuss books to the students in grades K, 1 and 2. A fun time was had by all.

March is Spirit Month at Palermo School. Each Friday will have a different theme. March 9th will be Crazy Hair/Hat Day, March 16th will be Superhero/Character/Logo Day, March 23rd will be Blue and White Day, and March 30th will be Twin Day. Spirit Month culminates on Friday, April 6th with our Annual Beach Party.

Snow Pond Arts Academy will be coming to Palermo School to do a performance on Thursday, March 15th.

Our 8th grade students will be leaving on their class trip on March 15th. They will be going on the Heritage Tour through the Alford Youth Center in Waterville. Stops for this trip will include New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. We hope they have great stories to tell when they return. Palermo's Education Showcase will be held on Thursday, March 29th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Students are spending a lot of time putting together their displays. We look forward to seeing their finished projects. Everyone is invited!!

The Palermo School Club will be hosting its Annual Family Dance on April 6th, from 6:00-8:00 here at Palermo School. This year's theme is Luau so everyone should wear their Best Hawaiian outfit. The cost is \$5.00 per person which includes light refreshments and a Photo Booth. Everyone is invited!!

Whitefield Elementary School Report

Republished from Lincoln County News, by Greg Foster

See source article at the link below.

<http://lnme.com/currentnews/great-days-ahead-whitefield-elementary-interim-principal-says/>



Whitefield Elementary School interim Principal Tom Soule will put kids first in his time at the school, he said in a recent interview. Soule started work Feb. 13. "The kids are really fantastic," he said of his experience so far. "They all know me now." The Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit hired the veteran administrator after the resignation of Principal Joshua McNaughton effective Jan. 31. McNaughton departed in his seventh year as principal amid criticism of the school and its administration. Soule will stay at least until the end of the school year, after which a new principal will take charge. Soule was the

principal of Woolwich Central School for 16 years. He retired four years ago. He is certified as a superintendent, although he has not pursued a superintendent's job. He holds two master's degrees from the University of Southern Maine. Soule sees much good in the school, the student body, and the staff, which he finds excellent and supportive. One of the first measures he implemented concerns order in the hallways. He asked the children to walk, not run, in the hallways, and to keep in lines whenever appropriate. "The kids have really embraced that," he said. Soule described his style of administration as "fun, fair, and firm" and not adversarial. He said he wants parents to feel free to talk to him. "Whitefield parents have done a good job raising their kids," he said. Many good things that go on in the school go unpublicized, in his opinion, and he believes those things need to be out there to dispel any misperceptions of the school. "There's really not enough recognition for all the good things that go on here, good kids with a can-do attitude," he said. "I like to catch them doing what's right." Soule will seek to maintain those good things and make the public more aware of them. Soule said school events, such as an awards assembly to honor students of the month and a bus driver appreciation event, help create a positive school atmosphere and engender good relationships. "Some staff members went to school here and now teach here," he said. "That shows a lot of love for the school." Soule said he intends to work with the local PTA, which he hopes will regain its membership. "I think we have great days ahead of us," he said.

The following is republished from Mr. Soule's weekly newsletter to Whitefield staff:

I need to share a reflection that impacted me this weekend. A good friend and colleague of mine passed a few days ago. We taught middle school together (during the prehistoric times) - he was a science teacher - I was an ELA teacher. I learned about his passing through Facebook (I do try to stay away from that as much as possible:-)...but could not help reading the many comments from previous students. I want to share a few with you...

- “He was a great teacher, very funny and nice and kept the class in line so we could learn.”
- “A good man with a great heart and one who really cared about his students...”
- “Very sad to know one of the greatest teachers there ever was is here no more”
- “Makes me want to play science jeopardy again!”
- “He didn’t dance around subjects and was very genuine...he modeled great behavior and showed that he walked the walk, the talk, and that he expected us to do the same”
- “I felt safe in his classroom. I’m glad I got the chance to tell him so.”

My point in sharing this with you - whether you are a teacher, nurse, social worker, educational technician, administrative secretary, cafeteria worker, principal, bus driver, volunteer, or substitute - is even though you might feel the turmoil outside our school walls - is to remind you - the adults in our school - of how important you are everyday to the students and that you are making life-long memories every time you interact with a student. You are teaching and reinforcing important life skills, creating a positive and productive learning environment, building solid characters, foundations, productive citizens AND “people” for our future. You make a tremendous difference in the lives of our kids! Thank you !

Windsor Elementary School Report

Over 20 students have signed up for Coding Club. The Club will run Thursday afternoons in March and April. Kudos to Jennifer Richardson for advising this wonderful opportunity for our student to expand on their coding skills. Coding is also an integral component of library time at Windsor. Alida Ciampa starts coding skills at the kindergarten level and increases the skill level as they go through the grades.

March first was a big day at Windsor. It was the annual Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart Day. We want to thank Nick Daigle for taking on this important project and our many parent volunteers who help collect the money and facilitate the experience. Grades two through eight participated.

On March 20th, the eighth graders are having a fundraiser at Aunt Gin’s. The money will help support their eighth grade trip to New Hampshire. Aunt Gin’s is on Route 17 in Whitefield. The dinner is all you can eat and runs from 4:30- 7:30.

We are excited to share that one of our educational technicians gave birth to a baby girl the last day of February. Congratulations to the Pantalones for their sweet Adaline!

Michael Praschak, our middle school science teacher, is participating in a conference at Thomas College on ways to use a 3D printer. Many thanks to the Perloff Foundation for the grant of a 3D printer in our science lab. “We are very excited to provide a venue for the many early adopters of 3D printing and design to connect, share best practices, and learn from each other,” said Thomas College education professor Dr. Kate Cook Whitt. “In addition, this Expo serves as an opportunity to engage teachers and schools who are new to 3D printing and design.”

"For many schools in Maine with limited budget and resources, 3D design and printing has proven to be a game changer," said David Perloff, Executive Director of the Perloff Family Foundation. "This conference is a unique opportunity for educators to share their successes, identify challenges and chart a path for further adoption." We are proud that Windsor will be represented in the presentations made by exemplar schools and districts engaged in 3D printing and design.



Friday, March 2 was Read Across America Day. Teachers and students dressed up as their favorite book characters! It was a great day of reading and fun! Check out the NEA/Read Across America resources here:



209 books checked out, 230 books checked in
837 AR quizzes taken

3,070,597 words read!

<http://www.nea.org/grants/61654.htm#posters>

The week before February vacation, there were a number of activities in which students could choose to participate.



Grades 3-4 participated in several “Winter Carnival” events. Here is a middle schooler who participated in ice fishing.



As you may know the 7th graders will be doing a cross curricula unit on the Maine Coast. They were able to work out a trip for the students to Burnt Island for an overnight. They applied for a grant from Donor's Choose and received a grant from UPS.. Helen Williams and Helen Beesley are raffling a quilt made by Mrs. Beesley to meet the matching grant requirement. The web address for our donor's choose is

<https://www.donorschoose.org/project/adventure-on-burnt-island/>

What an excellent example of integrating technology with students reading! Students in Mrs. William’s middle school reading class used app smashing and worked on green screening and smashing their images in Pages to add to their different perspective newspapers based on an event in *The Light in the Forest* by Conrad Richter. This assignment meets Common Core standard 7.RL.6



Reese Sullivan, 6th grade student at Windsor Elementary, has been named the winner of the Canines for Charity National Essay Contest for grades 6-8. The students wrote an essay about a humorous time with their pet. The national contest is run by Pam and Floyd Dunn of Canines for Charity. The Wyoming organization has raised funds for charities for over 20 years through their dog sledding events. Sullivan is the daughter of Matt and Cheryl Sullivan of Windsor. Sullivan will receive a \$50 cash prize for her winning work. More information about the essay contest and the organization can be found at <http://www.caninesforcharity.org> or on their facebook page, Canines for Charity. She will be recognized with her award at the March assembly.



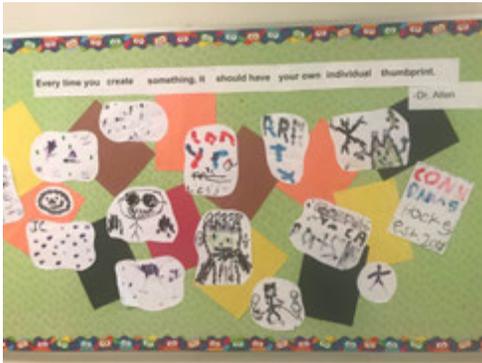
Here is a picture of Saber Hannington receiving recognition for his award winning essay in the Secretary of State Native American Indian Contest.



Becky Marks, one of our kindergarten teachers, has been nominated for Kennebec County Teacher of the Year! Here is her class celebrating 100 days of school!

Congratulations to Parker Reynolds, who placed first, and Ethan Barrett, who placed second in the

Augusta Area DAR Chapter's Essay Contest. Both young men will be recognized at a special ceremony in March. Parker's essay is moving on to states! Also congratulations go out to Hunter Johnson, who placed first and Andrea Richard & Xander Drolet who tied for 2nd in our school level.. "Chapman University Holocaust Essay Contest. Their essays now go on to the International Competition in California. Good luck, kids!



The Habit of Mind focus for this past month was creativity and imagination. Here is a fun bulletin board from Karen Wilcox's fourth grade relating to the focus.



Kindergarten had two weeks of Math Olympics.



math olympiad opening ceremony

parade of the mathletes

human 10-frames

Some Millionaires (read over a million words enjoying lunch:

