



# RSU23 MEMO

## Superintendent's Monthly Update

### *A Note From Mr. Suttie*

Hi Everyone,

This is the first memo I have written since the mass shootings occurred in Lewiston, a terrible tragedy that will remain part of Maine's history forever. The event demonstrated what a "Big, Small Town" Maine is as many of us were connected in some way to the victims. I attended the funeral last week of 36 year old Joshua Seal, who was killed in the bowling alley that fateful evening. Josh was a student and former football player of mine at Bonny Eagle High School. His younger sisters were students of mine as well. One of his sisters gave birth to her first child four days after learning her big brother was murdered. I have kept my connection to the shootings private up to this point as professionally it was important for me to compartmentalize my emotions, especially in the initial days that followed. Talking with Josh's family and being at his service made for a very hard day.

The rainbow at the end of this terrible storm is that fellow Mainers and people across the world have donated almost 350,000 dollars to the GoFundMe page set up for Josh's wife and four children. Television personality Fred Rogers once said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." Josh's family has found the helpers and may all of us in our beloved "Big, Small Town" continue to look for and be the helpers in the darkest of times. Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy the precious time with family and loved ones. Here is this month's Superintendent's Memo.



**November  
2023**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Snow Day Memo

Remote Day Meal Sign Up

Accessing Our Messages in Native Languages

PTO - Boosters

Food Pantry & Supply Closet Donations

Jameson School

Loranger School

High School

## Remote Day Meal Sign Up



NUTRITION SERVICES DIRECTOR, CAROLINE TRINDER

If school is canceled due to inclement weather and we have a remote learning day, you may opt-in to receive a shelf-stable meal sent home in your child's backpack the day before. This meal will contain an Uncrustable, crackers, fruit, vegetables, and shelf-stable milk. Please complete the form below for each child you would like to receive a meal. Please contact Food & Nutrition Services Director, Caroline Trinder, with any questions at [ctrinder@rsu23.org](mailto:ctrinder@rsu23.org).

### 2023-2024 Remote Day Meal Request

#### **To translate the Remote Day Meal Request:**

1. Right Click anywhere on the form (even in the outside border), a pop up appears.
2. Click on "Translate" or "Translate to." Another pop-up will appear in the upper right corner of the address bar.
3. Click the 3 dots next to the X to display language options.
4. Select "Choose Another Language" option to display the language option dropdown.
5. Choose desired language and click the "translate" button. Form will display in the selected language, complete and submit.

## Messages in Native Languages



Each year our student population becomes more diverse. Currently we have students and families in our district that speak at least twelve different languages. In order for families to be able to receive our communications (Principal's Memos, Superintendent Memos, Remote day decisions etc.) and read them in their native languages we have utilized features of PowerSchool and our website that does translate messages. We are proud to have implemented a system that allows us to send more exact replicas of our memos to our families in addition to a text translation.



This month PTO - Boosters sponsored a play for grades 2nd -5th. This was performed by a cast from the Children's Theatre of Maine. We also supported our football team by providing them with a pizza dinner following their game on Saturday evening.



A big thank you to OOB resident Dayle Moreau for knitting hats for our students each year when the weather gets colder!



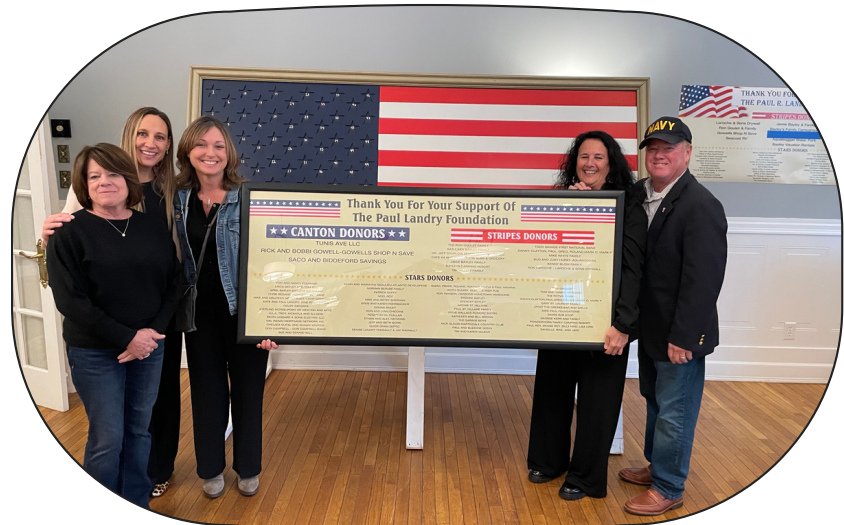
# Donations

The photos on the left are of donations to our LMS food pantry are so appreciated as they are donated from our local community.

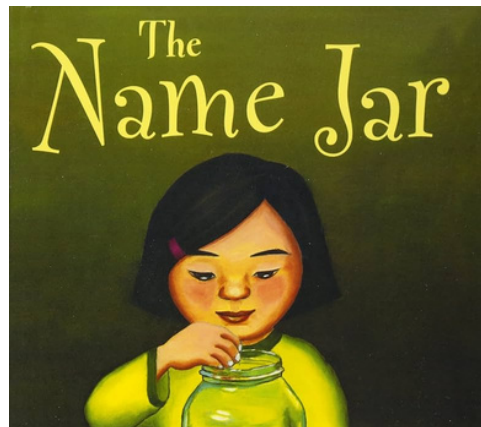
Additionally, RSU 23 Ed Tech Erin Dupee had the honor of attending the 2nd Annual Benefit Breakfast on behalf of the Old Orchard Beach High School Student Service/Resource Team. The Paul R. Landry Foundation has been established to continue his legacy of kindness and support for his community. The foundation presented an extremely generous donation of \$5,000 to the Old Orchard Beach High School Student Supply Closet resource! We will continue to be the recipients of a yearly donation.

In addition to the monetary donation, the President of the Foundation, Julie Bayley donated a large framed banner that lists the many contributors. They have requested we hand it on the "Paul Wall" that is located across from the OOBHS gym.

Erin also met with Jake Landry (Paul Landry's son) the new owner of Landry's Shop n' Save and Jamie Bayley from Bayley's Camping resort yesterday after school. They generously donated 3,600 worth of gift cards for our needy families.







## *Kindergarten Happenings*

Kindergarten students wrapped up their unit about Community by learning about the culture and language in Korea. They were treated to a presentation by Mrs. Lemieux's daughter (who spent the summer in South Korea) and friend (from South Korea). This experience was tied into a book they have been reading titled *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi.

## *5th Grade Tree Planting*

With generous support from Pierson's Nursery in Dayton, fifth graders planted three new trees near the pavilion. Each class debated and chose a species that will support biodiversity, provide cooling shade, and be resilient to climate change. The trees they chose are honeygold apple, swamp oak, and black tupelo. This project is part of the Ash and Hemlock Stewards Northeast project that fifth graders and GATES students are doing with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and community scientists across Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.



### *Student quotes about this project:*

- I hope that the black tupelo will create berries and honey for school lunches.
- I wish that the trees we planted last for hundreds of years.



### *Student quotes about this project:*

- I wish that one day me and my grandchildren could see all of the trees again.
- My wish is to see them grow over the years and change during the seasons.
- I wish people would enjoy these trees and take good care of them. I hope they will survive and provide good resources for animals.



## *LMS Student Art in Trail Kiosks*

The Conservation Commission has installed student art from the Loranger pollinator project in two new trail kiosks at the Blueberry Plains conservation area, one on Summer Long Drive and one on Pine Valley Road. High school students built the kiosks in their industrial arts program with Brooks Bowen. The trail map at each kiosk is framed by entries from the pollinator garden logo contest for grades 3-6 sponsored by Community Friendly Connection through Libby Memorial Library. Later in the project, art teacher Jessie Hurteau taught fifth grade students to make observational bee drawings, and these are displayed on the backs of the kiosks.



Summer Long Drive kiosk above, Pine Valley Road kiosk below



## *Loranger Community Science*

### GRADE 7 INVASIVE CRAB INVESTIGATION

On October 23, all seventh grade students collected data on invasive crabs at the beach near Robinson Woods in Cape Elizabeth as part of their study of climate change. They found over 100 invasive crabs, mainly Asian shore crabs, a few European green crabs and only a few remains of native crabs. They collected data on the size and sex of the crabs and submitted their findings to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.





# Wabanaki Stories

On November 9th, seventh graders and their teachers went to the Portland Ovations performance of Wabanaki Stories at Merrill Auditorium. They enjoyed stories, dance, puppetry, and music presented by Wabanaki artists.

Here is the description from the Portland Ovations website:

*"The land and waters known as Maine have been home to Wabanaki People for over 12,000 years. Returning for its second year as a School Time Performance with some familiar artists and some new artists, this vibrant production of Wabanaki stories and music spotlights four Wabanaki artists coming from several different nations and traditions. Musician Tania Morey (Tobique) sings of the Wolastoq; Jennifer Pictou (Mi'kmaq) regales with spirit stories told in the company of a large puppet; Dwayne Tomah (Passamaquoddy) shares stories that showcase his native language, Passamaquoddy; and artist and author Chris Newell (Passamaquoddy) intersperses each with music and narration. Wabanaki Stories demonstrates the depth and breadth of Wabanaki storytelling and artistry."*



Brand new basketball hoop at LMS.



Students from UNE are mentoring our students in grades 3-8





Pictured from left to right: (Adora Whitten (grade 10), Ava Maynor (grade 12), Casey Zecchinelli (grade 12), Joana Massanga (grade 11), Mia Perez (grade 9), Lily Shaw (grade 9) and Mrs. Gillis.

## *Student Artwork*

Old Orchard Beach High School student artwork was on display at the Continuum Arts Collective Art and Music Student Showcase this past Wednesday at 3S Artspace in Portsmouth, NH. Mrs. Gillis and six students traveled to Portsmouth for the show's opening. Ms. Roe is a member of the non-profit group that put the show on and helped install the students' work in the gallery space. Schools from all over the Seacoast area participated by displaying their artwork and playing music during the event.

## *Veterans Appreciation*

The High School's Veterans Appreciation Bulletin Board is beginning to be filled with pictures of veterans. Staff members, students, as well as community members have brought in pictures of loved ones that have served our country. It is not too late to bring in your picture of your veteran. The bulletin board will stay up until the end of December.



## *CALENDAR*

November 16  
Town Hall 5 PM  
Board Budget Workshop

November 16  
Town Hall 6 PM  
School Board Meeting

November 22-24  
Thanksgiving Break

December 6  
Early Release Day

December 21 to January 1  
Holiday Break

