



RSU23 MEMO

Superintendent's Monthly Update

A Note From Mr. Suttie

Hi Everyone,

The holiday season is almost upon us and once again we are thankful to our community members who go above and beyond to provide wonderful experiences for our children through generous donations. During the holiday season, as we reflect on the good things we have, we think of our RSU 23 families. We appreciate what a pleasure it is to work with you, and hope that the holidays and the coming year will bring you happiness and success. We look back with appreciation for your contributions to our mission and look forward with excitement to a new year of more great happenings. The end of the year brings no greater joy than the opportunity to express to you the season's greetings and good wishes. May your holidays and New Year be filled with joy. Thank you for everything.

Reminiscence

Jimmy Pirrello, a long time ed tech and coach at OOBHS passed away last week. Jimmy's infectious enthusiasm for OOB students and athletes was second to none. He loved this community, and he loved the kids. He had a special nickname for each athlete he coached and he never called that kid by their given name. He'd be talking about some football or basketball players and many of us would have no idea who he was referring to because he only used their nicknames. He always made our kids feel extra special.



His "Who Dat!" cheer he did with the students (right up into this fall) would get our kids excited and ready for big games. Jimmy will be missed. Jimmy P. was one of a kind.

**December
2023**

HIGHLIGHTS

Reminiscence

Holiday Concerts

Donations

Pathways Alternative
Education Program

Jameson School

Loranger School

Remote Day Meal Sign Up

A Memorable Holiday Concert



Last week our LMS and OOBHS choruses and concert bands performed an incredible holiday concert in front of a big crowd at LMS. The music ranged from a Taylor Swift medley, to classic Tchaikovsky from the Nutcracker, then on to traditional holiday songs we all recognize like Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Congratulations to our incredibly talented students and their conductors Mr. Trevor Lavenbein, and Mr. Christopher Chasse for putting on a great show.

Donations

On Tuesday December 5th RSU 23 received a \$1,575 donation for the district from the **Freemason Society**. It was given to us in the form of \$25 Hannafords gift cards. Thank you Freemasons!



The **Old Orchard Beach Police Department** coordinated the “Stuff the Cruiser” event again this year on Sunday December 3rd, 2023. The event took place at the Celebration by the Sea, the annual tree lighting ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park. “Stuff the Cruiser” is an opportunity for our community to donate new toys, books, puzzles, and games and try to fill a cruiser for the children of our town! This year the community really showed up and filled around five cruisers!

All donations were dispersed locally to the school systems for families and children that needed a helping hand during this holiday season. The coordinated efforts were made possible by Detective Sheahan and the Social Services Navigator, Olivia Dubois, with the Old Orchard Beach Police Department. The OOBPD was able to deliver the toys through the help of the Recreation Department, Haley Plante and Nikki Duplisea. The OOBPD plans to continue this event every year during the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who contributed!



The **Pathways Alternative Education Program** at Old Orchard Beach High School arrived at the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland in Westbrook a few weeks ago with a donation of 25 pet fleece blankets they made for potential cats and dogs residing at the animal shelter awaiting a new home. Students in the Pathway Alternative Program have been provided with learning experiences that are engaging, academic, and hands-on. This particular visit to the Animal Refuge League provided a learning opportunity to understand the body language of pets, to learn more about the careers working with animals, and to meet some of the animals seeking a new home. Congratulations to instructors Mr. Knowles, Ms. Moutsatsos and our great students!



Jameson Updates

Pre-K spent two weeks learning about family traditions. We welcomed families with many different traditions to teach the class. The students loved sharing with their peers, and families brought such joyful learning experiences into our classrooms!

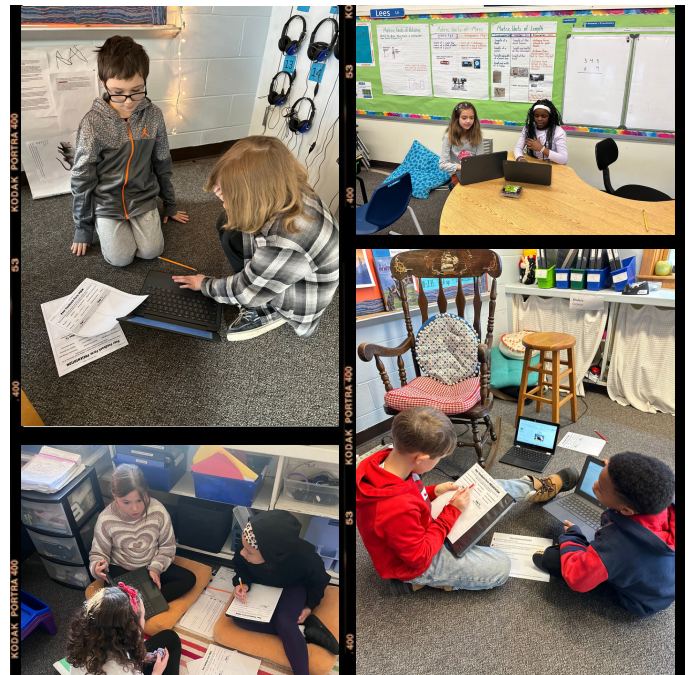


Second Graders playing dreidel

Loranger Updates

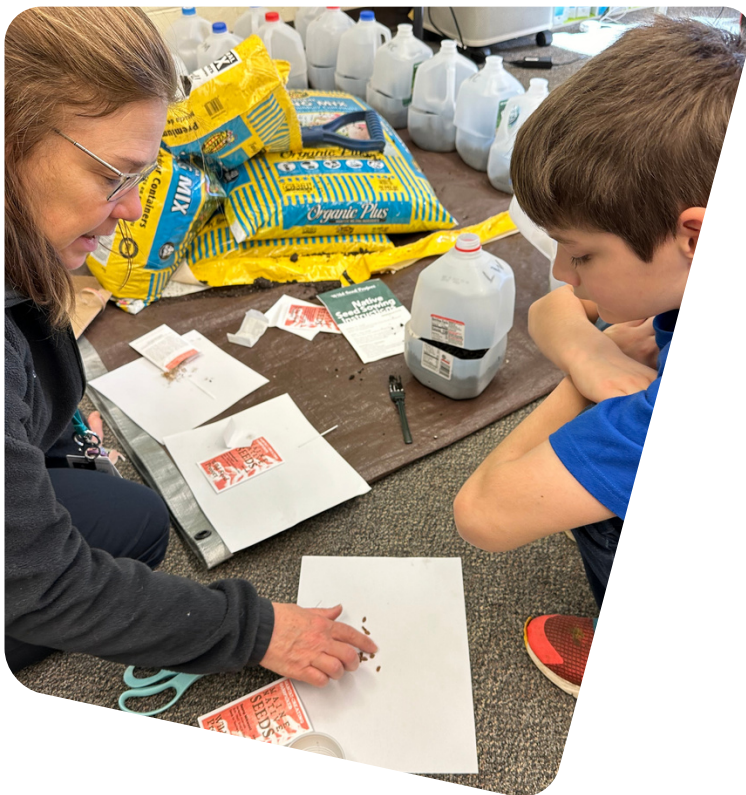
The **fourth graders** are wrapping up some rigorous work with poetry and are celebrating their learning with a Poetry Presentation today and inviting families and grownups to come! The young authors will be reading poems written about something that is inspiring and meaningful to them. They will present to their audience using pictures, images, and explanations as to why they chose the topic. They should be very proud of their hard work!

Second graders are learning about holidays around the world. This year we are learning about St. Lucia Day (Sweden), Hanukkah (Israel), Los Posadas (Mexico), Weihnachten (Germany), Kwanzaa (USA), and Natale (Italy). On Thursday, December 21st we are celebrating the end of our unit with a holidays around the world party! We will have a Gingerbread Cookie Decorating/Kwanzaa Unity Chain station, a Dreidel & Latke station, and a Piñata/Tomten station.



Ms. Lees **4th grade students** are rehearsing their poems with their reading buddies. In addition to their poetry unit wrapping up, the class learned about protecting Maine native plant species and are completing their unit with planting native Maine seeds in a winter sowing project. The seeds are planted in mini "greenhouses," (milk jugs) and will spend the winter hardening and preparing for transplanting in the fall of next year. Ms. Seaver and Ms. Lees will collaborate next fall to see this project to its completion.

The seeds were provided by: Wild Seed Project of Maine, and all of the rest of the supplies were donated by staff, and a student's family.



Loranger Community Science News

LMS students continue beach profiling on West Grand Beach. Each month, they measure the sand at three-meter intervals from the dunes to the waterline. They send their data to the Maine Geological Survey via the Wells Reserve. Over 11 years of collecting data, we've found that the shape of the beach changes a lot but the beach hasn't lost sand overall.



Students in GATES science wrapped up the ash portion of Ash and Hemlock Stewards Northeast, a community science project with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI). They identified ash trees around the school and reported signs of Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect, to Maine.gov. They also removed bittersweet, an invasive plant that was strangling an ash tree. They're continuing to monitor Atlantic white cedar seedlings that they're growing at LMS as part of a study with Charles Newport University in VA. The study is called Fear to Hope: A research mentoring project for Atlantic white cedar and climate change.



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.

[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.



CALENDAR

December 21
Town Hall 6 PM
School Board Meeting

December 22
Early Release Day

December 25- January 2
Holiday Break

January 10
Early Release Day

January 15
No School
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday

