



RSU23 MEMO

Superintendent's Monthly Update

A Note From Mr. Suttie

Hi Everyone,
Happy January. As you all know, we have had some very extreme weather this year. I know many parts of our community have been affected by flooding from the storm last weekend. If your family needs assistance due to weather/storm damage, please reach out to your child's school. Our administrators, counselors, social workers, and health services team, are always ready and happy to help your family if the need arises.

I wanted to acknowledge that on Monday it was Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Although Dr. King was assassinated almost fifty-six years ago, his message of peace, freedom, justice, and equality, for all, certainly still resonates in our present day world. Dr. King also understood the impact of unifying the masses in the

push for one common goal. Separately, attaining any significant progress would always be and still is a challenge. Collectively, working together, he and other civil rights activists could affect policies and influence change nationwide. I believe in education we can honor his work by modeling and teaching our students daily how we must show respect to others with different beliefs, and to try and find common ground on issues that we may have disagreements, without resorting to disrespect, hate speech, or violence. Our nation and world could certainly use that philosophy right now more than ever, and our children have the opportunity to affect this change in their lifetimes and lead the way. As we honor Dr. King's legacy, my hope is that our children's generation can respect and collaborate with each other in order to preserve and improve our world.

**January
2024**



HIGHLIGHTS

School Construction
Update

Free Dental Clinic

Multilingual Program

Jameson School

Loranger School

Winter Climbing Club

Professional Development
For Staff



School Construction Update

We received good news last month from the state department of education. They have funded two more projects, putting a Loranger/Jameson project now third on the list! We are still going to have to go through a new application process this spring but we are extremely hopeful and cautiously optimistic that we will hear in 2025 that we will get a state funded school project. No schools currently on the list can leapfrog us in the next cycle. Only schools that did not apply last time in 2017-2018 could possibly move ahead of us if there is a greater need as determined by the DOE. Either way 2025 will be a big year as to how we approach new school construction in Old Orchard Beach. Unlike five years ago we no longer have the luxury of waiting. Jameson and LMS are approaching the end of their lives and we'll have to take swift action. If we do not receive state funding to replace them, area voters will have to decide most likely at the November elections in 2025 whether to build a school by raising local funds.

Free Dental Clinic



RSU 23 Students have a great opportunity coming up Friday, February 9, 2024, with the University of New England College of Dental Medicine Oral Health Center Clinic in Portland. They will be opening their doors for us and providing free oral health screenings, oral hygiene education, dental cleanings, fluoride varnish application, and dental sealant placement. The care provided this day is free and is part of the **Give Kids A Smile®** program. Give Kids A Smile® is the American Dental Association Foundation's annual volunteer initiative providing free educational, preventive and restorative services to underserved children.

Thousands of dentists across the country will give their time to help children access oral health care. These events kick off annually on the first Friday in February. UNE Oral Health Center Clinic is Volunteering **Friday, February 9, 2024** for this event.

How it works: Students participating in this program will go during school hours, and transportation will be arranged. Consents and health history forms will need to be obtained prior to attending and will be sent to you after signing up for the program. This is a great opportunity! If you are interested in this opportunity, complete the form below. This information is also attached and is due to our Health Team by **Thursday, February 1st**

FREE UNE
Dental Clinic Form

Please contact the health team with any questions at:

- Sarah Burnham, RN: sburnham@rsu23.org
Jameson Elementary School: 934-2891
- Katie Gagnon, RN: kmichard@rsu23.org
Loranger Middle School: 934-4848
- Michelle Allen, CNA: mallen@rsu23.org
Old Orchard Beach High School: 934-4461

Give Kids A Smile is a registered service mark of the American Dental Association.

Multilingual Program

Over the winter break, several multilingual students and their families joined ESOL coordinator & teacher, Ms. Kantro, for a holiday dinner hosted by The Salvation Army. The event provided a joyful opportunity for our new families to make meaningful connections within the Old Orchard Beach community. We are very grateful to The Salvation Army for the warm welcome.



On December 20th, the multilingual students from OOBHS visited Portland Public Library with Dr. Wright and Mr. Lewis. We checked out the special exhibit "Why We Make Comics" and got copies of the multilingual zine that went with it. The librarians welcomed students' questions as they did a scavenger hunt exploring the materials and services available at PPL. In the teen section, we experimented with making comics of our own by playing a collaborative drawing game. Students enjoyed a delicious Middle Eastern lunch at Nura and browsed at Longfellow Books before piling back onto the bus. Mr. Lewis has been collaborating with PPL to bring more multilingual and language-learning resources to all Seagulls.



Prior to winter vacation, our Pre-K students welcomed Miss Maine, Young American Women of Service, to read to each classroom.

Students in kindergarten are also wrapping up their Animals & Habitats unit by learning about wolves. To celebrate all of their learning from this unit Spark's Ark will be coming to visit on January 26th!

2nd Graders have started Flex Grouping for Math in addition to our Flex grouping for Literacy Skills. Students are working with peers on skills they need to be successful learners--they've been going great!

Miss Kalina's class welcomed Ms. Angers to our classroom full time this month! She has been working with us all year, visiting twice a week before our winter break. Ms. Angers is in her final year at UNE and we are so excited to have her at Jameson!



Soaking up the sun at PPL (left to right): Mohammad Alsharkh, Harold Guzman Valente, Ananias Hernandez, Saad Alsharkh

Jameson Updates

Pre-K Students have been learning about wind and water. This is the perfect time of year for hands-on exploration of the water cycle, as we get both rain and snow! Stay warm!

Kindergarten students began flexible groupings for literacy this month. This is a new practice in kindergarten that 1st and 2nd grade have successfully implemented, already. Students are really enjoying the smaller class sizes and the opportunity to work with different teachers and peers during literacy.



Loranger Updates



Third grade students visited Mr. Drew and His Animals Too Exotic Animal Rescue in Lewiston in January. Mr. Drew himself taught students about some of the frogs in his care as well as the 9 species native to Maine. Unfortunately, we learned that 43% of frog species are currently facing extinction! This visit supported our literacy curriculum focusing on frogs.

In addition to frogs, Mr. Drew and his staff care for over 200 exotic animals including tortoises, tarantulas, snakes, geckos, iguanas and a rabbit named Alice. Students had the opportunity to hold, feed and touch many of the critters. Many memories were made on this trip!

We have exciting learning adventures happening in **Grade 6!** In language arts, we finished our class novel, *Flying Solo* by Ralph Fletcher and wrote letters to the author. We are anxiously awaiting his return letter, but we sent him a tweet and he responded! Students were super excited and said they felt famous!

In science, students have been working hard on finishing up a project over natural disasters. Through independent research, students have learned about ten different natural disasters and have designed a dodecahedron to display in our classroom!

In math, students often have an opportunity to work on puzzles and challenges when done with their work or during our WIN time. One of our current challenges is the pentominoes heart puzzle. Using one set of 12 pentominoes, students have to completely fill the heart shape.



Environmental Science and Sustainability course has been doing monthly beach profiling of Ferry Beach to help the state monitor the changes in sediment to the area.



8th Grade News: #Adulting

Eighth graders are having fun exploring budgeting for the real world with a "Game of Life" simulation. Students have chosen a career and "rolled the dice" to see how many children they have. Next, with a partner, they bought a house and a car, and calculated the monthly payments. They have explored the monthly costs for various utility bills, while shopping for the best deals for cell phone plans, insurance companies and other utilities.

Next comes shopping for groceries and other supplies for their family. And finally adding in the monthly expenses for each child and any miscellaneous expenses for family fun and entertainment. This is quite an eye opening experience, as students realize how costs add up. Here are some quotes we've overheard as students are working: "I'm not buying ice cream for my kids. It's too expensive." "Can I buy a Cozy Coupe? It's only \$65 and cheaper than all the other cars." "Did you know you could buy a house at Costco?" "I'm going to sell my kids." "My kids are going to eat Ramen Noodles every day." "My kids don't need a phone."

Winter Climbing Club

OOBHS now has a winter climbing club! Students have been heading to Salt Pump Climbing Gym in Scarborough on Friday afternoons to climb



Professional Development For Staff

People sometimes ask, "What does our staff do on early release days?" I wanted to provide an example from earlier this month. This year in addition to dedicated professional learning, we have committed to providing our staff wellness time for them to participate in something that improves their personal wellness. We have partnered with several area vendors to provide exercise and other enjoyable activities each month. In addition, this month we focused on technology training.

We invited folks from the Maine Learning Technology Initiative to offer new learning to our staff. We also had several internal employees who are trained in a particular area of instructional technology to provide training for their peers. We believe that "Teachers Teaching Teachers" is the most valuable training and use of our staff time that we can provide. [Take a look at our January 10th schedule.](#)

EARLY RELEASE DAY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE	
DATE : WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024	
WELLNESS BLOCK (INCLUDES TRANSITION TIME & LUNCH) 12:00-1:40 PM - WELLNESS ACTIVITIES RUN FROM 12:30-1:15PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">CARDIO KICKBOXING - EVOLUTION ATHLETIX GYMBOOT CAMP FITNESS - EVOLUTION ATHLETIX GYMPERSONALIZED FITNESS - OOBHS WEIGHT & CARDIO ROOMSPORTLAND POWER YOGA- JES GYMNASIUMNEW YEARS METALLIC WATERCOLOR ART-JES ART ROOMPICKLEBALL - OOBHS GYMNASIUMMINDFULNESS & MEDITATION- LMS SCHOOL COUNSELOR OFFICE	
1:40-2:30 PM	TECH-ENABLED INSTRUCTION SESSION 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: FROM FEAR TO INSPIRATION- OOBHS LIBRARY2. INTRO TO CANVA- HS CAFETERIA3. LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES: FROM DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP TO DIGITAL LEADERSHIP -ROOM 1044. VIEWBOARD TIPS & TRICKS- HS ROOM 1065. VIEWBOARD FOR BEGINNERS- HS ROOM 2046. DATABASES DEMYSTIFIED & LIBRARY TOOLS FOR THE CLASSROOM- HS ROOM 2027. OFFICE HOURS WITH THE RSU 23 TECH TEAM- HS ROOM 1018. DIGITAL STORYTELLING & PODCASTING- HS ROOM 201
2:35-3:25 PM	TECH- ENABLED INSTRUCTION SESSION 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: FROM FEAR TO INSPIRATION- OOBHS LIBRARY2. INTRO TO CANVA- HS CAFETERIA3. LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES: FROM DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP TO DIGITAL LEADERSHIP- ROOM 1044. VIEWBOARDS TIPS & TRICKS- HS ROOM 1065. VIEWBOARD FOR BEGINNERS- HS ROOM 2046. THE RESOURCEFUL LINGUISTA: UTILIZING THE RESOURCES IN OUR RSU TOOLBOX TO BETTER MEET OUR MULTILINGUAL STUDENTS NEEDS- HS ROOM 2027. #MAINEACHESCS: HOW TO USE LEGO ROBOTICS, SPHEROS AND BEEBOTS IN THE CLASSROOM- HS INDUSTRIAL ARTS ROOM



CALENDAR

January 18
Town Hall 6 PM
School Board Meeting

February 7
Early Release Day

February 19- 23
February Break

