



RSU23 MEMO

Superintendent's Monthly Update

A Note From Mr. Suttie

Every February, the U.S. honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation. Black History Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an indelible part of our country's history. February was chosen primarily because the second week of the month coincides with the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Lincoln was influential in the emancipation of slaves, and Douglass, a former slave, was a prominent leader in the abolitionist movement, which fought to end slavery.

Lincoln and Douglass were each born in the second week of February, so it was traditionally a time when African Americans would hold celebrations in honor of emancipation. This month our students are learning about influential African Americans and their contributions to our nation. I hope you all had a nice Valentine's Day.

Congratulations to Kindergarten teacher Jennifer McDonald and High School Special Education teacher Catherine Wood for being selected for Teacher of the Year in their respective schools and for being nominated for York County Teacher of the Year. This is a tremendous acknowledgment of the excellent work they do, as well as the impact they have on students, colleagues, and the community every day. They were nominated by their principal's Ben Harris and Michael Rodriguez. Both teachers have been highly regarded and beloved by their students, parents, and colleagues for years.



**February
2024**

HIGHLIGHTS

District News

Budget Development
Schedule

Dental Clinic

PTO - Boosters

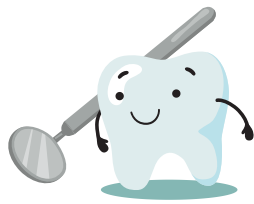
Jameson School

Loranger School

High School

[School Board Meeting Link](#)
(Third Thursday of Month)

Dental Clinic



On Friday, February 9th, 88 RSU 23 students traveled to UNE for a free dental clinic put on by students at the university. We are thankful to UNE for providing the service and to families for taking advantage of the opportunity. 492 preventative procedures (screening exam, cleaning, oral hygiene education, fluoride varnish, sealants) were completed. \$14,500 in free care was provided!

FY '25 Budget Development Schedule

- Week of February 5 - Budget Review JES, LMS, OOBHS, SPED, Summer School, ADA/504
- Week of February 12- Maintenance, Transportation & Food Service, ELL, Improvement of Instruction, Gifted and Talented, and Student Assessments
- Thursday, February 15, 6pm- Regularly Scheduled School Board Meeting
- Monday March 18, 6pm -RSU 23 FY 25 Budget Workshop- Budget presentation to school board
*All 3 Schools, Adult Ed, Curriculum, Technology, Transportation, Maintenance, Special Ed
- Thursday, March 21, 6pm- Regularly Scheduled School Board Meeting
- March 19-April 5- Budget Revision Period, Additional Workshops Scheduled if Needed
- Tuesday, April 9, 6pm- FY 25 Final Budget Presentation at Regularly Scheduled School Board Meeting
- Tuesday, May 14, 6pm - Regional Budget Meeting (Tentative)
- Thursday, May 16, 6pm - May School Board Meeting
- Tuesday, June 11, OOBHS- State Primary & Budget Referendum

*Regular school board meetings and the workshop on March 18 will be streamed on the town's website and on local access television.

School Board Meetings

Our school board meetings are on the third Thursday of every month (**tonight!**) at 6 PM. You can watch the meetings with the link below, on local access television live, or on video replay. Link for meeting:

https://www.townhallstreams.com/towns/oob_maine

Jameson Updates

Second graders at Jameson Elementary School in Old Orchard Beach had a special visitor on Monday morning. State of Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin stopped by the school to



promote the annual **Read to Me Challenge**. Now in its ninth year, the Read to Me Challenge asks Mainers in February to read to a child, or have a child read to them for 15 minutes. Makin said that reading to children can benefit their literacy and academic learning, but also gives parents and children an opportunity to slow down and take the time to share a journey in their imaginations and to bond. Thank you Commissioner Makin for visiting JES!



Loranger Updates

As part of the LMS Time With Teachers, students participated in a STEAM activity with Mrs. Lees called a Maker Space. They learned about artists around the world who create art using materials that would otherwise end up in landfills.



Students were given a variety of recycled materials (from Ruth's Reusable Resources) to create. They all demonstrated critical thinking, collaboration and creativity. It was an exciting time of learning!



Drama Club

The HS/LMS drama club is gearing up for our play in March. We have three school-day performances on March 8th, and one night-time performance at 6pm, also on March 8th. The kids are doing an amazing job learning their lines, making props, and designing/painting set pieces. It's really coming together. All proceeds from the play go towards next year's drama program.



6th Grade

In sixth grade science, students have been busy learning all about plate tectonics! They modeled different plate boundaries doing a lab, worked together answering questions to escape their Plate Tectonics Escape Room, and created Google Slideshows and posters to showcase their learning!



In sixth grade language arts, students have been hard at work writing fiction stories! To entice our readers, we have been creating movie posters and book covers to advertise our stories!

The math team grades 6-8 is participating in a 2 year study with Citizen Math, aimed at giving students the skills they need to think collaboratively and creatively about real world issues through the lens of math. It's a great way to engage students in the world they live in!

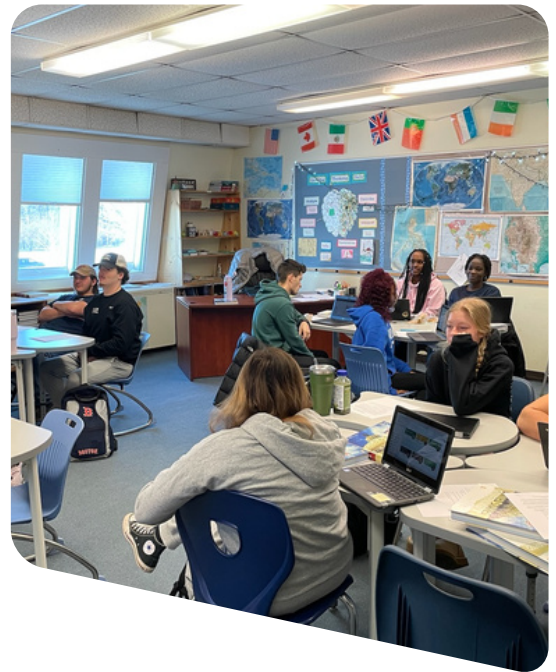


High School Updates

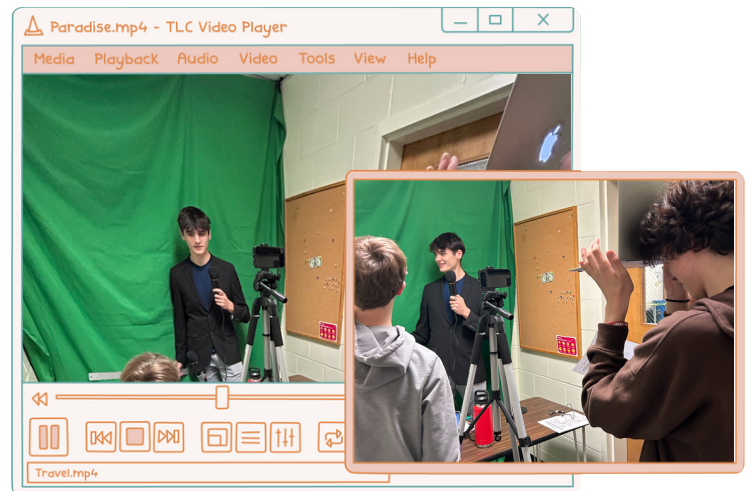
"**Math in the Cafe**" is a collaborative effort by our math department to provide additional support and interaction for our students. The idea is simple: every other Tuesday, during WIN block, we gather in the cafeteria to make ourselves available to any student in need of math assistance. This initiative aims to expose our students to all math teachers, fostering a comfortable environment for them to ask questions and seek help from any of the math teachers.



Sophomore, Jaydon Jencks, has been awarded a regional Scholastic Silver Key award for his painting Outside View. Jaydon's work will be on display at Maine College of Art from March 1st through the 16th.



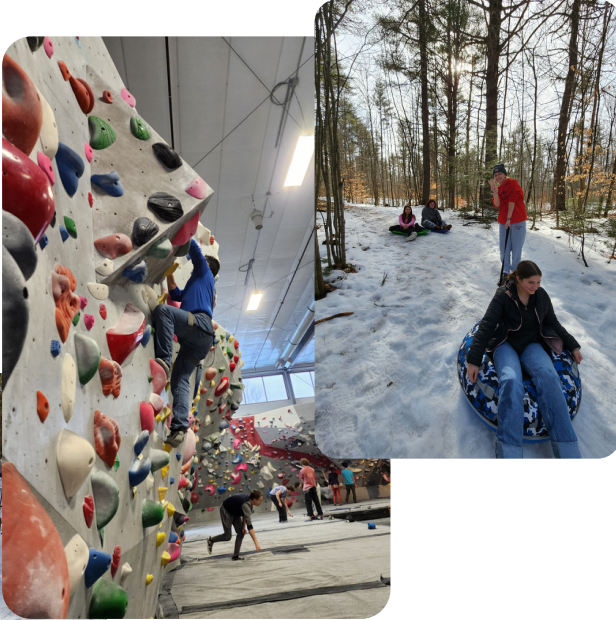
Students in Dr. Brennan's Participation in Government are learning about authoritarian governments. To do this, students participated in a simulation in which they removed a dictator and restored power to the citizens. Different groups, including activists, religious officials, historians, and army officials discussed and debated various options.



OOBHS students have started a new video series of announcements and news regarding all things OOBHS called "OOBH5". Check out Episode 2 here: https://youtu.be/KIoFSU9MP_s?feature=shared

Outing Club

Ms. Johnson's Outing Club went to Salt Pump in Scarborough for some fun indoor Climbing! The Outing Club also went on a sledding trip this past Sunday, trying to take advantage of warm temps and a little snow that is left.



This month, PTO-Boosters hosted:

- A fun fair at LMS for grades 3-5. Students played games, made crafts, and had a special snack. It was a fun time for all.
- They also joined Jameson students, families, and staff, showing their dance moves at a family Dance on Friday, Feb. 9th. It was a lot of fun!
- PTO-Boosters helped with the cost of renting costumes for the middle school play. We look forward to seeing the performance.

Did you know PTO-Boosters also helps to pay for field trips during the year. We are happy to help make learning fun!

CALENDAR

February 15- TONIGHT
Town Hall 6 PM
School Board Meeting

March 6
Early Release Day

February 19 to February 23
February Vacation

March 18
FY 25 Budget Workshop
Town Hall 6 PM
Streamed and Televised

