



RSU23 MEMO

Superintendent's Monthly Update

A Note From Mr. Suttie

Hi Everyone,
 Welcome to the very busy month of May! As we enter this month, our schools and communities have numerous events and observances to celebrate and recognize. It began with National School Principal's Day on May 1st, where we honored the dedicated leaders who guide our schools. On May 5th, Cinco de Mayo provided an opportunity to appreciate Mexican culture and heritage. From May 6th to 10th we celebrated Staff Appreciation Week to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our employees. Mother's Day followed last Sunday, when we honored the significant role mothers play in our lives. Memorial Day, on the last Monday of the month, serves as a time to remember those who have served and sacrificed for our country. Finally, on May 31st, we celebrate National School Counselor Day, acknowledging the vital role counselors play in supporting student success.

In addition to the previously mentioned observances, May is also filled with significant school events. Prom, sports, concerts, award ceremonies, and planning for June graduations and end of year happenings are all occasions that celebrate the achievements and milestones of our students. These experiences provide opportunities for our families and community to come together and honor the hard work and growth of our students throughout the academic year. As we celebrate these events, we reflect on the successes of the year and anticipate the bright futures ahead for our students.



**May
2024**

HIGHLIGHTS

District News

FY 2024-2025 School Budget Referendum

Destruction of Records

Free Smoke Alarms

PTO - Boosters

Jameson School

Loranger School

High School



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

District News



Congratulations to RSU 23 Food Service Director, Caroline Trinder, who has been named Maine State Food Service Director of the Year! Well deserved!



Congratulations to Erin Dupee who has been named as the 2024 Maine State Special Education Support Staff Member of the Year! She will be accepting this award at the Annual Maine Administrators of Services For Children with Disabilities Awards presentation in June. Another extremely well deserved award!

Staff Appreciation Week

Last week we celebrated our annual Staff Appreciation Week. All staff members were treated with food each day and received a beautiful LL Bean beach towel with our district logo as a gift. We appreciate all that our hardworking staff does for students, families, and the community!



Retirements

This is the time of the year when we say goodbye to beloved staff members who are entering the next phase of their lives. This year we say farewell to Patty Elsemiller, Cindy Cox, Sue Gallant, Mary-Elise Alexandre, Christine Clark, Janice Erickson, Carolyn Mehlman and Sylvia Most. We had a wonderful celebration for these retirees on Wednesday, May 8th, at Joseph's By The Sea. We wish them all the best and thank them for their many years of service.



New Generator Purchased

RSU 23 recently used remaining American Rescue Plan grant funds to purchase a brand new \$35,000.00 generator for the town of Old Orchard Beach to power the high school during outages so the building can act as the town warming shelter. Residents will be able to access the gym for sleeping, bathrooms and heated showers in our locker rooms, and have access to food in the kitchen and cafeteria if a storm causes extended outages. We were very proud to assist the town and purchase this generator that will benefit the community for decades. The generator comes at no cost to local taxpayers.

FY 2024-2025 School Budget Referendum

Please come to the OOBHS Gymnasium on Tuesday, June 11, to vote in favor of our school budget. The budget reflects a 5.5 percent increase from last year with \$0 dollars of impact to the school portion of the local mill rate due to the projected valuation.

**RSU 23 Special
Education
Department Public
Notice: Destruction
of Records**



RSU 23 will destroy selected records of Special Education students at the end of the school year in which the student turns 26 years old. Parents or adult students wishing to obtain these records should contact the Special Education Department at (207) 934-5751. The School Department shall permanently maintain a record of the student's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed.

Project Child Find

Do you know of a child 3-20 years of age with a disability residing within the RSU 23 school district? The disability might be vision, hearing, behavior, learning, health, mental ability, autism, or any combination of these areas. Children with disabilities are entitled to appropriate educational services provided at no cost to the child or family. If you know of a child with a disability in need of Special Education services, please call your local school Principal or Elizabeth King, RSU 23 Director of Special Education.



The PTO-Boosters has been busy supporting our students and staff over the last few months. Recently they sponsored an anti-bullying performance by Jason Tardy for all students in PreK-8! Jason performed amazing juggling tricks while promoting friendship, kindness, and the harmfulness of bullying. In honor of Staff Appreciation Week, our staff in all three schools were treated to lunch in gratitude for all they do to help our students each and every day. PTO-Boosters supported field day by buying needed supplies to make it an extra FUN day, hosted a dance for grades 6-8, and contributed towards field trips for different grade levels. If you are interested in helping in the future, please email them at: Pto@rsu23.org

An advertisement for free smoke alarm installation. It features a photo of a Red Cross volunteer installing a smoke alarm on a wall. The text reads: "Smoke alarms save lives! Could your family escape a home fire in just 2 minutes? Make sure your home has working smoke alarms. They can cut the risk of dying in a home fire by half. The American Red Cross will install FREE smoke alarm(s) and provide free home safety checks. Sign-up today! To schedule an installation: Visit - redcross.org/EndHomeFiresNNE Call - 1-800-464-6692 (Option 4)". There is a QR code at the bottom with the text "Scan to schedule your free installation".

Free Installed Smoke Alarms Available

The American Red Cross is providing free installed smoke alarms for families.

Jameson Updates

Pre-K

Pre-K is learning about plants and animals, and what living things need to grow. We are very excited to be hatching our very own chicks and ducklings!



Kindergarten

On May 8th, kindergarten students spent the morning visiting UNE's Marine Science Center and the Saco River Salmon Hatchery. This was an exciting way to celebrate the end of their Atlantic salmon project where they have been raising their very own salmon fish at Jameson School! At UNE they got to meet a large and extremely rare yellow lobster named Banana, touch sea creatures like sea stars and sea urchins and watch a feeding to some mature Atlantic salmon. At the hatchery, students learned all about the "behind the scenes" work that goes into raising and protecting the Atlantic salmon population. The kindergarten team would like to send a huge thank you to the staff at both facilities for their time and planning in this local, hands-on experience for students!



First Grade

On Thursday, May 9, the first grade students had a fantastic trip to Pumpkin Valley Farm for baby animals days. They had the opportunity to interact with baby chicks, ducks, bunnies, goats, and a calf named Muffin. The students also had a great time playing on the playground, which included a corn pit. Before heading back to school, they enjoyed a delightful picnic lunch. Some students were lucky enough to meet Mr. Harris's parents!

Second Grade - JES Meteorologists

On Tuesday April 23, a half dozen second graders came to school at 5:45am for WMTW channel 8's "Weather at your School". Students helped give the weather report on the morning news and then later in the day were able to learn more about what goes into weather reporting as well as some fun facts about significant storms that have impacted our area in the past.



Anti Bullying

On Friday, April 26, students from Jameson and Loranger were treated to an Anti-bullying show, thanks to the RSU #23 PTO/Boosters. The show was engaging and reinforced the importance for students to be kind and support one another.



Multilingual Program

In our continuing efforts to promote inclusivity within our increasingly diverse community, RSU 23 faculty and staff are piloting a new communication platform designed to enhance our connection with families! With ReachMyTeach, educators can easily reach out via email, text, or WhatsApp, and parents/caregivers can respond instantly from their preferred device. ReachMyTeach breaks down language barriers by instantly translating those messages into over 130 languages.

No matter what language is spoken at home, ReachMyTeach allows everyone to stay informed and engaged. By embracing inclusive communication, we are fostering a stronger, more connected school community where every family feels welcome and empowered to participate in their child's education. ReachMyTeach is part of the Student Data Privacy Consortium, and prioritizes data privacy. To learn more visit: www.reachmyteach.com



Loranger Updates



Sixth Grade

On Monday, May 6, sixth graders went to the Portland Jetport to meet the Hurricane Hunters! Students had the opportunity to tour two hurricane hunter aircrafts, one from the Air Force and one from NOAA. They learned about weather safety from local agencies such as the Red Cross and Maine Forest Rangers.

In addition, students were fortunate to participate in a virtual field trip through the Challenger Learning Center of Maine, called Destination Moon Mission. Students were divided into four teams in mission control and worked together to launch the new renewable launch vehicle, New Glenn, with the goal of getting the lunar lander Blue Moon to the moon to explore the moon's surface.



LMS Library

The LMS Library has checked out over 5,000 books to students this year! This is an incredible milestone and represents more than a 35% INCREASE in student book check out compared to last year. WOW! This news is even more exciting when we consider what the students are reading at LMS. Statistics show students are reading fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels and picture books in almost equal amounts!

Science News - Loranger Trout Release

On May 10, all fifth graders went to Cascade Falls to release the baby trout they raised from eggs. Before releasing the trout, they learned about the area by participating in four activities: water testing, identifying macroinvertebrates from the brook, a site survey, and a history walk. The event was hosted by staff from the soil and water districts of York and Cumberland counties. Mr. Anatole Brown of the Saco Museum led the history walk.



Time with Teachers - Nature Walk

Students on the May Time with Teachers nature walk to the pond at the Ballpark observed eleven ducklings on the water and conversed with earthworms in the sandy parking lot.



High School Updates

Senior Internships

Seniors have finished their final exams and are now en route to 26 different internship sites across York and Cumberland Counties. Over the next two weeks, they will complete a 30-hour professional internship experience before returning for senior week and graduation on June 2nd.

Art Show

The OOBHS art show had a successful opening night. Students and their families came to view the beautiful art created by our students this year and enjoy appetizers made by Mrs. Makee and her culinary students. The show will remain up through the month of May at Libby Memorial Library, so stop by if you were unable to attend the opening. The night was such a success due to the incredible help from Mrs. Makee and her students, Ms. Workman and Mr. Rodriguez.



Outing Club

The OOBHS Outing Club embarked on a different adventure every month during the 2023-24 school year. In total, over 50 students participated in the outing club trips! They hiked and biked to ponds, waterfalls, and the tops of mountains and also went sledding, skiing, and ice skating during the winter.

The final trip of the year will be a community science outing, where the students will monitor alewives as they migrate from the ocean into Nequasset Lake. Thanks to all of the students and their families for supporting OOBHS's Outing Club events! The next adventure will be Alewife Migration Citizen Science trip!



September



October



November



December



January



February



March



April

CALENDAR

May 16th TONIGHT

Town Hall 6 PM

School Board Meeting

May 13th to May 24th

Senior Internship

May 23rd - 4:30PM

Senior Citizens Dinner

May 29th

Memorial Day (No School)

May 28th - 8:00AM to 2:30PM

Senior Internship

Presentations

May 28th to May 29th

Senior Trip

May 30th - 7:15PM

Senior Banquet

May 30th and May 31st

Marching Practice

June 2nd - 2PM

OOBHS Graduation

June 7th - 6PM

8th Grade Graduation

June 10th - Early Release

Last Day of School (Early

Release Day for Students)

June 11th - 8AM - 8PM

Budget Validation

Referendum Election

