



# RSU23 MEMO

## *Superintendent's Monthly Update*

### *A Note From Mr. Suttie*

Hi Everyone,

June marks the end of the school year and is a significant month for students, teachers, and families alike. It is a time of transition and celebration, as students move on to the next grade or embark on new adventures after graduation. The last day of school is often filled with excitement and nostalgia, as students and staff reflect on the memories and milestones of the past year.

End-of-year events such as award ceremonies, graduation ceremonies and class parties are common in June, providing opportunities to recognize achievements and celebrate accomplishments. The end of the school year also signifies the start of summer vacation, a time for rest, relaxation, and fun. Overall, June is a month of closure, celebration, and new beginnings in the world of education.

In addition to end-of-year events, there are several special days and observances in June that coincide with the school calendar.

Flag Day on June 14th provides an opportunity for us to recognize the history and symbolism of the American flag. Juneteenth on June 19th commemorates the end of slavery in the United States and is an important opportunity to reflect on the history of racial injustice and the ongoing struggle for equality. The summer solstice on June 21st marks the official start of summer. Finally, Father's Day on the third Sunday of June celebrates fathers and father figures in our lives.

I hope all of you have a wonderful summer and I look forward to getting everything started again in the fall. Thank you for all of your support for Old Orchard Beach Schools!!

*Congratulations  
Class of 2024*



**June  
2024**

***HIGHLIGHTS***

Budget Referendum

Jameson School

Loranger School

High School

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**[School Board Meeting Link](#)**  
(This Wednesday, June 12)

## District News

### FY 2024-2025 School Budget Referendum

Please come to the OOBHS Gymnasium tomorrow, 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.

### Special Olympics!

We had another successful Old Orchard Beach Special Olympics on May 24th where our special Olympians participated in the long jump, 50m/100m dash, softball throw and our first annual Unified 4x100 relay race! Our 3 schools sent our Olympian's off in style, lining the hallways and streets with signs and cheers of encouragement. Our OOB fire department and police escorted our athletes around town much like they do when our sports teams head off to championship games! Even Sandy the Seagull and Beacon from the Maine Mariners were there for high fives and hugs. Our athletes displayed courage and resilience throughout the day and left us all feeling proud and grateful to have such a strong and supportive community. Our day ended with gold medals and a visit from Robyn's Ice Cream Truck! Thank you to the many people that came together to make this such an amazing day for our Special Olympians and their families!



## Jameson Updates

### Pre-K

Wrapped up our unit on living things with the arrival of our ducks! We loved learning about the life cycle and the needs of living things. Our students loved caring for their little ducklings!



### Jameson Joggers

**First graders** proudly show off their 'Jameson Jogger' cards. Jameson students throughout the year have been participating in the "Jameson Joggers" mileage club. First introduced in the winter months for additional movement opportunities, students can opt to jog or walk to earn token prizes. Staff estimate students have jogged collectively over 250 miles!



# Loranger Updates

**Third Graders** have been learning about Frogs and their adaptations. This spring the entire class chose a specific frog to research and then created a realistic frog model and habitat. A plethora of frogs were chosen - Strawberry Poison Dart Frogs, Glass Frogs, Amazon Horned Frogs, etc. Families and Fourth Grade classes were invited to the Third Grade Frog Museum and see their hard work and hear students present on their frog species. Most recently, Third Graders have been compiling Freaky Frog Books filled with their collections of writing and art on frogs they have learned about.

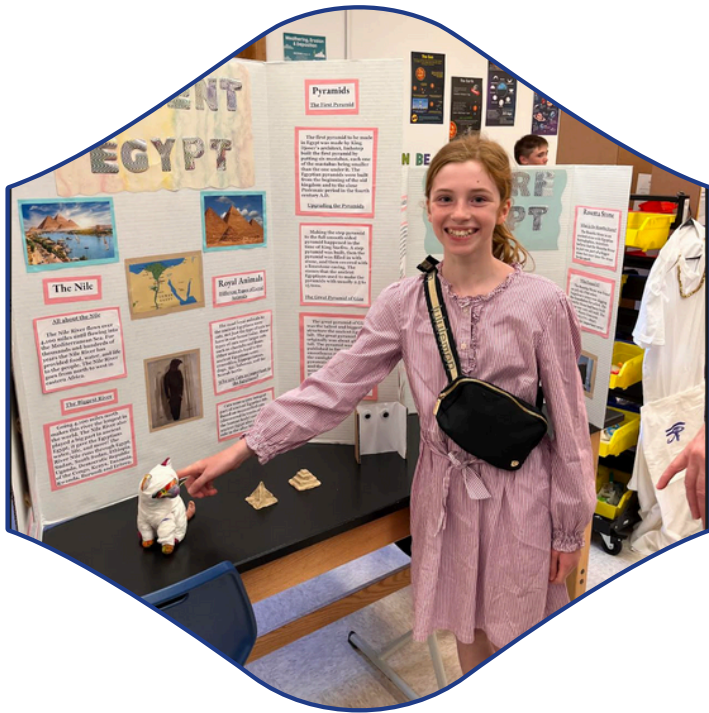


**Ms. Steven's 4th grade** class has been really enjoying engaging with a Readers Theater book titled "Divided Loyalties" where the characters are a colonial family with differing perspectives on the American Revolution. The students have expanded their knowledge of our country's beginnings and have been enjoying acting out the different roles while practicing their reading skills.

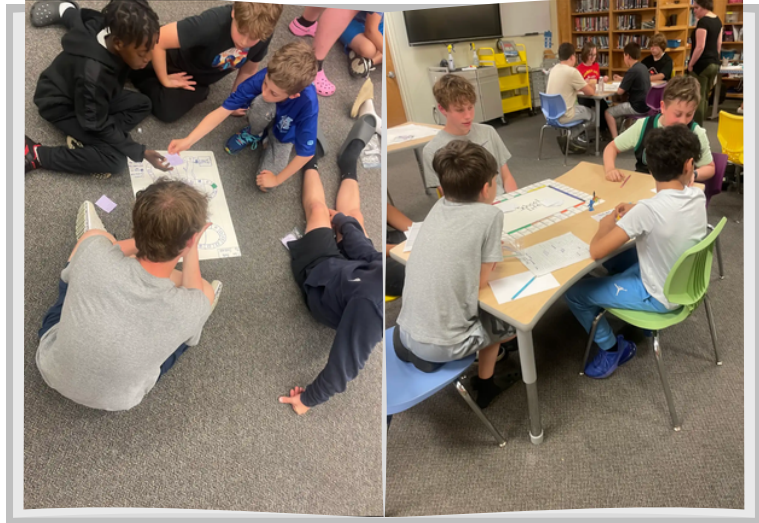
The **fourth grade** spent a day at the beach this week! The day was filled with joy, smiles, and laughter. We love ending the year with special memory-making moments like this.



**Sixth grade students** learned about ancient civilizations (Egypt, Mesopotamia, Rome) and completed a research project to display what they learned. We created a gallery walk for our fourth grade friends! When they visited our gallery, they used a note-catcher to write down two new things they learned, one thing they are still wondering about, and a compliment for a presenter. It was a great experience for all students!



Over the past several weeks, **8th graders** have spent part of their WIN time making board games about the LMS Guiding Principles, where players gain points for positive school behaviors and lose points for negative school behaviors. After making them, about 12 8th graders went to two different 5th grade Allied Arts periods, and played their games with them!



**8th graders** have also been ending the year with some engineering design projects. Different class periods are working on mousetrap-powered cars, marble roller coasters, and Rube Goldberg perpetual motion machines. The students have been so engaged on building their prototypes, then testing and revising the prototypes to improve their performance.

We wrapped up our Junior Achievement project this month! Students worked in small groups to design a company and prototype of a product or service and presented their ideas to teachers who played the role of investors in a Shark Tank-like presentation. It was a blast, and we appreciate our volunteers from the community who donated their time to make this happen!



On May 23, **fifth graders and GATES science** students met in the pavilion to share their research about hemlock and ash trees and to hear from community member and author Minquansis Sapiel about the importance of ash trees in Wabanaki culture. The event was coordinated by our partners from the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. Afterwards, everyone visited the trees that were planted by fifth graders last fall and admired the tree signs made in Mr. Bowen's IA classes and installed by students this spring

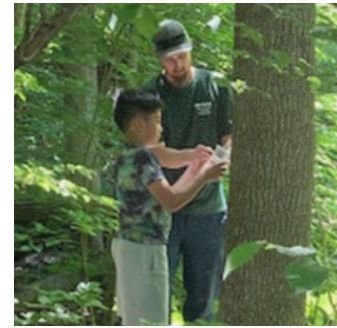
As part of the **Ash and Hemlock Stewards project**, **fifth graders** helped release predator beetles to eat Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) and help save hemlock trees in Jameson Woods. GATES students released the predator beetles in Milliken Mills Woods. The beetles were provided by the OOB Conservation Commission and training was provided by Maine forest service entomologist Colleen Teerling. The GATES group wrote a science article about their investigation that has been accepted for publication in Volume 7 of Findings from the Field, a student research journal from GMRI. It will be available online in mid-June.



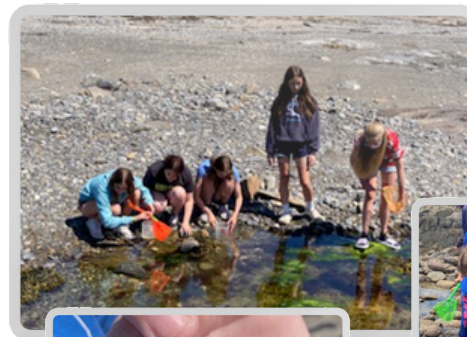
### Composting Begins in LMS Cafeteria

Loranger food service staff and teachers started composting in the cafeteria for the last month of school. Funded by a grant from the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, we are working with Diggers Cooperative, a local composting service that collects the compost and turns it into soil. We had a successful informal roll out this spring and will continue the project next year.

On June 3, a group of **fifth graders** joined the forest entomologist and Portland arborists to help protect ash trees in Riverton Trolley Park. Our students were the first students in Maine to help release a species of parasitic wasp that preys on the Emerald Ash Borer, an insect that harms and kills ash trees.



On May 31, **seventh graders** and teachers traveled to Biddeford Pool to search for tide pool plants and animals. To get credit for a find, students had to identify it using field guides. Discoveries included periwinkles, sea urchins, sea stars, hermit crabs, green crabs, and several types of seaweed. All creatures were returned to the tidepools.



# High School Updates

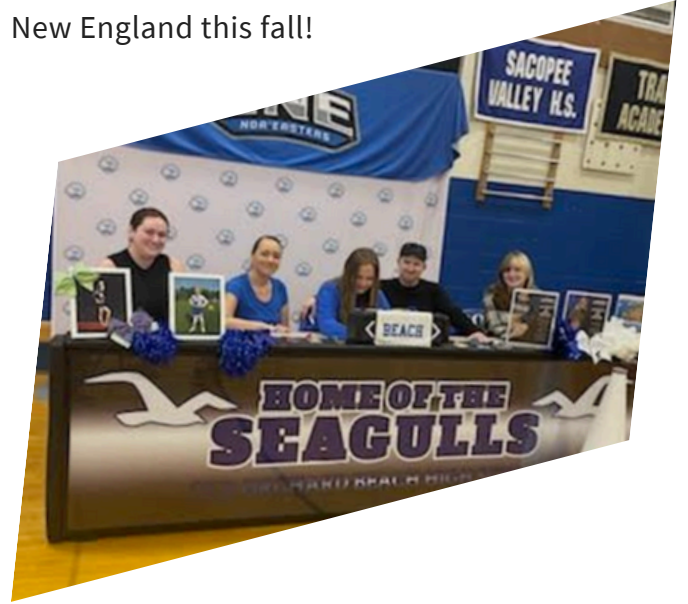
## Alt Ed Rock Band - Class Act

On Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 10:00, the OOB High School Alt Ed Rock Band hosted their first performance. In the Alternative Education Program's "Intro To Rock Band Course", the students celebrated their achievements by playing the drums, bass guitar, electric guitar, keyboard, and vocals. The performance counted as the final exam of this experiential learning opportunity. The event hosted parents and family members, friends, teachers, school board members, me, Mr. Hanson, Guidance Counselors, and the high school principal Mr. Rodriguez. Mr. Knowles, our Alt Ed Teacher said, "Most of our students only learned to play their instruments this year, so playing in front of an audience was a true academic and personal triumph. The event was a great success, the audience was surprised at their ability, and offered appreciative cheers and clapping after each song. This event displayed student achievement, and Ms. Moutsatsos and Mr. Knowles are grateful for everyone's support throughout the district".



## Maddie Shaw

Congratulations to senior Maddie Shaw, who signed a National Letter of Intent to cheer at the University of New England this fall!



## Jacob LaBreck

Congratulations to OOBHS Sophomore, Jacob LaBreck, for creating the winning design for this year's Breakaway 5k Road Race t-shirt. For 27 years, the Breakaway 5k has been a race that draws runners from all over Maine to Old Orchard Beach. The race raises money for the MAPS program which provides scholarships to OOBHS graduates. This year the race decided to create a competition for a student to design their race shirt, which will be given to all race participants. With the help of OOBHS art teacher, Meghan Gillis, students created different logos for the race committee to choose from. Register for the 28th Annual Breakaway 5k on August 17 to see Jacob's winning design and to support our students!



**2023-2024 OOBHS Outing Club**

Check out the [OOBHS Outing Club](#)

[2023-24 slideshow](#)

**History** teacher Chad Denis had the privilege of hosting Mr. Les Buell, who delivered an insightful presentation on "Civil War Medicine and Surgeries" to our students at the high school.

Mr. Buell's visit provided our students with a unique opportunity to delve into a pivotal aspect of American history. Through his engaging presentation, he shed light on the medical practices and surgical techniques employed during one of the most tumultuous periods in our nation's past. From battlefield triage to improvised surgeries, Mr. Buell illuminated the challenges faced by Civil War-era medical practitioners and the profound impact these experiences had on the evolution of modern medicine. The classroom visit served not only to educate our students about historical events, but also to foster critical thinking and empathy. By examining the realities of Civil War medicine, students were encouraged to reflect on the human cost of war and the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. Mr. Buell's interactive approach captivated our students' interest and sparked meaningful discussions about the intersection of history, science, and human experience. We commend Mr. Buell for his dedication to bringing history to life and inspiring a new generation of learners. His presentation exemplified the values of experiential learning and community engagement that we strive to promote within our schools.



## CALENDAR

June 10 - TODAY  
Last Day of School

June 11 - TOMORROW  
Budget Referendum

June 12 - 6:00pm  
School Board Meeting

August 28th  
Grades 1-9 - First Day of School

August 29th  
Grades 10-12 - First Day of School

September 3rd  
Kindergarten - First Day of School

September 5th  
Pre-K - First Day of School

