



RSU23 MEMO

Superintendent's Monthly Update

A Note From Mr. Suttie

Hi Everyone!

As the calendar turns to September, our RSU 23 schools come alive with the spirit of a new academic year. The warm summer breeze begins to fade, gradually giving way to cooler mornings and crisp autumn evenings. The initial rustling of leaves heralds the beginning of nature's vibrant transformation, as the green colors of summer transition into the fire-like visions of fall. The scenic backdrop of our school campuses sets the stage for an engaging and memorable season of growth and learning.

September also brings with it a bustling schedule of extracurricular activities, as fall sports and marching band season kick into high gear. On fields and across the district, student-athletes showcase their talents and dedication, fostering camaraderie, discipline, and school pride with every practice and game. Meanwhile, the marching band tunes

up their instruments, perfecting their routines and formations that entertain and inspire audiences under the night lights. The stands and sidelines are filled with spirited students, parents, and community members, coming together to cheer on our OOB hometown heroes.

With the excitement of a new school year and the bustling activity of fall sports and band, September truly is a busy and invigorating time. The energy is palpable as students, staff, and families embrace this fresh beginning, eager to explore new opportunities, overcome challenges, and forge lasting connections. It's a month filled with the promise of new adventures and the joy of reuniting with friends and colleagues, as we work collectively to ensure a rewarding and successful academic experience for all. Go Gulls!

**September
2024**

HIGHLIGHTS

Freedom Fields Rededication

Officer Tichy

High School Roof Project

Jameson School

Loranger School

High School

Adult Education

[School Board Meeting Link](#)
(Meeting Tonight)



Freedom Fields Rededication

On Wednesday, September 11th, the athletic fields at Loranger Memorial School were rededicated. The fields were initially named “Freedom Fields” on September 11, 2002 during a ceremony involving students and community members.

The original ceremony was in 2002 but the naming of the fields was never identified through a sign. A plan was then put together to hold a ceremony this year on September 11th and to unveil a sign that identified the playing spaces. The ceremony led off with an introduction that described what occurred on September 11, 2001. Old Orchard Beach High School Band students played the National Anthem while a flag was raised to half staff in honor of the victims of that terrible day. High school student Emily Simpson then played TAPS which was followed by a moment of silence.

School board member Donna Moutsatsos then stepped to the microphone and acknowledged the first ceremony and stated, “Remember that these fields are named Freedom Fields, and this space will be the place where we show our appreciation for those who died and all those that risk their lives every day to assure us that we will wake up every morning safe and free. Always appreciate the freedom we have and the reason for the name of these fields.” The new sign was then unveiled designating the original dedication date of September 11, 2002.

Welcome Officer Tichy

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Officer Adam Tichy to RSU 23 Schools as our new School Resource Officer (SRO). We are thrilled to have an individual with his experience and dedication joining our team, and we look forward to collaborating with him in ensuring a safe and secure learning environment for our students, staff, and community.



Officer Tichy brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our district, having served as an SRO in Saco schools for several years. His commitment to fostering positive relationships between students, staff, and the police department will undoubtedly strengthen our school community. We are confident that Officer Tichy's presence will not only enhance safety measures but also provide valuable mentorship and guidance to our students, making him an invaluable asset to RSU 23 Schools.

High School Roof Project

We are delighted to announce the successful completion of the high school roof restoration project, marking a significant milestone in preserving and enhancing our school facilities. This project addressed the aging 45-year-old roof, replacing it with modern materials that will ensure the building continues to serve our community for several more decades to come. The restoration cost of \$638,000 was funded through our capital improvement fund, representing a sound investment in the longevity and structural integrity of our high school.

The new roof not only bolsters the overall safety and security of our students and staff, but also contributes to increased energy efficiency and long-term cost

savings. As we look forward to the future, this essential improvement project demonstrates our commitment to providing a high-quality learning environment for our students and community members.

Jameson Updates

Jameson School is off to a great start

Students continue to work on routines and procedures. We had a well attended open house, and dozens of community members showed up for our first STAR assembly. Jameson continues to partner with both USM and UNE to have pre-service teachers in our school helping to build connections and provide opportunities for our students. Jameson School would also like to thank the Saco-Biddeford Elks Lodge for sponsoring our weekend back-pack food program, as well as providing the building with playground equipment for each grade-level to use at recess!



Pre-K

We are so excited to welcome our littlest learners to Pre-K! We have had a fun start to the school year!



Kindergarten

Kindergarten students have transitioned well into kindergarten and are working hard at learning classroom and school routines and procedures. We will be beginning our first unit, Community, in which students will learn about their community in Old Orchard Beach as we continue to build our classroom community.



Loranger Updates

Ms. Carey Rasco, the new Library Media Specialist and School Librarian at LMS describes a wonderful learning moment in Ms. Fagan’s classroom.

“I had a great moment last week during a name game with Mary Fagan’s 3rd grade class. Everyone was given a minute to think of something they liked that began with the first letter of their name (Reading Ms. Rasco). When the time was up and I asked if everyone had thought of something, one student said he couldn’t think of anything. Another student piped up and offered to help and the student accepted the help. It turns out that several students hadn’t thought of something during the time, and the whole class held a brainstorming session for the students that needed help. This was completely unprompted by me—the students offered each other the help on their own. I was really impressed with the team spirit and helpful attitude the class already had towards each other.”

Ms. McConnell’s Science Class

In order to practice writing CERs (Claim-Evidence-Reasoning), 8th graders tested four paper towel brands for their efficacy. Students tested strength, durability, absorbency, and cost efficiency, and then wrote a CER claiming the most effective brand and providing evidence and reasoning to their claim.

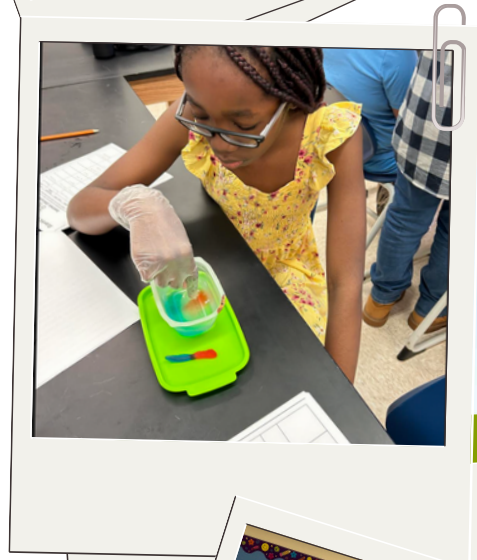


Sixth Grade

In science, students completed their first lab of the year, the Gummy Worm Lab! This lab gave students the opportunity to practice the steps of the scientific method!

In language arts, students titled their own stories for the year writing about hopes, dreams, and joy!

The sixth graders each created their own pattern, coloring the shapes corresponding to their answers to questions about themselves.



High School Updates



Culinary Arts

This month in Culinary Arts, students are learning about kitchen safety and ways to prevent accidents and injuries in the kitchen. In addition, we are covering food safety: preventing cross-contamination, learning proper glove use and frequent handwashing. This week in the Foods Lab, we were very happy to benefit from Natalie Skovran's bountiful home garden. Her picture perfect bell peppers were added to our Ratatouille, a savory vegetable stew. Thank you, Natalie, for the farm to table experience!



OOBHS Outing Club

The OOBHS Outing Club is gearing up for a new season! Students will be embarking upon monthly nature-based trips throughout the 2024-25 school year, starting with a kayaking and canoeing outing in September. The October outing will be a trip to the Seashore Trolley Museum, where students will ride the trolley to Edwin L. Smith Preserve and then take a hike. After spending time in the woods, students will visit a pumpkin patch before riding the trolley back. All high school students are invited to attend these trips, and can pick and choose from month-to-month which outings capture their interest.



Go Riley Provencher!

Read about OOB football player Riley Provencher in this [Portland Press Herald Spotlight](#) article.

Adult Education Updates



Substitute Teacher Class

This fall at OOB/Saco Adult Education, we have scheduled a Substitute Teacher Intensive class that provides in-depth training for folks interested in substitute teaching. The class is a total of 15 hours over the course of 10 sessions, starting on September 19th. The course is facilitated by Linda Roy, MS. Ed., who taught primary grades in OOB schools for 39 years and has regularly substituted K-12 in our local schools. If interested, please register by September 17th online at oobsaco.maineadulted.org or by calling 207-934-7922.

Catalog

At OOB/Saco Adult Education, we have over 150 classes scheduled this fall! Ranging from cooking experiences, exercise classes, guitar lessons, art classes, certificate programs to walking excursions, there is something for everyone! Check out our catalog at oobsaco.maineadulted.org or call 207-934-7922 for more information. Classes are open for enrollment for folks 18 and older.

School Board Meetings

Our school board meetings normally take place on the third Thursday of every month 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

CALENDAR

September 19 - TONIGHT
Town Hall 6 PM

[School Board Meeting](#)

October 2nd
Early Release

October 11th
No School - Staff Workshop

October 14th
Indigenous Peoples Day
No School

