



RSU23 MEMO

Superintendent's Monthly Update

A Note From Mr. Suttie

Hi Everyone,

As the month of December unfolds, it brings a special spirit that is unique to this time of year. December is a month that holds great significance in many ways, from the winter solstice marking the beginning of the season to the various cultural and religious celebrations taking place around the world. This season also represents a time of reflection, gratitude and hope, as we come together to celebrate and look forward to the New Year.

The holiday season is a time to cherish the relationships we have built throughout the year and appreciate the little moments that make life so special. This time of year encourages us to be more compassionate, giving, and loving towards one another, promoting the core values that strengthen our community and create a positive environment for our children to grow and learn.

As we enter the winter months, we look forward to the excitement of our winter sports programs and the joy of the holiday concert. These activities allow our students to showcase their talents and celebrate the hard work they have put in throughout the year. It is truly a privilege to witness their growth, and I am proud of their dedication and determination.

In celebration of the season and anticipation of the new year, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our teachers, staff, students, parents, and community members for their tireless efforts in making our school a welcoming and nurturing environment for learning. May the holiday season bring joy and peace to you and your loved ones, and may the new year be filled with happiness and success.



**December
2024**

HIGHLIGHTS

Snow Day Memo

Holiday Concert

Donations

Thank You's

Dental Clinic

Jameson School

Loranger School

High School

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

District News

Holiday Concert

Tonight at 6 PM the annual holiday concert will be held at Loranger Memorial School. We look forward to this great show by the LMS and OOBHS band and chorus. Our students have been hard at work preparing for the event. Please come to support them if you can and join us in celebrating the holiday season.

Donations



On Friday, November 8, Paul Santamore (OOBHS Dean of Students), Tom Pierko Perry, a talented student artist on the OOBHS "Paul Wall" committee, and Erin Dupee, OOBHS Special Ed

Tech were invited to the Paul Landry Foundation breakfast and fundraiser at Biddeford Saco Country Club. Once again, we were presented with a check for \$5,000 to use for the OOBHS StudentResources/Student Supply closet fund for the 2024/2025 school year!

Due to their incredible donation last year we were able to refill the student supply closet, which is located at the end of the "Paul Wall" in the Lord Wing of OOBHS, with items like: socks, deodorant, sweat pants, sweatshirts, water, granola bars, hair ties, water bottles, sunglasses and so many other items that students count on when they need something.

In addition to keeping the closet stocked all year we were able to purchase clothing for students to have for their new jobs: dresses, suit and tuxedo rentals for students to attend the prom, and new shoes.



On November 20, Bethany Rocheleau, JES Dean of Students, Barbara Roberge, School Board Vice-Chair, and Erin Dupee, OOBHS Special Ed. Tech, attended dinner and a

presentation of \$2,100 worth of Hannaford gift cards for the entire district from the Orchard Mason Lodge! Members of the lodge were extremely welcoming and grateful to be a part of supporting our schools and families. We are beyond grateful for the extremely generous donations from our amazing community!

Bayley Realty, Bayley Vacation Rentals, and Bayley's Campground have donated twenty \$60 gift cards to Walmart for each OOB school. We will disperse them to families who could use extra help around the holidays with gifts, clothes, food, etc.

More good news - Jake Landry is also donating gift cards to Landry's Shop N' Save in OOB.

Big thank you's to Julie Bayley of the Paul Landry Foundation, also to Joshua LaChance and the Orchard Mason Lodge #215.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Jameson Elementary School would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Saco-Biddeford Elks Lodge for their incredible generosity. Their donation has provided enough food to support our Backpack Program for the entire school year.



Thanks to their kindness and dedication to our community, our students will have access to essential meals, ensuring they are nourished and ready to learn. This meaningful contribution makes a lasting impact on the lives of our children and families.

Thank you, Saco-Biddeford Elks Lodge, for your unwavering support and commitment to our school community for the second year. This year the Backpack Program is supporting 10 students. Jameson School is able to support more families in need. If your family is in need of support please reach out to Erin Joyce, Jameson's school counselor. We are beyond grateful for these generous donations!



RSU 23 Transportation - Thank You

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to John Littlefield, the newest member of our RSU 23 Transportation Department. John joins us as the new BRCOT driver, handling the mid-day and afternoon runs. After training since September with our staff trainer, Alan Franklin, John has earned his CDL license with school bus and passenger endorsements. Welcome aboard, John!

In the past two months, our team has faced various challenges and shortages. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the entire group of drivers and transportation aides for their exceptional work during this busy and trying time.

Special thanks go to Glen Berryman and Walter Silva, along with our dedicated substitute drivers: Kris Trull, Jason Webber, and Glenn Gilbert. RSU 23 is incredibly fortunate to have such committed employees who ensure our students reach their destinations without any interruptions.

Thank you all for your teamwork and outstanding efforts! Keep up the great work!



Dental Clinic

We have a great opportunity coming up on **Friday, February 7, 2025**, 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. 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.

Jameson Updates

Thank You to the Jameson/RSU 23 Community

We are thrilled to share that the Jameson Giving Tree was able to provide gifts to 9 families with children of all ages this holiday season. Thanks to the incredible generosity and support of the RSU 23 community, every single ornament on our Giving Tree was taken within just one week, and all of the gifts were returned on time! Your kindness and dedication truly make our corner of the universe a better place. By changing our neighborhood, you are helping to change the world. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make this season brighter for local families. Together, we make a difference!



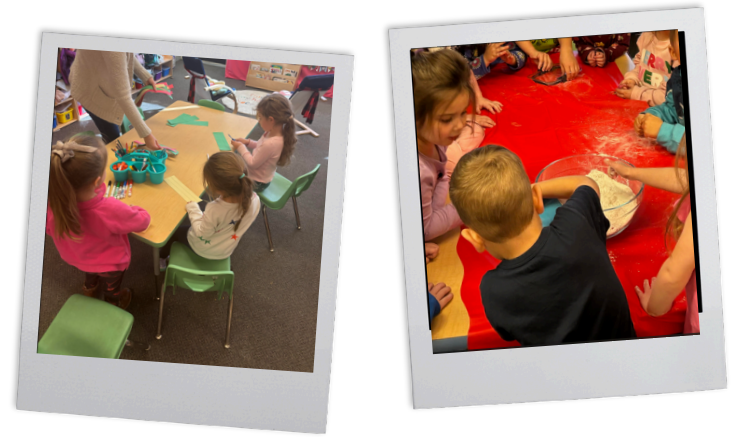
Pre-K

Pre-K is wrapping up their friends unit. We learned about how to make new friends and how to be a good friend. We practiced solving problems, sharing, and taking turns. We finished up our unit by using teamwork to create our very own paper mache piñata for our party!

This month Pre-K has also been conducting their family traditions unit. Each student shares a tradition that they love participating in each year with their families.

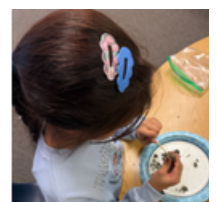
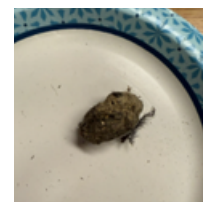


These traditions range from baking cookies to decorating ornaments to even running a 5k. The Pre-K team welcomed families into their classrooms to present their traditions and create memorable experiences for the students.



Kindergarten

Kindergarten students have been learning about animals and their habitats, including frogs, fish, owls, and wolves. Recently, we had the opportunity to dissect owl pellets. In our read-alouds, students learned that when owls hunt their prey, they swallow them whole or use their beaks to peck pieces of the animal before swallowing. They also learned that the bones and fur from the animal cannot be digested, so the owl will regurgitate a pellet that collects them. As students dissected owl pellets, they were able to sort the bones from their pellet to see if the bones came from a rodent, shrew, mole, or bird.



Loranger Updates

Some Crabby Visitors

On Friday, December 13, Ms. Boyer's class was filled with a rather strange sight. Thanks to our intern from UNE, who is also a Marine Biology major, she was able to bring crabs to provide a real life example of an invasive species. This was perfect as the class was learning about ecosystems and biomes. The students learned that green crabs were brought to the coast of Maine by ships, and are destroying the local ecosystem and hurting local marine life.

Augusta Trip

The fifth grade took a trip to the Augusta State House led by Old Orchard Beach Representative, Lori Gramlich. Students debated a bill in the House Chambers about preventing the spread of invasive pests which is a topic we've learned about in science class! They did a fantastic job!

We had the opportunity to tour the building, take part in a scavenger hunt in the Hall of Flags, meet our Governor, and even role-play how a bill becomes a law. The fifth grade team hopes the experience inspired some future change-makers!



Hour of Code

Last week, all sixth grade students participated in the HOUR OF CODE! The Hour of Code takes place all across the world, and its goal is to get students interested in computer science by engaging them with hour-long coding programs. Students coded different games, made music, and did so much more! "I now know what I am going to do when I grow up!"

"I've never coded before...and now I'm a game creator!"

(Quotes from sixth grade students after participating in the Hour of Code!)



Loranger Community Science News

Students in Science Enrichment planted 20 Atlantic White Cedar seedlings as part of a coastal resiliency study with Charles Newport University in Virginia. In January, half the seedlings will receive a salt solution treatment to find out how they respond to increased salinity.



Students in grade 6-8 continue to profile West Grand Beach every month, measuring sand level changes in a line from the dunes to the surf. A late November storm left an unusual feature for our beach, a small cliff called a scarp. After measuring it, students enjoyed leaping off it. Students from LMS have been profiling this beach for 12 years, sending their data to the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve and Maine Geological Survey.



High School Updates

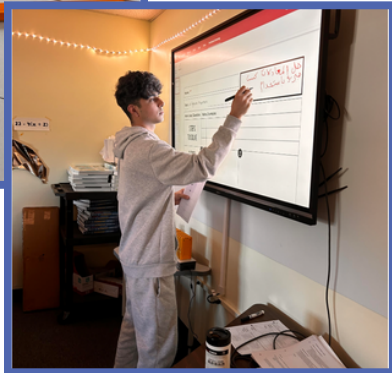
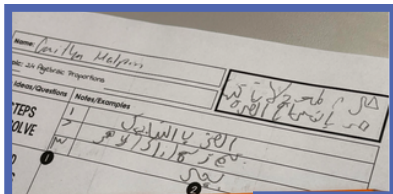
World Language

Ms. Tomecka's Spanish class visited JES where each of the Spanish students picked a Spanish children's book. The students prepared a brief vocabulary lesson then shared the story with a small group of 6-year-olds. It was a wonderful experience!



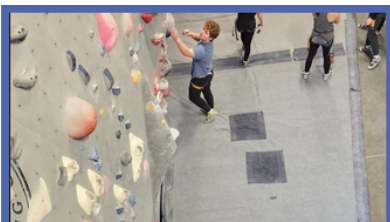
MLL Math Day

Mr. Beattie's 7th period algebra 1A has a high percentage of Multi Language Learners. These students have to learn algebra in a second language every day. In a recent class, the room was flipped. The lesson was taught in Arabic by two of our MLL students, with everyone else copying down the notes using the Arabic alphabet and numerals. The students then worked backwards to determine the steps for solving the problems. Students reflected afterwards that it was a fun opportunity to experience a new language, and see the challenge their classmates have every day of learning math in a second language.



Climbing Club

The Climbing Club took its second trip to Salt Pump in Scarborough. Great fun was had by all!



CALENDAR

Thursday, December 19th
TONIGHT
Town Hall 6 PM
School Board Meeting

Thursday, December 19th
TONIGHT
LMS 6 PM
Holiday Concert

Monday, December 23rd -
Wednesday, January 1st -
Holiday Break

Wednesday, January 8th
Early Release

Monday, January 20th
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday
No School

