



RSU23 MEMO

Superintendent's Monthly Update

A Note From Mr. Suttie

Hi Everyone,

January marks the halfway point of the school year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to learning. This is a great time to reflect on the progress made thus far, and to set goals for the remainder of the school year. I encourage each of us to make a resolution to continue to strive for academic excellence and to make the most of the educational opportunities that are presented to our students.

I want to acknowledge that Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Although Dr. King was assassinated almost fifty-seven years ago, his message of peace, freedom, justice, and equality for all, certainly still resonates in our present day world. Dr. King also understood the impact of unifying the masses in the push for one common goal. Separately, attaining any significant progress has always been and still is a challenge.

Collectively, working together, he and other civil rights activists could affect policies and influence change nationwide. I believe that in education we can honor his work daily by modeling and teaching our students how we must show respect to others with different beliefs, and to try and find common ground on issues that we may have disagreements, without resorting to disrespect, hate speech, or violence. Our nation and world could certainly use that philosophy right now more than ever, and our children have the opportunity to affect this change in their lifetimes and lead the way. As we honor Dr. King's legacy, my hope is that our children's generation can respect and collaborate with each other in order to preserve and improve our world.

As the cold winter continues, I would like to remind you that we are here to help. If your child is in need of warm clothing, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school. We will do everything we can to ensure that every student is properly equipped for the winter weather. Thank you for your support of our schools!

**January
2025**

HIGHLIGHTS

PowerSchool Update

Seagull Foundation

Dental Clinic

The Anxious Generation - Book Study

Jameson School

Loranger School

High School

PTO Boosters

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

District News

PowerSchool Breach Update

PowerSchool has assured us that the breach has been contained and that they are taking all necessary steps to secure their systems and prevent future incidents. While no operational disruptions have occurred, it is possible that certain student, staff, and family information was accessed. No passwords, credit card information, or social security numbers were compromised. We are working closely with PowerSchool to understand the scope of the incident and will provide updates as more information becomes available. Please don't hesitate to contact our Technology Support Specialist, Emily Fish, efish@rsu23.org.

The Seagull Foundation is Live

We have finally gotten approval from the state and federal government! Learn more about the foundation



from the [Seagull Foundation website](#). Please consider making a donation to the Seagull Foundation's [Concession Stand and Press Box Fundraiser](#).

Dental Clinic

We have a great opportunity coming up 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

UNE Oral Health Clinic
Friday February 7, 2025

RSU23 HAS PARTNERED WITH UNE TO PROVIDE FREE ORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS, ORAL HYGIENE EDUCATION, DENTAL CLEANINGS, FLUORIDE VARNISH APPLICATION AND DENTAL SEALANT PLACEMENT.

This will take place during the school day and is provided to RSU 23 students free of charge as part of the **Give Kids a Smile program**

If interested in this opportunity, please see school wide email with attached form or reach out to your school nurse for info.
sburnham@rsu23.org - Sarah Burnham
kgagnon@rsu23.org - Katie Gagnon

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.

RSU 23 Takes On "The Anxious Generation" Through Community Book Study

We would like to invite you to join our upcoming community book group where we'll be discussing Jonathan Haidt's "The Anxious Generation." As parents navigating the challenges of raising children in a digital age, this book offers valuable insights into one of the most pressing issues facing our families today.

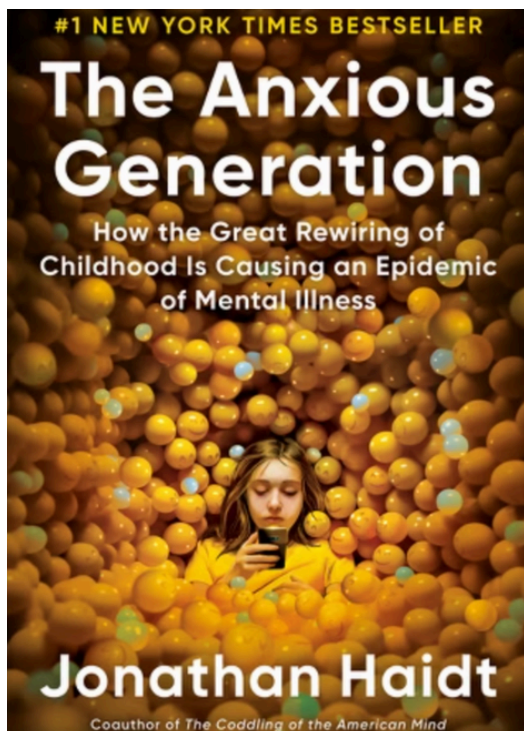
The book examines the dramatic decline in youth mental health that began in the early 2010's, coinciding with the widespread adoption of smartphones and social media. Dr. Haidt, a respected

social psychologist, presents compelling research on how the shift from "play-based childhood" to "phone-based childhood" has impacted our children's development, social connections, and psychological well-being.

We plan to meet five times over the course of a few months to discuss different aspects of the book, including:

- Understanding the current youth mental health crisis
- The importance of play and independent exploration in childhood
- How technology affects sleep, attention, and social development
- Practical solutions for families and communities
- Creating healthier relationships with technology

This isn't just a book discussion – it's an opportunity for us as parents to share experiences, learn from each other, and develop strategies to help our children thrive in the digital age. Whether your children are young or teenagers, the insights from this book can help us make informed decisions about technology use in our families.



The school can order copies of the book at a reduced price of \$25. If the cost of the book would prevent you from participating, please let us know – we want to ensure that all interested families can join this important discussion and will work to provide books for those who need them.

To help us plan the book group schedule and gauge interest, please complete this brief form, [Anxious Generation Book Group](#). The form will help us determine the best meeting times and dates for participants. We recommend reading the first two chapters before our first meeting. Light refreshments will be provided. We look forward to engaging in this important conversation with you.

Jameson Updates

Pre-K

Pre-k students have been learning about wind and water. We have enjoyed building boats and learning about buoyancy, experimenting with the effects of air on heavy and light objects, and using experiments with water to discover more about absorbency of different materials. Our favorite experiments have been discovering the properties of snow on our playground!



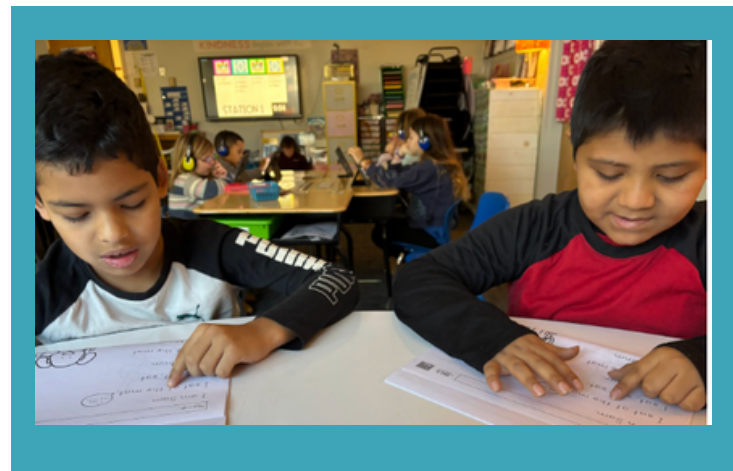
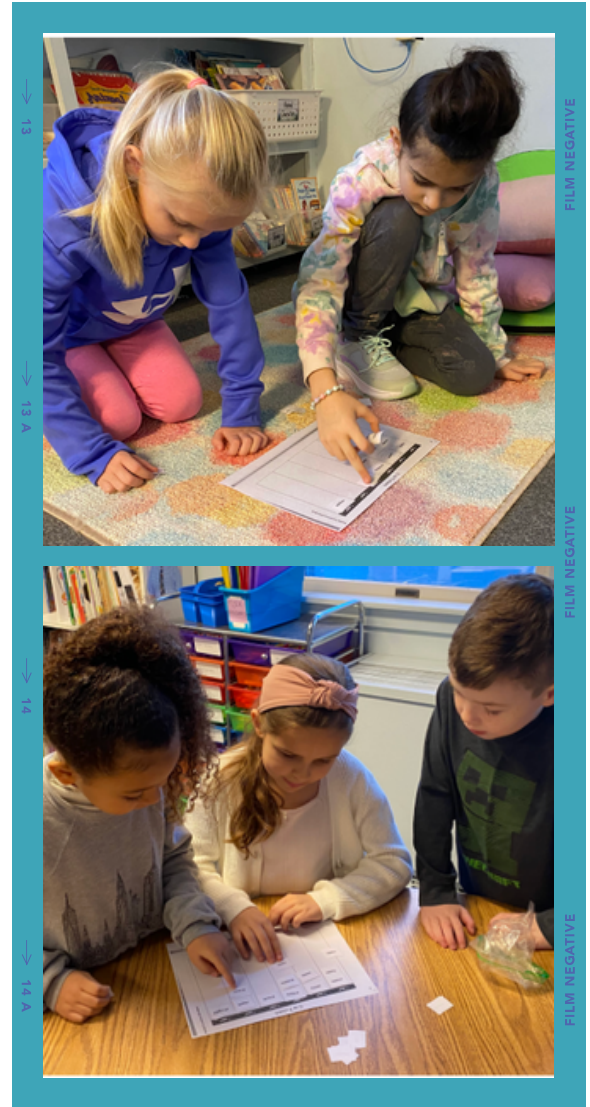


Second Grade

In second grade, students engage in small group activities designed to provide targeted instruction in literacy skills. Over the past two weeks, the focus has been on consonant + le words, which are an essential part of developing phonemic awareness and reading fluency.

During this instructional period, students have had the opportunity to explore these words through various engaging methods. They work with consonant + le words in writing exercises, where they practice spelling and composing sentences. In addition, they utilize magnetic tiles to manipulate the letters and build the words physically, which helps reinforce their understanding of the word structure. Furthermore, students have been reading stories that feature consonant + le words prominently. This not only

enhances their reading skills but also allows them to see these words in context, improving comprehension and retention. Through these diverse activities, students are able to deepen their understanding of consonant + le words while enjoying a collaborative and supportive learning environment.



Loranger Updates

Fourth Grade

The fourth grade has started their research unit where they are learning about the various ways animals use their body and behaviors to survive! Once they are true experts on the topic, they will use their writing skills to creatively write Choose-Your-Own-Adventure stories where readers are both entertained by the characters but informed about animal defense mechanisms! They are excited to share their learning with our community.

Fourth grade students in **Mrs. Lees's** class are making a connection between the concrete and abstract when solving division problems involving four digits.



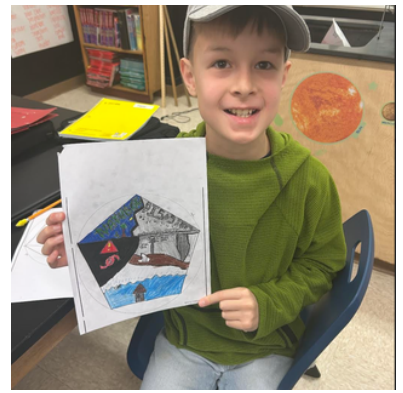
Sixth Grade

In sixth grade ELA, students are writing fictional narratives and have completed strong leads (or hooks)! They look forward to sharing published stories soon!



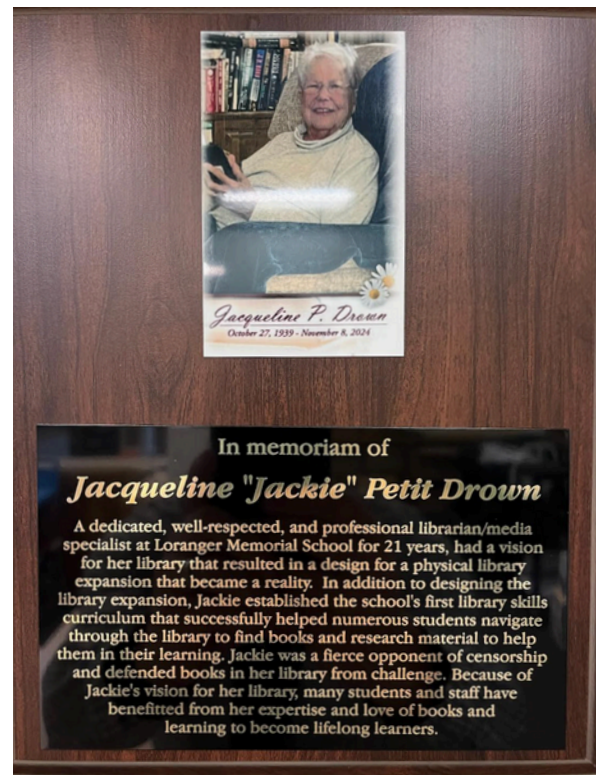
In sixth grade science, students are working hard on a big research project about natural disasters.

Students are in the process of researching ten different natural disasters to learn about the science behind them and the impact they each have on various parts of the world.



Dedication to Jackie Drown

On Wednesday, January 8th, family, friends, former colleagues, and students gathered in the Loranger Memorial Library to dedicate a plaque to longtime Loranger Library/Media Specialist, Jacqueline "Jackie" Drown. Jackie was a dedicated professional at Loranger for twenty-one years. Her vision for the library and its future and her dedication to students was exemplary. Approximately forty people gathered to be part of the dedication and have refreshments and conversation as they honored Jackie's work.





High School Updates

Over winter break, OOBHS students participated in an IXL Math-a-Thon, practicing skills and keeping minds sharp over vacation. The top ten participants were awarded donuts, as well as additional prizes for top finishers. Congratulations to the top three participants: Ari Ramirez (1st), Shaelynn Sanderson (2nd), and Samarra Winn (3rd). Thank you to all students who participated, we are proud of you for taking the time to practice over break! Keep an eye out for additional IXL math competitions during February and April break.



PTO-Boosters hosted our annual craft fair in December and it was a wonderful event with many members of our community coming together to shop. There will be a family BINGO night, **January 31st** at LMS from 5:30-7:00 with pizza and hot dogs for sale. All are welcome!



CALENDAR

January 16th
TONIGHT
Town Hall 6 PM
School Board Meeting

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

Wednesday, January 8th
Early Release

Monday, February 17th-
Friday, February 21st
February Vacation

