



RSU23 MEMO

Superintendent's Monthly Update

February 2026

A NOTE FROM MR. SUTTIE

Hi Everyone,

As we move through February, I am reminded that this month has long been associated with both reflection and resilience. February is home to Black History Month, a time to honor the achievements, contributions, and enduring impact of Black Americans on our nation's history and culture. We also recognize Presidents' Day, formally known as Washington's Birthday, which invites us to reflect on leadership and public service. And on February 2nd, many of us followed the annual tradition of Groundhog Day, perhaps fruitlessly hoping for an early spring!

Closer to home, I want to congratulate our student-athletes, coaches, advisors, and families on the successful conclusion of our winter sports and activities season. From packed gyms and spirited competitions to performances and club achievements, our students have represented our schools with pride, sportsmanship, and dedication. Their hard work, along with the commitment of our staff and volunteers, has made this season one to celebrate.

While February can test our patience with cold temperatures and limited daylight, there is a clear shift on the horizon. We will turn our clocks forward on March 8th, signaling the approach of longer, brighter days.

With additional daylight comes renewed energy and optimism as we look toward spring athletics, academic milestones, and community events.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support. Even in the heart of winter, the strength of our school community shines brightly. I hope you enjoy this month's memo and the many accomplishments it highlights.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Dental Care Day
- Digital Detox
- Food Service News
- Jameson Happenings
- Loranger News
- OOBHS Updates
- OOBHS Quarter 2 Honor Roll
- Adult Education

DISTRICT NEWS

Dental Care Day a Success!

Almost 100 RSU 23 students took part in Dental Care Day at UNE. The event took place on Friday, February 6. UNE staff and students offered free dental services to all students in the district, from Pre-K through 12th grade. RSU 23 offered free transportation, and services were provided during the school day. All care was offered at no cost as part of the Give Kids a Smile program.



A huge thank you goes to our health services team of Sarah Burnham, Katie Gagnon, and Darcie McInnis, along with transportation director Mark Beaudoin for making this service a reality for our students!

District Staff Unplug for "Digital Detox" Challenge

Our staff recently traded screen time for "me time" during a district-wide Digital Detox challenge. By stepping away from their devices, participants focused on improving their physical and mental well-being—a practice proven to reduce anxiety and boost productivity.

We are proud to share that 25% of our employees successfully participated in the challenge! To celebrate their efforts, participants were entered into a raffle for a wellness gift basket featuring non-screen activities like puzzles, coloring books, and aromatherapy.



Congratulations to our lucky winner, Cathy Reed, Social Worker at Old Orchard Beach High School!

School Board
Meeting
TONIGHT



DISTRICT NEWS

RSU 23 Food Service News!

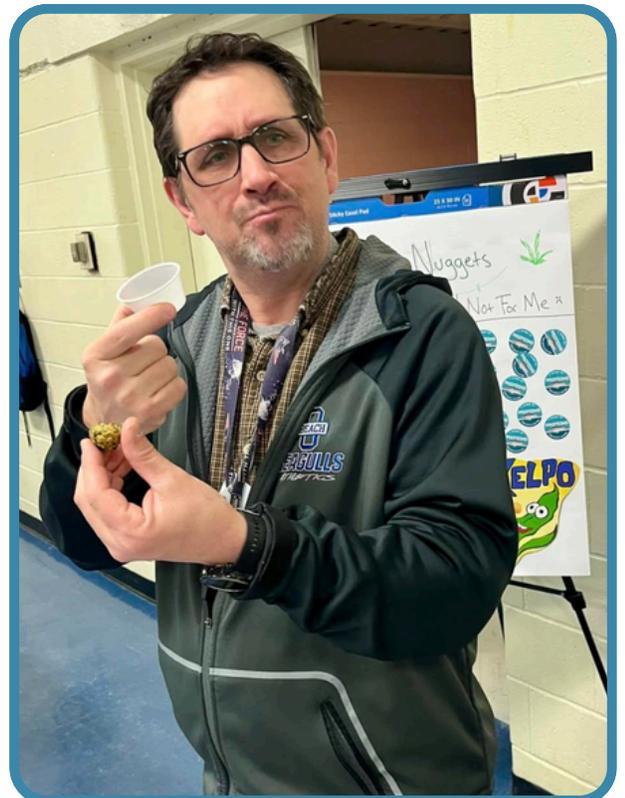
The OOB Nutrition Staff is gearing up for an exciting **National Nutrition Month** this March!

This annual celebration is all about helping students build healthy habits, explore new foods, support local farms, and learn how nutritious choices fuel their bodies and minds for success.

Throughout the district, students have been participating in fun and interactive taste testing to help shape our future menus. Their feedback plays an important role in deciding which fresh and nutritious foods make it onto their lunch trays. It's been wonderful to see students step outside their comfort zones and try something new!

Recently, taste buds have been put to the test with a variety of unique and locally sourced items, including creamy local yogurt, kelp nuggets, a baked potato bar, hydroponic beet greens, baked sweet potato "chips," and even watermelon radishes.

We encourage families to ask their students about the new foods they've tried, you might be surprised by their new favorites!



JAMESON HAPPENINGS

A Special Thank You to WinterKids Maine

Jameson School would like to extend a huge thank you to WinterKids Maine, for allowing us to borrow a classroom set of snowshoes and a StoryWalk experience. This wonderful opportunity encouraged our students to get outside, stay active, and keep learning in a fun and engaging way.

For many of our students, it was their very first time trying snowshoeing, and the excitement was contagious! We are grateful for partnerships like this that support both wellness and academics during the winter months.



JAMESON HAPPENINGS

Pre-K is wrapping up our Wind and Water unit. We have had so much fun learning about the weather, and experiencing the weather (especially snow) outside on the playground!



Mrs. Frewald and Mrs. Henderson worked on a narrative writing unit with Mrs. Frewald's first-grade class, which ended last week with a writing celebration. Students learned how to come up with ideas, select a topic, develop it, use speech and thought bubbles, and practice spelling strategies. They worked really hard and were proud of their published pieces. Enjoy these sweet photos - we couldn't choose just one to send you!



JAMESON HAPPENINGS

Second-grade students each drew a character with 5 traits describing it. This character was then brought to life by the students of Ms. Horowitz's creative writing class, as well as Ms. Gillis' art class. Students were then able to join together to read the stories written about their characters, and bring home the visual of their character.



On Wednesday during February Vacation, more than 30 Jameson School students gathered at Harris Farm in Dayton for an afternoon of sledding and winter fun. With plenty of snow and lots of enthusiasm, students enjoyed racing down the hill, laughing with friends, and making the most of a beautiful winter evening.

Everyone in attendance had a fantastic time, and it was wonderful to see our school community come together outside the classroom. The event was such a success that we are hopeful this will become a new annual tradition as long as Mother Nature cooperates with enough snow next year!



LORANGER NEWS

Third Graders Learn the Secrets of Writing with Maine Author Lynn Plourde

Our third graders had an exciting visit from children's author Lynn Plourde! She taught us that great writers always start with a plan. Using her "3P's" method, our classes created a story together: we began with a Problem, brainstormed a Promise, and built a Pattern, showing three attempts to solve the problem—with the third attempt succeeding. It was a fun, hands-on way for students to experience storytelling from start to finish!



The fourth grade gathered together to enjoy an in-person read-aloud with Maine author Lynn Plourde. She read an excerpt from her latest book, *Bionic Boy*, and discussed her inspiration for the story. Ms. Plourde also brought in a prosthetic hand and talked about limb differences, helping students understand how many people around the world live with these experiences. Students even had the opportunity to try the prosthesis themselves, gaining a better understanding of the challenges and skills involved in learning to use one. They also had a chance to get their books signed and ask Ms. Plourde questions about her career as an author. Inspired by the visit, many students carried their new ideas into their own creative writing journals, using the experience to spark original stories and characters. The visit was both engaging and inspiring.



Sixth Grade Achievements: Hear It From the Students!

Sixth grade students have successfully wrapped up two major projects in science and language arts! They completed a research project on natural disasters, culminating in a creative dodecahedron presentation, and finished writing fictional narratives that were published as digital books. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and accomplishments! Check out the interview below to hear two students, Kaitlyn and Zaiden, share about their projects in their own words.

LANGUAGE ARTS: Fiction Narrative with Ms. Rossignol

How did you come up with the idea for your fiction story?

Zaiden: I was inspired by a movie I watched.

Kaitlyn: I came up with the idea for my story from watching a popular show.

What is your story "hook" in one or two sentences?

Zaiden: I explain the details of the setting so it makes an image in the reader's mind.

Kaitlyn: I also explained the setting because that's where I want the reader to picture themselves (in a dining room).

What's the conflict your main character is facing?

Zaiden: The main character is trying to save the world from a zombie apocalypse. He is a scientist and creates an antidote.

Kaitlyn: There's a monster taking friends of the main character, so the main character has to save her friends.

Can you give an example of how you used sensory details, dialogue, or figurative language to help develop your story?

Zaiden: I used lots of onomatopoeias! Like, FRRRRSHHH! Bang! Which represents a peanut butter flying across the room.

Kaitlyn: I used alot of figurative language like personification. "My heart hammers against my ribs." Hearts can't act like a hammer.

What part of your writing are you most proud of and why?

Zaiden: The descriptive words I used because it makes a better mental image in the reader's mind. It helps them understand the story more and make predictions.

Kaitlyn: The storyline and how much my writing has improved from last year, especially my word choice to make my story more exciting.

SCIENCE: Natural Disaster Project with Mrs. Magill

What is your favorite natural disaster, and why?

Zaiden: Probably tornadoes because I didn't know there were so many types.

Kaitlyn: Also tornadoes! I was already interested in tornadoes, so I thought it was cool to learn more.

What's one important fact you've learned that surprised you about a natural disaster?

Zaiden: I didn't know how volcanoes erupt.

Kaitlyn: Blizzards are super dangerous. I didn't know how dangerous they could be.

How did you collect your information for your project?

Zaiden: I mainly used Britannica.

Kaitlyn: I used websites. My favorite was the NOAA website.

If you had to explain your natural disaster project to a 3rd grader in 15 seconds, what would you say?

Zaiden: We made a dodecahedron, which is a 12-sided shape, about natural disasters.

Kaitlyn: We made a dodecahedron with 10 natural disasters, colored it, wrote information and had a reference and title section.

Which aspect of your final product makes you the most proud and why?

Zaiden: The pictures! I spent alot of time on them trying to make them look realistic.

Kaitlyn: I am proud of my drawing and making my writing super neat in the sections.



LORANGER NEWS

Composting Gets a Boost

Loranger received a grant of \$1,500 from Ecomaine to purchase compostable serveware for the cafeteria. We started with compostable soup cups and “boats,” which are paper dishes used for foods like mac & cheese. Leftover food can stay in the new containers and go into the compost buckets. Many students are doing a great job of composting food waste and compostable dishes, while putting plastic, foil, and milk cartons into the trash. We are significantly reducing the volume of trash we produce. Our composting company, Diggers Cooperative in Acton, Maine, turns food waste and compostable paper products into clean, healthy soil.



Thanks to our wonderful cafeteria staff, Friday, February 27, is Cookies for Composting Day! Every student at lunch will get a free cookie to celebrate our composting progress.



LORANGER NEWS

GLOBE Program Green Down Project

Seventh graders in Mrs. Nye's science enrichment group participated in the GLOBE Program's Green Down Field Season, sponsored by NASA and supported by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. Over five weeks, students collected color change data from trees in front of the school. They graphed their data and contributed to a slidedeck compiled by students from 20+ schools. The GLOBE office released a story about the Maine project: [GLOBE story link](#).

School or Group Name: Loranger Memorial School

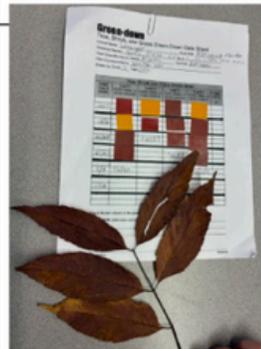
Location: Old Orchard Beach, ME

Date(s): 10/17/25 - 11/10/25

Species: red maple, silver maple, white ash, red oak, sycamore

Something we noticed: Both maples had the widest varieties of color. On the silver maple $\frac{3}{4}$ of the leaves turned yellow before falling. On the red oak two leaves fell by the second week. The sycamore and silver maple leaves stayed on the longest. The ash leaves turned yellow then red so we knew it was a white ash.

Something we wondered: Why did the maples have a bigger variety of colors? Why did one red maple leaf turn red while the others stayed green? Do all silver maple leaves turn yellow?



Contact: Cynthia Nye

OOBHS UPDATES

Congratulations to Ian Cook, Kevin Phan, and Kason Cassette for participation in the District 1 Honors Festival! The students traveled to Noble High School to perform in the Maine Music Educators Association (MMEA) District 1 honors band festival. Held over the weekend of the Jan. 23rd and 24th, our students performed in the nomination band with around 65 other freshmen and sophomores from southern Maine. With Kason on clarinet, Kevin on alto saxophone, and Ian on tuba, the festival culminated in a fabulous concert on Saturday, performing works by Frank Ticheli, Robert Smith, and Richard Saucedo. Congrats again, and thank you for representing quality music in our district!



Animal Welfare Society Food Drive



The Animal Welfare Society serves more than 20,000 pets each year. They need our support to keep saving animals. The COAST program (room 207) is sponsoring a food drive for the Animal Welfare Society in Kennebunk, Maine. Look for signs in the entryway to drop off your food starting Monday, February 9th!

OOBHS UPDATES

Unified Basketball season is Underway! Go Gulls!



Old Orchard Beach High School

Quarter 2 Honor Roll

Grade 12:

Highest Honors: Ryan Oliver

High Honors: Samantha Darling, Megan Dow, Ella Febbi, Wesley Gallant, Olivia McInnis, Ransom Randall, Adora Whitten

Honors: Ayden Arnold, Jaelyn Ashley, Maria Caron, Anthony Hutchins, Zachary Musto, Alanna Parent, Ethan Pendleton, Tom Pierko-Perry, Kiley Reynolds, Matthew Stevens, Nicole Tsicouleas, Hannah Webber

Grade 11:

Highest Honors: Chloe Cushna-Leonard, Talan LaChance

High Honors: Liliana Albair, Ava Alivizatos, Lea Alivizatos, Tre Dion, Rebeca Massanga, Jordyn Methot, Mia Perez, Arianna Ramirez

Honors: Methos Barna, Marcus Ciccariello, Brianna Crone, Caleb Dupee, Emmaline Ellison, William McKenzie, Elias Pumba, Davio Richards, Alexis Sweeney, Kaydence Turner

Grade 10:

Highest Honors: Corinne Androkitis, Ian Cook, Brooklyn Mansur, Shaelynn Sanderson, Samarra Winn, Savannah Winn

High Honors: Daniel Cashman, Aidan Henderson, Emelia Michaud, Lilah Morris, Jaival Patel, Vivienne Provencher, Eve Tweedie

Honors: Caleb Aube, Joshua DeSouza, Cadence Oliver, Khloe Wood

Grade 9:

Highest Honors: Aunabelle Ellison, Holden LePauloue, Eva McLean

High Honors: Chloe Aube, Bryleigh Bugaj, Amelia Gervais, Lillian Goodreau, Kita, Daniel, Samuel McKenzie, Ariya Thao

Honors: Kason Cassette, Cooper Gallant, Ashba James, Kita Daniel, Arianna Langella, AlexZandria Loignon, Cooper Nason, Reagan Partridge, Alex Pelletier, Kevin Phan, Liam Thomas, Gabrielle Weeks, Ashton Whitten





OOB/Saco Adult Education

Learning for Better Living

Old Orchard Beach/Saco Adult Education's spring/summer semester registration will open on Monday, February 23rd! We have a wide range of academic, enrichment, and professional learning opportunities for adults ages 18+. Our enrichment program includes classes in creative & culinary arts, technology, dance, languages, music, personal finance, recreation, travel, wellness, and workforce training. Our free academic program includes a high school diploma program and HiSET as well as courses in college prep, English for multi-lingual learners, and citizenship prep. Visit our website at oobsaco.maineadulted.org for more information.

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

Important Upcoming Dates:

February 26, 2026

TONIGHT

Town Hall 6 PM

School Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 11

Early Release Day

Wednesday, March 18

Town Hall 6 PM

FY26 Budget Workshop (streamed & televised)

