



RSU23 MEMO



Superintendent's Monthly Update May 2026

A NOTE FROM MR. SUTTIE

Hi Everyone,

As we enter the final stretch of the 2025–2026 school year, our schools are filled with the energy and excitement that always accompanies the month of May. Classrooms, athletic fields, performance spaces, and school campuses are busier than ever as students and staff work hard to finish the year strong while celebrating the many accomplishments of our school community.

Spring sports and extracurricular activities are in full swing, and our students continue to represent RSU 23 with pride, dedication, and sportsmanship. From athletic competitions and concerts to academic showcases, field trips, and year-end celebrations, this is truly one of the most active and rewarding times of the school year. I would like to thank our students, staff, families, coaches, advisors, and volunteers for the countless hours they devote to making these experiences possible for our children.

One of the highlights of the season will be the graduation ceremony for the Old Orchard Beach High School Class of 2026, which will take place on Sunday, June 7th at 2:00 PM at the Seaside Pavilion. Graduation is always a special occasion for our community as we celebrate the achievements, perseverance, and bright futures of our graduating seniors. We look forward to honoring the Class of 2026 and sharing this memorable day with families, friends, staff, and community members.

I would also like to thank all community members who participated in Tuesday evening's Regional Budget Meeting, where attendees approved the proposed 2026–2027 fiscal year school budget. The next and final step in the budget process will be the budget referendum vote, which will take place at Old Orchard Beach High School on Election Day, Tuesday, June 9th. Community participation remains critically important, and I encourage all eligible voters to make their voices heard.

The month of May also carries many moments of historical and cultural significance. Memorial Day, observed this year on May 25th, reminds us to honor and remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. May is also recognized nationally as Teacher Appreciation Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, and National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, all important reminders of the values that strengthen our schools and communities each day.

As we move toward the conclusion of another successful school year, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our students, staff, families, and community members for your continued support of RSU 23. The final weeks of school are some of the busiest, but they are also among the most rewarding. I hope everyone takes time to enjoy the many celebrations, accomplishments, and traditions that make this season so special.

District News

MAY 21

SAVE THE DATE

YOU'RE INVITED TO A
Senior Citizen Dinner
Thursday, May 21st 2026
4:00 pm seating
LORANGER MEMORIAL SCHOOL
FREE TURKEY DINNER WITH ALL THE FIXINGS
FOR SENIOR CITIZENS OF OOB

MAY 28 & 29

SHREK
THE MUSICAL JR

PRESENTED BY
RSU23
Featuring students from
Loranger Middle &
Old Orchard Beach High
Schools

FREE ADMISSION!
Donations
welcome

SHOWTIMES
Thursday, May 28 at 6:00 PM
Friday, May 29 at 6:00 PM

LOCATION
Loranger Middle School Gymnasium
148 Saco Ave., Old Orchard Beach

Big laughs. Big heart. Big green ogre.

JUNE 7
GRADUATION
2:00 PM



JES News

Plant with Your Person

A morning of creativity and connection!

More than 80
families
registered!

With the help of Aly Robillard from Robillard's Garden Center, each student had the opportunity to decorate a flower pot and plant seeds to take home and enjoy. A heartfelt thank you to Robillard's for generously providing the seeds, soil, and gardening expertise, and to the RSU 23 PTO-Boosters for donating additional supplies to help make the event such a success:)



Second Grade Field Trip

Welcome to Old Orchard Beach, Maine!



Career Exploration Week: Connecting learners to the world!

Thank you to our parent volunteers, graduates and community members that joined to support! Guest speakers included a General Contractor, Animation Studio Artist, Interior Designer, Cosmetologist, Author, Physician, Pharmacist, Procurement Manager, Small Business Owner, Yoga Instructor, Musician, Military Service Members and Emergency Responders.



LMS Happenings

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

- Nelson Mandela

8th Annual Leadership SUMMIT

A group of 12 Loranger Middle School students recently traveled to the University of New England to participate in the 8th Annual Leadership Summit for Middle School Students, joining over 200 fellow middle schoolers from across the region.



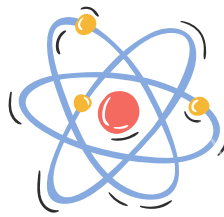
This year's summit, themed Connecting Leaders, Inspiring Change, brought students together for leadership activities and discussions focused on building connections with peers from other schools and discovering ways to inspire positive change in their schools and communities. Our Loranger students rose to the occasion, identifying challenges within our school community, setting goals, and exploring ways that they as student leaders can impact positive change.

We are incredibly proud of these young leaders for stepping up and embracing the challenge of making a difference!

LMS Happenings

13th Year of Beach Profiling

Each month, students measure sand levels on West Grand Beach at the end of Union Ave. They send their data to the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve and Maine Geological Survey. According to the Wells Reserve website, "By tracking the movement of sand every month and comparing those results each year, beach profiling can help the state of Maine and local communities better manage their coastal resources."



Trout Release



5th graders said good-bye to thier baby trout, called a fry, at Caascade Brook on May 6th



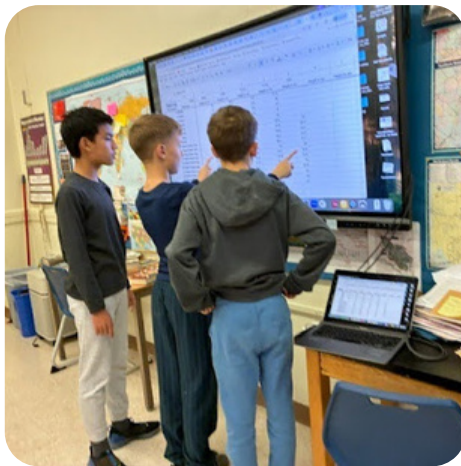
"I think they'll be happy here."
- Charlotte, LMS student



Atlantic White Cedar Study: The effects of rising sea levels and the salt tolerance of Atlantic White Cedar trees (AWC)



Science Enrichment



From Maine to Texas, 25 schools contributed to reserach in the "Fear to Hope" study with Christopher Newport University (CNU) investigating the effects of rising sea levels and the salt tolerance of Atlantic White Cedar trees (AWC). Students analyzed their three week data to create a poster that CNU researchers presented at a symposium in VA.



Atlantic White Cedar and 6PPT Salt Water Loranger, Maine by Kenny, Isaac, Andy, Wilson, Charlotte, Mason

Introduction:
Atlantic White Cedar (AWC) is a tree that lives in fresh water bogs and low lying forests around rivers and lakes. They have bluish green leaves, very small cones, and gray-brown brittle bark. Maine has very few stands remaining due to occurring at the northern limit of the range and conversion to cranberry bogs. We became interested because we found AWC in Saco Heath which is 5 miles from our school. We want to find out how AWC will tolerate climate change, especially saltier water because sea levels are rising.

Results:

- The graph shows that the salt treatment trees had lower positive percent change in all three parameters.
- The photos show our seedlings at the end of the investigation.
 - In the control group, tree #1 died (it arrived a week after the others and was dried out).
 - In the treatment group, number 11, 16, 17 and 19 died.

Discussion:

- Our results suggest that the seedlings are stressed by the 6 ppt salt.
 - Salt exposed trees grow slower in height and diameter.
 - Percent change for branch number was negative because branches fell off trees in the treatment group.
- The control group grew normally as expected, except the one that came after the others.
 - All the trees got tiny flies and white bugs that might have affected their health. We could try to identify the insects.
 - We think the 4-year-old trees didn't have enough soil or space in the pot for their roots to grow, and lack of space caused them to die. Last year all our seedlings survived but were only 1 year old and may not have run out of space in the pot.
 - Restoration of AWC in Maine should focus on areas that are unlikely to receive as much as 6 ppt salt.

Figure showing Percent Change



Methods:
We put each four-year-old AWC seedling in soil within a drainable pot which we put in a white non-draining pail to hold the water. We grew them indoors under a growlight. Three weeks later, we watered trees 1-10 with fresh water as a no-salt control, and 11-20 with 6 ppt salt water (using Instant Ocean). We estimated percent brown, branch count, height (cm), and diameter (mm) for 3 weeks, then we flushed the salt treatment pots by pouring fresh water through them.



Top: Control group. Mostly green.



Bottom: Treatment group. 0-10% brown (on left), 10-20%, 25-50%, 50-75%, 75-100% dead (on right)

References:
The Nature Conservancy: www.nature.org
Forest Trees of Maine: Centennial Edition, www.maineconservation.org



MBDA CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL

Congratulations to the high school Concert Band for their participation in the MBDA (Maine Band Directors Association) Concert Band Festival. This annual event, held at Merrill Auditorium, showcases the hard work, dedication, and musical growth of student musicians from across the state. Our students represented the district's music program with professionalism and pride, and the group put forth a wonderful concert in this world class performance space. Afterwards, they were treated to a clinic with Dr. Philip Edelman, director of bands at the University of Maine in Orono. He praised the group's strength as individual players as well their ability to blend together to play with heart.



Congratulations!
Soprano Singer



Caitlyn Halpin nominated into the District 1 honors Jazz Festival

SPRING MUSIC SCHEDULE

- May 22nd Six Flags Music Festival
- May 25th Monday Memorial Day Parade
- May 27th High School Spring Concert @ 6pm
OOBHS Cafe
- May 29th Art Show (rock band) OOB Libby Library
- June 4th Marching Band Info Night 6 PM
- June 7th High school Graduation Seaside Pavilion 2 PM

Coming up ...



Agawam, MA

8th Grade Step Up Night!

The high school hosted their annual 8th grade step up night the evening of 4/29. When families arrived, they were given their student's potential schedule for the fall and were able to meet and greet the faces they will see next year. This event helps the teachers and staff showcase all the wonderful events that occur in the high school classrooms. Each department was able to chat with families and get students excited about their transition to high school. Thanks for the amazing turn out! See you in the fall!



Quarter 3 Honor Roll!

Grade 12

Highest Honors:

Jaelyn Ashley, Samantha Darling, Olivia McInnis, Ryan Oliver, Adora Whitten

High Honors:

Ayden Arnold, Megan Dow, Wesley Gallant, Anthony Hutchins, Jaydon Jencks, Zachary Musto, Ransom Randall, Kiley Reynolds, Gibson Villanueva

Honors:

Maria Caron, Ella Febbi, Andy Kulenduka Mabaya, Christopher Moody, Ethan Pendleton, Mathew Stevens, Christopher Thornton, Nicole Tsicouleas, Hannah Webber

Grade 11

Highest Honors:

Ava Alivizatos, Lea Alivizatos, Chloe Cushna-Leonard, Talan LaChance

High Honors:

Caleb Dupee, Mia Perez, Davio Richards

Honors:

Liliana Albair, Methos Barna, Marcus Ciccariello, Brianna Crone, Robert Dion, Catilyn Halpin, Aiden Hodgkins, Jayden Marsh, William McKenzie, Jordyn Methot, Elias Pumba, Alayna Robichaud, Lily Shaw

Grade 10

Highest Honors:

Corinne Androkitis, Ian Cook, Shaelynn Sanderson, Samarra Winn, Savannah Winn

High Honors:

Daniel Cashman, Joshua DeSouza, Noah Kullson, Brooklyn Mansur, Emeilia Michaud, Cadence Oliver, Jaival Patel, Vivienne Provencher, Eve Tweedie, Khloe Wood

Honors:

Kamryn Arey, Caleb Aube, Lexi Broad, Matthew Charron, Aidan Henderson, Logan Morin, Rafael Pierko Perry

Grade 9

Highest Honors:

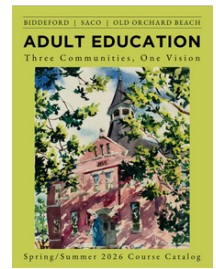
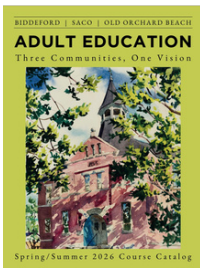
Holden LePauloue, Samuel McKenzie, Eva McLean

High Honors:

Kason Cassette, Ameilia Gervais, Reagan Partridge

Honors:

Chloe Aube, Tristen Beaudoin-Byrnes, Lauren Bell, Ryder Blake, Bryleigh Bugai, Aunabelle Ellison, Cooper Gallant, Arianna Geisinger, Ashba James, Arianna Langella, AlexZandria Loignon, Cooper Nason, Alex Pelletier, Avery Schildroth, Ariya Thao, Liam Thomas, Gabrielle Weeks



OOB/Saco Adult Education

Learning for Better Living

Old Orchard Beach/Saco Adult Education's spring/summer semester registration is now open! 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 multilingual learners, and citizenship prep. Visit our website at oobsaco.maineadulted.org for more information. Interested in teaching for our program, fill out and submit a course proposal form.

Registration is now OPEN

[please click](#)

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:

- May 21 TODAY, Senior Citizen Dinner @ 4 PM, Loranger Memorial School
- May 21 TONIGHT, School Board Meeting @ 6 PM, OOB Town Hall
- May 25 No School - Memorial Day
Memorial Day Parade Band Performance
- May 27 HS Spring Concert, OOBHS @ 6 PM,
@ OOBHS Cafe
- May 28-29 Shrek The Musical JR. @ 6 PM LMS Gym
- May 29 Art Show (rock band), Libby Library
- June 4 Marching Band Information Night @ 6 PM
- June 4 & 5 Senior Marching Practices
- June 7 OOBHS Graduation @ 2 PM
Seaside Pavillion
- June 9 Budget Referendum, OOBHS
- June 16 Last Day of School (Early Release Day)

