



# RSU23 MEMO

## *Superintendent's Monthly Update* June 2026



### A Note from Mr. Suttie

Hi Everyone,

As we close out another remarkable school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many accomplishments, celebrations, and milestones that have defined the 2025-2026 school year.

First and foremost, congratulations to the OOBHS Class of 2026 on their graduation this past Sunday at the Seaside Pavilion. Graduation is a significant milestone that represents years of hard work, perseverance, and growth. On behalf of our entire school community, I wish our graduates success, happiness, and fulfillment as they begin the next chapter of their lives. We are proud of all they have accomplished and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make in the years ahead.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the voters of Old Orchard Beach and the residents of our regional school district for their support of our schools. Yesterday's successful budget referendum marks the final step in the budget approval process and ensures that we can continue providing high quality educational opportunities for our students. Your support reflects a strong commitment to public education and to the future of our community's children.



June is a month rich with history and significance. It is a time of transition, celebration, and reflection. We recognize Flag Day on June 14, honoring the symbol of our nation, and Juneteenth on June 19, a holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and the continuing pursuit of freedom and equality. June also marks the arrival of summer, bringing opportunities for rest, recreation, and time with family and friends.

As I reflect on this school year, I am filled with gratitude. Thank you to our dedicated staff, school board members, parents, guardians, and community partners for your unwavering commitment to our students. Most importantly, thank you to our students, whose enthusiasm, resilience, and achievements inspire us every day. Together, we have accomplished a great deal and continued to strengthen our school community.

I hope everyone has a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer. While our schools may be quieter in the coming weeks, planning and preparation for another exciting year will already be underway. The next Superintendent's Memo will be published in August as we prepare to welcome students and staff back for the 2026-2027 school year.

Thank you for your continued support of the Old Orchard Beach schools. Have a wonderful summer.

# Congratulations!

## 2026

One chapter ends, and another begins!



The Senior Walk serves as a powerful reminder of how quickly the years pass and how our schools are connected through a shared journey of learning and growth. For our graduating seniors, it is an opportunity to reflect on where their educational path began. For our younger students, it provides inspiration as they see firsthand what can be achieved through hard work, perseverance, and community support. 🦶🦶🦶

The smiles, excitement, and pride on display throughout the day captured the very best of RSU 23. We congratulate the Class of 2026 and thank them for being outstanding role models for the students who will one day follow in their footsteps.

oh, the  
places you'll go

# District News

## 2026 RSU 23



## Special Olympics

Friday, June 5th was an unforgettable day of celebrations!

The festivities began with an incredible send-off from our faculty and students, who lined the hallways and gathered outside the school to cheer on our Olympians as they boarded the bus. The excitement continued as the Old Orchard Beach Police and Fire Departments provided a special escort around town. Along the route, many local businesses stood outside with signs, smiles, and cheers, making our athletes feel like true champions during their tour of OOB before returning to the OOB High School track for the day's events.

Our opening ceremony featured a wonderful performance of the National Anthem by the Loranger Memorial School and Old Orchard Beach High School bands. We then kicked off the competition with our 4x400 Unified Relay Race which paired athletes with and without disabilities to promote inclusion, acceptance, and teamwork. With classmates, families, and community members filling the stands, this event was one of many meaningful and inspiring moments of the day.

Throughout the morning, our Olympians also showcased their skills and determination in the standing long jump, softball throw, and 50-meter and 100-meter dashes. Their hard work, perseverance, and sportsmanship were on full display in every event.

The day concluded with a medal ceremony where we proudly celebrated the accomplishments of each and every Olympian. Seeing the smiles on our athletes' faces as they received their medals was a perfect ending to an amazing day.

Events like this are only possible because of the dedication and support of so many people. This event was a beautiful example of what can happen when a community comes together to celebrate and support each other! We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make this day such a success and such a special memory for our Olympians.

Please check out all the photos from the day, taken by Jennifer McVeigh! [2026 Special Olympics Photos](#)



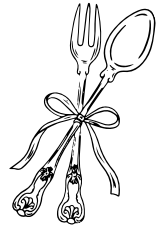
# District News



## Senior Citizen Dinner



Assistant Superintendent Eric Hanson and Director of Technology, Pam Pothier prepping at the carving station.)



Our recent Senior Citizen Dinner was a fantastic success, bringing our community together for an evening filled with delicious food, laughter, and wonderful company. We extend a heartfelt thank you to RSU 23 Food & Nutrition Services for coordinating and preparing the meal and to all of our amazing volunteers and guests who made the night possible!

## We're making a difference!

Thanks to our partnership with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, the Maine Fishermen's Association, and Northeast Program Coordinators, RSU 23 students have been exploring new flavors and educational experiences with sustainably harvested local seafood. It's a great way to support student nutrition and Maine's working waterfront communities while teaching our kids about sustainable food systems.

### Did you know ...

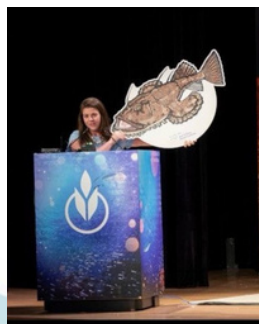


34 million lbs of underutilised fish species is harvested annually in Maine, while 85 million remains unharvested?

### MENUS of CHANGE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Food & Nutrition Services Director, Leah Botko, joined presenters and attendees from 43 states and 12 countries in New York at the Culinary Institute of America for an international food summit. Leah helped showcase the innovative efforts taking place across Maine and the nation to nourish students, strengthen local food systems, and create lasting impact in communities.

What's on the menu?



# LMS Happenings

PUBLISHED

Six seventh-graders wrote three articles that were accepted for Findings from the Field, Volume 9, a student research journal published by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

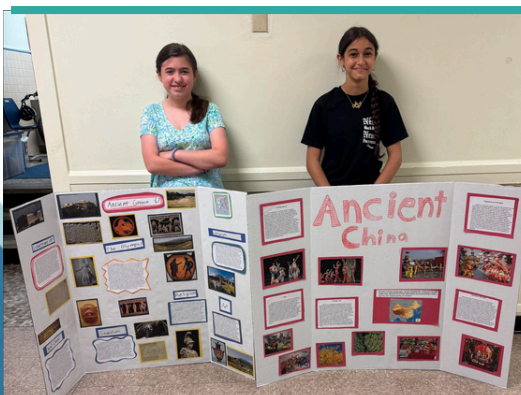
## Gardening With Our Compost!

Fifth graders loved gardening with compost made from our cafeteria food waste! Andrea from Diggers Cooperative and Mary Pat from the Conservation Commission shared their expertise. Students spread compost around blueberry bushes and trees planted by previous fifth graders. In the raised beds, they weeded, added compost, and planted pollinator flowers, veggie seeds, and potato sprouts. In September, new fifth graders will harvest the gardens.



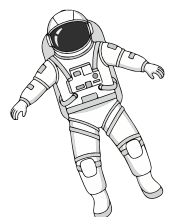
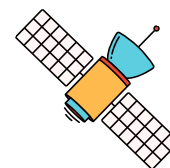
## Ancient Civilizations

6th grade students recently completed a research project on an ancient civilization. We are excited to showcase their hard work and learning as our fourth-grade friends join us for a gallery walk later this week!



## Space Exploration

Science students have been working hard learning about space exploration. Recently, all students completed a project where they researched an astronaut and taught their classmates about their accomplishments and life story. All work is displayed on our "Astronaut Spotlight" wall in the 6th grade hallway!



# LMS Happenings

## UNE Marine Science Center Visit

Seventh graders visited the Marine Science Center at the University of New England to help prepare for their upcoming tide pool field trip. They gathered under a seal skeleton, met a rare bi-color lobster, and learned how to hold sea stars and crabs.



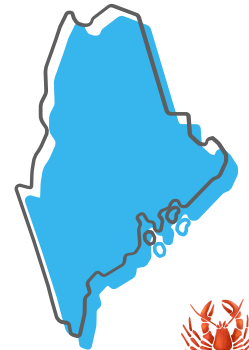
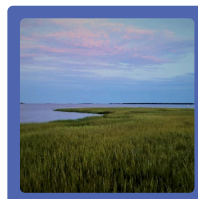
## Wabanaki Studies

OOB Wabanaki educator Minguansis Sapiel visited Loranger to talk with 7th graders about waterways and environmental issues. The next day, she led a group on a walk along the Saco River and dam sites. They also visited the Saco Museum, where director Anatole Brown showed them ancient Wabanaki tools and talked about the area's colonial and mill history. These events were funded by a grant from the Maine Environmental Education Association to support two-eyed seeing, an approach that combines Western science and Indigenous knowledge of the environment.



## Passion Projects

This spring, fourth graders at Loranger Memorial School have been diving into OOB Passion Projects, exploring the history, science, and community that make Old Orchard Beach special. Through research, interviews, and presentations, students have strengthened their academic skills while developing a deeper appreciation for the place they call home. Their learning will be showcased during a gallery walk where students will serve as experts and share their discoveries with visitors.



# OOBHS Updates

## **OOBHS Track & Field Excels at WMC Championship**

The OOBHS Track & Field team competed at the Western Maine Conference Championship on Saturday, May 30, and delivered an outstanding performance. Athletes achieved numerous personal records throughout the meet and brought home an impressive collection of medals.

Several Seagulls have also qualified to compete at the Class C State Championship Meet at Winslow High School. Representing OOBHS will be Brooklyn M. and Lea A. in the 400-meter dash, Auna E. in the high jump, and Eva M. in both the high jump and 300-meter hurdles.

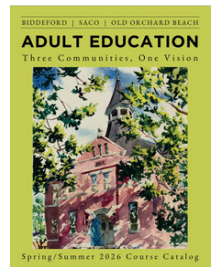
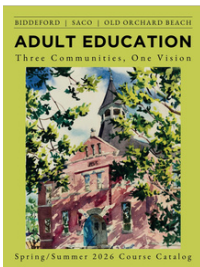
Congratulations to all of our athletes on their hard work, dedication, and a successful season. Best of luck to our state qualifiers as they continue their season at the State Championship meet!



### Western Maine Conference Medalists

RJ O., Lea A.,  
Brooklyn M., Aubree  
P., Aidyn P., Lucas A.,  
Cadence O., Ailish T.,  
Eva M., Auna E., and  
Vanessa A-T.





# 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](http://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](https://www.townhallstreams.com/towns/oob_maine)

### Important Upcoming Dates:

June 10	TONIGHT, School Board Meeting @ 6 PM, OOB Town Hall
June 16	Last Day of School (Early Release Day)
August 22	JES Open House
August 31	First Day of School Grades 1-9
September 1	First Day of School Grades 10-12
September 2	First Day of School Kindergarten
September 3	First Day of School Pre-K
September 16	Early Release Day/Open House LMS, OOBHS

