



RSU23 MEMO

Superintendent's Monthly Update October 2026



A NOTE FROM MR. SUTTIE

Hi Everyone,

October in Maine has always been one of my favorite times of the year. In fact, I would argue that it is the most beautiful month of the year. The crisp mornings, cool evenings, changing leaves, and brilliant colors make this a pretty special place to live. There is something about driving around town and seeing the colors change from day to day that never gets old. After a busy September, October gives us a chance to slow down just a little, take a breath, and appreciate where we live.

It is also a great time of year in our schools. Our students are settling into their routines and working hard in classrooms across the district. I continue to be impressed by the work of our teachers and educational technicians and the care they show for our students every single day. The relationships they build with students, the expectations they set, and the encouragement they provide are at the heart of what makes our schools special. We have terrific people doing important work with our kids, and I am grateful for them.

Outside the classroom, our fall sports seasons are moving quickly. It is hard to believe that many of our teams will be wrapping up their seasons at the end of this month or in early November. I could not be more proud of the effort, sportsmanship, and school spirit our kids have demonstrated. Winning is always fun, but what I appreciate most is watching our students support one another, compete the right way, and represent our schools and our community with pride. Thank you to our coaches, advisors, families, and fans who make these opportunities possible for our students.

October also provides us with an opportunity to remember some important moments in our history. October 5th was World Teachers' Day, which seems particularly appropriate given the incredible work our educators do each day. October 12th was Indigenous Peoples' Day, tomorrow, October 16th is World Food Day, and October 24th is United Nations Day. And, of course, October 31 brings Halloween.

Finally, I want to take a moment to remind everyone that Election Day is coming up on Tuesday, November 3. I encourage everyone in our community who is eligible to vote to get out and participate. Local elections matter, and one of the most important ways we can contribute to our community is by exercising our right to vote. The polls will open at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Orchard Beach High School Gymnasium. I hope to see a strong turnout from our community.

As we move through October, I hope you will take some time to enjoy everything this month has to offer. Take a drive and enjoy the foliage, get outside and enjoy the cooler weather, attend a fall athletic event, or simply take a little time to appreciate the people and places that make Old Orchard Beach such a wonderful community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our students, our staff, and RSU 23. We have a lot to be proud of, and I am grateful to be part of this community.



New Playground Communication Board at JES!

We're excited to share that Jameson Elementary now has an A-frame playground communication board available during recess. The communication board was funded by our PTO and OOB Special Education Department.

Students who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (and any student who wants extra visual support) can now request a turn, ask a friend to play, share how they're feeling, or comment on the game—even when they're outside and their usual AAC device isn't handy. The board uses the same core vocabulary and pictures many of our students already know, so they can keep communicating throughout the school day.

Thank you to the PTO and OOB Special Education Department everyone who helped make recess more accessible for all of our students.



Thank You

Thank You, Playground Volunteers!

A big thank you to Ashley, Gene, and Damien Speed, along with Sue Slee, for repairing the playhouse and boat on our playground. These volunteers saw a need and gave their own time to make our playground safe for all of our students.

With a new base, new flooring, and fresh shingles on the playhouse, we're hoping these structures will be around for many years to come! If you see a need and would like to get involved, please reach out. We're lucky to have such an amazing community.



Thank You, Saco-Biddeford Elks!



Another big thank you goes to the Saco-Biddeford Elks Lodge for their generous donation of new playground toys for students to use at recess.

This isn't the first time the Elks have stepped up for our students. They also provide 80–90% of the food for our weekend backpack program, which helps make sure kids have food at home over the weekend. We're grateful to have such a caring, community-minded organization in our corner!

Thank You, Pirate's Cove!

A huge thank you to Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf in Old Orchard Beach for donating \$1,234.73 to the Jameson School library! This summer, Pirate's Cove collected donations from guests to help promote literacy, and this year they chose to give the proceeds to our library.



Ms. Kalina was thrilled to receive such a generous and unexpected gift. If your child has book titles they'd love to see on the library shelves, please let Ms. Kalina know!



The Leadership School at Camp Kieve

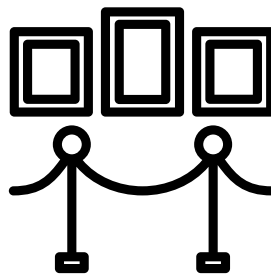
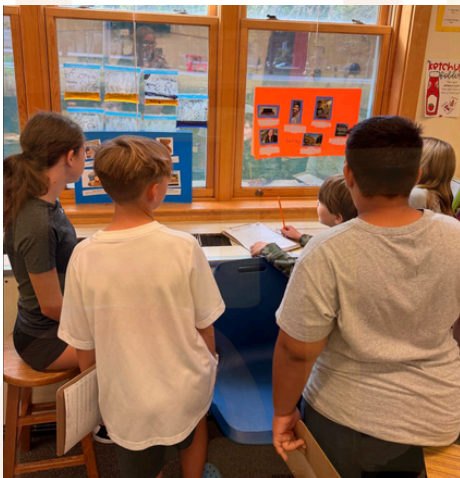


Our sixth graders spent a fantastic week at The Leadership School at Camp Kieve, filled with fun adventures and experiences! Through team-building activities, students practiced working together, communicating positively, and problem-solving. They also climbed the indoor rock wall, participated in the outdoor ropes course, and explored challenge by choice, choosing challenges that helped them stretch beyond their comfort zones.

We are so proud of our students! Back at school, we will reflect on our experiences and find ways to bring the teamwork, leadership, and connections we built at Kieve into our sixth-grade community.



“I am Project!”

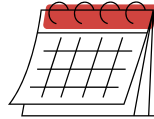


Fourth Grade Gallery Walk

New England Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation process at Old Orchard Beach High School continues to move forward, and we are making steady progress toward our Collaborative Conference Visit, which will take place on March 15 and 16 this spring. This process occurs every ten years with our last accreditation received in 2016. Our steering committee, consisting of Erin McGuan, Matt Moon, and Jeremie Sirois, continues to work behind the scenes on the many details necessary to prepare for the visit. At the same time, our writers, Lindsay Artes, Michael Brennan, Michael Lewis, Eva Tomecka, and Catherine Wood are working diligently to gather evidence and complete the written work connected to their respective standards.

We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our students, families, and staff members who took the time to complete the NEASC surveys. Your feedback is an important part of this process and helps us better understand the strengths of OOBHS as well as the areas where we can continue to grow. Our next major step is developing our Vision of the Graduate, which will help define the knowledge, skills, and dispositions we want every OOBHS graduate to possess as they leave our school and move into their future. We appreciate everyone's continued support and involvement as we work through this important process.



Congratulations! OOBHS Golf Team!

The 2026 Old Orchard Beach High School Golf team won the Class C Sportsmanship Award! This is an amazing honor for a wonderful group of golfers. Golf is all about integrity and sportsmanship and it's fantastic to see our team honored as the best in Class C South. Congratulations!



Food & Nutrition



World School Milk Day!

On September 30, students across our district celebrated National School Milk Day, and Jameson students got an extra special treat: a visit from Clover the cow and the Maine Dairy Association!

Students sampled frozen yogurt bark and pepperoni pizza pasta salad bowls with Moo cookies, then posed for pictures with Clover. It was a fun way to connect what's on their trays to the Maine farms and dairy families behind it.

Thank you to our Food Service staff for making a great lunch, Principal Harris for joining in on the fun, and the Maine Dairy Association for supporting our local dairy farmers!

We are honored to have the hard work of our nutrition staff recognized on a national level and grateful for the partnerships that make these opportunities possible. We remain committed to supporting Maine fishermen and providing our students with nutritious, locally sourced foods.



Peanuts are back! at OOBHS!

On Friday, October 2nd we sampled a new recipe - the Spicy Peanut Woodle Bowl with students' choice of chicken or tofu and lots of crunchy veggie toppings! 🥬🌶️🥕

Students, staff, and members of our school board came down to the cafeteria to give this crowd pleaser a try! Big thank you to the National Peanut Board for our awesome hats and aprons along with the knowledge to keep our students safe from potential allergens!



RSU 23 School Board Members and staff sampling the new peanut menu at OOBHS



Frequently Asked Questions: Communications Center Bond Issue

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Why does Old Orchard Beach need a new communications system?

The Town is served by the regional communications center in Scarborough. A study of infrastructure and community needs for a two-way communications system in 2024 determined:

- Much of the equipment is beyond its service life; some equipment dates back to the 1950s.
- First responders, DPW workers and local schools cannot communicate when an incident arises.
- Dead zones further impede a quick and effective response.

The communication system is not compatible with other communities during mutual aid responses.

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What work will be done?

This upgrade will replace outdated, incompatible and unserviceable equipment and software throughout Town, including construction of new 180-foot tower installation at the Public Works Department and new interoperable mobile and portable radios.

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Who will benefit?

Everyone who lives, works and visits here. First responders, educators and personnel will be able to effectively communicate about and respond to public health, safety and quality-of-life issues.

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What will this cost?

If the project is approved, the town will borrow \$3.3 million in 10-year bonds. This will temporarily increase taxes by \$0.038 per \$1,000 valuation. In the first year, the owner of an average single-family house valued at \$400,000 can expect to pay \$10.61. The Town is awaiting word on a \$5 million federal grant to reduce the Town's share to \$1.8 million, a tax increase of \$5.79 in the first year on a \$400,000 home.

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When is the vote?

The state election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3. with polls open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Old Orchard Beach High School, E. Emerson Cummings Boulevard. Early voting begins on Monday, Oct. 5. Residents may cast a ballot by visiting the Town Clerk's Office.



OLD ORCHARD BEACH CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE

SIGN-UP INFORMATION

BECAUSE THE HOLIDAY SEASON CAN BRING EXTRA BURDENS TO FAMILIES, WE OFFER OUR CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO HELP PROVIDE FOOD AND GIFTS TO FAMILIES (AGES 0-18), THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY DONORS.



WHERE

The Salvation Army - Old Orchard Beach
2 Sixth Street, Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064



DATES & TIMES

OCTOBER 19, 20, 22, 23

9:30–11:30 AM & 1:00–4:00 PM

OCTOBER 21

5:00–8:00 PM



WHAT TO BRING

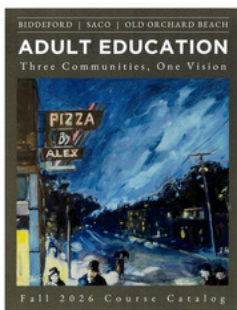
- Identification
- Proof of income
- Proof of residency



WHO

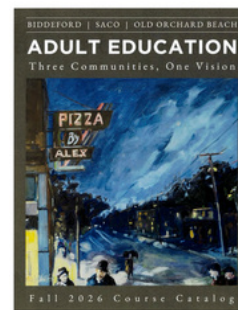
Serving families in Arundel, Bideford, Dayton, Old Orchard Beach, and Saco.

Questions? (207) 934-4381



OOB/Saco Adult Education

Learning for Better Living



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](#).

School Board Meetings

Our school board meetings normally take place on the third Thursday of every month at 6 PM at OOB Town Hall. 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

OOB/Saco/Biddeford
Adult Education

**1st Annual Makers Market
OOBHS**

**November 21st
9 am - 3 pm**



Important Upcoming Dates:

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| • School Board Meeting @ Town Hall | October 15 @ 6 PM |
| • Election Day | November 3 |
| • High School Remote Learning Day | November 3 |
| • Early Release Day | November 4 |
| • Parent Teacher Conferences Pre-K-12. | November 4 |
| • Veteran's Day, No School | November 11 |
| • Parent/Teacher Conferences Pre-K-12 | November 12 |
| • Adult Education Makers Market | November 21 |
| • Thanksgiving Break Wednesday-Friday | November 25-27 |

