

# CARRABEC COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER 2018



**From the desk of Mr. Desjardins,**

It is hard to believe we are headed into the final quarter of the school year. It has been a busy and productive year and the next few weeks will undoubtedly fly by as we prepare for the end of the year activities. I have built a great rapport with the students, staff and community members over the past school year. It is a good feeling to be settled and known here at the Carrabec Community School.

We have finally said good-bye to winter and are welcoming the coming of spring. We are in the last month and a half of the school year, with lots to do to finish up our academics before we release our students to their much-anticipated summer vacation.

We want to congratulate our School Citizens of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter in the recognition program sponsored by our K-5 PTO. These students are Morgan Steuber grade 5, Pete Vicneire grade 4, Ava Welch grade 3, Bradley Allen grade 2, Jonathan White grade 1 and Keegan Caparotta Kindergarten.

We also presented the awards to our K-8 students for Excellent Attendance, (No more than one tardy or one absence) Honors, (All A's & B's) and High Honors (All A's). And, the Book It! program for our K-5 students who participated in reading each month. It brings me great pleasure to acknowledge the students accomplishments and give them encouragement to continue working hard in the upcoming semester.

Mr. Gilbert and his 6-8 band students traveled to the Bingham Area High School for a presentation by the UMO Symphonic Orchestra. His percussion group will be traveling to the Portland Auditorium in May for the show STOMP! We are very fortunate to have such a talented young man in our district.

The North Anson Chapter of the Masons will sponsor the Bikes for Books Program in our school again this spring. Students will complete a form on each book they read, and the drawing for a winning boy and girl from each class to win a new bike will take place at an assembly in June. We appreciate the support of the Masons in this program.

All District Grade 5 students will be invited to the Carrabec Community School for "Move Up Day" on June 14<sup>th</sup>. During Move up, the incoming sixth graders will be introduced to our staff and what the expectations of our school will be. This overview will be followed by a team building activity.

As the year winds down, I want to thank our students' families for your help and support of our students during the 2017-18 school year. Please stay involved and engaged in your children's

educational program. Have a safe, happy and healthy summer! We'll see students back at school on Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>!

### **Mrs. Fournier ~ Kindergarten**

We have had such a great and busy year here in Kindergarten. I can't believe how fast this year has flown by! I am so impressed with all the growth that has been made this year. I will certainly miss all of you :-)

To end our year, we will be spending time exploring bugs, butterflies, bees, and ocean animals. In the next few weeks, we will be starting our end of the year assessments including DRA, NWEA, and DIBELS. I will send home more information as the time for these assessments gets closer.

Our main focus in math for the rest of the year will be subtraction and measurement. We will also spend time reviewing all of our math concepts we have learned this year. Please continue to practice rote counting at home with your child.

We will continue to work on our reading and writing!! Please keep practicing reading at home. I am so happy with all your great reading :-) We will be attending the Cat in the Hat Play at the Waterville Opera House on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Permission slips will go home with students in the next week.

I will continue to send reminders via weekly Newsletters and Seesaw. Kindergarten screening will be held on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you know anyone school age, please make sure they have signed up for a screening time with Heidi Atwood at GSS.

### **Mrs. Theberge ~ Grade 1**

The end is in sight as we wrap things up during this last quarter.

In math we are finishing our chapter on graphs then we will be finishing up with three dimensional shapes. In June we will spend A LOT of time reviewing addition and subtraction facts.

- The book-it program is over for this school year, thanks to all who participated.
- May 25<sup>th</sup> will be the last day for Pick a Better Snack with Cheryl Curtis. Return your bingo sheets for one last prize.
- May will be your last chance to order books from Scholastic books; summer is a great time to read and there are lots of books under \$5.
- Bikes for books will be ongoing throughout the month of May so read, read, read and return those slips.
- Library will end at the end of May, so make sure to return any late books.

The first graders will be taking the spring NWEA and DIBELS test sometime in May. I expect to see lots of growth and improvement. If you have any end of the year concerns or questions about next year's expectations, please feel free to contact me any time.

## **Mr. Larlee ~ Grade 2**

The Second Grade won Book-It for the third quarter and get to keep Clifford for the rest of the year. We are finishing our math unit on three digit addition and subtraction. The students have done a great job. We will be starting a new unit on time and money next week.

Our Citizen of the quarter was Bradley Allen. We all commend him for his great work.

We will be traveling to the Waterville Opera House on May 22nd to see the play "Cat in the Hat." We will leave in the morning and be back at school by noontime.

Spring is finally here and the students are certainly enjoying being able to go outside and play without having to wear snowsuits!

## **Mrs. Schanz ~ Grade 3**

Spring is finally here! Third graders (and their teacher) returned from April vacation refreshed and ready to finish our final quarter of school well.

Recently, math has found us finishing division facts and beginning fractions. Soon we will be working on comparing fractions. Additionally, we are squeezing in a mini math block in the afternoon to fit in practice with telling time, linear and liquid measurement, and geometry.

Currently in our Wonders reading program we have been reading expository texts about outer space, nature, and historical events. We have been practicing finding the main idea and key details in these texts. The most exciting reading we have been doing is our independent reading. Students have been choosing books of their interest to read, and I am enjoying seeing students get pulled into their stories. For each of the books that students now read, they fill out a simple form about their book that they can enter into the Bikes for Books drawing hosted by the Masons. We have a goal of reading one hundred books before the drawing. Books read at school and at home count! Will we make it?!

Some students are diligently finishing their animal research books in writing class. Meanwhile, other students are writing collaborative stories on Google docs in groups of two or three. Some students decided to take turns in the role of author and editor. It is incredible to see their motivation to write and to correctly edit their stories! Through their editing sessions, they have asked many authentic questions about spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

In science, we have been studying space. We have studied the difference between a rotation and a revolution. We had too much fun learning about moon phases with the help of Oreo's! Currently, we are learning about the planets, and students will soon be choosing one planet to do a project about.

We have finished up our study of the American Revolution, and now we are moving on to briefly

study the issue of slavery, the Civil War, and the Westward Expansion. Upon popular request, we are also planning to study the *Titanic*. Many students have chosen to read books about the *Titanic* during independent reading and have sparked a class-wide interest.

### **Mrs. Stevens Grade 4**

I can't believe we are in our last quarter of school, we have 35 days left before summer vacation. We are finishing our chapter book *Frindle*, about a boy who makes up a new word for pen. My students have an assignment where they have to make up another word for an object. Then they have to convince their classmates why they should use the new word.

In Math, we will be memorizing our multiplication and division math facts. We will also be working on long division and fractions.

In language arts, they finished writing monthly poems for our class book, and finished writing an ending for the Wishing Teacher.

This has been a great year and I have enjoyed spending the time in class with your children. I have seen a growth in each and every one of them academically and socially. I am hoping they will carry into 5<sup>th</sup> grade the work ethics and respect for others that I have instilled in them, and remembering the words of our great principal Mr. D's., "Grit and Perseverance" Mrs. Stevens wishes you all a wonderful summer.

### **Mrs. Long Grade 5**

April Showers Bring May Flowers? Let's hope this holds true...

Our final school break has passed and now we are into the final weeks of the 2017/18 school year. Your children will be transitioning to the middle school next year which will mean **much** more responsibility and growth mindset. I am going to continue to advance students in this direction and I am in hopes that you will support these changes at home. The reading log, which is now in its second quarter, is very important. This 'at home' assignment not only gives students extra reading time (books of their choice) but also the responsibility of filling in the log, obtaining your initials, and bringing it in ON TIME! Please encourage your child to complete this assignment in a timely fashion, as next year will bring many more homework assignments.

We are delving into the Solar System in science and the students have much knowledge and even more inquiries about how our planet, the sun and other stars/planets all work together. Social Studies will be a blend of current events and U.S. geography with a virtual trip around the country. Because we have met all of the fifth grade math standards we will be looping around to review and practice those elements which students have found challenging throughout the year. In writing, we are learning how to craft a cover letter for an employment position, a very applicable life skill!

## **Mr. Ela ~ Grade 6**

In Social Studies, students have been traveling backwards in time. It is common in history classes that students cover the Revolution, the Civil War, and some of the Twentieth Century. Rarely are students exposed to much after World War II. Trying to do something differently, we have worked our way backwards in time from the 2016 election and back into the 1980s. Along the way they have encountered Obama-care, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the first World Trade Center Attack, the Oklahoma City bombing, "Read my lips, no new taxes!", and the attempted assassination of President Reagan.

## **Mr. Rothert ~ Grade 6**

In the last installment of Mr. Rothert's 6th grade class we were prepping for MEAs and beginning algebraic equations. Through the month of April we worked fervently on equivalencies, unknowns, balancing equations, as well as the commutative and distributive properties.

As April comes to a close we're moving away from algebra and onto geometry. This month we will be investigating how to find the area and perimeter of quadrilaterals. Looking forward, we'll move on to finding volume and ending the year with measures of center and data display.

I hope everyone had a wonderful April break. We will be working hard up until the last day to display grit and integrity in class and carry this forward through the summer.

## **Mrs. Weggler ~ Grade 6**

It is hard to believe that we are well into the fourth quarter and the end of the year is almost here! The year has flown by and these last few months are busy with MDI, a college visit to UMA, spring sports, the Chorus and Band Concert, the Spring Dance on June 1st, and a sixth grade trip planned for the final week of school to Adventure Bound in Caratunk.

Our study, MATTER IN MOTION, continues in grade six physical science. Our current focus is on FORCES – specifically FRICTION and GRAVITY and their effect on moving objects. We will next learn how objects move through the air due to Earth's gravity when dropped or propelled and then study Sir Isaac Newton's Three Laws of Motion.

In writing, WORD CHOICE is the writing trait in focus. The emphasis is on choosing rich, descriptive language like precise nouns, interesting adjectives, and especially vivid verbs. The goal is to create a picture in the reader's mind, not just tell information.

Mrs. Weggler's homeroom reading class will be taking a break from the Wonders book to read the novel, SKELLG to work with literary elements such as characterization and plot.

## Mr. McManus ~ Grade 7

April showers bring free, fresh food. Dandelion greens and fiddle heads will be out soon. Think back to your ancestors who survived harsh winters without fresh vegetables. They couldn't wait to eat fresh greens, I hope you carry on their traditions.

In Life Science we are ready to study, Human Body Systems. The first lessons are on: Body Organization, The Skeletal System, The Muscular System, and The Integumentary System. Should be fun!

Maine and the Industrial Revolution topics will include: Manufacturing and Textile mills, John Poor/ The Father of Maine Railroads, The Irish come to Lewiston, as well as The French- Canadian immigrants.

We also read a book called *An Allagash Haunting* as well as Volume 1 and Volume 3 of *Allagash Tails*.

Finally we had a guest speaker as part of Second Step. Kathleen Paradis's job is to make schools safer. She is a Violence Prevention Educator.



## Mr. Stone ~ Grade 7

In the 7<sup>th</sup> grade math classes the students will continue to explore theoretical and experimental probabilities to determine whether particular events are likely or unlikely. As part of the learning process, they will conduct experimental simulations and compare results to theoretical values. Therefore, students will understand the distinction between independent and dependent events. After studying probability, they will be able to use sample data to make predictions and determine if samples are valid. Also, since we are heading down the home stretch, students will begin preparing for their final exams.

In writing class the students will begin creating short stories. The emphasis will be on writing with effective techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. They will learn to craft and revise integral scenes, to create well-developed characters that respond to conflict in realistic ways, and to use tension and pacing to draw readers into their unfolding plot. In conclusion, the students will be spending time developing their characters, settings, and plots and rehearsing how their stories might go. Happy Spring!

## Mr. Carey ~ Grade 8

Twenty-seven students just got back from an excellent week long trip. The students spent time at Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts. This is an entire town dedicated to life in the 1830's. The group then traveled to Philadelphia where the students visited Independence Hall and the Constitution Center. From there it was on to Gettysburg where the students re-enacted Pickett's Charge and of course Little Round Top where Joshua Chamberlain and the 20th Maine fought on July 2nd, 1863.



On days four, five, and six the students traveled to Washington, DC visiting such places the Lincoln Memorial, American History Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Mount Vernon, and the Jefferson Memorial.

The group toured the U.S. Capitol and had an opportunity to meet with Senator Susan Collins.

Other than the weather (it was at times very cold) everyone had a great time.

Mark your calendars for the fall as the 8th grade will be going on the annual Boston trip October 13th and 14th.



## **Mrs. Ellis ~ Grade 8**

Things are surely winding down. Mrs. Ellis's English-Language Arts students are completing a Book Unit on a book of their choice. They are required to write a character sketch and then have choices on other assignments to do over the book. They are also reviewing research essays and poetry, along with grammar, literary elements, and vocabulary.

Mrs. Ellis's math class is reviewing the first 9 chapters. Strange how much one can forget in a few months! They will wrap up the year with some stats, geometry, and probability. In May, students will be showing how much progress they have made in reading, language, math, and science with the NWEA's. These also serve as finals in ELA and math.

Since Mrs. Ellis has had these students for two years, she is going to truly miss them! Good luck in high school, kids!

## **Mr. Ferrari ~ Grade 8**

In April, the students have begun our last major unit in Science for the year, the study of our universe. We will start with our Solar System before branching out to study our galaxy, and the galaxies beyond.

After April Vacation students have started working on their Science Fair projects. They have the option of designing an invention, making a video explaining something we have gone over so far this year in Science, or combining Art and Science in some way shape or form. The Science Fair and Art Show will take place on Wednesday May 23r from 5:30 – 7pm

We also have started our last book for the year a much more modern novel in *Ready Player One*. The students are excited to read something that was written in this millennium for a change. We also had Mr. Carey's trip to Washington D.C. This was an incredible opportunity that many of our students took. I was very lucky to have the chance to surprise the students in Washington, on the last two days of the trip. I got to see the various War Memorials, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and the Washing D.C. Zoo with the students. It was easily the best part of the vacation I am thankful to everyone who volunteered their time and energy to help put on an amazing trip that our students could enjoy.

## **Library ~**

I've enjoyed helping your children find books that they have liked and wanted to read this year. We are trying to keep our collection as current as possible and I think we have something of interest for most everyone.

Our Book It Program ended this month. We had 48 students that participated from grades K-5. Students received one free pizza from Pizza Hut for each month they took part in the program.

I will be planning visits to the Stewart Public Library before the end of the school year. Please watch for permission slips.

We had our first Book Swap last year and it was so successful that we are planning to have another one this year. Students are encouraged to bring in books that are in good condition that they no longer want and they can swap for other books that they would like. This is a great way to get new reading material for the summer.

I hope everyone READS! READS! READS! This summer.