

Friday December 19



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NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

With many students and staff sneezing, coughing, and being congested the break will give them time to get better before the holidays and 2009 arrive!

This has been a very busy week with our musical groups performing at school and throughout the Bath area. Our 7th/8th grade band went to several elementary schools close by; the 6th grade band performed for the kindergarten; the BMS Special went to the Senior Center; our 7th/8th grade band and chorus performed at the Winter Concert and our Holiday Winds played in the lobby this morning (Friday). I want to thank Robin Kenison, Rhoda Savage, and our talented musicians for providing many community members with holiday entertainment. The practices throughout the fall have turned into wonderful performances by our students.

Students are quite busy finishing up projects and presentations as they end 2008 and move to a New Year. Today, Friday, students were given 2nd quarter progress reports.

I want to thank our staff, parents and the PTSA for their work with the \$1000 Gift Card Raffle fundraiser.

Please enjoy the snow, cold weather and the holiday season! We will see you in 2009!

Sincerely,

Bud Solebello

Principal

HOUSE NEWS

6th GRADE : POPHAM HOUSE



This will be the last time this year you will hear from the Popham House. The next time you read this it will be next year: Two-thousand nine. Now that I have your attention, let's get back to the present. Along with enough pent up excitement for the upcoming vacation to launch a fire engine into orbit around Earth, we continue to make excellent progress with our work here in sixth grade. With Mr. Morin we're studying patterns of number sets to aid with the development of creating rules for the pattern's behavior. Mrs. Wells is working with the kids in ELA to revise and further polish the summaries of the biographies recently read as part of the ELA work. In science class, Mr. Cowie in the role of lifeguard helps the kids keep their heads well above water (I can't help it) with the concepts of volume, how volume is measured, and its relation to floating and sinking. Finally, we are all enjoying the many wonders of Ancient Egypt as we continue our investigation into this amazing culture. More of this work will continue when we return from our holiday break.

Along with several items of clothing and kitchen equipment which might reappear at home due to our pre-holiday locker cleaning, you should also be on the lookout for your child's second quarter's progress report which we will be sending home this Friday, the 19th. Please make an effort to sign the confirmation slip that will return to school for this report, and, should you have any questions for us about your child's progress, please be in touch with us after the holidays.


All of us here in the Popham House hope that your winter holiday activities are joyful, restful, and rewarding.

6th GRADE: REID HOUSE:

The Reid House students were busy this week getting ready for their trip to the nursing home as the service piece of our expedition. They made holiday cards to hand out to the residents and read a picture book to the residents. The trip was a huge success. We have very compassionate students; you would all be proud of how well they behaved and the compassion they showed toward the residents. On another note, please look in the Times

Record on Monday, December 22 for our students writing about their Chewonki experience. Have a safe and wonderful holiday break. See you in the new year.



 **7th GRADE BLACK HOUSE:** In November, the Black House students took the time to write thoughtful letters of thanks and appreciation to our nation's veterans. Ms. King and Mr. Meserve were so pleased with the sincerity in the notes and poems that they wanted them to be read by the important people they were meant for. Ms. King shared this thought with the Smith Toby Post #21 of The American Legion. The folks at The American Legion were so pleased that the Black House students, along with their families and teachers, were invited to the American Legion Hall to share their notes and poems in person. This grand event will be held at **The American Legion Hall on Congress Avenue in Bath on Monday, January 12 at 6:00 pm.** We are hoping that every Black House student and many family members will want to share in this experience and will attend the event. An RSVP slip will be sent home with your son or daughter when we return from the holiday break. We wish you all the happiest and healthiest of holidays.



7th GRADE PURPLE HOUSE: The students of the Purple House are just finishing Presidential Biographies in Humanities, Keynote presentations in Science, and Stretching and Shrinking Investigation 2 in Math. They have just started sewing in Home Economics.

Have a Peaceful Holiday season.



8th GRADE RED HOUSE:

We would like to recognize some of our students who have made very positive gains over the past few months. In language arts – **Kaitlyn Abell, Ryan Moody, Taylor Dudley, Chris Barnhart, and Jenn Condon**; in social studies – **Tom Buetler, Kendall Wallace, Alex Montano, Duane Tardif, and D'Vaughn Myers**; in art – **Ian Jacques, Zamara Grant, Coley Strout, and Michael Alvarez**; in math – **Sadie St. Pierre, Devon Green, Catie Luedee, Arianna Malcolm, Nathan Rivera, Theresa Grant-Reed, and Brooke Gilliam**. And last period on Tuesday, over 20 science students enjoyed a smoothie party with Mrs. Wright. These students earned points for their reward by being prepared before class starts with planner, materials, homework, and laptop on. Yum! Keep up the good work!

We all hope that you and your families enjoy some quality time together over the break.



8th GRADE: GREEN HOUSE: Please ask you son/ daughter about our recent guests who shared their expertise on avoiding drug use/abuse. These programs were planned by Mrs. Hixon, our school nurse, and proved to be very informative.

Starting in January **Mr. Mills**, a senior at Bowdoin College, will be with us full time. He has been observing classes in the morning, so some students already know him, but he will begin to spend the entire school day with us after the holidays. He will eventually be teaching three social studies sections. Please contact Mrs. Bartlett if you have any questions regarding our student teacher and feel free to stop by and meet him at any time.

Social studies classes are creating wonderful products based on the expedition of Lewis and Clark. Rather than rush to meet a deadline and jeopardize quality, these projects will be finished in class after Christmas.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season !



From the Guidance Department:

This message is for all parents: When it comes to drugs, you're number one!

Sixth grade guidance class just concluded our unit on drugs and drug use.

To kick off our first lesson, we watched a video titled **Natural High II** produced by Jon Sundt who lost his two little brothers to drug use. This video focused on the message for students to spend time developing their skills and talents that will make them resilient to the temptations of drugs. The pursuit of their hobby, sport or art form will create the "natural high" which is the authentic feeling of euphoria or excitement resulting from hard work and enjoyment of this pursuit. With all the professional athletes and performers getting busted for drug use so frequently these days, it's really cool to see these athletes and artists state they achieved their success with a drug-free lifestyle.

Listen! The reflection worksheets completed by your sons and daughters after the video name **you, mom and dad**, as their number one support in their life to keep them away from drugs. Add the statistics of parents and other family members together (brothers/sisters/grandparents/aunts/uncles) and 86% of 6th grade students are relying on the family unit to keep them clean and away from drugs. They do hear you. Remember, what you say matters!

Our second lesson continued the "natural high" theme in a similarly titled, but unrelated video called **Natural Highs: The Truth About So-Called Natural Drugs**. This lesson focused in on how the brain works in reaction to drugs and our natural highs (positive, healthy activities) and how drugs trick the body's reward system into thinking it has done something positive when it hasn't. It explains to students that risk-taking during the teenage years is a normal part of human development, so choose something that helps you grow as a person and to be healthy. **Test:** Ask your child how dopamine, endorphins, and serotonin are produced. (Hint: You may have to ask them what their natural high is.)

To check out video clips from the Natural High video series go to www.naturalhigh.org or the guidance blog at "<http://guidance.blogs.rsu1.org/>" and click on the "natural high" link. **Also see the guidance blog for "Highs and People Who Support Me to be Drug Free" lists created by your students.**

BMS NOTICES



•Great News! **The BMS PTSA sold every raffle ticket**, raising \$1541 for the music, technology, and wellness programs at BMS. Thank you to everyone who bought and sold a ticket! Your generosity will benefit EVERY BMS student. And thanks especially to **Dorinda Roye**, who ran the entire fundraiser.

And of course congratulations to **Betsy Cook** of Georgetown (mother of Hannah, Morse '08 and Ben, Morse '10) who was the lucky winner of \$1000 worth of local gift certificates. Betsy and Clif have generously invited the entire town to their house this Christmas (just kidding!).

• **Woolwich Central School Building Committee - Update - December 16, 2008**

Dear RSU:

Members of the RSU 1 community and its towns having been working hard for months, some even for years, on a new school. Hopefully construction of this new school located in Woolwich will begin in 2010. The purpose of this update is to inform you of where the building design process is now, and what the next necessary steps are to ensure a new school for the RSU. We have reached a critical point in the building process, and it is vital that the RSU community be informed.



WHERE WE ARE NOW:

The Concept Design of the new building is complete. The blueprints for the state-of-the-art, green school are very exciting; this design is a result of extensive input from teachers, administrators, students and community members from all of the RSU towns. Our hope is that this design will become an actuality in 2012.

WHAT COMES NEXT:

There will be two votes and several public forums in the next 3 months. Below is a list of the scheduled events.

Jan. 8, 2009 - Public hearing and straw vote for approval of the concept design to be held at Woolwich Central School at 7 pm. This is an informal but very important vote in moving the project forward. If you are a resident of the RSU, please come and support the building process.

Jan. 22, 2009 - Public forum in Woolwich: Presentation and model of school.

Jan. 29, 2009 - Public forum in Bath: Presentation and model of school.

Feb. 5, 2009 - Public forum in Arrowsic: Presentation and model of school.

Feb. 12, 2009 - Public forum in West Bath: Presentation and model of school.

Feb. 26, 2009 - Public forum in Phippsburg: Presentation and model of school.

March 5, 2009 - RSU-wide public forum: Presentation and model of school.

March 10, 2009 - **RSU REFERENDUM VOTE ON NEW SCHOOL.**

The Building Committee encourages you to attend one of the public forums to learn more about this vital project. Please, talk to your neighbors and friends about the importance of our new school. The March 10th Referendum is the new school's most important milestone. It is key that we get voters' approval so we can proceed in building the much needed new RSU 1 school.

There will be additional information about this project at the beginning of the new year.

Thank you so much for your support,

The Woolwich Central School Building Committee

- The Wellness Team has planned great afterschool activities to keep us from getting cabin fever this winter, from floor-hockey to pillow polo! Remember, activities are usually Tues-Thurs., and no registration is ever necessary...just show up! Parents are always welcome to join in! (Don't you need to find out what pillow polo is?)

Intramural Basketball 2:00 - 2:45,

Jan 6,7,8
13,14,15,
20,21,22



Pillow Polo 2-2:45

Jan 27,28,29



SPORTS CORNER



Bath Middle School **7th grade girls basketball team** fell to 0-4 in recent basketball action.

They hosted Lewiston and were outscored 33-7. Leading Bath was **Jacelyn McNeill, Michael Stinson** and **Taylor Johnson** each scoring a basket. **Jocelyn Bernier** scored one foul shot and was strong bringing the ball up against Lewistons defense.

For Lewiston, Briana Wilson and Maegan Mathon scored six points each.

The Destroyer award was given to **Rachel Faloon** and **Cordelia Leeman** for their aggressive defense.

BMS Girls Basketball Team are Genuine "Ringers"

On Saturday, December 13, 2008, several student-athletes from the Bath Middle School 6th-7th grade girls basketball team donated their time to man the Salvation Army kettles at Walmart. Despite the freezing cold temperatures, they stuck out their two hour shifts starting at 9:00 am. and ending at 5:00 pm. I want to thank the girls and their parents for taking time out of their busy weekends and helping the Salvation Army raise money for those less fortunate. They are: **Kelsey Brick, Rachel Faloon, Michael Stinson, Jacelyn McNeill, Julia Hart, Miracle Trimble, Taylor Johnson,** and **Haley Scott.**

The team would also like to thank the kind employees at the Dunkin Donuts located inside Walmart for allowing us to have free hot chocolate. It helped keep our morale high.

--Coach Jessica Morrison



BMS UPCOMING DATES



- Winter Break begins today after school. Have a wonderful vacation!
- Monday, January 5th School Resumes
- Wednesday, January 14--6th Grade Winter Concert 7:00 pm, BMS gym
- Thursday, January 15th -- PTSA meeting 6:30 pm, Home Ec Room



COMMUNITY
NEWS

**ART VAN DANCE
TONIGHT AT THE HUSE
SCHOOL 7-9 PM**



Please Note New Time
1-3 p.m.

Free Family Activities

1st and 3rd Saturdays, 1-3 PM

at the Huse School, 39 Andrews Road, Bath

Free snacks, no pre-registration

Open to anyone, ages 5 to 105.

Children must be accompanied by an adult (18 years or older)

FMI go to: www.adventuresathuse.com

UPCOMING ADVENTURES:

Jan 3: Soap making (remember, this falls during vacation!)

Jan 17: Hip Hop Dance

Feb 7: Boatbuilding with Maine Maritime Museum

Feb 21: Winter Crafts

March 7: Knitting

April 4: Wool Spinning and Dying

More to come...

PATTEN FREE LIBRARY



News for Middle Schoolers (plus a great program for parents!)

FMI or to register for programs call children's librarian Carol McFadden 443-5141 x17

Middle School Book Club, Tuesday, Jan 20, 3:30-4:30pm, ages 12-14, "My One Hundred Adventures" by Polly Horvath. This book is about what lies at the heart of all great adventures: that it's not what happens to you that matters, but what you learn about yourself. It's been starred reviewed in School Library Journal, Booklist, Publishers' Weekly and Kirkus. High school senior, Elli Brown, will lead and challenge the group in lively discussions.



Meet in the YA area. Registration is required.

Middle School Comic Creations for ages 12 and up meets once a month in the YA area from 3:30 to 4:30. The next meeting is Friday, Jan 30. Bring your own supplies, samples of your creations, and ideas to share with others in the group. No registration necessary.



Friday, Jan 9, 3:30-4:30, **Wei Wu**, originally from Beijing China, brings her Chinese culture to us. Children, ages 6 & up, will learn some Chinese words, taste some Chinese dumplings and make a craft. Our Children's Librarian will read stories about the Eastern and Western dragons. Be sure not to miss this enriching program!

Join our **Winter Reading Program, Get Fired Up For Reading!** We'll give you special bookmark and your own book log to record all the books you're reading during this chilly winter. Show off your reading skills! For each book you read, write down the title on one of our *dragon scales* and attach it to our *dragon wall*. And, while you're here, look for our extraordinary hanging "Superdragon", a 60' expandable red paper Chinese dragon which was kindly donated by Susan Pellicani of Bath.



Happy New Year! / Kung-Hsi Fa-Ts'ai! Kick-off the New Year by celebrating the culture of China. January 26, 2009 marks the start of the Year of the Ox on the Chinese Lunar Calendar. This month, celebrate the Chinese New Year holiday with great children's activities and crafts. Also learn about the history and meaning behind Chinese New Year symbols. **On Friday, Jan 2 (note: during vacation!),** 10:30am-11:30am, we'll be reading *Fire Up with Reading* by Toni Buzzeo Illustrated by Sachiko Yoshikawa.

PARENTS! The Effective Relationship Workshop for Verbal and Coping Skills:

A six week program at the Patten Free Library to enrich family relationships, learn communication skills and apply new coping strategies from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Children's Reading Room.

January, 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2009 for parents. Parents will learn when and how to listen, and when and how to confront issues. They will learn how they unknowingly block communication. The goal is for parents to be understood by their children and for kids to feel understood.

February 3 for parents and teenagers. This session is for parents and teenagers as guests. Participants will explore their coping patterns and family relationships history over three generations. The focus is to recognize the impact of previous generations on present family functioning.

February 10 for the family and grandparents. This last session is for all family members above the age of eight. Coping strategies will be demonstrated using the acquired skills from previous sessions. Grandparents are invited as guests in this last session to function as consultants sharing their wisdom and knowledge of family history.

Larry Roy, LCSW will lead this workshop. He has conducted many workshops over thirty years such as Parent Effectiveness Training, Coping With Kids, The Community Family Workshop, Successful Parenting, and Don't Toss Your Teen in the greater Portland, Bath and Brunswick area.

There is no fee for this workshop. Prior registration is required by informing the library of the number attending. A workbook will be available for each participant. FMI please contact, Carol McFadden, Children's Librarian, Patten Free Library, 33 Summer St, Bath, ME 443-5141 x17.

