

POSITIVE SCHOOL NEWS – JANUARY 2022

WOODSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees.” *Amelia Earhart*

January can be a tough month. With this in mind, the Woodside School Sunshine Committee created a challenge for staff to spread some kindness and positivity around to our colleagues and students. Staff who chose to participate in our first-ever “Kind-uary” Challenge completed a minimum of six out of the nine tasks below and then submitted a form to one of our organizing staff members.

Our PTO and administration supported the effort with beautiful gift baskets and donated gift certificates that are randomly drawn from the completed forms. At virtual faculty meetings, we surprised the randomly-drawn “kindness winner” with a knock at their door. We’re grateful to have already given out four prizes this month.

We are proud to say that this honor system kindness promotion has yielded dozens of entries which represent hundreds of acts of intentional kindness that have taken place around the school. We invite everyone and anyone to dream up their own kindness challenge, and we encourage you to help spread the roots of kindness to people around you.

Kind-uary Challenge Tasks:

- Send five positive notes home to parents
- Tell your class (students) three things you appreciate about them
- Eat lunch with your students
- Make time to play a special game with your students
- Praise each individual student
- Bring your co-worker his/her favorite drink or snack
- Praise a staff member with whom you work
- Send a special note to a teacher or staff member who inspires you
- Take 20 minutes for self-care

BOWDOINHAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Our Kindergarten classes have continued with Woods Wednesday every week, getting out into nature for play and learning. Even in very cold weather we can go out, since we have put a focus on appropriate, warm outdoor clothing for everyone. One of our classes maintains a blog – ***bhmforestdays.org*** – where you can keep track of the adventures our Bowdoinham Kindergartners are having.

BOWDOIN CENTRAL SCHOOL

1. The Bowdoin Aquarium is set to return to Bowdoin Central School. This second grade project asks students to research an ocean animal and then write a non-fiction expert piece of writing. Students then historically present these projects to the community. We will be presenting again this year on a smaller scale. This will be along with a visit from Maine author Mary Cerullo.
2. In December Bowdoin Central School began extended school day programs four days a week. These before-school and after-school help sessions support students individually to make progress on academic goals. These sessions support almost 50 Bowdoin Central School students and are taught by seven Bowdoin Central School educators.
3. This fall Stephanie Dustin, our Learning Commons educator, ran a very successful coding club before school. Students were introduced and honed their coding skills during this morning program.
4. Our students did well on fall NWEA's with improvement over the previous school year in both math and ELA.
5. We are working with Green Scouts, the Bowdoin Central School Environmental Club and the Bowdoin Parent Teacher Club to start a disposable mask recycling program. We are purchasing Personal

Protective Equipment recycling boxes. This project is to reduce waste associated with mask wearing.

6. Bowdoin Central School teamed up with Bowdoin Community Cares to support families in need over the holidays through the Community Giving Tree.
7. Bowdoin Central School students are very excited for the annual Winter Carnival Week, which will be held from February 14 through February 18. Each day of the week will be a different theme including Class Colors Day, Crazy Hat Day, PJ Day and so on. This all culminates on Friday, February 18th, with the Day of Champions. This is a day of active events mostly outdoors to celebrate the winter season and this year's Olympics. We are also doing our annual Power Pennies event with all proceeds going to Bowdoin's own Wilderness Miracles Wildlife Rehab. This local non-profit works to rehabilitate Maine wildlife. We are doing a supply drive.

HARPSWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

At Harpswell Community School we had a special "snuggle up and read" time on Friday, January 14, which happened to coincide with Pajama Day. This had actually been postponed from the previous Friday, which was a snow day. Some children were very conflicted about having a snow day because they were so looking forward to "snuggle up and read" time. Staff promoted this time as a chance to slow down, relax, and foster the joy for reading's sake. It was such a big hit that we plan to make it a regular occurrence at Harpswell Community School.

WILLIAMS-CONE SCHOOL

Throughout the month of January the School-Wide Positive Behavior Challenge is focused on being responsible learners. Students are earning extra PAWS slips for demonstrating responsible behavior in all school settings. Each classroom has been given the challenge to fill a large jar with the extra PAWS slips (small pieces of paper with a "paw" printed on them). For every jar that is filled, a desk will be purchased for a student in the country of Malawi through the K.I.N.D. (Kids in Need of Desks) Fund sponsored by Unicef USA. Not only does this challenge help reinforce

responsible school behavior, but it also helps to foster social responsibility and greater global awareness. The cost per desk is \$38.00; and local businesses, individuals and families have volunteered to supply at least 16 new desks for students in Malawi.

The Williams-Cone School staff is happy to report that jars are filling up as fast as students demonstrate responsible behavior daily!

MT. ARARAT MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Mt. Ararat Middle School basketball program had a very exciting and successful return to play this year. We had 55 student athletes participating this year between our four teams. They had a combined record of 37 wins and 14 losses. It was fantastic to have our students playing basketball in our gym again with fans in the stands cheering them on. Our coaches and players worked very hard to improve their skills and knowledge of the game while demonstrating fair play and good sportsmanship all season. Up next, we will be welcoming back our wrestlers and can't wait for that season to begin!

MT. ARARAT HIGH SCHOOL

Mt. Ararat High School finished its first semester last week with mid-year exams and began a new semester this week. Last week's schedule allowed for more than 700 unique student support sessions, in addition to exams in the morning, to support students at the mid-year mark. This week, members of Ms. Gilbert's Physical Science class were able to visit the Southworth Planetarium in Portland; and members of our Civil Rights Team have been preparing for a celebration of Black History Month in February, which began as a belated recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day this week.