

FALCON FLASH

October 20, 2017

Upcoming Events:

10-23-4/5 McNally to Maine Maritime Museum
10-25-School Author-Illustrator Anne Sibley O'Brien-Students
10-26-Teacher/Parent Workshop w/Anne Sibley 4pm-5pm
10-27-17-Halloween Parade-after school – 4:00pm
10-27-Halloween Bash & Family Game Night-5pm-7pm
10-30-4/5 Marc-Aurele to Maine Maritime Museum

11-14 – Picture Retake Day
11-16-1-20-Parent/Teacher Conferences
11-21-Early Dismissal – 12:00pm
11-22-11-24-Thanksgiving Holiday Break



THE PRINCIPAL CONNECTION

@mrlajoiebham

Calling all knitters! We could use another adult helping Mrs. Nan Curtis with our Knitting elective for fourth and fifth graders. The commitment would be the following afternoons from 2:15-3:15pm: October 23 and 30; November 6 and 13. Please contact Mr. Lajoie if you are interested – and thanks!

HOT TOPIC: GOAL – FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Schools don't have goals. People have goals, or they don't.

- adapted from education guru, Richard Dufour

This final installment in my series on our school goals is all about you. A whole body of research from the last twenty years shows that parents' involvement in school not only raises their child's achievement, but also the performance of *all* students in that school.

Let that sink in for a moment. Your choice to be involved and supportive of your child's education can impact all 165 students at the Bowdoinham Community School. Our school district places such importance on family and community involvement that we have an official district goal for it. In Bowdoinham we are so lucky that a majority of our families are actively engaged and supportive of the work of the school, and give time and energy to help make this school the best it can be.

Our role in this partnership requires that we communicate with families well and often; that we welcome you and encourage you to be involved; and that we consider your feedback. Soon teachers will be getting in touch with you to schedule student conferences for the week or so before Thanksgiving break. Those conferences are about connecting around your child's learning. We want to hear your thoughts and questions. At conferences this year you will have the opportunity to give us feedback on how well we are communicating with you – what you like and what we could do better. We also love fielding specific questions about your child's learning.

The work of teaching our kids is too big and important for any of us to do alone. Thanks for being part of this experience with us. Have a great weekend!

Yours in meaningful learning that lasts,

Mr. Lajoie ☺

Please see the flyer in your child's backpack about the author's visit and book sale/signing from Anne Sibley O'Brien next week!



Bowdoinham welcomes... Maine Author-Illustrator Anne Sibley O'Brien

School Author Visit, Wednesday October 25, 2017, Bowdoinham Community School-O'Brien will visit the Bowdoinham Community School to explore the subject of "inclusion and welcoming." Using her own personal stories, books, and art O'Brien will invite students to take a look at the wider world and discover what we all have in common as humans. **Teacher/Parent Workshop:** Books as Bridges: Children's Literature & Racial Diversity in the Classroom, Thursday October 26, 2017, 4-5pm, Bowdoinham Community School. O'Brien will provide an overview of the latest findings on how children develop ideas about race. She'll share recent research about why diverse books are so important, and how they can be used to spark natural conversations about human differences. The workshop will include a list of recommended books for sparking positive, inclusive discussions and resources for further exploration. This workshop is open to everyone. Parents and teachers throughout the SAD 75 school district are welcome. Please RSVP to caringkids04008@gmail.com or just show up!

Community Celebration & Shared Read, Thursday October 26, 2017, 6:30-7:30pm, Bowdoinham Community School. Students will share ideas and posters created with O'Brien at school. Local diversity experts will enlarge the conversation by sharing their expertise and personal experiences relating to inclusion/exclusion. Community members and families will brainstorm ways to take action on welcoming diversity. The Community Celebration will lead to the selection of a relevant title for a Community Shared Read. Please join us!



WANTED: LUNCH BUNCH READERS - We are looking for readers for our lunchtime reading program at Bowdoinham Community School. Please consider donating some of your time each week or month to read to students during lunchtime from 11:30-12:00. For more information, contact Leah Hayes at 666-5546 or hayesl@link75.org Thank you!!



MSAD# 75 Flu Clinics at Mt Ararat Middle School - Saturday October 21, 9am-12pm, and Tuesday November 28, 4pm- 6pm in the cafeteria. Nasal mist will not be offered this year. This clinic is sponsored by CHANS, open to the public, ages 6 months and up, and free. Donations are accepted.



Halloween Parade -Reminder to please send in your child's Halloween Permission slip by Wednesday to the office. We need a signed permission slip in order for your child to stay afterschool for the parade. Call the office with any questions.



Gryffon Ridge Spice Merchants Fundraiser – Just a reminder that our only ALL STUDENT school fundraiser to benefit student and staff needs above and beyond the district budget is due Friday, October 27, 2017. Please send in your packets and payment to the office and thank you for supporting our school.



Bowdoinham Recreation: Current Forms Are Available in Town Office, School Office & <http://www.bowdoinham.com/recreation> - -Community Swim @ Bowdoin College pool. Free for SAD 75 community members. Sundays 4:30-5:30pm. Oct 22,29. Nov 5, 12, 19, 26 & Dec.3rd. -Recreation Basketball 3-6th grade: Forms are now available also available in the Middle School Office. Forms CAME HOME in 3-5th grade backpacks. Deadline is Nov 2nd as we create teams and appoint coaches the following week. -K-2nd grade Basketball: This after school activity is organized in Mid-January for a Feb-March season.
 -Little Dribblers: Join the Varsity coach & team for a 6 week, skill and fun packed program for 1st & 2nd Graders within the School District. Program starts Saturday Jan 6th. Deadline to register will be mid-Dec.
 Sponsored by Topsham Recreation. Find forms in NOVEMBER in Topsham office and Town of Topsham website.
 -Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine. Sign out your free pass which will allow up to 6 people on the date you choose and we write on your pass. Available in the town office.
 -KICKBALL for 1st & 2nd graders?? If you are interested in leading this activity, please contact Lisa West LWest@Bowdoinham.com . I am considering as either an after-school program, 3:30pm, or later in the evening 5:45-7pm once per week through Nov & Dec.



Bowdoinham Food Pantry has new hours of operation. Beginning Wednesday, September 6, the pantry will be open from 3pm – 5pm every Wednesday. For more information please call 751-7779



The Clothes Closet is open the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 3pm-6pm at the Church of the Nazarene at 7 School St. Come to the house behind the church. A donation of \$1 a bag is welcome but not required. brown_531@myfairpoint.net or the Merrymeeting Art Studio



We are so pleased to have the **Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans** back this year for a show of their recent work. The Opening Reception will be on Friday, Oct. 20 from 5:30-8:00 at the Gallery, 9 Main Street, Bowdoinham. There will be live music and food along with all the artists who will be happy to answer any questions you may have. The show continues on Sat. and Sun. from 1-4 p.m. until Nov. 5. Come join us to see what our talented neighbors have been creating in recent months.

