

Principal's Report January 2019

Athletics

Basketball:

Girls win/loss record: 9,1

Boys win/loss record: 5,5

There are two more games in regular season before we begin play-offs.

*Future boys' team discussion.

I am attending a training on reporting sexual assault this Friday along with our nurse and school counselor.

INCREASE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

PFE brought in Sarah Doremus to do a STEAM project with grades 3-5. They are studying sound waves and making musical instruments.

8th graders are building a toboggan with Bob White. This is also a PFE event.

First grade goes outside on Friday mornings for Forest Friday. They start with an outdoor Morning Meeting followed by a lesson and experience that is connected to their greater science theme. Their nature-based science themes (ex., mushrooms, animals in winter, tracking) trickle into their core academic subjects in the classroom, which bring background knowledge, engagement and meaning to their work. Following their lesson and depending on the season/weather, they eat snack outside and have unstructured play time in their Forrest Nook. Learning and playing outside together has allowed them to grow their love for and knowledge of the natural world. Furthermore, it has also helped them build community, engage their senses and awareness, strengthen their gross motor skills, use their imaginations and develop problem-solving and cooperation skills in ways a classroom setting cannot.

Mr. Amundsen is starting an afterschool ski/snowboard club for middle school students. We are hoping to begin in February.

BECOME A COMMUNITY OF READERS

Third graders learn about a new author every month. They study their craft of writing/illustrating. Third graders watch interviews, document learning in author booklets, and as a finale they write to the authors. Students practice writing friendly letters. We usually have great success receiving responses back from the authors. Sometimes they are typed generic newsletters and other times they are handwritten letters or crafted cards. Authors have sent bookmarks, signed books, and even t-shirts one year. When the author's responses come in, Mrs. Dulac makes a colored copy for each student to take home. It's a great experience and students love it! They most recently received letters from Chris Van Dusen.

Each Friday, our 5th grade buddies come in to read with K students. Some K students are beginning to read to their "big buddies."

Grades 2 and 3 have been writing letters back and forth with their pen-pals. The Pen-Pal tea will be May 6th.

Mrs. Walsh is doing a novel study with activity extensions based on the book, Homer Price with a group of 2nd graders.

K-4 has started the Chickadee Book Awards sponsored by the Maine State Library, which is a statewide initiative that encourages kids to vote for their favorite Chickadee book.

Jeff Payson is our first reader for our read aloud YouTube Channel. It will be on our website soon. <https://youtu.be/BDf7Y00D4SA>

BUILD STUDENT CONFIDENCE

We build confidence in our students each day by challenging them, using learning targets with a scale outlining the learning continuum, accepting mistakes with grace, using specific praise and encouragement, and celebrating success.

4th graders have started the Learn to Ski program.

Dave Munger, our Educator in Residence (EIR) from Kieve Leadership School has returned and will be working with us for ten weeks in all. His primary responsibilities include:

- Work with students on promoting growth mindsets, positive risk taking, “failing forward”.
- Build social-emotional competencies through activities in classrooms.
- Provide authentic learning experiences through field trips, service-learning, and other outside of school activities.

Secondary Responsibilities:

- Assisting with stump circle and other outdoor learning for first grade.
- Be present at recess times that do not interfere with time in class.
- Assist with afterschool activities as necessary.