

# Vine Street School

April 2017

## Important Dates & Reminders

### April

- 4-6 Third Grade Testing
- 10-14 International Week  
Monday-China  
Tuesday-Croatia  
Wednesday-S. Africa  
Thursday-Mexico  
Friday-Italy
- 10-14 Kindness Week
- 14 Gear Day
- 15-23 Spring Vacation



**Recommended From Our Library**  
**April Theme: Backyard Birds**  
*Mama Built a Little Nest*  
by Jennifer Ward  
*Feathers Not Just For Flying*  
By Melissa Stewart

## Principal's Message

Last month there were two events at the Vine Street School that I believe exemplify who we are and what we believe. The first was a math PEAK Night and Academic Showcase. The second was a family fun night hosted by the PTO. The first night was a chance for parents to join their children for an evening where we celebrated Academic Excellence. Students were able to show their parents examples of their learning this year. The hallways were lined with examples of student work from all areas of the curriculum. In the classrooms, teachers had set up displays from EnVision Math, the Ready Gen Reading, as well as STEMscope experiments. Each of these displays showed the excellence of our Quality Instructional Programs. The teachers, understanding the importance of engaging students and their families in the learning process, demonstrated their professional excellence by planning a short skit and interactive, take home math games where families can help strengthen

their children's math skills and have fun at the same time.

We know that to have academic excellence it is critical to create an environment for success. The PTO Family Fun Night was an opportunity for staff, students and families to have fun with our learning community. Students danced the night away, proudly showing off the dance moves they had learned in physical education classes. It was fun to see parents and staff joining in the dances as well! While the gym was rocking out, groups of parents, friends and staff shared conversations in the cafeteria, lobby and hallways. It was a great evening.

Academic Excellence, Quality Instructional Programs, Professional Excellence and Environment for Success are the four cornerstones of the Bangor School Department ten-year Strategic Plan, *Academic Excellence for All*. You can read more about our goals by downloading a copy from our website or asking for a copy from the school office.



### **2017-2018 PreK and Kindergarten Registration**

The Vine Street School is continuing to accept registrations for PreK and kindergarten students for the 2017-2018 school year. If you know of any child in the Vine Street School district who will be four or five years old on or before October 15, 2017, please let the school know so we can contact them about the registration process.

To receive this newsletter electronically, sign up on our website at [www.bangorschools.net](http://www.bangorschools.net)

*Academic Excellence for All*



### International Week

Next week, April 10-14 will be International Week at the Vine Street School. Staff are working with the PTO to highlight one country each day. Parent Volunteer Sasha Zaro has taken the lead role on this project, and she has done an amazing job planning a cultural experience for our students. Each day we will feature a different country. Monday will be China, Tuesday will be Croatia, Wednesday will be South Africa, Thursday will be Mexico and Friday will be Italy. The lobby will be decorated each day with flags, posters and objects representative of the featured country. Students will have opportunities to color flags, coloring pages and complete word searches on each of the countries. Hot lunch will have a food from the country of the day. Staff will read books from each country to students during lunch. PE teacher, Mr. Marks, is organizing a mini Olympics for second and third graders during lunch. Art teacher, Mrs. Robbins, has planned an art project for each grade level highlighting the culture one of the designated countries. On Wednesday, Gregory Zaro, a Vine Street parent who has worked around the world will be a guest speaker at a special assembly. On Friday afternoon, the gymnasium will be transformed into multi-cultural works stations where students will have the opportunity to choose from several crafts to make. We are looking forward to this opportunity for students to learn more about their world!



### Kindness Week

Being kind is easy. It does not require any special equipment. It does not cost money. It does not require extraordinary abilities or talent. Being kind is something everyone can do. The Bangor School Department wants to demonstrate our belief that being kind is a quality everyone should nurture. BSD has named the week of April 10-14 as Kindness Week. At the Vine Street School, students will have the opportunity to link their acts of kindness with a paper chain throughout the building. Weather permitting, the Friendship Bench will return to the school playground. Staff will be modeling acts of kindness and recognizing children who do the same. Harvard psychologist Richard Weissbourd has five suggestions for teaching children to be kind. 1) Tell children that kindness is a top priority. 2) Provide opportunities for children to practice caring and gratitude. 3) Expand children's circles of concern. 4) Be a strong role model and mentor. 5) Guide children in managing destructive feelings. The Washington Post article on Dr. Weissbourd's research can be found at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/parenting/wp/2014/07/18/are-you-raising-nice-kids-a-harvard-psychologist-gives-5-ways-to-raise-them-to-be-kind/?utm\\_term=.41cce187d1c5](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/parenting/wp/2014/07/18/are-you-raising-nice-kids-a-harvard-psychologist-gives-5-ways-to-raise-them-to-be-kind/?utm_term=.41cce187d1c5)

### Gear Day

Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> is the annual Bangor School Department Gear Day. This day gives staff the opportunity to show pride in their alma maters and/or other institutions of higher learning that they support. Gear Day is an opportunity for students to learn more about the many options they will have to further their educations after high school.

Students are encouraged to participate as well. If your child has a hat, t-shirt or sweatshirt from a college university or branch of military service they are invited to wear it on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The office will have badges for any student who would like to wear one on Gear Day.



PreK-Nature All Around Us

Kindergarten-Identifying and Describing Shapes; Patterns and Structures, *Plant Patterns & Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature*

Grade 1-Learning About Time; Observing the Messages of the Natural World: *Let's Visit the Moon*

Grade 2-Measuring Length; Using Mentor Texts for Comprehension Strategies and Constructed Response

Grade 3-Time, Capacity and Mass Problems; Becoming An Active Citizen