

Vine Street School

December, 2017

December

- 4-7 Community School Gr. K-3
- 11-14 Community School Gr. 1-3
- 11 PTO, 6:00
- 18-22 Floor Hockey Tournament
- 22 Bangor Day Last Day Before Vacation
- Gingerbread Activities PK-K
- STEM Afternoon 1-3

January

- 2 School Resumes

Principal's Message

The mission of the Bangor School Department is *Academic Excellence for All*. We strive to meet that goal through four pillars: academic excellence, professional excellence, quality instructional programs and an environment for success. One of the major components of our environment for success is the support of our community. We are fortunate to work in a place where the citizens are so supportive of our schools. We wanted to find a way that we could give back to our city. Several years ago, the concept of Bangor Day was created. Each year, throughout the month of December all schools in the Bangor School Department celebrate their Bangor

pride. We collect non-perishable foods at each of the schools to donate to a local food pantry to assist those who have a need. We collect funds to give to the Bangor Fuel assistance funds to help ensure that no one goes without heat during the cold Maine winter.

The staff of the Vine Street School invite students and their families to join us in the Bangor Day experience. Children may drop off non-perishable food anytime between now and December 22nd. If any families would like to make a donation to the fuel funds, they can send the money into the office. December 22nd is Bangor Day. On this day, everyone is asked to proudly wear Bangor's colors of Cardinal and White.



Bangor Day Activities

December 22, Bangor Day, will be a special day at the Vine Street School. In addition to the food and fuel drive, the staff have exciting plans for students. Mr. Marks will be coordinating the third annual Bangor Day floor hockey tournament for students in grades 2-3. The championship game will be during lunch recess on Bangor Day. Students in PreK and K can look forward to activities around gingerbread people (yum!) and students in grades 2-3 can plan on a afternoon of STEM activities.

Winter Reading

December Theme: Giving

Recommended from Our library

The Gift of Nothing

Patrick McDonnell

The Spiffiest Giant in Town

Julia Donaldson

The Giving Tree

Shel Silverstein



Academic Excellence for All

To receive this newsletter electronically, sign up on our website at www.bangorschools.net



Passport to Reading

Students continue to enjoy the Passports to reading program. Many students have acquired several stickers, stamps and free books already. If you have not started to accept the reading challenges, please consider doing so this month. Reading any of the books from one of the challenges below will earn students a stamp in their passport

Vine Street School PTO-A graphic novel or comic book

Mrs. Beale- A book about a person with special needs

Mrs. Silk-A book written or illustrated by Chris Van Dusen

Mrs. Perrow-A book about animals

Vine Street Staff-A book about Egypt

Mrs. Curtis-A book about a holiday



Each day custodians, staff, students and parents find items that have been left behind. **LOST & FOUND** Staff place these items in the Lost and Found in the hope that they can be reunited with their owner. The Lost and Found is located just inside the cafeteria to the left. During the month of December, items will be displayed on a table in the lobby. Currently, we have several sweatshirts as well as some nice coats, hats and mittens. We also have some miscellaneous items such as kerchiefs and socks. Just as an aside, how do you lose your socks? Inquiring minds want to know! At any rate, please feel free to come into the lobby to see if you can identify any of the items on the table. By mid-winter, the Lost and Found bins will be overflowing. When this happens we begin donating the items to a local charity. Staff will notify families in a newsletter before giving away any clothing.

Vacation Ideas



Looking for some things to do over vacation? Here are some ideas. See the next page for more information.

- Make a Thunder Cake
- Make an animal feeder snowman
- Read Jan Brett books and complete related activities
- Read at the Bangor Public Library
- Sled at Hayford Park a.k.a. Union Street Hill
- Take a walk on the University of Maine's bike path
- Visit the Maine Discovery Museum

Have a great winter break!



What We Will Learn This Month

Prek-Awesome Animals! All Kinds of Animals and Animal Homes.

K-Understanding Addition, Reading-**Predicting Change-Come on Rain** and *The Snowy Day*; Writing-Informational How-To-Books

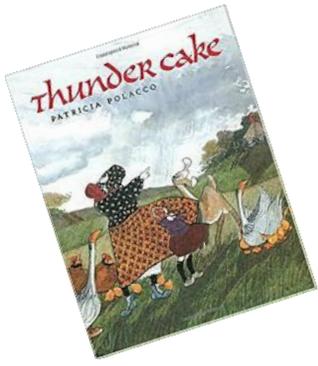
1-Representing and Interpreting Data; Reading-Making Choices-*The Winners' Choice* and *Hunter's Money Jar*; Writing-Informational; STEMscope-Sound

2-Fluently subtract within 100; Reading-**Building Ideas:** *Theodore Roosevelt-the Adventurous President* and *Marching with Aunt Susan*; Writing-Informational; STEMscope-Effects of Wind and Water

3-Represent and Interpret Data; Reading-**Connecting Character, Culture, and Community-***The Year of Miss Agnes* and *The Athabascans and the Frog Princess*; Writing Opinion; STEMscope-Objects and Motion

Focus Country: Egypt

Passport Reading: December Challenges



Patricia Polacco's Thunder Cake Recipe

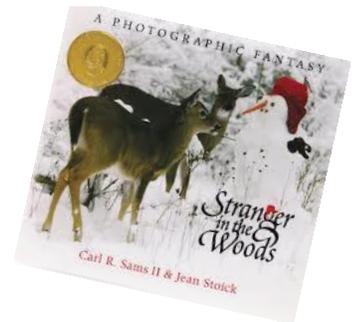
Many children are afraid of thunder storms. This book gives students a tasty activity to do during the storm. This could be adapted to make it a Snow Storm cake. Talk to your child about what ingredients you would need for a snow cake.

1 cup shortening
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 eggs, separated
1 cup cold water
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup tomato puree
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups cake flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cocoa powder
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Grease and flour two 8 1/2 inch cake pans.
3. Cream together the shortening and sugar.
4. Beat in the vanilla and egg yolks.
5. Mix in the cold water and pureed tomatoes.
6. Beat the egg whites until they are stiff and fold into egg/tomato mixture.
7. Sift the cake flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt.
8. Mix dry mixture into wet.
9. Pour batter evenly into cake pans.

Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick's *Stranger in the Woods*

What better way to spend a winter day than making a snowman? There is a very nice recipe to make a snowman animals can enjoy in the book *Stranger in the Woods*. This book is available in our library. To improvise if you do not have the book, simply make a regular snowman. Use a carrot for a nose. Use nuts for eyes, mouth and the buttons. Place bird see in the snowman's hat.



Jan Brett's *The Mitten*

When it comes to winter, Jan Brett literally wrote the book! Children love the tale of *The Mitten*. Attached to this newsletter is a coloring page to go along with a reading of *The Mitten*. This coloring page was downloaded from Jan Brett's web page. Check out the website for more coloring pages and activities to go along with her books.



<http://www.janbrett.com/index.html>