

Welcome From the Principal

August, 2018

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,



Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! The staff and I cannot wait to begin this school year—we miss you when you are not here! I hope you have had wonderful adventures over the summer—I am excited to hear all about them! The staff and I have been busy planning an exciting year for you. As returning students know, the Vine Street School prides itself on having a culture of literacy. Last year, the Passports to Literacy program was very popular with many students. This year, we will be using necklace tokens to reward reading. Teachers will still issue challenges (and for the first time this year, we have a student creating challenges!), students will earn tokens for their necklaces for successfully completing challenges, and of course, our literacy specialist, Mrs. Curtis, will have books to give away for readers who complete a series of challenges. Again this year, we chose a book to use as an anchor text for the year. That means teachers will use the book in many different ways to teach many different concepts. This year, our anchor text will be Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman's *Bear Says Thanks*. This book shows how being kind can make a big difference in someone's life. It also reminds us of the importance of being appreciative when someone does something for us. We will spend time this year copying Bear's model and focus on using basic manners such as saying please and thank you regularly.

In Academics, we will continue implementing the Ready Gen Reading and enVisionmath programs in K-3 and Big Day in PreK. Vine Street will continue to prioritize teaching the art of writing. Staff will use the research and practices found in Lucy Calkins' Units of Study to inform their instruction. Throughout the year, there will be examples of student writing posted in the hallways of the school and, of course, each student will have many pieces of writing to share with his or her family. In mathematics, we will continue to individualize math fact fluency instruction to meet the needs of each student. We are expanding implementation of science units into PreK and kindergarten. Students in grades 1-3 have loved working with inquiry-based science units. PreK will learn more about forces (pushing and pulling) and kindergarten students will study plants.

Your teacher will be sending you a welcome letter later this month. Remember, you do not need to purchase any school supplies, we have everything purchased and ready for you. You do need sneakers for gym class and a backpack to carry your papers is great. You may bring a water bottle, but we have one here for every student.

Please mark your calendars to join us for Open House on August 29th from 5:00-6:00. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our plans for the coming school year.

I welcome the opportunity to meet and talk with parents. Please feel free to call me at school at 941-6300 if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. You can also schedule an appointment through the school secretary, send me an email at lsilk@bangorschools.net, or drop by the office to see me. I want to ensure that every child has an excellent elementary school experience, so please call if you have a concern or a question.

Again, welcome to the 2018-2019 school year. I am looking forward to an exciting year of learning and growth.

Sincerely,



August 29

Open House, 5:00-6:00

September 4

First Day of School
School Starts at 9:00

- Students enter the building at 8:55
- Students may arrive at 8:35 for recess or breakfast

School Dismisses at 3:00

September 10

Volunteer Training, 5:15
Title I Informational Meeting, 5:30
PTO Meeting, 6:00

September 11

9-11 Assembly, 2:15