



Vine Street School

September, 2018

Important Dates & Reminders

September

- 10 Volunteer Training, 5:30
- Title I Meeting, 5:45
- PTO, 6:00
- 11 9-11 Assembly 2:15

Autumn

Autumn is

An artist who uses

An oak leaf on which

To paint a masterpiece.

--William Allen Ward



Principal's Message

The first day of school is a special day. It is like a story that has been drafted, but not yet written. Everything is so fresh and *new*. There are new classrooms and teachers, new workbooks and supplies, new friends and new adventures. I feel so privileged to be able to share this experience every September. There are not many jobs where you are able to close down in June, spend July and August analyzing data, reflecting and planning, and then open again with a fresh start in September.

The first day at Vine Street was a great day. There was so much excitement on the playground before school. I joined parents in snapping as many pictures as I could. The students were wonderfully patient with

this process. They smiled, posed, said goodbye to parents, and then ran off to see friends they had missed seeing every day.

I cannot wait to see all the wonderful things that are going to happen this year. We passed out a calendar of events for the year at Open House. If you did not get one, call the office. Our PTO will meet on Monday night, and they will continue with their plans for the school year. The teachers will monitor each child's progress to help each student grow as a learner. If you have any concerns over the school year, please call me. I want this to be a great experience for each student. While many parts of the 2018-2019 school year are as yet unwritten, the first chapter was pretty amazing!!

UPDATES INFORMATION NEEDED

The safety of students is a top priority. It is extremely important that we have up-to-date phone numbers where we can reach parents in the event of an emergency. Please contact us when your numbers change—even if it is just a short term change. It is also necessary for parents to identify people the school can contact in an emergency if the parents are not available. Please be sure that these contacts are people who live locally and can come to the school if necessary. Thank you!



September Theme: Back to School
Suggested Titles

- Wemberly Worried* by Kevin Henkes
- First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneberg
- Children Just Like Me: A School Like Mine* by DK Children

Academic Excellence for All

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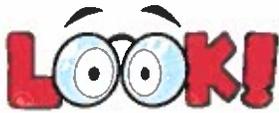
Important Meetings

There is a lot going on at the Vine Street School on September 10th. At 6:00 the PTO will hold its first meeting of the year. This is an extremely important meeting for parents and friends to attend. The PTO is critical to the success of our students. Through their efforts, we are able to provide many enrichment opportunities for students and their families. Some of the most popular events include the Fall Festival, Family Fun Night and the Spring Fair. All of these offerings require planning, so we need your help! At 5:30, Principal Silk will offer Volunteer Training. All volunteers must attend a volunteer training session before they can assist at the school. Trainings are held at all Bangor Schools, so if September 10th is not convenient, check the website for alternate dates. Volunteers can attend a training at any Bangor school. Just prior to the PTO meeting, Principal Silk will hold a short Title I Compact meeting for parents. During this meeting, Principal Silk will provide important information about Title I at the Vine Street School including how funds are managed. Please plan to attend these three important meetings.



Reading Challenge

There is a lot of debate about a lot of different things, but one thing everyone can agree upon is the importance of children learning to read. There are many things our teachers can, and will do, to help each child develop his or her reading skills. One of the best things students can do to become better readers is simple—read. The more students read, the better readers (spellers and writers, too) they will become. While it is our goal to help students progress as readers—we want more. We want them to love reading, too!. As a staff, we have been offering reading challenges to students for several years. This year, students who complete reading challenges will earn charms for their token necklaces. Students who complete all the challenges for the month will have the opportunity to choose a book from Mrs. Curtis’s huge supply to keep for their very own. Find out more about the reading challenges on the page attached to this newsletter.



September Themes

PreK Making Friends

K Numbers 0 to 5; “Living Together: This is Home”,
Where’s Home Little Pip?

1 Addition and Subtraction,
“Connecting to Our World”,
Stellaluna.

2 Addition and Subtraction
“Understanding Communities”,
Trouble at the Sandbox

3 Understanding Multiplication
and Division, “Observing the
World Around Us, *The Case
of the Gasping Garbage*



WELCOME BACK



September

READING CHALLENGE

STUDENT CHALLENGE:

I love Chris Van Dusen's books. They are funny and it is cool that he is from Maine. Read a book by Chris Van Dusen and I will give you a charm for your necklace.

PRINCIPAL'S CHALLENGE:

Fall is my favorite season. Writers have celebrated this season by writing beautiful fall poems. Read a fall poem book, and add a token to your necklace!

TEACHER'S CHALLENGE:

The fall season is a time to harvest fruits and vegetables. We are lucky to live in Maine where we can get delicious apples right from the trees. I love to go apple picking with my family. Read a book about apples or apple picking to earn a charm from me!

CUSTODIAN'S CHALLENGE:

Good deeds are a great way to show people you care. Read a book about a character who does a good deed or gives back to the community, and I will be happy to add a charm to your necklace!

TEACHER'S CHALLENGE:

There has to be a back to school challenge! There are a lot of wonderful books about going back to school. Read one of these books to earn a token from me!



September

PreK-K



To earn a charm complete this page for any challenge you completed. Put the title of the book in the blank. In the space below write a complete sentence telling why you did or did not like this book. Parents of PreK and K students may write their children's answers in for them.



I accepted Nella's Challenge! I read _____



I accepted Mrs. Silk's Challenge! I read _____



I accepted Mrs. Bosco's Challenge! I read _____



I accepted Mr. Whitney's Challenge! I read _____



I accepted Mrs. Clark's Challenge! I read _____

Reading Charm Necklace Challenge

Grade 1-3

Please write the name of the book you read. Tell if you liked it and why or why not. First grade may have an adult help them with the writing.



Reading Charm Necklaces

Why Are We Doing This?

The Vine Street School actively promotes a culture of literacy. Again this year, the staff will be focusing on having children participate in “volume reading”. Volume reading means just what it sounds like—reading a lot. Just like with any other skill, the more someone reads, the better he/she gets at it. Research has consistently proven that volume reading helps to enlarge the world of a child—books take them to places and times outside of their own experience. Reading increases children’s vocabularies and helps foster reading fluency.

In a nutshell,

“The more you read, the better you read. The better you read, the more you comprehend. The more you comprehend the higher the achievement. This volume of reading helps students build important world knowledge and acquire additional vocabulary-both of which are critical for reading comprehension.”

(engage NY)

Does it really make a difference how much my child reads at home?

YES!!

Many studies have shown that significant gains are made when children read. At school your child reads independently for 15-20 minutes every day. If your child reads for an additional 10 minutes per day, he/she will make even greater gains.

How Does the Reading Charm Necklace Program Work?

Every Vine Street student will receive a necklace chain. Each month, staff will issue a variety of reading challenges. If a child reads a book that fits the challenge, the parent signs the form and sends it back to school. The students will receive charms for their necklace for each book read. Students may read as many books as they like in any category, but they can only earn one charm per challenge. When a student has collected 5 charms, Mrs. Curtis will give the student the opportunity to select a book to keep.

Parents of younger students who are not yet readers may read challenge books to students. Children who are readers may either read books independently or with someone else.

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/the-importance-of-increasing-students-volume-of-reading>



How Can I Help Support My Child with the Reading Charm Necklace Program?

Great Question! Here are some ideas.

1. Learn how the program works. The details are attached to this document. If you have any questions talk to Mrs. Silk.
2. Talk to your child about the monthly challenges. Find out which ones are the most interesting to your child.
3. Brainstorm possible book choices for each challenge. We have books to meet every challenge in our school library. You may consider taking your child to the Bangor Public Library—they have many more books that will meet each challenge.
4. Make reading a part of your family's daily routine.
 - a. Choose a time where everyone is reading books of their own choosing!
 - b. Have a time where you are reading to your child(ren).
 - c. Let your child read to you!
5. Discuss with your child how to complete the evaluation page. Ask if he/she enjoyed the book. Be sure your child gives a reason why he/she did or did not like the book. If your child can write, let him/her do the writing. Help your child proofread the sentence. Make sure the sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a period.
6. Help your child monitor the challenge during the month. Maybe your child will choose to do 1 challenge per week. Keep your child excited about the challenges by talking about them throughout the month. Talking about books is a great way to help your child build comprehension skills!
7. Talk to your child about the charms he/she has earned. Discuss the books he/she read to meet the challenges.