

# Vine Street School



## January, 2019



### Important Dates & Reminders

#### January

- 9 National Law Enforcement Day
- 21 Martin Luther King Day-NO SCHOOL
- 25 School Pride Day  
Wear Red

**Library Theme:**  
Chickadee Award  
Winners

*Baabwaa and  
Wooliam* by David  
Elliott

*The Boy and the  
Whale* by Mordicai  
Gerstein

*Thirsty, Thirsty  
Elephants* by Sandra  
Markle

*There Might be  
Lobsters* by Carolyn  
Crimi

### Principal's Message

Welcome to 2019! I hope everyone had an amazing break. I spent a couple of days at Vine Street clearing up some end of the year details, reviewing some student data, and getting ready for the students' return. Several teachers were here as well getting ready for January. This is an important time in our school year. With the year almost half over, we will spend time this month assessing each child to determine the progress she/he has made since September. It is exciting to see how each student has learned. Teachers and I will use this data to make plans for individual students as well as making adjustments to grade level and schoolwide instruction. The information about your child's progress will be reported on the second quarter report card which will come out early in February. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

As for the time I spent on vacation—it was amazing. I did a lot of reading—fiction, nonfiction (I have been very interested in books about ancient civilizations lately), and I caught up on

several magazines that have been stacking up on my coffee table.

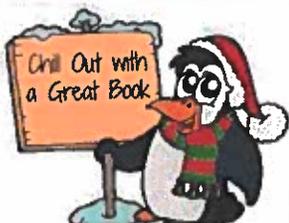
As some of you know, I work one period each day in a third grade math class. This rewarding experience has me thinking more about math in my everyday life. I found myself doing many math activities over vacation. I went shopping with my son's girlfriend to buy material for a new quilt. We had fun looking at patterns and measuring the lengths we needed. My other son's family gave me a puzzle board which allowed me to spend hours working on puzzles—without losing any pieces. Playing games with my grandchildren was a great way to build their skills and have a great time! As I reflected on the fun I had doing math in everyday activities, I began to work on a way to expand our monthly reading challenge to include a math challenge. Details are attached to this newsletter. Children have a natural curiosity and love learning new things. I encourage you to consider some of the activities on this month's math challenge to do together. Have fun!

#### Outside Recess

One of the best parts about living in Maine is being able to play outside in winter. Please make sure your children are dressed to go outside each day. Staff will supervise recess outside every day the weather permits.

## Academic Excellence for All

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



### Free Book Friday

The staff of the Vine Street School want to help students build their own home libraries. We have encouraged children to participate in the reading challenges each month with the opportunity to take home a brand new book for their library. Beginning in January, we will be giving students another opportunity to choose from new and gently used books to take home. We hope children will enjoy reading these books. Each Friday, a different grade will have the chance to a book. The first week will be first grade, the second week will be second grade the third week will be third grade and the fourth week will be PreK and Kindergarten.



COUNT

ME IN!

### Attendance Matters

Attendance at school is extremely important—especially in the younger grades where students are developing practices that they will use for the rest of their lives. Good attendance—including being on time and staying all day—helps children do well in school and then later in college and at work. Of course, there are times when children must stay home due to illness or be out of school for part of the day for an appointment that could not be scheduled outside of school hours. Whenever possible, please ensure that your child arrives at school on time and ready to learn.

#### Did You Know?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10% (or about 17 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can fall behind if they miss just a day or two every few weeks!
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important.

#### What Can You Do?

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Do not let your child stay home unless he or she is truly sick. Sometimes stomach aches can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious to go to school, talk to teachers, school counselors or the principal for advice on how to help your child feel more comfortable and excited about learning.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Source: [www.countmeinmaine.org](http://www.countmeinmaine.org)

## What We Are Learning This Month

**PreK** –Awesome Animals!

**K**-Informational “How-to” Books; Predicting Change: *What Will the Weather Be?* And *Weather Words and What They Mean*; Addition and Subtraction

**1**-Constructed Response Unit; Making Choices: *Goods and Services* and *Supermarkets*; Expanding the Counting Sequence.

**2**-Constructed Response Unit; Building Ideas, *Change Makers* and *City Green*; Time and Money.

**3**-Informational Writing; Connecting Character, Culture and Community: *Deep Down and Other Extreme Places to Live*, *City Homes* and *The Song of Sky and Sand*; Strategies to Add and Subtract.