

Vine Street School

December, 2016



Important Dates & Reminders

3	Book Fair Ends
12	PTO, 6:00
21-23	Grade 2-3 Recess Soccer Tournament
22	Bangor Day Wear Red!
22	STEM After-noon Gr. 1-3 Gingerbread Activities
23	NO SCHOOL Winter Vacation



Recommended From Our Library
December Theme: Animals in Winter
Bear Snores On -- Karma Wilson
Stranger in the Woods—Carl Sams
Over and Under the Snow—Kate Messner
Animals in Winter—Martha Rustad

Principal's Message

Bangor Day



Bangor is a special place to live, work and learn. I am honored to be a part of the Bangor School Department team. One of the things I like best about working in Bangor is the strong relationship between the school department and the community. It is a privilege to work in a city where school staff, parents and community members work together to help all children achieve academic excellence.

During the month of December the Bangor School Department works in conjunction with other Bangor Departments to sponsor Bangor Day. This year, Bangor Day is on December 22nd (the last school day before winter break). On Bangor Day, everyone is

asked to show their support of our schools by wearing the traditional colors of cardinal and white. It is always exciting on Bangor Day to have a sea of red as students and staff demonstrate their school spirit.

As a way of giving back to our community, we host a food/fuel fund drive during the month of December. Students and staff are invited to bring in non-perishable goods to place in boxes in our lobby. On Bangor Day, representatives from the Bangor School Department will gather all the donated food from Bangor's 11 schools and donate it to a local food shelter. People may also make a cash donation which will be collected in the office and given to the Bangor Fuel Assistance Fund.

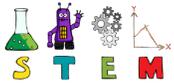
December Reading Challenge



At the Family Literacy Night in October, staff extended the Turkey Reading Challenge to students. Students who successfully completed the challenge earned both a certificate and a new book they were able to choose themselves. Students have been asking what the next challenge will be. Attached to this newsletter is the Winter Reading Challenge. Students have until December 22nd to read a book from each genre on the hats. Staff encourage families to read together to complete the challenge. This is a fun way for families to read together and try different types of books. All students who complete the challenge by the winter break will be able to choose a book to take home.

Academic Excellence for All

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



STEM Day

Be sure to mark your calendars—school is in session through December 22nd. December 22nd will be an exciting day here at the Vine Street School. In addition to being Bangor Day (wear red!), staff have planned special activities for the afternoon. Students in Grades PreK and K will finish up their unit on Gingerbread. This is always a favorite activity for our youngest learners. Maybe this year we will be lucky and the kindergarteners' gingerbread cookies will not run away and hide, but don't count on it. The gingerbread hunt has become a favorite tradition for our kindergarten students. Students in grades 1-3 will be working on STEM activities all afternoon. Students love working hands-on with science, engineering, technology and math activities. Please be sure that your child attends school on December 22nd—it is going to be a great day!



Winter Weather Notes

December is here, and we are seeing colder weather. For snow lovers this brings excitement as they anticipate the joys of skiing, sledding, skating and hot cocoa by a fire. For others, the colder weather is dreaded as we consider the ice cold temperatures, shoveling driveways and cars that refuse to start. Either way, we Mainers know that whether we like it or not, cold weather is coming. At school, we try to take the students out as much as possible. They work hard throughout the day and a recess break is a great way to get some exercise and get refreshed for the afternoon. We will take children out on any day when the wind chill is 10° above zero or warmer. To fully enjoy the outdoors, students need to be dressed appropriately with a coat, hats, and mittens. In order to play in the snow, students will also need snow pants, boots. If you need help with getting winter gear for your child, please call the guidance counselor.



This Month We Are Learning About....

Pre-K-Community; Gingerbread Activities

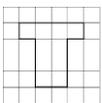


K-Understanding Addition and Subtraction; Predicting Change; Gingerbread Activities



1-Working with Addition and Subtraction; Making Choices; Representing and Interpreting Data; Science Water Unit

2-Subtracting Fluently within 100; Plan a Snack; Building Ideas



3-Area and Representing and Interpreting Data; Maps and Globes; Connecting Character, Culture and Community



School Committee Policies

The Vine Street School, as part of the Bangor School Department, is governed by local, state and federal laws. In addition, the Bangor School Committee develops policies that are practiced in all Bangor Schools. The Bangor School Department regularly reviews and updates policies as needed. Current policies can be found on the school department's website at www.bangorschools.net and at the Superintendent's Office at City Hall.

