



Vine Street School

October, 2019

Principal's Message

There will be a lot happening during the month of October at the Vine Street School. Teachers have been working with students throughout the past month to get them familiar with the many routines involved in a workshop model of instruction.

Elementary schools in the Bangor School Department use a workshop model of instruction. This framework allows teachers to reduce the amount of time they are lecturing and increase the amount of time students are engaged in active learning. Throughout the day students participate in reading, writing and math workshops. In a workshop, the teacher begins by presenting students with a learning target for the lesson. Students know from the very beginning of the class what they are expected to know and be able to do by the end of the lesson and *why* it is important to learn it. The teacher then presents a targeted mini-lesson to the class. Often these lessons are presented with students sitting at the carpet around the teacher who may use technology, big books, or anchor books to enhance her instruction. After the mini-lesson, students break into small groups. Students work independently or with peers at work stations that provide activities designed to allow students to practice and/or apply skills related to the learning target. The times when students are involved in these various activities are called rounds. Typically, students will have 2-3 rounds in each subject each day. The teacher will have multiple roles during rounds. She may pull together small groups of students who have similar learning needs to offer small group instruction to reteach the targeted skill or concept or to accelerate students who are ready for more challenging materials. The teacher may “drop in” with a student to conference with them to assess their learning, encourage the student to share their thinking, or to quickly target a specific skill to reinforce or enhance.

At the end of the workshop, students again gather together as a whole group to debrief the lesson. Students learn to reflect and share about what they have learned that day.

Throughout the day, your children are involved in workshops. I like this framework because it provides students the opportunity to move and be active throughout the day instead of being at a desk for long periods of time. A workshop allows students opportunities to choose how they feel they will learn best. My favorite part of workshops are the rich discussions that classroom communities have as they learn together.

I hope you are having a wonderful fall. This is my favorite season! There are so many activities to share with your children. Spending time together is a great way to help your child build vocabulary and foster his/her natural curiosity. Why do leaves turn colors? How do the ducks know to fly south? Why do geese fly in a V pattern? Why do we have season? There is so much to explore—enjoy! (FYI—kids ask very hard questions—Google has the answers! 😊)

Important Dates

October

- 7 PTO, 6:00
- 25 School Pride Day
Wear Red!
- PTO Fall Festival
5:30-7:00
- 30 Picture Retake Day



PTO

Join us on Monday, October 7 at 6:00 for our regular monthly meeting. We have a lot of business to discuss. We will be electing new officers for the 2019-2020 school year. We will also be making plans for the Fall Festival and a fund raiser that will provide opportunities for staff and students to purchase Vine Street School gear. Principal Silk will also follow up on the Parent-School Compact that she handed out last month. This is an opportunity for parents to share input and make suggestions for improvements. Join us at 6:00. Childcare is provided.



LIBRARY CORNER

October Theme

Dewey Decimal #100-199 Philosophy & Psychology: Friends

Manners with Friends-Josh Plattner

My Friend is Sad-Mo Willems

Big Friends-Linda Sarah

Best Friends Forever-Kate Di Camillo



LOOK

At What we Are learning!

Kindergarten: This is Home: *Life in a Pond* and *A Bed for Winter*; Math: Compare Numbers 0-5 and Numbers 6-10; Writing: Narrative Writing

First Grade: Connecting to Our World: *Time to Sleep* and *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* Math: Fluently Add and Subtract within 10 and Addition Facts to 20 Using Strategies; Writing: Narrative Writing

Second Grade: Understanding Communities: *Friends Around the World* and *The House on Maple Street*. Math: Add Within 100 using strategies: Writing: Narrative writing

Third Grade: Observing the World Around Us: *Treasure in the Trees*, *The Moon Seems to Change* and *About Earth*; Math: Apply Properties, Multiplication facts for 2,4,6,7,8 , and Use Multiplication to Divide; Writing, Narrative Writing and Constructed response/extended response

PREK

Big Day: My Family

7-11 Who's in my family

15-18 We take care of each other

21-25 Family Fun

28-1 All kinds of families



October 25-Fall Festival

The PTO is hosting the annual Fall Festival on October 25 from 5:30 until 7:00. There will be games and activities for students and their families. Younger and older siblings are welcome to come join the fun as well. Staff love seeing former students as well as getting to know children who will soon be part of our school family.

Children may wear costumes to the Fall Festival, but please keep in mind that this is a family event, so no scary costumes or weapons, please.

There is no cost to get into the Fall Festival, but it does take a lot of people to put on this event. The PTO needs more volunteers for set up, running the games, and clean up. Please call the school if you are willing to help run a station for a half hour.



Safety Concerns

Student safety is our top concern. We need everyone's cooperation with our practices and procedures to ensure the overall safety and well-being of all students and staff. There are currently three areas of concern.

Student Drop Offs—The circle in front of the school on the Vine Street side is a bus drop off only. Parents may not use this area as a drop off for students at any time of the day—even if it is “just for a second”. Parents dropping off on the Vine Street Side should park of Fifth Street or lower down on Vine. Please do not park between the carport and the fence as kindergarten students use this as their path to the playground.

Inside Student Pick Up—People picking students up at the end of the day inside the school need to wait for their children in the gymnasium. Dismissing close to 200 students safely requires everyone to follow appropriate protocols. This includes students from JFDS waiting for siblings.

Animals on the playground—For the health and safety of all, animals, other than service animals, are not allowed on the playground or in the school. Parents who bring their pets while walking children to school are welcome to stand on the sidewalk. While most people consider this to apply only to dogs, pet reptiles and rodents are also not allowed on school grounds or in the school.