

Viola Rand and Alton Elementary Schools

March 16, 2018 Report for the RSU34 School Board

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16

Report cards go home

March 19

Spring Fun Afternoon

March 26

AES to VRS Book Fair

March 22

MEA EmPowerME testing begins—AES

March 27

Grandparent Book Fair event 7-8 AM VRS

March 28

Paws For Books Book Fair 6-7:30 VRS

April 12

Kindergarten Screening at AES

April 13

Kindergarten Screening at VRS

ENROLLMENTS

| | <u>Pre-k</u> | <u>K</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| AES | 3 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 39 |
| VRS | 8 | 10 | 14 | 16 | — | — | 48 |

Internal Accreditation Process

The first step in our self assessment on the foundational elements happened directly following the Parkland Florida attack. The first element is looking at the safety of the school. We didn't get far that day. It was a healthy discussion involving more 'what ifs...' than we have considered in past meetings. We left with still a lot of questions on the table and the idea that there cannot be a concrete plan that covers every scenario is disconcerting and the different processes in the two schools were significant as well. We continued on at our next combined staff meeting looking at the next elements and found our pace picked up. The sharing and reflection that this exercise has generated has turned out to be far more powerful and positive than I expected. The last time we met with this on the agenda was one the best staff meetings I can remember with both schools' staff attending. The discussions generated enthusiasm and a sharing of ideas that will a stepping off point for us. It will be interesting to see where the next steps take us.

One fish, two fish...

AES Spring Fun Day

Monday afternoon, there will be a cabin fever beating, spring welcome at the Alton Elementary School. After school, students will make their own volcano snack and play a math fact volcano game. After that, they will decorate a plant pot and plant a pansy and if the timing is right have it for a Mothers' Day gift. Then there will be many of the traditional spring games moved inside. We have a long jump rope for kids to practice/ learn to jump in and out, Chinese jump ropes, skip-its, zoom ball, hackey sack, cats cradle, hopscotch and 4 square. Students will learn how to play some new games for recesses when the weather turns warmer. It promises to be an active, healthy afternoon for the students and a chance for staff to join in on the fun!

Read Across America Week

Dr. Seuss' birthday was March 2, which is a highlight of the Read Across America Week. Both schools had theme days , a daily reading challenge and fun activities to celebrate reading! Ms. Murphy had Seuss props for cool pics and in Bradley students all got to read to therapy dogs. Kids were so excited for their turn with the Newfoundlands. They are mellow, patient giants! It was great to see

students enjoying reading together!



Ice Skating at the Alfond Arena

On March 1st, Alton Elementary and Viola Rand students went on the second trip to Alfond Arena this winter. Students skills have really improved significantly over the times that we have gone now. It is fun to see the confidence with which so many of the students now take to the ice! This has proven to be a terrific experience for the students. The staff at the rink have always been very accommodating. Now we are planning a time for RSU34 staff and their families to have a chance to do some skating next Sunday, March 25th. It will be a fun wellness activity and a welcome break from the weather outside!