

# Viola Rand and Alton Elementary Schools

May 14, 2018 Report for the RSU34 School Board

## Sunny days, black flies on the playground and field trips to fun places! Must be spring!!

- ◆ This past week, May 7 - 11, has been Teacher Appreciation Week. Staff was treated to daily acts of appreciation in both schools. Key chains and kisses, decorated doors, Bagel Central delivery, Frank's donuts, staff lunch, smoothies and soft pretzels, pastries, muffins and fruit... Staff were well spoiled in both locations!
- ◆ On April 26th, first and second grade students from Alton and the first grade from Bradley went on a joint field trip. They started the day at the University of Maine's Emera Planetarium for an amazing show, then moved on to Bangor to the Challenger Learning Center of Maine. They had a picnic lunch on site there, then participated in planned activities, one of which was making and launching rockets. Technology has revolutionized science education!
- ◆ A thoughtful gift to the Viola Rand School for the purpose of doing something special for students lead to a whole school trip to Acadia National Park. Rangers greeted the students getting off the bus and took them by grade level for presentations that were age specific and fully aligned with the Next Gen Standards. The rangers were terrific with children and provided a wonderful experience for the students.
- ◆ Alton teacher, Cathy Fox, is once again gearing up for another gardening season. The community garden is located at the Alton town office site. The garden thrived last year with the oversight of master gardeners from the cooperative extension at the University of Maine. An abundance of vegetables were harvested and distributed last year. The students have started seedlings again this year with seeds purchased through a donation from the Alton Methodist Church. They hope to beat last year's yield of over 1,000 pounds of harvested vegetables!
- ◆ The Cole Land Transportation Museum has selected Alton Elementary School to receive 25 Kindle Fires. We have made the arrangements to take our students to the museum on May 25th, as this is the only condition attached to the Kindle gift offer. Students are in anticipation of this fun experience!
- ◆ This spring, Alton Elementary staff, students and parents have been watching an Eagle's nest on a monitor in the school lobby. When Mrs. Vafiades started showing the live feed in her classroom in early spring, interest took off. Jef Hamlin got involved and went beyond setting up a monitor in her classroom exclusively for watching the nest. We have had this access on a large monitor in the lobby for everyone to track! People are disappointed that the Eaglet has left the nest; it has been fun!

# Events

## **May 18**

AES/VRS pre-k/kindergarten field trip to Orono Bog Walk

## **May 25**

AES Cole Transportation Museum field trip

## **May 31**

AES Spring concert 6:00

## **Early June**

Step up day visit to OTES

## **June 1**

AES/VRS Career Day at VRS

## **June 1**

District Arts Festival @ OTES

## **June 5**

VRS Spring Concert 6:00

## **June 6**

AES Academic Night 6-7 PM

## **June 12**

Authors' Tea VRS 6-7 PM

## **June 14**

AES Field Day-AM

VRS Awards Assembly-1:30 PM

## **June 15**

VRS Field Day –AM

AES Awards Assembly 1:30

## **August 29**

2nd Annual Back to School Expo @ VRS 1:00-5:00



The rangers at Acadia National Park provided Viola Rand School students with excellent, interesting lessons when all students K-second grade visited there on May 7th.



Alton Elementary School third and fourth grade students take a break from trail work. The major windstorm last fall caused significant disruption to the nature trail behind the school. Fortunately a few helpful fellows with chainsaws have set things right again!