

FALCON FLASH

December 1, 2017

Upcoming Events:

12/2-BHM Craft Fair

12/18-4&5 Chorus Concert-6pm

12/22-Jan 2 – Holiday Break



THE PRINCIPAL CONNECTION @mrlajoiebham

Have you noticed the cool new seating area nestled amongst the pine trees in front of the gym? Those concrete benches, that new gathering space, was created by former student and Eagle Scout, Richard Mann. Richard saw the process through from conception to completion, and now it is available for our classes and community to use. Thank you, Richard. Job well done!

Parents of students on Team 2/3 – did your child tell you about my epic coffee spill in Ms. Caswell's classroom this week? We all make mistakes!

HOT TOPIC: REPORTS

Report cards for the first trimester will be going home in backpacks next week. Depending on your experience with our Empower reporting system, these reports might look different than what you are used to. A key feature of our report cards is the use of a "scale" to measure student performance toward a specific learning goal. A score of "3.0" on the scale means the student has shown proficiency in that particular skill or content. A student might also receive a pacing score – OP means "on pace" – indicating that the teacher is still actively teaching that learning goal, but the student is right where she should be in her progress toward meeting that goal by the end of the year.

These report cards help us share with you in better detail what exactly your child knows and can do, and also where they might need some more practice. A parent guide will be included in the envelope that goes home with the report cards next week. I also will host a Report Card Q & A session on Monday, December 11 at 5:30, right before this month's Parent Partnership meeting. This is one opportunity to ask questions that you have, and we invite you to stay for the Partnership meeting afterward. Thanks for your continued support. Have a great weekend!

Yours in meaningful learning that lasts,

Mr. Lajoie ☺

Driveway Safety Alert:

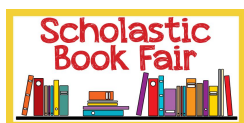
Parents dropping off or picking up students from school will have noticed the white safety sign in the driveway. It is against the law to drive around a bus that has its lights flashing. Flashing lights mean that students are moving either onto or off the bus. When approaching a bus, please watch for the flashing lights, and wait to proceed until you see the lights turn off. Thanks for paying extra close attention.

A second safety issue is when students are dropped off along Cemetery Road and must cross the driveway to enter school. We ask that when possible, parents drop students off at the Ridge Road end of the bus roundabout, where students can step right onto the sidewalk to walk into the building, without having to cross the driveway. Please coach your child about looking both ways and walking directly to the sidewalk. And please also pass this word along to grandparents or other helpers who drop off or pick up your child at school. With your help we will never have to see the day when a student is struck by a vehicle in our driveway. Thank you so much.

- Mr. Lajoie



Don't forget the school's Holiday Craft Fair this Saturday from 10am-2pm. With over 20 vendors, including some of our very own students, there is sure to be something for everybody! As always the BPP will have the cookie/bake sale going on. Santa will be joining us at 11 so remember your cameras!!



The Scholastic book fair will open Wednesday Nov 29 at 12:45PM and close Mon Dec 4 at 11AM. We will also be open from 10:00-2:00 during the Bowdoinham Craft Sale on Sat Dec 2. Children will be visiting the fair during their regular Learning Commons class where they'll be making wish lists, which they will bring home. Students may return to the fair at a later time to purchase books with either cash, or a check made out to Bowdoinham Community School. The Learning Commons has a very tight schedule on Thursday and Friday, so teachers will be informed of the best times to send students to make purchases on those days. The fair will also be open until 6PM on Thursday. If the fair has sold out of a book or you want to see a bigger selection you can shop at the online fair.

<http://www.scholastic.com/bf/bowdoinhamcommunityschool1>

We're always looking for volunteers to help with the fair, so if you would like to help with your child's class or at any other time, please let us know. The Learning Commons will be able to purchase additional materials with the profit from the fair. Sat. Dec. 2 – 10am-2pm and Mon. Dec 4 9am – 11am.



Chorus & Instrumental Music Concert – All Bowdoinham Community & Bowdoin Central 4th & 5th Grade Chorus members as well as selected 4th & 5th Grade instrumentalists will be performing on Monday, December 18th beginning at 6:00pm in the Bowdoinham Community School gym. All students performing should be at the school by 5:40pm.

