

November 25, 2020

With tomorrow being Thanksgiving, I am again overwhelmed with gratitude for the students we work with, for the families who raise and take care of them, and for our incredible staff. With our focus shifting more to the outdoors than ever, I am also very thankful for the incredible weather we have seen this fall (see the bottom right picture of our students and staff enjoying some garden sunshine).

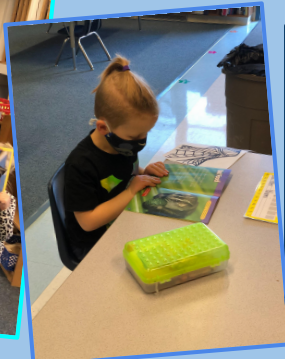
As a SecondStep school, we as a learning community know that we must be able to regulate our emotions, thoughts, and behaviors in order to be successful learners. For our second month of school, students have been focused on the four skills for learning: listening, focusing attention, using self-talk, and being assertive. Our staff is proud of our students for their efforts in being successful learners by using these skills. Keep up the hard work. We look forward to seeing you after this short break.

- Mr. Michaud



PRE-K

In November we learned about shapes, started the Handwriting Without Tears program, continued working in our nature journals, read the Mo Willems pigeon books, explored the school's story walk, and learned more about turkeys and Thanksgiving! The books we got to take home this month were Bats by Elizabeth Carney and I Am Enough by Grace Byers. Happy reading!



Kindergarten

Children's learning is largely motivated by social and emotional interactions. In Kindergarten, a major focus has been to navigate (and maximize) social learning while practicing social distancing. That's tricky business! Here you can see an example where students are playing an Everyday Math game called "Pocket Problems."



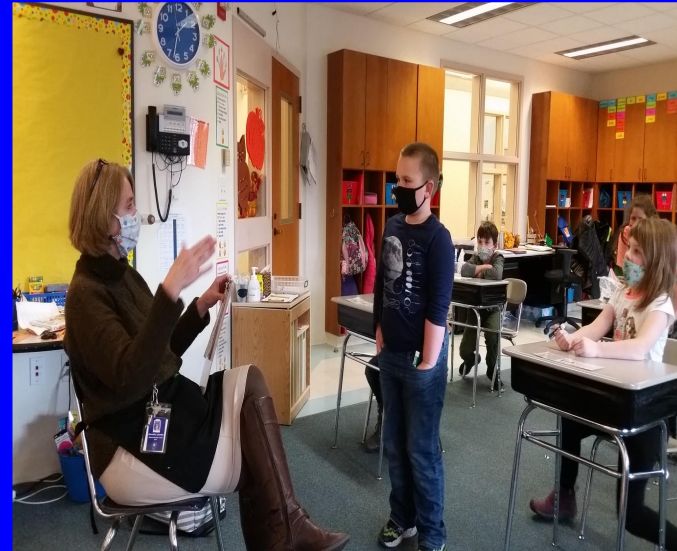
First Grade

What luck to have such great weather this month! First grade has spent lots of time outside enjoying the sunshine and using our natural environment to learn. Students collected items from the woods and garden to create Nature Faces and Sensory Stew. Students learned about the voting process during election time. We listened to "Duck For President" and then had a mock election. We voted on our favorite breakfast foods! Students went to the voting booth, filled out a ballot, and then placed their vote in the ballot box. It was Pancakes for the win!

For read alouds we are continuing to read our chapter book series "Mercy Watson." Mystery Science taught us about Plant survival and Engineering: Why don't trees blow down in the wind? Students became inventors to solve this mystery. We look forward to learning more with scientist Doug!



The second graders have been busy learning about the democratic process as part of our social studies unit on Civics and Government. We learned about the presidential candidates, campaigning and the voting process. On November 3, we participated in our own election by voting for two of our favorite snacks: Rice Krispie Treats and Welch's Fruit Snacks. The students checked in at the polls by stating their names and addresses and then received a ballot, proceeded to the voting booth to cast their ballots and then deposited the ballots in the ballot box. The results were tallied quickly with Rice Krispie Treats winning by a landslide!



Miss Crocker's Third Grade



This November, students have been enjoying their new and improved outdoor classroom! We are busy learning about animals and fossils throughout time, solving math number stories, and learning about different kinds of verbs!



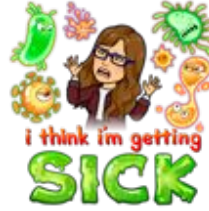


Hello from Mrs. Crocker!

From the EES Clinic



Please remember to pack your student cold weather gear each day—hats, mittens, coats, extra socks, boots.



If your student isn't feeling well, even if it is "just a sniffle" please contact the front office at 882-5515. We are following MAAP and CDC guidelines in an attempt to keep staff, students and families healthy. Thank you for all that you do to help us all stay healthy!

TICK CHECKS



Parents, please check your students every day or teach them to check every day. Ticks are a year round nuisance in Maine and it is important to remove them ASAP. Remember, they are extremely small.

To remove: using tweezers, pull straight up with even pressure and without twisting. Clean the site with rubbing alcohol and wash your hands immediately. Keep an eye on the site. If a rash develops, contact your doctor at once because ticks can carry diseases such as Lyme Disease. More info can be found at: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/vector-borne/lyme/index.shtml>

Thank you for completing the Ruvna Health Screening every school day morning whether your student will be coming to school or not. This allows us to track symptom trends and know when to email or call parents. We have had close to 100% participation each day so THANK YOU!



Our school is participating in a program called Kinsa. Kinsa gives families a free digital smart thermometer. It is super simple to participate. Just text FLUENCY to 90900 on your smartphone and download the app by clicking the link they send. Follow the steps in the app and they will send a free thermometer to the school that your child will bring home. It's easy, it's free and it is useful in a pandemic for sure. Info sheets went home a month or so ago but it's not too late to order your thermometer.

Questions? Please contact Mrs. Crocker at 207.882.5515 or via email: ccrocker@aos98schools.org



Closing Thoughts



December Breakfast and Lunch Menus will be published when available.

Parents, please inform the classroom teacher or the office if your child prefers White Milk instead of Chocolate. **Chocolate will be given at lunch unless we are told otherwise.**

One Breakfast is available FREE daily. Students can choose to eat when they arrive (7:30-8am) or come and get the “breakfast” and eat it at snack time. See menu for what Breakfast includes.

Please also inform the office of any absence via phone call or email. We must track and report all absences. If your student is absent for any reason, please still complete the Ruvna App. Thank you.

Picture Re-Take Day is scheduled for Friday December 11th.