

SANDPIPER NEWS

7 School Lane | Kittery Point, ME | Allison Gamache, Principal

Important Dates

December

- 6 - Winter Concert
- 10 - 2nd Grade Field trip to KTP
Time TBD
- 24 - Jan 1 - Winter Break



Let's Be Thankful

Let's be thankful for this day
For our friends and for our play.
Let's be thankful, let's be glad,
For our food and the things we have.
Let's give thanks for you and me
And our home and family.



Sneak Peek with the School Counselors

The School Counselors, Ms. Rickerich, Ms. McKeon, and Ms. Tewell, have been busy in classrooms teaching the Second Step lessons to everyone here at Mitchell School!

This week, most classrooms are learning about feelings and how to identify them. We have been hosting Lunch Bunches in our room every day to check in with students and give them a place to be together, share how they are feeling, and have fun.

Last week our 3rd grade Civil Rights team met for the first time. The Mitchell Civil Rights Team will meet on a weekly basis and work on projects that engage the school community in thinking and talking about issues related to: race and skin color, national origin and ancestry, religion, disabilities, gender (including gender identity and expression), and sexual orientation. These are known as civil rights issues, and it's important that we think and talk about them so that everyone feels safe, welcome, and respected for who they are. If your 3rd grader is interested in joining the Civil Rights Team have them



Parent Teacher Conferences Thank Yo

We would like to thank d guardians who attended conferences at Mitchell School. We understand how important it is for parents to be informed and involved in your child's education. We appreciate the staff at Mitchell School who have worked hard to make times that are best for parents. Please know you can always reach out to your child's teacher via email or calling the school. "It takes a village to raise a child." That is our Mitchell School staff and our families!



talk to any of the school counselors to find out more information.

Remember to check out our school counseling blog at drickerich.blogspot.com to take a look at our Second Step curriculum, find resources, and learn more about what we do! As always, we are available to answer your questions and offer support. Please feel free to reach out via phone or email. Our schedules and emails are as follows:

Dana Rickerich: full-time School Counselor
207-439-1707 X242
drickerich@kitteryschools.com

Monica McKeon: part-time School Counselor
(Mon, Weds, Fri. mornings)
207-439-1707 X249
mmckeon@kitteryschools.com

Paige Tewell: School Counseling Intern
(Tuesday & Wednesday)
ptewell@kitteryschools.com

Veterans Day Celebration at Mitchell School

Veterans Day is a very special day for most communities, however it is extra special for Kittery residents. With so many of our families that are military connected, this day is an opportunity to thank the millions of Veterans and Families who have served to protect our country and our freedoms. Paul LeBlanc, a Kittery veteran who is the president of The Rolling I Chapter of Maine, demonstrated the traditional protocol of raising the flag and shared "It's the Veteran" with students, staff, and families. The students, led by Ms. Hanson, sang "You're A Grand Old Flag" during the raising of the flag and "This Land Is Your Land" at the end of the ceremony. Two students, Matina CentiPizzutilli and Kathleen Franklin



read their essays on "What Veterans Day Means To Me". Our guest speaker, Lt. Robert Stubbs, PNSY, shared with the students the importance of Veterans Day. We thank all of the presenters and families that were able to attend to make this a special way to say THANK YOU TO ALL VETERANS.

Vacation Approvals

We are asking parents to try to schedule vacation outside of the school year, however we know that sometimes you can not. If you are planning for your child to be out of school on vacation you will need to complete the Vacation Approval Request Form and send into the main office. We have attached the form to the newsletter. You may also contact the main office for a copy.

Lice Check Reminders

As you know, here at Mitchell School, we ask parents to perform weekly lice checks in order to be proactive. If you need more information on what to look for, check out the Nursing Blog on the Kittery School District Website at: <http://kitteryschoolnurses.blogspot.com/> Please call the nurse if you have any questions at 439-5855.

Birthday Celebration

At Mitchell School we have many children who have birthdays during the school year. We also know parents would like to do something special for their child in school. Due to the number of children who have food allergies we ask parents not to send in food to the class. If you would like to do something please contact your child's teacher for some classroom ideas. We appreciate your understanding.

PLEASE NOTE WE ARE A NUT
BAN SCHOOL

Birthday Invitation

We understand it is hard for parents to know the addresses of children when you want to plan a birthday party for your child. However our staff is not allowed to distribute birthday party invitations. This practice has frequently placed staff members in an awkward and difficult position and is often hurtful to students. Please DO NOT send birthday invitations

Sneak Peak - Reading Recovery and Small Group Intervention

The Reading Room is an enjoyable place for students to learn. The love of learning to read is a priority. Laura Messersmith and Karen Seleb are literacy specialists and trained Reading Recovery teachers.

Reading Recovery is a short-term intervention program that provides extra support for children who are at risk of having difficulty learning to read and write as determined by the results of the Observation Survey and teacher recommendation. It was first developed in New Zealand in the 1970's and was adopted in the United States since 1984. It has won support of parents, teachers, administrators, school board members and legislators. Research studies document its effectiveness with students in urban, rural and suburban settings.



Children receive one-to-one instruction for 30 minutes a day. Reading Recovery students remain in the program for approximately 12-20 weeks. The strategies taught include the use of meaning, structure and visual cues. Discussion about the text includes comprehension and parallels to other books or to their personal lives.

The Reading Recovery teachers keep an open communication with classroom teachers by sharing the progress of the students and strategise how skills can be integrated into the classroom. Home/school communication is also important. Parents are the third part of the support triangle. Students bring home a book each day to read and share with their families. Modeling the importance and love of reading needs to be present everywhere the children's lives.

Small group intervention is taught in the afternoon. The Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) program is a short term supplemental small group literacy intervention designed to help struggling readers achieve grade level competency. LLI helps teachers match students with texts of increasing difficulty and deliver systematic lessons targeted to a student's reading ability. Groups include approximately 3 students who all are working on the same reading skills and books together. In depth discussion stimulates higher level thinking and solidifies comprehension.



School Attendance Is Important

Regular school attendance has a significant impact on a student's academic and social/emotional success. Building a habit of attending school, on time, everyday, helps ensure children are prepared for success in school, college, and the workforce. If your child has missed 10% of our current school year (4.5 days out of 45 days) you will be receiving a letter just to let you know. We understand there are a wide variety of reasons that students are absent from school, from health concerns to transportation or homelife challenges. We also realize this year's flu season has had an impact on attendance. However no matter what the reason may be for their absence, they have missed valuable school instruction. There are several individuals in our school community who are prepared to help you: school counselors, nurse, classroom teacher, and administrators. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can support you and your child.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful, and on track to graduation.
- Missing 10% of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of the three early indicators that a student may be at risk for dropping out of high school.
- By being present at school, your child learns valuable social skills and has the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with other students and school staff.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Make school a priority. Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, and make that the expectation.
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Prepare for school the night before, finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Don't let your student stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- Avoid appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Encourage meaningful after school activities, including kids clubs or other activities.
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.

We are invested in your child's success and are eager to help support you and your child to help improve your child's attendance. If you would like additional resources or have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time.



Are you planning a family trip for the holidays? As you think about your arrangements, we want to stress the importance of sending your child to school every day possible. Every year, absences spike in the weeks before and after the winter holiday as families squeeze in a few more vacation days. It's time to break that cycle. We know that just a few missed days here and there, even if they're excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and put your child behind in school. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school. Put simply, too many absences at any age can affect a student's chances for academic success and eventually for graduation.



We recognize that holidays are an important time for reconnecting with families far away. The costs of plane tickets often influence when you want to travel. But keep in mind the costs to your children's education if they miss too much school— and the message you will be sending about the importance of attendance. Even if you've got a homework packet from the teacher, it doesn't make up for the interaction and learning that happens in the classroom. Our teachers will be teaching, and our students will be learning, right up until vacation starts and the first day back. You can help us convey that message. This holiday season, give your children the gift of an education and the habit of attendance.

How can we help meet your family's needs?

Winter clothing, food/meals, holiday baskets, toiletries?

Small group or individual counseling (i.e., family change/divorce, loss/grief, traumatic experience, making/keeping friends)



Please contact your school counselor with your specific needs:

Monica McKeon or Dana Rickerich (K-3) - mmckeon@kitteryschools.com
drickerich@kitteryschools.com (207) 439-1707

Kelly Martin (Grades 4-8) - kmartin@kitteryschools.com
(207) 439-2572 x 136

Mathew Kiernan (Grades 9-12, Last Names A-O) - mkiernan@kitteryschools.com
Charlene Westervelt (Grades 9-12, Last Names P-Z) - cwestervelt@kitteryschools.com
(207) 439-5849



HORACE MITCHELL PRIMARY SCHOOL



7 MITCHELL SCHOOL LANE
KITTERY POINT, MAINE 03905

Allison Gamache, Principal
agamache@kitteryschools.com
mdurost@kitteryschools.com FAX 207-439-9198
TELEPHONE 207-439-9198

Marcelle Durost, Assistant Principal

VACATION APPROVAL REQUEST FORM

Date of request: _____.

In order for an absence to be excused, a request is required to be processed by Ms. Gamache or Mrs. Durost 1 week in advance.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Dates of Absence: From: _____ To: _____

Reason for Absence: _____

It is difficult for teachers to keep up with all requests for homework when students leave for a vacation while classes are in session. We do not require teachers to provide make-up work for students on vacation.

Instead, students are asked to do the following:

- Read (or be read to for younger students) for at least 1/2 hour per day. Have them report to you orally about the book they are reading and keep a log.
- Keep a daily journal of events during the vacation. They should write for up to 30 minutes per day depending on the skill and grade level of the student.
- Give practical math problems as situations arise during the trip (for example, "How much will it cost for our family of four if tickets for Disneyland cost \$25.00 per person?").
- Make or buy flash cards to practice math facts daily.

Teachers have the option of having students complete assignments they miss during their absence when they return to school.

I have read and understand the above information and the back of this form.

Parent Signature Date: _____

Approved:
Yes _____
No _____

Administrator Signature: _____

Date: _____

Dear Families,

It is our intent at Mitchell Primary School is to provide the best possible educational opportunity for all students. To reap the benefits of such an opportunity, students and parents must take an active role in the learning process, beginning with regular and punctual attendance. Students are expected to be in school every day. Regular school attendance has a significant impact on a student's academic, social, and emotional success. Building a habit of attending school on time everyday at a very young age helps ensure children will be successful in school, college or career preparation, and in the workforce. These habits built at this young age affect your child's future.

The message we tell our students is that school is *their most important job*. They are learning about more than math and reading. They are learning how to show up for school on time everyday and how to be ready to learn.

We understand that there are many reasons why children are out of school from being ill, to transportation, or homelife challenges. However, no matter if the reason is excused or unexcused the child has missed the classroom instruction that can not be recreated. Over time this may have a negative impact on a child's school performance and success.

Research has shown that children who have missed 10% of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.

We will notify parents/guardians by letter if your child has been absent 10% of the school year. We know sometimes parents are not aware of how many days their child has been absent. We are here to help parents and students with attendance concerns. Please feel you can reach out to your child's teacher, school counselors, nurse, or administrators for assistance.

Under Maine law, the only legitimate excuses for an absence that a school official will accept are listed below.

- a. personal illness
- b. an appointment with a healthcare provider that must be made during the school day
- c. observance of a recognized religions holiday
- d. family emergency
- e. a planned absence for personal or educational reasons that is pre-approved

We thank you in advance for supporting your child and his/her attendance at school.

Sincerely,

Alli Gamache, Principal

Marcelle Durost, Assistant Principal

Approved:
 Yes
 No

Administrator Signature: _____

Date: _____



KCC
KITTERY
COMMUNITY CENTER

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA & MRS. CLAUS

Saturday, December 15, 8:30-10:30AM

\$5/PERSON

Santa Claus is coming to town! Join us at the KCC for your chance to meet him & Mrs. Claus. We'll serve breakfast, coffee, hot cocoa, and juice.

A gingerbread house with a red door, two green windows with white crosses, and a red window with a white cross. The words "Gingerbread House Decorating" are written in a cursive font across the house.

Gingerbread House Decorating

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

5:30PM-7:00PM

\$3/HOUSE

Come decorate your very own Gingerbread House! We'll supply the house, frosting, and delicious candies - you supply the creativity!

Children must be accompanied by an adult. No walk-ins please.

Register by November 28 by calling 207-439-3800 or at our website: www.kitterycommunitycenter.org.



KITTERY
COMMUNITY CENTER
The art of active living.



2019 FITNESS MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

From November 19th until December 31st,
2018, you can sign up for a 2019 year-long
KCC Adult Fitness membership* for only \$110
AND you'll get the rest of 2018 FREE!



Youth (11-17) - \$65
Adult (18-59) - \$110
Seniors (60+) - \$65

*MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES ACCESS TO
OUR FITNESS SUITE, WALKING
TRACK, USE OF THE GYMNASIUM, &
A FITNESS ROOM ORIENTATION



The Dance Annex Studio

Presents:

The Nutcracker



Saturday, November 24 at 2pm & 7pm

Sunday, November 25 at 2pm

Saturday, December 1 at 2pm & 7pm

\$25 adults, \$22 seniors & students under 10.

Tickets available at www.kitterycommunitycenter.org
or by calling 207-438-3800

*Following the Saturday 2pm matinees, there will be a special
Land of the Sweets Meet & Greet, where audience members
will have the chance to speak with cast members and view
tutus and tiaras up close!*

**STAR
THEATRE**

KCC
**KITTERY
COMMUNITY CENTER**

Kittery Community Center and STAR Theatre, 120 Rogers Road, Kittery, ME

