
CHEBEAGUE ISLAND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2021

www.chebeagueschool.net T: 207-846-4162

A LETTER FROM OUR PRINCIPAL/SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents and Friends of Chebeague Island School,

The 2020-2021 school year was a year to remember!

During the summer we were not sure what the school year would bring. The year brought a new normal with everyone wearing masks, sanitizing their hands, social distancing and taking temperatures before entering the building. There was apprehension about wearing masks all day from the parents, teachers and students. But in an effort to keep each other safe everyone wore a mask everyday- all day. This is an amazing accomplishment for everyone because it is not easy to talk through a cloth all day!

With the school population shrinking, Mrs. Klein and Mrs. Earnest decided to try to make Fridays fun with no screen time and outside as much as possible. Out of this brainstorm came Forest Fridays! The students were asked if Fridays were school or fun time. The majority thought these fun outside learning days were fun days. All the while they were working through the science and social studies curriculum!

I do not want to make light of the fact that this year was very difficult. We all wore masks all day. We waited on Fridays to find out the Covid rate of the county by color to determine what days we would be in person the following week. We had additional planning and sharing the teaching of lessons. We had new school routines but through it all the students liked being at school. The staff showed up and taught and supported the students every day. They made music and art projects. They played games outside and inside while social-distancing. They made videos and went on nature walks. Everyone's days were filled with reading, writing, math and fun.

The heroes of the year are the students, staff and parents for being so flexible and understanding as we all worked through keeping everyone safe and learning during a pandemic. At Chebeague Island School, we care enough to be fair so that we get what we need, not necessarily what we want! We care enough to be honest because it is the foundation of relationships built on trust. We care enough to be kind to each other and the earth. We care enough to be respectful with our words, our actions and to each other. We care enough to be responsible for our actions and our words.

As this year comes to a close, we will say good-bye to 4 young ladies moving on to grade 6! We wish them the best wherever this next grade level takes them. Oh, the places that you will go!!

Have a great summer everyone!

Ann C. Kirkpatrick; Principal/Superintendent



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 8

School wide Field trip with L.L. Bean's
Outdoor Discovery School

JUNE 11

Field/Fun Day

JUNE 14

5th Grade Step-up Day

5th Grade Graduation

JUNE 15

Last Day of School



A NOTE FROM MS. NANCY



Spring is upon us! Looking back, students have done an amazing job of being patient, understanding, and attentive to learning opportunities. Every week our PreK and K students have a new nursery rhyme. These are often familiar and have accompanying songs. The natural rhythms and the rhyming words serve as early readers as they track the words.

We have continued our monthly "visits" with the Island Commons through virtual connections. There is hope that our June visit might be outside in person. Our math and language lessons continue, individualized for each student. Letter sounds, blends and some sight words are being explored. They are great at making patterns and are working with numbers into the teens and beyond. We are having fun measuring and exploring 2-D and 3-D shapes with feely bags.



Our geography lessons have followed cultural holidays around the world. December saw us celebrating St. Nicholas, Santa Lucia, Hanukkah, Christmas and the winter solstice. February brought forth Valentine's Day, and Chinese New Year. In March we learned about Ireland, and how to do an Irish Jig for Saint Patrick's Day. Then we all tasted sap water for the full moon. Spring and Easter had them folding paper to make an Easter basket into which they tore paper for grass and added in an egg they had emptied and decorated. May 1st /3rd featured our annual whole school May Pole dance around the tether ball pole. The accompanying activities for these holidays recur in some format every year making them special school traditions. We continue to do as much learning as possible through doing, experiencing, and through play.

On our whole school Forest Fridays students have a lot of fun without realizing how much they are learning. Some of our winter month Fridays explored the following: Ephemeral art; tree identification - spiky spruce, friendly firs, white pine and beech; printing with tree rings; making tea from white pine needles; and painting with small boughs of pine. Later students explored products sourced from trees, looked for wood products in our school and made paper. We then explored some aspects of physical science: simple machines with pulleys and paper airplanes; magnetism, its properties and where magnets are used (cow magnets were especially intriguing); states of matter by mixing vinegar and baking soda; snowflakes and the water cycle. Highlights of our water cycle work



IN THE COMMUNITY

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The Chebeague Island School Board have resumed meeting in person. The Board will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6pm at the Chebeague Island School. All community members are welcome to attend School Board meetings.

The School Board will hold meetings on:

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Tuesday, June 14, 2021



was walking some watersheds – Curit Trail and a watershed off Spruce Point Road. Rainbows and light snuck in there as well. We followed up our zoom conversation with the Casco Bay Community Nursing Partnership with additional learning about caring for our teeth. The tides presented an opportunity to learn some history about Little Chebeague and to cross the sandbar and find some of the cottage remains. Most recently we have learned about frogs and bees and have been tinkering around with things that fly and move by making kites, pinwheels, and stomp rockets. Lots of fun whilst learning about energy and wind.

As the children work their concentration, coordination, independence and sense of order are all growing. It has been a joy watching these young Chebeaguers discover things about themselves and how they fit into the world. They hold the future to bring peace to all with whom they connect.



A NOTE FROM MRS. KLEIN

Grades 1 & 2

The 1-2 class is so fun! Throughout this year, they have written their own fairy tales, interviewed an animal, performed readers theater and just shown off how good they are at math. They are eager to be outside to learn and play and have formed strong friendships. Their grasp of reading and writing this year has been incredible. The 1-2 kids have learned about poetry, informational text, and fairy tales. As we round out the year, we will be doing character studies of some beloved classics like Frog and Toad and Amelia Bedelia. If you run into one of the 1-2 students this summer, tell them about your favorite book as a kid and share your joy of reading!

Grades 3-5

The 3-5 class is comprised of 5 curious, personable, and fun students. Between Forest Friday's, daily riddles, loads of 'tips and tricks' for learning, they have had a fun year of learning and exploring together. This past semester they have been studying the state of Maine. The students did a great job studying the meaning of our state flag and then creating their own based on what they feel are the important aspects of our great state. The students also learned about Acadia National Park and took a wonderful field trip to Bar Harbor to explore the carriage roads on bike, watch the sunrise together on top of Cadillac Mountain (yes at 5:05am!), walk the shore path from Sand Beach to Thunder Hole



IN THE COMMUNITY

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

In this very different year of COVID, we have had to do things differently at the school. One of the big changes is that volunteers cannot come into the school. But that does not mean that we haven't been graciously supported in creative ways by those in our community. Thank you to Bob Earnest and Sarah Hopkins for bundling up and stoking the pizza fire on Friday's. Thank you to Tina Runge for encouraging and editing the Daughter's of the American Revolution essays over the phone. Thank you to Donna Damon for providing such great information about Chebeague via zoom. Thank you to all the parents for helping with the fundraisers that we have held this past semester.

The school is a richer, more dynamic place because of all of you and your support of our students.

and Otter Cliffs as well as rock climb. Thank you to everyone that helped with time and money to make this special end of year field trip for the 3-5 such a memorable one.



As we say goodbye to our four 5th graders, I want to take a moment to acknowledge their journey to 6th grade. It's always a milestone to be promoted from CIS to the mainland school. But this group of kids had anything but a typical past 3 years. Despite the ups and downs, it's been amazing to watch their resiliency, growth and through it all, still be silly and fun kids. Thank you to the community and most importantly their parents for walking them through 3 extraordinary school years, emerging as changed but stronger people because of it all.



FOREST FRIDAYS

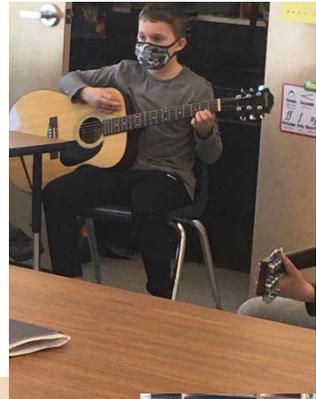
Forest Friday's continue to be a favorite part of our week. On Fridays we take a different approach to the typical day as we gather together as a whole school to focus on STEM topics. This past semester we have made kites, explored honey bees, made stomp rockets, learned about Littlefield Woods, investigated the watershed on the island, learned about the life cycle of amphibians and much more. If you see the kids walking around the island on a Friday afternoon, chances are we are heading to explore learning outside of the classroom.



A NOTE FROM MRS. TRACE – MUSIC TEACHER



This spring, students have been learning all about American music, starting with spirituals, and moving on to folk and country tunes, and soon to learn about ragtime, jazz and rock! We have also been learning the words to our country's patriotic songs. The older students are learning some basic chords on the guitar, while the younger class has been learning some drumming beats on our new Rainforest Remo drums. Stay tuned for word of a Virtual Spring Concert!

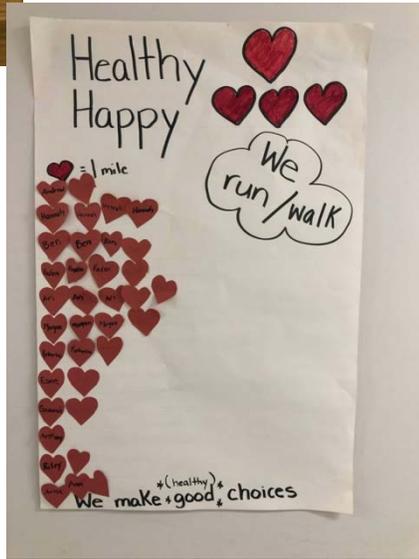


A NOTE FROM MS. WHALSTROM – P.E. TEACHER



Spring is here and with warm weather approaching we will be outside more for class. We are moving our bodies in PE and learning how to COMPETE.

Being competitive can mean lots of things. We are learning to compete within ourselves. Improving our times and celebrating our improvements. Building obstacle courses was lots of fun. While listening to our favorite songs dancing along during recess and PE.



NOTES FROM THE CIS KITCHEN



Well, this year certainly is one to remember...

I have to say I terribly miss the ability to cook, really cook, for the kiddos at the school. It is something that I realized pretty quickly when I started culling through all of the emails and recommendations from the CDC and the Maine DOE this past summer. This school year was going to look so very different and cleaner than ever! Opening the school safely was so much more important, and a lot to get used to. The kids have truly amazed me with their willingness to step up and follow all of the guidelines that have been put into place. Masks (all day, even outside), physical distance (6ft when eating and 14ft if singing outside) and hand washing/ sanitizing (in and out of the building/ classrooms and before eating) have almost become second nature. As adults I think we all sometimes could take a page out of the kids book. The laughter and sounds of their happiness is helping us all keep the hope of better days alive.

