

JAMES F. DOUGHTY SCHOOL

FALL NEWSLETTER 2011

EXCELING IN SCIENCE

Sometimes you just have to take the leap, and build your wings on the way down.

Kobi Yamada

Seven grade 8 James F. Doughty School students recorded the highest reportable score on the 2010-11 Maine Educational Science Assessment administered in May to all public school students in grade 8. Results were received prior to the opening of the 2011-12 school year. In addition to the seven students who scored 880, twenty-three students scored in the distinction category. James F. Doughty School science performance continues to out pace the state performance as students recorded a mean scaled score 4 points above the state average. The MEA science assessment measures student knowledge of science in four general areas: Matter and Energy/Force, Living Environment, Space/Earth and Physical Science.



James F. Doughty School science teachers, Mrs. Vassiliev, Mrs. Bernhardt and Mr. Evans, have announced the 2011-12 science club referred to as the Geek Squad will open the season in November. One of the early activities of the Geek Squad includes a visit to the local Aviation Museum. The club is open to students in grades 6, 7 & 8.

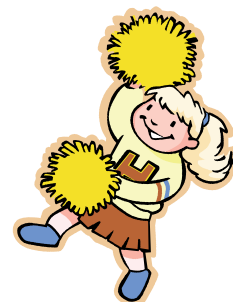
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

BATH SALT PREVENTION	2
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES	2
INFINITE CAMPUS	3
TEACHER AND TUTOR SUPPORT	4
BUS RULES	5
ADVANCED EDUCATION	6
GUIDANCE SUPPORT	6

J.F.D.S. FACULTY OFFER AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

As the first quarter approaches the close, 216 of the 373 students enrolled at J.F.D.S have participated in an after school event or activity. Nearly 60 % of the students have responded to the faculty offerings of after school activities.

Among those activities scheduled to begin in November are: Geek Squad (Science Club), A & B Basketball, A & B Cheering, Cooking Club, Bulldog Fitness and Model Car Club.



BATH SALT PARENT PREVENTION

Thursday, November 10 at the J.F.D.S auditorium at 6:30 p.m. Supt. Webb along with Bangor's Chief of Police Ron Gastia and Police Department Lieutenant Tom Reagan will present information for parents on Bath Salts, also commonly known as "Monkey Dust".

The informational session will answer the following questions:

1. What are Bath Salts?
2. What do Bath Salts look like?
3. What does the law say about Bath Salts?
4. How should a person respond to an individual under the influence of Bath Salts?
5. How is the Bangor School Department responding to the Bath Salt crisis?



This presentation is not intended for students.



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

The James F. Doughty School faculty extend appreciation to the students and parents in the J.F.D.S. school community who participated in the recently held parent teacher conferences.

Forty-four percent of students and parents participated in P/T conferences.

A reminder to parents who were not able to attend the parent teacher conferences that conferencing is available throughout the school year. To arrange a conference with a teacher, contact the school office—941-6220.

FAMILY TRAVEL VACATIONS

Maine public school law (Title 20A-Section 5001) recognizes several reasons for students to be absent from school. Family travel vacations are not covered under Maine law as reason for excused school absences. While it is the parent's right to remove their child from school for family excursions, such absences are unexcused. Students who miss school due to family vacations and travel are expected to complete work when they return to school. Successfully completing the work requires the student make arrangements with teachers to review the instruction missed during the travel.



Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus for parents and/or guardians offers a window to monitor regularly homework and academic progress. If parents and/or guardians have difficulty accessing Infinite Campus, they are asked to notify the school in person. Parents and/or guardians who have not yet received a password/user code also are asked to inform the office in person. In person notification is required to maintain student security.

1ST QUARTER GRADES CLOSE

NOVEMBER 4TH

VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS

All schools in the Bangor School Department have volunteer opportunities. Over the years, volunteers have provided the BSD with a variety of valuable supports. Individuals interested in volunteering may contact the administrative office at the school to identify openings for volunteers and to secure an application to apply for a volunteer position. Volunteer applicants who are approved for a volunteer position participate in an orientation for volunteers where the professional and ethical responsibilities of volunteers are reviewed.

Mrs. Patterson, librarian at J.F.D., has available opportunities for parent volunteers to assist in the media center/library. Interested parents should contact Mrs. Patterson (941-6220) to discuss the volunteer opportunities.

J.F.D.S. Media Center

The J.F.D.S. library is open for students before and after school for browsing, research, or quiet study. Monday through Thursday the library is open from 7:45-3:30 and Friday from 7:45-3:00.

“A capacity, and taste, for reading,
fires access to whatever has already
been discovered by others.”
Abraham Lincoln



NHS Tutors Available to J.F.D.S. Students

Once again, students in Bangor High School’s chapter of National Honor Society will be available to provide one-on-one tutorial assistance to any interested J.F.D.S. student. Tutoring sessions take place in the Media Center after school, Monday through Thursday. J.F.D.S. students are asked to bring materials from classes they find most challenging.

For more information, or to arrange a meeting with a NHS tutor, please contact Mrs. Patterson, librarian, or Mr. Evans, guidance counselor at 941-6220.



Teacher Support

James F. Doughty faculty also are available to assist students with their school work and assignments. In fact, J.F.D.S. teachers have posted their availability on their classroom doors and/or in the classrooms to assist students. Encourage your son or daughter to avail himself/herself of this additional support.



School Bus Citizenship for Students



Periodically, parents and guardians inquire regarding the expectations for student citizenship while riding the school bus provided by the John T. Cyr Company.

A recent bus evacuation drill was conducted by Cyr Bus for J.F.D.S. students. Safety Rules were reviewed with students.

Parents of bus transported students will find the following informative:

1. The bus driver is the authority on the bus.
2. Students are expected to be on time at their bus stops. Busses will not wait for students.
3. Students waiting for a bus must stay off the road. Students crossing the road must do so 10 feet in front of the bus.
4. Students will load and unload the bus orderly.
5. Students will remain seated until the bus stops. All riders must be seated before the bus will depart.
6. Students will keep their arms, head and hands inside the bus and noise will be kept to a minimum. There will be no swearing, shouting, or fighting on the bus.
7. Emergency exits are to be used only during an emergency.
8. Vandalism of a school bus by a student will result in lost riding privileges for at least 1 week. The student will be liable for all costs associated with the repair and will remain ineligible until the bill has been paid.
9. Students are to use trash containers on the bus for all wrappers, bottles and trash.
10. Smoking is prohibited on the bus.

Continuous disregard for bus rules, unauthorized use of emergency doors, foul/abusive speech directed at the driver, fighting, vandalism or smoking will result in a loss of riding privilege for 1 week. For less serious offenses, one written warning will be sent to parents. A second incident will prompt removal for 1



“I know not how to aid you, save in the assurance of one of mature age, and much severe experience, that you can not fail, if you resolutely determine, that you will not.”

Abraham Lincoln

The Financial Benefit of an Advanced Education

According to the Georgetown University Center of Educators, the increased earning power of secondary education and training is lucrative over a worker's lifetime. Included among the research findings:

- A. Having some college but no degree or post secondary is worth about \$473,000.00 more than a high school degree.
- B. A bachelor's degree is worth about 1.1 million more than an Associate degree.
- C. A Master's degree is worth about \$475,000.00 than a Bachelor's.



Guidance Support

J.F.D.S. Guidance Counselor Mr. Evans remains available to talk with parents and /or students regarding academic performance, the shifting and expanding responsibilities of students as they navigate the middle years and for the increasingly fast paced learning environment of the 21st century.

"I am honored for the opportunity to help you and your student through some of these challenges. I have worked with hundreds of students in Iowa, Florida and Maine through 12 years in school psychology and school counseling. My vision is a safe, connected school environment where students are equipped and encouraged to do their best. I look forward to meeting many of you. Please call any time with questions or concerns."

Thomas Evans

941-6220



BULLYING

Bangor School Department policy defines “bullying” as any physical act, gesture, or any verbal, written, or electronically communicated expression that:

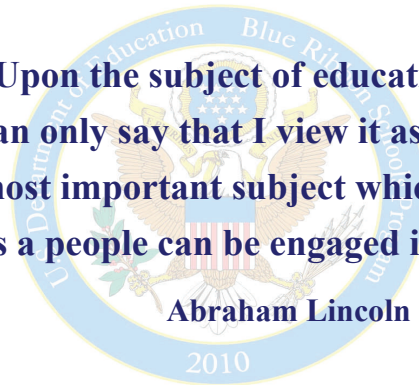
1. Causes physical harm to a student or damages a student's property.
2. Places a student in reasonable fear of physical harm.
3. Creates an intimidating hostile educational environment for a student who is bullied.
4. Substantially disrupts the instructional program or the orderly operations of the school.

If your child reports to you a bullying incident which took place at school, encourage your child to report the incident to Mr. Hackett, Assistant Principal.



“Upon the subject of education, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in.”

Abraham Lincoln



The Bangor School Department operates an alert messaging system. This immediate response information system allows the BSD to call, text message, or send e-mail to parents in the event of an emergency or school cancellation. No one will receive unsolicited messages for the BSD.

Conditions that might warrant an alert message from the BSD include:

1. **Unscheduled closing of an emergency nature**
2. **Immediate threats to health and safety**
3. **Fires, hazardous chemical spills, or other emergencies leading to lockdown or evacuation of one or more buildings**

Parents or guardians intending to participate in the alert message system are asked to complete the form on the BSD website through the link http://www.bangorschools.net/index.php?cat_id=264.

Return completed forms to Mrs. Chaiken, JFDS, 143 Fifth St., Bangor, Maine 04401

STUDENT SCHOOL ARRIVAL TIME

Students are not to arrive to school earlier than 7:50 a.m. unless they participate in one of the performing music groups which rehearses at 7:30 a.m. Actually, students enter the school-house at 8:10 as homebase begins at 8:18. Teachers begin their schoolyard duty at 7:50.

DATES TO REMEMBER

J F D S	November 4th	First Quarter Closes		B C F D G S
	November 9th	Laptop Takehome Meeting @ J.F.D.S.	6:30	
	November 10	Student Photograph Retakes	8:30	
		Bath Salt Prevention Meeting @ J.F.D.S.	6:30 (Parents Only)	
	November 11th	Veteran’s Day—No School		
	November 16th	First Quarter Report Cards Issued		
	November 18th	Fun Night	6:30-8:30	
	November 23th-25th	Thanksgiving Recess—No School		
	December 20	Middle School Holiday Concert	7:00p.m. (Peakes Auditorium)	
	December 21	Last Student Day Prior to Christmas Break		
	December 22	Teacher In Service 1/2 Day		

SCHOOL BUSINESS HOURS



J.F.D.S. along with William S. Cohen School maintains business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. After 4 p.m. the offices are closed with secretarial staff off duty. Staff are available to respond to inquiries prior to 4 p.m. and as early as 7:30 a.m. To contact the school office call 941-6220.