



## The Principal's Pen



*Dear Vine Street Families,*

*May is such a beautiful month! It is also an extremely BUSY month for all of us here at school! First, I would like to extend a very Happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers! Moms are very special people all over the world. Thank you for what you do with and for your children each and every day. I hope you enjoy your Mother's Day!*

*Thank you to all of the parents who attended our Behavior Management seminar Thursday evening with Dr. Tim Rogers, Emily Guernsey and Mechelle Ganglfinger. Parent feedback was extremely positive and we hope to have a very similar evening next fall!*

*We have another P.E.A.K. (Parents & Educators Accelerating Kids) event Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> for Pre K and Kindergarten parents informing them of the use of Read Aloud Books. The evening will be from 6:00 - 7:30 and childcare will be provided. If you have a child in Pre K or Kindergarten, please consider attending!*

*Each grade level has a Field Trip this month. Please pay special attention to your child's backpack each day, as they will be bringing home notices of special events this month. Because the weather (usually) is nice in May, it is easy for all of us to get into the day dreaming of summer vacation. Please remember that we have a lot of very important work left to do. Children make a lot of gains academically in the last six weeks of school, so it is critical that we keep them focused on their work at hand!*

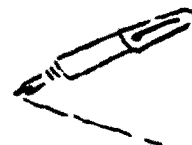
*Thank you to all who participated this year in the Hannaford Helps program. This year, Vine Street School received a check from Hannaford Supermarkets in the amount of \$87! Every bit helps!*

*Teacher Appreciation Week was this first week of May. The staff here at Vine Street School is one of the best you will ever find. They are truly dedicated, professional and have a sincere desire to educate children and help them grow into the best human being they can be.*

*(cont'd)*

The Principal's Pen

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Mr. Paul Butler, BSD's Title I & G/T Director has invited all parents of to participate in the Title I parent survey. You can find the survey on our school website. It is: <http://vovici.com/wsb.dll/s/11807g3e41c>. The survey should take about 5 minutes to complete. It helps our school out, so please consider taking 5 minutes to complete the survey.

Please take note of the Holiday at the end of the month, Monday May 31<sup>st</sup> is Memorial Day. I hope you all enjoy the holiday and the month with your families!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy M. McCluskey".

Timothy M. McCluskey  
Principal



Kindergarten and First grades classes will focus on the "Rhythm Band Challenge". This project provides the opportunity for every child to play rhythm band instruments. Rhythm Band instruments are triangles, rhythm sticks, cymbals, drums, tambourines etc. In addition to reviewing music literacy, the program also assists in the continued development of reading skills, fine motor skills, visual and auditory perception. As children experience the opportunity to play in the band, they begin to recognize the importance of their team working together to create music. The culminating event for our Rhythm Band experience is the opportunity to attend a concert on Wednesday morning, May 19 at Peakes Auditorium. As members of the audience, children will hear the Bangor High Band, Orchestra, and Chorus perform their favorite music.

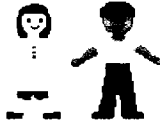


Second grade classes will be focused on the cooperation and teamwork necessary to become the storytellers. Our theme "storytelling through the arts" takes on a project that provides the children with the opportunity to become the storytellers. They are working diligently to learn the words, songs, preparing props and puppetry necessary for the story "Glow". Students will be sharing their story with kindergarten friends.

Our Third Grade students are ready to share their music at the All City Concert, Tuesday evening, May 4, 2010. A parents newsletter and permission slip has been sent home with the concert details. If you did not receive the newsletter with the permission request please contact us so that we can get the information to you. The free concert to be held at the Bangor Auditorium will begin at 7:00PM, and we ask our third grade students to arrive between 6:15 and 6:30 PM.

### Helpful websites to monitor

- <http://sor.informe.org/sor/>
- [www.bangorschools.net](http://www.bangorschools.net)
- [www.maine.gov/education](http://www.maine.gov/education)
- [www.bangorparksandrec.com](http://www.bangorparksandrec.com)



### Counselor's Corner

Welcome Spring! This is my favorite time of year. The students at Vine Street have been working hard at dealing with conflicts. They realize that fighting is not fun and does not solve problems. Ignoring sometimes works. What really works is **Talking It Out**. The students are following these steps to work out problems.

1. Stop. Cool off.
2. Talk and listen.
3. Think of ways to solve the problem.
4. Choose the idea you both like.

We are learning how to use "I" messages so that we don't blame others. We are also learning about good talking rules and good listening rules. I am looking forward to hearing about situations this spring where the students can STOP and THINK and practice working out problems on their own.

Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> graders have learned how to STOP and THINK about how to deal with teasing and how to deal with losing. 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are learning about manners in guidance class and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are excited about decision making and being more responsible. I challenged them to be more responsible at home and at school. I hope you are seeing a difference!



The month of May is exciting for so many reasons. In physical education classes, students will be balancing, climbing, swinging and crawling their way through the Safari. This is a great chance for children to work on developing and improving their upper body strength. Near the end of May, physical education classes will come together with music classes for our yearly dance unit. Security code 590 Expiratio 2/11 Students will come to the gym three days each week and have the opportunity to learn dances with other classes.

May will also bring the conclusion of Move and Improve, as we have many students working during and after school to get in their 30 minutes of vigorous physical activity. Mileage Club continues to be a choice for students who want to walk and run to earn toe tokens during lunch time recesses on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Have a great May and keep exercising as the weather gets warmer!

## Art



This month students are exploring architectural structures in their artwork:

**Pre-K** students drew beautiful and complex houses. **Kindergartners** designed a number playground (which we made into a coloring book).

**1st graders** drew the exterior of a house with windows and doors that opened to reveal the interior.

**2nd graders** will soon be creating tree houses.

**3rd graders** are continuing their study of Bangor's architecture with a visit later this month from architect Mike Pullen (with WBRC Architects and Engineers) followed by a field trip around Bangor to view the many beautiful examples of historic architecture in town.

As the weather turns warmer there are many opportunities for creating artwork outside. Some can be as simple as drawing in dirt with a stick or drawing with sidewalk chalk. Other times nature can be used to create temporary art - a pile of rocks, a pattern of colorful leaves, or sand creations. For inspiration check



The children have thoroughly enjoyed our month of poetry. The poetry books have flown off the shelf as a result. Although very few children knew of Shel Silverstein's poetry, they certainly got a rousing introduction when I read his book A Giraffe and a Half. It is cumulative or building book with a great upbeat and engaging rhyming and rhythm. We laughed together as we acting out the poem with movement and sign language. I hope you will ask your child about it.

Our annual book hunt for overdue books is underway. Many of you have or will be notified if your child has an overdue book. If so, please join in the hunt for the missing books. Our school has no funds with which to replace lost books, so it is imperative that all books be found and returned.

As I remind the children all through the year, a book will not get lost or accidentally damaged if it is kept in a backpack when not being read.



*Please help us get back  
to the library!*



PTO



Hello Vine Street Families!

May is here and you know what that means...books and ice cream! The Scholastic Spring Book fair is BOGO (buy one get one free) in the month of May. This is an excellent opportunity to stock your house full of books for summer reading. Thanks to Cheryl Prior and Anne Marie Dionne for putting so much time and commitment in to our book fairs. We appreciate you! The book fair will be held on Thursday, May 27 th from 3pm -7pm in the cafeteria at Vine St. School. Come and get your buy one get one books and help us raise book money to go to the guidance office, the library, and incoming pre-k students.

The same night, Thursday, May 27 th is the Annual Ice Cream Social. From 5-7pm in the gymnasium at Vine St. School come in and get your ice cream served up by the faculty. Remember how great the cotton candy was last year? Well, thanks to Brent Bailey, we will have plenty of cotton candy again this year. If you didn't get enough of the cookies, we have a few cases left over, Be sure to ask about it when you come in. You can feel good about spending your quarters on ice cream and cotton candy, because you are supporting the PTO, and the PTO supports the students, faculty and staff at Vine Street School. We want our children to have as many open doors as possible in their future. That means being involved in their education and being supportive of their school and its staff.

Our next meeting is on Monday, May 10 th from 6-7:30 pm in the cafeteria at the school. As always there is excellent child care available so don't hesitate to bring the kids, I do. Come and help us finish planning the end of year events and get signed up to help out on Field Day!