



The Vine Line



Principal, Timothy McCluskey

September 1, 2010

The Principal's Pen



Hello & Welcome Back Vine Street Families!

It is so exciting for me to welcome all of you to a new school year here at Vine Street School! Thank you for persevering through the extreme heat during our first week of school last week. I wish to applaud the children and our entire staff for their unbelievable professionalism in working through such a difficult amount of heat, yet still staying focused and getting work done. I hope all of you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer!

Please welcome to Vine Street several new staff members this year: Martha Gladstone in first grade, Cindy Coyne in Title I math and Heidi Crahen is our Art teacher for this year. We also wish to welcome two new Ed Techs to our school: Cheryl Prior and Sarah Taylor. We are very pleased to add them to our staff! They are all a great addition to Vine Street!

I'm excited to announce that the BSD has received a Fresh Fruit & Vegetables grant this year. Vine Street students will be benefiting from this grant every Tuesday and Thursday where every child will receive a fresh fruit or vegetable snack around 10 a.m. You may decide to not send a snack in for your child on Tuesday's and Thursday's since your child would be receiving snacks from school on those days.

I hope all of you took time to read through the Puffin Folders that came home on the first day of school. They were loaded with information for parents to read. Please make sure to turn in lunch paperwork if you haven't done so already. Also important to read from the folders are the Student Dress Guidelines and a reminder of our Dismissal Procedures. Please call me if you have any questions on anything that came home. Please continue to use the folders as a tool of communication each day between home and school. **Parents are strongly encouraged to check their students' Puffin Folder each night for homework and/or a note from the teacher/school.**

Now that school is back in session, it is so important to have children back into routines. Society has put a lot of pressure on families for sure, with so many activities, functions, etc. Please try to schedule mealtimes and bedtimes in a routine fashion. A family mealtime around the dinner table has become a rarity the past few years, so anytime you can gather the family around the dinner table would be a great activity of together time!

Anyone who wishes to **volunteer** (including parents, grandparents, community members, etc.) needs to attend a Volunteer Training before they are able to be a volunteer. **This training must be done each year. Our first training will be held Monday, September 13th @ 5:00 p.m. in our cafeteria.** I'm scheduling these trainings for the first couple of months an hour prior to PTO meetings so families can attend both! If you have any questions about volunteering, please feel free to call me anytime here at school at 941-6300.

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The Principal's Pen

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Parents of third grade students: please consider having your child attend our AYP (Achieving Your Potential) Club. It will run Monday's through Thursday's, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. beginning September 7. This is an important opportunity for ALL third grade children to practice their literacy and math skills as well as learn test taking strategies to prepare them for the NECAP exams in October.

Attendance is vitally important to a child's success in school. In fact, we must have 95% Average Daily Attendance this year as set forth by the No Child Left Behind Act. We only have 175 days of school to teach your child and get them to their grade level benchmarks. Please schedule family vacations appropriately and not during school weeks as these will have to be considered as unexcused absences. **This is important to know because in grades K - 6, a child becomes truant with five (5) consecutive or seven (7) total days of unexcused absences.**

We, as a staff, are taking attendance seriously and will be working on an incentive system to recognize attendance. This will be in place by the end of September and more information will come home about this. If you are late to school for any reason, **please check into the office upon arriving and do not** take your child directly to their room.

Please continue to monitor the calendar on our website. Events will be constantly updated there.

Please mark your calendar: School Picture Day is Friday, October 1, 2010.

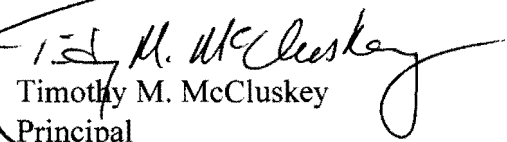
Lastly, we have Maine Discovery Museum passes available to all families. Whenever you would like to use them, please call me here at school and I will have them for you. We have two passes (each pass allows up to four people in per day) that can be used daily. You may use them as many times as you wish so please continue to use them. Please call me with any questions about these passes.

Our goal with our Vinline newsletter is to have it go home at the beginning of each month. We hope you find it informative. There may be times when we send out a "Special Edition" at mid-month, if there is some important information to get home that can't wait until the next month. This will be on an 'as needed' basis, but I want to let you know that communication is of the utmost importance and I wish to continue and model that to you.

It is my sincere pleasure to act as principal of Vine Street School. Please feel free to call me (941-6300), email me (tmclluskey@bangorschools.net) or stop in any time you have a comment, question or concern. There's truly nothing more precious than a child. We appreciate and take very seriously the trust that you give us each day to care for the safety and education of your children.

Enjoy the great month of September!

Sincerely,


Timothy M. McCluskey
Principal



Music

The excitement of a new school year has begun, and our classes are experiencing the joys of making music. We are very excited about the ongoing research that continues to demonstrate that children who participate in music achieve higher levels of learning than those who are not involved in music. Simply put; music makes students better learners. Below a brief summary of the curriculum for your child's music class that meets once a week for thirty minutes.

Pre-K and Kindergarten : Children will discover their singing voices through echo patterns, singing as a group, and singing independently. Experiencing music's steady beat and changing tempo, through movement, listening, and singing. And discovering and exploring musical sounds in their own environment and the world of music.

Grade One: We continue to place emphasis on singing independently and as a group. We are exploring the changing tempos, dynamics, creating musical patterns and musical form through listening, movement, and visual materials.

Grade Two: Exploring our grade two music textbook, children will continue to sing as a group and independently. They are recognizing music symbols, and read the music staff. They will discover that reading music is the same as reading from a literature book. Through positive conferencing skills, they continue to work as a team, to develop and refine their reading, singing and listening skills.

Grade Three: We continue to sing independently and as a small and large group choral ensemble. Our focus is singing with control, and listening to our voices as we begin to sing in harmony. We continue to focus on music literacy, musical form and notation. Some additional units of study are Bangor's music history, the acoustics of sound and instruments of the symphony orchestra.

In summary, it is a privilege to have your child in music class. I welcome the opportunity to teach and share music through out the school year. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments please do not hesitate to contact me at school.



Students are off to an active and fun start to the school year in physical education classes.

During the first few weeks of school the focus is on learning routines, how to control our bodies in space and playground games.

Students in grades 1-3 will be reviewing rules to 4-square, Mileage Club and work on their basketball dribbling, passing and shooting. PK and Kindergarten students will try to improve their locomotor skills of galloping, skipping and their throwing skills with exciting games like Oscar's Garbage Can and Shipwreck.

Mr. Pangburn is looking for parent volunteers to help with the Mileage Club on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays this fall. If you are available on any of those days between 12:00-1:00 and would like to help out, please call the school. Enjoy the rest of the summer as we move towards fall by getting outside for family walks, bike rides and spend some time in one of the cities parks.



PTO



Hello parents, students and faculty. Here's to another great year at Vine Street School. Summer is quickly moving on and I hope everyone took advantage of the glorious weather we had this summer.

Each year, the PTO helps to enrich the learning experiences of all students at Vine Street School. We also host activities for the whole family as well. Attached to this issue of the Vineline is a letter from the Vine Street PTO explaining who we are and how we help Vine Street School every year. We have a great year planned and it is going to take a great deal of effort from folks just like you to get it all accomplished. Please give the letter a read and consider becoming a member of the PTO.

The first PTO meeting is scheduled for September 13th from 6:00 – 7:30pm, and child care is provided. We meet right in the Vine Street School cafeteria. The PTO meeting is regularly scheduled for the second Monday of each month. Hope to see you then. Brent Bailey- PTO President

Art



My name is Heidi Crahen and I'll be filling in for Sara McDougall teaching art for the 2010-2011 school year. I graduated from the University of Maine with a degree in art education. Until now, I've been working in Orono at Asa Adams Elementary School in special education, as well as at the Maine Discovery Museum in Bangor.

I'm delighted to be here, and I'm enjoying getting to know all of these exceptionally bright and creative children! Art is such a wonderful and rewarding subject to teach. It allows kids to express themselves in ways that help them to feel good about who they are and what they have created. It engages the senses and gives children the opportunity to work with their hands, which is one more way to reach kids in school and give them something to be proud of.

I'm very excited about the coming year. My goal with each child is to challenge their imagination, encourage personal expression and develop their art skills. This year, your child will experience a variety of media, including drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, and sculpture, as well as art history which teaches the importance of other artists and cultures, and encourages your child to describe, analyze, and interpret art.

Watch for your child's art work to be displayed throughout the school during the year. I am looking forward to a wonderful year with your child here at Vine!

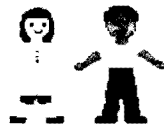
Helpful web sites to monitor

<http://sor.informe.org/sor/>

www.bangorschools.net

www.maine.gov/education

www.bangorparksandrec.com



Counselor's Corner

I look forward to working with the students and families at Vine Street School this school year 2010 –2011! As your school counselor I do short term individual counseling, small groups, and classroom guidance. Listed below are just some of the topics that I am working on and if you see something that I can help you with please don't hesitate to call. Dana Morris (941-6300)

Disabilities Divorce Self-esteem Feelings
Transition to School Social skills
Decision Making Responsibility Death or Loss
Substance Abuse Organizational Skills
Stop and Think Program Agenda Books
Warm Fuzzies/Cold Pricklies Parent Concerns
Changing Families Groups Friendship Groups
Parent/Teacher Conference Program Coordination
Teacher Consultation Academic Monitoring
Cumulative Records Local and State Assessments
Referral to Community Agencies
Parenting Classes and Resources



Our library is very fortunate to have many, many new books added to our collection. New and exciting fiction and nonfiction books will be certain to interest, delight, and fascinate all our children.

The children are encouraged to keep their books in their backpacks when not reading them to ensure they will be here at school on library day. This will help keep books from getting into the hands of toddlers and the mouths of family pets. This will also help prevent the number of forgotten and lost books that tend to be chronic problems in a primary school library. I would strongly suggest that children keep their books in a plastic bag to keep them from getting ruined from leaky drink bottles and thermoses.

Our school library has an added incentive to promote weekly book returns. A class can earn a star for the hall bulletin board and a certificate for each week of 100% book returns. At the end of the year, the class with the most stars receives a celebration party.