

## Letter to the Team #11

### Artful Purpose

Students at the Fruit Street School were able to work with Fiber/Mixed Media artist Sandi Cirillo recently. Sandi, originally from New York, resides in Searsport and is an educator and an artist. Students learned what fiber is and viewed some of Mrs. Cirillo's own work before having the opportunity to do a felting project. Students learned how to fuse wool strands together with the process of agitating wool with wet soapy hands. Each student was excited to leave the art room wearing a felted necklace or a friendship bracelet.



### Unsung Heroes

It has been an absolute pleasure to meet periodically with the literacy coaches. Like so many faculty and staff members within the Bangor School Department; their "Get To Yes" attitude, helpful, caring nature, and knowledge of teaching and learning is extraordinary. Whenever I meet with this team of experts, I feel that I learn something new and get to laugh and smile during our time together. During the past couple of weeks this team, consisting of Kristi Charette, Shana Curtis, Shelly Morin, Katrina Rutherford, and Debbie Swett, literally unpacked a new elementary curriculum at the schools to allow teachers to familiarize themselves with these tools prior to summer break.



## Rising Stars

James F. Doughty School hosted a track meet at the new Cameron Stadium. The opportunity for activities and athletics is not one that I will ever again take for granted. Before we know it, these rising stars will become Bangor High School Rams. Time seems to pass so very quickly. I believe it's important to enjoy each moment to the fullest extent.



## **Finding Joy**

Kristi Morrow, a teacher at the Mary Snow School, shared with me a memorable lesson that occurred in her classroom this year. Her students watched a video created by a Maasai girl about her life in a small village. Kristi thought the students would notice how little she had and how sparse her living conditions were in her home. On the contrary, one of Kristi's students raised his hand and said, "She's smiling all the time- she shows so much joy when she has so little!" This led the class to talking with one another for over thirty minutes on how we should all feel this kind of joy, and that joy should not be connected to the material things we have or that we want. We should just be joyful to be alive and free and able to pursue our dreams and goals. The knowledge of fourth graders is most certainly something to treasure.

Enthusiastically yours,



Jim Tager  
Superintendent of Schools  
Bangor School Department