

# Principal's Newsletter

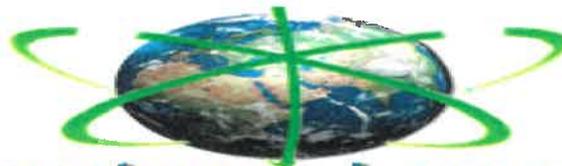
Asa C. Adams Elementary School

Issue No.7 March 2019



Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration	March 6	3:15-6:15 pm
Arts & Literacy Night	March 7	4:30-6:30 pm
Farmers' Market	March 9	9:00-12:00 am/pm
PTO Meeting	March 13	6:30-7:30 pm
K-3 Spring Concert Hawk Auditorium	March 14	6:00-7:00 pm
Show Choir Performance	March 19	6:00-7:00 pm
Facilities Forum OHS Gym	March 21	6:00-8:00 pm
Teacher In-Service Day/ No students	March 22	
PTO Meeting	April 10	6:30-7:30 pm
Spring Break	April 15-19	

## Focus on the Future



## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning

Dear Parents and Community members,

Schools may be examined as a reflection the society we wish to establish and sustain. At Asa C. Adams School, our emphasis is not only to provide students with the knowledge and skills they will need, but to adjust instruction to ensure they will succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For example, our emphasis on Social-Emotional Learning, which takes the form of Habits of Mind, encourages students to develop an array of competencies that will help them navigate the ever-changing world. Habits of Mind include such areas as Taking Responsible Risks, Managing Impulsivity, and Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations. Consider how important just these habits are to jobs in the future in science, medicine, public service, and so many more.

Social-Emotional Learning is, however, only one aspect of how schools have changed to prepare students for the future. Our long-held beliefs about teaching everything a child needs to know—or 'Just-in-case learning' are challenged by the proposal that greater emphasis should be placed on students' ability to navigate the vast range of knowledge available to them in our highly connected Age of Knowledge and Information. Authors, Allan Collins and Richard Halverson have termed this, 'Just-in-time' learning (Re-thinking Education in the Age of Technology: The Digital Revolution and Schooling in America, Halverson, Collins, 2009). Imagine what a shift this entails for teachers whose focus on content virtually defines their roles.

Do you believe all people learn in different ways and at different rates? If so, you should know that brain research supports that idea. Concepts such as Multiple Intelligences, Learning Styles, and Growth Mindset have emerged over the past thirty years to help educators differentiate instruction more effectively. Students tend to be more engaged when their individual learning modalities are valued. The neatly ordered rows of desks that many adults recall in classrooms, as a teacher lectures at the chalkboard are images of a by-gone past. Today, you are far more likely to see students moving throughout the classroom to learning 'stations', collaborating with each other, and using an array of technological devices.

At Asa C. Adams School, we also undergird much of our instruction with a model called Universal Design for Learning. This approach ties together many dimensions of learning into three areas, all of which correspond to specific areas of the brain: Recognition, Action/Expression, and Engagement. This approach includes, for example, the use of voice-to-text technology, inquiry-based learning, and providing access and equity for the diverse needs of all learners.

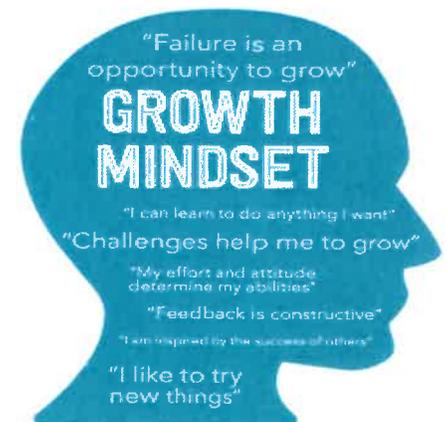
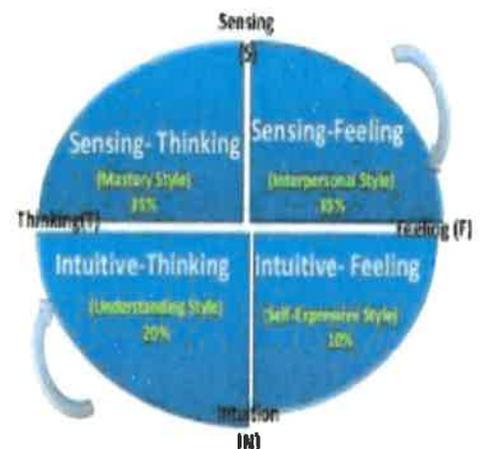
Thus, as you can see, the future of education is changing, and we are changing with it.

Sincerely,

Darren J. Akerman, Ed. D  
Principal, Asa C. Adams School



Function to Style  
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# ARTS AND LITERACY

A long-standing tradition at Asa C. Adams School, our annual Arts and Literacy Night was held on March 7<sup>th</sup>. This was part of our week-long alignment with 'Read Across America.' This included a readers' theatre using one of author Lyn Smith's books. ***What Makes an Opossum Tick?***

Students and staff decorated their doors with a theme relating to Maine Waters, Woodlands, and Wildlife. Ms. Smith and her Illustrator, Jamie Hogan, appeared at the school to work with all students. Special thanks to Allison Woodard, Diana Smart, and Nancy Fitch, who helped orchestrate this series of events; similarly, our wonderful Asa staff demonstrated the creative skills that help define our culture.

## Getting in Character!

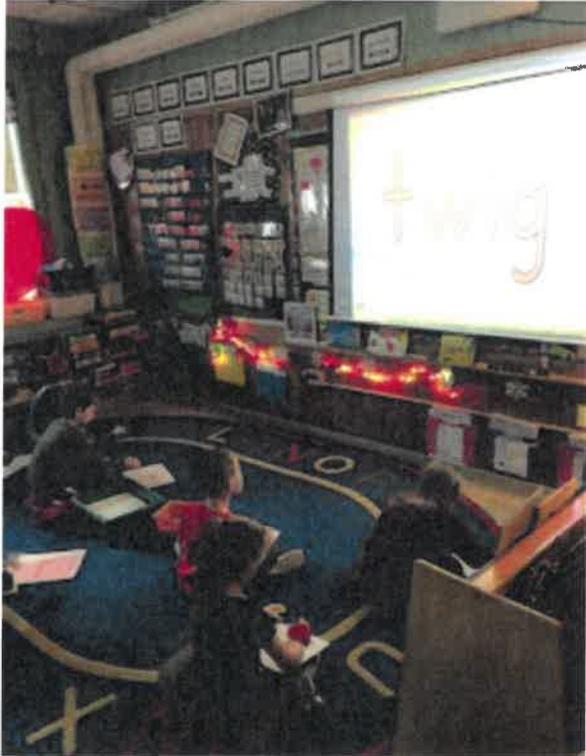




## Readers' Theater



## Fun with Phonics in Grade 2



**In Phonics, Mrs. Shaw's classroom is learning about word families, which can help emergent readers begin to see patterns within words. Recognizing words patterns makes it easier when sounding out words during reading and writing workshop. Students are learning how to use their "star words" (high frequency words) as a resource to spell other words by using "chunks" (for example: the star word "it" can help spell harder and longer words such as "split"). The class is also using digraphs to help them hear and identify more complex sounds in words, which also transfers over to their writing. The classroom is excited to point out these word patterns when they see them throughout their day!**

## Weather/Climate: Grade 3

**Mrs. Dill's class has been learning about Weather and Climate. Students investigated how can a roof best resist wind? Which roof material can best withstand strong winds? The class invited Mrs. Hildebrand, an architect (and Jack's mom), to teach them about roofing materials and designs of roofs. The kids made a flat roof house, a hip roof, a butterfly roof, a shed roof, and a gable roof, and tested each house against different wind levels. Which roof do YOU think resisted wind the most?**





**Save the Date!**

**TUESDAY  
MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>  
6pm**

**ORONO Middle School**

**As most community members know, RSU 26 has begun examining how best to improve and upgrade existing school facilities. In order to prepare our students success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the literal 'space' of schools require change. RSU 26 also recognizes the need to maintain existing facilities and work with the Orono community in a fiscally responsible manner.**

**The Asa C. Adams School Facilities Committee has been meeting regularly to discuss and collaborate with PDT Architects. Prioritized issues for this building address safety, inclusivity, instructional space, and ADA compliance. Updating our entryway to enhance security is an important element, as is the need for a new kitchen (to meet current code standards) and a separate gym (to avoid multiple, overlapping use.) We are also looking carefully at our front office, nursing station, and how to maximize instructional areas. We are also examining ways to improve assessments for students, conferencing, and meeting the multi-faceted needs of our community.**

**First built in 1956, Asa C. Adams School has managed to serve the many students who have gone through its doors; however, our committee, along with others in RSU 26 want you to be informed about the current state of the building. More detailed information is available for your review by request to the School Board.**

**The RSU 26 School Board will be hosting an interactive presentation on Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm at the Orono Middle School. Your input is valued!**