

# Principal's Newsletter

Asa C. Adams Elementary School

Issue No. 14 January 2020



January 2	Return to School	
January 20	No School	Martin Luther King Day
January 29	½ day AM	Professional Development

## ASA STUDENTS COMMAND THE STAGE AT HAUCK AUDITORIUM

Once again, Asa C. Adams students in grades 3-5 took to the stage at Hauck Auditorium for their annual Winter Choral Concert. Students have been practicing under the direction of Mrs. Jessica Moore to showcase their talents. Parents and community turned out in droves!



## Instrumental Assembly: Asa Students Perform at School

On December 4, 2019, Asa students in Grades 4-5 gathered to showcase their skills for an audience of parents, teachers, and peers. Under the astute direction on Jennifer Acosta for band and recorder, and Waldo Caballero for strings, students performed a variety of musical pieces. Participation in performing arts is a big part of the RSU 26 community. The ability to master an instrument and develop the skill to play in public can be challenging. As our students learn from the start, music, like most content areas, takes practice. It is always exciting to see students learn the language of music and work together as a band, ensemble, or chorus. Mr. Caballero regaled the audience with a few bars of professional violin to demonstrate how students can develop mastery. Ms. Acosta demonstrated a full range of conducting expertise with her grade 4 and 5 band. In addition, students were thrilled to perform on their new felt-tipped recorders. They even featured a song they learned from visiting University of Maine at Orono music students. As always, practice makes perfect, and we appreciate the chance to watch our young artists at work.



Did you know we use the Danielson Evaluation Framework? Research indicates that one of the highest indicators of student success is the quality of instruction. At Asa C. Adams School, we have many experts in their respective roles. The Danielson Framework is a growth model designed to help educators continue to flourish.



## E-Club: A Look Back and a Step Forward

The inaugural E-Club at Asa Adams was a huge success! E-Club is modeled after the club that originated at Stillwater Montessori School lead by Joanne Alex. E-Club is an environmental club for students in Kindergarten, first, and second grade with the main objective of taking a child's natural curiosity about the outside world and building their awareness and understanding of what's around them. E-Club met six times from September to December and each meeting had a specific focus. Topics like recycling, the night sky, and signs of life were just some of what our E-Clubbers got to investigate. One unique opportunity that E-Club students got to experience was pairing up with a college methods class in teaching science at the University of Maine. Lead by instructor Connie Ronco, the UM students worked with our E-Club students and guided their explorations and answered many questions. E-Club was a huge group effort and we would be remiss not to give a giant shout out to Joanne Alex who cleverly figured out ways to make her amazing model for E-Club work in a new setting. Big thanks to Connie Ronco for sharing your students with ours to give them both a robust experience. Thank you, too, to Darren Akerman and Brent Fournier who helped us with the nuts and bolts of scheduling and bussing. A big thank you to all of the classroom teachers who helped get their E-Club kids to where they needed to be. Final thanks to all of the families who worked with us as we made this first Asa Adams E-Club get up and running. We learned something new each time we met and we are so grateful that you were patient with us as we worked out our operations. We have plans to have a Spring E-Club so be on the lookout for information to sign up!

Best, Megan Dreher & Suzanne Neville (Grade One Teachers)



## STEAMING Ahead in Mrs. Metcalf's class

Ms. Metcalf's first grade class was given a STEAM challenge. They needed to make a ramp that would send their matchbox car the farthest using recycled materials in the classroom that were brought from home. Students needed to design then build their ramp. After each trial run they made changes to improve their design. All students were very thoughtful about their design as they worked with their partner.



Did you know that S.T.E.A.M. stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics? This is an important area of focus for the Asa staff and RSU 26. The emphasis on these cross-curricular areas requires collaboration, critical and creative thinking, and the use of 21<sup>st</sup> century educational approaches.



### Attendance Matters!

Education is more than a matter of time; most often, it must be time well spent. One out of six students in Maine are often deprived of their education through 'chronic absenteeism.' If a student misses 10% of their school year (18 days), they meet that criteria. We are working closely with the Maine Department of Education to ensure that your children have access to the instruction they deserve. We appreciate your help in ensuring that students are fully prepared for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Absenteeism and late-to-school arrivals should not stand in the way of your child's success. Thank you for your help! Visit [countmeinmaine.org](http://countmeinmaine.org) for more information.



## Kindergarten takes World-View of the Gingerbread Man

The students in Mrs. DeCesere, Mrs. McLaughlin and Mrs. Shaw's Kindergarten classrooms participated in a gingerbread man exchange. Every student in Kindergarten decorated a gingerbread man that was then mailed to a school in another state with some information about our school and state! In return, our Kindergarteners received a gingerbread man from their state. It was so much fun to open the mail and learn about their school and see the gingerbread man another student from another state decorated. We even received a gingerbread man from a school that is located inside a zoo! We learned a lot about where states are located and the weather and climate of different states. It was a great way to celebrate December.



## Mrs. Bilodeau's Pre-K Students wrote the Gingerbread Man

First we went to the oven and there was one there instead of the yummy cookie gingerbread man. Then we went to P.E. and Mr. Butler saw him and a letter was on his writing pad. Then music. There was a note there too. Next the office and he got a snack in the refrigerator. He went to see Mrs. Martin because he hurt his arm. Then we went to the library and back down here to our classroom. We found the gingerbread cookies in the bakery. But he had run outside. Maybe he went to the river and the fox tricked him. The End



## Mr. Soderberg's Scientists



What would it be like to be a molecule of water? Our 3rd grade class recently played a game that got us thinking about the water cycle and how water can change between a solid, liquid, and gas! Pretending to be water molecules, students rolled dice and moved around the class between lakes, rivers, glaciers, plants, oceans, clouds, groundwater deposits, and even inside animals! Each student had a very different journey through the water cycle. Our next step is to write about our experience as a water molecule! We're using thermometers to measure exothermic reactions! When 3rd graders added a catalyst (yeast) to hydrogen peroxide, we observed a rapid increase in temperature! The reaction is an exothermic one, meaning that the reaction produced heat. Using various weather measuring tools, our class has been recording Orono's daily temperature, humidity, windspeed, air pressure, and the amount of precipitation. We are comparing our data with other locations in the world. We're using our data to create graphs and notice how weather varies in different regions during the same season! -Mr. Soderberg, Grade 3