

Principal's Newsletter

Asa C. Adams Elementary School
Issue No. 17, April 2020



Asa Connects with Community



Dear Asa families,

During this unprecedented time in our schools, we want you to know that the Asa staff is working to help students and the community in many ways. I am proud that our staff learned and launched Google Classroom and Seesaw so that our students can continue instruction at home. Please remember this is a work-in-progress. As our staff becomes more familiar with distance learning, we will develop greater facility. Here are a few things to keep in mind for your child(ren) at home:

Pre-K students should be on-line approximately one hour per day for a 5-day week.

K-2 students should be on-line approximately two hours per day for a 5-day week.

Grades 3-5 students should be on-line approximately three hours per day for a 5-day week.

Be aware of frustration levels. It is helpful for students to take breaks.

One benefit of asynchronous learning is that students can learn at any time (it needn't be in one solid block).



If you require food for your family, please call the school at 207-866-215. Our dedicated nutrition staff prepares meals for delivery each day. Pick-up at Asa is currently M-F, 8:00am-12:00pm.



It is important to keep a structure in place for your child at home. Keeping a routine helps students predict how their day will go. Remember that at school students are used to a schedule.

We want to establish a reasonable expectation that students are on-line 5 days per week if possible. Some designated reading time and a place to do it can help.



During school, most teachers and specialists use 'motor-breaks,' which are periods of physical activity to keep students active and alert. The research supports exercise as a way to enhance cognition.

By the way, please see that your child takes part in our specialists' offerings, too! Music, Art, Physical Education, Library, and Guidance are all available on-line. You should also know the Asa staff posts daily or weekly assignments.



Here's a tip for parents:

Habits of mind is a program we use at Asa to help students foster social-emotional learning. Ask your child what Habits of Mind they are using in their daily lives—thinking flexibly, striving for accuracy and precision, persisting, and others. This is some of the language we use at Asa. For more information, ask your child!

Report Cards for 2nd Trimester to be sent home on April 17th



Making connections with community has always been an important part of the culture at Asa C. Adams School. We strive to present an inviting environment and know our students and their families well. This kind of knowledge helps us personalize learning for students. Making connections also helps us enrich learning for students. We often meet with experts in their fields to educate our students. We also make every effort to reach out to local community members, who have much to share in our school with events such as Agriculture Week. The Orono Police and Fire Departments help us in many ways with emergency preparedness and safety measures for students.

Visiting Author: Matt Tavares



On Monday, March 9th Asa Adams welcomed author/illustrator Matt Tavares to our school! Mr. Tavares has written and illustrated many picture book biographies such as *Growing Up Pedro*, as well as captivating children's stories such as *Dasher* and *Red and Lulu*. He explained and showed our students the process he goes through to create his books and drew some amazing illustrations on the spot. We were very proud of our Asa students who listened attentively and asked excellent questions! We are also thankful to the Minsky Fund for Art Education that made it possible to bring Mr. Tavares to our school. What an incredible and inspiring morning for us all!



School Counselor's Corner

It's a different kind of task to be writing for the newsletter these days. In many ways, you all are knowing more about what is going on with your students at "school" than I do! I miss all of those faces, stories, smiles, drawings, funny moments, and learning that I would get to do every day when your child(ren) were there in our Asa school building together. I hope that despite the physical distance, you all know how much we miss you and your children.

I have been sending out a weekly email directly to parents, with what I hope is helpful information. If you have not received my emails and you would like to, please email me at lerhardt@rsu26.org and I will add you to the list. I am also communicating with parents on the Asa Adams Parents Facebook page, as well as the Asa C. Adams School Counseling Page. You can also find me in your child's google classroom OR seesaw platform. I want to be as accessible as possible to you and your family with information, support, and resources as this remote learning/pandemic time extends on. Let me know what you need, and I will do my best to help you!

I was SO happy and touched by the overwhelming love I felt (and I know my colleagues felt too) as we paraded around Orono last Thursday. I knew it would be fun, and the weather cooperated, but I wasn't prepared for how special those two hours would be for me. Thank you to all of the families and students and even community members who came outside and greeted us so warmly and kindly. We are a special school in a community full of amazingly supportive families-we are lucky to have each other! I am still working on a short video of our parade that I'll send out to families this week. If you didn't see the WABI-TV story on the parade, you can watch it here: https://www.wabi.tv/content/news/Teachers-on-Parade-Orono-teachers-find-ways-to-safely-visit-their-students-569137271.html?fbclid=IwAR0JaXPsa4_1zNpIBaIAm3N3-Tb5vPFG5vWUs_2UKCo3c1xtVypcTYmMF7Q

Finally, I want to tell you how much I appreciate all that you are doing as parents right now to juggle all of the different family responsibilities you have **without** the same level of social support as you are used to having due to the need to socially distance/isolate. You are being tasked with something huge-managing work (whether remotely or going out into the world), managing all of the things we send your way as a school, and managing your household and the stress that is internal and external to that these days. Give yourself permission to not have it all together. Give yourself permission to breathe and change the plan if needed. Give yourself permission to be scared or silly or worried or sad or excited. And finally, reach out to us at school and to me as a school counselor. We want to help you through the ups and downs we are all facing.

Hugs to everyone right now!
Lisa Erhardt