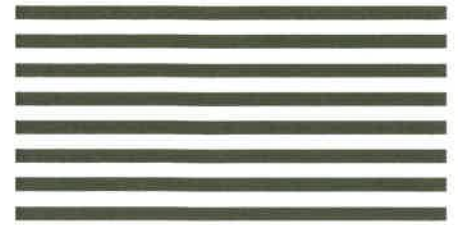


# NEWSLETTER

# ASA C. ADAMS



ISSUE NO. 3 | NOVEMBER | 2018



## NOVEMBER EVENT CALENDAR:

Nov. 5:  
Spirit Night 4:00-8:00pm

Nov. 12:  
Veterans Day - No School

Nov. 15:  
Parent Teacher  
Conferences 3:30-6:40pm

Sign up by clicking this link  
below.

[Click Here To Schedule](#)

If you have any difficulties  
signing up online, or would  
rather schedule in person, please  
call Kate Crane at 866-2151.

Nov. 19:  
Early Release at 12:45pm

Nov. 19:  
Parent-Teacher  
Conferences 1:00-6:40pm

Nov. 20-24:  
Thanksgiving Break - No  
School

Nov. 29:  
Picture Re-take

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear Parents and Community Members,

As you know, the safety of all students is a priority for RSU 26. At Asa C. Adams School, we consider the developmental age levels of our students with respect to personal and public safety. For example, our health curriculum, The Great Body Shop, highlights "skill-based lessons targeting different learning styles" that are culturally diverse and medically accurate.

Similarly, our work with Habits

of Mind helps students build the Social-Emotional Learning Competencies to enhance their ability to build skills such as managing impulsivity, thinking flexibly, and listening empathetically. Our Student Support Team meets regularly to examine student behavioral data to find trends, provide interventions, and help students cope. While some may refer to these approaches as 'soft' in the overall approach to school safety, they remain essential proactive measures that are designed to address individual student needs.

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From the perspective of systemic safety, we also employ a number of 'hard' approaches, ranging from unannounced fire drills, training for evacuations in the event of an emergency, and the support of our School Safety Officer. Our district's Emergency Response Team meets regularly to ensure that procedures are clear in the event of any emergency. All schools in RSU 26 also utilize a highly sophisticated internet content filtering system that helps to protect students from inappropriate material, sites, etc.

Most of all, our staff is highly connected with the students and parents at Asa C. Adams. We use a 'whole child' approach that ensures every child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. We strive to create and sustain a positive culture, where all students are included, valued, and safe.

Sincerely,

Darren J. Akerman, Ed.D  
Principal

## CHECK IN WITH OUR SPECIALISTS

### MRS. NASH'S MUSIC CLASS:



The first couple weeks of beginner band and recorders have flown by. Both ensembles are learning about embouchure, posture, breathing, rhythms, pitch and rehearsal techniques. We have been exploring different combinations of the pitches we have learned and exploring the world of improvisation. Thank you to all of the families that are supporting our young musicians. Asa Adams Elementary School recorders and beginning band is rocking!

"Every child is an artist.  
The problem is how to  
remain an artist  
once we grow up"  
- Pablo Picasso

Music is  
what  
feelings  
sound like

"A picture is a poem  
without words"  
- Horace



### MRS. FITCH'S ART CLASS:



It has been another great start to the new school year in the art room at Asa Adams. Students have been working on looking, thinking, and hands-on skills to help them feel comfortable in any visual content and experience. Students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 have been exploring and experimenting new and reintroduced art media. Our students have been drawing, painting, stamping, printmaking, and completing collage illustrations. Nothing makes me happier than to see the hallways filled with student artwork.

## MRS. MOORE'S MUSIC CLASS:



All music classes have been working very hard to brush up on their rhythm and musical note reading skills. Grades fourth and fifth chorus are pictured above. They are busy learning all kinds of new songs to perform at their Winter Concert at Hauck Auditorium on December 18<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you there.

## MR. CABALLERO'S ORCHESTRA CLASS:



Mr. Caballero's orchestra class is looking forward to this school year. They are hard at work practicing and preparing for their next performance. Students work on posture and tone in this week's class.

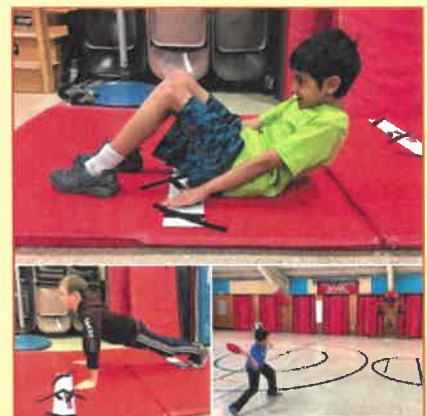
## MRS. SMART'S FABLAB:



Pictured here are students who are meeting challenges using Fiddlesticks. The challenges were simple at first: Connect the fiddlesticks blocks together to make simple shapes. The challenges increased in complexity--examples include creating a tall, stable tower and creating a miniature playground. Students loved the versatility of the Fiddlesticks! Meeting the challenges used all their habits of mind, especially perseverance, flexible thinking, and striving for accuracy and precision.



## MR. BUTLER'S P.E. CLASS:



Grades K-2 just finished up their Chasing, Fleeing, Dodging unit and have begun their kicking skills unit. Grades 3-5 are finishing their pre-fitness testing, as shown above. Third and fourth graders were very excited to start their Disc Golf unit. Our own State Champion in the building, Joe Mason, will be dropping in to give us all a few pointers. Fifth grade has begun their football skills unit. As mentioned in my October Newsletter, I hope to be outside as much as possible, so warm jackets, hats, and mittens would be great!

## School Counselor's Corner

Welcome back! We have survived the adjustment period of everyone returning to new classrooms (and in some cases a new school!), and from what I can see, kids seem to be settling into their new routines. I hope that your family has found that it has been a smooth adjustment to the new school year. If you have any concerns about kids who aren't feeling settled, please drop me an email or a phone call. We want every student to feel good during their school day.



Things are off to a typically busy start here in the counseling office. Our new six-day rotation schedule has me visiting each classroom every 12 days (my visits alternate with fablab visits for all classrooms). I've been in each classroom three times, working on my fourth visit soon! It's been fantastic to see how much each student has grown and changed over the course of the summer, and reconnecting with them in their new settings has put a big smile on my face every day. We have started off with just a basic reorientation to how students can access me if needed for individual student visits, as well as some fun get to know you games. The next round of visits we have started our first units: Pre-K has started in with some basic social thinking concepts (the first is that your brain thinks thoughts, and your heart feels feelings, then on to how to follow the group plan).

In Kindergarten we have been talking about expected and unexpected thoughts and behaviors in our social thinking curriculum. Grade 1 we are diving into building our emotional vocabularies with new feeling words (think frustrated, peaceful, anxious). Grade 2 we have started with some lessons on perspective and how to consider the perspectives of others. Grade 3 we have been talking about being a responsible person (with words and actions). Grade 4 we are talking about how we are all functioning on a continuum for each of our skills in life, and how we need to be accepting of where they are and where others might be. This sets the stage for some of our conflict resolution work and peer pressure lessons to come. And finally, in grade 5 we are talking about healthy relationships. I hope your child(ren) will come home and share some of what they learn with you!



We are also diving back into our Habits of Mind programming. Students have been back participating with one of our components of this program with their biweekly specialist's rotations. In my group, we did a teamwork challenge where students had to use LOT of their habits of mind for grades 3-5, and in my PK-2 group, we talked about what habits are AND how we can start to learn how to manage our impulsivity with some freeze dance and some hot potato.

We are excited to continue to teach our habits throughout our school in all settings.



Additionally, we were able to share with our RSU #26 colleagues what social-emotional learning looks like at Asa Adams currently during our October 9 in-service day. We showcased our work with Habits of Mind, Social Thinking, our school counseling curriculum, and our work with our student support team as a PBIS school (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). We are excited to work with Orono Middle School and Orono High School to create a more seamless PK-12 social emotional learning program for all of our students.

It seems hard to believe, but we are close to the point where I begin working with local resources to help support our Asa families who might find themselves in need this holiday season. If you think your family could use any assistance this holiday season, OR if you are a family who would like to anonymously help another Asa family, please don't hesitate to call or email me. In the next month I will be coordinating this program for our families, and the sooner I know about your need or willingness to help, the better I can do to make it a smooth process for all. Feel free to just inquire-no need to commit if you just have questions and want to know how the process works!

Finally, I want to let you know a little bit about some of the other things I'm busy with in the counseling program

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I serve on several RSU #26 and Asa Adams committees, so I get a chance to work with lots of our teachers and staff across the district. One of the committees I am passionate about is our Emergency Response Team. I have worked with our team for the last fifteen years to continuously update and prepare for any kind of school emergency. I am also getting ready to send out my first round of permission slips for friendship groups. This is a weekly meeting for a small group of students (generally within the same grade level) during lunch and recess where we work on creating, building, and nurturing social relationships for kids. If your child is invited to participate, feel free to contact me with any questions. It is a highly popular program, and I fit as many students in over the course of the year as I can.

I am thankful for all of the support you give me as parents, teachers, and community members to carry out my school counseling program. We have the best students at Asa Adams!

Warmly,  
Mrs. Erhardt



### **Notice to Parents regarding Chronic Absenteeism**

Dear Parents,

In an effort to provide your child with the best possible educational experience, we wish to inform you of new state and federal guidelines that may require us to contact you.

As part of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Maine schools are now required to report chronic absenteeism. If your student falls within the parameters described above, please know your child will be identified as chronically absent at the state level.

Chronic absenteeism occurs when your child misses 10% of the days they are enrolled in school, regardless if these absences are excused or unexcused. For a student attending the entire school year in Orono, chronic absenteeism would be 17 days. Students are considered absent if they are not present for more than 50% of the day.

Students who attend school every day tend to be more likely to perform at grade level, have a higher graduation rate, and have more success in college and within the workforce. Parents are responsible for making sure their child attends school regularly. To ensure accurate accounting of school attendance, schools will be required to ask for documentation for chronic absenteeism. A doctor's note is required for excessive absences (more than 3 consecutive days) due to a medical situation.

Please contact Asa C. Adams School directly if you have further questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Darren J. Akerman Ed. D.