November 2024 - RSU 3 Schools Community Newsletter

Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students, and enthusiastic parents with high expectations." Bob Beauprez

Note from the Assistant Superintendent, Lisa Roux... (contact info: lroux@rsu3.org (207)948-6136)

October was a very busy month in RSU 3. Students have settled into the routines of this school year and have been busy completing fall assessments that will support the development of instructional plans. Congratulations to all fall athletic teams on another successful season.

This month I'd like to share a quick update on the **school consolidation process.** As you are likely aware, the RSU 3 School Board of Directors voted last March to close both Walker and Morse Schools. This was not an easy decision and has required months of conversations and planning stemming from years of consideration in response to our districts' ever changing needs. At this point in the process, public hearings were recently held in both Liberty and Brooks to provide clarity on the significance of the December 10 vote that will take place in the towns of Liberty, Brooks and Waldo. Residents of Liberty will have the opportunity to vote to either close Walker School at the end of this school year, or keep the school open with the understanding that the residents of Liberty will pick up the costs associated with keeping the school open. The same will be true for residents in Brooks and Waldo in relation to Morse School. It is very important for the voting residents of these three towns to understand the difference between a yes and a no vote (as outlined here in these sample ballots):

BALLOT EXPLANATION

Please see the Ballot Article 1 Question below

__If you Vote Yes = the school gets closed

__If you Vote No = the Town of Liberty would be responsible to pay the additional assessment amount listed in the Referendum Ballot to continue the school for the next year

SAMPLE BALLOT QUESTION

FOR THE TOWN OF LIBERTY
DECEMBER 10, 2024

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

Vote "yes" or "no" by making a cross (X) or check mark (✓) in the square of your choice at the left of the article

Yes ☐ **No** ☐ Article 1: Do you favor authorizing the School Board of Regional School Unit No. 3 to close Walker Elementary School?

The additional cost of keeping the school open has been estimated by the School Board of Regional School Unit No. 3 to be $380,835.36.

BALLOT EXPLANATION

Please see the Ballot Article 1 Question below

__If you Vote Yes = the school gets closed

__If you Vote No = the Town of Brooks would be responsible to pay the additional assessment amount listed in the Referendum Ballot to continue the school for the next year

SAMPLE BALLOT QUESTION

FOR THE TOWN OF BROOKS
DECEMBER 10, 2024

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

Vote "yes" or "no" by making a cross (X) or check mark (✓) in the square of your choice at the left of the article

Yes ☐ **No** ☐ Article 1: Do you favor authorizing the School Board of Regional School Unit No. 3 to close Morse Memorial School?

The additional cost of keeping the school open has been estimated by the School Board of Regional School Unit No. 3 to be $579,094.21. Based on section 1512 of Title 20-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, the Town of Brooks would be responsible to pay $309,583.76 of this cost and the Town of Waldo would be responsible to pay $269,510.45 of this cost.

BALLOT EXPLANATION

Please see the Ballot Article 1 Question below

__If you Vote Yes = the school gets closed

__If you Vote No = the Town of Waldo would be responsible to pay the additional assessment amount listed in the Referendum Ballot to continue the school for the next year

SAMPLE BALLOT QUESTION

FOR THE TOWN OF WALDO
DECEMBER 10, 2024

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

Vote "yes" or "no" by making a cross (X) or check mark (✓) in the square of your choice at the left of the article

Yes ☐ **No** ☐ Article 1: Do you favor authorizing the School Board of Regional School Unit No. 3 to close Morse Memorial School?

The additional cost of keeping the school open has been estimated by the School Board of Regional School Unit No. 3 to be $579,094.21. Based on section 1512 of Title 20-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, the Town of Brooks would be responsible to pay $309,583.76 of this cost and the Town of Waldo would be responsible to pay $269,510.45 of this cost.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need more clarification on the details of this important vote in the towns of Brooks, Waldo, and Liberty on December 10, 2024.

Walker School had the opportunity to visit Hardy Farms Orchards in Hope. It was a great opportunity for our students to explore a local family run agricultural business. Each student was able to take a bag of apples home to enjoy with their families and the school community enjoyed delicious apple nachos. We will also be using some of the apples we gathered in our Agriculture class to make fresh apple cider.

Turnout for Parent Teacher Conferences at Monroe, Troy and Walker Schools has been fantastic. This really highlights the strong partnership between families and the school, which is so important in fostering student success. Research shows that active involvement from home significantly boosts student motivation, academic performance and overall well-being. We are looking forward to meeting with our Morse families in November.

Save the Date: Monday, November 25th at 5:30 p.m., just in time for Thanksgiving, Monroe School PTO will host our annual Pie & Dessert Auction Fundraiser!

One final note this month - sadly, RSU 3 recently experienced a loss when Steve Piper, a member of our custodial team passed away following a serious medical condition. Steve was a long time employee, and former student, of RSU 3 and he will be missed by his entire RSU 3 family. Thank you to the many community members who have reached out to extend condolences and share a funny story or memory of Steve. Your support is very much appreciated!

Important Upcoming Dates - District Wide

2024-25 RSU 3 Academic School Calendar WCTC 24-25 Calendar

November 6 - Operations Committee Mtgn. 4:00 at Mt. View

November 6 - Policy Committee Mtgn. 5:00 at Mt. View

November 11 - Veterans' Day - No School

November 12 - Finance Committee Mtgn. 5:15 at Mt. View

November 12 - School Board Mtgn. 6:30 at Mt. View

November 27-29 - Thanksgiving Break

High School Winter Athletic Calendar

School Board Meeting Schedule for the 2024-2025 School Year

Highlights From Around The District…

Fall Fun







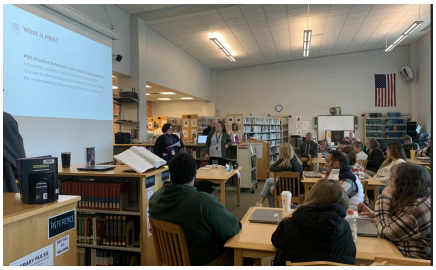
Safety Review



A visit to Maine Maritime Academy




District Professional Development




Please help us each month, to recognize the important role every staff member in RSU 3 fills …

Staff Recognition

November 11-15 - National School Psychologist Week

November 18-22 - National Substitute Appreciation Week



Helpful Updates/Reminders/Tips For Families

We are always on the lookout for substitute teachers. They play a very important role in our district. Please consider supporting our schools by learning more about becoming a substitute - see below for a flier of information and become a member of the RSU 3 team!

We proudly offer fresh produce on the first Thursday of every month. If your student is in grades pre-k-8, please fill out this form:

https://forms.gle/Jct8HpTzdJ5cjaEY9
https://forms.gle/gHfTRWdNpFYN7EJYA

to sign up. High school students can grab bags in the lobby at dismissal. The next one is October 3rd!



School Board Information

School Bus Information

School Immunization Requirements

Public Notices

Mount View Resources Available to the Public:

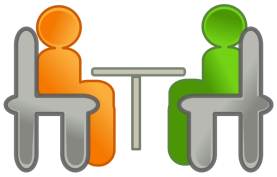
Fitness Center - Tuesday and Thursday evenings through Adult Education Services. For more information please contact Krysta Hustus - khustus@rsu3.org

Public Use of RSU 3 playgrounds/fields/nature trails

Professional Development in RSU 3

In October we had both a full professional development day, as well as an early release day for students that allowed for continued professional development for staff. These days were packed with a variety of opportunities, ranging from full staff meetings to smaller leadership and department team meetings. Additionally, we had teachers throughout the district involved in smaller group focused PD, led by staff members who are both knowledgeable and passionate about specific topics and projects. There are many important topics that are the continued focus of RSU 3, such as safety related trainings for all staff including CPR and Stop the Bleed training, safety committee meetings, ensuring best practices with regard to instruction, and cultural diversity opportunities and resources. The staff at RSU 3 are very committed to professional growth in order to provide the best possible educational environment and experiences.

If you haven't already, you will soon have the opportunity to visit your child's school for parent/teacher conferences. We cannot stress enough what an important part of your child's educational experience this is. Please take advantage of this and future opportunities to connect with your child's teacher(s), strengthen positive relationships, and learn more about the ways the school can support your child and family, as well as the many ways you can support your child's education at home.



Please click on the following link for information about this year's Holiday Giving Tree



SUBSTITUTE TEACHER TRAINING

DO YOU HAVE TIME TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS AND EARN $22-$30 PER HOUR?

NOVEMBER 7TH & NOVEMBER 14TH
4:00 PM TO 6:30 PM (NO CHARGE)

Our schools and students need you - and not just as a teacher! Substitutes are hired in almost every job category - custodial, food service, educational technicians and bus drivers to name a few. Before you know it, in just two short sessions, taught by experienced RSU 3 staff, you can be trained and earning $22-$30 per hour! Background check and fingerprinting are required but fees are 100% reimbursable for those who join us as a substitute!

This is a hybrid class that can be joined either live online or in person.

RSU #3

Adult & Community Education

BROOKS FREEDOM JACKSON KNOX LIBERTY MONROE MONTVILLE THORNDIKE TROY UNITY WALDO

register online at **rsu3.maineadulted.org** or call us today 568-3426

Enroll your child to receive a free book each month!

Waldo County parents and caregivers:
You can inspire your child's love of reading with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.



How It Works:

- Great news, the Imagination Library program is now available for all infants, toddlers and preschoolers in Waldo County!
- Go to imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability (or use the QR code below). to register your child. It's free and easy!
- In 6-8 weeks, your child will receive their first book in the mail, 'The Little Engine That Could.'
- Books will continue to arrive in the mail monthly until your child's 5th birthday.

Easy to Enroll!

Scan this code to enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. It's free and easy!

Questions? Contact your local public librarian!

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Maine

N4N
Waldo County
NEIGHBOR FOR NEIGHBOR
Coalition

Waldo Community Action Partners
WCAP
we care about people

HEROES 4 HUNGER

WENTWORTH FAMILY Grocery

Christmas Gifts for Children & Holiday Food Boxes!

The Neighbor for Neighbor Coalition wants everyone to enjoy meals around the table and gifts under the tree this holiday.

Registering is easier than ever. Scan the QR code with your phone to begin, or visit waldocap.org for a link to the online registration form.

Paper applications are also available at public locations like your local town office or can be picked up at Waldo Community Action Partners at 9 Field Street in Belfast.

For questions or assistance with this application process, please call Waldo CAP's Neighbor for Neighbor line at (207) 338-4944, or email N4N@waldocap.org.

Welcome to the 2024 Neighbor for Neighbor Holiday Assistance Registration

Please note, to meet rising costs and increasing demand, we are implementing changes to improve our internal processes so we can redirect funds to food box contents and gifts that directly benefit you. For this reason, we plan to communicate about the Heroes 4 Hunger and Neighbor for Neighbor programs primarily by email communications rather than postcards this year. If you still prefer to receive a postcard, then please reach out to the contact listed below to sign up for postal mail communication.

Please direct all questions regarding this application process, to Waldo CAP's Neighbor for Neighbor phone line at (207) 338-4944, or email N4N@waldocap.org.

FOOD BOXES:

- *Due to limited storage space this year, pick-up will only be offered as a last option at the discretion of program organizers.*
- *Someone must be present to receive the food boxes on the delivery dates and times listed below.*
- *All food boxes will be scheduled for delivery in accordance with the following schedule:*

Thanksgiving Food Boxes: Saturday, November 23, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
Christmas Food Boxes: Saturday, December 21, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

- *The more information you provide in this registration, the easier it will be for our volunteer delivery drivers to find you, or the more closely we will be able to match gifts to children. Please be thorough in your descriptions.*

GIFTS FOR CHILDREN:

- *If you are asking for a gift for a child, then you must be the child's primary legal guardian and the child must reside with you.*
- *Gifts are for children who are age 18 or younger and who still live at home.*
- *We are unable to guarantee what organization or individual "adopts" a child for gifts. This is a random selection and/or determined through Neighbor for Neighbor Coalition partnership agreements.*
- *While we do make every attempt to match households with "adopters" for gifts, we cannot guarantee that every household that registers will be matched. We encourage you to get your applications in early and we will let you know if we are unable to match your household.*
- ***Gifts must be picked up at 9 Field Street in Belfast by December 19.*** *We will contact you when your gifts are ready for pick-up as soon as they are available.*