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Community Connections

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August 2026

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Read more

- Cover photo: OTES K-2 students were invited to share photos of “Lucky Ducks” on summer adventures. Parker is pictured at York Beach. See page 11.
- Just two of OTHS’s many early college opportunities saved families more than $30,000 in tuition. Details page 23
- LMS & OTHS participation in the State Science Fair leads to multiple full-tuition scholarships. Read more on pages 16 & 23.

RSU 34
Alton • Bradley • Old Town

School Bus Routes, Pages 24 - 25



Matt Cyr

2026 - 2027 RSU 34 District Theme: ***Momentum***

RSU 34 staff are bringing lots of energy and ***momentum*** into the new school year. Building on previous goals and accomplishments, this year's theme is all about keeping that progress going—working side by side with our students, staff, and families. Everything we do continues to be guided by our five-year strategic plan, adopted back in 2024. It gives us a clear roadmap to stay proactive and focus on four main priorities: raising student aspirations and achievement; supporting and empowering our staff; strengthening community partnerships; and keeping our facilities safe and sustainable.

This year, we're putting a sharp focus on K–8 Math and ELA instruction. Our teaching teams have spent time studying proven, evidence-based programs to make sure every student receives consistent, high-quality instruction—along with the specific support or extra challenge they need. We have already seen great success with our Math and ELA interventions at OTHS, where struggling students are getting back on track, and many have even recovered lost credits to make sure they graduate on time!

Our early childhood program at Alton Elementary has also been a huge success—so much so that we have expanded to three classrooms this fall! On top of that, we are taking over FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) case management from CDS for local 4-year-olds, and we'll expand that to 3-year-olds by the 2027–28 school year. Navigating this state-mandated transition has taken a lot of planning; however, we are thrilled to welcome our youngest learners and ensure they get the support they deserve right from the start.

With shifting local demographics and declining birth rates, we are keeping a close focus on making the smartest, most efficient use of our school space. Looking to the future, we are collaborating with architects and engineers at WBRC to plan for a streamlined, three-campus district (OTES, LMS, and OTHS). This long-term strategy helps us maximize resources and enhance student programs by focusing our investment on fewer, higher-quality facilities. While tough decisions—like the closure of Viola Rand School—are never easy, they ensure we remain fiscally responsible and keep our budget focused where it matters most: directly supporting our students.

We've also been putting our reserve funds to work on essential upgrades, including fire suppression repairs, asbestos tile replacement, and athletic field improvements. If you passed by our campuses this summer, you likely noticed the new playground construction at OTES, as well as work on the OTHS bus loop to fix drainage, smooth out traffic, and make sidewalks safer for everyone. A State Revolving Renovation Fund (SRRF) grant covered 70% of the cost for a bathroom update in the high school business wing, and we're continuing with incremental/phased upgrades to Victory Field, which have received fantastic support from our community.

Old Town High School Renovation Bond

Our next major facilities focus will be much-needed repairs at Old Town High School. Priority projects include replacing windows and classroom shades in the older sections of the building—most notably the main student classroom wing, which dates back to 1953 (note: the Science Wing windows/shades are newer, and will not be replaced). Because of the scope and magnitude of this work, funding will require voter approval of a municipal bond this November. Fortunately, the timing aligns with the payoff and closeout of our previous science wing bond. With voter approval, we can absorb the new OTHS window replacement bond payment with minimal impact on the overall district budget, allowing work to begin as early as next summer. The School Board and Superintendent are currently working with Bond Counsel and municipal officials on the following timeline:

- August 19, 2026: School Board Votes on the form of the bond question as it will appear on ballots
- September 16, 2026: School Board to call a referendum, sign warrant(s), and sign public hearing notice(s)
- September 17, 2026 - October 13, 2026 (no later than 10/13): Posting of Public Hearing Notices and Warrants
- Absentee Voting Starts no later than October 2, 2026
- October 21, 2026: School Board will hold a Public Hearing on the Bond Vote for the OTHS window replacement project
- November 3, 2026: Voters in Alton, Bradley and Old Town will participate in a referendum to approve the project and amount to borrow

If voters pass the referendum articles, the School Board will adopt a resolution to authorize the Bond and begin preparing project bid documents, with an anticipated start timeline of summer 2027.

As we prepare to open our doors for another exciting year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our families, staff, and community members for your unwavering support. With so many great initiatives underway, we are eager to build on this strong ***momentum*** and make the 2026–2027 school year our best one yet. Here's to a wonderful, inspiring year ahead—I wish everyone a fantastic start!

RSU 34

Momentum

The theme we've chosen for our schools is key to reinforcing the identity of RSU 34. Let's work together to make it a reality—in our schools, in our families, and throughout our community.

RSU 34

Our Strategic Plan

The strategic plan is built on four pillars, each with its own vision, rationale, objectives, and action strategies.



Kimm Kenniston awarded the 2025-2026 MADSEC Special Education Administrator Of The Year

Congratulations to Kimm Kenniston, Director of Special Education at RSU 34. Kimm is widely recognized as an exceptional leader in special education whose compassion, expertise, and unwavering commitment to students have made a lasting impact across her district, region, and the state of Maine. Colleagues describe her as a visionary, student-centered administrator who consistently leads with integrity, professionalism, and heart.

With over 30 years in the field, Kimm has become a trusted mentor, advisor, and collaborator, generously sharing her extensive knowledge of special education law, best practices, and student programming with colleagues at all levels of experience. Throughout her career, Kimm has built strong relationships grounded in trust, respect, and advocacy for students and families. She is known for creating safe, collaborative environments where families feel heard, staff feel supported, and students' individual needs remain the central focus of every decision. Her thoughtful leadership, approachable nature, and commitment to continuous learning have strengthened not only her own district, but also the broader special education community through her leadership roles within regional organizations and MADSEC.

Those who have worked alongside Kimm consistently describe her as the person others turn to for guidance, reassurance, and practical solutions. Her mentorship has helped shape and inspire countless administrators, while her dedication to collaboration and professional growth has fostered a strong network of support among special education leaders. Above all, Kimm's work reflects a profound belief in doing what is right for children, making her deeply deserving of recognition as the 2025 - 2026 Special Education Administrator of the Year.

MADSEC thanks and honors Kimm for her unwavering service to the field of special education and her support and dedication to MADSEC. Kimm has been a member of MADSEC since 1997, served on the MADSEC Board for 18 years, holding office from 2016-2020, and served as the 2018-2019 MADSEC President.

RSU 34 School Calendar 2026-2027

August

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31-IS				

September

M	T	W	TH	F
	1-IS	2	3	4
7-H	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22-ER	23	24	25
28	29	30		

October

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9-IS
12-H	13	14	15	16
19	20-ER	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

November

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11-H	12	13
16	17-ER	18	19	20
23	24	25-IS	26-H	27-H
30				

December

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15-ER	16	17	18
21	22	23	24-V	25-H
28-V	29-V	30-V	31-V	

January

M	T	W	TH	F
				1-H
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18-H	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

February

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15-H	16-V	17-V	18-V	19-V
22	23	24	25	26

March

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12-IS
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

April

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19-H	20-V	21-V	22-V	23-V
26	27	28	29	30

May

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18-ER	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31-H				

June

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18-H
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

July

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5-H	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

Important Upcoming Dates

Staff Dates:

- **Staff In-Service Days (No Students): August 31 & September 1, 2026**

Student Dates:

- **Freshman-only half-day: Tuesday, September 1, 8:30 - Noon**
- **First day of school for all students Pre-K - 12: Wednesday, September 2, 2026**

School Hours

Please be on time, *every day*!

- AES . . . . . 8:30 - 2:10
- OTES. . . . . 7:40 - 2:10
- LMS . . . . . 8:35 - 3:05
- OTHS . . . . . 8:30 - 3:00

IS	In-Service Day--No Students
ER	Early Release Day
H	Holiday--No Students
V	School Vacation Day
	First/Last Day of School
	OTHS Graduation--June 11

• Additional days will be added at the end of the school year to adjust for snow days or unexpected school cancellations.
• Parent-Teacher Conferences are in the fall and scheduled on a building-by-building basis.

Happy Birthday, Band Camp!

The Old Town Summer Band Camp celebrated its 30th year with a concert on Friday, July 10.

A total of 126 students in grades 4–12 attended camp Tuesday through Friday, spending their mornings rehearsing and their afternoons enjoying a variety of recreational activities. This year's adventures included a movie at Black Bear Cinemas, a trip to the Beth Pancoe Pool in Bangor, a beach day at Prince Thomas Park in Lincoln, and a cool ice cream treat from Big Rig Creamery. A special thank you goes to the Town of Lincoln for providing lifeguards and a beautiful location for campers to enjoy their final full day together.

One of the unique aspects of our camp is the opportunity for younger students to learn alongside and be mentored by older musicians. These friendships and shared experiences help create lasting memories that campers carry with them for years to come.

Our camp has grown considerably since its beginning in 1997, when approximately 35 fourth- and fifth-grade students attended. Today, the camp welcomes around 130 students in grades 4–12.

During Friday's concert, students performed six musical selections. The program celebrated the camp's 30th anniversary with a theme and variations on "Happy Birthday," included patriotic selections in recognition of our nation's 250th anniversary, and concluded with the Old Town High School school song.

The finale featured a special group of Old Town Summer Band Camp alumni who returned for the concert and were recognized. Two of the alumni attended the very first band camp in 1997, and two had children attending this year's camp. Several alumni also joined the students in performing the school song, making for a memorable conclusion to the celebration.

We are incredibly proud of our students and grateful for the continued support of our community. One of our guiding principles is that no student is ever turned away from band camp due to financial hardship. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors—whose names proudly appear on our camp T-shirts—we are able to reduce the cost of attendance and ensure that every student has the opportunity to participate in this special tradition.

Thank you to our campers, families, alumni, volunteers, sponsors, and directors for making the 30th year of the Old Town Summer Band Camp such a memorable celebration. Here's to many more years of making music together!

















RSU 34 Education Foundation Supports New Instruments for Band Program

Our schools are well-known for their excellent band and jazz programs; many students begin an instrument in 4th grade and continue playing through graduation and into adulthood. We are committed to ensuring every child can fully participate in the program regardless of their family's financial situation.



Several years ago, through a generous donation by Wayne and Becky Smith, the RSU 34 Education Foundation started an endowment to support our music programs. That endowment has grown to the point where distributions can begin buying new instruments for our budding musicians, without using the principal. This flute is the second instrument funded through that long-term investment, a quality student-grade instrument that will serve one of our musicians well for many years to come. Clarinets, flutes, and tubas are currently in the shortest supply as we work to gradually repair and replace instruments from our aging collection.

If you would like to help build our music endowment to support the program forever, please either email Jon.Doty@rsu34.org or use the Venmo link to make a contribution (write "Music Fund" in the subject line).

We look forward to our student musicians tackling their new concert pieces in a few weeks!



A FACT SHEET FOR
Parents

CDC HEADS UP
SAFE BRAIN. STRONGER FUTURE.



What is a concussion?

A concussion is a type of brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. A concussion is caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head. Concussions can also occur from a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. Even what seems to be a mild bump to the head can be serious. Concussions can have a more serious effect on a young, developing brain and need to be addressed correctly.

What are the signs and symptoms of a concussion?

You can't see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after an injury or may not appear or be noticed until hours or days after the injury. It is important to watch for changes in how your child or teen is acting or feeling, if symptoms are getting worse, or if s/he just "doesn't feel right." Most concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

If your child or teen reports one or more of the symptoms of concussion listed below, or if you notice the signs or symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away. Children and teens are among those at greatest risk for concussion.

Signs & Symptoms of a Concussion

Signs Observed by Parents or Guardians

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about events
- Answers questions slowly
- Repeats questions
- Can't recall events *prior* to hit, bump, or fall
- Can't recall events *after* hit, bump, or fall
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Forgets class schedule or assignments

Symptoms Reported by Your Child or Teen

Thinking/Remembering
- Difficulty thinking clearly
- Difficulty concentrating or remembering
- Feeling more slowed down
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy

Physical
- Headache or "pressure" in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Fatigue or feeling tired
- Blurry or double vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Numbness or tingling
- Does not "feel right"

Emotional
- Irritable
- Sad
- More emotional than usual
- Nervous

Sleep*
- Drowsy
- Sleeps *less* than usual
- Sleeps *more* than usual

**Only ask about sleep symptoms if the injury occurred on a prior day.*

To download this fact sheet in Spanish, please visit: www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP. Para obtener una copia electrónica de esta hoja de información en español, por favor visite: www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP
January 2021

Danger Signs

Be alert for symptoms that worsen over time. Your child or teen should be seen in an emergency department right away if she or he has one or more of these danger signs:

- One pupil (the black part in the middle of the eye) larger than the other
- Drowsiness or cannot be awakened
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Slurred speech
- Convulsions or seizures
- Difficulty recognizing people or places
- Increasing confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Unusual behavior
- Loss of consciousness (even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously)

Children and teens with a suspected concussion should NEVER return to sports or recreation activities on the same day the injuried occurred.

They should delay returning to their activities until a healthcare provider experienced in evaluating for concussion says it's OK to return to play. This means, until permitted, not returning to:

- Physical Education (PE) class
- Sports practices or games
- Physical activity at recess

What should I do if my child or teen has a concussion?

1. **Seek medical attention right away.**
   A healthcare provider experienced in evaluating for concussion can determine how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child or teen to return to normal activities, including physical activity and school (concentration and learning activities).
2. **Help them take time to get better.**
   If your child or teen has a concussion, her or his brain needs time to heal. Your child or teen may need to limit activities while s/he is recovering from a concussion. Exercising or activities that involve a lot of concentration, such as studying, working on the computer, or playing video games may cause concussion symptoms (such as headache or tiredness) to reappear or get worse. After a concussion, physical and cognitive activities—such as concentration and learning—should be carefully managed and monitored by a healthcare provider.
3. **Talk to your child or teen about how they are feeling.**
   Your child may feel frustrated, sad, and even angry because s/he cannot return to recreation and sports right away, or cannot keep up with schoolwork. Your child may also feel isolated from peers and social networks. Talk often with your child about these issues and offer your support and encouragement.

To learn more, go to www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP or call 1.800.CDC.INFO
January 2021

How can I help my child return to school safely after a concussion?

Most children can return to school within a few days. Help your child or teen get needed support when returning to school after a concussion. Talk with your child's teachers, school nurse, coach, speech-language pathologist, or counselor about your child's concussion and symptoms.

Your child's or teen's healthcare provider can use CDC's Letter to Schools to provide strategies to help the school set up any needed supports.

As your child's symptoms decrease, the extra help or support can be removed gradually. Children and teens who return to school after a concussion may need to:

- Take rest breaks as needed
- Spend fewer hours at school
- Be given more time to take tests or complete assignments
- Receive help with schoolwork
- Reduce time spent reading, writing, or on the computer
- Sit out of physical activities, such as recess, PE, and sports until approved by a healthcare provider
- Complete fewer assignments
- Avoid noisy and over-stimulating environments

Americans with Disabilities Act Notice

RSU 34 does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. RSU 34 does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices. This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of RSU 34 are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator. This notice is available in large print or audio from the ADA Compliance Coordinator. Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to RSU 34's designated ADA Compliance Coordinator:

Kimm Kenniston
RSU 34
156 Oak Street
Old Town, ME 04468
Phone: Voice: (207) 827-3921 ext 2
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

2nd Graders Spread Cheer and Beauty on Earth Day

By Ms. Robbins

2nd grade classrooms participated in many fun Earth day activities this spring. Mrs. Beaton's class spent time creating beautiful chalk murals on our building's entrance area and outdoor pathways. The other 2nd grade classes headed outside to gather supplies and build fairy houses in the playground area and outdoor classroom areas. Students loved planning and constructing these little houses and tucking them into the woods for the fairies to find. They continued to visit them over the past few weeks to see how they have changed and check to see if any fairies came. 2nd graders also worked wit Mrs. Vafiades to plant seeds for the OTES plant sale and decorate seed packets. Students are preparing for their end-of-year visit to Roger's Farm and the community garden space to learn more about seed dispersal, planting, and how to protect Earth's pollinators.



Ruba and Molly are all smiles working together.



Kelaiah and Rafael worked with Lauren to design theirs.



Delanie, Trinity, and Juniper worked together to build their house.

Basic First Aid Skills for 3rd Graders

By Kristen Doty

Third graders at Old Town Elementary School (OTES) recently had a special visit from the University Volunteer Ambulance Corps (UVAC), bringing important first aid learning right into the classroom.

A team of dedicated volunteers, led by Adam Hannula, spent time with all five third grade classes teaching basic first aid skills. Through an engaging slideshow and hands-on demonstrations, students learned how to respond in common injury situations and ways they can help keep themselves and others safe.

One of the highlights of the visit was when each student had the opportunity to build their own first aid kit to take home. This gave students a chance to apply what they learned and be prepared in real-life situations.

Our third graders were attentive, respectful, and eager to learn throughout the experience. They asked thoughtful questions and showed great enthusiasm during the activities.

We are so grateful to the UVAC volunteers for taking the time to share their knowledge and support our students. It was a meaningful and memorable learning experience for everyone involved!



Volunteers show students how to dress a burn.



Students use a checklist to complete their first aid kits



Charlotte adds cotton swabs to her first aid kit

Parental Notice Regarding Physical Restraint and Seclusion 2026-2027

The Board has adopted a policy/procedure JKAA/JKAA-R addressing Restraint and Seclusion of Students. The policy/procedure can be accessed on the district's website at: www.rsu34.org, in school offices, and the Superintendent's Office. Any parent with questions about the policy/procedure should discuss the issue with a building principal, the Special Education Director, or the Superintendent.





Maggie Mitchell, Elementary Principal

Michelle Reesman, Elementary Assistant Principal

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year!

By Maggie Mitchell, Principal

We are excited to welcome all of our students and families to Alton Elementary and Old Town Elementary, two vibrant schools at the heart of our community. Our schools continue to be led by a team of dedicated administrators who strive to create a welcoming, caring, and supportive environment where students are inspired to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. While our leadership team looks a bit different this year, I am proud to continue serving as Elementary Principal, alongside Michelle Reesman, who continues as our Elementary Assistant Principal. Additionally, please join us in welcoming McKenna Canham, our new Early Learning Director. Ms. Canham will be based at AES, where she will support our Pre-K students and focus on delivering high-quality special education services to our youngest learners.

Our district theme for the 2026–2027 school year is Momentum, and we are definitely hitting the ground running! Thanks to several much-needed summer updates, we are ready to support this energy. At AES, we are thrilled to expand our early childhood programming with a third Pre-K classroom. The introduction of district-provided Pre-K special education services has brought state support, allowing us to upgrade classroom furniture, fixtures, and educational supplies both indoors and out. Combined with our highly skilled, passionate early learning team, these updates ensure our youngest students start their RSU 34 journeys with incredible momentum. Meanwhile, OTES is building continuity and bringing research-based practices to the classroom as we enter year two of the Stepping Stones math program and launch year one of the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) literacy curriculum. We also have installed new entry and community doors, an updated sound system for the gym and cafeteria, including for events and performances, and have two brand new playgrounds for active, fun, and safe play in the K-2 grade span. Across the schools, our focus remains on keeping our schools safe and supportive by practicing shared behavior expectations and positive reinforcement. Our staff will spend the year focused on emotional regulation to better weave these supportive practices into everything we do. There is a real sense of Momentum in our halls as we kick off the year!

As we prepare for the first day of school on Wednesday, September 2nd, we want to make sure your family feels ready. By now, you should have received a welcome letter, a teacher introduction letter, and a supply list. If you haven't received them, or have any remaining questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

To stay connected throughout the year, bookmark our website www.rsu34.org, follow us on Facebook at RSU 34 AES or RSU 34 OTES, watch your email inbox for important information including our weekly Family Update, and check your student's backpack regularly. We use multiple communication platforms to help you stay informed and involved, and we always welcome your questions, concerns, or feedback. Please reach out to us by phone, email, or stop by in person.

To both our new and returning families, welcome to the new school year! We are proud of our dedicated staff and their commitment to helping every student grow into a kind, hardworking individual. We look forward to partnering with you to ensure a successful, inspiring, and rewarding year ahead!

Forest Fridays in Kindergarten

Our kindergarten students head into the forest once a week for Forest Friday, where they explore, play, and learn in nature. This spring, students have been busy building forts, climbing, and enjoying the mud kitchen. They also take time for nature journaling and walks, discovering all the exciting changes the new season has to offer.



Jolene and Jamo



Cole



Ethan, Bradley, Otto, and Lirriel



Georgia, Arianna

Author Visit With Lynn Plourde

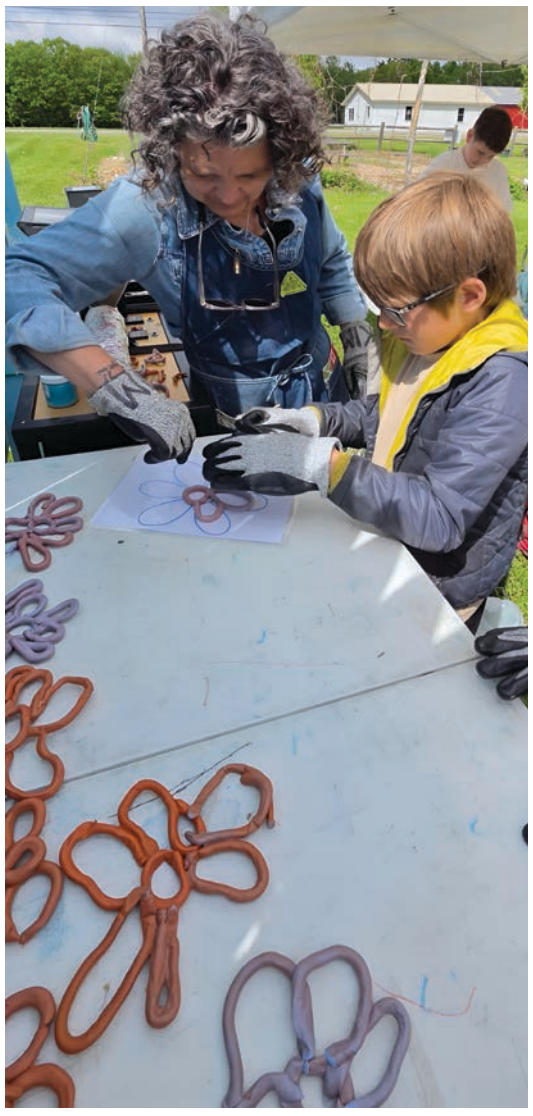
Students enjoyed their visit with Lynn Plourde on April 14th. Fifth graders were able to talk about her book Maxi's Secrets; fourth graders learned what inspired Lynn to write Bionic Boy; and our younger students learned some sign language to go along with her book Go Grandma, Go! Second- and third-grade students were able to write with Lynn and planned an entire story that they were able to act out with her. Our time with Lynn was so much fun!



Artist Kim Bernard Works With 4th Grade Students

Fourth graders worked with Maine artist Kim Bernard at UMaine's Rogers Farm to create recycled plastic art that was installed there this spring! Students went in groups to the farm to work with her and also took some time to plant potatoes for fall harvesting!





ABC Countdown!

Each year, the kindergarten students at OTES spend the last 26 days of kindergarten participating in an ABC countdown. The days are filled with alphabet-themed activities to review and wrap up the year in an engaging and fun way. The countdown begins with Airplane design and ends with Zipping up your backpack to zoom off for summer vacation! In the middle - bubbles, insects, lemonade taste tests, pushes and pulls, ramps, and even a visit from the Old Town Fire Department on "Ss" Day to help us make our own s'mores. These activities and so many more help to fill the days and keep all students happy and learning until the last day of school. This is a favorite tradition for both kindergarten students and teachers!



Elliott and Evangeline using ramps on Rr day



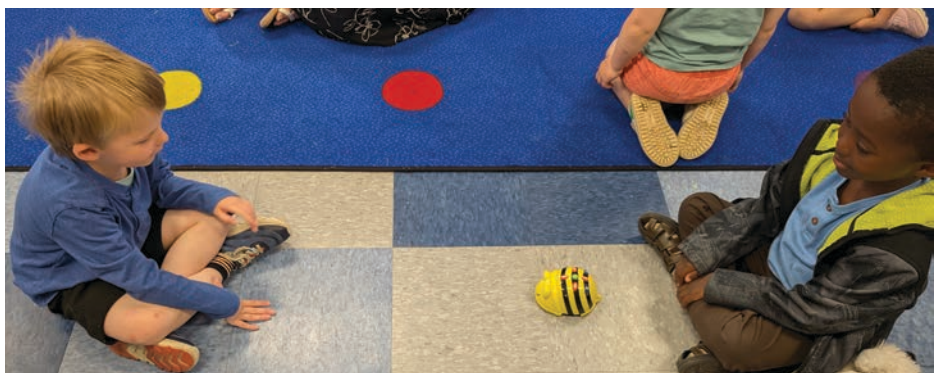
Kolton, Arianna, and Brayden playing hopscotch on Hh day



Pre-K Is So Much Fun!

By Marion Talon

Pre-K is filled with so many first experiences and questions: What does school look like? What do we do in school? Will I make friends? Will I like hot lunch? Is the playground exciting? And who will take care of me? The questions are answered as the school year progresses and the experiences keep coming to make their days at school complete. The one thing that happens right away and continues is that pre-K is fun. There are lots of chances to laugh, play, and learn together. It does not take long before a classroom of children becomes a family of friends. I will miss my family of children from the pre-K class of 2025-2026 very much, and I will welcome a new group of students who will be a new family for the next year. Some fun photos from last year's friends, including an experience with BEE BOTS thanks to Sandy Daniel, and a messy time with shaving cream to end our school year. Here's to a new year of fun in pre-K.











Alton Elementary School Prepping for Pre-K Upgrades

Pre-K is increasing to three classrooms next year and adding a Director of Early Childhood, McKenna Canham. AES will be welcoming 4-year-olds that would have previously been served through the state of Maine's Child Development Services (CDS). The three Pre-K teachers are Darlene Ploch, Bethany Bilodeau, and Marion Talon. There will be a Pre-K screening session on August 19th and a Pre-K Open House on August 31st from 4 - 6 p.m.



Renovations at OTES

Students and staff may leave on June 15th, but OTES has been buzzing with activity after the halls and grounds cleared out! The OTES K-2 Playground is getting a much-needed overhaul after 22 years in service! The front and back doors, as well as the three sets of fire doors, have all been replaced and are functioning much better than their predecessors. And after gracing the gym and cafeteria for nearly a quarter of a century, the sound system has been replaced with a much more productive system that will continue to spread the sound of music far and wide in our school!

The Snapping Turtle Returns!

Our annual Snapping Turtle friend returned this spring! We block off the area, giving students and visitors the opportunity to quietly watch her. The students had fun checking her out as she was laying her eggs!



Congratulations, Class of 2026!!

Former Alton Elementary, OTES, and Viola Rand students came to walk the halls as students and staff clapped and cheered for them. They visited classrooms, staff, the playground, and former teachers. They also shared great memories made at their old elementary schools!







Honoring Retiring Staff

RSU 34 Elementary schools honored our retiring staff members at our last-day-of-school assembly. Staff received their retirement Adirondack and a brick in their honor to be installed at the OTHS track. Retiring this year are Elaine LaFrance (38 years of service to RSU34), Chris Comeau (30 years of service), Cathy Stoup (29 years of service), and Ethel Hill (8 years of service).











Students Recognized in Osher Map Library Mapmaking Contest

Several OTES Grade 4 and Grade 5 students chose to participate in the University of Maine Osher Map Library's annual Mapmaking Contest, where creativity, originality, and cartographic skills are celebrated. Students designed and illustrated their own original maps, depicting either real or imaginary places while following specific contest guidelines.

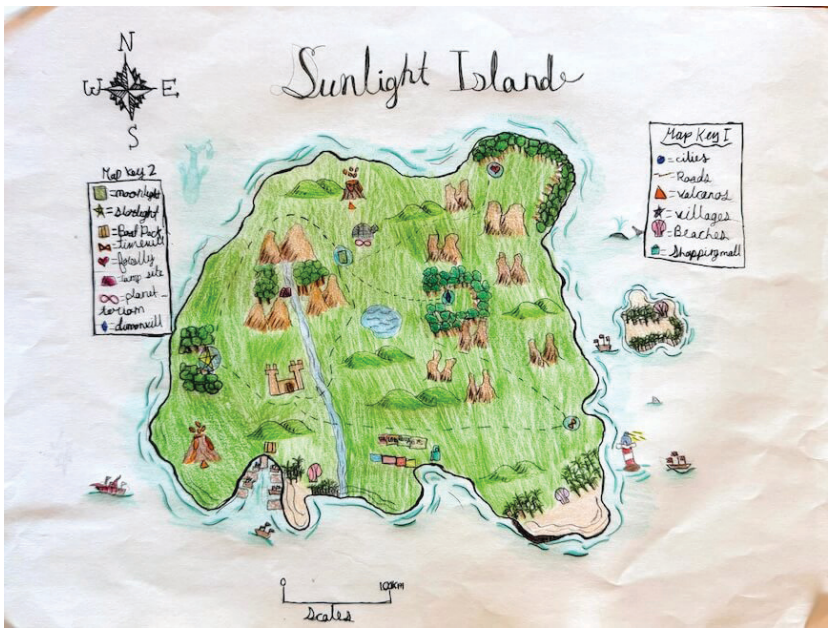
We are proud to announce that five OTES students received recognition for their outstanding entries. Their imaginative work showcased artistic talent, attention to detail, and creative thinking.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated and to our five recognized mapmakers for representing OTES with creativity and excellence!

Third Place - Emma Ruimy received $150, as well as $150 for her Grade 5 classroom.

Top Twelve - Lilly Reinzo, Grade 4, and Daniela Avile Morillo

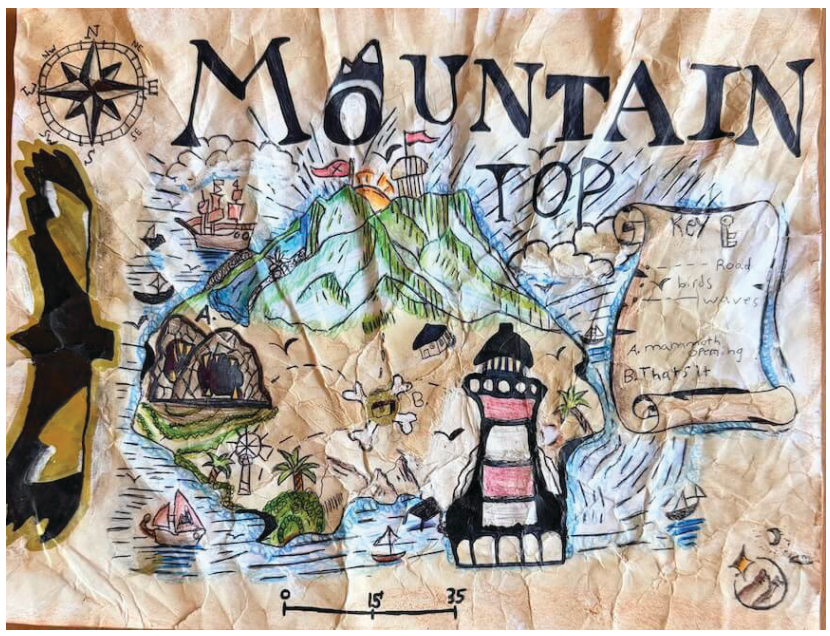
Honorable Mention- Nora Borja-Buck, Grade 5, and Griffin York, Grade 5



Daniela Aviles Morillo map



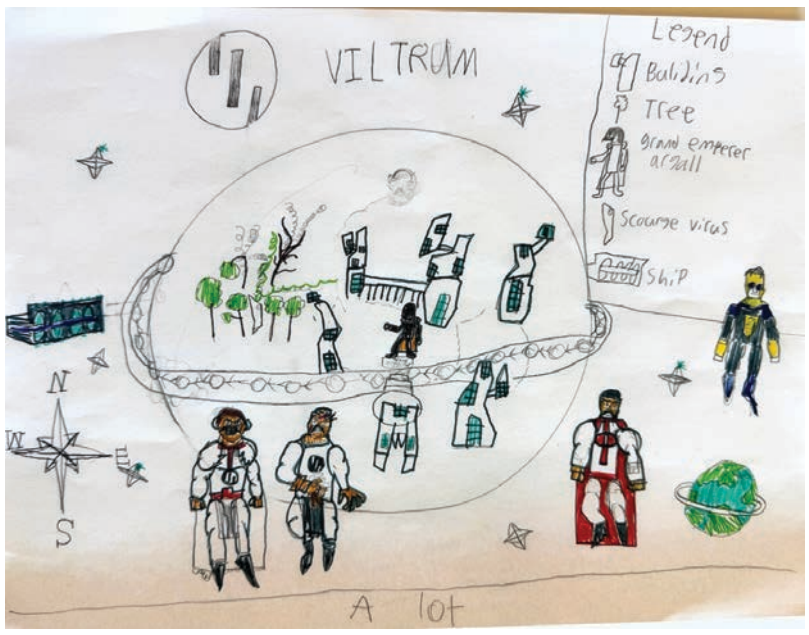
Lilly Reinzo Map



Emma Ruimy Map



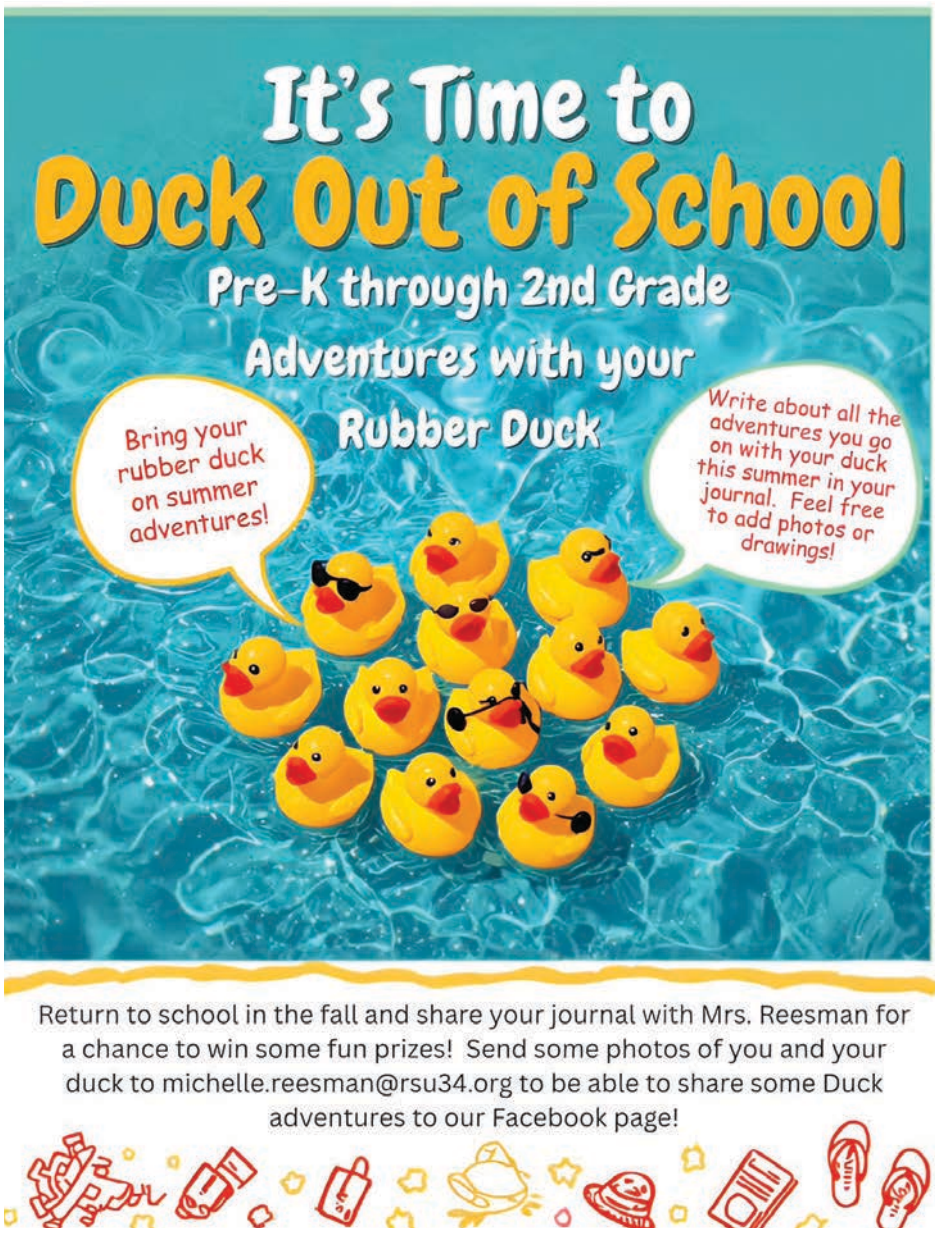
Nora Borja-Buck map



Griffin York Map

Lucky Ducks This Summer

Pre-K to 2nd grade students have a fun challenge this summer…to document adventures they take their Rubber Duck on! Students took home a duck and accessories along with a blank journal and colored pencils. Their task…draw or paste pictures of places they and their Duck go during the summer. They're encouraged to return their journal to school in the fall to show Mrs. Reesman for chances to win some fun duck surprises! Teachers also took ducks on their summer vacation and are taking them all over the place this summer!





Lucky Duck in Nashville with Mrs Henry and family



Lucky Duck at LMS

Theatre Set Design After-School Club

For three weeks in April, Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Gasaway hosted a set design after-school club for a small group of third-grade students. The set was designed for the fifth grade production of Annie the Musical. Students studied 1930s artwork and used those as inspiration to create original art for the musical's mansion scenes. They also helped paint a New York City taxi, two large mansion windows, an Annie sign, and bricks and windows for the orphanage scenes. Mrs. Palmer recruited two OTES alumni to help put the final touches on the set during April vacation. Thank you to all who helped!





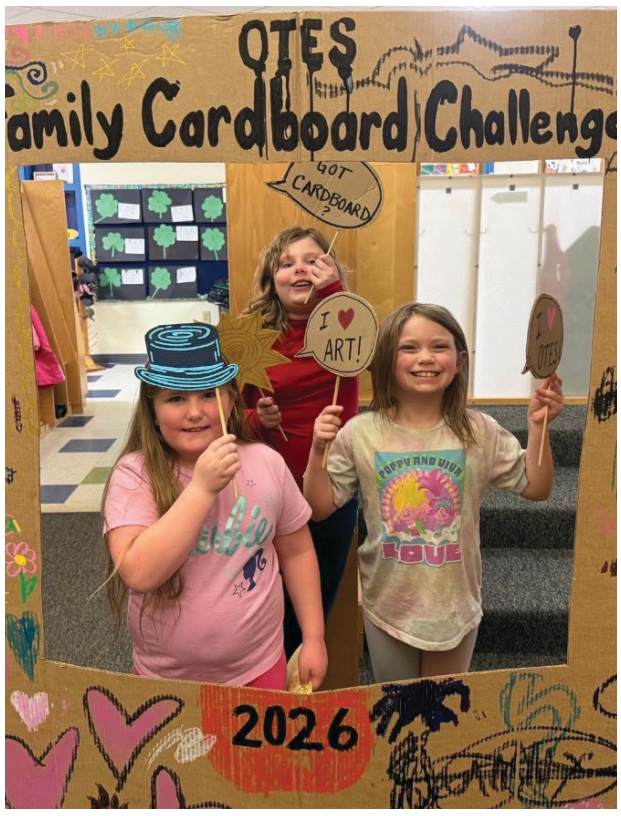


Family STEAM Night at OTES

STEAM Night brought our school community together for an evening of hands-on learning, creativity, and collaboration. Community partners, including many presenters from the University of Maine and the Mainely Physics Roadshow, joined staff and students to offer engaging, real-world learning experiences. These experiences included interactive physics demonstrations and wildlife education, as well as financial literacy and astronomy. Families also explored an immersive science experience with Within the Whale, stepping inside a life-size humpback whale to learn about marine ecosystems and conservation with educator Jessica Woodend. Families also had the opportunity to felt together, creating a collaborative piece of artwork that will be proudly displayed on the school wall.

A highlight of the evening was the leadership of our students- high school, middle school, and elementary students working alongside teachers to design and run engaging STEAM stations. From robotics, Makey Makey, and internet safety to a cardboard challenge design, math challenges, and art activities, there was something for everyone. The Americans Who Tell the Truth display added a meaningful layer, with middle school students introducing portraits and encouraging reflection on courage and voice. STEAM Night truly reflected the strength of our school community and the power of learning together.

















Pre-K Students Celebrate a Year of Learning, Friendship, and Fun

The end of the school year was filled with memorable experiences for Alton Elementary School's Pre-K students as they celebrated a year of learning, growth, and friendship through a variety of engaging activities.

One of the highlights was a delightful Teddy Bear Picnic, where students enjoyed an outdoor lunch alongside their favorite stuffed animals. Filled with smiles, laughter, and plenty of imagination, the picnic created lasting memories for students and staff alike.

Students also celebrated during the school's Field Day and End-of-Year Celebration. The children participated in fun games, enjoyed a cookout, and had the opportunity to spend time with the Alton firefighters. The celebration concluded with songs, certificates recognizing each student's accomplishments, and delicious ice cream sundaes a sweet ending to a wonderful year.

Throughout the year, Pre-K students enthusiastically participated in the Mileage Club program, building healthy habits through exercise, monthly events, and active games. As they reached milestones, students earned tokens to add to their Mileage Club rings. The program concluded with a fun-filled Mileage Club Marathon, where each child received a certificate, a water bottle, and their completed token ring to celebrate their dedication and achievements.

Science also came alive in the classroom as students observed the life cycles of butterflies and ladybugs. Watching the tiny creatures grow and transform sparked excitement and curiosity, and students were thrilled to release the butterflies and ladybugs into their natural environment to begin their new lives.

In cooking class, students put their creativity to work by making colorful watermelon pizzas, combining healthy ingredients with hands-on learning and plenty of smiles.

From outdoor adventures and scientific discoveries to healthy living and joyful celebrations, Alton Elementary's Pre-K students wrapped up the school year with unforgettable experiences that celebrated not only what they learned, but also the friendships they built along the way.









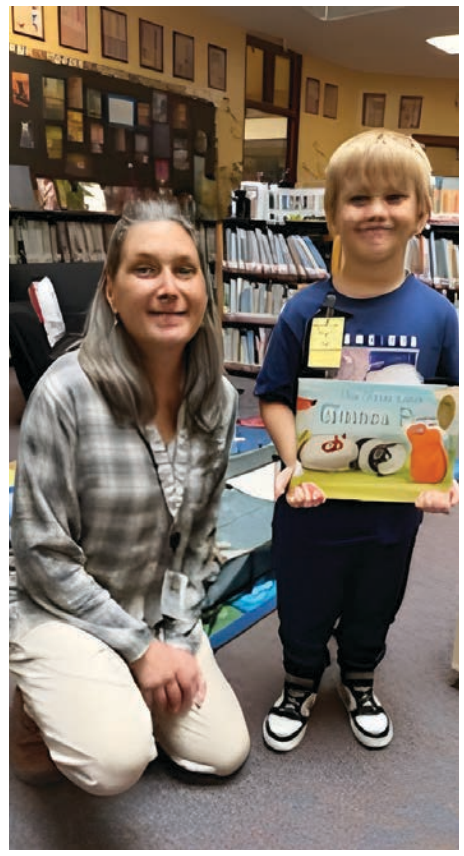




Librarian for the Afternoon

Maverick Hogan and Brynn Marden were the winners of the online auction to be librarians for the afternoon. Maverick and Brynn helped us check books in, organize books on a bookshelf, and helped with library lessons. They also helped students find books, learned how to use the computer to check out books, and passed out materials at the end of library classes. Both Maverick and Brynn were excellent afternoon librarians!





Welcome Back to Leonard Middle School!

By Dr. Jeanna Tuell, LMS Principal

As we prepare to welcome students and families back to Leonard Middle School, I find myself reflecting on the incredible progress we made together last year. Through a shared commitment to academic growth, positive school culture, and student success, our students achieved meaningful gains in the classroom, demonstrated growth in their behavior and engagement, and strengthened our school community in countless ways. Those accomplishments did not happen by accident—they were the result of hard-working staff members, strong partnerships with families, and a belief that every student can succeed. As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, we are excited to build upon that momentum and continue moving Leonard Middle School forward by focusing on the priorities that matter most for our students and families.

Attendance Matters

One of our primary goals this year is to improve student attendance. Last year, we saw firsthand the connection between attendance and academic success. Students who are consistently present have more opportunities to learn, build relationships, and participate in the many experiences that make middle school special.

Throughout the year, we will share attendance information with families, celebrate strong attendance, and work closely with students who may need additional support. Our goal is to ensure that every student is present, engaged, and ready to learn each day.

Continuing Our Academic Growth

Last year's LEVEL UP initiative helped our students achieve impressive academic growth in reading and mathematics. This year, we will launch a new schoolwide campaign focused on helping students take ownership of their learning, set goals, and celebrate growth.

We want every student to understand their progress, recognize their strengths, and continue striving toward their personal best. Our teachers will continue using student data to guide instruction and provide support when needed so that all learners can be successful.

Building a Positive School Culture

Our HOWL Pack Values—Have Respect, Own Your Actions, Work Hard, and Lift Others Up—remain at the heart of everything we do at LMS.

Through our PBIS program, students will continue to be recognized for positive behavior, leadership, and contributions to our school community. We are proud that behavior referrals have continued to decline, and we will work to strengthen expectations and accountability while providing fun opportunities for students to celebrate their success through events, activities, and school-wide experiences.

Strengthening Family Partnerships

We know that strong schools are built through strong partnerships between families and educators. This year, we are committed to creating more opportunities for families to engage with our school community.

In addition to our regular newsletters, social media updates, and direct communication, we will be offering a Parent Series during the fall, winter, and spring. These events will provide opportunities to learn, ask questions, and connect with both school staff and other families. We will also continue seeking your feedback to help us improve and better serve our students.

Looking Ahead

Middle school is a time of tremendous growth, discovery, and opportunity. We are excited to partner with you to ensure that every student feels connected, challenged, supported, and successful at Leonard Middle School.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and school community. We look forward to a fantastic year together.

Building Connections Through Camp Kieve

by Mrs. Cyr, 7th grade Science Teacher

At the end of May, our 7th grade students had the opportunity to participate in Camp Kieve's Outreach Program. Throughout the day, Camp Kieve educators led engaging social-emotional learning activities focused on self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. The fun, interactive experiences encouraged students to step outside their usual social circles, collaborate with classmates they may not typically work with, and build meaningful connections. It was a memorable day that made a positive and lasting impact on our students.

Camp Kieve's commitment to Maine students continues to make a difference across the state. For the 2026–2027 school year, the organization will work with students and educators in more than 12 Maine counties, reaching over 4,000 students and teachers through more than 70 Outdoor School programs.

In addition to the Outreach Program our students experienced this spring, Camp Kieve's Outdoor School offers an immersive two-day learning experience at camp. Students participate in curriculum-based activities while developing teamwork, leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills. They also experience Camp Kieve's world-class challenge courses.













Through Camp Kieve's philosophy of "challenge by choice," students are encouraged to step outside their comfort zones at their own pace while learning to become supportive, resilient, and effective members of a team. On the High Elements, whether on the outdoor high-ropes course or indoor rock-climbing wall, students practice recognizing their own boundaries, respecting the boundaries of others, and making responsible decisions in real-life situations. On the Low Elements, students work together on cables and wooden structures no more than two feet off the ground, relying on critical thinking, communication, and collaboration to accomplish group challenges.

Our goal is to provide next year's 7th grade class with the opportunity to attend Camp Kieve's Outdoor School. We have applied for scholarships to help make this experience possible, but additional fundraising will be needed. We will be participating in Riverfest and welcome any donations to help support our 7th grade students as they work toward this incredible learning opportunity. Every contribution brings us one step closer to giving our students an experience they will remember for years to come.

Leonard Middle School Students Shine Through Special Olympics Participation



Team LMS at the Special Olympics

This school year, Leonard Middle School students had the opportunity to participate in one of the most inspiring and meaningful programs available to young people—the Special Olympics. Through their involvement, our students demonstrated courage, perseverance, sportsmanship, and a commitment to personal growth that made our entire school community proud.

The Special Olympics is about much more than competition. It provides athletes with opportunities to develop confidence, build friendships, improve physical fitness, and experience the joy that comes from setting goals and achieving them. Throughout the year, our students trained, practiced, and prepared for events while learning valuable lessons about dedication, teamwork, and resilience.

The success of our Special Olympics program would not have been possible without the support of our staff, families, volunteers, and community partners. We are grateful to everyone who helped provide encouragement, transportation, coaching, and countless hours of support throughout the season. Their dedication helped create meaningful experiences and lasting memories for our students.

At Leonard Middle School, we believe every student deserves opportunities to belong, participate, and succeed. Our involvement in Special Olympics reflects our commitment to creating an inclusive school community where all students are valued and celebrated for their unique abilities.

We congratulate all of our athletes on a fantastic year and thank them for inspiring us with their effort, determination, and sportsmanship. They truly exemplify what it means to work hard, lift others up, and take pride in representing Leonard Middle School.

Child Find Information

RSU 34 seeks to ensure that all children within its jurisdiction are identified, located and evaluated who are school-age 4 and under the age of 22 and who are in need of special education and supportive assistance -- including homeless children, state wards, state agency clients, students who have been suspended or expelled, children attending private schools or receiving home instruction, children incarcerated in county jails, children who have the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences or 7 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year, highly mobile children (including migrant or homeless), and children who are suspected of being disabled and in need of special education and supportive assistance even though they are advancing from grade to grade. RSU 34 is responsible for Child Find for resident students attending private or public schools through public tuition payments or public contract and shall meet this duty either through appropriate arrangements with the receiving unit or school or through direct child find services by unit personnel or contracted personnel. RSU 34's Child Find responsibility shall be accomplished through a unit-wide process which, while not a definitive or final judgment of a student's capabilities or disability, is a possible indicator of special education needs. Final identification of students with disabilities and programming for such students occurs only after an appropriate evaluation and a determination by the IEP Team. RSU 34 shall provide Child Find during the first 30 days of the school year or during the first 30 days of enrollment for transfer children, in addition to other Child Find activities provided by the school unit. This Child Find process shall include obtaining data on each child through multiple measures, direct assessment, and parent information regarding the child's academic and functional performance, gross and fine motor skills, receptive and expressive language skills, vision, hearing, and cognitive skills. RSU 34 may schedule child find activities during its annual PreK/kindergarten enrollment to assist in planning for necessary special education and related services at the start of the school year. If screening occurs in the spring prior to school entry, RSU 34 will refer the child to the regional CDS site within 10 school days. If the Child Find process indicates that a student may require special education and supportive services in order to benefit from regular education, the student shall be referred to the IEP Team to determine the student's eligibility for special education services. School staff, parents, or agency representatives or other individuals with knowledge of the child may refer children to the IEP team if they believe that the student, because of a disability, may be in need of special education and supportive services in order to benefit from regular education. Such a referral should follow the RSU 34's pre-referral and referral policy.

Section 504 Child Find Notice: Children eligible for Section 504 Accommodations or services include those children who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.

If you suspect your child has a disability and may need special education services or 504 Accommodations, or if you would like additional information, please contact your child's teacher or call the District's Special Education Director, Kimm Kenniston, at (207)827-3921.

Annual Integrated Pest Management Notice: Pest Control

Because pesticides pose risks, the school uses an alternative approach rather than simply applying pesticides. Control of insects, rodents, and weeds at our schools focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed. Through maintenance and cleaning, we will reduce or eliminate available food and water sources and hiding places for the pests. We will also routinely monitor the school area to detect pest problems and prevent the pests from becoming established. Some techniques we will use include pest monitoring, sanitation, pest exclusion, proper food storage, pest removal and – as a last resort – pesticides. This holistic approach is often called Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Pesticide Use: Sometimes pesticide use may be necessary to control a pest problem. When that happens, the school will use the lowest risk products available. If higher-risk pesticides must be used, notices will be posted at application sites, and parents, guardians, and staff have a right to know.

Your Right to Know: Parents, legal guardians, and school staff will be notified of specific pesticide applications made at the school. Notification will be given at least five days before planned pesticide applications during the regular school year. In addition, for pesticides applied anytime during the year, notices will also be posted in the school and on school grounds two working days before and until 48 hours after the application. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law to pose little to no risk of exposure to children and staff.

The school also keeps records of prior pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used. You may review these records, a copy of the School's Integrated Pest Management Policy, and the Pesticides in Schools regulation (CMR 01-026 Chapter 27) by contacting our IPM coordinator, Brent Fournier, at 827-3902. If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Cyr, Superintendent of Schools. For further information about pests, pesticides, and your right to know, call the Board of Pesticides Control at 207-287-2731 or visit the Maine School IPM website at www. thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm. Your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. The Maine Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination because of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, religion, ancestry, or national origin. Complaints of discrimination must be filed at the office of the Maine Human Rights Commission, 51 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0051. If you wish to file a discrimination complaint electronically, visit the Human Rights Commission website at https://www.maine.gov/mhrc/file/instructions and complete the intake questionnaire. Maine is an equal opportunity provider.

Lacadie Field

The Lacadie Field sign near the baseball backstop at Leonard Middle School was in rough shape and needed to be replaced. Thanks to the passion and support of Rick Lacadie, a new sign was installed (as shown in the photo). With the help of Old Town City Hall, the dedication story published in The Old Town-Orono Times on April 30, 1992, was found (article written by Scott Hammond):



Lacadie Field dedication to be on May 6 (1992)

By Scott Hammond

According to a letter to the Parks and Recreation Department from The City Council Chairman Walt Huffman, "A forty year dream became a reality in 1986 when the Perkins Avenue recreational area, and adjacent field, came close to completion." Formerly a veritable swamp, the field was finally in usable condition for the people of Old Town, primarily the young ones.

On May 6, at approximately 3:10 p.m., the athletic field complex that extends from the recreational area on Perkins Avenue, to the softball field on Oak Street, will be officially dedicated as the Richard (Dick) Lacadie (Memorial) Field, or Lacadie Field.

Bryce Grindle, the principal of the middle school relates that the entire 14 acre parcel of land, including property on which Leonard Middle School is built, was donated to the City of Old Town in 1963 by Herbert Sargent, and appropriately, many long time residents know of the softball field area as Sargent Field.

The field in its present condition is the result of the love, vision, and relentless effort of Richard Lacadie, a resident of Seventh Street and long time employee of the city of Old Town, and cooperation and effort from the city's Recreation Department, the School Department, and others.

Lacadie was the Director of Public Works for the better part of 22 years, and living next to the field, right beside "The path" to what is now Leonard Middle School, Lacadie was well aware of both the condition and the potential for that land.

"Someday," Lacadie is quoted by his daughter Sharon Dupuis, "I would like to be able to plant roses on this land." That was at a time when she described the land as a pitiless swamp. The only inhabitants who appreciated it at that time were various large rodents who were not welcomed anywhere else.

His grandson, Adam Dupuis of Old Town says, "He always saw the land as an eyesore, and wanted to see it become a place where kids could play. And he did something about it."

With his persistance, and various efforts, donations, and cooperation from others, the swamp has been transformed.

There weren't many projects going on in the area that Lacadie let slide by without getting something for the field. He would barter for fill whenever anyone was digging new construction, and haul the fill to the field.

James River agreed to send a considerable amount of fill to the field, as did the University of Maine and others. In most cases that fill begged and bartered by Lacadie. His family says that the field as it is now, is the product of over 2400 hours of labor, spread out over "5 to 10 years".

Even the Army National Guard was procured to level the field as one of their summer projects. Then, in 1987 the School Department and the Recreation Department began work on the finishing work of the field.

Frank Commeau, the Director of the Recreation Department, and Ray Paradis of the School Department both were instrumental in finishing the actual baseball and soccer fields. H. E. Sargent donated equipment and labor toward that end, and even the Leonard Middle School Student Council funded the backstop for the baseball field.

But, it was Lacadie's dream that began the transformation of the land into what it is today. "Even after he retired you could find him out on the field four hour after hour, day after day, driving one of the town trucks dragging a screen to level off the land," said his daughter.

"The first time they had a soccer game," she added, "I just happened to pop in to his house, and he was there with his elbows on the table, his hands to his eyes, and tears running down his cheeks." He had the chance to see his dream right before his eyes.

Lacadie died in October of 1990, and as of next week, the field will officially bear his name. His many descendants (7 children and 17 grandchildren), and other children of Old Town will benefit from the work of a man who relentlessly pursued the dream.



…en grandchildren pictured above. Front Row L to R: Angela Brown, Corey Lacadie, …rown, Arlene Lacadie, Diane Lacadie, Dickie Lacadie. Back Row L to R: Richard …ald Lacadie, Jody Dupuis, Derek Lacadie, Stephanie Lacadie, Andrea Brown, Dana Rex Dupuis. (Photo by Monty Rand)

7th Grade Career Exploration at Black Bear Cinemas

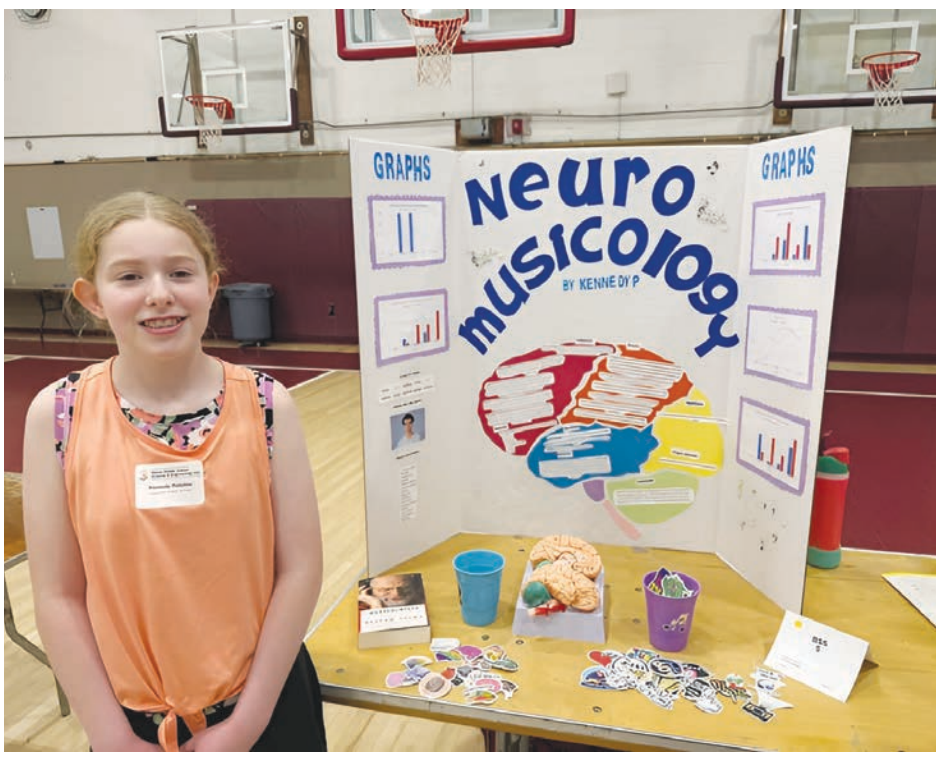


Our 7th-grade students had the opportunity to visit Black Bear Cinemas this spring and enjoy a showing of *Free Willy!* While the movie was certainly a highlight, the experience also provided students with a valuable opportunity to learn from local business leaders about future career opportunities and the skills employers look for when hiring team members.

Students heard first hand about the importance of communication, responsibility, teamwork, and a strong work ethic—skills that are essential for success both in school and in the workplace.

A special thank you to Rotary Club leaders Scott Boucher and Corina Larsen, and Black Bear Cinemas co-owner Zach Hussey for graciously hosting our students and sharing their time, experiences, and insights. Community partnerships like these help our students connect classroom learning to future opportunities and inspire them to think about the many pathways available to them after graduation.

Maine State Science Fair Participant



Kennedy Pelletier showcases her Science Project at the Maine Science Fair this spring

LMS Music "Choose Joy"

When the Leonard Middle School Symphonic Band played a piece of music called "Choose Joy", they took the opportunity to spread a little joy of their own. Each student wrote a letter to someone in their life who brings them joy. Each letter recipient was invited to the concert, but not told which student wrote their letter. Several students shared their letters aloud, then each member of the band left their seat and delivered their letter to their person in the audience just before performing the piece. It was a very powerful experience for both the students and the recipients of the letters.









Because Music Matters

A group of musicians from Leonard Middle School and Old Town High School participated in a yearlong service-learning project entitled "Because Music Matters." The students learned and performed a piece of music written about Lowell Mason, the founder of public school music education. They had the piece professionally recorded and invited music educators, current and retired, from all over the state to join them. They also invited alumni musicians from Old Town High School and the entire RSU 34 music department. With the recording, they created a video to share with the public to both advocate for the importance of music education and raise money to make a donation to the Lowell Mason House Music Center in Massachusetts.







Achievement Hall of Fame



Above from left to right: Andrea Hester, TJ Smart, Troy Randall, Casey Clark, Mary Nadeau, Trina Avila (not pictured but inducted, Kristy Thurston). Photo Credit: Emma Sirois



Andrea Stanley Hester

Writer, editor, and nonprofit/community leader focused on international affairs and civic engagement.

Early Life and Education

Andrea Hester graduated from Old Town High School in 1985 before attending Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, along with two of her OTHS classmates and friends, Troy Jordan and John Orcutt. At Tufts, Andrea studied modern European history and French language. During her junior year, she spent a semester at Westfield College at the University of London studying British history and architecture. While in Europe, she also visited her lifelong friend Lisbeth Nielsen, who had been an exchange student at Old Town High School from Esbjerg, Denmark. Andrea graduated from Tufts in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts in History, cum laude.

Early Career & European Travel

While deciding whether to pursue law school or library science, Andrea accepted a position at the Harvard Law Library. After a year, she realized she wanted a different direction and spent a summer traveling across Europe, backpacking with a Scottish friend through Belgium, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Monaco, and Switzerland.

Career at Harvard University

Upon returning to the United States, Andrea began working as a staff assistant in the Office of the President at Harvard University. She remained there for eight years, eventually becoming Senior Editor/Writer for Harvard President Neil Rudenstine. In that role, she drafted more than 200 pieces of correspondence each month and edited speeches, reports, and other written materials produced by the President's Office and occasionally the Office of the Provost.

Looking for a more interactive role, Andrea later joined Harvard's Office of the University Marshal, the university's chief protocol office responsible for official ceremonies and large events such as Commencement. There she served as Coordinator of the International Visitors Program. Each year the U.S. State Department organizes delegations of emerging international leaders to visit the United States, and Harvard was often a key stop on those tours. Andrea coordinated these visits and helped organize events welcoming foreign heads of state and notable public figures. One of her favorite memories from this time was chatting with Bono, the lead singer of U2, who served as Harvard's Class Day Speaker in 2001.

Mentorship and Leadership at Harvard

During her time at Harvard, Andrea also served as a Freshman Advisor, helping first-year students navigate their academic schedules and adjust to college life. She was also a Commencement Aide for several years, helping manage the logistics of Harvard's graduation ceremony in Harvard Yard, which hosts nearly 32,000 attendees.

In 2004, Andrea and two colleagues were recognized as Harvard Heroes, an employee recognition award honoring their leadership during a period when the University Marshal position was vacant, and they stepped in to temporarily fulfill those responsibilities.

Graduate Studies

In 2004, Andrea began taking evening courses through the Harvard University Extension School. She completed her Master of Liberal Arts (ALM) degree in Government in 2008. Her thesis examined homegrown terrorism in the United Kingdom.

Family and Return to Maine

Around this time, Andrea met her future husband, Chris Hester. The couple recently celebrated their twentieth wedding anniversary. In 2006, they moved to North Yarmouth, Maine, where they raised their two daughters, Lauren and Caroline. Lauren is currently a sophomore at the University of Vermont, and Caroline is finishing her senior year at Greely High School.

Civic Engagement and Community Leadership

Since returning to Maine, Andrea has been actively involved in civic and nonprofit organizations. She has been a longtime member of the World Affairs Council of Maine, eventually serving on its board of directors and later as president. For many years, she organized and served as head judge for Academic WorldQuest, a competition that challenges high school students on their knowledge of international affairs, world history, geography, and current events.

Andrea currently serves on the board of directors of the Harvard Club of Maine and is the Immediate Past President of that organization. She is also on the board of the Camden Conference, an annual event held at the Camden Opera House that brings together leading foreign policy experts to discuss global issues.

As Deputy Chair of the Community Events Committee, Andrea helps coordinate library talks and book discussions across Maine related to the theme of each year's conference. She has also participated as a speaker, presenting talks on topics such as Brexit and the European Union, right-wing populism in Europe, and media and foreign policy. She occasionally teaches courses on related topics at the senior college at the University of Southern Maine.

Rediscovering a Love for Theater

More recently, Andrea has rediscovered her passion for theater through her daughter Caroline, who has been involved in local musical theater productions for many years. Watching rehearsals and performances reminded Andrea of her own experiences in drama at Old Town High School under the direction of the legendary Rosemary Canney. One of her favorite roles at the time was Eunice from The Carol Burnett Show.



Casey Clark

Aerospace Engineer • Innovator

Early Life in Old Town

Casey Clark grew up in Old Town, Maine, where he graduated from Old Town High School in 2010 and developed a strong interest in science, engineering, and athletics. Known as a dedicated student-athlete, Casey balanced academics and extracurricular activities before pursuing engineering at the University of Maine.

University of Maine Research & NASA Collaboration

While studying electrical engineering at the University of Maine, Casey became involved with the WiSe-Net (Wireless Sensor Networks) Laboratory, a cutting-edge research facility founded by Professor Ali Abedi that focuses on wireless communications, sensor networks, and aerospace applications.

During his graduate studies, Casey helped develop a wireless leak detection system designed to identify air leaks in pressurized spacecraft structures. The system used ultrasonic sensors and advanced signal-processing algorithms to detect the sound signatures created when air escapes into space and determine the leak's location.

NASA selected this technology

and flew it to the International Space Station aboard a cargo mission in 2016. The payload included multiple sensors capable of detecting and triangulating leaks to improve astronaut safety and spacecraft reliability.

Three of these wireless leak detectors were sent to the ISS, and after testing, they were returned to Earth. One of them is now displayed at the University of Maine's planetarium as a reminder of the university's first experiment flown to space.

Aerospace Career at SpaceX

After earning his master's degree in electrical engineering, Casey joined SpaceX, the aerospace company founded by Elon Musk.

At SpaceX, Casey worked as a Ground Segment Engineer, focusing on the global communications infrastructure required to support rocket launches and spacecraft operations. His work included deploying and maintaining worldwide ground stations that connect spacecraft with mission control teams.

These networks supported missions involving the Falcon 9, SpaceX Dragon, and Starship launch systems, as well as the rapidly expanding Starlink satellite network.

Northwood Space

Today, Casey serves as Head of Sites at Northwood Space, where he leads the development and operation of global satellite ground infrastructure. His work focuses on scaling the ground systems needed to support the growing number of satellites used for internet connectivity, Earth observation, artificial intelligence applications, and national security.

Maine Roots and Inspiration

Despite working in a global industry, Casey remains proud of his Old Town roots and often credits the education and opportunities he received in Maine for launching his career in aerospace engineering. His journey—from Old Town High School to research that flew on the International Space Station and work supporting rockets and satellites around the world—demonstrates how students from Maine can contribute to some of the most advanced technological efforts on Earth and beyond.

Casey Clark's story is a powerful example of how curiosity, education, and hard work can take someone from a small hometown to the forefront of the global space industry.



Katrina Avila Munichiello
Writer and Editor

Early Life and Education

Katrina Avila grew up in Old Town, Maine, in a family deeply rooted in service and community. Her family history includes educators, clergy, and small business owners. These strong examples shaped her commitment to meaningful work and giving back.

She graduated from Old Town High School in 1992 before continuing her studies at **Tufts University**, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She later completed a Master of Public Health at **Boston University**, preparing for a career focused on public health and nonprofit service.

Early Career in Public Health and Nonprofits

Katrina spent nearly a decade working in nonprofit administration and development, focusing on organizations that served vulnerable populations. Her early work included time with the HIV/AIDS Bureau at the **Massachusetts Department of Public Health**. She later worked with organizations supporting LGBTQ+ youth, a residential treatment center for adolescent girls, and a public art initiative that connected artists with inner-city youth.

Writing Career and Tea Industry Publications

After becoming a stay-at-home parent, Katrina began writing in her spare time. What started as a personal interest soon developed into professional freelance work. She wrote copy for tea companies, edited a weekly newsletter for the national tea trade association, and served as editor of a monthly retail magazine focused on the tea industry.

Her writing culminated in the publication of her book **A Tea Reader: Living Life One Cup at a Time**, released in 2011 by **Tuttle Publishing**.

Through her work in magazine journalism, she also had the opportunity to report from the White House at an event hosted by **Michelle Obama, Jill Biden**, and **Prince Harry**.

Editorial Work in Media and Publishing

Katrina later joined **America's Test Kitchen** as a copy editor, contributing to the company's well-known publications, including **Cook's Illustrated** and **Cook's Country**, along with numerous cookbooks produced by the organization.

In 2023, she began working for **GBH Educational Foundation** (formerly WGBH) as a Senior Strategic Communications Writer. In this role, she promotes some of public television's most respected programs, including **NOVA, MASTERPIECE, FRONTLINE, American Experience, Antiques Roadshow**, and GBH Kids programming. She also serves on the organization's IDEA Council (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility).

Community Leadership and Volunteer Service

Outside of her professional career, Katrina has remained deeply committed to community service. She has served as:

- President of the Friends of the **JV Fletcher Library**
- Youth soccer coach
- Volunteer manager for a local swim club
- Co-founder and President of **S.T.A.G.E. Crew, Inc**., an organization dedicated to supporting and funding local theater programs for young performers

Family and Life Today

Katrina lives northwest of Boston with her husband and their three children. Through her work in communications, publishing, and community leadership, she continues to honor her family's legacy of service while promoting storytelling, education, and the arts.



Kristy Thurston-Tyler
Physician, Surgeon, and Community Advocate

Kristy Thurston graduated from Old Town High School in 1999. At Old Town High, Kristy stood out as an athlete and scholar. Her reputation for hard work—both on and off the playing field—laid the groundwork for the success she would later achieve in her professional career. As Kristy Thurston-Tyler journeyed through her academic career in RSU 34, her passion for science, health, and helping others began to take shape at an early age. Growing up in the Old Town community, she developed a strong foundation through her local school experience—one that emphasized hard work, curiosity, and a commitment to service.

Following her graduation, Dr. Thurston-Tyler continued her academic journey at Colby College, where she pursued her undergraduate studies in the sciences. She then earned her medical degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, further developing the clinical knowledge and skills that would define her career in medicine.

After medical school, Dr. Thurston-Tyler completed her residency in General Surgery at the University of Connecticut, where she gained extensive hands-on experience in surgical care. She later advanced her training through a specialized fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at the North Shore LIJ Health System, refining her expertise in complex gastrointestinal and colorectal conditions.

Today, Dr. Thurston-Tyler practices with Hartford HealthCare and is affiliated with Hartford Hospital, where she provides advanced surgical care to patients across the region. She is board-certified in Colon and Rectal Surgery and is recognized as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS), reflecting her commitment to excellence in her field.

Dr. Thurston-Tyler specializes in colorectal surgery, with expertise in minimally invasive and robotic procedures, colorectal cancer treatment, inflammatory bowel disease, and other complex gastrointestinal conditions. Her work focuses not only on treating illness, but also on improving the quality of life for her patients through thoughtful, individualized care.

Throughout her career, Dr. Thurston-Tyler has earned a reputation for her compassionate, patient-centered approach. She is known for building strong relationships with those she serves, taking the time to ensure patients understand their conditions and feel confident in their treatment plans.

Despite her professional work in Connecticut, Dr. Thurston-Tyler's connection to Old Town and RSU 34 remains an important part of her story. As a product of the local school system, she serves as an inspiring example of what students from this community can achieve through dedication, perseverance, and a commitment to helping others.

Beyond her clinical work, Dr. Thurston-Tyler is committed to advancing health and wellness through education and community engagement. Her career reflects a belief that healthcare extends beyond the operating room—it is about prevention, awareness, and strengthening communities.

And finally, while her professional accomplishments are significant, those who know Dr. Thurston-Tyler best would agree that her greatest strength lies in her ability to connect with others—bringing compassion, humility, and a genuine care for people into every aspect of her work.



Mary Nadeau
Educational Leader and Former Principal, Nokomis Regional High School

Mary graduated from Old Town High School in the Class of 1981. At Old Town High School, Mary was a standout athlete and student. Her connection with sports and extracurricular activities shaped her educational philosophy, which she brought to her leadership in education.

Mary Nadeau is a highly respected educational leader whose career spans more than three decades of dedicated service to students, staff, and the greater school community at Nokomis Regional High School in Newport, Maine.

Over approximately 33 years at Nokomis, Nadeau served in a variety of impactful roles, including teacher, Director of Guidance, Assistant Principal, and ultimately Principal, a position she held for over 15 years. Her long-standing

commitment to a single school community reflects both her deep connection to Nokomis and her belief in sustained, relationship-driven leadership.

Leadership and Educational Impact

As principal, Nadeau was known for fostering a **student-centered and innovative learning environment**. She played a key role in guiding Nokomis through significant instructional shifts, including the development of:

- **Project-based and interdisciplinary learning models**
- **Student-centered instructional practices focused on voice, choice, and engagement**
- **Career exploration opportunities and real-world learning experiences**

Her leadership emphasized authentic learning—ensuring that students were not just completing coursework, but engaging in meaningful experiences connected to their interests and future pathways.

Nadeau encouraged a culture of collaboration and professional growth among staff, promoting risk-taking in instructional practices and supporting educators in developing innovative approaches to teaching and learning. This mindset helped establish Nokomis as a forward-thinking school focused on both academic rigor and student engagement.

Commitment to School Culture and Student Experience

A hallmark of Nadeau's leadership was her **strong presence in all aspects of school life**. Beyond the classroom, she was deeply involved in extracurricular activities, particularly athletics. As a former coach and avid supporter of student activities, she even participated in school broadcasting programs, working alongside students to cover athletic events and promote school pride.

She consistently emphasized the importance of students being involved beyond academics, believing that participation in activities is essential to a complete high school experience.

Professional Leadership and Recognition

Nadeau's influence extended beyond her own school. She served in several leadership roles at the state and regional levels, including:

- Member and Past President of the Maine Principals' Association Board of Directors
- Northeast Representative on the National Federation of High School Sports Field Hockey Rules Committee
- Member of the Kennebec Consortium for School Administrators

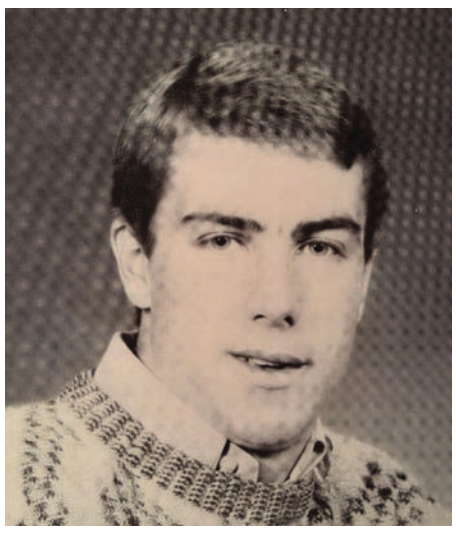
Her excellence in educational leadership has been widely recognized. Notable honors include:

- **Maine Principals' Association Assistant Principal of the Year (2007)**
- **State Champion for Maine (2017)** by the New England Secondary School Consortium and Maine Department of Education

Leadership Philosophy

Nadeau's leadership philosophy centers on relationships, authenticity, and student growth. She has often expressed that the most rewarding part of her role is working daily with students and educators, describing them as "smart, funny, interesting, hardworking, compassionate and kind."

Her work reflects a deep belief that schools should be places where students feel connected, challenged, and inspired—both academically and personally.



Timothy "TJ" Smart

As a graduate of Old Town High School, T.J. Smart began building the foundation for a career defined by service, leadership, and strong community connections. Growing up in Old Town, T.J. developed an early appreciation for the importance of supporting others—values that would later shape both his professional path and his impact across Central Maine.

T.J.'s journey into funeral service began in 1990 at his hometown funeral home, where he quickly discovered a passion for helping families during life's most difficult moments. Under the guidance of respected mentors Calix Baillargeon, Lawrence Kiley, and John Birmingham, he developed the skills, professionalism, and compassion that continue to define his work today.

After Old Town High School, T.J. attended the University of Maine at Orono, where he was a member of the football team, before continuing his studies at the New England Institute at Mount Ida College in Newton, Massachusetts. During his college years, he remained closely connected to his roots, working weekends at Kiley–Birmingham Funeral Home and gaining valuable hands-on experience. These early opportunities reinforced his commitment to both his profession and the communities he serves.

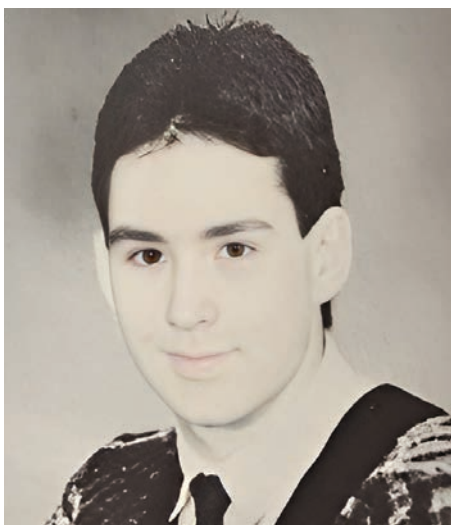
In 1997, T.J. joined Jones, Rich & Barnes Funeral Home in Portland, Maine, beginning what would become a distinguished 22-year career with Service Corporation International (SCI) following its acquisition in 1999. Throughout his tenure, T.J. demonstrated exceptional leadership, serving in a variety of roles including Location Manager, Sales Manager, General Manager, Market Manager, and most recently, Sales Director. For over 15 years, he has been a trusted leader across Central Maine, supporting families and mentoring colleagues with integrity and care.

Building on this extensive experience, T.J. co-founded Milestone Funeral Partners, where he currently serves as Chief Operating Officer. Through this work, he has helped establish a decentralized, locally-led model that honors the traditions and identities of the communities served. Since its first acquisition in October 2021, Milestone has grown to include more than 90 partner locations across New England and New York, with partner firms collectively serving approximately 6,000 families each year.

T.J.'s commitment to service extends well beyond his professional responsibilities. He has been actively involved in Central Maine community initiatives for over 15 years, supporting organizations such as the Mid Maine Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Shine On Cass Foundation, and Hospice Volunteers. In recognition of his contributions, T.J. was honored with the Mid Maine Chamber Distinguished Community Service Award in 2024.

Outside of his professional and community work, T.J. values time with his wife, Kerry, and their children, Hunter and Gabriella. An avid golfer, he also enjoys spending time at their cottage on Messalonskee Lake, where he can appreciate the beauty of Maine and the importance of family.

T.J. Smart's journey from Old Town High School to a respected leader in his field reflects a lifelong commitment to service, growth, and community. His dedication to supporting others and strengthening the communities he serves makes him a most deserving inductee into the Achievement Hall of Fame.



Troy Randall

Co-Founder, Ai3 Architects, LLC

As Troy Randall journeyed through his academic career at Old Town High School, his passion for architecture was sparked at an early age. During his high school years, Troy was actively involved in school life, participating in tennis and basketball. As a key member of the basketball team, he helped lead the 1990–1991 squad to a state championship title. Throughout these experiences, his commitment to pursuing a future in architecture remained constant.

In September of 1991, Troy began his studies at the Boston Architectural College, where he graduated in 1998. During his time there, he earned the Commends Award and was named an alternate for the Edwin T. Steffiana Award for his thesis project, "*Marine Sound Research and Interpretation Facility*." These honors reflected both his creativity and his strong technical foundation in design.

Following graduation, Troy worked for an architecture firm in Newton, Massachusetts. In 1999, he and three classmates—Scott Dunlap, James Jordan, and Daren Sawyer—took an entrepreneurial leap and co-founded Ai3 Architects, LLC. The firm's name reflects a thoughtful concept: "Ai3" represents architectural involution, a mathematical idea of raising something to a higher power. The "cubed" reference symbolizes volume and space—core elements of architectural design.

What began as a four-person firm has grown into a highly respected organization. Now based in Framingham, Massachusetts, Ai3 Architects employs approximately 40 professionals. Over the past 26 years, the firm has focused primarily on the design of educational facilities, completing 111 school projects across Massachusetts and Rhode Island, as well as internationally in Seoul, South Korea.

The scope and impact of Ai3's work are remarkable. The firm has been responsible for designing over 8.8 million square feet of educational space, representing more than $3 billion in project value. Through these efforts, nearly 60,000 students have benefited from thoughtfully designed learning environments that support modern education.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Troy and his wife, Nicole, have invested in and manage several properties in Massachusetts. He has also remained deeply connected to his community, dedicating time as a youth sports coach and actively supporting local programs.

An avid runner, Troy has completed the Boston Marathon three times and has participated in the Beach to Beacon 10K in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

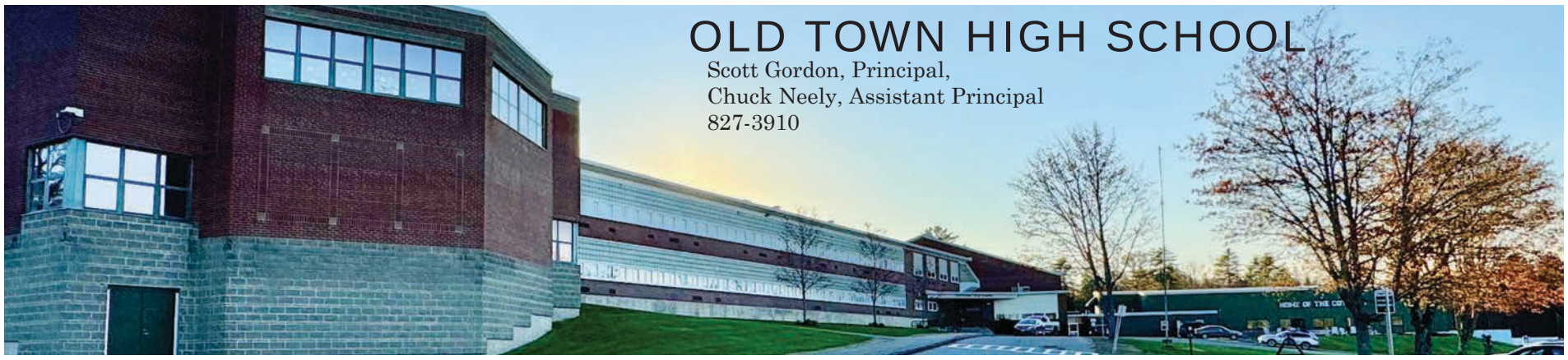
Among his many contributions, Troy is also known for bringing energy and personality to his workplace. When asked about his influence on Ai3's success, his business partners all agreed on one thing:

Troy is well known—and highly respected—for his dancing skills at the annual Ai3 holiday parties.

JD Records Destruction Notice

Regional School Unit 34, Alton, Bradley & Old Town Special Education Record Destruction: Regional School Unit 34 plans to destroy special education records of former students whose birth dates are between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999. Any records prior to 1999 not already posted will also be destroyed.

Former **students** may obtain their records before October 30, 2026. Records not picked up will be destroyed. Proper identification will be required. For more information, please contact the Regional School Unit 34 Special Education Office at (207) 827-3921.



OLD TOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Scott Gordon, Principal,
Chuck Neely, Assistant Principal
827-3910

OTHS Chorus at SCORE

In March, the Old Town High School Chorus joined 200 fellow vocalists for the University of Maine's Secondary Choral OutReach Experience (SCORE). This unique festival offers school choirs the chance to experience the power of a massive 200-piece ensemble with as few barriers as possible.

Students spent the day mastering the Dream Trilogy, composed by Rollo Dilworth and based on the evocative poetry of Langston Hughes.

The ensemble was led by the talented Rebecca DeWan, who guided the students through a day of intensive rehearsal and artistry.

The group participated in a live Zoom session with Dr. Rollo Dilworth himself! He shared his compositional inspirations and took time to answer questions from the high schoolers.

The festival concluded with a series of individual performances, including a piece by our own OTHS Chorus, followed by a breathtaking performance of the Dream Trilogy by the combined 200-voice choir.

We are so proud of our students for representing Old Town with such talent and dedication! Thank you to the University of Maine for providing the music, learning tracks, and a wonderful day of choral connection.



OTHS Chorus at SCORE

State Jazz Festival Awards

The Old Town Jazz Band & Jazz Ensemble had a very eventful spring weekend.

On Friday, both the Jazz Ensemble and the Jazz Band received the highest award rating (GOLD) at the State Jazz Festival. Jazz Ensemble received a score of 98 and the Jazz Band a score of 95. This is the first time in school history that both bands have received a GOLD Award at the State Jazz Festival.

In addition, many individual honors were earned. The **Dale Huff Outstanding State Jazz Festival Soloist Award** went to:

Tyler Priest-Trombone

In our division, Old Town received four of the five **Outstanding Soloist Trophies**:

- **Paige Bickmore-Clarinet**
- **Ray Parker-Trumpet**
- **Colby Drost-Drums**
- **Cassie Sherwood-Bass**

On Saturday, the Old Town High School Jazz Ensemble won the Clark Terry Jazz Festival held at the University of New Hampshire. This is the third year in a row that the Old Town Jazz Ensemble has won at this festival.



OTHS Jazz Band

Historic Concert Collaboration

History was made earlier this spring at Hampden Academy when both the Old Town High School band and the Hampden Academy band joined forces for a concert. Each school played three selections, and in between was a drum ensemble composed of percussionists from both schools! What an event! Thanks to Hampden Academy for being such gracious hosts! Kudos to Jeff Priest, Jason Priest (OT - Class of 2009), and Jay Baines (Hampden Academy - Class of 2013, and OTHS's Pep Band Director) for making it all happen.





JROTC Summer Camp

JROTC Cadets from OTHS joined Cadets from Bangor, Brewer, Hermon, Nokomis, and Sacopee Valley at Bog Brook near Gilead for this year's summer camp. Just some of the activities included rappelling, archery, and land navigation. Victor Avery and Lily Anderson are pictured negotiating the 30' wall. Raelyn Knights is pictured receiving instruction from First Sergeant Peaslee. Jack Murphy and Hendrix Cottle are also pictured at the archery site. Cadets also canoed the Androscoggin and hiked Mount Washington on Thursday.









Education Rights of Children and Youth That Are Homeless

This public notice provides information about the rights of children, youths, and unaccompanied youth who are homeless to attend a public school or public charter school. An unaccompanied youth is a youth who does not live with a parent or guardian. This notice includes information to help you determine whether you or someone you know is considered homeless and eligible for services from our school district. Children or youth who are homeless have rights that include the right to attend public schools. If you need assistance understanding this letter, please contact Kimm Kenniston (McKinney-Vento Liaison) at Kimm.Kenniston@rsu34.org or (207) 827-3921. Do you need an interpreter? Please tell us, and we will make sure one is available.

Our school district actively enrolls and provides services for children and youth who are homeless. If you are homeless or know of a child, youth, or unaccompanied youth that may be homeless, please contact the person listed here for help: Kimm Kenniston (McKinney-Vento Liaison) at Kimm.Kenniston@rsu34.org or (207) 827-3921 ext 2.

Who is "homeless"?

Children or youth (including children of migrant workers) who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence are homeless. Fixed means the home is connected to the ground and is not easy to move. Regular means a place where the child sleeps every night. Adequate means the home meets modern standards of living. Children who are sharing someone else's housing because they lost theirs or because they cannot afford their own housing are homeless.

Children and youth who are homeless may be living in: motels; hotels; camping grounds because they do not have an adequate home; emergency or transitional shelters; trailer parks (this does not refer to a mobile home (trailer) park; this refers to a type of camping ground for fifth wheel camper trailers or other types of movable campers); or are abandoned in hospitals.

Children and youth who are homeless may have a place they usually sleep that is a public or private place not meant to be a regular place for people to sleep. They may also be living in: cars; parks; public spaces; abandoned buildings; substandard housing (housing that does not meet modern standards of living); bus or train stations; or other similar settings.

If you are not sure, please contact the person listed on this notice.

What are the education rights of children and youth who are homeless?

Our schools provide the same educational services to all students without regard to their living situation. Children and youth who are homeless also have rights that include:

- Based on what is best for the child or youth, the child or youth can continue to attend the "school of origin" or be immediately enrolled in any public school where the student now lives. This includes any school that students who are not homeless attend that is in the area where the child or youth now lives.
- Being given services without delay, such as transportation and meal programs.
- Other appropriate services and programs, such as programs for: gifted children; children with disabilities; English learners; career and technical education; and preschool.
- Help in school through the district's federally-funded Title I program. A student that is homeless can receive Title I services even if the student is not attending a Title I funded school.
- School activities for parents or guardians.
- Participation in athletics, fine arts, or other extra-curricular activities.
- Being treated the same as students who are not homeless by school personnel.

What is the "school of origin"?

'School of origin' means the school the child or youth attended before becoming homeless or the school the child or youth last attended, including a preschool. When the child or youth completes the final grade level of a school of origin, then 'school of origin' means the school the child or youth would attend at the next grade level. The district must consider what is best for the child or youth when making a decision about which school the student will attend. Placement at the school of origin must be a choice unless doing so is not what is best for the student or is against the wishes of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth.

What if there is a disagreement about school placement?

If the district places a student in a school that is not the school of origin or a school requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, then the parent, guardian or unaccompanied youth may appeal (ask to change) the placement decision. The student will be immediately enrolled in the school that the student or parent asked for while an appeal is being considered. The district homeless liaison listed on this notice will provide information and assistance to appeal a placement decision.

OTHS National Honor Society

Students were grateful to prepare a meal for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Bangor. This meaningful act of service was a wonderful way to give back to our community.



OTHS Early College Student Success

Recognizing Outstanding Instruction & $32,076 in estimated college tuition savings

University of Maine at Farmington Early College courses: ENG 100 Writing Seminar & ENG 177 Topics in English

This achievement reflects the exceptional work of Natalie Davis and Rebecca Stitham, whose dedication helped students **earn college credit while still attending high school.** Every student passed, every student earned a B or better, and together they completed the equivalent of 36 college courses while saving families more than $32,000 in tuition.

36	108	100%	30 As, 6 Bs
Students enrolled	College credits earned	Course pass rate	Outstanding grades

STEM Success at OT

In late March, six OTHS students in the STEM Diploma program participated in the Maine State Science Fair. Sophia Morgan, Isaac Austin, Cooper Neely, Phoebe Yerxa, Ruby Whitmore, and Ava Harvey all presented research projects they've worked on all year to various members of the Maine scientific community. Ruby Whitmore took home second place in the Biomedical and Biological Sciences Category, while Isaac Austin, Sophia Morgan, and Phoebe Yerxa won full tuition scholarships to UMaine. Sophia Morgan also won a UMaine College of Engineering scholarship. All the students did amazingly on their research projects, and we look forward to seeing where they go in their STEM future.

Neely Family Grads

We had a family graduation trifecta this year in Old Town. Cooper Neely graduated with his OTHS diploma in June, and he is off to UMaine to study mechanical engineering. His big sister Olivia (OTHS, Class of 2023) graduated from Plymouth State with a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Media, Honors College, Minor in Professional Sales. Last, but certainly not least, their Dad, Charles Neely, our Assistant Principal, finished his Master's degree in Educational Leadership at U-Maine.

Lots of celebrating in the Neely household!

Congratulations, Cooper, Olivia, and Mr. Neely! We are proud of all of you!





Title I And Other ESEA Services

RSU 34 provides services funded by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) ("Every Student Succeeds Act" / "No Child Left Behind Act"). These include:

- Title IA (which primarily focuses on student academic interventions),
- Title IIA (which primarily focuses on educator professional development and classroom supports),
- Title IVA (which includes facets of our overall district work on Safe & Healthy Schools, a Well-Rounded Education, and Effective Use of Technology).

Family and citizen input into the use of these funds is sought and welcomed; for information on how to be involved, please contact Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jon Doty (207-827-7171).

The most visible of these efforts to families is Title IA. RSU 34 chooses to focus the Title IA funds at the elementary grade span. Title IA services include, for example, supplemental instruction in literacy, supplemental instruction in mathematics, and Virtual Summer School.

Every Student Succeeds Act "Dashboard"

RSU 34 uses assessment data to help inform our practices at the district, school, classroom, and individual levels for our students. Although we encourage students and parents to participate fully in our assessment program, it is important to note that parents/guardians may opt their child out of state testing. If you are interested in doing so, please reach out to your child's principal to make this request in writing.

Each year the Maine Department of Education issues a report for each district and each school. These reports summarize state assessments and other data for students in Grades 3-8 and 11. The report also contains information about teacher qualifications. State law requires those to be made available to the community. The ESSA Dashboard at the Maine Department of Education allows you to review report cards for schools and districts across the state.

ESSA Data Dashboard: https://www.maine.gov/doe/dashboard

Non-Discrimination

Federal Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible State or local Agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

(Federal statement updated 5/18/2022)

State Non-Discrimination Statement

The Maine Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination because of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, genetic predisposition, protected activity under the Maine Whistleblower's Protection Act, and filing a prior claim under the Workers' Compensation Act.

Complaints of discrimination must be filed at the office of the Maine Human Rights Commission, 51 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0051. If you wish to file a discrimination complaint electronically, visit the Human Rights Commission website at https://www.maine.gov/mhrc/file/instructions and complete an intake questionnaire. Maine is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

RSU 34 School Routes 2026-2027

All times are approximate. As we settle in, times will be adjusted. Please be at your Stop 5 minutes early.

RUN A MORNING

This route covers Lakeside Rd, Woodland Ave, Poplar St, Kirkland Rd, Colonial Circle, and Bennoch Rd from Kirkland Rd to Stillwater Ave.

All PK-5 Students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants

6:40 AM Lakeside Rd @ Beechwood Ave
6:45 AM Woodland Ave (both sides)
6:55 AM Woodland Ave @ Poplar St
7:00 AM Poplar St
7:02 AM Poplar St Wickett Hill Area
7:03 AM Poplar St between Wickett Hill & Kirkland Rd
7:10 AM Kirkland Rd; Poplar St side (800 area)
7:14 AM Kirkland Rd @ Bennoch Rd
7:15 AM Bennoch Rd between Kirkland Rd & Stillwater Ave Bennoch Rd @ Stillwater Ave
7:20 AM OTES

Middle and High School Students

7:48 AM Lakeside Rd @ Beechwood Avenue
7:53 AM Woodland Ave (both sides)
7:59 AM Woodland Ave @ Poplar St
8:02 AM Poplar St
8:05 AM Poplar St Wickett Hill Area
8:06 AM Poplar St between Wickett Hill & Kirkland Rd
8:10 AM Kirkland Rd; Poplar St side (800 area)
8:15 AM Colonial Circle
8:17 AM Kirkland Rd @ Bennoch Rd
8:20 AM Bennoch Rd between Kirkland Rd & Stillwater Ave
8:21 AM Bennoch Rd @ Stillwater Ave
8:25 AM OTHS
8:30 AM LEONARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

RUN A AFTERNOON

This route covers Bennoch Rd, to Kirkland Rd, Kirkland Rd, Colonial Circle, Poplar St, Woodland Ave, Lakeside Rd, to Beechwood Ave.

PK-5 Students

2:20 PM LEAVES OTES
2:25 PM Bennoch Rd to Kirkland Rd
2:26 PM Kirkland Rd to Colonial Cir.
2:30 PM Kirkland Rd out to 800 area.
2:40 PM Poplar St
2:45 PM Woodland, Lakeside to Beechwood Ave
3:00 PM The other side of Woodland Ave

Middle and High School Students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

3:20 PM LEAVES OTHS
3:25 PM LEAVES LMS
3:32 PM Bennoch Rd to Kirkland Rd
3:37 PM Kirkland Rd to Colonial Circle.
3:42 PM Colonial Circle Area.
3:47 PM Kirkland Rd out to 800 area.
3:52 PM Poplar St
4:00 PM Woodland Ave (Left Side)
4:10 PM Woodland (Right Side), Lakeside to Beechwood Ave

RUN G (formerly ALTON A1) —MORNING

This route covers Bennoch Rd from Moulton Ln, Argyle Rd to I 95(overpass). Bennoch Rd to Southgate Rd **All PK-5 Students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants**

6:35 AM Blue Cross Church (LaGrange)
6:36 AM Bennoch Rd @ Moulton Ln
6:40 AM Bennoch Rd @ Bradford Station Rd
6:43 AM Bennoch Rd @ Argyle Rd
6:48 AM Argyle Rd to I95 overpass
6:55 AM Tannery Rd (Bennoch Rd side)
6:57 AM Bennoch Rd & Charles Ln
7:00 AM Bennoch Rd @ Doliff Rd
7:01 AM Bennoch Rd @ Streets Park
7:01 AM Bennoch Rd between Gardiner Ave & E. Coiley Rd
7:03 AM E. Coiley Rd
7:20 AM OTES

Middle and High School Students

7:45 AM The Blue Cross Church (LaGrange)
7:46 AM Bennoch Rd @ Moulton Ln
7:50 AM Bennoch Rd @ Bradford Station Rd
7:53 AM Argyle Rd area
7:55 AM Argyle Rd to I95 overpass
7:58 AM Tannery Rd (Bennoch Rd side)
8:01 AM Bennoch Rd & Charles Ln
8:04 AM Bennoch Rd @ Doliff Rd
8:05 AM Bennoch Rd @ Streets Park
8:06 AM Bennoch Rd @ Gardiner Rd
8:08 AM E. Coiley Rd
8:20 AM OTHS
8:25 AM LMS

RUN G (formerly ALTON A1) AFTERNOON

This route covers Bennoch Rd to Moulton Ln

PK-5 Students

2:15 PM Leaves OTES
2:30 PM Southgate Rd to Streets Park
2:47 PM Streets Park to Blue Cross Church (LaGrange)

Middle and High School Students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

3:10 PM LEAVE OTHS
3:15 PM LEAVE LMS
3:25 PM On the E. Coiley Rd
3:30 PM @ the Old Bennoch Rd
3:35 PM Tannery Rd
3:38 PM Argyle Rd area
3:50 PM Bennoch Rd & Moulton Ln
3:55 PM The Blue Cross Church (LaGrange)

RUN B MORNING

This route covers Argyle Southgate Rd, Edinburg Rd, & Argyle Rd. Bennoch Rd between the Southgate Rd and Gilman Falls **All PK-5 Students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants**

6:25 AM Edinburg Rd between Moccasin Ln & Bear Claw Rd
6:30 AM Edinburg Rd between Bear Claw Rd & Argyle Rd
6:33 AM Southgate Rd to Wolf Ln Area
6:35 AM Southgate Rd between Argyle Rd & OT Line
6:40 AM Southgate Rd between OT Line & Bennoch Rd
6:45 AM Bennoch Road between Southgate Rd & East Coiley Rd
6:50 AM East Coiley Rd (Receive students from BUS G (formerly ALTON 1)
7:15 -7:20 AM Arrive @ OTES

Middle and High School Students

7:45 AM On the Argyle Rd
7:52 AM Edinburg Rd near Hemlock Stream
7:55 AM Edinburg Rd @ Hoyt Brook (Tree Farm Rd)
8:00 AM Southgate Rd between Argyle Rd & OT Line
8:05 AM Southgate @ Bennoch Rd
8:09 AM Bennoch Rd between Southgate & East Coiley Rd
8:10 AM Bennoch Rd @ E. Coiley Rd
8:20 AM OTHS
8:25 AM LMS

RUN B AFTERNOON

This route covers Southgate Rd, Argyle Rd, and Edinburg Rd. **PK-5 Students**

2:20 PM Leave OTES
2:30 PM Southgate Rd between Argyle Rd & OT Line
2:35 PM Southgate Rd between OT Line to Argyle Rd
2:37 PM Edinburg Rd @ 2727
2:42 PM Edinburg Rd between Bear Claw Rd & Argyle Rd
2:45 PM Wolf Ln Area

Middle and High School Students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

3:10 PM LEAVES OTHS
3:15 PM LEAVES LMS
3:35 PM Southgate Rd to Argyle Rd
3:40 PM Edinburg Rd
3:45 PM Argyle Rd and Wolf Way
3:50 PM Argyle Rd to Bennoch Rd

RUN C MORNING

This route covers Main Street from Fourth St to the Orono Line. Brunswick St between Bowdoin St & Perkins Avenue. **All PK-5 Students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants**

6:55 AM Main St & Brunswick St
6:56 AM Main St & Wood St
6:56 AM Main St @ Stillwater Avenue
6:57 AM Main St @ Goldsmith Ln
6:57 AM Main St @ Middle St
7:00 AM Downtown Area
7:02 AM Main St @ Willow St
7:02 AM Main St @ the Funeral Home
7:04 AM Main St @ Pine St
7:05 AM Main St @ Cooper St
7:06 AM Main St @ Park St
7:07 AM Main St @ Bowdoin Ave
7:09 AM Main St @ Taylor Rd(Regency Park)
7:10 AM Main St @ OT Orono Line
7:11 AM Main St @ Penobscot St
7:12 AM Main St @ Highland Avenue
7:14 AM Highland Ave @ Hamel Ln
7:15 AM Hamel Ln @ Bowdoin St
7:15 AM Bowdoin St @ Brunswick St
7:17 AM Brunswick St @ Carroll St
7:19 AM Perkins Ave & Bradbury
7:21 AM Perkins Ave & Hillard St
7:24 AM Jefferson St & Center
7:25 AM OTES

Middle and High School Students

7:45 AM Main St & Brunswick St
7:45 AM Main St & Wood St
7:46 AM Main St & Stillwater Avenue
7:46 AM Main St & Goldsmith Ln
7:48 AM Downtown Area
7:50 AM Main St @ Willow St
7:50 AM Main St @ the Funeral Home
7:52 AM Main St @ Pine St
7:53 AM Main St @ Cooper St
7:55 AM Main St @ Bowdoin Ave
7:56 AM Main St @ Penny Rd
7:57 AM Main St @ Spaulding St
7:58 AM Main St @ Taylor Rd(Regency Park)
8:04 AM Main St @ OT Orono Line
8:09 AM Main St @ Penobscot St
8:10 AM Main St @ Highland Avenue
8:11 AM Highland Ave @ Hamel Ln
8:12 AM Bowdoin St @ Brunswick St
8:15 AM Brunswick St @ Carroll St
8:17 AM Perkins Ave & Bradbury
8:19 AM Perkins Ave & Meadow Ln
8:20 AM LEONARD MIDDLE SCHOOL
8:25 AM OTHS

RUN C AFTERNOON

This route covers Brunswick St: from Stillwater Ave. to Main St, Main St; from Fourth St to the Orono Line. Highland Ave, Hamel Ln & Brunswick St to Perkins Ave.

PK-5 Students

2:20 PM LEAVE OTES
2:25 PM Main St @ Willow St
2:27 PM Main St Near Holy Family Church
2:28 PM Main St & Burnham St area
2:30 PM Main St & Taylor Rd (Regency Park)
2:35 PM OT & Orono Town lines
2:37 PM Main St & Highland Ave.
2:38 PM Hamel Ln area
2:40 PM Brunswick St; Bowdoin St to Prentiss St

Middle and High School Students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

3:05 PM LEAVES LMS
3:10 PM LEAVES OTHS
3:15 PM Stillwater Ave Brunswick St
3:17 PM Brunswick & Main St
3:20 PM Main St & Wood St
3:21 PM Main St Near The Holy Family Church
3:23 PM Main St & Burnham St area
3:29 PM Main St & Taylor Rd (Regency Park)
3:31 PM OT & Orono Town lines
3:36 PM Highland Ave.
3:36 PM Hamel Ln area
3:41 PM Brunswick St; Bowdoin St to Perkins Ave
3:46 PM Perkins Avenue Area

RUN D MORNING

This Route covers College Ave Ext, Bennoch Rd (Gilman Falls to Stillwater Ave.), Spring St, Stillwater Ave, College Ave & University Park. **All PK-5 Students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants**

6:40 AM College Ave Ext. (Gilman Falls side)
6:42 AM Bennoch Rd (Gilman Falls to Stillwater Ave)
6:43 AM On Littlefield Ln
6:45 AM On Youngs Ln
6:48 AM At Spring St & Stillwater Ave
6:49 AM Bennoch Rd (Orono side)
6:51 AM Stillwater Ave (Orono to College Ave.)
6:57 AM University Park Bus Stop
7:04 AM Pembroke Dr & Whim Station intersection
7:05 AM 767 Stillwater Ave (Nickerson's)
7:06 AM 799 Stillwater Ave (Pine Haven)
7:08 AM College Ave Ext (U of M Forestry)
7:15 – 7:20 AM Arrive @ OTES

Middle and High School Students

7:35 AM Stillwater Ave (OTES to College Ave)
7:41 AM College Ave Ext (U of M Forestry)
7:44 AM University Park Bus Stop
7:46 AM Stillwater Ave (College Ave to Bennoch Rd)
7:47 AM Bennoch Rd (Orono side)
7:49 AM Stillwater Ave at the Orono Town line
7:51 AM At Spring St
7:51 AM Bennoch Rd to Gilman Falls

7:56 AM On Youngs Ln
8:01 AM On Littlefield Ln
8:06 AM College Ave Ext. (Gilman Falls side)
8:09 AM Gilman Falls Ave & Leonard Ln
8:10 AM Gilman Falls Ave & Sargent Dr
8:15 AM OTHS
8:20 AM LMS

RUN D AFTERNOON

This route covers Stillwater Ave; from OTES to College Ave, College Ave Ext, University Park, Stillwater Ave from College Ave to Spring St, Bennoch Rd to Gilman Falls Ave, College Ave Ext, Gilman Falls Ave. **PK-5 Students**

2:20 PM LEAVE OTES
2:22 PM Pembroke Dr & Whim Station intersection
2:23 PM 799 Stillwater Ave (Pine Haven)
2:25 PM College Ave EXT (UMaine Forestry Bldgs)
2:30 PM College Ave area
2:31 PM University Park Bus Stop
2:35 PM Stillwater Ave & Spring St
2:37 PM Bennoch Rd (Orono Side)
2:39 PM Stillwater Ave at the Orono Town line
2:45 PM Bennoch Rd (To Gilman Falls)
2:48 PM Young's Ln area
2:50 PM Littlefield Ln
2:55 PM College Ave Ext
2:58 PM Gilman Falls Ave

Middle and High School Students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

3:05 PM LEAVE LMS
3:10 PM LEAVE OTHS
3:14 PM Stillwater & Pembroke DR
3:15 PM 799 Stillwater Ave (Pine Haven)
3:20 PM College Ave EXT (UMaine Forestry)
3:25 PM College Ave area
3:26 PM University Park Bus Stop
3:30 PM Stillwater Ave & Spring St
3:33 PM Bennoch Rd (Orono Side)
3:35 PM Stillwater Ave at the Orono Town line
3:40 PM Bennoch Rd (To Gilman Falls)
3:43 PM Young's Ln area
3:45 PM Littlefield Ln
3:50 PM College Ave Ext
3:55 PM Gilman Falls Ave

RUN E MORNING

This route covers Gilman Falls Ave, Main St, Front St, Bosworth St., Oak St, Lincoln St, & Abbott St Areas. **All PK-5 Students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants**

7:00 AM Gilman Falls Avenue @ Leonard Ln
7:01 AM Gilman Falls Avenue @ Sargent Drive
7:02 AM Gilman Falls Avenue @ Fourth St
7:03 AM Fourth St
7:04 AM Fourth St & Stillwater Ave
7:05 AM Fourth St & Middle St
7:06 AM Center St @ Front St (French Island)
7:07 AM Front St @ River St
7:07 AM Front St @ Union St
7:08 AM Front St @ Heald St
7:09 AM Bosworth St @Bodwell St.
7:10 AM Bosworth St @ Union St
7:10 AM Bosworth St @ Hayes St
7:11 AM Bosworth St @ Howard St.
7:11 AM Bosworth St @ Chapman St
7:13 AM Center St @ Shirley St.
7:15 AM Center St @ Brunswick St
7:18 AM Oak St
7:20 AM Jefferson St & Lincoln St
7:21 AM Lincoln St & Shelter Ln
7:25 AM Arrive @ OTES
7:30 AM BUS E transports early band students from OTES to LMS

Middle and High School Students

7:45 AM Stillwater & Abbott St area
7:50 AM Stillwater Ave; Center St to Front St (French Island)
7:55 AM Front St & River St
7:59 AM Bosworth St & Bodwell St.
8:00 AM Bosworth St @ Hayes St
8:01 AM Bosworth St & Chapman St
8:06 AM Gilman Falls Avenue & Fourth St.
8:08 AM Gilman Falls Avenue & Leonard Ln
8:15 AM Main St & Brunswick St
8:20 AM LMS
8:25 AM OTHS

BUS E Transports PRE-K students from OTES to AES

RUN E AFTERNOON

PK-5 Students

2:20 PM Leave OTES
2:22 PM Abbott St & Shelter Ln area, Lincoln St.
2:25 PM Jefferson St to Oak St, Oak St to Brunswick St.
2:30 PM Front St, Nadeau St, & Bosworth St areas
2:35 PM Middle St and Fourth St
2:40 PM Fourth St and Stillwater Ave
2:45 PM Fourth St & Main St
2:48 PM Gilman Fall Ave & Sargent Dr
2:50 PM Gilman Falls Ave & Leonard Ln

Middle and High School Students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

3:05 PM LEAVES LMS
3:10 PM LEAVES OTHS
3:16 PM Corner of Center & 7th St
3:20 PM Front St, Nadeau St, and Bosworth St areas (FRENCH ISLAND)
3:30 PM Middle St & Fourth St
3:33 PM Fourth St & Stillwater St
3:35 PM Fourth St & Gilman Falls Ave
3:36 PM Gilman Falls & Sargent DR
3:37 PM Gilman Falls & Leonard Ln

BUS F MORNING

Alton & W. OT. Tannery Rd, Kirkland Rd, W. OT Rd, Old Stagecoach Rd, W. Coiley Rd, Winter Rd **All PK-5 Students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants**

6:40 AM Tannery Rd & Gerry Ln
6:43 AM Hudson Rd to Pushaw Str
6:50 AM On the Kirkland Rd
6:55 AM W. OT Rd @ Old Stage Coach Rd
7:00 AM W. Coiley Rd
7:03 AM W. OT Rd & Winter Rd
7:05 AM Receive students from BUS G (formerly ALTON A1) @ Cyr Bus
7:20 AM OTES

Middle and High School Students

7:40 AM Tannery Rd & Gerry Ln
7:43 AM Hudson Rd to Pushaw Stream
7:50 AM W. OT end of the Kirkland Rd
7:55 AM W. OT Rd @ Old Stage Coach Rd
8:00 AM W. Coiley Rd
8:03 AM W. OT Rd & Winter Rd
8:15 AM OTHS
8:20 AM LMS

BUS F AFTERNOON

This route covers W. Coiley Rd, W. OT Rd, Kirkland Rd (W. OT side), Hudson Rd & Tannery Rd.

PK-5 Students

BUS F Transports PRE-K students from AES to OTES

2:20 PM Leave OTES
2:30 PM W. OT Rd, W. Coiley Rd & Winter Rd
2:38 PM W. OT Rd & The Stagecoach Rd
2:42 PM On Kirkland Rd (W. OT side)
2:45 PM Hudson Rd to Pushaw Str
2:49 PM Tannery Rd & Gerry Ln

Middle and High School Students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

3:10 PM OTHS
3:15 PM LMS
3:25 PM Gilman Falls Ave & Winter Rd
3:30 PM W. OT Rd & W. Coiley Rd
3:35 PM W. OT Rd & Old Stage Coach Rd
3:40 PM On Kirkland Rd (W. OT side)
3:45 PM Tannery Rd & Gerry Ln

RUN L (formerly BRADLEY LONG ROUTE) - MORNING

This route covers the Main Road (RTE #178) between the Eddington Line & Boynton St. Penny Ln, Highpoint & Carterwoods. **All PK-5 Students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants**

6:50 AM Main St @ Eddington Line
6:53 AM Main St @ Penny Ln
6:55 AM Penny Ln @ bus Stop
6:56 AM Main Road between Penny Ln & Government Road
6:58 AM Main Road @ The Government Rd
7:00 AM Main Road between the Government Rd & Highpoint Drive
7:05 AM Main Road @ Highpoint Dr
7:08 AM Highpoint Drive between Main Road & Cul-de-sac
7:10 AM Main Road between Highpoint Drive & Goss Road
7:10 AM Main Road @ Goss Road
7:11 AM Main Road between Goss Road & Carterwoods
7:13 AM Carterwoods Park
7:16 AM Boynton St & Cross Rd
7:20 AM Transfer Students to Bradley Short for OTES

Middle and High School Students

7:25 AM Bullen St to Messier Ln
7:35 AM Main St @ Eddington Line
7:38 AM Penny Ln @ bus Stop (at mail boxes)
7:40 AM Main Road @ The Government Rd
7:50 AM High Point Place between Main Road & Cul-de-sac - turn right onto High Point Pl.
7:53 AM Main Road @ Goss Road
8:00 AM Carterwoods Park
8:05 AM Boynton St & Cross Road
8:20 AM OTHS
8:25 AM LMS

RUN L (formerly BRADLEY LONG ROUTE) - AFTERNOON

This route covers Boynton St, Main Rd, High Point Pl, Penny Ln & Main Rd to the Eddington Town Line.

PK-5 Students

2:20 PM LEAVE OTES
2:30 PM Stop at the corner of Main Road & Elm St.
2:35 PM Boynton St. to Cross Road area
2:40 PM Drop off Carterwoods Loop
2:45 PM Main Rd. to High Point Pl
2:50 PM Main Rd. to Penny Ln
2:55 PM Main Rd. to the Eddington town line

Middle and High School Students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

3:05 PM LEAVE OTHS
3:10 PM LEAVE LMS
3:25 PM Main St & Boynton St
3:30 PM Boynton St to Crossroads
3:35 PM In Carterwoods
3:40 PM on High Point Place
3:45 PM Penny Ln
3:50 PM Main Rd to Eddington town line

RUN S (formerly BRADLEY SHORT ROUTE) - MORNING

This route covers from the Bradley-Milford line, Cram St, Deer Run Ln, Baker Ln, Ten Rd. Highland Ave, Bullen St, Center St & Stillwater Ave. **All PK-5 Students plus Middle and High School Extended Day Program Participants**

6:40 AM Main St @ Bradley Line
6:41 AM Main St & Pine St
6:43 AM Main St & School St
6:46 AM Cram St
6:48 AM Cram St between Main St & Deer Run Ln
6:53 AM Deer Run between Cram St & Cul-de-sac
6:55 AM Cram St between Deer Run Ln & Baker Ln
6:59 AM Baker Ln to Ten Road
7:04 AM Ten Road between Baker Ln & Cul-de-sac
7:09 AM Baker Ln @ Cram St
7:15 AM Cram St @ Highland Avenue
7:20 AM Transfer Students from Bradley Long for OTES
7:21 AM Bullen St
7:25 AM Center St & Howard Ln
7:26 AM Center St & Veazie St
7:27 AM Center St & Stillwater Ave.
7:30 AM OTES
7:35 AM Depart OTES

Middle and High School Students

7:50 AM Cram St
7:54 AM Deer Run between Cram St & Cul-de-sac
7:58 AM Cram St between Deer Run Ln & Baker Ln
8:03 AM Baker Ln to Ten Road
8:05 AM Ten Road between Baker Ln & Cul-de-sac
8:08 AM Ten Road @ Cram St
8:10 AM Cram St @ Highland Avenue
8:11 AM Bullen St
8:20 AM OTHS
8:25 AM LMS

RUN S (formerly BRADLEY SHORT ROUTE) - AFTERNOON

This route covers Jefferson St, Perkins Ave, Stillwater Ave, Center St, Bradley Rd, Highland Ave, Cram St, Baker Ln, & Ten Rd.

PK-5 Students

2:20 PM PICK UP Leave OTES
2:23 PM Perkins Ave & Jefferson St
2:25 PM Highland Ave.
2:30 PM Bullen St area
2:35 PM Cram St
2:40 PM on Deer Run Ln
2:45 PM on Baker Ln
2:50 PM on Ten Rd

Middle and High School Students PLUS K-5 Extended Day Program Participants

3:05 PM LEAVE OTHS
3:10 PM LEAVE LMS
3:25 PM Stop on the Corner of Bradley and Pine St
3:26 PM Main St (Between Pine St & Cram St)
3:28 PM Turn left onto Cram St Stop as needed to Highland Avenue
3:30 PM Turn left onto Highland Ave (turn around in School Driveway) back to a Left onto Cram St.
3:35 PM Deer Run Ln
3:37 PM Cram St. between Deer Run and Baker Ln
3:40 PM Right onto Baker Ln (turns into Ten Rd) follow with stops as needed to the cul-de-sac



Old Town City Manager

Updates to major City projects.

By Bill Mayo, City Manager

The City is continuing to work on some major projects and updates are as follows;

Llewellyn Estes Bridge (Stillwater Bridge) / Center Street

The Llewellyn Estes Bridge project continues to progress. The latest bridge activity is removing the last of the former bridge and then starting the new construction in the spring/summer of 2026. The temporary bridge was opened for traffic on May 14, 2024. The new bridge, if no issues slow down progress, should be completed by the end of 2027 and the removal of the old bridge should be done in 2028. Currently, the contractor is working on the deck formwork on the northerly bridge section and should be casting cement in August. Once the deck is cast and can support construction traffic, earthwork will continue on the island between the bridges, along with further utility work. The temporary trestle to the southerly bridge will be removed this winter, and work will continue on the abutments. The new beams for the southerly bridge section will be set over the winter and spring of 2027. Work on sidewalks, concrete barriers, and asphalt surface will continue for both bridge surfaces in the summer of 2027 with the intent of opening them up to traffic in late 2027. The temporary bridge is 575 feet long, two lanes, and a sidewalk separated with a curb with no weight restrictions. There will be an approximate 12' x 70' bump-out on the upstream side of the new bridge for viewing and displaying information panels on Llewellyn Estes, Old Town, Penobscot Nation, and the University of Maine. The guardrail system must meet federal crash standards, and the option chosen is solid concrete with a rail system on top of the concrete wall for pedestrian safety. The highway portion of the project has been completed. The highway portion was the reconstruction of the Bennoch Road / College Avenue and Stillwater Avenue intersections and approaches to the bridge. The project involved new traffic lights, controls, sidewalk replacement, and ADA-compliant crossings at both intersections. Please try to stay aware of the message boards by the bridge, as they will have updates on delays or traffic flow changes that will happen over the next couple of years.

Juniper Ridge Landfill Expansion (JRL) / Host Community Benefit Agreement

Maine DEP considered a public benefit determination for an 11.9 million cubic yard expansion of JRL in the fall of 2024. The process had been approved by Maine DEP and was moving toward the permit stage of the project. Due to appeals/court filings, this process is currently under court review to determine whether Maine DEP considered all relevant factors in moving forward with an expansion of JRL. The oral arguments on the permit application were heard in court approximately 2 weeks ago, and we are waiting to hear the judge's decision. This expansion process will take approximately 3 years (beginning in 2024) to consider the public benefit determination, potential license expansion, and review of the request by the Old Town Planning Board. The Council has contracted with Haley Ward (Engineering Services) to review all applications/plans submitted for the expansion to check compliance and health and safety issues related to the proposed expansion.

Also, the city entered negotiations with the State and Casella on the host community benefit agreement in June of 2026. This opportunity happened through a legislative bill entered by State Representative Jim Dill. This is an important first step in changing some of the original agreement from 2005, as the landfill, under State guidance, has gone from a construction demolition debris landfill to accepting many different types and amounts of municipal solid waste and wastewater sludge, which was never supposed to be allowed at this landfill.

City Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Planning Committee began discussing updating the City's comprehensive plan in January 2025. This is a legal requirement, maintains the City's ability to receive State and Federal grants, and the Council will receive public input by holding meetings and reaching out to citizens in the community. This will be a 2-year process and will review current ordinances and zoning to ensure the City is in compliance and can adjust to ever-changing legislative acts in Augusta and Washington. Public engagement from citizens has started with public meetings that have taken place through July of 2026. The final steps of the process are now happening with the draft comprehensive plan being sent for State review. After receiving any suggested changes from the State, there will be two final public meetings before the City Council in September. Dates, times, and associated information on the Comprehensive Plan Update are posted on the City's website. (https://old-town.org)

Herb Sargent Community Center

This building, located on Bennoch Road, has been vacant for the past year. The City sent out a request for proposals on possible uses of the facility. The Old Town/Orono YMCA has taken on the project to renovate the building and grounds. The YMCA began renovating the building, baseball/softball field, and tennis courts in the summer of 2026. They are currently doing demo work on the boys & girls' bathrooms to completely remodel and update both areas.

4Th Street Project

The City continues working with the Rotary Club of Old Town to make trail improvements and enhance the trailhead at the end of 4th Street. This will be a 2-year process and will involve better signage and trail integration with the University of Maine trail system. The city is working on grants and trying to make additional improvements to the boat launch at the end of 4th Street to go along with the improvements to the trail system with the assistance of Stillwater Environmental Engineering. The city is currently applying for a $75,000 grant to assist with the improvements to this project. Also, the Rotary Club and City worked on a grant application for $250,000 for trail improvements. The Rotary Club completed and submitted this grant in July.

Expanded Archery Season

Old Town has an expanded archery hunting zone that encompasses all of Marsh Island. The consideration of this expanded archery zone started in 2008 and ran through 2010, hunting via permit through the BLIP program (Bowhunters/Landowners Information Program), which is offered through the Maine Bowhunters Association. After the 2011 hunt, Marsh Island became part of the Bangor Area Expanded Archery Zone. Please go to Maine Inland Fishery and Wildlife's website for all applicable laws relating to expanded archery (https://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting-trapping/hunting/species/deer/expanded-archery/index.html). The 2026 season begins on September 12 and ends on December 12. Marsh Island is unique in the expanded archery zone as only bow and arrow can be used; no crossbows can be used to hunt on Marsh Island during the expanded archery season. As with any hunting or fishing trips that are planned, please go to Maine Inland Fishery and Wildlife's website to be sure all applicable laws are being followed. Also, please go to the City website to review the ordinance dealing with archery hunting on Marsh Island. This can be found in Chapter 12, Section 12-32.1 Archery Hunting-Marsh Island.


Bill Mayo

Upcoming decisions

Budget – This is an ongoing process and a challenging year for RSU 34 and the City. To try and mitigate a large tax increase in 2025, the City Council moved forward with a plan to eliminate 12 full-time and 5 part-time positions from the budget. That was a combination of lay-offs and early retirements. This was a 20% reduction in City staff and impacted operations across all departments. Currently, with the RSU, County, and City budget complete, the proposed increase to the tax rate, using last year's total city value, would be 3.2%. Also, there is an ongoing cost adjustment for all properties in Old Town through the Assessing Department. The City's current ratio is 78% and must be at 91% to avoid having subsidy dollars removed from the homestead exemption, veterans' exemption, tree growth, and several other State programs.



Old Town City Clerk's Office

Laura Engstrom, City Clerk/Registrar of Voters

Upcoming Election & City Reminders

State of Maine General and Municipal Election

- Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Voting Location: Elks Lodge, 37 Fourth Street, Old Town, Maine
Poll Hours: 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Nomination Papers – City Council & School Board

Nomination papers will be available for the following expiring terms:

- City Council: Three (3) seats — Three-year terms
- School Board: Two (2) seats — Three-year terms

Available: Monday, August 31, 2026
Location: Old Town City Clerk's Office• 265 Main Street, Old Town
Return Deadline: Monday, September 14, 2026, by 5:00 PM

Candidates must obtain 25 signatures from registered Old Town voters to qualify for placement on the ballot.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots for the State General and Municipal Election are expected to be available in early October 2026.

Requests may be made:

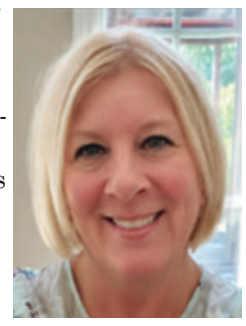
- **Online:** the link is on the City's website, under departments, Elections.
- **Phone:** 207-827-3965, ext. 122
- **by Mail or in person at:**
  Old Town City Hall
  265 Main Street
  Monday – Thursday 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Dog Licensing Reminder

Dog licensing for the 2026 licensing year begins approximately October 15, 2026.

Fees:

- $6.00 - Spayed/neutered dogs
- $11.00 - Dogs not spayed/neutered


Laura Engstrom

Dog licensing is available online for your convenience. Please provide updated rabies vaccination information when licensing your dog.

Questions? Please contact:
Laura Engstrom
City Clerk, City of Old Town
lengstrom@old-town.org
207-827-3965, ext. 122

Old Town Police Department

Staying Safe During the Summer Heat


Chief David White

As temperatures rise and many of us spend more time outdoors, the Old Town Police Department would like to share a few simple reminders to help everyone stay safe, healthy, and enjoy all that summer in our community has to offer.

Protect Yourself from the Heat

- Drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if you do not feel thirsty.
- Avoid strenuous outdoor activity during the hottest part of the day, typically between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and a hat when outside.
- Take frequent breaks in the shade or air conditioning if you are working outdoors.

Check on Neighbors and Loved Ones

In a small rural community, we look out for one another. Please take a few minutes to check on:

- Older adults
- Neighbors who live alone
- Individuals with medical conditions
- Families without reliable air conditioning

A quick phone call or visit can make a big difference during periods of extreme heat.

Looking for updates, safety tips and more, scan this QR code to follow us on Facebook!

Important Reminder: Never Leave Children or Pets in a Vehicle

Even with the windows cracked, the temperature inside a parked vehicle can become dangerous within minutes.

Always take children and pets with you when you leave your vehicle.

Water and Outdoor Recreation

Whether you are enjoying local ponds, rivers, trails, or back roads:

- Wear a life jacket when boating or participating in water activities.
- Let someone know where you are going if you are hiking or exploring remote areas.
- Carry water, a charged phone, and basic supplies.
- Be mindful of changing weather conditions.

Watch for Signs of Heat Illness

Seek medical attention immediately if someone experiences:

- Confusion or unusual behavior
- Fainting
- Difficulty breathing
- Hot, dry skin
- Persistent vomiting

A Final Thought

Summer is one of the best times of year in our city and State. By taking a few precautions and looking out for each other, we can help ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable season.

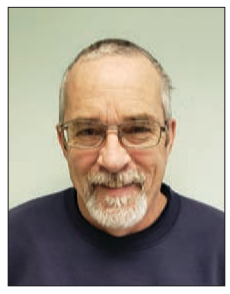
Stay safe, stay hydrated, and enjoy the rest of the summer.


Spring in Binette Park



Old Town City Hall

Old Town Pollution Control


David Smith

Old Town's sewer collection system consists of approximately 25 miles of sewer lines throughout the city. Stormy weather causes problems for us as unwanted stormwater enters the collection system and overloads the wastewater treatment facility. For the past several years, the Pollution Control Staff has been searching for bad sections where the stormwater has been infiltrating the sewer collection system. We have been trying to find areas where excess flow has been entering our system. Some areas have been found and addressed, but this will be a never-ending project and will continue into the Fall.

The spring paving season has come and gone, and all the affected manholes were either replaced or repaired to match the grade of the road. As summer comes to an end, the Staff at the Pollution Control Facility will concentrate on finishing any outside roadwork projects. There are a few manholes throughout the city that need some attention. These manholes will be dug out and repaired. The Llewellyn Estes Bridge project is moving along. A new insulated force main pipe has been installed on the temporary bridge. A small section of force main has been installed on the unfinished new bridge. The entire insulated force main will be installed on the new bridge soon. Once the new bridge is completed, the temporary bridge will be taken down, and the force main that is attached to it will be demolished.

There will be some sewer line flushing this fall. Staff has scheduled around 10,000 linear feet for flushing. There are two flow meters located in our sewer collection system. This is a reduction from the five we had last fall. The flow monitoring is working as we have found a few areas where excess water was entering our system. These areas have been addressed.

The late summer, early fall months are a good time for Staff to perform some maintenance at the treatment plant, pump stations, and sewer lines. Most of this will be preventive maintenance. Tanks will be drained, cleaned, and inspected.

As always, please do not flush anything that should not be flushed. Baby wipes, Clorox wipes, paper towels, etc. should never be flushed. Some of these items say flushable, but they still should not be flushed. They only cause problems for homeowners and the city. It is good practice to check your home for water leaks. Including your toilets. This will save you money.

Sincerely,
David Smith, Superintendent
Old Town Pollution Control
(207) 827-3970

Old Town Fire Rescue Department

Continuing Strong Service and Community Engagement

As we move through the summer and into the fall, Old Town Fire Rescue remains committed to providing high-quality emergency services while staying actively engaged with the community we proudly serve. Through 2026, our department continues to respond to a steady volume of emergency incidents while maintaining the professional, dependable service our residents have come to expect.

Training remains a cornerstone of our department. Throughout the summer, our members have continued to sharpen their skills through hands-on training, including pumping operations from hydrants, drafting water from static water sources, ladder company operations, and a variety of technical rescue scenarios. These trainings ensure our firefighters and paramedics are prepared to respond safely and effectively to emergencies throughout our community.

One of the most exciting additions to our department this year has been the deployment of our new drone program. After receiving the drone through grant funding, several members completed the required training and have already begun utilizing it on emergency incidents. The drone has quickly proven to be a valuable tool, providing aerial scene awareness while improving firefighter safety. We anticipate using it extensively during river-related incidents to reduce risk to our personnel, as well as during search and rescue operations throughout our region.

Old Town Fire Rescue also had the opportunity to partner with the University of Maine on a controlled burn conducted as part of a research project studying the ecological benefits of prescribed fire. Our members were proud to assist with the operation while gaining valuable experience working alongside researchers and forestry professionals in a unique training environment.

This year, we also welcomed three new members to the department. These additions strengthen our ability to serve the community and ensure we continue providing the high level of service our residents deserve. Looking ahead, we are excited that four of our firefighters will begin the next step in their careers this fall by upgrading their certifications through paramedic school. Their commitment to advancing their medical education will further enhance the advanced life support services available to our community.

One of the highlights of our year was the opportunity to mentor a local eighth-grade student who reached out looking for a way to become involved in his community. He began volunteering with the department one afternoon each week after school, participating in training, helping wash apparatus, learning the community alongside our crews, and experiencing the camaraderie that makes the fire service so special. He even joined in around the kitchen table, where firefighters have been solving the world's problems for generations. Although he recently moved away, he left a lasting impression on our members, and we wish him and his family nothing but the best.

We were also honored to celebrate the history of our department by hosting our third annual Old Town Fire Rescue Reunion Dinner. The evening brought together retired firefighters and former members to reconnect, share stories, and reminisce about the many years they dedicated to serving our community. Events like these remind us of the strong traditions and lasting friendships that define the fire service.

The department was especially proud to see Firefighter/Paramedic Bailey Harrington recognized as the Penobscot County Firefighter of the Year. Bailey's dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving both our department and the residents of Old Town make him truly deserving of this prestigious honor. Congratulations, Bailey!


Chief Kyle Milan

Community involvement continues to be one of our greatest priorities. Our members were once again proud to assist with the Old Town High School Senior Breakfast, an annual tradition we always look forward to and one that allows us to celebrate the graduating class as they begin their next chapter.

As we look ahead to the fall, we are excited to welcome students back to school and remind everyone to watch for children boarding and exiting school buses. We also look forward to Fire Prevention Week in October, when our members will once again visit local schools to teach fire safety and help children learn how to prevent emergencies before they happen.

Old Town Fire Rescue remains honored to serve the residents of Old Town and sincerely appreciates the continued support of our community. We look forward to another safe and successful season together.

Old Town Public Works

Greetings, I hope this article finds you all happy and healthy. We are now in the dog days of summer, hot and muggy, along with pop-up thunderstorms, fresh garden produce appearing roadside and at farmers' markets, fresh green beans being my favorite; however, I also look forward to fresh sweet corn, but I digress.


Comfort Station
Riverfront Park

Save the date: **Public Works will provide curbside leaf pickup the weeks of November 16th and 23rd.** I know it may be a bit early, but never too early to prepare.

The Department has had a busy spring/summer with the spring leaf and brush collection, annual spring cleanup, and household hazardous waste days.

We continue mowing operations of our cemeteries, roadside, parks, landfills, and municipal buildings. Over the past month, crews have been adjusting catch basins and rebuilding 3700 feet of sidewalks in the numbered streets neighborhood. As of this writing, they are loaming and shaping the back slopes of sidewalks; seed and mulch will follow. As we finish July, we will begin ditching operations, roadside mulching, and tree limbing. If you have any concerns about any trees in the right-of-way that may need trimming to avoid damage to city vehicles, plow trucks, or fire trucks, please reach out. This trimming is important to keep roads safe; it keeps lines of sight clear and prevents vehicle damage.

All paving identified in the previous public works Community Connections article is complete except Sixth St. The department will also begin chipping away at bothersome potholes and sidewalk areas.

All the replacement playground features ordered in May have finally begun to show up this week, and installation will begin immediately.

In June, public works, along with SEE, submitted a boat facilities fund grant summary for the 4th St boat landing; this summary was approved by Department of Environmental Protection, and the department was given permission to apply for the BFF grant with a 50% prorated match up to 75,000. We should hear something by October. The crews also continue working on a new 1000 ft 4th St trail connector to bypass private property. This project is part of a larger trail improvement project in the works in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Old Town.


Steve Rideout

In closing, I will leave you with best wishes for a safe and healthy rest of your summer!

Best Regards,
Steven

Old Town Public Library has a new Director!


Katie Perkey

Katie Perkey, Director

You may have noticed a new face around the library this summer. My name is Katie Perkey, and I'm honored to be serving as the new Director of the Old Town Public Library. Throughout my library career, I've always appreciated how libraries serve as gathering places where people can learn new skills, explore their interests, and connect with one another. As I settle into my new role, I've enjoyed meeting patrons and learning what the library means to so many people. I look forward to continuing that tradition while helping the library grow and evolve.

As summer comes to a close and the days begin to cool, we're preparing for another exciting season at the library. Whether you're looking for educational opportunities, creative activities, technology assistance, or simply a way to connect with others, we have something for everyone this fall.

Our Children's programming has been very busy in our downstairs meeting rooms. Toddler Time, intended for children ages 1-3, is on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 am. The after-school Club Library will be starting back up in September. Club Library will be held on Tuesdays (3rd-5th Grades) and Thursdays (PreK-2nd Grade) from 2:30-4:30. Families can also enjoy our StoryWalk outside the library, a fun way to combine reading, movement, and time outdoors. Check our website for more information or contact Ms. Cindy at the library for more details on children's events.

Our popular Tuesday Forum Luncheons return with another season of engaging presentations. In September, local historian Chris Boucher will discuss the life and legacy of Harry "Bucky" Lew, one of Maine's notable sports pioneers. October brings a Horror Author Panel, featuring writers who will discuss the craft of horror writing, favorite spooky topics, and the genre's enduring appeal. In November, acclaimed Maine author Ron Currie will join us to discuss his latest novel, The Savage, Noble Death of Babs Dionne, following the rescheduling of his visit from last spring.

Our book clubs are back in full swing. The Blue Argyles Book Club continues to explore a wide variety of genres through lively monthly discussions, while the Whodunnit Book Club brings mystery lovers together both in person and via Zoom. Fans of all things eerie can also return to Fright Club, our horror-themed book club featuring frightening discussions and movie viewings throughout the season.

For those seeking help navigating today's technology, our Digital Services continue with weekly Monday Tech Labs. Patrons can schedule one-on-one, half-hour appointments for assistance with basic technology questions, personal devices, online services, and digital library resources.

Creative programming remains a staple this fall with both Crafternoons and Take or Make Kits. Crafternoon participants can create Faux Stained Glass Bookmarks in September, Coffee Filter Poppies in October, and Gingerbread Houses in November. Take or Make Kits will feature Bird Seed Block Kits in September, Ghost Macramé Wall Hangings in October, and Clothespin Magnets in November.

Our popular community swaps will once again be available near the Library of Things. September brings back the highly anticipated Craft Swap, October features the return of our BOO-tique, and November focuses on community giving with a Food Drive.

Several recurring programs continue throughout the season. Sit n' Stitch meets every Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and welcomes fiber arts enthusiasts of all skill levels. Magic: The Gathering Commander League gathers Wednesdays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., while Dungeons & Dragons returns on Mondays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more information about any of our events, visit the Old Town Public Library website, follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or stop by the library. We look forward to another season of learning, creativity, and community connections, and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the months ahead.

For full details, visit old-town.lib.me.us and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and announcements.
207-827-3972
otpl@old-town.org
http://old-town.lib.me.us



Old Town Public Library

Comfortably Home

making home a safer place to stay

Comfortably Home helps seniors live independently—and safely—in their own homes. Our professionals make minor repairs and basic accessibility and safety improvements at no cost for qualified homeowners.
Our team works with each homeowner to create a customized work plan to meet their needs and preferences. Our services can have a positive impact on health, safety, and peace of mind. The homeowner makes all the decisions and Comfortably Home takes care of the rest—planning, design, materials, and installation.

Our professional team will check, repair, install or replace the following items to improve safety and accessibility.

Safety Checks
Refrigerator coils
Light bulbs
Furnace filter(s)
Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detector Replacement

Minor Repairs
Winterizing
Flooring repairs
Storm door installation
Gutter repair
Steps/existing ramp
Minor plumbing & electrical
Custom Work Examples:
- Build Shelf
- Modify cabinet height

Accessibility Modifications
Grab bars and handrails
Shower wand
Shower seat
Raised toilet seat
Drawer pulls
Doorbell
Lighting
Faucets

To participate in Comfortably Home:
- Be age 55+ or have a disability
- Own the home or live in a home owned by a family member
- Have an annual household income under:
- $60,290 for one, $75,760 for two, $85,230 for three, and $94,700 for four.
- Live in Alton, Bangor, Bradley, Brewer, Carmel, Dedham, Eddington, Glenburn, Greenbush, Greenfield, Hampden, Hermon, Holden, Hudson, Milford, Old Town, Orrington, Orono, Stillwater and Veazie.

To learn more about Comfortably Home call The Housing Authority of the City of Old Town at **207-827-6151**

Old Town Code Enforcement

The City of Old Town Code Enforcement Office plays an important role in helping residents, contractors, and business owners safely improve and maintain their properties. Our office is responsible for receiving, reviewing, and issuing permits for a wide variety of projects, including building, plumbing, and electrical work. Whether someone is constructing a new home, remodeling a kitchen, replacing a deck, or installing new electrical service, our goal is to guide projects through the permitting process efficiently, professionally, and in a way that helps the public.

Summer is the busiest time of the year for the Code Enforcement Office. As the weather improves, construction activity throughout the community increases significantly. Much of my time during the summer months is spent reviewing permit applications, answering questions from residents and contractors, and conducting inspections on active construction projects throughout the City. These inspections help ensure that work is completed safely and in compliance with applicable building codes designed to protect homeowners, occupants, and neighboring properties.

This summer has also been busy working on several Shoreland Zoning violation cases that have required a significant amount of coordination and follow-up. Addressing these matters has involved meetings with property owners, representatives from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and professional foresters to develop appropriate reforestation and remediation plans. These efforts are important to protecting water quality, preserving natural shoreline buffers, and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations that help safeguard the community's natural resources for future generations.

A large part of the job also involves working directly with residents who are taking on home improvement projects themselves. Many homeowners are surprised to learn that permits are often required for projects such as decks, additions, electrical upgrades, plumbing work, and other structural improvements.

The Code Enforcement office is here to help residents understand the requirements, navigate the process, and complete projects successfully. I understand that codes and regulations can sometimes feel overwhelming, and I strive to be a resource for education and guidance rather than simply enforcement.


Travis Roy

The Code Enforcement Office is committed to supporting safe development, protecting property values, and helping maintain the quality of life that makes Old Town a great place to live and work. Residents are always encouraged to contact the office with questions before beginning a project so we can help point them in the right direction from the start.

As I write this, the City is preparing to welcome in a new Code Enforcement Officer, Wade Betters. Wade is an Old Town resident and will be taking over the Code Enforcement Office.

Old Town Assessing

Travis Roy, Assessor

I am thankful to have the privilege of returning to the Assessor's Office for the City of Old Town. I am a Certified Maine Assessor and have been involved in real estate for more than 23 years. I look forward to putting that experience to work for the residents of Old Town as we navigate the challenges of today's real estate market.

I would like to thank April Buchanan for her work in Old Town over the last 4 years and wish her the best in her new role in Biddeford.

The role of the Assessor is an important one. Our responsibility is to establish fair and equitable assessments for properties throughout the community while following Maine law and the standards established by the State. I recognize that property taxes and property values can be complicated and frustrating topics, and I believe residents deserve an Assessing Office that is accessible, responsive, and willing to explain the process.

One of the issues we will be addressing in the coming year is the relationship between Old Town's assessments and current market values. The most recent Sales Ratio Analysis conducted by Maine Revenue Services indicates that Old Town's assessments are currently averaging approximately 80% of market value based on the sales included in the State's study.

This means that adjustments to assessments will be necessary to bring the City's overall assessment level into the range required by the State. Maine requires municipalities to maintain an assessment level of at least 91% of current market value in order to receive full value for certain property tax exemptions and State reimbursements. Reaching that level is an important part of maintaining a fair and equitable assessment system and ensuring that Old Town receives the full benefit of programs for which its property owners and the City are eligible.

What does this mean for individual property owners? It is important to understand that an overall assessment adjustment does not mean every property type will receive the same percentage increase. Property values do not all change at the same rate. Some property types may have increased in value more than others, while some may have changed very little. Our responsibility is to analyze the market and make adjustments that bring individual assessments into better alignment with their current market value while maintaining equity among properties throughout Old Town.

It is also important to understand that this process is not simply about increasing property values. The goal is to maintain assessments that reasonably reflect current market conditions and to apply those standards consistently across the community. Changes in market conditions affect different types of property in different ways, and the Assessing Office will be carefully reviewing sales data and other market information as we move forward.

I also want residents to know that my door is open. If you have questions about your property assessment, exemptions, property records, or the assessment process in general, I encourage you to contact the Assessing Office. While I may not always be able to provide the answer a property owner is hoping for, I will make every effort to explain how we arrived at an assessment and what options may be available to you.

City Finance

Danielle Berube, Finance Director


Danielle Berube

The City website offers citizens the ability to re-register vehicles, pay taxes and sewer fees, purchase hunting and fishing licenses, and re-register ATV, snowmobile, and boat registrations with the online portals.

Upcoming due dates

2027 Tax bills should be mailed in August. The due dates are September 17, 2026, and March 11, 2027

December 2, 2026 is the last day to make payments on 2025 tax liens filed on June 2, 2025, automatic foreclosure notices will be sent in October/November.

September 6, 2026 is the last day to make payments on 2025 sewer liens filed on March 6, 2025, automatic foreclosure notices were sent in July.

2026 Waste Water Pollution Billing schedule

Service dates	Due dates
January-March	April 28
April-June	July 28
July-September	October 28
October-December	January 28

General Assistance Office

General Assistance is a service administered by the municipality for the immediate aid of persons who are unable to provide the basic essential necessities to maintain themselves or their families. The General Assistance office operates by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

General Assistance can be reached by telephone at 827-3991, ext. 107, or by email at otwelfare@old-town.org.

Help Decrease the Rat Population on Marsh Island

A major cause of the city's rodent problem is due to the keeping of chickens, as the feed is also a source of food for the rats. The feeding of birds and feral animals is another reason for the increase in the rat population. Rats are not picky eaters. They search out any food source available. DO NOT LEAVE OUT ANY FOOD FOR FERAL ANIMALS. Open compost piles are another source of food and shelter for rodents. All composting must utilize an enclosed composting bin. Placing your trash curb-side early and not in required trash cans is yet another reason we are facing this challenge. Please place trash curbside the morning of your collection date and in a trash receptacle.



Housing Authority of the City of Old Town

Affordable Family Housing - Now Accepting Applications

Short waiting lists for 2, 3, & 4 bedroom apartments in Old Town located at Meadow Lane, Anderson Lane & Dow IV.

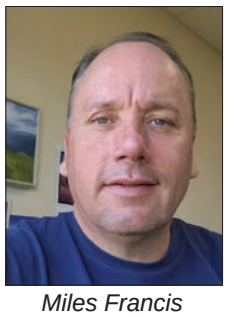
Rent is based on income. Income limits & eligibility requirements apply.

All applicants are selected by date & time of application.

Apply today! 207-827-6151, www.oldtownhousing.net

Equal Housing Opportunity

Old Town Municipal Airport: Dewitt Field


Miles Francis

Seasonal Update

Summer has been a busy season at Old Town Municipal Airport, with several exciting projects continuing to move forward. The Taxiway C construction project has officially been awarded to Sargent Corporation as the lowest bidder, and we are currently scheduling construction to begin in the near future. This important project will improve airfield infrastructure and help support the airport's continued growth for years to come.

To support future hangar development, the airport will also be constructing a temporary taxiway connecting the hangar development area to Runway 12/30. This temporary access will allow aircraft to safely reach the runway while a permanent taxiway solution is developed, enabling construction of new privately owned hangars to begin as soon as tenants are ready to move forward with their projects.

The waterfront continues to be active throughout the flying season. The seasonal fuel facility and floatplane docking area are fully open and available for use, providing convenient access for pilots arriving by seaplane and supporting one of the airport's unique amenities.

In addition to these larger projects, several improvements have been made around the airport to enhance safety and convenience. We recently upgraded the photo-eye lighting controls around the tenant hangars and installed new solar lighting at the fuel farm to improve visibility and make nighttime fueling safer and more convenient for pilots.

Around the airport, mowing and landscaping have kept the grounds looking their best throughout the summer. Maintaining a clean, attractive, and well-kept facility remains an important part of providing a welcoming environment for pilots, visitors, and the Old Town community as we continue investing in the airport's future.



Economic & Community Development

Economic Development Director Appointed

Economic development initiatives continue to gain momentum as the city advances several strategic projects designed to strengthen Old Town's economy and enhance long-term community prosperity.

Current efforts include revisiting discussions surrounding a potential hotel development to better understand the project's status, identify previous challenges, and determine the next steps necessary to move the opportunity forward. In addition, the department continues to evaluate development opportunities within the Penny Road Enterprise Park, Airport, trail connectivity initiatives, and several other citywide projects aimed at expanding the tax base, creating sustainable year-round employment opportunities, and improving the overall quality of life for residents.

These initiatives represent a continued commitment to fostering thoughtful growth, supporting business investment, and positioning Old Town for long-term economic success.

Riverfest 2026 – Celebrating 30 Years

September 25–27, 2026

Planning is well underway for the 30th Annual Old Town Riverfest, taking place September 25–27, 2026.

As one of the City's premier community celebrations, Riverfest continues to showcase everything that makes Old Town a vibrant place to live, work, and visit. This milestone anniversary is shaping up to be one of the largest celebrations in the festival's history, featuring a wide variety of family-friendly activities, live entertainment, food vendors, community organizations, and special attractions.

This year's festival will include performances by the University of Maine Marching Band, a spectacular fireworks display, an expanded selection of food vendors, and numerous activities and entertainment opportunities throughout the weekend.

Community members are encouraged to mark their calendars and join us as we celebrate 30 years of Riverfest and the continued growth of our community.

For additional information, please contact Amy Collinsworth at acollinsworth@old-town.org.

Downtown Old Town (DTOT)

Beautification Project #1

Downtown Old Town is pleased to announce the launch of its first official beautification initiative, marking an exciting milestone in the organization's continued efforts to enhance the downtown district.

The first phase of improvements will transform the space located between Main Street Grill and Sewing & More into an attractive, welcoming public gathering area. Planned enhancements include new surface materials, refreshed site furnishings, decorative paint, overhead shade sails, decorative lighting, planters, public signage, and the installation of donated decorative canoes provided by Johnson Outdoors.

Construction is currently underway, with Phase I scheduled for completion prior to Riverfest.

Summer Community BBQ Series

The Downtown Old Town Summer BBQ Series has experienced tremendous success this season following the organization's renewed focus on community engagement and volunteer involvement.

Through a refreshed strategic approach centered on themed events, family-friendly activities, live entertainment, and community partnerships, the series has welcomed residents and visitors together in a fun and welcoming atmosphere. Three successful events have already been held, with the final celebration scheduled for August 20.


Amy Collinsworth

The season finale will feature food, lawn games, a community movie, fire pits, and additional activities designed to bring the community together for one last summer celebration.

Get Involved with DTOT

Downtown Old Town continues to welcome new volunteers who are passionate about the future of our downtown.

Whether you live, work, own a business, attend school, or simply enjoy spending time in Old Town, there is an opportunity to become involved and help shape the future of the downtown district.

DTOT meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, with virtual participation available via Zoom. Community members interested in volunteering or joining the DTOT mailing list are encouraged to contact Amy Collinsworth at acollinsworth@old-town.org.

To stay informed about downtown events, projects, and volunteer opportunities, visit www.dtotmaine.org or follow Downtown Old Town on Facebook.

Ensure your trash is picked up: Close the lids!

Use Green OT bags and close the lids!

The city consistently receives calls from residents regarding their trash or recycling not being collected. When this occurs, the city contacts Casella and gives them the address. Within five minutes the city receives a video of that location, on that day, so that we may inform the resident as to why their cans did not get picked up. On very few occasions, it was simply missed. **98% of the time the video reveals that the lids were open.**

There is also a misconception that the city is not enforcing the pay per bag collection service. The city is working diligently to bring every property into conformity. We receive calls from citizens complaining that they are seeing carts with white, orange, and black trash bags. This can be confusing as **apartment buildings with over four units cannot utilize the city service** and must contract with a trash hauler to remove their trash. Some utilize typical dumpsters while others that also contract through Casella have the carts just like the city's service and utilize the side load truck just as the city does. The difference is in the detail. All carts that the city's contract covers have a serial number that begins with OT. All other carts are being paid for through the property owners and do not have to adhere to the pay per bag collection structure.

To ensure your trash is picked up every time, there are a few things you must know:

- **Use pay-per-throw green bags** available at city hall, Walgreens, and Hannaford.
- **Close lids securely**. Don't overload the can so that the lid cannot close
- **Keep space between the cans.** There must be a foot or two between them so that the mechanical arm can grasp the can.
- **Place them in the correct direction** with the handle and wheels toward your yard/home or against the curb (off of the sidewalk if any) in the street.



Trash and recycling collection occurs every week on your service day, either Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday.

Holiday Collection Schedule

Visit casella.com/old-town-me for upcoming holiday pick up schedules.

Questions? Please call Casella at 1-800-CASELLA.



Lyrics by OTES students (Gemini-generated image)

Finding Our Truth Through Voice, Art, and Action

This year, students across RSU 34 explored courage, truth, and the power of individual voices through Robert Shetterly's Americans Who Tell the Truth (AWTT) portrait exhibit.

Students learned from inspiring individuals including Kelsey Juliana, Julia Butterfly Hill, Michael Pollan, Dawn Wooten, Sherri Mitchell, Betty Burkes, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Maine musician, songwriter, and choir director Con Fullam. At Old Town Elementary School, Connie Carter, Education Director for AWTT, encouraged students to "find their tree," discover what matters most to them, and use their voices to make a positive difference. She also shared the mission of AWTT with Old Town High School Key Club members and the Old Town Kiwanis Club at their monthly meeting.

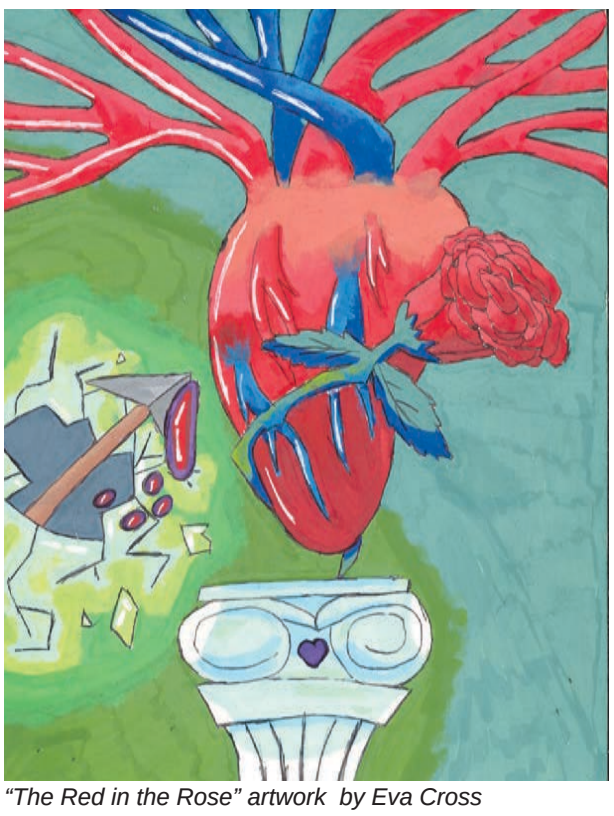
Students at OTES and LMS also welcomed Con Fullam, who shared the inspiring work of his Portland-based multinational immigrant and refugee girls' chorus, Pihcintu. His message demonstrated how music can build peace, hope, and belonging. At LMS, students participating in the Samantha Smith Challenge will also connect virtually with Dawn Wooten to learn firsthand about her advocacy and experiences.

Inspired by these experiences, students across the district created self-portraits and reflected on their own truths, hopes, and dreams for their communities. For a group of Chapter 104 students at OTES, those reflections led to deeper conversations about war, violence, kindness, and the future they hope to see. Together with Mrs. Marquis, Mr. Henderson, and Mrs. Harvey, they transformed their ideas into an original song, "The Red in the Rose." As interest in the project grew, so did the ensemble. Students learned to accompany themselves on ukuleles and proudly performed their song for families and community members during end-of-year celebrations.

Their original lyrics remind us that even the youngest voices can inspire compassion and positive change.

From our youngest learners to our high school students, the AWTT exhibit and related projects have demonstrated the power of art, literature, music, and personal reflection to inspire thoughtful action. RSU 34 is proud to provide opportunities that empower students to discover what matters most to them, find their voice, and use it to help create a more compassionate world.




"The Red in the Rose" artwork by Eva Cross

