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January 10, 2020

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# Mustang News

*Alburghschool.org*

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Welcome to the 2019 – 2020 School Year! We look forward to another exciting year. Keep up to date on school events by following us on Facebook, the school webpage and Front Porch Forum.

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Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday break and is refreshed and ready to go. Basketball is underway at school. Please come and support our teams.

Congratulations to Mrs. Moegelin for becoming a board-certified behavioral analysis. That is not an easy test.

The teachers have completed their winter assessments in math and literacy for each student. Students have been placed in an appropriate intervention if needing extra support within our Multi System Tiered of Support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Please remember to send your child(ren) to school with the appropriate winter outerwear. Teachers will be determining if recess is inside or outside based on the weather at the time when their recess takes place. If you are in need of winter clothing, please give me a call. We have many winter coats, hats and mittens at school.

My door is always open!

Take care!

Ms. Beth

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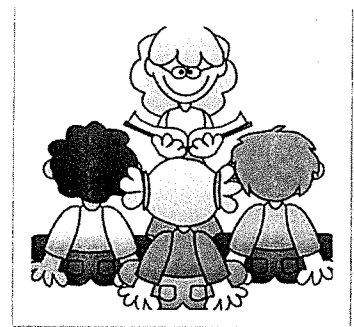


## Upcoming Events

**January 20**

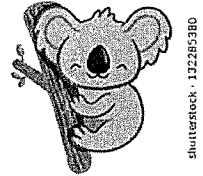
Martin Luther King Day

No School



## Classroom News

The **Preschool** is excited to announce we will be adopting a koala bear who resides at the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital in Australia. We teach the students to care for one another amongst our own community but now we are going to learn what it means to help others across the world. We will be keeping everyone informed as we will receive monthly updates on our Koala with a picture. The students will be learning about Australia and what is involved in caring for a Koala.



### Kindergarten Happenings...

Welcome back families! I hope you all had a wonderful break and are enjoying the New Year. The kindergarten classes have picked up right where they left off.

In literacy, we focused a lot of our attention on spelling color words. Students were able to match the color word with its correct color by recognizing letters in the word. We also used our names to identify first and last letter and will start to look at first and last letters within different texts next week. We continue to work on sight words, beginning letter sounds and letter formation. This week we started our SIPPS reading program and I cannot wait to see our readers take off!

In math, this week we introduced teen numbers as a group of 10 and some more. Students are able to group objects quickly into a 10 group and count the remaining objects to determine the teen number! We still continue to count forwards and backwards throughout our day and encourage families to do the same at home! Our PNOA math assessments will begin next week and we will use the data to create new learning groups.

### First and Second Grade

Welcome Back! We all enjoyed a wonderful winter break and are settling back into our routine. Mrs. Giroux's first grade writers are learning how to come up with topics for their stories. Our students are developing their writers' voice by listening and talking about their lives. Our writing workshop helps students express their unique views of their world. One way you can support your child in becoming a writer is to tell them stories about your own experiences. Sharing stories while driving places or waiting in line at the store is a great way to help your child practice the art of storytelling. Our stories can just be something funny that happened to you when you were six, or an interesting cloud shape you saw that morning. Many of the best stories come from the smallest moments of our lives!

Mrs. Giroux's second grade writers are diving into writing stories about friendships. The students have completed all the Mercy Watson books and enjoyed exploring character traits of the funny pig Mercy and her human family. Each time a child hears a story read aloud they practice constructing that story in their head. Reading aloud to our students at

home and in school is so important! It helps our young students learn how to carry a story in their head, which is an important skill to develop as a writer.

Mr. Flax's first and second graders have finished their units on animal characteristics and habitats. Our students bring a wealth of experience and knowledge about animals to our discussions. Our primary scientists are now learning about landforms. One interesting landform we are learning about is the Grand Canyon! We are learning how some earth changes that create our environment are fast and occur very rapidly, while other earth changes are very slow to develop. Our first-grade mathematicians are learning place value with subtraction and addition, and our second-grade mathematicians are using modules to solve word problems.

In **3<sup>rd</sup> grade** we just started a new math unit on finding the area of shapes, and the class is doing great on it! They're transitioning from simply counting the shapes inside an array to using multiplication to find the area of the shape.

We've been watching the eagle's nest in Iowa daily and it has been quite active! Within the next month they should be laying their eggs. Every day they add more sticks to the edge of the nest to build up the sides and they add corn stalks to the nest bowl preparing for a soft spot for the eggs.

We started our lighthouse models. The class has mastered simple circuits and eventually they'll build a circuit inside their lighthouse model. Thank you so much for all the shoe boxes that were sent in, we started painting them this week as a base for their lighthouse model.

In **4<sup>th</sup> grade**, we completed a mini unit called: Chocolate from Bean to Belly. We read about, discussed, and viewed the chocolate making process from cacao beans in the rainforest to end product (liquid, block, baking bits). Students learned about, properties of plants, fermentation, roasting, and quality control. It is great when mathematics, social studies, science, and reading all come to a confluence to keep student interest. The mini-unit ended with children trying hand-made chocolate from Central America. About half the children liked the taste, the others found it bitter. We continued our work in fractions, current events, and sharing our writing.

**PE Classes:** Grades K-2 are focusing on jumping. We are practicing jumping rope, 2-2 jumps, as well as assemble, and session movements. We are using agility ladders and will do some fun station work next week.

Grades 3-8 are starting off the new year with basketball activities. We are working on fundamental skills including dribbling, passing, and shooting. We will soon begin practicing defense and working together in small sided games.

### **Music and Basketball Update!**

Thanks to all student performers and families for making our two holiday concerts wonderful experiences. The turn-out was excellent and I am proud of our students for giving such beautiful and earnest performances. We are full steam ahead and working on new music.

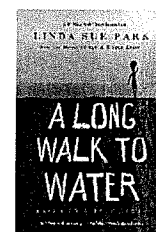
Also, thanks to 3rd and 4th grade boys' basketball families and players for the effort and encouragement as the season is now in full swing. There was good effort and sportsmanship last Tuesday night in our game with Swanton.

There are many wonderful things happening in **Middle School ELA!**

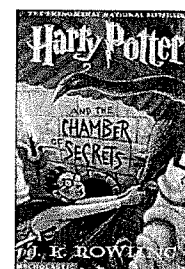
The 8th grade is working on a creative magazine project! They have selected topics that are of interest to them and are creating "articles" that focus on using different text organizational patterns. These include: cause and effect, problem and solution, sequence, descriptive, and compare and contrast. We have also been discussing other text features that include headings, subtitles, captions, illustrations...basically other ways of showing and conveying information! Usually these text features are used in non-fiction writing so it has been useful for students to be able to identify them and use them in their own writing! Before break we read "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens and the 8th graders did an AMAZING job reading it aloud as a play. They all took turns reading lines and doing their best British accents! Who knew they could be so dramatic?!

Description	Does it describe something?	
Sequence	Is it telling you the ORDER of events?	1 → 2 → 3
Compare & Contrast	Is it explaining how things are alike or different?	
Problem & Solution	Is it telling how a problem was solved?	
Cause & Effect	Is it explaining why something happened?	

The 7th grade is currently reading "A Long Walk to Water" which is a novel that is based on a true story. This book tells the tale of a young boy caught up in a terrible civil war in Southern Sudan. The violence and destruction are coupled with a serious water shortage crisis which creates a harrowing tale of bravery and determination. Separated from his family, this young boy has to find his way to safety and embarks on a long, perilous journey to escape the fighting. The students have really been enjoying this novel and we have also been learning about water conservation and ways to protect this precious natural resource, which is an awesome way to blend Science and ELA!



6th grade is beginning to read "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" and we are so excited to be with Harry and his friends as they embark on year two at magic school! We will be learning about plot elements and how they unfold by using a graphic organizer! We are also on the lookout for themes and messages being sent to us (the reader) through the text! We have also been doing a pretty intense vocabulary study, as this book has a ton of amazing new words to discover! We have also been talking together about common prefixes (some examples are: -aud -dis -un -auto -pre) so that when we come across new words we are able to figure them out just by having a basic knowledge of what the prefix means! Pretty great stuff! All middle schoolers have been reading and writing so much lately, and it has been wonderful to get back in the groove after a relaxing break!



### **Middle School Math:**

#### 8th Grade Happenings

As with all the middle school, a new year brings new math. We have started Module 4 which extends ratios and proportions and goes into linear equations. Currently, we have talked about what makes something linear and what doesn't and how to take a mathematical

statement and translate it into a mathematical equation. Students are also learning how to solve for "x" in linear equations using terms, like terms, coefficients, and balanced equations.

#### 7th Grade Math Happenings

January is a month known for freezing and thawing temperatures. Students in the 7th grade math class are learning about positive and negative integers using number lines both vertical and horizontal. We are already through lessons 1-4 in Module 2. So far we have discussed topics like the difference between positive and negative integers, absolute values, and how to add and subtract positive and negative numbers using number lines and mathematical rules. This is the one time in life when two negatives do make a positive. :)

#### 6th Grade Happenings.

With the new year, we have moved on from ratios and are now into how to multiply and divide fractions. Over the years, math students in Alburgh have learned the acronym KCF or KFC or Keep Change Flip and Keep Flip Change when they've practiced how to divide fractions/whole numbers by fractions/whole numbers. I've have challenged the two 6th grade classes to relearn KFC by using the acronym KCR plus RM or Keep Change Reciprocal plus Reduce and Multiply. So far, this Unit has challenge us with mathematical equations and word problems designed to "get our thinking caps on". Please keep reviewing lesson packets and your notebooks to stay on top of all new topics and class discussions.

Anyone playing basketball, your grades in all classes must be above a D. If you have any concerns, review your Jupiter grades. In math, you can always turn in any assignment late, make corrections on HW assignments, and or make corrections to quizzes and tests. Remember, I am usually after school for 45 minutes every weekday except for Fridays to help as needed.

### Middle School Science

The 6th grade just started a geology unit. We are integrating art to make a foldable project about Earth's layers. We will start learning about Earth's plates and Pangaea next week.

The 7th grade is working on the human body. We just started the muscular and skeletal system. We will be wrapping up this unit shortly with a chicken wing dissection.

The 8th grade is learning how to balance simple chemical equations. We will be done with the chemistry unit shortly and will start evolution and natural selection.

### Guidance News:

On **Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**, MVU is providing a bus to take our 8th Grade students to visit MVU and experience a half day of 9<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum and other school offerings. Each student will attend two academic classes followed by a tour of the school and a panel question/answer session in the library. Students will enjoy a **free lunch** provided by MVU's cafeteria. The bus will be departing from Alburgh School at 8:00 AM Sharp! All students attending must be to school prior to that time. Permission slips are coming home to be returned by Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the school with any questions you may have.





Your child has been invited to participate in a new program called the BackPack Program. This program is a partnership between the Alburgh School and The Vermont Foodbank.

The BackPack Program will provide a bag of non-perishable food to your child each Friday for him/her to eat over the weekend. The program is available throughout the year.

To enroll your child in the program, please fill out the information below and return to the Alburgh School. Please call 796-3573 x108 with any questions that you may have, and we look forward to a great year!

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any other children in the house under the age of 18 years.

\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know any questions or comments: