



October 1, 2008

Dear Families,

We have had a great start to our year and we are excited to welcome new and returning students and staff to the 2008-2009 school year. We are continuing our efforts to target the specific needs of individual students and to enhance our instruction in our pursuit of high standards for all students.

While we often hear that "teachers do not work in the summer," in most cases, that is far from the truth. In addition to spending many hours designing or redesigning instruction for one's own practice, engaging in professional learning through classes and conferences, collaborating with colleagues and/or others in our state engaged in similar work, many members of our staff worked on district and school curriculum, assessment and instruction initiatives this summer. This work included the development of a sequence of phonics instruction in early grades, training for the expansion of our three tier model of instruction and intervention into grade two, work aligning our writing rubrics with the GLE's (NH grade level expectations) and literacy training with all new staff. The ongoing investment of time, focus and expertise forms the foundation for our work with students during the school year.

Our three tiered model of instruction and intervention continues to be an important focus of our work at BES. This framework of instructional

delivery is becoming increasingly familiar to many families. This is an early intervention model that focuses on the individual assessment of student learning and the use of this information to design specific instruction to meet student needs. The goal of the model, now being implemented in kindergarten, first and second grades, is two-fold. First, this approach helps us differentiate our instruction to support the continuous progress of every student. For some students, this includes providing supplemental, targeted instruction/intervention in addition to core instruction provided in the classroom. For other students, instruction beyond the core, grade level classroom instruction is delivered to support a student's growth. It is our goal to deliver instruction at levels that are appropriate for each student.

The second goal of the model is one of prevention. Research continues to highlight the benefits of identifying and addressing learning challenges *early* to prevent the development of more complex challenges in the future. Because instruction in the BES three tiered model is designed based on student learning, our delivery is 'fluid' and flexible as students progress towards meeting curriculum standards. Classroom teachers

and members of the reading department, special education, speech/language and occupational therapy are all involved in the three tiered model. We look forward to our continued work meeting student needs.

In closing, we know you all share our profound sense of loss at the death of Sammy Rotman on September 17th. Sammy was a vibrant and loved member of the BES community and we deeply miss her. Her courage and spirit are etched in the hearts of each of us as we go forward. We again extend our sincere sympathies to Sammy's family and to all who knew and loved this special young girl.

Dr. Deb Gibbens, Principal

Jane Morrill-Winter
Assistant Principal

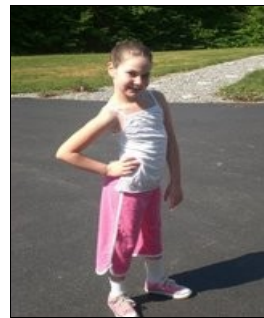


Photo of Sammy Rotman

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Mark Your Calendars

- Oct. 10 & 13- No School
- Oct. 13-17-National School Lunch Week
- Oct. 21 & 27- Fourth Grade Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum Field Trip
- Nov. 5- PTO Meeting (7pm)
- Nov.6- School Board Meeting (7pm)
- Nov. 7 & 10-Parent/Teacher Conferences—No School
- Nov. 11—Veterans Day (Observed) No School

Preschool

Lee Ann Michelin

The Preschoolers have been doing a great job of settling into the classroom routine, learning the classroom rules and making new friends. Mrs. Michelin, Miss Mary and Mrs. A. (Aurilio) are so excited to have such a wonderful group of children to share our mornings. Our classroom rules are: *Be Safe!* and *Be A Good Friend!* The children are learning to listen and follow directions, take care of their belongings and self-help needs, clean up after activities and follow all of the safety rules in the classroom. We have had our first fire drill and everyone did a wonderful job of keeping safe.



We have started the year with our

Ocean Theme. Our sensory table was filled with sand, seashells, fish and other ocean creatures, and boats. We have made some beautiful ocean scenes while exploring several different craft techniques including watercolors, paint dabbers, and painting at the easel. Some of our favorite *Ocean Theme* books include: The Shark Who Was Afraid of Everything by Brian James, 10 Little Fish by Audrey Wood, Somewhere in the Ocean by Jennifer Ward, and (Mrs. Michelin's favorite) Don't Eat the Teacher by Nick Ward. We have learned many new songs that help the children learn colors, shapes, days of the week, body parts, following directions, spatial concepts and recognizing and spelling their



names. We have just begun our *Apple Theme.* We will be learning the parts of apples - stem, leaves, bud, blossom, fruit and seeds. We will be making apple-sauce and some beautiful apple crafts. Our classroom tree has grown in the preschool hallway to hold our apple crafts.

This tree will guide us through the different seasons of the year and help us learn the parts of a tree - roots, trunk, branches, leaves, bark and wood. Our sensory table now is filled with beans and forest animals.

So, as you can see, the preschoolers are off to a great start! We'll tell you all about more of our adventures in the next newsletter.

Lee Ann Michelin

Kindergarten

Patti Bechard, Meredith Bell, Monica Swenson, Kelly Wood

Kindergarten is off to a great start! We have been busy getting to know each other, establishing routines and learning about our classrooms. It has been fun meeting new friends!



We have also been "beary busy" learning about bears. In addition to reading many different books about bears, we have also explored patterns, graphed our favorite teddy graham, sorted and graphed gummy bears and gone on quite a few bear hunts. We had a ball at our Teddy Bear Picnic, but we're very surprised at what our bears did at their Teddy Bear

sleepover! Ask your little one to fill you in on the mischief!

We continue to learn about letters and letter sounds in a wide variety of ways. We have studied the letters P, B, D and T so far. Our letter study includes activities such as letter hunts, brainstorming words, poetry and letter formation using various manipulatives.

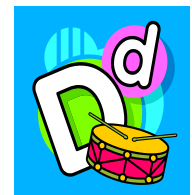
We are looking forward to our field trip to the apple orchard on October 11th.

We will be writing about our favorite part.

It has been wonderful getting to know all of your little munchkins.

Thank you for sharing them with us!

Kelly, Patti and Monica

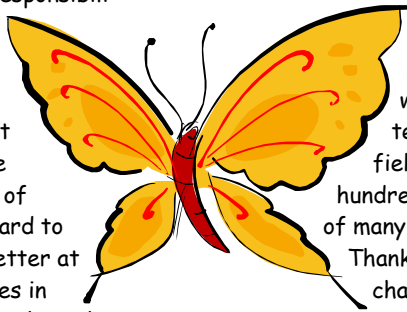


Grade 1

Megan Charpentier, Pat Manning, Tracy Mingarelli, Kim Normandin, Katie Queenan, Robin Rader, Colleen Snow, Amy Turley

Welcome first grade families! We have been very busy these first few weeks of school. We have been establishing our classroom community, learning our routines and responsibilities and getting to know each other through cooperative games.

We had a great turnout at Open House and had the opportunity to share some of what we do. We look forward to getting to know families better at Parent Teacher Conferences in November, and some of you through



volunteering which starts in October. We have been studying the life cycle of butterflies. Each class has had the opportunity to witness caterpillars transforming before their eyes! To culminate our study we went to The Butterfly Place on a field trip. We saw hundreds of butterflies of many different species. Thank you to all our chaperones.

Family involvement is a critical compo-

nent of a successful first grade year. A first grade 'Family Homework' project has been busily underway. We would like to thank families for taking the time to work on this together. Come check out the fabulous work in the hallways!

Coming up in first grade we will read about fairy houses. Your child can look forward to our annual Woods Walk in October and creating our Fairy Houses! All parents are welcome to chaperone. Happy Fall!

The First Grade Team, Robin, Kim, Amy, Katie, Tracy & Colleen

Grade 2

Lois Ambra, Diane Gerhardt, Patti Lally, Pat Manning, Kristin Menard, Ann West, Lisa White, Kristin Woodman

Dear Families,

Here we are in second grade. Thank you all for coming to Open House on Thursday, September 11th. We welcome this opportunity to meet and share information about our curriculum, goals and procedures for the year. We hope by now that you have found time to read through the information given to you. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Now that we've had an opportunity to meet, homework assignments are beginning. These second graders are really ready to begin! This second grade year presents a unique opportunity to take advantage of that enthusiasm to build the foundation for positive homework habits that will last throughout the years ahead. Please help us to foster the "red folder habit" as a daily way to deliver and receive homework assignments and classroom communications. Students should be bringing home the red folder each day in their backpack, checking contents

with you, and returning to school each day with the red folder in their backpacks. Thank you for this support.

The first units in math this year emphasize addition and subtraction facts. We are all working hard to help students master + and - facts to 18. This will help students deepen their sense of numbers and be ready for the more challenging concepts and work that lie ahead. Short practice times at home, or opportunities to play number games, will help students grow with this skill.

Our students have shown great curiosity and interest about our first unit of study on the ocean, specifically life at the rocky shore. We are learning about the many organisms that find ways to survive this harsh environment. The students are enthusiastically starting their tide pool projects, for which they research a tide pool animal or plant and create an accurate, life-size model to display on a classroom mural. They even had a lesson about lobsters taught by Ms. Frizzle! We are using centimeters and



meters to compare the size of these plants and animals. We want our students to become fluent in "metric" as well as standard measurement. If you would like an easy reference so that you can talk "metric" to-

gether, a centimeter is about the size of the width of your little finger, and a meter is about the height of a doorknob.

Be sure to keep checking the red folder for information about our field trip to Odiorne State Park on October 8. This will be a great opportunity for students to reinforce our classroom study of life at the Rocky Shore.

We're looking forward to an action packed year of learning. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns throughout the year. Communication is a key ingredient to our success!

Yours truly,

Lois, Diane, Patti, Ann, Lisa, and Kristin

Grade 3

Amy Blau, Martha Hickey, Kelly Lewis, Elaine Mielcarz, Beth Udelson, Kristin Woodman

The third-grade team would like to extend a warm *thank you* to parents for attending our annual open house event. Each of us looks forward to the upcoming November parent/teacher conference dates. If you have been unable to make an appointment, please e-mail or send a note to arrange a meeting time. Conference dates are November 7th and 10th.

The team would also like to thank parents for sending in disinfectant wipes, soft tissues, packaged snacks, and other items that help keep classrooms a much healthier and happier environment.

Your generosity is appreciated greatly.

We are pleased with the work that took place this summer through the Literacy Leadership Team. Teachers and specialists from the elementary school are using knowledge and tools gained through this work to get the most valuable information to students as they apply reading and writing across all content based subjects. Third grade teachers and students are already active participants in engaging classroom reading and writing activities. We will be sharing our work with you through a variety of forms as this first trimester

unfolds.

Holiday festivities are a time for classroom community building. Individual teachers will contact room parents regarding any classroom holiday events. At this time of year we usually focus on a harvest festival as it connects to our science nutrition studies.

As the cool weather arrives, a sweater or light jacket for classroom comfort may be needed. Thank you for all you do to make Bow Elementary School a good place to learn.

Sincerely,

Grade-Three Team

Grade 4

Sandy Bennert, Kathy Gage, Cheryl Hamer, Marti Lawton, Dannie Monahan, Suzie Percy

We have enjoyed a wonderful start to this new school year.

Thank you to the many parents who have expressed an interest in volunteering this year. Individual classroom teachers use parent volunteers in different ways. Therefore, teachers will be contacting you regarding volunteer jobs. Back to School Night was well received. Thank you for the positive feedback and support.

Mathematics: Fourth grade is off and running with Everyday Math! We have completed Unit 1 and are well into Unit 2. Please look for and read the "Family Letter" that your child brings home at the beginning of every unit. It provides valuable insight as to what your child will be studying in Mathematics during the upcoming weeks.

Reading: Fourth graders are reading a variety of trade (chapter) books in their classrooms. Students experience whole class reading, paired reading with a partner, independent reading and listening to oral readings. Students are exposed to a variety of challenging pre-reading vocabulary activities and post-reading comprehension activities. Fourth Grade also uses the

Rigby Reading Program which offers both fiction and non fiction literature. Ask your child about the problems and solutions found in the book, Pathki Nana.

Language Arts: Fourth graders are rising to the challenge of word study through "Words Their Way". Various, challenging activities provide reinforcement of spelling patterns, word origins, phonics, and prefixes and suffixes.

Daily Oral Language sentences provide the opportunity to edit a written piece for spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar. Daily Analogies allow students to infer relationships between two sets of words.

Students are utilizing the Six Traits of writing to create, edit and publish a variety of writing pieces. Some students are working on creative writing stories. Others are learning different

poetry forms. Imagination abounds in fourth graders' original couplet, cinquain and haiku poems!

Social Studies: Map skills are being reviewed in fourth grade classrooms, through, "Where in the World is Bow, NH?". Longitude and latitude activities help us review and discover locations on maps and globes. Interpreting map scales, keys and compass

roses allow us to glean different types of information from a many different types of maps. Daily Geography (*GROW*) is a weekly homework assignment designed to practice the map skills fourth graders are developing.

Fourth graders are also finishing their study of the Ice Age, and are jumping into their study of the Abenaki; the Native American Tribe who lived and still live in New Hampshire today. The entire grade will have the opportunity to visit the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner, NH to further their knowledge of this very important tribe.

Fourth Grade Team



Guidance News

Glenn Berger, School Counselor

Welcome Back! I hope you all enjoyed the summer recess as much as your children. I still have two in college. One is a Junior at Bates and is studying the Mandarin Language. He has been in China for the past five months and is scheduled to fly home in December. My middle child is completing her final internship for a Master's Degree in Physical Therapy at the University of Connecticut. Although the decisions that they make (sometimes with me as a consultant) are much more complex than when they were younger, I certainly do not miss the exhaustion that accompanied coaching, music lessons, eternal life in the car, and food on the run. My best wishes and hats off to all Bow Parents who have seemingly discovered that extra source of energy.

During the next two weeks our 3rd and 4th grade students will be taking the state NECAP tests. They will hopefully be challenging, intriguing, and a lot of fun for our students. My role during this period is to insure that all the materials are in the teachers' hands and to make up exams when children have been absent.

I have been able to initiate my work in the classroom in addition to visiting with children in groups and individually. The themes for the initial lessons have been:

Kindergarten: Kindness (The Giving Tree)

Grade 1: 'Something From Nothing'

Grade 2: Bullying

Grade 3: Bullying

Grade 4: Goal Setting (The Life of the List: The Science of Setting Goals)

Counseling students and discovering brief yet potent solutions for issues continues to be my focus with many students. Should you have any concerns about your children, their behaviors, and/or your reaction to their behaviors, please feel free in contacting me and sharing those concerns. I shall look forward to listening to your story and assisting you in taking new steps.

Have a Good Day,

Mr. B

Bow Elementary School Counselor 225-3049 or gberger@bownet.org



Physical Education

Regan Dowe & Joan Tinker

We welcome you all back to a new year of exciting participation in the physical education program! Both students and teachers are excited to be visiting the gym again. After some getting to know you games and introductory activities, classes have begun the first units of the year.

First and Second grade students have been exploring body movement and body awareness concepts such as personal space (small), general space (large), locomotor skills (moving through space), non-locomotor skills (not moving through space), pathways (the direction you choose), tempo (the speed you choose), levels (low, medium, high), and large and small body shapes.

Third and Fourth grade students are in the midst of a Team Building Unit. Children had the opportunity to work in small, medium and large sized groups. Concepts taught and practiced include: Cooperation, Taking Turns, and Nice Words (compliments, encouragement, recognition). The students also had the opportunity to work with interesting equipment such as blind folds and a giant 40 inch soccer ball.



Please assist us in reminding students to wear appropriate clothing and footwear on PE days. Flip flops and hee-lies are not allowed at school and dresses, skirts and crocks are discouraged for comfort and safety reasons. Thanks for your help!

Library Notes

Kim Brewster



We're excited to have begun the school year in the library media center! We have new materials that students and faculty have been enjoying. Ask your child about the Play-aways, (audio books that play with no other needed equipment). These have been a big hit and not only encourage the love of literature but can be changed to different speeds so that students can read along with the print at their own fluency rate.



Bear Hunt, and have worked on story sequence.

Ladybug, ladybug, what books do you have to read? We look forward to sharing the newly nominated Ladybug

Books in the next few months. These books will be shared with kindergartners through grade 3. Students will vote on their favorite book in November. Fourth graders will be introduced to the newly nominated *Great Stone Face* Books in mid October. They will have the opportunity to vote on their favorite book in April. If you are interested in reading a *Great Stone Face* book aloud to the 4th graders during December, January, or February please contact Susan Kurtz or Kim Brewster. Please check out our BES Library website for links to these book lists. http://www.bownet.org/library/Lit_events.htm

All Grade levels are in the midst of learning about the organization of how the library is set up and what the different sections mean through various grade level appropriate activities. Students have been introduced to or have reviewed book care rules. First through third graders have been discussing ways to find a just right book. The five finger guide can be helpful in finding a good fit for independent reading as students read more text! Be sure to ask your student about this guide. Kindergartners have gone on an imaginary bear hunt through Michael Rosen's book, *We're Going on a*



We now have access to World Book Online. This is a great reference tool! To access it please go to our library website: <http://www.bownet.org/>

library/Default.htm

Reference Resources

World Book

Username: bowes

Password: 03304

Scroll down to World Book Kids

Thank you to the following for book donations:

Bow Rotary:

The Dark Hills Divide and *Beyond the Valley of Thorne* by P. Carman

Help! By H. Kelly

Bebe Goes Shopping by S. Middleton Elya

A Dog Needs a Bone! By A. Wood


Duck at the Door by J. Urbanovic

Bow PTO for donating many books to the library including nonfiction, fiction and reference books.

Matt Haddock- *Book of World Records 2008* by Scholastic
The Neff Family- *The Littles and Owl* by Caroline Pitcher
The Molind Family- *Marley: A Dog Like No Other* by John Grogan
Joseph Russo- *The Life and Times of Lilly The Lash* by J. Woik
Justin Muise- *Animal Ark* Books by B. Baglio


Musical Notes

JoAnn Willemsen & Allison Campbell

 After getting acquainted, the music classes reviewed STEADY BEAT and RHYTHM using various songs and movement. Third and fourth grade students tried some songs in 2-part HARMONY and they sounded great!!

All classes reviewed note values and note reading and are beginning to study/review TEMPO.



 Mrs. Campbell, Ms. Willemsen





A fluent reader is one who reads and understands what he or she is reading quickly and with a minimum of effort.



READ, REMEMBER, RETELL

Helpful Tips to Improve Fluency

Practice, practice, practice! Rereading familiar material is proven to be effective in improving fluency skills.

Try having your child read a passage using a fun accent or take turns using different voices.

Reading aloud to your child models fluent reading and builds vocabulary.

What is fluency?

Fluency is the ability to read, speak, or write easily, smoothly, and expressively.

What is DIBELS?

The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) are brief but powerful measures of critical skills that underlie early reading success. Supported by two decades of sophisticated research, these simple grade level assessments predict how well children are likely to be doing in reading comprehension by the end of third grade and beyond. DIBELS assessment is a proven approach for taking "vital signs" of reading health. (source cited DIBELS Overview by Louisa Moats, 2003)

DIBELS Oral Reading Fluency is intended for most children from mid first grade through sixth grade. The benchmark goals align with national norms and the New Hampshire Curriculum Frameworks.

Students should be reading approximately:

40 words correct per minute in the spring of first grade

90 words in spring of second grade

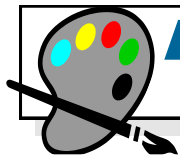
110 in the spring of third grade

120 in the spring of fourth grade

An important component of this measure is the child's ability to **retell** what he or she has read. This skill can be learned and reinforces the idea that **good readers need to be thinking while they are reading.**

Speed reading is not the goal by itself!

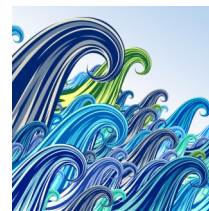
DIBELS measures are one of the sources of information that classroom teachers and intervention teams consider when making instructional decisions at BES. Other assessments are used in conjunction with classroom performance and teacher recommendations to provide a balanced profile of our learners.



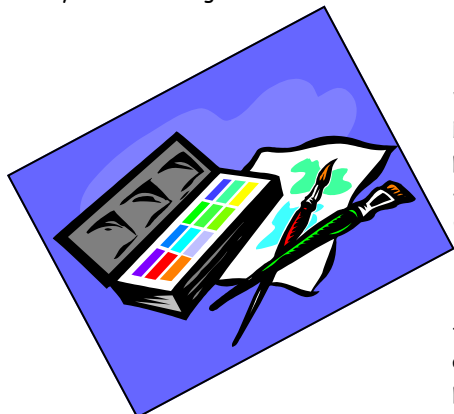
Artist Gallery

Kim Bryant and Mary Straub

First grade students have been exploring the characteristics of line and how lines can create shapes. We've also been getting to know the artwork of Wassily Kandinsky and Paul Klee.



Second grade students have been exploring texture and shape while creating artwork with an ocean theme. We made salt and watercolor paintings with shell observation drawings and clay bowls by pressing objects into clay and recording their texture.



Third grade students have been studying color mixing. We looked at the collages of Henry Matisse and discussed his use of freeform shapes. We also used watercolor paints to mix the intermediate colors on the color wheel. Students also used model magic clay to mix colors with and build color wheel sculptures.



Fourth grade students have been working on Pinwheels for Peace in celebration of International Peace Day. We looked at a variety of abstract artwork and discussed why it was or was not peaceful. Students then created their own peaceful artwork. The drawings and paintings were cut and assembled into pinwheels. We will display our pinwheels outside the school when completed.

Recognize★Encourage★Achieve★Challenge★Honor

Welcome to the REACH Program 2008! REACH is a program that Recognizes and Honors individual strengths through offering a variety of programs that Encourage students to Achieve great heights in their learning, to stretch their thinking and exercise their minds, and to develop a sense of persevering through a Challenge. As programs and activities come along, look for flyers in the Thursday notices that announce what is happening when.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

BES Weekly Challenges ~ BES Challenges (grades 3 & 4) and Partners in Problem Solving (grades 1 & 2) are coming in fast and furious and students seem excited by the challenge! Look for them to come home every Friday.

New! Origami Math Club ~ A four week unit, origami class is being offered to fourth graders a few classes at a time to keep the number of participants to a workable level. The first session begins October 1. The second session being offered to a new group

of fourth grade students will begin on October 29.

Chess Club ~ Chess Club is an after school program that meets on Mondays from 2:20 -3:30 and runs most of the school year. The first of the two 10-week sessions will begin Monday, October 6. At this time, I am looking for a couple of parent volunteers to assist our chess master and teacher, Pastor Rick. If interested email me at skurtz@bownet.org.

Destination Imagination ~ There is a family DI night planned for Wednesday October 22 at 6:00 in the BES Cafeteria. Anyone interested in being on a team this year or simply wanting to know more about the program is encouraged to come join in the fun and excitement of creative problem solving. Teams generally begin working together the first week in November with the regional and state com-



petitions held in March.

Junior Great Books ~ Begins the week of October 6 with 5 newly trained volunteers, and eight returning volunteers! This is a wonderful program for our students and I want to thank all the trained leaders for their time and dedication to this rewarding program.

New! Literary Magazine ~ I am looking for a few interested parents to help conduct some writing workshops with small groups of students once a week. The goal would be to compile a variety of written work from our students grades K -4 two times a year into a published booklet for distribution to all.

We are off to a terrific start! Please email me with any questions or concerns, or with an interest in helping out in the REACH programs. skurtz@bownet.org 225-3049 ext. 507

Notes from the Nurse

Cindy Prescott, School Nurse

Welcome back to a new school year! I look forward to working with you and your children.

It is important that parents (guardians) notify the Health Office when there is a change in the health of your child. I need to hear from you! When your children are ill, please call to let the school know that he/she will be absent. Please send a note in with your child upon return to school following an illness. I try to keep track of "what is going around." If your child is coming to school with a splinted, casted, wrapped or immobilized limb, please let me know what his/her limitations are - if any. I will let the classroom teacher, physical education teacher and recess monitors know what limitations your child has.

Your children are important to me. Please call me with your questions or concerns.

Cindy Prescott, RN
School Nurse



If your child must be dismissed during the school day for any reason, please send a note informing the teacher and school. This advance notice allows teachers time to share any messages or information that may be helpful in your child's preparation for the next day.

Thank you.

Bow Elementary School

22 Bow Center Road
Bow, NH 03304

Phone: 225-3049
Fax: 228-2205

Principal:

Dr. Deborah Gibbens
dgibbens@bownet.org

Assistant Principal:

Jane Morrill-Winter
jmorrill-winter@bownet.org

Have Lunch or Salad Bar with Your Child During NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

Grade 4 on Tuesday, Oct. 14th at 11:50

Grade 3 on Wed., Oct. 15th at 12:15

Grade 2 on Thurs., Oct. 16th at 11:15

Grade 1 on Fri., Oct 17th at 10:45

LOST & FOUND

The lost and found is located in the blue cabinet in the atrium near the music room.