

Swan's Island School

December 4, 2020

Dear Families,

Tuesday, December 8th all Swan's Island staff will be participating in our district asymptomatic Covid-19 testing program. This is a program designed to get a benchmark reading on all staff and to determine if there is a presence of Covid-19 in our schools at this time. You may have received an email from our superintendent, Dr. Gousse regarding a late start on Wednesday, December 9th and this does not apply to our school. As the testing will be done on Swan's Island and not at the high school, we are able to offer a full day of school on Wednesday.

Due to COVID 19, for the 2nd semester of the 2020-2021 school year, the Mount Desert Regional School System will continue to offer both an in-person learning option and a virtual-only learning option to meet the needs of our families. The 2nd semester begins January 26, 2020 and goes until the end of the school year. Because so much is uncertain, we are asking that you indicate a preferred learning model. Please complete the form below, by December 18th.

[MDIRSS K-8 Learning Model Semester 2](#) form

This week you are receiving a special treat from grade 3-5, as the rest of this newsletter was created by them. As a project related to the book Ivy and Bean that we read, students were asked to create their very own newspaper. In Ivy and Bean, the characters named their newspaper The Flipping Pancake. They created stories about all of their neighbors and friends. 3-5 students worked with each of the teachers and spoke with other students to collect the news from November. Enjoy learning all about the school happenings in their first edition of Get Schooled by the 3-5 class!

Reminders:

Early Release Tuesday, December 22nd
Winter Break begins December 23rd
First day back from break is January 4th

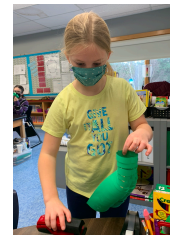
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at cdaqraca@mdirss.org or 812-8939.

Happily,
Mrs. DaGraca

Athlete of the Week



3-5 Making Wreaths in Health Class



The News of the School!

By: Jacques

Q & A with Mrs. DaGraca!

Q: Are you considering any new playground equipment?

A: Leah and Mrs. DaGraca are currently discussing the purchase of an outdoor gazebo.

Q: Are you planning to add anything inside the school?

A: New lockers for 6-8 were purchased. A washer and dryer were purchased and two new sound systems with wireless microphones have been purchased.

3-5

They are finishing their informational writing pieces and are also writing this newspaper about the school.

Math in grade 3 is single digit multiplication (ex. $5 \times 1 = 5$). 4th grade is starting to learn the standard algorithm for multiplication (ex. 35×4). 5th grade is working on decimal fractions ($0.425 = 425/1000$).

In reading, students have selected books for their reading groups. Students are also continuing their work with biographies and learning how to create a timeline.

In science, students are learning about animal habitats and adaptations. We had two virtual field trips with Acadia National park.

K-2

In writing, they have just finished narrative writing and have finished some turkey stories for Thanksgiving.

In math, they have been working on tens and ones.

In reading, they have been doing Lexia and Epic on the iPads.

In science, they have new science bags for inside and outside experiments. They are still waiting for the avocados to sprout.

6-8

6-8 has been studying biology. They have also been doing a lot of work with microbes using a microscope.

6-8 has just finished an American Government unit.

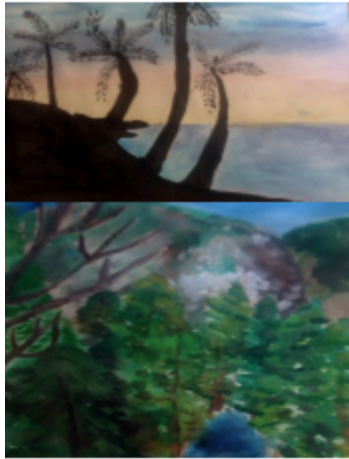
They also finished a read aloud novel called A Long Way from Chicago.

Another thing is that they are writing their own short stories. In November, they read them out loud to the class, while they ate their homemade stone soup.

After Thanksgiving, they will study a unit about ancient civilizations.

In biology, they are studying plants, animals, fungi, bacteria, protists and archaeobacteria.

Art



6-8
They are creating a picture from watercolor. The 6-8th have just finished abstract art.

Pictures
Top - Abby's
Bottom - Hope's



3-5
They have made clay suns and put them in the kiln for a week. The 3-5th painted them and let them dry.

Pictures
Top - peyton's
Bottom - sammi's



K-2
They have worked on drawing cats. Also, they made circles and squares with snakes on them.

Pictures
Top - Reece
Bottom - Izzy

by Lucia

P.E. News by: Julia

K-2nd grade are working on throwing skills and catching skills.



Leah said please dress for P.E. This means to bring indoor sneakers, a t-shirt and athletic pants or shorts. Long hair needs to be pulled back.

Handball is one of the games this month. All k-8th are playing it. They practice a lot of skills like throwing, catching, dribbling and shooting in this game.



3-8th played flag football outside all this month. It was really nice weather. Also 3-8th grade made trails around the school this month.

Music

By Addyson

<p>With Covid-19 going around we can't use instruments that we would blow into like trumpets, trombones, flutes or things like that. So, in music class this year, we will be learning how to play the keyboard, guitar, African drum and the ukulele.</p>	<p>Janice's class (k-2)</p> <p>They are learning about dynamics, tempo, texture and harmony.</p> <p>Students are beginning to play the ukulele.</p>
<p><i>Mrs.DaGraca's class (3-5)</i></p> <p>Currently students are learning the ukulele, Next, we are going to learn the guitar and drumming. At the end of the year, students will learn the keyboard.</p> <p>One of the songs that we are learning is Hey Soul Sister. Other songs we are learning are: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Row Row Row Your Boat, Over the Rainbow and America.</p>	<p>Michelle's class (6-8)</p> <p>They are also learning how to play the ukulele.</p> <p>Some students are already playing or have played a guitar.</p> <p>One of the songs that they have practiced the most is Somewhere Over the Rainbow.</p> <p>One student in 6-8 has been able to practice the drums already!</p>
<p><i>K-8</i></p> <p>All classes watched the movie Princess and the Frog. They learned about beats. When playing the ukulele, Dan wants us to learn how to play different speeds, just like in Princess and the Frog. To watch the movie, Dan set up the rolling cart with the tv on it in the gym. We all sat in chairs, just like at a movie theater.</p>	

by
Boston

Tech NEWS

K-2

In K-2 they are working on the app SCRATCH. They make stories and do block coding to make the character move.



3-8

3-8 has been using images in keynote and preview to take out the background of characters and an app called interland.

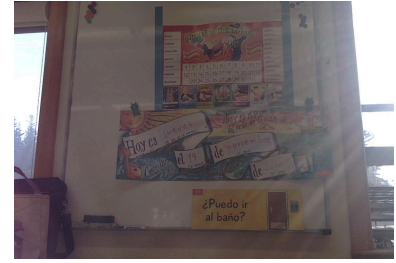
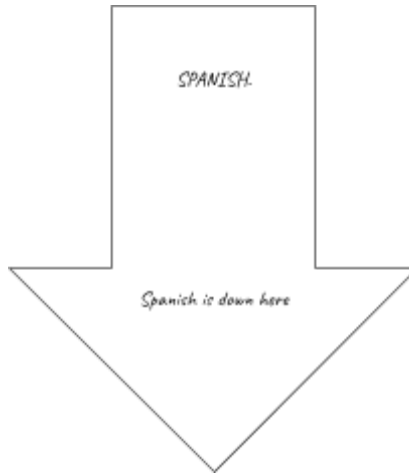


Spanish News

By: Peyton



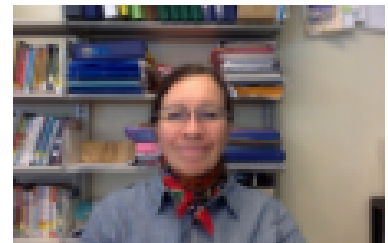
Thanksgiving cards



Weather/calendar



Cart for her supplies



Our teacher: Senora Vivian.

K-2	3-5	6-8	Special days/ Events.
<p>Students are learning about farm animals! They are practicing the names by flashcards, songs and they are even naming the colors of the animals!</p> <p>They are also learning the names of other animals too!</p>	<p>Students are learning about feelings, colors and greetings! They are using a spanish game website to help them learn. The website is called Languages Online.</p>	<p>Students are learning about countries, flags, capitals and nationalities.</p> <p>They also did a poster about their feelings.</p>	<p>All spanish classes have created Thanksgiving cards for family, friends or both.</p> <p>They are also creating 2021 cards for the New Year!</p>

News about Guidance By: Samantha



K-2 made rainbow fish. The reason they are making rainbow fish is that they are learning about positive character traits.



In December, 6-8 and 3-5 will be finishing our career exploration selfcare. We are going to be matching our character traits to jobs that we might want in the future.

6-8 and 3-5 are learning about John Holland's Career Interest Theory.

They also took the Myers Briggs Personality Test. This test reveals our character traits.

Health By: Asa Joyce

Week 1. Swan's Island students helped Leah build a thankful bulletin board to go in the gym. The leaves said what the children were thankful for.



The second week in health class, Leah was teaching good manners to prepare the children for big meals at Thanksgiving. Leah taught them things like, saying excuse me, please, thank you, using your silverware, and napkin.

Week 3 was National Healthy Skin Month. Students learned the importance of skin and how it works. They also learned how to take care of your skin. For example, you should wear sunscreen, chapstick, and other moisturizer for your skin. Healthy foods for your skin are avocado, broccoli, salmon, and bell peppers.

