

To: Brooklin School Committee
From: Todd West
Re: Principal's Report
Date: May 12, 2026

8th grade graduation will be at 6:00pm on Monday, June 15th. I invite the Board to join us in celebrating our 8th grade students and wish them well as they close one chapter in their educational story and begin another!

ENROLLMENT [as of 5/7/26]

PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
5	5	4	3	6	3	3	8	5	5	47

PROGRAMMING:

1. State Testing. We are in the spring testing window for the Maine state assessment. This involves administering the NWEA test [masquerading as the Maine Through Year Assessment] to all students in grades 3-8 for reading and math as well as the Maine Science Assessment to students in grades 5 and 8. While not required by the state, we also administer the NWEA for reading and math to our K-2 students.

On note for the Board to be aware of... we are required under federal regulations to assess 95% of our students in grades 3-8. We have had two families opt their children out of the reading assessment, which means that we will not meet the 95% participation requirement. This will show up on our report card from the State and may have some negative ramifications down the road, but parents are allowed to opt their children out so we are between a rock and a hard place on this issue.

2. Community-Based Learning Grades 5-8. Our middle level students have been doing a lot of learning with community experts "in the field" this spring. The 7/8 class has taken on the project of "getting youth and adults excited about clams", which was posed to them by the Shellfish Committee. They have gone clamming at Naskeag with David Tarr, dissected clams with Mike Thalhauser, learned about the water quality monitoring in Herrick Bay from Jon Hopkins and Si Balch, and visited the Downeast Institute in Beals to see the shellfish hatchery and learn about careers in marine science [plus a stop at UMaine Machias]. They attended a recent Shellfish Committee meeting and presented a proposal to cohost a "Clam Appreciation Day" with the Committee later this spring to help inform other community members about Brooklin's shellfish resources and the importance of shellfish in our local economy and ecosystem.

Moving from mollusks to anadromous fish, the 5th-8th grades will be doing an integrated unit connected to the annual alewife migration this spring focused on data collection and data analysis. Students will be spending several days in the field helping with the local alewife count at Walker Pond. They will also be collecting phenology data and observations [the study of how plants and animals change with the seasons]. Back at school, they will apply their data analysis skills to all of the data that has been collected and complete a final project to share their findings.

3. Performing Arts. It has been a busy spring for the performing arts! The GSA Honors Jazz Combo visited us and gave a wonderful performance last month. Our own band has been traveling to Deer Isle to rehearse with the other schools in advance of the Union 76 band concert on Thursday, May 21st [6:00pm at the Reach Performing Arts Center]. They also took part in the Music Drives Us grant award and will have access to some of the wonderful new instruments that have so generously been donated to the music programs of the school union. Finally, all of our students are excited about the upcoming performances of *Newsies, Jr.* on Thursday 5/28 and Friday 5/29, 5:30 both evenings. Please join us!
4. Career Speaker Series. School Counselor Annie Porter has restarted the annual spring Career Speaker series, where our school invites local community members to talk all about what they do, how they ended up with that job- including twists and turns in their career path along the way- and how their work connects with our community. The speakers address all of the students during Friday morning meeting and then have more in depth, smaller group conversations with each classroom. Speakers this spring range from a textile designer to a woodworker/publisher to our assistant fire chief.
5. Partnership with COA Curriculum Design Class. Students in College of the Atlantic's Curriculum Design course visited the Brooklin School last month as part of a partnership this spring. The students in the course are about 50%-75% of the way through their preservice education and spent the morning shadowing our teachers. As a final project for their course, they are going to design an integrated curriculum unit for the Brooklin School that our teachers can use in the future. I participated in this process once before when I was at Deer Isle-Stonington High School, and the product that came back then was of very high quality and also very innovative in its approach... I am hoping for more of the same this time.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

1. Early Numeracy. PK/K teacher Julie Wilson and 1/2 Emily Wendell have been attending a series of early numeracy workshops this school year hosted by the Maine Math & Science Alliance. The focus is on instructional strategies to help our youngest students develop qualitative reasoning skills. As part of this professional learning experience, Ms. Julie and Ms. Wendell designed a Family Math Night on Wednesday, May 13th at 5:00pm. Families are encouraged to bring their children for a PTF-provided dinner at 5:00 and then visit classrooms where they can learn about some fun math learning opportunities and games that families can take home and do with their children.
2. Rural Energy Futures. 5-8 math and science teacher Larissa Foss is going to participate in the Rural Energy Futures project next year. Coincidentally, this project is also led by the Maine Math & Science Alliance and focuses on professional development for middle and high school math teachers to connect lessons about renewable energy to the data analysis standards in the math curricula. This seems like a great opportunity to connect our math students with the work of the Climate Response Committee and the efforts to decrease the school's reliance on expensive energy from the grid.

MAINTENANCE [David Bowden]:

1. Playground Maintenance. We have received a quote from a fencing company to do repair work as a result of winter damage and are awaiting a quote from a landscape company regarding getting much needed wood chips for the playground area.

2. Water Testing. Air and Water Quality was here to do an annual inspection and tune up on our chemical feed operation for our drinking water system. We tested negative for e coli in our water system. A sample has been collected and sent for testing as part of the mandatory second quarter PFAS water test.
3. Vacation Maintenance Projects. During our school vacation, various plumbing issues were addressed and most of them fixed, our parking lot and sidewalks were swept, our van received new tires and brakes, and the hood above the kitchen oven was cleaned. The gymnasium was set up for the annual Brooklin town meeting.

FOOD SERVICE [Ellen Carville]: no report.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Mon & Thu	5/11-5/26	Alewife Field Research @ Walker's Pond
Tuesday	5/12	Eco-Committee Meeting 11:00am
Wednesday	5/13	Family Math Night 5:00pm
Wednesday	5/20	Grade 1-4 Field Trip to 100 Acre Woods
Thursday	5/21	U76 Spring Band Concert @ Reach 6:00pm
Thursday	5/28	<i>Newsies</i> Spring Musical 5:30pm
Friday	5/29	<i>Newsies</i> Spring Musical 5:30pm
Friday	5/29	Early Release @ 12:30pm
Monday	6/1	Maine Outdoor School visit PK-4
		UMaine Process Development Center Field Trip Grades 5-7
Mon-Wed	6/1-6/3	8th Grade Trip to Boston
Wednesday	6/3	PTF Meeting @ 3:15pm
Friday	6/5	Early Release @ 12:30
Wednesday	6/10	Grounds, Gardens, and Trails Workday + Family Picnic
Thursday	6/11	7/8 Rowing Trip to Babson Island; Pk-6 "On the Water" Day
Friday	6/12	Fun Run [am]
		Beach Day [pm]
Monday	6/15	8th Grade Graduation 6:00pm
Tuesday	6/16	Step Up Day 8:00-9:30am
		Field Day 10:00-1:00
		Last Student Day
Wed-Thu	6/17-6/18	Teacher Workshop/Records Day

Respectfully submitted, Todd West