

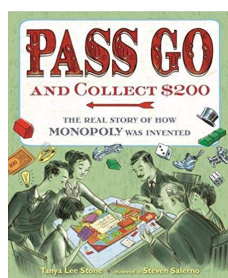
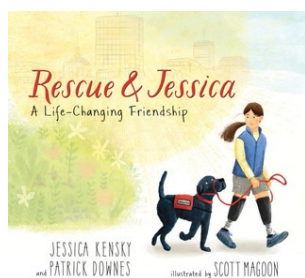
From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Dear Families,

During the past two weeks, all of our students have had an opportunity to participate in the state assessment. Grades 4 & 5 have completed all tests. Grade 3 and Mrs. Veilleux's class will be taking the reading, math and essay portions of the test this week. I am so proud of our students as they have shown focus, perseverance, and great effort while tackling these challenging tests. Best of luck to our students testing this week! Make up tests will be taking place over the next two weeks as well. Participation is important because "Maine could receive less federal funds for Maine schools that are experiencing significant challenges. Participation rates lower than 95% can also skew performance data for the school," (*The Maine Education Assessments (MEA) Why Participation Matters*). Thank you to all families that provided a healthy snack during testing to celebrate the efforts of our students. The delicious treats were enjoyed by all!

March Madness Finale

On April 3, students will attend an epic assembly organized by Mrs. Moody, Mrs. Glueck, Mrs. Levesque and Mr. Pellerin to reveal this year's March Madness Winner. The energy in the gym will be electric as students anxiously await the reveal of the #1 nonfiction book! The books battling for the first place spot include *Rescue & Jessica A Life-Changing Friendship* and *Pass Go and Collect \$200 The Real Story of How Monopoly was Invented*.



Alfond Youth Center Field Trip

We will be taking a school-wide field trip on April 8 to the Alfond Youth Center from 8:30-2. We will leave school at 8:15AM after attendance has been taken.

This field trip is being funded by our Target Field Trip grant and ties in our TIDE and Maine Agriculture in the classroom garden grants.

The goal of this exciting field trip is to provide students opportunities to engage



IMPORTANT DATES

April 1-10: 3rd grade state testing & make up test sessions

April 3: March Madness Reveal Assembly - 1:30PM

School Board Meeting - 7PM at MMS

April 8: Schoolwide Alfond Youth Center Field Trip

April 11: PTA Meeting - 6-7PM in the Music Room at WES

April 12: No School - Teacher Comp. Day

April 15-19: April Vacation

April 24: School Board Meeting - 7PM at MMS

April 25: Spring Photos

April 26: PTA Fun Night 6-8PM



in a variety of physical activities, build community, learn about hydroponics and aquaponics, and celebrate the completion of state testing and our students awesome efforts on the state assessment.

While at the Alford Youth Center our students will have an opportunity to:

- swim in the pool
- test their skills on the climbing wall
- use the gym (basketball and other activities)
- play games with friends in the recreational room & game room
- jump in the bounce houses in Adventure Playland
- attend a guided tour, by the AYC master gardener, of the Solar Growing Dome

Jason Tardy - Juggling Comedian

Thanks to Mr. Parisi and our awesome PTA on March 13 Jason Tardy visited our school. He performed his juggling comedy act for students in an afternoon performance. Tardy also held an evening performance for our community. We had over 100 people in attendance. Tardy autographed cards and posed for photos for everyone in attendance after the show. During his performance he shared important messages about kindness, respect and bullying. He also discussed cyber bullying during his evening performance. This event raised over \$700 for our school!



Health Screenings

The State of Maine requires school nurses to obtain health screenings for all 3rd and 5th graders. The nurse will start these health screenings in April, which include vision, hearing, height and weight checks. If you want your child to be opted out of health screenings please send a letter into the nurse.

Williams Odyssey of the Mind Teams Headed to States

by: Julia Hanauer-Milne

Williams Elementary School fielded three Odyssey of the Mind teams this year and two of them are headed to the state tournament in Biddeford on April 6.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem solving tournament in which teams of seven students choose a problem, write a play to “solve” that problem, make sets and costumes, and perform—all without the help of adults. Adults can ask questions, but can’t provide ideas or do any of the work. This is a tall order and all of the OMers should take a bow.

In addition to the long term problem (the play), students also must compete in a “spontaneous” competition in which they respond to a prompt without any advance knowledge or preparation.

This year’s Williams teams solved problems that required opposing groups to distract and argue with each other; to create a mechanical creature that changes its appearance; and to have Leonardo DaVinci invent something useful in the future that his contemporaries think is worthless. The Opposites Distract and Hide in Plain Sight teams are going on to states with second place and third place finishes respectively in their divisions. Last year Williams sent a team to the World Finals for the first time.

Opposites Distract is coached by Sara McDougall and includes fifth graders Harry Bromberg, Jeremy Croft, and Elizabeth McDougall and fourth graders Liam Allen, Ruby LaBonte, Lillian LaFlamme, and Macyn Wallace. **Hide in Plain Sight** is coached by Rebecca Conry and includes fourth graders Hannah Adams, Jeremy Conry, Hunter Doiron, Evan Hayes, Elsie Spear, and Aiden Wathen. **Leonardo’s Workshop** was coached by Lisette Bordes and Martha Minkel and included fifth graders Nevaeh Baylis and Aurora Valencia-Carter and fourth graders Ivan Brown, Brady Dickens, Finley Minkel, Grace Moody, and Lydia Parent.

Educationally yours,

Melanie Smith