

**Hope Elementary School
Principal's Report
November 2021**

Enrollment: PK-15, K-6, 1st-13, 2nd-21, 3rd-18, 4th-17, 5th-13, 6th-13, 7th-19, 8th-16

PK-2 enjoyed an outside dance class with Studio Red. This event was sponsored by Partners for Enrichment.

Hope Hawks are the 2021 Busline League Coed Soccer Champions.

First grade participated in Trike or Treat. They raised \$800 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

6th and 7th graders spent the day at The Challenger Center in Bangor and the Jordan Planetarium on the University of Maine campus in Orono. Students had an opportunity to work as a team and role-play in mission control and the international space station scenario. The Planetarium presented students with an unobstructed view of Maine's night sky and current engineering projects both at University of Maine and NASA. This trip was sponsored by Partners for Enrichment.

We started a Civil Rights Team at HES. The Civil Rights team meets twice weekly at recess. The CRT is engaging our school community in thinking and talking about issues related to race and skin color, national origin and ancestry, religion, disabilities, gender (including gender identity and expression), and sexual orientation. There are currently eight middle school students on the team. The CRT has finished the "Welcome Everyone" project in which they created an inclusively welcoming sign for the lobby of the school. This project helped our group come together as a team and created a shared sense of purpose.

The Student Council meets weekly at recess. The student council has been elected, serving students in grades 6-8. There are officers and two representatives elected from each class. Our first order of business has been organizing the canned food drive. The Student Council also successfully lobbied for adding apple juice as a choice at lunch.

The Student Council is holding our annual canned food drive to benefit AIO. So far, we are approximately halfway to our goal of 700 cans. The drive ends on Friday, and the food will be delivered to AIO in Rockland before Thanksgiving.

The middle school social studies classes recently completed a service-learning project around Veteran's Day. Students were taught **by veterans** about the military's core values of honor, courage, integrity, commitment, and service. In turn, students wrote letters of gratitude to local veterans and raised almost \$400 for Wounded Warrior.

The Hope Elementary School Outdoor Adventure Club is currently working on building a fence to partially enclose one of the school's outdoor classrooms. Students are learning to plan and

execute a multiphase project, source natural materials, and learn the proper safety protocols to work in the forest and to work with hand tools. We have two enthusiastic members.

After School Book Group is going really well. We have about 10 students, in grades 6-8 participating. We meet every other Tuesday and read about 150 pages for each meeting. Our first title is *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak, a book about a young girl during WWII and the kids seem to be really enjoying it so far.

26% of our students received their first vaccination shot during our vaccination clinic. The clinic for the second vaccination will be November 30th.

We have 6 girls and 13 boys signed up for basketball.

Our Educator in Residence from Camp Kieve will be starting with us when we return from Thanksgiving break. She will be working with all classes and partnering with teachers to supplement our social-emotional learning initiative. We are hoping to add afterschool enrichment activities for our students in grades 3-5.

We had administrators from all over Maine visit our outdoor learning spaces.