



What We're Proud Of:

September 2022

Atwood Primary School

Fantastic First Days: Welcome back to another incredible school year!

Outdoor Mud Kitchen: The PTA presented Atwood Primary with a brand new mud kitchen to encourage creative play! The children love it. Pictured with the mud kitchen is kindergartener, Maevia!

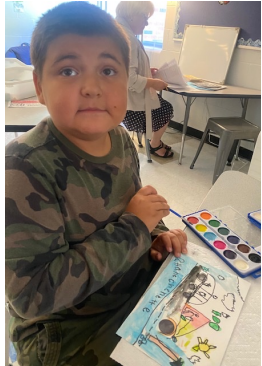
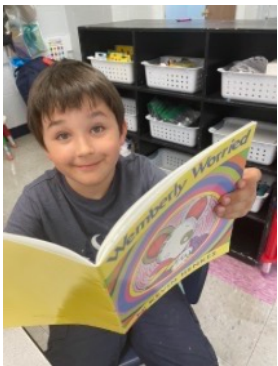
Rocking Routines: The children have quickly learned all of the routines for school breakfast and lunch in the Atwood cafeteria. Pictured smiling is kindergartener, Luciana!

Following Directions + Building Stamina in First Grade: Ms. Deane's first grade class has been working on listening and following directions. They have been engaging in directed drawings to help focus students' attention and practice stamina. During the first few weeks of school, these first graders were able explore Kevin Henkes' stories that center around beloved mouse characters who exemplify childhood experiences. The





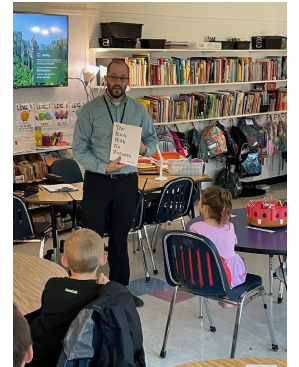
children listened to one story each day and ended with a directed drawing of the mouse character they enjoyed best. The first graders enjoyed getting to decide and choose colors that would make sense for their individual mouse's fur and outfit. Once students had the basics down, they set to work on the class' first bulletin board project of the school year. They used their directed drawing skills to create a friendly pencil! When the children were done drawing, they had to listen carefully and follow directions to use water color paint around the illustration. They also practiced their handwriting skills by writing the mantra, "We Are Sharp!"



Rise + Shine Morning Greeters: Each morning Atwood students and families are greeted by the Atwood morning greeters who are ready each day to bring students efficiently and safely into the building. Atwood loves their special morning visits from Mr. Gartley and Mr. Morin!



Welcome Mr. Case, Dean of Students: Atwood Primary School's new Dean of Students, Mr. Case, has been working hard and having fun getting to know all of the children. He has been going into each classroom reading the hilarious book, *The Book with No Pictures!*



Kindergarten + PreK Screenings: On September 8th, Atwood's special education department conducted kindergarten and preschool screenings! The children were excited to engage in all of the fun activities presented to them!



Moments with Marvin: Moments with Marvin is a weekly video program presented to the students of Atwood Primary School. Until three years ago, part of Atwood's school culture was the holding of town



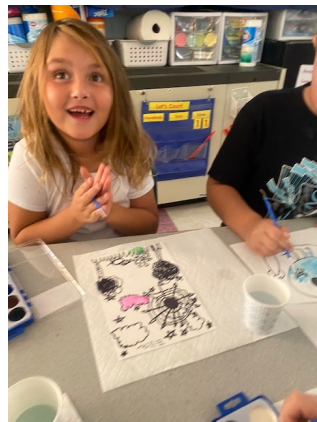


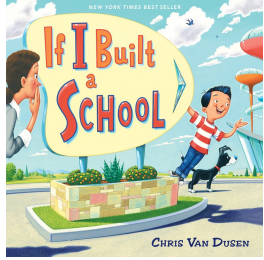
meetings or grade level assemblies in the gym. There, Mrs. McGee, Principal of Atwood Primary School, would lead the students in several enrichment activities - movement to music, breathing for relaxation, and a lesson to make the students, the school, and the world a better place.

Moments with Marvin was created after Covid-19 prevented group gatherings. Because the program is prerecorded and edited, segments were expanded to include birthdays, the Principal's 100 Club, social/emotional vocabulary, musical motions, and everyday student advice. Production for Season 2 of Moments with Marvin has begun, and will be airing soon! Interested in viewing Season 1 of Marvin? You can navigate to the Marvin website by scanning the QR code with your camera app.



Dot Day: The second graders in Ms. Kroemer's, Mrs. Paytas', Mrs. Couture's, and Miss Raymond's classrooms celebrated International Dot Day on Thursday, September 15th. They sorted and graphed Skittles for math and analyzed their findings. They learned about the author and illustrator, Peter H. Reynolds, and enjoyed several of his books - including *The Dot*, *Be You!*, *Happy Dreamer*, *I Am Human*, and *Say Something*. Each student 'made their mark' by creating an artistic masterpiece from a simple dot.





Belgrade Central School

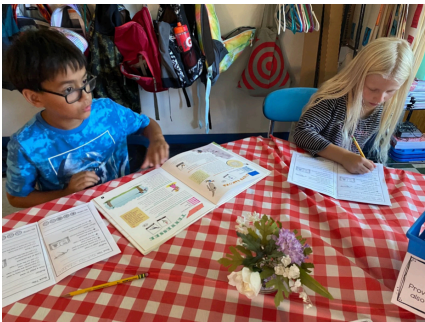
If I Built a School: At Belgrade Central, Mrs. Whites' second grade class read the book *If I built a School* by Maine author, Chris Van Dusen. Each student designed a floor plan of a school they wanted to build! Students were then given multiple building materials and asked to build a prototype of the school they envisioned!

Partnership Training: Mrs. Dunbar's class has been working on building routines and procedures in their classroom. One important classroom norm they've been practicing is working with a partner. Together, the class created an anchor chart for expectations when working with a partner or group. Students have also been participating in team building activities to practice using these expectations. Recently, the class worked together during "The Great Cup Pyramid Challenge." Teams of three and four students worked together to stack cups in the form of a pyramid. Sounds easy, right? The caveat was that each student could only use one finger!



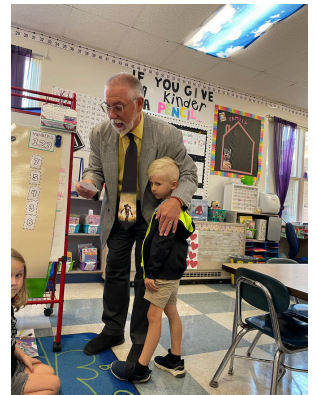
Tech Moment: Mr. Hine and Mrs. Bacon have been hard at work setting up the main TV screen in the front lobby! This will be used to share information, photos, and celebrations with both staff and students.

Art Integration: The kindergarten students in Ms. A's and Mrs. Potts' class recently followed a guided drawing lesson. Students learned how using shapes helps to be able to draw different objects. The kindergarteners had fun drawing a house and adding details to it as well as trying some of their own ideas. Using shapes helped them to be successful with their own ideas!



China Primary School

Book Tasting: China Primary School's third graders in Mrs. Gledhill's class participated in a *Book Tasting* during their first week of school! Their classroom was transformed into a *Book Cafe* where students sampled different reading genres from their classroom library. Students were excited to see the variety of books they had at their fingertips!



Strong Learning Teams: China Primary School's second graders and families from Ms. Kimmie's class enjoyed an engaging STEM challenge at Open House recently. The challenge was two-fold. Families and students were asked to first build the tallest structure they could using only toothpicks and marshmallows. Then they were challenged to measure their tall towers together. Ms. Kimmie shared that this team building activity was given to help demonstrate the importance of everyone working together, sharing ideas, and listening to each other. She hopes to build a strong learning team with families and students that bridges the learning being done in the classroom to learning being done at home.



Curious Kinders: The first couple of weeks in Mrs. Dunn's kindergarten classroom have been full of exploration, adventure, fun, and lots of learning. These curious kinders have been figuring out what it means to be a student as well as a





classmate. They were amazed when Chester, a well-known children's book character, made an appearance at CPS. He took the class on a scavenger hunt throughout the school and even left them a tasty treat at the end. Mrs. Dunn and her students are all looking forward to what the rest of their kindergarten year has in store for them!

Reading Room: Mrs. Babson's third graders have been enjoying time in the reading room at the end of the school day.



Fun Fridays: The second grade team has started a new tradition this year to build community! All second grade classrooms will participate in *Fun Friday* where they will get together and do an activity that pertains to something they are learning! This picture shows second graders watching a *Magic School Bus* episode about recycling together.

Seeing Spots: September 15th was International Dot Day! The third graders at China Primary School were able to read the book *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds and try some dot-centric activities. Mrs. Babson's class used index cards and dot stickers to build towers together. They learned about pointillism, practiced using a growth mindset to make changes to their art, and were able to use candy dots and toothpicks to build 3D geometric shapes. Principal Moody even came by to see what all the fuss was about!



James H. Bean School

James H. Bean is the Place for Me: James Bean has started the year off by building a sense of community in the school. They've started their weekly *Rise and Shine* assemblies where students and teachers sing and cheer that, "James H. Bean is the place for me!"

Principal St. Peters takes time during these assemblies to teach children that every day we can do our B.E.S.T.

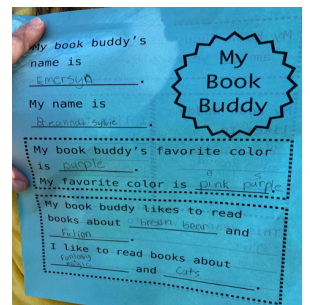
- B** – Be responsible
- E** – Encourage kindness
- S** – Safety first
- T** – Try our best and persevere

The students at the James Bean School have been demonstrating kindness and responsibility the first few weeks of school by helping their newest kindergarten friends find their classrooms and their way around the playground. Mrs. St. Peters shares that she has joyfully watched siblings being responsible and helping their younger brothers and sisters, as well as older children who are connected through their neighborhoods and daycare showing the younger students the way. James Bean has older students who have met a new friend for the first time just within the first few days, and who have chosen to stop and take the time to show them where to go. It's incredible to see!

James Bean has also started *Book Buddies* for the year, and now their youngest friends have a special older buddy that comes to read to them. Some book buddies may even be able to eat lunch and play at recess together!

Book Buddies: Students in first and fourth grade are Book Buddies. This past week, they filled out forms to get to know their book buddy better and to better select books they might enjoy together!

Kindergarten Music Class: Games are an important part of Mrs. Paradis' kindergarten music class. *Pass the Ball* has been a hit with her





classes. To play, students must be engaging listeners. When they hear a tambourine shake in the song, they have to reverse the direction that the ball was being passed. Students became very excited when they heard the song speed up as well as when they heard the tambourine sound more often! It's a fun game that has been cherished year after year!



Friends + Family Boards: Dr. Becky Bailey shares, “How many of us carry pictures of those we love in our purse, wallet, or phone? It makes sense that if seeing images of our own family is important to us, we would provide the same opportunity for the children.” Throughout the year, James H. Bean will begin to implement various structures and routines from the Conscious Discipline framework. The first structure implemented is the “Friends and Family Board.” This classroom structure represents one of our most important goals as educators - supporting and strengthening children and families. This visual sends a clear message that we are partners. Having these photographs visible reinforces the message that we are all in this together. To model this for teachers, Mrs. St. Peter has created a staff “Friends and Family Board.” Seeing the familiar faces of loved ones is a constant reminder to staff that they are cared for and supported unconditionally!



The Book ER: To begin the year, students at JHB got to see what happens to books from the library when they aren't treated with respect. The children were able to examine books that were returned with some “emergency needs” and needed to be repaired. As part of the lesson, the students figured out what happened and what could be done to prevent other books from having to go to the library “ER.”



Rainy Sayings: If the old saying that rain is good luck is true - we can expect amazing things this year at JHB!



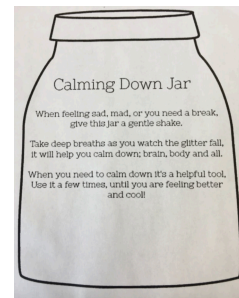
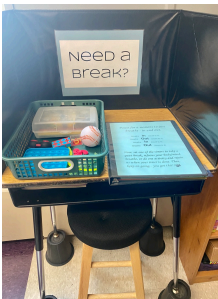
Williams Elementary School

Red Carpet Tradition:

Despite the rainy first day of school, Williams continued their Red Carpet tradition. Each year Williams staff, Oakland Police Officers, as well as fourth and fifth grade students line the hallway and cheer on the incoming third graders as they start their WES journey. The WES community always enjoys the Oakland Police Officers joining them for this special tradition and community event.



Self Regulation Techniques: During the August 30th professional development day, district occupational therapist, Heather Kerner, visited Williams Elementary School to share with the WES staff a variety of ways to teach self regulation techniques to students. She also shared ways to create a calm learning environment by adjusting lighting and offering flexible seating options. At a future staff meeting, the WES staff learned more about creating calming corners in their classrooms by reading a few articles titled “Preventing Escalation in the Classroom” (safeschoolsnola.tulane.edu), “Tier 1 Strategies for a Calm Classroom” (scsdbehaviormatters.weebly.com), and “An Inside Look at Trauma Informed Classrooms” (www.edutopia.org). At the end of the staff meeting, educators created a calming down jar and added this tool to their classroom calming corners. Take a look at some of the calming corners WES teachers have created!



New Playground Additions at

Williams: Over the summer Principal Melanie Smith, and Maggie Solis, Dean of Students, enjoyed painting new four square courts, the basketball court, and obstacle courses. Smith, Solis, and Donnie Sheets also created and painted a chess board. Students have greatly enjoyed the freshened up playground and the new playground additions. Craig Construction also built a new Gaga Pit for students to enjoy during their recess. The Gaga Pit has been so popular that



WES will be adding a second pit this fall. Aaron Parker, Williams Elementary’s new physical education teacher, has taught each classroom the Gaga Pit rules so that all students are on the same page when playing the game. The school is also finding that they have many chess players! The students are greatly enjoying the addition of the life sized chess game!



Be the Light Assembly: During the first week of school, Chad Parisi, school social worker, Maggie Solis, and Melanie Smith visited each classroom to unpack the lyrics of this year’s school theme song: *Work Hard and Be Nice*. Great conversations were had with all classrooms about the meaning of the lyrics and how the lyrics could be applied to the school year and students’ lives. They also discussed ways they could make others’ days brighter. During their first assembly, they learned their motto for the year: 22-23 *Our Year to Thrive*. The school dissected the word THRIVE and talked about what thriving means and looks like at WES. Principal Smith also announced their first Eagles of the Week, students that had been recognized with Principal’s 100 Club tickets, and students celebrating birthdays.



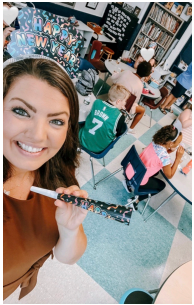
Together We Are a Masterpiece: “We are each unique and beautiful, but together we are a masterpiece.” Every student and staff member at WES designed a hand that represented themselves through words,



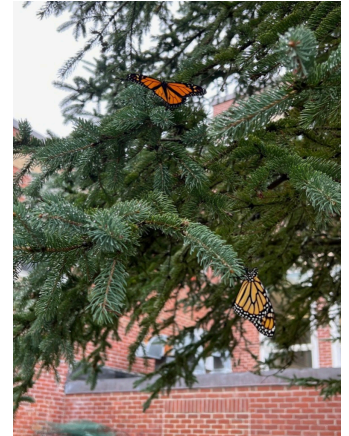


phrases, and illustrations. All of them together certainly created a beautiful masterpiece!

Happy New Year: Fifth grade teacher, Shelly Moody, rang in the *new year* with hats, headbands, noise makers, and special treats to celebrate the kick off of the 22-23 school year. Mrs. Solis and Mrs. Smith visited many classrooms for unique and special new school year traditions.



Monarchs: Since the start of school, Mrs. Pullen's class has been observing the life cycle of their classroom monarch butterflies. They have released some and they are waiting on their final two to hatch from their chrysalises!



Book Tasting: Mrs. Forney's class participated in a *Book Tasting* to kick off the school year and expose students to an abundance of books!



Writing in Nature: Mrs. Moody's and Ms. LaPointe's fifth graders ventured to the pond on the Messalonskee trails to use nature as inspiration for poetry writing. The students sketched observations at the pond and recorded notes in their writer's notebooks. Students' favorite nature sightings were seeing the floating "island," spotting a possible beaver, and observing crayfish. The students are already looking forward to their next outdoor writing session!



China Middle School

Open House: Staff members at China Middle School hosted their annual Open House on August 30th. Parents were able to bring students into the school, meet new teachers, and admire the many improvements made throughout the summer months. Students and families took advantage of the CMS photo booth - showing their excitement for the upcoming school year. All of the staff at CMS were grateful to be able to welcome parents into their classrooms and hallways once again.

Classroom Community: Students in Ms. Chamberlain's ELA classes have been focusing on building a positive classroom community. This process involves getting to know each other and creating a vision to achieve each and every day in their classroom. In addition to their class vision, each student was prompted to choose a word that they hoped would represent this upcoming school year. Some students wanted to "believe" in themselves more this year. Some wanted to practice "kindness" or try to be more "helpful." Others wanted to work on "trust" and "balance." These words will be a guide for them as they navigate their 6th grade year.

9/11 Service Learning Project: On Friday, September 9th, seventh and eighth graders at China Middle School hosted a free car wash for first responders and veterans in recognition of those who lost their lives in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001. Students have been learning about that day as part of their social studies class and wanted to do something locally to say thank you to all the firefighters, EMTs, police officers, paramedics, and veterans who, like those who died on 9/11, risk their lives to keep us safe everyday.

Students and parents donated buckets, sponges, and soap. Some even made homemade goodies for their guests. The principal and office staff provided Hillman's donuts and fresh coffee throughout the day. The custodians kept the water hose flowing whenever the students needed it! Over twenty-five vehicles rolled in over the course of the day including fire trucks, ambulances, cruisers, and personal vehicles of veterans. The gorgeous weather was an added bonus! The kids really enjoyed themselves as they greeted each guest with a personalized, hand-made card from one of the students and offered them refreshments and coffee while



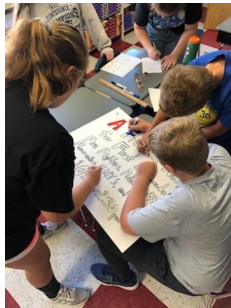


they waited for their vehicles to be washed. To hear the enthusiasm of the guests praising the students for what they were doing was as heartwarming as hearing the kids shout, “Thank you for your service” as their customers pulled away from the bus circle.

Assistant Superintendent, Keith Morin, showed up with his vehicle on Friday to support our car wash. “Knowing that 9/11 now serves as a historical moment for our students, and the National mantra of 'We will never forget' is held so dear, the practice of acknowledging, giving thanks, and using a moment in history to allow us the opportunity to never forget those that responded to 9/11 and also those who gave the ultimate sacrifice is amazing for our teachers to acknowledge the heroic efforts of our own.”

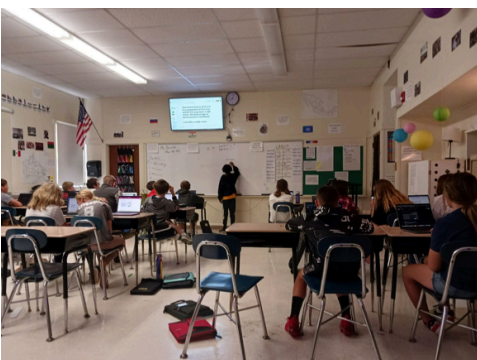


Student, Maddie Berry, was one of several students who greeted the guests and offered refreshments and cards. When asked her thoughts on the car wash, Maddie responded, “My favorite part about the car wash was being able to give to those that do so much for us. I think that the most important thing is that we learn from our mistakes and hopefully we can make better decisions in the future.”



The support for this event from students, staff, parents, and community members was wonderful. CMS hopes to continue this tradition in their efforts to make sure the next generation never forgets the sacrifice that first responders and veterans make each and every day - and especially on that beautiful, but terrible, day in September 2001.

Percentage Studies: Seventh grade students in Mr. Portera’s class have been demonstrating how to find percentages.



Messalonskee Middle School

Building a Classroom Community: In math, seventh graders at MMS have been working on building a classroom community that promotes communication, collaboration, and reasoning skills. They have done several thinking activities that examine patterns, test patience, and make math fun! These include a 100 number challenge, making squares, and “31-derful.”

Team Building: Team Boothbay was excited to welcome the new group of seventh graders! They spent the first few days getting to know each other and building their team community. They were able to do activities in their Eagle Time groups as well as get outside and have some fun learning about each other and having some friendly competitions!

Leonardo DaVinci STEM Inspiration: In Mrs. Ripa’s science class during the first few days, students participated in a bridge building STEM challenge! The requirements were: build a self supporting bridge with an arch without glue/tape (only popsicle sticks). This was inspired by Leonardo DaVinci’s design for a self supporting bridge to aid troops in war. The second day, students were given DaVinci’s design and challenged to build it; which proved just as tricky as coming up with their own designs! It was a lot of fun to see students working together, problem solving, tweaking their designs, and trying again and again. Although most didn’t “succeed,” they learned to persevere through a challenge and had fun doing it!





In the Teacher's Shoes: In Mrs. Ripa's science class, she also wanted her students to have a taste at being a teacher themselves! Students were asked to choose a skill they are good at, write out the steps to teach the skill, and then teach a classmate in 5 minutes. The catch being - the student "learning" couldn't communicate back! Afterward, each pair presented the skills they learned to the class. It was really fun seeing the students' creativity with the skills they chose to teach, and hearing students reflect that it isn't always easy to teach someone something when they have no prior knowledge of the skill! Daniel taught Chloe karate moves. Leah taught Addison how to shoot a basketball. Trevor taught Matthew a rainbow in soccer. Aidan taught Luke how to dribble a hockey puck while Luke taught Aidan a card trick. Isaac and Ryan practiced shoe tying. Jasmine taught Eleanor how to play a few chords on her violin! Grace taught Emma how to make an origami dinosaur!



Landforms + Geography: Ms. Michaud's social studies classes recently explored the landforms and geography surrounding the school property as an interactive lesson and assignment. Ms. Michaud was super proud of how engaged the students were, as well as how cooperative they were during this outdoor lesson!



Messalonskee High School

Welcome Class of 2026:

MHS kicked off August 31st by welcoming the Class of 2026. One hundred and seventy nine freshmen had the entire building to themselves that day. Staff designed the day to make them feel welcomed and comfortable in their new school. On September 1st, MHS welcomed their returning sophomores, juniors, and seniors. It was so nice to see familiar faces and lots of smiles.



New Staff: MHS is excited to welcome 12 new professional and support staff to the high school! Each individual brings a new and exciting approach to teaching and learning, and Principal Callan knows the students will enjoy getting to know the new staff.



Sports Preview: Stability and uncertainty are the words that best define Messalonskee High School's sports teams in the opening weeks of the fall season. Messalonskee athletic director, Chad Foye, said six of the seven teams return to the same head coach. The only exception is girls' soccer with the departure of Chris DelGiudice, but his replacement, Kirk Soule, is a familiar face, having served as an assistant coach for the Messalonskee boys' soccer squad. Foye said the biggest question is getting a handle on how competitive each Messalonskee team will be this year. "It's tough to say right now," he said, "because we are only one





or two games into the season. I think we have a lot of potential with a lot of our teams, but it's hard to project as we go forward." The Messalonskee football team suffered a tough loss in its season opener when Edward Little scored in the final minutes to prevail 28-26. On the field hockey field, Messalonskee fared much better, winning 5-1 against Brewer in its first game. The boys' soccer team battled to a 1-1 tie versus Hampden Academy, while the girls' squad fell 4-3 to Hampden. Messalonskee volleyball is 5-3 after losing to Gardiner 3-2 and beating Brewer, 3-0. Foye said Messalonskee golfers started the fall 1-1, and the cross-country team launched its season with a third place finish at the Scot LaLiberte Invitational race, a competition that combines the boys' and girls' scores.

Club Day 2022: Many of MHS' clubs participated in Club Day. Students had the opportunity to sign up and become a member of one or more of the clubs offered at MHS.

Outdoor Learning Center: The high school is excited to showcase their new outdoor learning center. Through the efforts of Mrs. Prelgovisk, they were able to secure a grant through the Friends of Acadia organization and build this awesome learning space.

District News

Opening Day: On August 29th, RSU 18 staff gathered at Messalonskee High School to kick off the new school year. Staff members grabbed some delicious breakfast treats, some district SWAG gear, and headed inside the auditorium for the opening session led by Superintendent of Schools, Carl Gartley.

Mr. Gartley welcomed everyone back and introduced new staff members. He then took time to remind everyone of our district motto – every student, every school, every day, and encouraged everyone to make a positive difference in the lives our students. He showed a short clip illustrating that the effort we make in our students today, impacts them forever.

Mr. Gartley then welcomed our morning speaker, Derrick





Tennant, to the stage. He opened with Mark Twain’s quote, “I wonder what it would take to purchase a soap bubble if there was only one in the world.” Tennant then went on to say, “Mark Twain is weird!” After the crowd erupted in laughter, Tennant shared that in reality, there are millions of soap bubbles, but only one you... and only one of each child in our classrooms. The value is immeasurable.

Throughout the morning, Derrick Tennant shared inspirational nuggets of wisdom like taking opportunities to positively impact the lives around us, looking on the “right” side (he is paralyzed on his left side), and his personal motto, “Live simply. Love wastefully.”

He explained that everyone needs a hero in their life, and challenged RSU 18 staff members to use their superpowers! He went on to explain four superpowers each person has.

Superpower #1: Harness the impossible. There are things on this planet that are just impossible – impossible for us as adults and things that may be impossible for our students... and that’s okay! Use the impossible as motivation to get better at skills. “Remember, you are not a mistake, and celebrate what you can do!” Tennant shared with the crowd.

Superpower #2: Engage obstacles as opportunities. It’s all about our attitude.

Superpower #3: Radiate generosity. Remember, generosity gives the giver joy and the recipient joy.

Superpower #4: Ooze love! Julie, Tennant’s sister, joined him on stage and shared this final superpower. Julie has down syndrome, and her grandpa explained that down syndrome just means she has an extra love chromosome. She shared that she may be slow to learn, but not slow to love. She encouraged the crowd that each one of them has superpowers too, and to keep going even when it seems impossible.

- H – Harness the impossible
- E – Engage obstacles as opportunities
- R – Radiate generosity
- O – Ooze love

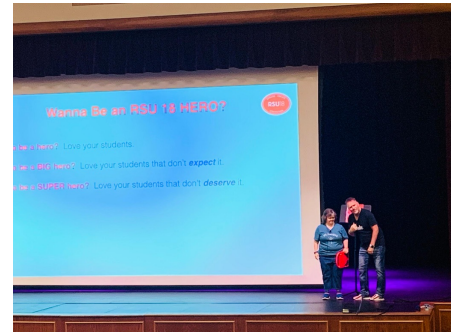




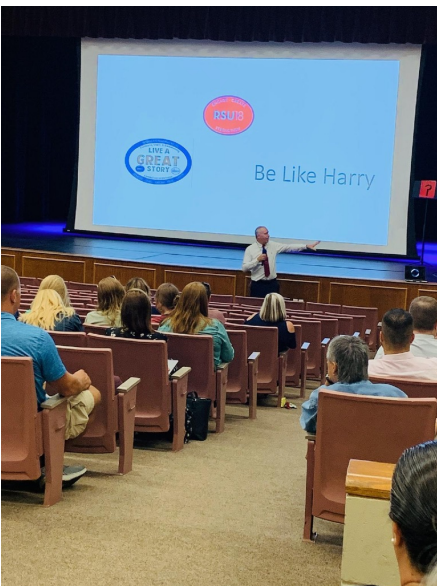
“Want to be a hero? Love your students. Want to be a big hero? Love your students who don’t expect it. Want to be a superhero? Love your students who don’t deserve it.” – Derrick Tennant



Tennant concluded his time with staff challenging them to love wastefully. He and Julie shared personal stories and made everyone smile and laugh. His final point was the acknowledgment that sometimes we are put into situations we don’t want to be in, but we can still give love and kindness to those around us, and we can be heroes in the lives of the children we come into contact with.



No detail was left out of this spectacular morning – from Aroma Joe’s catering to student athletes cheering staff members on as they entered the building on a red carpet. Thank you to Mr. Gartley, Mr. Morin, our administrators, tech team, and wellness team who made this morning such a success.



Live a Great Story: The Lifestyle motto this year is: “Live a Great Story!” Here’s to the start of another fantastic year full of great stories!

