

# **Canaan Elementary School**

**178 Main Street  
Canaan, ME 04924  
(207) 474-3901**

**Steven J. Swindells  
Principal**

**Laurel Gustafson  
Secretary**

## **Canaan School October 2017 Newsletter**

School has settled into a nice, smooth rhythm. We hope your child is enjoying their year and you are seeing good growth. We love seeing their smiling faces here at school.

There is quite a bit of 'lost and found' that has accumulated since the beginning of school. Please check it out if your child is missing a jacket, sweater, etc. We encourage you to write your child's name in their jackets for easy identification.

Local firefighters from the Canaan Fire Department will be conducting Fire Safety on Oct 12 and 13. They will also be using the smoke houses to demonstrate and practice skills to use in an emergency. We appreciate the time they donate to work with our students.

The annual Student Flu Clinic will be held on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. It is free to any student. The permission form was sent home last week. If you would like to sign your child up for a flu shot, contact the office for another permission form.

The Scholastic Book fair will take place during the week of Oct 16-20. Classroom teachers are signing up to bring their students to the book fair during that week. We will try to have someone covering the book fair directly after school during the student pick up time.

The walk-a-thon will be taking place during phys ed classes on October 23-25. The paperwork is attached. The contributions you make will help your child's class have special materials and activities throughout the year. Money is due back by November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you for your support.

Lifetouch Pictures will be here for re-take pictures on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. If you would like your child's picture re-taken, please send in their picture package and they can have it retaken on the 27<sup>th</sup>. If you didn't purchase pictures in September and want to do so now, just pick up a picture envelope in the office or ask for one to be sent home with your child. Class pictures usually arrive in January.

It is very important that we have current phone numbers on file for your child. If you change your phone number or cell phone number, please make sure you contact the school to have it added to your child's emergency card. Also, if you have someone listed as an emergency contact, please keep those numbers current as well.

Don't forget to come to the **Trunk or Treat** event that the PTF is sponsoring on Sunday, October 29 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The Darling's Ice Cream Truck will be at **Trunk or Treat**. All donations they receive for the ice cream will be going to the PTF. The next PTF meeting has been re-scheduled to October 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The annual craft fair will be held on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. There are still tables available for crafters or vendors. Contact Mrs. Brewer for more information. Please feel free to call or stop in. Wonderful things are happening in Canaan.

Sincerely,

Steve Swindells  
Principal

## **MSAD #54 is Moving to Proficiency Based Education**

### **Why is it good?**

Proficiency based learning provides a system of academic instruction, assessment, grading, and reporting that is based on students demonstrating mastery of the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn before they progress to the next lesson, get promoted to the next grade level, or receive a diploma. It provides us with a clear blueprint based on the Common Core. This is much easier to track and remediate.

The goal of proficiency based education is to ensure that students acquire the knowledge and skills that are deemed to be essential for success in school, higher education, careers and adult life. If students struggle to meet minimum expected standards, they receive additional instruction, practice time and academic support to help them achieve proficiency, but they do not progress in their education until expected standards are met. This measurable approach is a clear cut benefit for moving to a proficiency based learning system.

### **Summary**

If you have any questions about this wonderful change please contact me in the Canaan Elementary (474-3901) or contact Mr. Jon Moody, the Assistant Superintendent at 474-9508. We are on the verge of some very exciting changes in the way we teach and assess students. I cannot wait to continue our efforts.

Regards,

Steve Swindells  
Principal