

**From the Principal's Pen  
March 2021**

Submitted by: Jennifer McGee, Principal of the Atwood Primary School



“...for there is always light  
If only we are brave enough  
To see it  
If only we are brave enough  
To be it.” -Amanda Gorman

These words resonate with me. I think we all have been looking for light for the past 12 months.

Before we began school, back in August, when I wrote to the staff who would be returning to our school for the first time since the previous March, I wrote about sunflowers. When the sun is not out, sunflowers turn their faces to one another to receive radiant energy. This process is called heliotropism: the growth of a plant in response to sunlight.

What a beautiful concept. Turning to one another to find our light.

We, like all of you, were not sure what to expect as we re-entered schooling this fall. We had the full spectrum of emotions going on: Will the children be safe? Will the adults be safe? Will the children comply? Can we do “all of this” and still teach? Should we be remote? Should we be in person? The works...questions, questions, questions!

But as we look in our rearview mirrors, it seems we all made the right decisions. If you opted for “in person”...it was right for you and your child. If you opted for “remote”...it was right for you and your child. And all of the questions above got answered...because we turned to one another for our light. We turned to you. You turned to us. We all turned to each other.

It's been a full year now since we have been in the hold of Covid19, and we are not sure how much longer it will be until we are “back to normal”, but I see light. I see light everywhere. Just a few moments ago, a kindergarten teacher came into my office holding onto a pile of papers. “Look at this! Look at this,” she said plopping the pages in front of me. She flipped through page after page after page of kindergarten assessments. On each page, she pointed out the words that the kindergartners had written, nice and neat, spelling all kinds of words: “gum”, “jet”, “kid”, on and on. “And this is only February,” she said excitedly. “They are learning, they are breaking the code,” and she ran back down to her classroom.

Next door from my office, I could hear the speech therapist working with a small group of children who were forming sounds. Outside of my window, red faced children were rolling giant snow balls into huge formations they were all taking turns standing on. Outside in the portable, the second graders were

performing their “egg drop” science experiments, wrapping bubble wrap around their precious cargo. Light. Light. Everywhere light.

Yes, the pandemic is still here. But we have learned to do what we need to do to stay safe in spite of this virus. Maybe a classroom shuts down for a bit, or a school goes remote for a few days, but then we get right back to business...and re-open with children in the gyms, in our cafeterias, in our classrooms and on our playgrounds. Light.

I hope you all feel the same swelling sense of pride that I feel when I hear of schools around the world discussing “how to re-open”. I want to say, “Ask us! We know how!” Light.

My father just got the vaccine. My mother should be getting hers soon. Soon I will be able to sit with my mother, inside of the house, at the table, sharing some tea. Light.

So, no, it’s not over yet. But we have gotten through some dark days. It is safe for me to say, with all assuredness, your children have been our sunflowers, our light and they have given us our energy to keep moving forward.

With the approach of March, I think we all have cause to celebrate. Afterall, it will have been a full year since last year’s school closure!

In order to celebrate with your children, we have provided a fun: “Marvelous March in Maine” sheet. If your child checks off three activities, he or she can come to the office, any day in March, for a Marvelous March in Maine certificate! I have a feeling, as you participate in these activities with your child, you will have the benefit of the positive energy radiating from your child. That energy is what has kept us going! Light.

Thank you for continuing to work through these unprecedented times with us. Whether remote or in person, none of us will ever forget the students we had during the worldwide pandemic of 2020-2021. Aren’t we lucky, that the wonderful children we have had, have been yours!

Let’s keep this party going!

Educationally Yours,

Jenny McGee, Principal of Atwood Primary School

**March 1 to March 5: Read Across America Spirit Week and Community Read Begins....look for more information to come on this!!!**



Dates to Note:

Tuesday, March 9: Early Release Day/ 12:00 Release

Friday, March 19: No School/ In-service Workshop for Teachers

# Marvelous March in Maine

## Beat Cabin Fever

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_



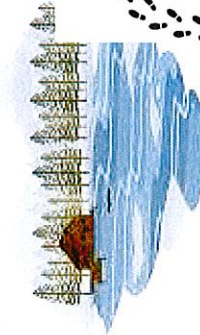
Visited a Playground.



Built an or snow creation.



Went snowmobiling on a new trail.



Went ice fishing or ice skating.



Made a blanket fort.



Participated in Maine Maple Sunday on March 28th visit: [mainemapleproducers.com](http://mainemapleproducers.com) for a list of sugarhouses to visit. Made a maple snow cone at home.

Had cozy reading time home.



Went cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and/or fat tire biking.



Went on a Book Walk



Made art!



Went sledding.



Supported a local restaurant.

