

**From the Principal's Pen
June 2022**



Submitted by: Jennifer McGee, Principal of Atwood Primary School

Can it be? JUNE?? A full year with no shut downs! In person! We did it. Exhale!

We have so much to celebrate! In the entire school year, we only had three days with all of our staff present, and yet, along with you, we persevered and made it to the finish line! Congratulations! Once again, we learned: We can do hard things.

I recently learned one of our little classrooms uses American Sign Language to sign the words of Helen Keller each day: "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." Those words hold such truth.

In the days, prior to the arrival of Covid 19, the Atwood Primary School community used to meet as a whole school, weekly. We called these meetings our Atwood Town Meetings. We would have a topic to discuss....friendship, learning, cooperation, perseverance, recycling....and then we would share celebrations, and then, we always ended with DANCING!!

Through the years, dancing became a really important part of our school tradition. So much is learned through dance: rhythm, body regulation and control, listening, watching, focusing, remembering, teamwork, and of course, FUN!

Because we haven't been able to gather as an entire school, Mr. Perks, our amazing technology teacher, directed us to create our own weekly television show: Moments with Marvin. I hope you have had a chance to tune in to "Season 1". If you haven't, I have provided the link for you!

<https://sites.google.com/rsu18.org./marvin/marvin>

Each week, we have created an episode designed to do the following:

- Introduce a social/emotional vocabulary word
- Teach children mindful breathing through our alpha-breaths

- Teach an important problem solving strategy
- Present an idea to “make the world a better place”
- Celebrate Principal’s 100 Club members and student birthdays
- Teach our weekly dance!

It would be wonderful to have you go into our Moments with Marvin website and watch a few of our episodes. If you just feel like dancing, we have our dances ready to click on and learn. Krystal Blaisdell, our pre-k teacher, is the “school dance teacher” for Atwood. She was a division 1 dance instructor at UMAINE so we are pretty lucky to have her here teaching all of us at little ole’ Atwood!

To celebrate the end of the school year, we have lots of fun events coming up. One is on a Saturday. It’s a Donuts and Dancing Party on June 4th! It’s a short event....just 30 minutes...from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and weather permitting, we will dance on the playground with Mrs. Blaisdell leading us. We would love to have you and any siblings join us in our dance party. Everyone can leave with a donut!



It would be fun...to just join together and DANCE and celebrate all we have overcome this school year. If you can’t make it, just tune into Moments with Marvin sometime, and dance in your living room! We all deserve a little happy dance!

Educationally Yours,

Jennifer McGee

Dates to Note:

- No School on Memorial Day....Monday, May 30
- The Atwood Carnival...Wednesday, June 15 from 12:30 to 2:00 behind the Atwood School...parents are invited☺
- Last Student Day of School...Thursday, June 16...noon release time!