ATWOOD AWESOME

SEPTEMBER FAMILY LETTER

PRINCIPAL'S PEN

Dear Families,
Happy New Year! Our first three days of school have been Atwood AWESOME!

As some of you may know, my three children are all proud Atwood Alumni. My oldest daughter, Grace, is currently a senior at Messalonskee High School. As we approach her final year in RSU 18, I've been thinking a lot about the chapters in her story. Her "Atwood Era" chapter contains some of her favorite memories... from our annual carnival to dancing as a school community to a special club she and her friends created in second grade called "The Kids of Kindness". To this day, many of her closest friendships were formed on our playground and in our classrooms. Ralph Atwood's mission to "Insist Your School is a Happy Place" captures our goal for the start of every child's school journey at the Atwood Primary School.

Each chapter in your child's journey matters. Our commitment as a school community is to fill each day with joyful memories and learning. We are honored to partner with you, your child and our awesome staff to write a story filled with shining moments and treasured memories!

Warmly,
~ Shelly Moody, Principal & Amy Naegely, Dean of Students

MRS. BLAISDELL

Your child may have mentioned to you that our amazing Physical Education teacher, Mrs. Blaisdell, has not been with us for the start of the year. She was diagnosed with colon cancer in August and started her chemotherapy treatments two weeks ago. At this time, Heather Adams, who was a former Atwood Awesome kindergarten teacher and is a common "guest teacher" will be teaching P.E. for the month of September. Mrs. Blaisdell is hoping and planning to join us for some classes in a few weeks. If your child hears about her diagnosis, I recommend keeping explanations simple and reassuring. We have explained that she isn't feeling well and hopes to be back with us soon. I'm confident that our school community will join our staff in surrounding Mrs. Blaisdell with compassion and support in the months ahead. Please reach out if you have any questions.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 9 - First PTA Meeting - All are welcome!
September 15: Early Release Day - Students are dismissed *at 11:30.*
September 28-October 2: School Spirit Week! Stay tuned for more details!
October 2: School Picture Day
October 7: Flu Clinic
October 9: No School - Teacher Workshop
October 19: K-2 Field Trip to Waterville Opera House ~ Peter Pan!

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SAFETY



Your child's safety is our top priority. You can help to keep all children safe by:

*signing into the office when you visit our school. If you are in the building, even with your child, you must have a visitor's pass. Parents need to drop students off in front of the building or sign into the main office for safety.

*waiting in the parent drop off line in the morning, even if your child is already out of your vehicle. We only have space for one line of vehicles. We will take your child out of the vehicle to keep the flow of traffic.

*waiting for buses when leaving our parking lot in the morning and the afternoon. Watch for children entering and exiting the bus.

Safety is not always convenient, but it is important. Thank you for doing your part to ensure that our school building and parking lot are safe spaces!

ATTENDANCE

Being present at school every day is one of the most important pieces to the academic, social and emotional growth that we foster in our schools. One of our district goals this year is to decrease chronic absenteeism, which is 18 absences (excused or unexcused) in one year.





You can support your child in meeting this attendance goal by:

*ensuring that your child gets to school daily and on time and by

*contacting the main office or your child's teacher to share the reason for your child's absence.

We are starting a new tradition to celebrate the days when ALL students are present in each class! Each day that every student is present, the class will add a star to a magnetic jar. When the jar is full, the whole class will earn a special reward!



AFFIRMATION STATION

We are continuing our Atwood Awesome Affirmations this year connected to a special monthly theme. Using daily affirmations with children fosters a strong foundation for confidence and a growth mindset. You will notice a special bulletin board near the office devoted to pictures and messages connected to our Atwood Awesome Affirmations. Teachers will also be sharing the affirmation during morning meeting and in our specials.

We are kicking off the year with a focus on: FRIENDSHIP. Our affirmation to start the year is **"I am ready to shine!"** We will be sharing that students can shine through sharing, using kind words and helping others. A great question to ask your child each day is: How did you SHINE at school today?



SNACK DONATIONS & LUNCH FORMS



In the past, our school was able to provide free daily fruits and vegetables at snack time to all children. Unfortunately, we did not receive the funding for this program this year. Donations of small snack packs or granola bars to your child's teacher or to Miss Keera, our school social worker, are GREATLY appreciated!

Your child's first day folder included an important free/reduced lunch form. Even though our school offers free breakfast and lunch, we need this form returned from all students. These forms help determine funding for our school. **Thank you for returning your child's form by Tuesday, September 8.** For the past two years, we have had 100% of our forms returned! We appreciate your support!

JOIN THE ATWOOD - WILLIAMS PTA!

2026 - 2027

We're gearing up for another GREAT year!



Learn about the PTA and how to join!

Complete the membership form online:

https://bit.ly/4beBypb

CONTACT US!

EMAIL:

PTA.ATWOODWILLIAMS@GMAIL.COM

FOLLOW ON FACEBOOK!