



# Smith Spectacular

December 15, 2023

Dear Smith School Families,

This will be the last Smith Spectacular before the December break. I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude and extend warm wishes to each and every one of you. This time of year is not only a celebration of traditions and festivities but also an opportunity to reflect on the incredible community we have here at Smith.

Our school is a vibrant tapestry of young minds, and your children bring so much joy and enthusiasm to our halls each day. Their laughter, curiosity, and boundless energy remind us of the true magic of this season. It is a privilege to witness their growth, creativity, and kindness, and I want to thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children.

As we take a well-deserved break with loved ones, let's cherish the simple moments that make this time of year special. Whether it's building snowmen, sharing stories, or enjoying a cozy movie night, may your holidays be filled with warmth, love, and the company of those who matter most.

I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the achievements and milestones your child has reached this year. Their progress is a testament to the collaborative efforts of our dedicated teachers, staff, and, of course, the unwavering support from you, our valued parents.






In the spirit of gratitude, I would also like to express my deepest thanks to our amazing teachers and staff. Their dedication and passion for nurturing young minds contribute significantly to the success and positive atmosphere of our school.

As we bid farewell to this year and welcome the possibilities of the new one, let us continue to foster a spirit of community, kindness, and learning. May the holiday season bring you moments of peace, happiness, and the promise of a bright and hopeful future.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Smith School family. Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a happy New Year!

Warmest regards,

## Smith School Spirit Week

Monday <u>December 18</u>	Tuesday <u>December 19</u>	Wednesday <u>December 20</u>	Thursday <u>December 21</u>	Friday <u>December 22</u>
<p>HOLIDAY BEST: Dress in the outfit that makes you feel the best for the holidays.</p> 	<p>Warm up for winter: wear your PLAID and/or FLANNEL</p> 	<p>Festive: Wear HOLIDAY COLORS</p> 	<p>Winter wonderland- wear BLUE AND WHITE to represent winter!</p> 	<p>Last day before break! Let's celebrate in our PJ'S!</p> 



### Smith School Field Trip to Wagner

All students from Smith School will be attending Winter Wonderland at the Wagner School on Friday, December 22. Times for groups are staggered, but all will attend at some time in the a.m. We are looking forward to a morning of cheer! Wagner students will be helping Smith School students with a craft and we will enjoy music from the Wagner band and chorus.

### Invest in ME Reads

Greetings Families!

We are reaching out regarding the [Invest in ME Reads](#) program, brought to you by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME). We hope that you have enjoyed the free books and resources, as well as the [educational website](#), designed to help your child learn about money.

On behalf of FAME, we would like to invite you to take a brief survey to help them learn how this program has helped your family. Families who complete the survey may enter to win a **\$100 Amazon gift card**. For official rules and to access the survey, please visit [Invest in ME Reads](#). **The survey deadline is December 31, 2023.**

In addition to the survey, we also invite you to check out these grade-level resources:

**Grade Two:** [Those Shoes author book reading](#) featuring Maribeth Boelts.

**Grade Three:** Learn about education, careers, and money with FAME's Cash & Max [activity book](#).

**Grade Four:** Learn about future careers from [MAGtown](#), made possible by the Alford Scholarship Foundation.

**Grade Five:** Start a conversation about future careers with the [World's Coolest Jobs Caregiver Guide](#).

For questions, or to opt out of any future communications regarding this program, please email Mary Dyer, *Financial Education Programs Manager* at [mdyer@famemaine.com](mailto:mdyer@famemaine.com).

Thank you,

**Mary**

**Mary Dyer**

Financial Education Programs Manager

**FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

P.O. Box 949, 5 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04332-0949

207-620-3556 or 1-800-228-3734

Fax: 207-213-2656 – TTY: 207-626-2717

[mdyer@famemaine.com](mailto:mdyer@famemaine.com)

Pronouns: she | her | hers

## Author Visits Locally

Two very special events are happening at [The Briar Patch](#) in downtown Bangor this weekend. Maine author/illustrator Chris Van Dusen and Matt Tavares will have a storytime and book signing.

**STORYTIME AND BOOK SIGNING**

**DASHER**  
CAN'T WAIT for CHRISTMAS

New York Times best-selling author/illustrator  
**MATT TAVARES**

**Sunday, Dec. 17 at 11am**  
BookSpace by The Briar Patch  
48 Columbia St., Bangor

BOOKSPACE **The Briar Patch**

**STORYTIME AND BOOK SIGNING**

**KATE DICAMILLO**  
*Mercy Watson Is Missing!*

MISSING PIG  
MERCY WATSON  
PORCINE WONDER

illustrated by  
**Chris Van Dusen**

**Saturday, Dec. 16 at 11am**  
BookSpace by The Briar Patch  
48 Columbia St., Bangor

BOOKSPACE **The Briar Patch**



## Library

The students have started listening to the 2023-2024 Chickadee Award nominated books read during library class!

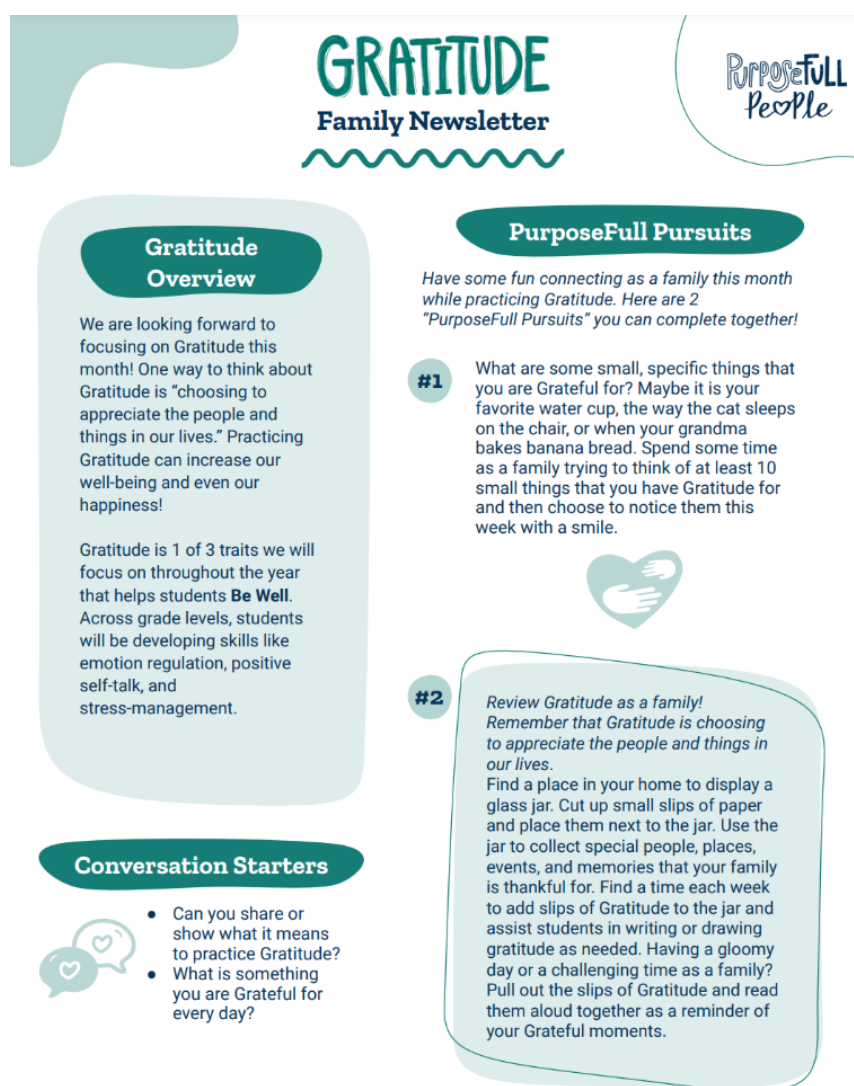
This is a picture book award program for children in kindergarten through fourth grade. The award is in its nineteenth year, and is given annually to one of ten picture books nominated by a committee of teachers, librarians and early literacy professionals. After all 10 books have been read, all students will get to vote for their favorite. The winner for our school and for the state of Maine will be announced in April.

The purpose of this award is to encourage students to develop an appreciation for excellence in writing and illustration that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Each story read also has a fun activity and read-alike recommendations for the kids. We began the year with the book *Tomatoes in My Lunchbox*. The kids described their perfect school lunch in a drawing and writing. All their creations are hanging on the display across from the Smith School Library.

## What's happening in L.E.A.D?

This month, students have been learning a lot about GRATITUDE. They are learning to manage emotions, use positive self-talk and find time to stop and notice even the smallest things that they can be grateful for. We have a lot of rich discussions about choosing to show gratitude. Students have enjoyed singing along to the Gratitude Song and trying out some new interactive games. Here's a look at the Character Strong Newsletter for this month if you want to talk with your students more about this topic at home.



**GRATITUDE**  
Family Newsletter

*PurposeFULL People*

### Gratitude Overview

We are looking forward to focusing on Gratitude this month! One way to think about Gratitude is "choosing to appreciate the people and things in our lives." Practicing Gratitude can increase our well-being and even our happiness!

Gratitude is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students **Be Well**. Across grade levels, students will be developing skills like emotion regulation, positive self-talk, and stress-management.

### Conversation Starters

- Can you share or show what it means to practice Gratitude?
- What is something you are Grateful for every day?

### PurposeFull Pursuits

Have some fun connecting as a family this month while practicing Gratitude. Here are 2 "PurposeFull Pursuits" you can complete together!

**#1** What are some small, specific things that you are Grateful for? Maybe it is your favorite water cup, the way the cat sleeps on the chair, or when your grandma bakes banana bread. Spend some time as a family trying to think of at least 10 small things that you have Gratitude for and then choose to notice them this week with a smile.

**#2** Review Gratitude as a family! Remember that Gratitude is choosing to appreciate the people and things in our lives. Find a place in your home to display a glass jar. Cut up small slips of paper and place them next to the jar. Use the jar to collect special people, places, events, and memories that your family is thankful for. Find a time each week to add slips of Gratitude to the jar and assist students in writing or drawing gratitude as needed. Having a gloomy day or a challenging time as a family? Pull out the slips of Gratitude and read them aloud together as a reminder of your Grateful moments.

## Upcoming Events

**\*\*Wednesday, December 20: All School Share 8:00 (Please note day change due to snow day)**

Friday, Dec. 22: Smith School will travel to Wagner for Winter Wonderland (a.m.)

December 25- January 1: NO SCHOOL. School resumes on Tuesday, January 2, 2024

January 2- February 9: NWEA (each classroom has their own times)

Friday, January 12: NO SCHOOL (Teacher Inservice Day)

## December Great Body Shop - Health

Click to view the topics students will be learning about in Health in December

### PIE

Box tops- Download the app to help our school.

Rainbow cart- We are looking for volunteers to help show our staff that we appreciate them!

Follow us on Facebook and message us for details. [PIE Leroy H. Smith Elementary School.](#)



### Changes in Dismissal Plan Reminder

If your child is going to a destination other than their usual routine, we will need to have the information in writing to [smithoffice@rsu22.us](mailto:smithoffice@rsu22.us) by **1:00 PM**. We do not accept changes over the phone. The following information should be included in your email/text message:

- Child's full name
- Name of the person they are going to
- Street address of the destination

Please notify [smithoffice@rsu22.us](mailto:smithoffice@rsu22.us) of any changes in afterschool plans, even if you have emailed their teacher. This will ensure that the changes are made.

## Community Events

This website will provide you with all sorts of information about events, sign-ups for clubs, etc. available to your children. Please check often. We will be putting flyers, etc. directly into this folder.

## December Lunch Menu

# Leroy H. Smith School- December Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
				<b>Pizza Day</b> Cheese or Pepperoni
4	5	6	7	8
<b>Caf Classic</b> Hamburgers/Cheeseburger Fries Salad & Fruit Bar	<b>Breakfast for Lunch</b> Pancakes Sausage Salad & Fruit Bar	<b>Caf Classic</b> Toasted Cheese Tomato Soup, Crackers Salad & Fruit Bar	<b>Tacos</b> Chicken and Cheese Tacos  Salad & Fruit Bar	<b>Early Dismissal</b> To Go Bag Lunch Bagel, Cream Cheese, Yogurt, Fruit, Veg, Milk
11	12	13	14	15
<b>All Time Favorite</b> Chicken Nuggets, Fries Crackers Salad & Fruit Bar	<b>Breakfast for Lunch</b> Build your own Yogurt Parfait Fruit, Cereal and more Salad & Fruit Bar	<b>Caf Classic</b> Homemade Meatballs & Sauce with Breadstick Salad & Fruit Bar	<b>New! Homemade</b> Chicken Ramen Noodle Soup Toasted Cheese Sandwich Salad & Fruit Bar	<b>Pizza Day</b> Cheese or Pepperoni  Salad & Fruit Bar
18	19	20	21	22
<b>Caf Classic</b> Hamburgers/Cheeseburger Fries  Salad & Fruit Bar	<b>Chicken and Waffles</b> Crunchy Chicken Drumsticks Waffle Sticks  Salad & Fruit Bar	<b>All American Holiday Dinner</b> Turkey & Stuffing Mashed Potatoes, Cran Sauce Winter Squash, Sugar Cookie Salad & Fruit Bar	<b>Deli Day</b> Ham & Cheese Fresh Veggies  Salad & Fruit Bar	<b>Pizza Day</b> Cheese or Pepperoni  Salad & Fruit Bar
25	26	27	28	29
				

Harvest of the Month  
Maine Winter Squash

Alternate Menu Choices - PBJ Meal or Chef's Choice

## 2023-2024 School Year Calendar

RSU #22: 2023-24 School Calendar

August					September					October				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
7	8	9	10	11				1		2	3	4	5	6
14	15	16	17	18	4	5 (Pre-K & K, 1st day)	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
21	22	23 Sped NT	24 Ed Tech NT	25 Ed Tech NT	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
28	29	30	31		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
					25	26	27	28	29	30	31			

November					December					January				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3					1	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 ED	10 H	4	5	6	7	8 ED	8	9	10	11	12 I
13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 C	23 H	24 V	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30		25	26	27 V	28 V	29 V	29	30	31		

February					March					April				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2					1	1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12 ED
12	13	14	15	16 ED	11	12	13	14	15 I	15	16	17 V	18 V	19 V
19	20	21	22	23 V	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29		25	26	27	28	29	29	30			

May					June				
M	T	W	Th	F	M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	10	11 ED	12 I	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19 H	20	21
20	21	22	23	24 ED	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31					

**School Year**

178\* Student Days  
 1 Management Day  
 1 Teacher Preparation Day  
 4 Inservice Days  
 1 Teacher Comp Day  
 (\*3 storm days included)

Quarters Q	Trimesters T
1 45 days	8/30/23-12/1/23 61 days
2 43 days	12/4/23-3/8/24 57 days
3 44 days	3/11/24-6/11/24 60 days
4 46 days	
178	178

H=Holiday, V=Vacation Day  
 ED=Early Dismissal  
 I=Teacher Inservice Day, No School

Approved 4.28.23

# A-F Letter Day Calendar

December				
M	T	W	Th	F
				1 F
4	5 A	6 B	7 C	8 Ear. Dis.
11 D	12 E	13 F	14 A	15 B
18 C	19 D	20 E	2 F	22 A
25 Holiday	26 Vacation	27 Vacation	28 Vacation	29 Vacation

December

January				
M	T	W	Th	F
1 Holiday	2 B	3 C	4 D	5 E
8 F	9 A	10 B	11 C	12 Inservice
15 Holiday	16 D	17 E	18 F	19 A
22 B	23 C	24 D	25 E	26 F
29 A	30 B	31 C		

January

February				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1 D	2 E
5 F	6 A	7 B	8 C	9 D
12 E	13 F	14 A	15 B	16 Ear. Dis.
19 Holiday	20 Vacation	21 Vacation	22 Vacation	23 Vacation
26 C	27 D	28 E	29 F	

February

# Pre-planned Absence Form

Please fill out if you plan on begin absent for 4 or more days.



## Leroy H. Smith School

Email: [dmoore@rsu22.us](mailto:dmoore@rsu22.us)

Website: <http://smith.rsu22.us/>

Location: [319 South Main Street, Winterport, ME, USA](#)

Phone: [207-223-4282](tel:207-223-4282)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/smithschoolwinterportfrankfort>



### Dawn Moore

Dawn is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters