

# FALCON FLASH

October 19, 2018

## Upcoming Events:

10/26-Spice Orders Due in Office  
10/26-Halloween Parade-4pm  
10/26-Halloween Glow Party@4:30-6:30  
11/12-Veteran's Day – No School

11/19-Picture Retake Day  
11/21-Professional Day – No School  
11/22-11/23-Thanksgiving Break- No School



THE PRINCIPAL CONNECTION @mrlajoiebham

Parents – a reminder that your family can still apply for free or reduced-price lunch. If your income changes seasonally, or for any reason at any time, you can fill out the form. Just let us know and we can send one home in your child's backpack. Also, if you receive a notice that a lunch bill is due – and you thought you had qualified for free or reduced-price lunch – please give me a call so we can sort it out. Those conversations always remain confidential.

## HOT TOPIC: HOMEWORK

"Where is your homework?"

"I don't have any."

"What do you mean you don't have any?"

"All I have to do tonight is read."

Have you ever had a conversation like this with your Bowdoinham student? No, they're not trying to get out of something – they more than likely have not been assigned homework! As a school we have studied the pros and cons of assigning homework in a traditional way. We are also aware of the research on the impact of traditional homework on student learning. The research is convincing: For elementary-aged students, the gain in learning from homework is almost nothing. There are many reasons for this. Homework completion is largely dependent upon parent participation, and the ability of parents to help with homework varies. Traditionally students are given homework dealing with skills they are still learning, and so the homework is too hard, takes too long, is practiced incorrectly, or leads to battles with the parents. (I've been there.) Even worse is when a lack of homework completion carries over to the next school day, where a student is punished through lower grades or disapproval from the teacher. So that is why we assign less homework than other schools, but rely on the research and our experience that says we end up with better learning for our students.

Bowdoinham Community School is all about Meaningful Learning That Lasts. Valuable learning for kids is that we are all readers and writers, this is a part of life, and that we do it every day like brushing our teeth. Reading at home every day is not homework – it's just what we do! Sometimes we might assign homework in other subject areas that is intended to help a student become more fluent with a skill they have already achieved. We don't assign homework to get kids to learn responsibility. Instead, we just teach responsibility! Homework - and especially home reading - should never be a battle with your child. Instead, just focus on talking to your child about what they are learning – and really listen! Encourage their reading, and model a reading life yourself. Keep it positive, and know that you are helping develop a strong, confident learner. If you are ever interested in having your student do more homework, and you believe it will be a positive experience for him/her, feel free to contact the teacher to have that conversation.

Yours in meaningful learning that lasts,

Mr. Lajoie ☺

**Parents, please remember that cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed at school or on the elementary school bus. If your child is using one of these devices at school or on the bus, I will collect it and ask that you come to school to pick it up. Thanks for your help with this!**



Our **SPICE FUNDRAISER** is underway for this year. A packet went home with your student last week. All spices are from Gryffon Ridge Spice Merchants of Litchfield Maine. Please check out their website [www.gryffonridge.com](http://www.gryffonridge.com) for more information about any of the spices listed on the order form. Our school receives 50% of our sales. This is the only whole school fundraiser that we do and would appreciate your help. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Russell in the office. Orders are due in the office on Friday, October 26. Delivery date will be before Thanksgiving break.



Permission slips to participate after school in the Halloween Parade were sent home earlier this week. Any child staying after school for this event **MUST** have a permission slip or they will be sent home as usual. Attached you will find a copy of the permission slip which has all of the information on it.

**Special Halloween Parade Information -Bowdoinham Parent Partnership** - "The Bowdoinham Parent Partnership wants to help any family who needs supervision or transportation home from the Halloween Parade or Halloween Party on October 26. It's a free fun event and a Bowdoinham tradition...don't let transportation get in your way! There will be food for all with a donation. We would love to have anyone interested join the fun! Send an email to [danapratt@hotmail.com](mailto:danapratt@hotmail.com) and we will connect you with a parent volunteer who might be able to chaperone during the festivities and/or drive your student home."



**Halloween Glow party Extravaganza** – directly after the Halloween Parade at 4:30pm. Dinner is available for sale, crafts, dancing; touch and feel stations and much more. Notices went home today and is also attached to this email.



**School Bus Driver Appreciation Week** is October 22 through October 26, 2018. This year's theme is : My Driver, My Safety Hero. If you have a moment next week – say a big Thank You to your driver.

# October Happenings

## COMMUNITY NEWS



**Medication Collection** – Unused, unwanted, outdated Household pills, ointments, drops, prescription, over the counter, veterinary (No needles or thermometers) Saturday, October 27 10am – 2pm. Bath Police Department; Brunswick Police Department; Harpswell Town Office Topsham Public Safety Building and Richmond Police Department.



**Snow White** – A program of story and song for young audiences – Dec. 1, 2018 10:00am and 1:00pm. Admission Free. Curtis Memorial Library Morrell Meeting Room. FMI call MSMT 725-8760



**DO YOU WANT TO LEARN TO PLAY THE PIANO?** - I am an experienced piano and organ teacher. I offer piano and organ lessons at my home which is near the school. For more information, please contact Ann Hartzler: [ann.hartzler@gmail.com](mailto:ann.hartzler@gmail.com) or 837-3416.



**Bowdoinham Food Pantry's** hours of operation. The pantry will be open from 4pm – 6pm every Wednesday and Saturday from 9am – 10am For more information please call 751-7779, Lily Montgomery.



**The Clothes Closet** is open the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 3pm-6pm at the Church of the Nazarene at 7 School St. Come to the house behind the church. A donation of \$1 a bag is welcome but not required.

