

# FALCON FLASH

October 4, 2018

## Upcoming Events:

10/5-No School-Professional Day  
10/8-Columbus Day Holiday-No School  
10/9-Fall Pictures

10/11-Harvest Supper/Open House – 5pm-7pm  
10/26-Halloween Parade @ 4pm



THE PRINCIPAL CONNECTION

@mrlajoiebham

Dear Families – Below is an article I have submitted to the Bowdoinham News. I hope it can be the start of a conversation. If you have questions, or strong feelings one way or another, let's sit down over coffee and discuss!

### HOT TOPIC: PREPARATION, PRECISION, PASSION

Which of these statements better matches what you believe school should be?

A

B

Every student is provided the opportunity to be successful, by learning necessary skills and content.	School is a competition between students, where some will naturally be successful and others won't.
Students understand exactly what they are expected to learn.	School officials don't really need to share this information with students.
School prepares students for real life: jobs, higher education, and citizenship.	School prepares students to compete for honors and recognition.
Grades are based on what students have actually learned.	Grades go up or down based on how well a student behaves.
When students graduate they do not have serious gaps in their knowledge.	If students graduate with gaps in knowledge, they can just take remedial courses in college or trade school.

Did you tend to agree more with statements A or B?

There is some amount of misinformation and negative energy around the concept of proficiency-based education. While concerns about government overreach and challenges with reporting student progress are worthy of discussion, much of the hubbub stems from a lack of understanding about what proficiency-based education really stands for. If you found yourself supporting more statements on side A, you agree with foundational tenets of proficiency-based education.

Our proficiency-based approach to education is about *preparation* for real life, *precision* in what we teach and how we share student progress, and fostering each student's *passion* for learning. For Bowdoinham's children, this journey starts at our Community School. We take very seriously the duty to educate all of our students, laying the foundation for each one to be successful in life.

The next time you hear criticism of proficiency-based education consider this: Should a sixteen-year-old be granted a driver's license because he is a nice, respectful kid, even if he doesn't understand important road signs? No – he should be proficient at driving. Should a person practicing karate be given a black belt because she's been showing up for classes for a number of years? No – she should have mastered all the key skills that define that achievement. Would you hire a mechanic who has gaps in his understanding of how engines work? How about a lifeguard who can't show proficiency on the swim test? Our society requires proficiency as a measure of accomplishment. Why should we expect less of our students? Why should we leave them ill-prepared for success when they graduate?

Yours in meaningful learning that lasts,

Mr. Lajoie ☺

## No School TOMORROW, Oct. 5 due to Professional Development Day AND No School Monday, Oct. 8 due to Columbus Holiday



School pictures will be taken of every student on Tuesday, October 9th, 2018!



**Harvest Supper and Open House** – Will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2018 with the supper beginning at 5pm and the Open House beginning at 6pm. next week.



**Bowdoinham Community School Cares** - We are conducting a spare change drive from September 24- October 5 to support Communities in Schools' North Carolina and South Carolina Affiliates All in Relief Fund. 100% of your donations will be used toward disaster relief for students impacted by Hurricane Florence. **Communities in Schools** is the nation's largest organization dedicated to empowering at-risk students to stay in school and follow a path to a brighter future. We thank you in advance for sending change in with your students. Bowdoinham Cares!



**PARENT MEETING**

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents** meeting - Mrs. Marc-Aurele will be hosting a Parents Meeting for all families of 4th and 5th grade students on Monday, October 15 at 5:30pm in the Learning Commons. This meeting will last about 30 minutes and will outline information regarding the annual fifth-grade trip to Boston and fundraising goals related to the trip.



### COMMUNITY NEWS



**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.

### Happening Today in First Grade

