

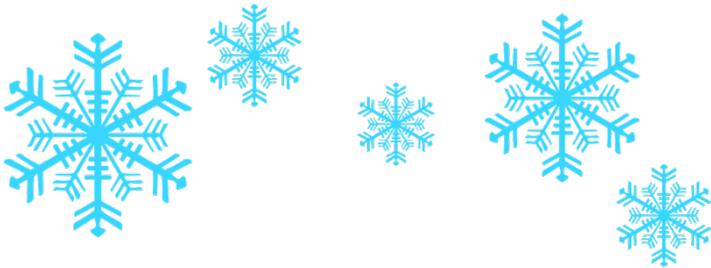
# Frank I. Brown Elementary

## Brown Says Y.E.S.!

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## School Cancellations and Delays

The South Portland School Department utilizes cancellations, delays, and early dismissals in the event of inclement weather. There are also times when school is in session, but worsening weather requires all after-school activities to be canceled. If your child typically attends an after-school event, then please contact the office with alternate dismissal plans.

In the event of a two hour delay, please refer to the following answers to frequently asked questions.

- Bus pick-ups will occur exactly two hours after their regularly scheduled pick-up times.
- School begins exactly two hours after the regular start time. Therefore, supervision on the playground starts at 10:35 a.m. and students may enter the building between 10:50 and 11:05 a.m.
- There will be a modified breakfast available from 10:35-11:05 a.m. to students who need it.
- Trucks plow the blacktop behind the school, so please discourage students from arriving at school early whenever there is snow.
- All meetings originally scheduled before school will be rescheduled to allow everyone as much time as possible to get to school safely.



Brown's first session of Drama Kids concluded on January 13th with an engaging presentation for families. The second session begins on January 27th and occurs each Monday until April 13th. Please visit [www.dramakidsofsouthernmaine.com](http://www.dramakidsofsouthernmaine.com) for more information and email [Jen@DramaKidsofSouthernMaine.com](mailto:Jen@DramaKidsofSouthernMaine.com) to register.

## Staff Changes

At the end of December, we welcomed Kelly Barr to our resource room team. She has spent the first few weeks getting to know the students and becoming acclimated with the school. I speak for all of the students and staff when I say that we could not be more thrilled to have Kelly on board.

Around this same time, we also welcomed Sandy Jacobs as our new RTI math interventionist for grades 2-5. Sandy was previously supporting students as an instructional support ed tech, so we could not be more thrilled to have her enter into this role.

Welcome, Kelly and Sandy!

## 2018-2019 MEA Data

Every spring, third, fourth, and fifth grade students participate in the Maine Educational Assessments (MEAs). Recently, the 2018-2019 results were released to districts and families by the Maine Department of Ed. Individual student reports were mailed home before break and Ken Kunin will be speaking to district-wide data and more during his state of the school presentation on Monday, January 27th at 6:00 p.m.

In the meantime, I am excited to announce that Brown's English Language Arts (ELA) and Math scores continue to improve. In ELA, Brown went from 62% at or above state expectations in 2016-2017 to 63% in 2017-2018, and now to 65% in 2018-2019. In math, Brown improved from 41% at or above state expectations in 2016-2017 to 50% in 2017-2018 and now to 51% in 2018-2019.

The MEAs measure proficiency at the student, school, and district levels. As a district, we use the scores to make district-wide curriculum decisions and professional development needs. As a school, we use the results to determine student-specific interventions, building-based professional development, and corresponding supports. Although the MEAs are important in tracking our proficiency as a school and district, we recognize that it is just one measure and would never make student programming decisions based on this test alone.

The 2018-2019 MEA results are just one reflection of the dedication and instruction occurring at Brown on a daily basis. Congratulations to Brown's students and staff for this accomplishment.

## The Cromwell Center

Brown Elementary was happy to partner with The Cromwell Center for Disabilities Awareness in the fall of 2019. Our students took part in some great conversations about abilities, respect and inclusion. This fit perfectly with our school's own efforts to build kindness and respect for all students. To learn more about this Maine non-profit and their free disabilities awareness programs, visit [www.cromwellcenter.org](http://www.cromwellcenter.org).

## Every Day Counts

Did you know that showing up to school every day is essential to student success? Missing 1-2 days each month is a sign that a child is at academic risk. As a parent or family member, you are essential in ensuring your child is on time, every day. Check with our school nurse or office staff if you are not sure about when to keep your child at home due to illness. We also ask that you avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session. It is harder to teach and learn when numerous students are absent.

As we prepare to take a short break from school, we want to express our gratitude for everyone who makes it possible for our students to come to school every day, on time, ready to learn. Our teachers will be teaching, and our students will be learning, right up until vacation starts and the first day back.

## Upcoming Dates

Jan. 23rd- **PTA Meeting** at 6:30 p.m. in the art room

Jan. 27th- **Family Band Night** at 6:00 p.m. in the gym

Jan. 27th- **State of the Schools Presentation** for the School Board at 6:00 p.m. at SPHS

Jan. 30th- **City Council Meeting** at Brown Elementary at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 1st- **PTA Pancake Breakfast**

Feb. 5th- **Early Release** at 12:35 p.m. following lunch

Feb. 17th-21st- **No School**

Feb. 27th- **PTA Meeting** at 6:30 p.m. in the art room

