

Frank I. Brown Elementary

Brown Says Y.E.S.!

Alexis Jones, Principal

jonesal@spsdme.org

207-799-5196

October 23, 2019

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

It is almost time for parent-teacher conferences! The general purpose of conferences is for parents and teachers to connect regarding the student's progress with academics, Habits of Work, and 21st Century Skills. The format for these conversations vary by teacher, so be on the lookout for more classroom specific information regarding conferences as we get closer to the date.

Fall conferences will take place between November 12th and 26th. The available dates and times during this window will vary by teacher. **You will receive an email or letter with more information about how to sign up for conferences from your child's classroom teacher on Wednesday, October 30th.** This notification will include a password that will enable you to select a conference time using PTCFast.

PTCFast is an online conference scheduler that will be used throughout Brown unless a teacher is aware that a family does not have internet access. PTCFast is relatively user friendly and conveniently lets you schedule multiple conferences in one view if you have more than one child in the school. When you select a day and time you will receive a confirmation. If you need to change your conference time for any reason, then simply return to the site to do so.

Our goal is to have 100% participation in parent-teacher conferences, so please contact us if you need assistance with the scheduling process. We look forward to seeing all of you around the school next month.



Author Visit

On September 30th, New York Times Bestselling Author, Jennifer A. Nielsen, visited Brown Elementary to speak with the fourth and fifth grade students about her experience writing historical fiction. Jennifer shared overviews of *A Night Divided*, *Words on Fire*, *The False Prince*, and *Resistance*, and the historical events that they are based on. The students were extremely engaged in her presentation and many left eager to get their hands on at least one of these books. An option to buy the books was sent home in the following week's totes, but all of these books are also available in the Brown School library.

Brown Bear Closet

What is the BBC? BBC is a donations based clothing closet for any student/family to come in and shop for free!

How do I visit? Contact Alexis Jones to set up a time to shop or to have specific clothing items sent home with your child.

What kinds of clothes are offered? BBC has all sizes for school-aged children.

What is being collected currently? Long sleeved shirts, winter gear (coats, boots, snow pants) and play pants (sweatpants and leggings).

If you are interested in helping to organize or oversee the Brown Bear Closet, please contact Jane Eberle at eberleja@spsdme.org.

Civil Rights Team

The Brown School Civil Rights Team is back for a second year with an enthusiastic response to our first informational meeting. Last year we had about 30 members and this year we might have even more! The Civil Rights team promotes the acceptance of every single student at our school. We help our students and school community think and talk about issues related to race & skin color, national origin and ancestry, religion, disability, gender and orientation. Projects last year included designing and creating a school Civil Rights flag as well as an informational bulletin board. This year we look forward to more related work and activities including our "Day of Welcome" on Friday, October 25th which will be recognized in schools all across Maine. Thank you to Beth Dolley and Paula Doucette for leading the students in this cause.



Holiday Volunteers and Donations Needed!

Looking for a way to help support families across South Portland this holiday season? South Portland School Department is seeking donations and volunteers for Thanksgiving Baskets and Holiday Gifts.

Here are the links to sign up:

- [Thanksgiving Donations](#) (sponsor a whole basket, or just some individual items.
- [Thanksgiving Volunteers](#) (on Nov 21, and drivers on Nov 22)
- [Holiday Gift Volunteers](#) (on Dec 9, and drivers on Dec 10)
- Holiday Gift Donations- If you would like to sponsor a family, or just provide some gifts, please contact Liz Darling at Maine Roofing: 767-4243.

If anyone would like to apply for assistance for the holidays, please contact Gretchen McCloy (mccloygr@spsdme.org), or speak to your School Counselor.



Upcoming Dates

Oct. 24th 6:30-7:30 p.m.- **PTA Meeting** in the art room. We will be joined by either Ken Kunin or Kathy Germani to discuss the new middle school project.

Oct. 30th- **Conference information sent home to families**

Nov. 11th- **No School**, Veteran's Day

Nov. 12th-26th- **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Nov. 26th- **Early Release** at 12:35 p.m. following lunch

Nov. 27th - Dec. 1st- **No School**, Thanksgiving