

Cascade Brook School

December 2023

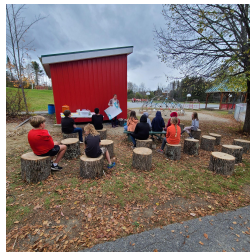
Nichole Goodspeed, Principal

New Staff to CBS

We welcome our new staff this year:
Hope Staker - 4th grade teacher

Classroom News--UMF pre-service teachers recently taught a garden lesson to our 3rd grade students. Sarah Reynolds worked with Franklin County teachers and Laura Hoeft, our school garden coach, to develop the Growing Gardeners curriculum. Sarah presented the curriculum to the UMF pre-service teachers, who were then tasked with bringing a lesson to life in our 3rd grade classrooms. CBS students got to learn about the parts of a plant through hands-on activities with fruits and vegetables. This tied in perfectly with the garden lessons our students participated in this fall!

Ms. Graham's third grade class had an election with voting on November 7, 2023.



Tara Marble, from the Cooperative Extension Office, was here to talk to our 5th graders. She brought a large model of a town. Students were then asked to add certain things to the environment. Some of these things were fertilizers for the golf course's grass and also cow waste from the cows. These were in the form of various spices that we could see, but students were reminded that some things interact with our environment that we cannot see. This guest speaker wrapped up a unit on food webs and ecosystems.

Nick Rimsa, from The Good Crust, came to speak to Mrs. Davis's fifth grade class about local grains. He taught us about where the grains come from, the differences between whole grains, and why our bodies need them. We were then able to use the whole grains in a pizza crust. We then baked our pizzas and a yummy time was had by all. Another

big thank you to Bella Russo, from the Cooperative Extension Office, for providing us with weekly nutrition lessons. She enabled us to learn even more about why it's important to think about what we are putting into our bodies.

BARR is going well. We have 4 out of 5 4th grade teachers trained. We are utilizing U-Times activities to support students with relationships and expectations. Our behavior referrals are down in fourth grade by 20% from last year.

Green Team- Students met in November. They narrowed their topics to work on to the following: bug love- learning about beneficial bugs; upcycling- finding ways to make new things out of old; invasive species-learning about plants and animals who are working against our native species; and reusing-thinking about how to get what we don't use to someone who needs it and composting. They will meet again in December

School Wide Book Read--Our school recently participated in a school-wide book read of *The Wildlife Tree* by Peter and Deborah Emery. The authors visited our school on October 25th to talk about their book. It was a wonderful experience for our students to meet the authors and learn more about the remarkable wildlife trees that provide homes for amazing animals.

During the book read, our students had the opportunity to guess which animals live in these trees through clues and illustrations. They were able to explore facts about the fascinating lives of these animals. It was a great way to encourage their curiosity and love for nature. We would like to express our gratitude to Peter and Deborah Emery for taking the time to visit our school and share their knowledge and passion with our students.



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Parent Teacher Conferences--We would like to thank all the staff and parents who participated in our school-wide parent teacher conferences held on the evenings of 11/6 and 11/8. We greatly appreciate the time and effort put into these conferences to ensure effective communication between teachers and parents.

Food Drive -During the month of November, our students participated in a wonderful initiative to help those in need in our community. They collected non-perishable food items for the Farmington Care and Share Closet. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the generosity they have shown.

The students collected items in their classrooms, Share Closet by our district maintenance department. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your donations and support. Your contributions have made a significant difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate.

Art with nature was another exciting activity that allowed our students to unleash their creativity. They used natural materials to create beautiful artwork, showcasing their unique perspectives and appreciation for the natural world. The results were truly impressive!

As part of the event, we had the pleasure of hosting the authors of the book "Wildlife Tree," who were available to sign copies of their book. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to meet the authors and deepen their understanding of wildlife and nature through their captivating story.



Family Nature Night-On October 25, 2023, we hosted a wonderful evening dedicated to celebrating nature with our students and families. The event was a huge success, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of our students and the support of our amazing families. We organized a variety of activities to engage everyone in the wonders of nature. One of the highlights was a scavenger hunt in Nina's Woods, where our students had a blast exploring and discovering the hidden treasures along the trail.

In addition to the scavenger hunt, we also had engaging recycling activities that helped our students understand the importance of taking care of our environment.

Wearing Blue - On 11/9/23, our staff and students wore blue in support of Lewiston. We also collected donations to support the victims and their families.

Outdoor Club -

We had 6 weeks of Outdoor activities afterschool for all students. Thank you Mr. McAllister and staff for volunteering to host this club.

Terrific Tuesday -

Every Tuesday after school we have Creative Club, Math/Science Club, Cooking Club and Civil Rights team. This activity is open to all students and encourages students to explore new ideas. Thank you Mrs. Davis for hosting this activity for students.



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