Dear Families, Friends and Community members,

Many thanks to our students, staff and families who have contributed to making the transition from summer vacation to the 2014-2015 school year, a smooth and successful one.

As we complete our first six weeks of school, I continue to be impressed by the traits of collaboration, honesty, perseverance, compassion, respect and responsibility that our students demonstrate each day and the impact that character building has on student learning.

The first six weeks of school is a time of many introductions and establishing routines and procedures. It's the beginning of building respectful relationships and creating a positive learning environment for all. Students have been introduced to the people of the classroom, school community and to the expectations we hold about learning and behavior. We introduced routines that help students learning while taking care of themselves, each other and the environment. We carefully structured the first six weeks so that students participate actively in all these introductions. Our teachers and staff have been involving students in Morning Meeting, community building and various activities to identify the interests, strengths, skills, needs, strategies and experiences they bring to the classroom and school community.

Please discuss the photos and captions below with your child to learn more about Morning Meeting and how we model and practice the character traits from "The Presumpscot Promise".

~Cynthia Loring

Expeditionary Learning in the Spotlight

The "WORKSHOP" is the cornerstone of Expeditionary Learning's instructional practices and is a Faculty Target embedded in one of Presumpscot's goals to increase student achievement and engagement in the area of literacy.

Presumpscot students are engaged in Reading Workshop 2.0 to deepen their learning through the Common Core Standards Workshop 2.0 is a lesson structure used to help students achieve the Learning Targets with a depth of understanding.

The priorities of Workshop 2.0 are:
- Ongoing assessment-making instruction more responsive to students' needs
- Students grappling/constructing meaning through peer discussion
- Developing students' perseverance as they face challenges and solve problems. 2.0. Please ask your child about "grappling", Close reading and what Learning Targets they are working on meeting in reading.

What’s Happening
November 6 - Flu Clinic
November 11 - No School - Veteran's Day
November 14 - Fall Festival
November 20 - Student-led Conferences @ 12:30 - 7:00
November 21 - Student-led Conferences @ 12:30 - 3:00
November 26, 27, 28 - No School - Thanksgiving Break
December 24 - January 2 - Winter Break
January 19 - No School - Martin Luther King Day
February 16 - 20 - No School - February Break
April 20 - 24 - No School - April Break
May 25 - No School - Memorial Day
June 3 - NO MORE EARLY RELEASE DAYS
Learning about the Presumpscot Traits through reading and discussion at home.

Here are some suggested titles:

- Admitting Mistakes by Janine Amos
- Flying Solo by Ralph Fletcher
- How to Make Friends with a Giant by G. Choldenko
- Kermit the Hermit by Bill Peet
- Skin Again by Bell Hooks
- Swimmy by Lio Lionni
- You’re Different and That’s Super by Carson Kressley
- Sad by Sylvia Root Tester
- Wings by Christopher Myers
- Because of You by B.G. Hennessey
- Some Dog! by Mary Casanova
- Big Al by Andrew Clements
- No Such Thing by Jackie French Koller
- Me First by Helen Lester
- Just a Little Bit by Ann Tompert
- My Rotten Red-Headed Older Brother by Patricia Polacco
- Thank you Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco

Thank you for your consistency in following our drop-off and pick-up procedures. We are concerned about families walking across the parking lot during this busy time.

When dropping off and picking up your child, please have him/her use the sidewalk instead of walking across the parking lot to ensure the safety of all.

As you may be aware, Maine has had a confirmed case of enterovirus D68. Currently, we have no confirmed cases in Portland Public Schools.

**Healthy Kids**

Enteroviruses are common, especially in the summer and the fall. Most people who are infected with these viruses do not get sick or they have mild illness, like the common cold. But some people can have serious complications, especially infants, children with asthma and people with weak immune systems.

Children with cold like symptoms, especially if wheezing is noted, are asked to consult with their family physician for further evaluation. If anyone is noted to have difficulty breathing or has wheezes, call 911 and have them transported to the hospital.

**Ways to help reduce the risk of getting infected with EV-D68:**

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after changing diapers
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick
- Follow respiratory hygiene by covering your mouth and nose with the inside of your covered elbow while coughing or sneezing.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.

Your school nurses are monitoring students for signs and symptoms of respiratory and other illnesses. We are following recommendations from the Maine CDC and will keep you informed of updates.

**Communication**

**ONLINE** We strive to communicate well via our school’s web page, synervoice, telephone, newsletters and notices sent home, however, if you need information at any time, please call our office at 874-8220.

We are here to support you and our students so please let us know what you need. Thank you in advance, for supporting our staff and students as we all work together this year!

I appreciate you linking to our web page http://presumpscot.portlandschools.org for information on Presumpscot School.

If there are other things that you would like us to provide via this website, please let us know.

**IN PRINT** One of the many ways that we will continue to keep you informed of classroom and school news is through your child’s home / school folder. All school wide information will be coming home on Wednesdays. Our teachers will be providing ongoing communication by sending home monthly or more frequent classroom newsletters. Please look for and discuss the contents of this folder with your child. Please call your child’s teacher and/or Mrs. Loring with any questions, suggestions or concerns. We value your feedback.
Meet Ms. Shoup

I am excited to be joining the Presumpscot family! I came to Maine from Washington, D.C. where I taught first grade and preschool in DC Public Schools. In May, I earned my Masters in Teaching Early Childhood Education. I didn't always know I wanted to work with children, and before teaching I was a journalist with the PBS NewsHour. I grew up in Ohio and am looking forward to the snow in Maine. As the PreK teacher at Presumpscot School, I am excited to share my love of learning with the school's youngest students. I enjoy teaching early childhood because of the energy and creativity of my students and the connection with their families.

Meet Mr. Cornell

Rob Cornell comes to Presumpscot Elementary from Brooklyn, New York, where he spent the last two years teaching at Excellence Girls Charter School, in a third grade classroom. While living in the NYC metropolitan city since 2007, Cornell earned his Master's Degree in Childhood Education, with a dual certification in Special Education from Wagner College. A native of upstate New York, Cornell brings a wealth of knowledge in academic practices as well as a passion for closing the achievement gap in the Portland District. Aside from his daily duties as a member of the fifth grade team, Cornell will also be coaching Presumpscot's math team for this academic year.

Meet Mrs. Villani

My name is Mrs. Villani and I have been teaching in the Portland Public School system as an Art Teacher since 1995. I have taught at all grade levels and am currently at Reiche Elementary School for 4 days and here at Presumpscot on Thursdays. It is my first year teaching at Presumpscot school. I teach art to the following classes: Ms. Ridlon, Ms. Bergeron, Ms. Nichols, Ms. Babeu, Mr. Cornell and Ms. Burke.

My personal interests in art are book arts and puppets- mostly shadow puppets. I enjoy storytelling and combining literacy and art and hope to bring those interests into the classes I teach. I think creating art is one of the most important things you can do as a human being. It feels great to create something with your own two hands!

Meet Ms. Modisette

Welcome to the Presumpscot Library! My name is Cori Modisette, and I am your Library Media Specialist, working with Andrea Kull to provide good books, fun library activities, and resources for school projects. I live in Portland and so love the rich diversity of the city. I am looking forward to creating a digital library of tales, fables, myths and legends from the many cultures thriving in our Presumpscot family - and I am hopeful that parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and/or big brothers and sisters will offer to record one of these wonderful traditional stories. PLEASE come see me to volunteer!

Meet Mrs. Cohen

My name is Mrs. Cohen and I have worked for the Portland Public Schools for 22 years. My assignments over those years have included Nathan Clifford, West, Reiche and Longfellow Schools. I currently spend most of my week at Ocean Avenue School. In late August I was very excited to be given the opportunity to teach Physical Education at Presumpscot School on Friday mornings. I am enjoying meeting and working with the students at Presumpscot. They are filled with energy and enthusiasm! This fall our focus in class has been on the skills and concepts that create a foundation for use in all games and movement activities. These include cooperative games and team building activities that foster collaboration and problem solving skills. I am enjoying getting to know my students and I look forward to a year filled with fitness and fun!

Meet Ms. Chmelecki

Hello! My name is Noelle Chmelecki and I am so excited to be a new addition to the Presumpscot Family. I grew up in Westchester County, NY and went to Keene State College in New Hampshire where I earned a degree in Elementary Education. I began teaching in the Bronx, NY. I taught Kindergarten at P.S. 121 for 4 years and also earned my Master’s Degree in Early Childhood/Special Education during this time. I then moved to San Diego, CA where I taught Kindergarten at a private school. Now, I have made my way back to the east coast where I continue my journey here in Portland, Maine. I am delighted to be here and look forward to being a part of this amazing community.
**Kindergarten**

Mrs. Burke, Ms. Chmelecki, Mrs. Jordan's kindergarten classes are shown during morning meeting. Students engage in a greeting, a share, an activity, and daily message. This helps build a sense of community within our classrooms.

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**1st Grade**

First graders have been focused on explaining their math thinking. In each lesson they work toward one math content target and one target focused on math language. For example, in the Penny Plate Game, students had 10 pennies. They took turns putting some pennies on top of the plate and hiding others under the plate. Students had to figure out how many pennies were hidden. Then they had to explain how they figured it out. Example: “I think there are 4 pennies under the plate because I know 6+4=10”). The games and activities first graders do in math promote collaboration and help students solidify their learning.

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**2nd Grade**

Learning Schools encourage children to be responsible for directing their own learning, as well as that of the collective group. Here students in Mrs. Linevitch’s and Mrs. Martinez’s classes work collaboratively to solve math and word challenges.

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**Library News**

Thank to all parents who signed up as readers and/or storytellers to contribute to our Presumpscot Digital Storytelling Library. As soon as news about our equipment grant has been announced, we will be back in touch to schedule taping dates and times. Anyone interested (grandparents, older siblings, etc.) are welcome storytellers!

The Presumpscot Library will be focusing on weekly Character-Building themes each week during library Story Time. Here is a schedule of the themes through the end of December. Be sure to ask your child what he or she learned about these characteristics - we are growing a generation of characters - with character!
Third grade Expeditionary Learning in the Spotlight.

Reading Workshop 2.0
Guiding questions are: "How do people around the world access reading and books?"
"How does reading give us power?"

The 5th graders have been building background knowledge (BBK) around the events that led to the American Revolutionary War during Reading Workshop 2.0.

The students have read expert text using the strategy of "Close reading". They have completed note catchers and/or expert posters. They have engaged in Gallery Walks in order to learn more information and be able to have informed discussions in small and large groups with other students in their class. Their guiding question is: How are events the cause of other events?

Learning Targets:
I can talk with my partner in order to record what I notice and wonder about pictures.
I can ask and answer questions about a text.

The Carousel is a protocol used to engage students with new content by getting them up moving, thinking, talking, and writing. In this lesson, students looked at some "mystery" photographs to pique their curiosity. We did not reveal what the pictures were about or tell the students the guiding question for the module until the end of the lesson.

This lesson is one of several lessons in the Reading Workshop 2.0 Module, developed by Expeditionary Learning. Several lessons include activities where the students grapple with their learning in order to push themselves to the next level in their learning.

Fourth graders have been using EL practices to learn about the character traits. Students worked in expert groups to research a character trait. Each group had the task to become experts on that character trait, create a poster on that character trait, and then teach the class about it. The posters are the final products each group created. Students have also been creating action plans and setting goals on how they can improve on each of the character traits. They and a peer are tracking the progress of these goals.

Students in Ms. Kiel's class participated in an EL protocol called "mix and mingle," where they generated ideas about what it means to be an exemplary collaborator.

Students in Ms. Ericson class share their progress towards their collaboration goal.

Each morning third grade students in Ms. Keller's room enjoy each other's company during Morning Meeting.

Morning Meeting provides a predictable daily structure where all children are greeted. It allows for sharing and learning about each other and the day ahead.

Students in Ms. Bergeron's class are researching character traits using expert folders. The posters are the final products each group created.

Fourth graders at Presumpscot School exhibit character building through cooperative play during physical education class.
Meet Ms. Ruiz
Ariel Ruiz is one of our new Ed Techs who recently moved to the Portland area. A graduate of Amherst College in Massachusetts, Ariel has degrees in both Psychology and Anthropology. Before relocating to Maine, she was a substitute teacher/residential adviser at Girard College, a grades 1-12 boarding school in Philadelphia, where she worked mainly with the elementary school. She also loves to travel, having been to four continents throughout her life and school career. Ariel has loved working with diverse populations of children in various programs and camps for almost ten years now, and is very excited to be joining the Presumpscot family.

Meet Ms. McKenna
Hello Presumpscot families! My name is Elizabeth McKenna and I am excited to be your child’s music teacher. I am a singer myself, but also play a little guitar, fiddle/violin, keyboard and hands drums. I studied both education and music at University of Southern Maine. I’ve taught both elementary and middle school music, and also middle school math and science. I grew up in Miami, but have been in Maine for 17 years! I have two children of my own – my daughter is in college in Boston and my son graduated from the music program at Portland Arts & Technology High School in May. I am having a great time making music with the scholars at Presumpscot Elementary!

Theater for Kids performance at Presumpscot Elementary School
We are thrilled and fortunate to have Portland Stage's, Theater For Kids group, returning to Presumpscot School for the 2014-2015 school year. Three times a year the students are entertained by the theater group's Play Me A Story performance. Play Me a Story is an interactive performance plus workshop series for children between the ages of 4-10. Portland Stage Affiliate Artists perform a staged reading of two or three popular children's books and poems.

On October 14, they performed The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi, Laundry Day by Maurice Manning and The New Colossus by Emma Lazarus, the poem from the Statue of Liberty. Following the performance, children in grades 2 and 3 participated in a workshop related to one of the stories or poems. They focused on a particular character, place or situation that the story or poem illuminated. These workshops engaged and inspired the children through vocalization, games, improvisation and movement.

Presumpscot Leading the Way
The Maine Department of Education asked a team of Presumpscot Elementary School teachers, coaches and principal to present at a two day event, on October 15 and 16, 2014, entitled “Supporting ALL Teachers for ALL Students” Leader Team Coaching and Evidence-Based Practice Professional Development designed to Prepare All Students for College and Career Readiness and Post-Secondary Transition.

The training focused on evidence-based practices, strategic interventions to promote school-wide improvement growth, proficiency-based learning and student growth, collaboration between general and special educators, and how to access national and state resources.

Presumpscot educators were asked to present because Presumpscot is recognized as a "High Performance Reward School" and is one of five schools in Maine who met all the criteria for closing the gap between students receiving services and positive outcomes.

Beth Linevitch, Emily Herlihy, Rebecca Maiorano, Brandi Surace, and Cynthia Loring engaged attendees in a session entitled "How to Lift Rigor, Engagement and Proficiency TOGETHER".

This evidence-based practice professional development opportunity is designed for district-wide teams and is funded through the Maine Department of Education and the State Personnel Development Grant.
A large part of PreK focuses on building the social skills that enable students to collaborate, take turns and help each other with problems. For example, during our center time, they work together in the block area to build a structure that is taller than they can alone. In small groups, they share materials and work in pairs on an activity. We teach students to respect each other and express themselves in kind words and actions. These social skills build a positive environment in which students learn from each other and know that they are valued in our classroom.

Using Student-Engaged Assessment to Create a Culture of Engagement and Achievement.

The ELL team (Teachers of English Language Learners) is focusing on using purposeful, measurable learning targets to frame instruction in both small groups and classrooms. At the beginning of each lesson a specific learning target is shared, discussed and clarified with the students. Learning Targets are written in student friendly language and begin with the stem, “I can...”. Upon the completion of a lesson students revisit the learning target and reflect on their progress.

Mrs. Maiorano’s reading group is collecting evidence to meet their learning target.

Mrs. Lee’s first grade group is using learning targets to help them play math games.

Art News

We are excited to be teaching art at Presumpscot School. There are three Art Teachers sharing this job.

Melissa Maher teaches on Tuesdays. She also teaches art at East End Community School. You can reach her at maherm@portlandschools.org, 874-8220 or 874-8228.

Sherman Kendall teaches on Wednesday mornings. She also teaches art at Hall School. You can contact her at kendas@portlandschools.org, 874-8220 or 874-8205

Allison Villani teaches on Thursdays. She also teaches art at Reiche Community School. You can contact her at villaa@portlandschools.org, or 874-8220 or 874-8175.

Students will create art in a variety of media each year which may include drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and ceramics (clay) this year.

We use the Elements and Principles of Design as a starting point for developing concept based lessons. We also like to use literature and art history as sources for lessons. We enjoy collaborating with classroom teachers and connecting the learning in the art room to the learning in the classroom.

We look forward to getting to know your child and helping them develop as an artist. Please encourage them to create at home! It’s fun! Here’s to a wonderful year in art!

Melissa Maher
Sherman Kendall
Allison Villani

National Standards for Art Education- K-5

1. Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes.

2. Using knowledge of structures and functions of art.

3. Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas.

4. Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures.

5. Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.
Presumpscot's School-wide Goals

The Presumpscot staff looks forward to working together with you to engage students in a high quality education that focused on academic achievement and character building. At Presumpscot, we're committed to providing a safe and positive learning environment with a focus on continuous growth, for every students, through the implementation of the Core Standards and Expeditionary Learning's Core Practices.

Throughout the year last year, we analyzed the strengths and needs of our students through multiple measures, NWEA, reading Benchmark data, classroom assessments and NECAP data to name a few, to identify school wide goals that would create the conditions for promoting student growth and achievement.

### Increase daily student engagement and achievement in literacy by embedding student engaged assessment strategies in workshop model lesson and a balance literacy program.

- teachers will facilitate quality workshop 2.0 lessons teachers will embed student engagement protocols into the workshop

### Increase daily student engagement and achievement in math by embedding student engaged assessment strategies in workshop model lessons.

- teachers will facilitate quality workshop lessons support students in the process of tracking their own progress in math

Morning Meeting Partners

By Mrs. Herlihy & Mrs. Surace

Did you ever wonder what students and staff are doing to start their day off in a positive and fun way? At our school, all classrooms engage in a Morning Meeting after breakfast. This means that we greet each other, share something about ourselves or our learning, enjoy a fun learning activity, and then read a Morning Message. Morning Meeting sets the tone for the day. Students and staff have an opportunity to get to know more about each other and to practice our character traits.

One character trait that the staff works hard to achieve at Presumpscot School is collaboration. This means that we work together to make our school safe and engaging for our students. Each classroom has one or more Morning Meeting Partners. These are staff members who join the classes for breakfast and then Morning Meeting. These partners include support staff, gym, music, art, and Spanish teachers. Each child’s classroom will have at least one Morning Meeting Partner. These partners rotate classrooms each trimester so your child’s classroom will have at least three different staff members this year. Students have the opportunity to build relationships with the Morning Meeting Partners who they might see in a different classroom or later in the day.

Rooted in Community