



January 13, 2012

[www.RSU34.org](http://www.RSU34.org)

Bradley, Maine



Hannah helps Charlotte write a letter to Santa.

### Buddies help!

Last month, Mrs. Gasaway and Mrs. Henry paired their students off into pairs. Each fourth grade student has a kindergarten buddy. They started out as reading buddies, but the pairings have turned out to be beneficial in more ways than anticipated. When the school population went to the Penobscot Theatre, the buddies sat together. This improved behavior on both ends of the pair! During the centers time on December 21, when the students were divided into multi-grade groups to rotate through, we made sure to put the buddies in the same group. The older students were a great help to their young friends in doing the various holiday projects. As you see in the picture above, the help with writing was another way for the buddies to share a positive experience!

### Important Events

- Jan 17 NWEA begins 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Jan 23 NWEA begins 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- Jan 30 NWEA begins 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- Jan 17 Winter Kids Training
- Jan 19 Movie Day "Oceans"
- Jan 24 District Grade Level Meetings
- Jan 25 Ch. 104 Advisory Committee Mtg



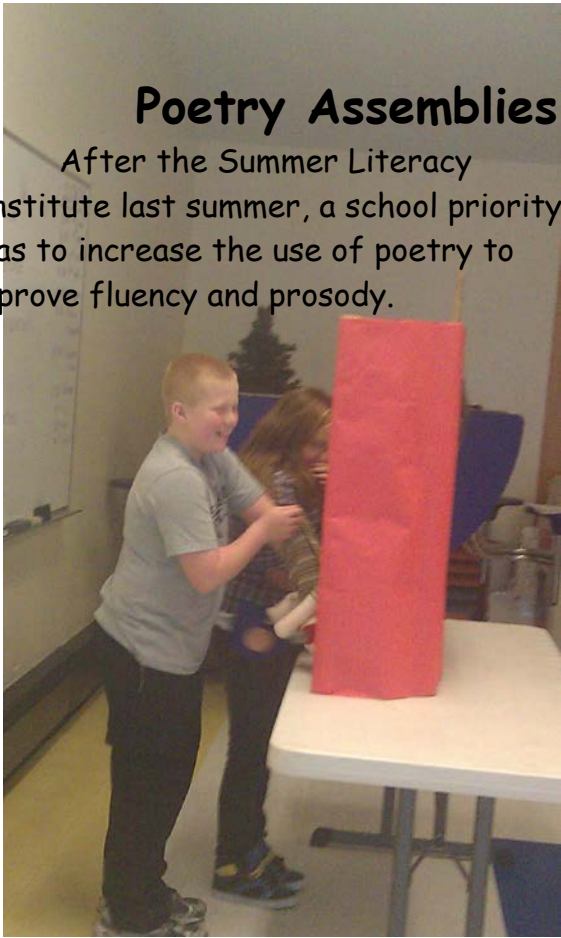
Enrollment unchanged: 62 students

### Writing focus!

VRS teachers have chosen a comprehensive writing program to explore thoroughly and begin implementation of in the fall. Lucy Calkins' Units of Study for Writing: A Yearlong Curriculum is the program we have chosen to implement from K-4 for consistency from one level to the next. The kits provide excellent information for teachers about the components of a successful writing program. It offers ways to adjust instruction as skills improve in a natural progression. An advantage of this is that it is aligned with national standards. Much will be familiar to teachers, because they are using similar methods already, but a consistent approach will benefit the

students. We are using the kits as the basis of our book study and will be able to supplement with videos, rubrics and other materials provided. It is exciting to have the whole staff committed to a new program!

but we are planning to paint the motto there, so there aren't any at the moment!) for everyone to see and names go into drawings for little prizes at the assemblies. Students also get a certificate to take home when they earn the Bear Paw.



## Poetry Assemblies

After the Summer Literacy Institute last summer, a school priority was to increase the use of poetry to improve fluency and prosody.

*Bryce and Hannah used puppets to share "There's a Hole in my Bucket" to many laughs!*

We have implemented monthly assemblies where students share poetry and chuckles. There have been puppet shows, whole class presentations, opportunities to join in, and single or duo performances. These have become something we all look forward to each month. Our Bear Paw recognition follows the poetry, so that is fun as well. Students may earn Bear Paws for respect, responsibility, caring or knowledge. The Bear Paws are posted in the lobby (usually,



## Positive Behavior Plan

As part of our RtI for behavior, in addition to the Bear Paws, we also have a Bear Keepers plan. Classes have the opportunity to earn points for something the staff wants to improve. Right now the focus is on lining up quickly and quietly outside. Points may be earned for doing this effectively and at the end of the week, the points are tabulated and the class with the most points becomes the Bear Keepers for the next week. They then hold the flag and lead the flag salute in the morning, hold the door, make the end of the day announcements and get the bear to keep in their room until the next week. The bear wears a necklace with "charms" of our core values and a bead for each week a class has him. Each class has a different color, so we are aiming for a colorful necklace. In first grade, "The Bear" also wears a Dr. Seuss hat!

