



RSU #16 Elementary Principals' Report

February 2024

RSU #16 Elementary School News:

Individual School News:

Elm Street School	Minot Consolidated School	Poland Community School
<p><u>Data point of the month:</u></p> <p>Elm Street School currently has 234 students enrolled in grades PK-6.</p> <p><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>-As of the end of February, we had 35 students who were considered chronically absent having missed 10% or more of the school year. At this point of the year, this represents any student who has missed 9 days of school or more. This represents 14.9 % of our population.</p> <p><u>Behavior</u></p> <p>-Average of 3.27 ODRs per day (National Average is 1.07) for the month of December. Average of 3.45 ODRs per day for the month of January. There were 47 total referrals in December (15 majors/32 minors). In January, there were 69 total referrals (35 major/34 minors).</p> <p>-92.3% of students received no ODRs for the month of December, with a goal of at least 80%.</p> <p>-87.12% of students received no ODRs for the month of January, with a goal of at least 80%.</p> <p><u>Highlights of the past Month:</u></p> <p>Hootie Award Winners: The December winner of the Horace Mann Hootie Award was Sophia Stone, our Grade 4 Teacher. The January recipient of the Hootie Award was our Grade 3 Teacher, Victoria Kelley. Victoria was selected for her outstanding teamwork, incredible patience, and her dedication to her students.</p> 	<p><u>Data point of the month:</u></p> <p>Minot Consolidated School currently has 216 students enrolled in grades PK-6.</p> <p><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>-In January, we had 28 students who were considered chronically absent having missed 10% or more of the school year. At this point of the year, this represents any student who has missed 9 days of school or more. This represents 12.9% of our population.</p> <p><u>Behavior</u></p> <p>-Average of 3.2 ODRs per day (National Average is 1.07) for the month of January. 55 total referrals in January (23 majors/32 minors)</p> <p>-86% of students received no ODRs for the month of January, with a goal of at least 80%</p> <p><u>Highlights of the past Month:</u></p> <p>-Since our last board report, we have had our December Mustang Pride Assembly. Two Students from each class received a Mustang Pride Certificate from their teacher. We had 3 students receive Books-A-Million cards for their work on PBIS. (Our January Mustang Pride was postponed due to the early release, but will be recognized in our next report.)</p>  <p>-We have had a staff member receive the Horace Mann Hootie Award for their dedication to our students. December's recipient was</p>	<p><u>Data point of the month:</u></p> <p>-Our current enrollment at Poland Community School is 424 students, this includes two FLS middle school students who are part of our school.</p> <p><u>Attendance</u></p> <p>-As of the end of January, we had 63 students who were considered chronically absent having missed 10% or more of the school year. At this point of the year, this means any student who has missed 9.2days of school or more. This represents 14.8% of our student population. We also have 4 students who are currently truant.</p> <p><u>Behavior</u></p> <p>-We had 53 total ODRs (Office Discipline Referrals) in the month of January. That is an average of 2.65 referrals per day. Of the 53, 27 were major behaviors that required administrative management, and 26 were minor behaviors that were handled within the classroom by teachers. The total number of office referrals were from 25 different students, which means 94 percent of our students did not have an office referral in the month of January.</p> <p><u>Highlights of the past Month:</u></p> <p>- Kaitlyn Mann, a long-term substitute in our FLS program, was presented with our January Staff Spotlight Award. She is someone who is able to assess a situation and see the big picture. She doesn't sweat the small stuff. She is a problem solver, and never complains, even when she could and maybe even should. She is composed and able to remain calm under pressure-filled and stressful situations, and her de-escalation skills for students (and adults) are second to none. Perhaps the most meaningful and impactful gift that she gives her students every day, is the grace and love that she shows them when they are not at their best. It is a beautiful thing. We are so grateful for the gifts she brings and the gift she</p>

*Our Wildcat Family Connection hosted a cookie making event as part of the Mechanic Falls Spirit of Christmas Event. In addition to their participation in the holiday activities, the Wildcat Family



Connection hosted a free movie night for our students and their families in January.



*We were able to reschedule our December Wildcat Assembly for Thursday, December 21st. We recognized 17 students with the "Rudolph Award". This award recognized students who use their talents and passion to make a difference in the lives of others and in our school. In January, we recognized 19 students for the Gusto Goal Setter Award. These students were recognized for their outstanding efforts in setting goals and working hard to achieve them!



Before our Holiday break, we hosted our annual spirit week with the

addition of a Holiday Bonanza. Students were able to select from a variety of activities ranging from the arts, STEM, outdoor learning, and cooperative games. We loved having the high school students (many former Wildcats) down to volunteer for this special day.



Bronson Stinnett, our GaTE teacher. We are so grateful for all he does for our school!



-Students earned their another school-wide reward of the year and enjoyed Pajama Day! It was a comfy day for all!

-As many of you know, this year we have begun implementing BARR at the elementary level. BARR is a program that looks at supporting each child within the school and stands for Building Assets and Reducing Risks. One of the components of BARR is U-Time. This is a time each week set aside for activities and lessons that help build community within the classroom. Pictured below you will see a 4th grade U-Time where students wrote a letter to their teacher all about themselves.



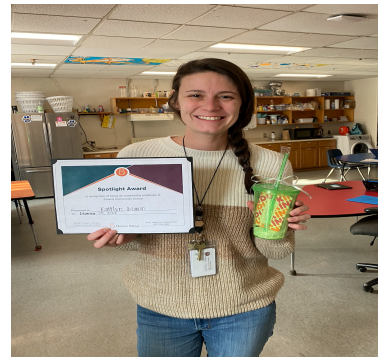
-As part of our grant to implement BARR within our elementary schools, we receive weekly BARR coaching and 4 site visits with our coach. We had a site visit in January. The coach has great feedback for our team to use and are really happy to see our progress with implementation!

-The MCS Student Advisory Team continues to meet and work on school issues they feel passionate about. This is a group of 8 dedicated 5th and 6th grade students who were either appointed by their teacher or chosen by their peers. They are currently looking for ways to raise funds to purchase new soccer goals for recess.

-MCS had a visit from the Cromwell Center. They provide educational lessons for students with disabilities. They provided lessons in all classrooms for grades K-6.

-We celebrated National Rubber Ducky Day, which was organized by Mary Wallace, our school nurse. It is a fun day for students with an added message of the importance of good hand hygiene.

IS to PCS!



- Darcy Hilton was the recipient of our February Spotlight Award. Darcy is a beloved kindergarten teacher at PCS. Her sense of fun and willingness to laugh makes our school a better place to work and learn. Her most awesome super-power that she shares with us everyday, is her welcoming presence. Everyone is invited and warmly welcomed into her classroom no matter their ability. She makes all students feel wanted and all students feel loved. She does the same for our staff as well. Thank you Darcy Hilton for being you!



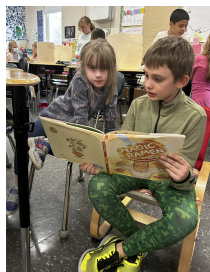
- Kindergarten students have been learning and practicing their newest reading super power "Pointer Power" with a little help and a visit from some mysterious Mighty Reader superheroes! The Mighty Readers swooped in, sang a song and left gifts for each of the four kindergarten classrooms to encourage and assist in their learning.



*During the month of January, the SEL team from the three elementary schools organized a spirit week in honor of World Kindness Week. Our SEL teacher, Abby Skelton designed special lessons and activities to promote kindness and empathy. Our students were able to participate in various dress-up days to highlight the many ways we can show kindness! Pictured below are a few of our second grade Wildcats showing how they "Team up for Kindness".



*We also continue to find fun and meaningful ways to build the grade level community within ESS. Our buddy classrooms have been incredibly successful and have quickly become the highlight of our school. Pictured below is a



fourth grade student reading to a kindergarten student. Many grade levels are choosing to participate in fun learning opportunities with their buddy classrooms as

part of their PBIS whole class rewards!

*Mrs. Jenkins, our Assistant Principal, continues to visit classrooms to teach our bullying prevention curriculum, a supplementary program as part of our Second-Step curriculum. This tier 1, whole school approach allows for common expectations, language, and prevention that is developmentally appropriate has been a great way to provide consistent instruction as well as tools and strategies for all of our students.

*Our fifth grade students traveled to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland, Maine. As part of their LabVenture program the students are provided a hands-on, interactive, authentic investigation of the changing Gulf of Maine ecosystem. The students love this hands-on, immersive approach to learning about Maine's gulf coast. They also really love the Coach Bus ride down to the institute! Pictured below are a few



-The students in grades K-6 have been working on their i-Ready Winter Diagnostics. There are still students completing their assessments, but initial data looks really promising and students have been working very hard!

-Our school celebrated Kindness Spirit Week the week of January 22nd. Students and staff focused on ways to show kindness to one another while also enjoying the fun of a spirit dress up week! Thank you to our SEL team for organizing this event!



Staff Professional Development:

During December, Specials Teachers met with their vertical grade level teams. Classroom teachers prepared for progress reports to go out. Staff participated in Professional Development around Educator Resilience with a focus on finding bright spots. Additional professional development was provided around BARR, specifically around an upcoming student survey.

In January staff participated in training on Panorama software. This is software that houses student data as well as tracks student interventions. We also participated in additional BARR training around the U-Time components. Staff participated in the district led, expert down the hall professional learning event in the morning of the workshop day, and in the afternoon we completed mandatory trainings on Sexual Abuse Prevention and Suicide Prevention. Finally, the MCS staff participated in some professional learning around building educator resiliency with a focus on cultivating compassion.

We could really use...

-We would continue to benefit from a generator for when we lose power so that students can remain in school and so that we do not lose food in the refrigerators and freezers.

-Additional Substitute Teachers

You're Invited:

-4th Graders got to participate in a mock legislative process guided by Senator Eric Brakey and State Representative David Boyer. Their attempt to "pass" a new law permitting hunting on Sundays was ultimately vetoed by "Governor" Mason. But it was a fun and interactive way for the students to practice the process and feature their learning. Thank you Sen. Brakey and Rep. Boyer for sharing your time with our students!



-We are so excited to be partnering with Jobs for Maine Grads (JMG) and PRHS. This partnership is allowing junior and senior PRHS students to come work in both a kindergarten and first grade classroom. Both students are PCS alumni. It is so great to have them back in our school community in this new capacity, and hopefully affirming their goals to follow a career path in education!

-Our FLS students are back on the slopes at Pleasant Mountain, formerly known as Shawnee Peak, preparing for Special Olympics! Each Thursday we have students, teachers and volunteers help our students practice their skills.



-Art students in grades 4, 5 and 6 have been working with art teacher Kellie Whitten on 3-D printing design. Currently students are creating game pieces to be used for math games, and all of the elements of a 3 dimensional Maine state flag!



of our Grade 5 students exploring at the lab.



*We had our own site visit from Andrea Logan, the DOE MTSS coordinator. ESS is participating in a deep dive of a true MTSS structure, the critical components and how we can continue to best deliver a true MTSS model within our school. As we begin the process of completing our CNA application for our continued participation in whole-school title, this work will be incredibly valuable and will serve as a resource for our team moving forward. This collaborative effort of our ESS MTSS team along with the ten other participating schools within Maine will be important as we begin to analyze our resources, programs, and structures within all three tiers of Literacy, Math, and SEL.

Staff Professional Development:

*Four dedicated ESS educators, along with other RSU 16 staff, attended the Teacher Institute Weekend with The Ecology School at River Bend Farm in Saco this weekend. They learned so much about teaching and learning outside, and some of the teachers even presented the work and progress of The G.E.O. Initiative (get everyone outside), which was founded at last year's Teacher Institute weekend. A district-wide effort, the goal of The G.E.O. Initiative is to support RSU16 educators, wherever they are, in getting their students outside to learn. Thanks to Poland Spring Water for sponsoring their attendance and The Ecology School for their incredible hosting/hospitality and for bringing our RSU educators together with nearly 50 other educators from around the state of Maine and the U.S.!



-You are invited to volunteer in our school during any time that is convenient for you! (We appreciate the school board members who have already committed to supporting our school through volunteering!)

-Tri-Town Optimist Club Oratorical Contest on February 13th at 5:00pm.

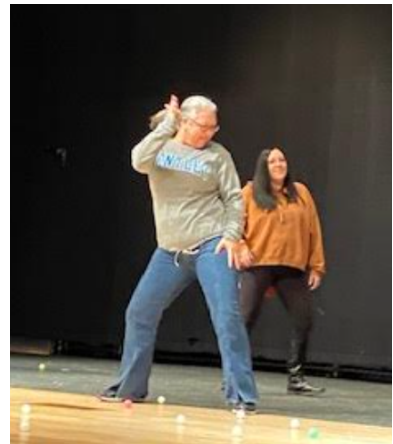
-You are invited to attend our Mustang Pride Assembly on March 1st at 2:15pm.

-Minot Community Club Meeting: March 5th at 7:00pm at MCS.

Staff Professional Development:

-Principal Brandi Comeau has been working with staff during PD time on Wednesday's facilitating safety table-talks. Each week she has been going over procedures and protocols for the many different safety scenarios that our School Safety Team has outlined in our Safety Plan.

-PCS staff had a blast participating in our district PD day on January 22nd! Our own Shelley Jackson facilitated a PD session on instilling gratitude in the classroom, Amy Langevin shared about reading interventions, Emma Martineau and Kim Simpson teamed up and presented on how to make outdoor learning obtainable and sustainable, and Kristie Ferland presented on Pickers. But the most memorable "presenter" was probably our Leah Galipeau-Eldridge and her dance off to start the day!



-This month we had our 3rd B.A.R.R. coaching visit with our coach, Amy Halstrom. She was able to observe our Small Block meetings where grade-level teams gather to talk about students who are thriving or needing classroom-level supports and strategies. She also observed our Community Connect meeting where the team meets to discuss students who are presenting with greater needs and require more substantial support. Her feedback was positive and is extremely helpful in our first year of implementation.

-Behavior Dean Marty Moore and SEL Dean Lacy Rechisky hosted a "Coffee Talk" before school hours. This was an opportunity for teachers to come with any questions or challenges with student behavior management and problem solve together over coffee and treats!

*During the month of January, our staff participated in a variety of District Learning Opportunities. We participated in a training designed to show educators how to use the information provided by our Panorama program. We are using our Panorama program to level up our conversations in our Small Block and Big Block meetings as part of our BARR program. We are hoping to use panorama to better level our students, create smart goals, and plan interventions. We also participated in a whole district PD day that allowed our teachers the opportunity to attend sessions on a variety of topics provided by our very own RSU 16 experts.

*Our building professional development has continued to focus on Trauma informed practices as well as the continued implementation of our BARR program. Our Wildcat Huddle (U-time) teams worked together to analyze our U-time fidelity rubrics and to set goals for their teams in the coming months as we continue to make progress towards our BARR fidelity checklists. We were super proud to have our training activity featured on the official BARR Facebook page and in their National Newsletter as an elementary spotlight school! It's great to see the efforts of our incredible ESS team highlighted in such a positive way! We also had a visit from our BARR coach during the month of January and we are excited to see our next coaching report!

We could really use...

*Volunteers, buddy readers!

*Substitute Teachers

*We are looking for Guest Readers to come in during National Read Aloud Week and Career Week from March 4-8. We would love to have guest readers who are willing to share more about their career path with our students too! Readers can bring their own favorite book to read or we can provide one! This was a super fun day last year and our students loved it!

You're Invited:

*Our Winter Carnival Day is February 16th. This will be the culmination of a week-long event designed at providing outdoor learning opportunities, community building, and healthy winter fun!

*Our next Wildcat Assembly is February 28th at 1:00 and will be followed by our Staff versus students basketball game!



-District elementary staff met with the district Literacy Coach, Kelly LaBonte, to discuss reading and writing assessments, as well as taking a deep dive into student work samples in order to have a clear and accurate and consistent understanding among staff on how to grade student work. Teachers of math also met together to familiarize themselves with grade-level resources available on ConnectED, and discussed how those resources can be used to plan future instruction.

We could really use...

-We continue to look for a Librarian. This has historically been a difficult position for us to staff as it is an Ed.Tech position, with classroom teaching responsibilities requiring teaching 25 classes a week, on top of managing the circulation of the collection.

-We are still looking for a 1st grade interventionist.

-Custodial support to help in the efforts to keep our school clean.

-We are always looking for substitute teachers and volunteers.

You're Invited:

-To join us for a U-Time any Thursday morning in any PCS classroom from 9:00-9:30!

-Heart Healthy Day on February 16th! Throughout the day classrooms will be participating in various outdoor fitness activities to promote health and wellness!

-Our next Panther Pride assembly on March 7th @ 9:45 am.