
MSAD 54- Skowhegan River Hawks



The 2024–2025 school year marks a time of exciting change and continued progress as we enter our second year of implementing the First 10 initiative across the district. In just one year, First 10 has already begun transforming the way we support children and families.

By strengthening partnerships between schools, early childhood programs, and community organizations, we've laid the groundwork for more seamless transitions into kindergarten, improved family engagement, and a shared commitment with local childcare providers.

This year, we proudly open the Margaret Chase
Smith Community School, a beautiful new
building that brings together students and staff
from three former elementary schools into one
unified learning community along with an entire
wing that will house infants and toddlers.

With so much change and promise ahead, 2024–
2025 was the perfect year to focus on
community, relationship building, and
deepening our collective impact on early
learning. Together, we are creating a stronger,
more connected start for every child in our
district.

Kick-Off to
Kindergarten & Our First
Play & Learn!



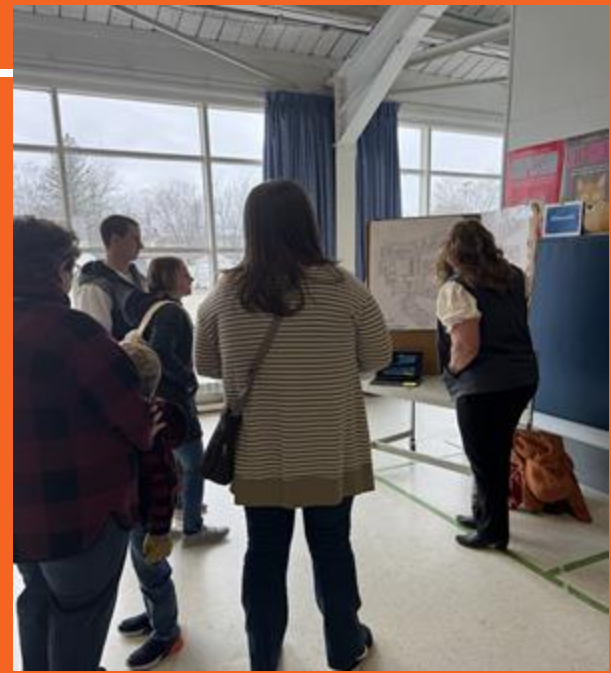


Children and their families were able to explore a school bus at our Kick-off to Kindergarten event and our first Play and Learn.



Play & Learn- Theme: Transportation





Hearing/seeing updates on the new school from Myla-MCSCS Principal

Kick- Off to K! Students practicing their cutting skills!



Play & Learn and
a fan favorite-
snack time!



Learning about the importance of attendance in Kindergarten and beyond!





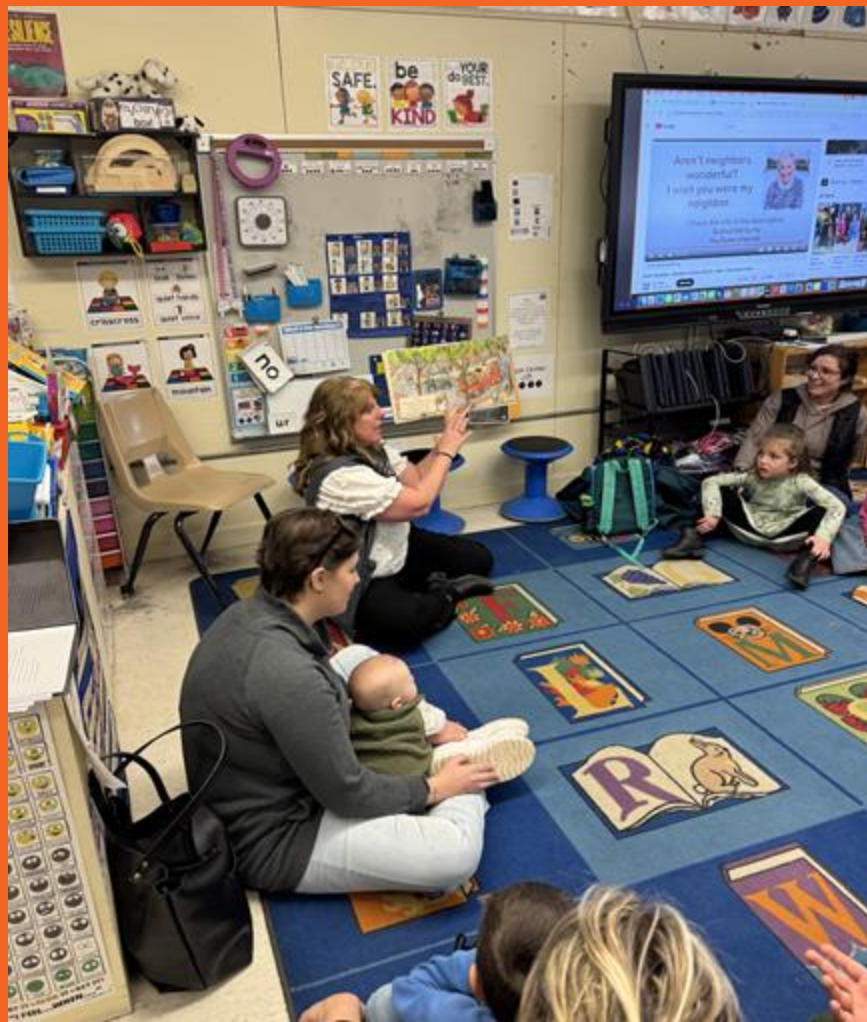












This fall, we had the privilege of hosting local childcare providers for an evening of connection, collaboration, and shared vision. Over dinner, we engaged in meaningful conversations about the future of our partnership and how we can work together to better support children and families in our community.





As part of our ongoing commitment to collaboration, we plan to host quarterly Zoom meetings between childcare providers and district representatives. These meetings will strengthen relationships, improve communication, and build bridges that enhance student success from the very beginning.



One of our amazing local childcare providers has brought the spirit of First 10 to life by creating a special First 10 Corner in her daycare. This dedicated space features our 10 core books, bookmarks, and even characters from the stories, offering young children daily opportunities to engage with high-quality literature in a playful, meaningful way.

This is a beautiful example of how our partnerships with early childhood educators are making a real impact, reinforcing the connection between home, school, and community while nurturing a love of reading from the very start.

ROAD TO KINDERGARTEN

A CHILD WHO TURNS 5 YEARS OLD BY 10/15/25 IS ELIGIBLE TO ENROLL FOR KINDERGARTEN.



1

KICK-OFF TO K

Join us April 5th from 9-10am at North Elementary School to learn all about K registration, hear from teachers and administration, tour a bus, learn about routines and schedules, and more!

2

KINDERGARTEN SCREENING/REGISTRATION

5/5/25 - MSES
5/6/25 - MSES
5/7/25 - NES
5/8/25 - NES
5/9/25 - CES

3

CLASSROOM VISITS

From March to June, all pre-K students will have the opportunity to visit a Kindergarten classroom and meet the Kindergarten teachers. If your child is not currently enrolled in pre-K, feel free to contact your school to arrange a tour if you'd like!

4

RIBBON CUTTING & PLAYGROUND PLAYDATES

Celebrate the opening of the new school!
Children and Families are invited to come explore the new playground and meet some staff. Date TBD- be on the lookout in August 2025.

5

BUS RIDING WEEK

August 18- 22 Exact dates and information TBD. Be on the lookout for information- come and explore a school bus!



TIPS FOR READING WITH YOUR CHILD

Reading together builds language skills, sparks children's imagination, creates bonds, and lasting family memories.

Have a routine
Try to read together every day.

Warm up
Check out the cover. Read the title and author/illustrator names. Look at the pictures. Ask your child what they think the story is about.

Change your voice
Make the book extra fun by trying different voices for different characters.

Pause for new words
Books are a great way to learn new words. Talk about the words your child doesn't know.

Ask questions
"How...? What...? Why...?" questions.

Talk about feelings
Point to a person in the book and ask, "How is he feeling?" and "Why do you think so?"

Make personal connections
Look for story connections. For example, "Do you remember when we made soup? What did we put in ours?"

Switch roles
Pick a favorite book you have read to them before and have them "read" or retell the story to you. They can tell you what is happening by looking at the pictures.

Underline the words as you read
This helps children learn the direction in which we read and write.

RIVERHAWKS BOOK LIST



CAN YOU READ THEM ALL???

- The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
- Llama Llama Misses Mama by Anna Dewdney
- You Are Enough by Margaret O'Hair
- The Pigeon HAS to Go to School by Mo Willems
- Rocking in My School Shoes by Eric Litwin
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr.
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff
- When Sophie Gets Angry-- Really, Really Angry... by Molly Bang
- Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell



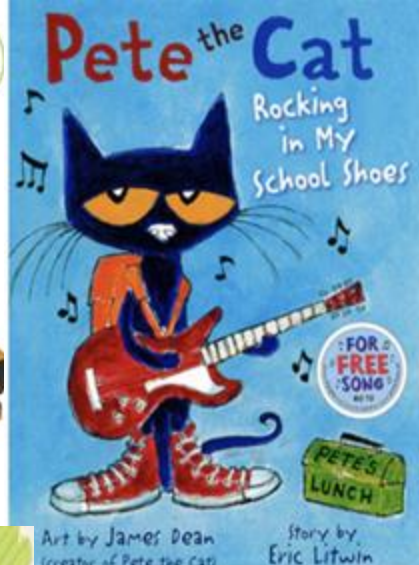
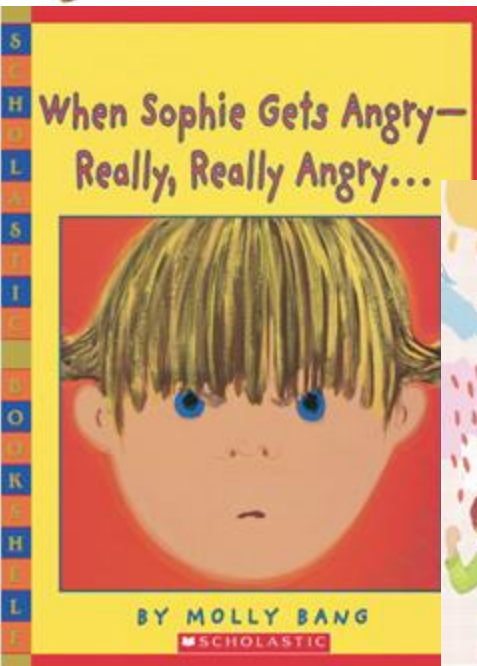
SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE FOR READ ALOUD VIDEOS



Bill Martin Jr / Eric Carle



Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?







Touring the new school!











Do you have a child 5 years or younger?



JOIN OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS FOR FREE PLAY & LEARN SESSIONS

**SAT
4/5**

NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

10-11AM - Theme: Transportation

**FRI
4/11**

SKOWHEGAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

10:30-Noon - Theme: Animals

**TUE
4/15**

NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5:00-6:30 - Theme: Colors Everywhere
Dinner will be provided at this event!



Healthy
Snack
Provided

Story &
Activity

Play &
Movement

Caregiver
Information

These sessions are for any child ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Siblings always welcome! A caregiver is required to stay with their child. Please scan the code to indicate which sessions you will be attending.

SCAN TO RSVP!



SCAN ME

**KICK-OFF
TO**

KINDERGARTEN

April 5, 2025

9am - 10am

**North Elementary School
33 Jewett St. Skowhegan**



- This event is open to all children and caregivers in the greater MSAD 54 District who will be starting kindergarten in the Fall of 2025.
- Join us to learn everything you need to know about the kindergarten enrollment process.
- Have questions for teachers or administrators about a day in the life of a kindergarten student? This is the perfect event for you!

Please Note: A child who turns 5 years old by 10/15/25 is eligible to enroll for Kindergarten!



JOIN US AFTER FOR OUR PLAY & LEARN SESSION FROM 10-11AM

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Tour a school bus!
- Kindergarten Registration Info.
- Routines/Schedules
- Age Appropriate Activities

Join us for a chance to win children's books from our First 10 Book List!



"Attending the Play and Learn was such a great experience for both me and my daughter. She had so much fun reading stories and making a craft, and I walked away with new ideas for learning through play at home. It was great to connect with other Moms as well."

— Local parent