

Chebeague Island School

Newsletter

Winter - 2026



Dear Chebeague Island Community,

As we settle into winter, I want to take a moment to reflect on the meaningful learning our students have been engaged in this fall. Across classrooms, outdoor spaces, and community-based experiences, students are continuing to grow toward the attributes of our **CIS Profile of a Graduate**. They are developing as **lifelong learners** through curiosity-driven projects and hands-on exploration; as **critical thinkers and problem solvers** by applying their skills in real-world contexts; as **effective communicators and collaborators** through shared work, discussion, and reflection; and as **positive community members and active citizens** by learning with and from one another and engaging thoughtfully with our island and mainland communities. These experiences are at the heart of our educational vision, and it has been inspiring to see students take ownership of their learning in such authentic ways.

We are also encouraged that our progress monitoring data shows clear evidence of this growth. This year, **100% of students met their literacy learning goals**, and **94% met their math learning goals**. In addition, our social-emotional screener indicates that students are thriving in areas such as self-management, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Together, these results affirm the strong academic and social-emotional foundation being built at Chebeague Island School.

We have also continued to make progress with our enrollment sustainability work. This year, Chebeague Island School is home to 24 students, **nine of whom are mainland students** who have become valued members of our learning community alongside island students. Looking ahead to next year, we are planning again for an enrollment of approximately **24 students at CIS**, including both island (13 students) and mainland (11 students) families. This steady enrollment allows us to sustain diverse academic and social peer groups and long-term stability for the school.

Alongside this planning, we have begun the annual budget development process for the coming school year. The School Committee will be reviewing and refining the first draft of the FY27 budget over the coming months. At a high level, the current draft is designed to **maintain our existing programming, make a few strategic investments in staff support, curriculum, and facilities, and limit increases for taxpayers**. Community participation is an important part of this process, and I encourage residents to attend upcoming School Committee meetings and budget workshops as the draft evolves.

As winter continues, I want to thank our students, staff, families, and community members for the care and commitment you show to Chebeague Island School. It is a privilege to work together on behalf of our students, and I look forward to the months ahead as we continue learning, growing, and celebrating as a community.

Warm regards,

Aaron Townsend



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Ms. Mary's Grade 3-6

We've been out and about learning in many places in many ways in the first semester! We were lucky to have Donna Damon give us a tour of the exhibits at the Chebeague Island Historical Society which sparked much interest in learning more about many parts of the island's history!

We have been able to visit three additional museums during the Fall. First, we took Casco Bay Lines to Portland and walked to the Portland Museum of Art. Another day we went to Brunswick and visited the Perry Macmillan Arctic Museum at Bowdoin College and got to touch a Narwhal tusk that is over 100 years old! Also, on a 3-day inter-island trip with Isla A Haut, Monhegan, Matinucus, The Cranberries, and Cliff Islands, we spent time on the University of Farmington campus with education students who taught many workshops including learning about, and making, earmuffs at the Farmington Museum since the inventor of earmuffs was from Farmington! As always, we have enjoyed the many opportunities available to us to learn about the world out in the world!



In the classroom, students have been working hard in their subject studies and have worked on specific projects and had various experiences related to what they are learning. To support our learning in reading and writing, the students had fun participating in a "virtual" author visit from one of their favorite authors. As we explored geography and studied map skills, students were sent a "ticket" to a country that they were asked to learn about and share their learning by making a poster to share. Recently, students have been learning about types of energy in Science and we've experimented with making solar fans and vehicles and investigated open and closed circuits with our snap circuit materials! It is so fun to watch students discover and explore learning at school!



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WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

In Social Studies this fall we were able to explore what is special about our island school community. The island students were able to share many of their favorite locations with their mainland classmates as we took learning outside of the classroom. Here we are enjoying rest and read aloud before an observation science lesson at Hamilton Beach.



HANDS ON STEM FUN

In the exploration station, students engage in Tinkering, Maker Space, Design and Building, and Dramatic Play. The students here are tinkering with age appropriate screw drivers and screws to put together and take things apart.



RECORDING SCIENCE OBSERVATIONS

Early in the school year K-1 students were making observations while learning about Energy from the Sun and how some surfaces are hot and how we can make them less hot.



LEARNING TO READ AND LOVE BOOKS

Much of kindergarten and 1st Grade is spent learning the foundational skills of reading and writing, which leads to lots of practicing and listening to each other read.



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We started the year with
3 units based on
materials (egg cartons,
foil and paper).



The last few weeks we've been
looking at the technical side of art
focusing on symmetry and negative
space.



ART!!!!

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P
E
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Future champions of
the Chebeague Island
School

We are learning that
fitness can be really
fun!!

Spending as
much
time
outside
is our
GOAL!



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Music at CIS!



*We are having fun learning new music for our spring concert. Several songs include harmony-something new for the students!

*We move to music with our scarves-a great way to listen and feel the emotions of the music.

*The younger students play rhythm instruments and the older students are playing guitars. More time with xylophones will be coming this spring.

*We listen to music and learn about instruments, tempo, dynamics and composers. This past week we listened to The Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saens.

Thanks for your support of our music program! I look forward to our spring concert, May 28th!

Sharon Trace



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Around School Fun!!!!



FUNDRAISING!!!



LIBRARY TIME



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FOOD FUN!!!



Lentil Stew

PB&J
sandwich



Yogurt
and
Granola



Spaghetti and Meatballs



MISS AMY!!
She is having fun
getting to know the
kids likes and dislikes as
well as offering new
foods for the kids to try!

