REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #20

Belfast · Belmont · Frankfort · Morrill · Northport
Searsmont · Searsport · Stockton Springs · Swanville

Office of the Superintendent
PO Box 363
Belfast, ME 04915

Telephone: 207/338-1960 **Fax: 207/338-4597**

To the RSU #20 Team: August 10, 2010

It is that time of year when an educator's professional neurons start to stir. It is that time when we get back to doing what we do -- educating the youth of our communities. It may be a bit more of a challenge this year as we certainly have had a fabulous run of great weather. Let's hope it continues and we have cool crisp fall days with lots of sunshine.

As always, our custodians and maintenance folks have been busy all summer, and the buildings and grounds reflect their hard work. School buildings and classrooms are in excellent shape, clean, waxed, and ready for your return. We often take much of this work for granted, as we do not see it in progress. It is hard, hot work and we owe a big thank you to our summer crew !!

Many of our staff continued with their professional growth this summer by attending workshops, conferences, and taking college courses. I have said this before, it is amazing how busy educators are when they "have the summer off." Educators are by nature life-long learners and your efforts help keep our Region in the forefront of student growth and achievement.

It has and continues to be a busy summer in the area of acquiring new staff. We have two new high school principals, 15 new teachers, and 8 new support staff. We also have 13 in-house transfers to different positions. You will see many new faces and many familiar faces in different places. Let's welcome everyone on board and make them part of the team.

Below is the general agenda for opening week with the 'Opening Day' agenda attached.

- **Monday, August 23 New Staff Orientation** CASS 8:00 - 1:00
- **Tuesday, August 24 Opening Day** BAHS 7:30 -12:15
  Site based 1:00 - 3:00
- **Wednesday August 25 In-service Day**
  - 8 - 3:00 Everyday Math Training at CASS (for all K-5 teachers in the former SAD 34 and any teachers from the former SAD 56 that need training). Bring your Teachers Resource Guide.
  - 8 - 3:00 All other staff , site based – agendas forthcoming from your principals
- **Thursday August 26 "Teacher Day" to Prepare Your Classroom**

Every year in education has its challenges, and this year will be no exception. I am not going to dwell on the financial concerns, as they do exist and we will deal with them. Our primary challenge will be the demands placed on us by our government (all levels) and by society in general for improved student learning. Mediocrity, a passing grade, getting by, a 71 when it could have been an 87, are no longer going to be acceptable. We will find methods for students to connect with their education, *to own it*. It will be an attitudinal shift in the way students perceive their education; and we, as the educators, must promote, direct, and foster those changes. We cannot "make" a child learn, but we can provide, model, and foster an environment where exceeding one's expectations is the norm.

Enjoy the final days of summer and have a great school year. Thank you.

Best regards,

Bruce A. Mailloux
Superintendent of Schools

BAM:rcs