

**Annual Administrator's Report
2021-2022
Sippican School
Marion, Massachusetts**

The school year began with an enrollment of 408 students in grades PreK through 6. Mr. Peter Crisafulli joined us as the assistant principal. This school year started with some social distancing guidelines in place. However, by the end of the year, we were able to bring back most of the memorable school traditions.

Staffing

The 2022-2023 school year brought consistency. We were back to in person learning and there was significantly less change to our staffing. The Sippican staff always puts children and families first. They are a dynamic group of educators. New staff members were as follows:

Pete Crisafulli (Assistant Principal)
Tracey Anthony (Special Education)
Susan Swoish (Grade 4)
Mackenzie Emmons (BCBA)
Lucy Lizotte (Reading Recovery)
Cynthia Roche (1-year School Adjustment Counselor)
Julie Papadakis (Paraprofessional)
Bailey Sweet (Paraprofessional)
Debra Smith (Paraprofessional)
Taylor Swoish (Paraprofessional)
Noreen Mackie (Food Service)
Jaqueline L'Heureux (Food Service)

Long time teacher Paula Mckeen retired. We will miss her and we are grateful for her years of service to the children and families of Marion.

Curriculum and Staff Development

Professional development is essential to ensure that our staff are prepared to provide the best educational experiences for our students. The 2021-2022 professional development was focused on literacy. We partnered with Lesley University to provide training on well-developed literacy instruction. Time was also spent learning about new educational software and we continued our cultural proficiency work as well.

Highlights Across the School

Students at Sippican are focussed on the learning that takes place inside and outside of their classrooms. We started the year with our annual open house the night before school starts. This year was unusual as we had to continue to adhere to social distancing guidelines. That being said, our teachers were ecstatic to welcome students and their families back to school.

This year we followed the Department of Education's Acceleration Roadmap. this plan was developed to support students through the pandemic. Our goals for September were to support families related to attendance as well as to ensure that we were fostering a sense of belonging. A weekly family newsletter provided information about ways to help students be prepared for school daily. There was also information about the importance of eating breakfast.

In the fall we had our FIRST "field trip" of the 2021-2022 school year. Buttonwood Zoo came to Sippican to teach first graders about animals. The children enjoyed learning about many different species.

In the late fall we held our annual food drive. Sippican students and staff have worked hard to bring in food to support the Damien's Food Pantry. A shout out to Ms. McKeen and her third graders for organizing this event and making sure we providing balanced meals.

The school community was involved in many events before the winter break. Our Kindness Crew organized a Toy Drive which resulted in 68 toys being donated to Toys for Tots. Our Concert Choir joined the Tri-County Symphonic Band in their Annual Children's Concert hosted by Sippican School. It was a glorious kick off to the Marion Holiday Stroll.

Before the pandemic started, Sippican School was awarded a Lighthouse Fund grant. Our K/1 students used WeDo 2.0 to build and code a snail that flashes green light. Our students also completed a tower building challenge after reading the book, *Going Places*. Students were provided materials and then drafted plans. They followed through with building their towers AND revising them to meet the parameters of the challenge.

Sippican partnered with the MAC and TTAR to create a virtual art show in honor of Black History month. This project was a part of a One Book One School collaboration. All classes shared the book, *Change Sings*. Our art teacher Mrs. Kirk also created a mural in the music wing to commemorate the project.

After the new year, we started an after school Acceleration Camp to support students needing a little extra support in ELA and Math. Students stayed after school 2-4 days each week to sharpen their skills.

In the winter months, our concert choir and band had their winter performances! The children and teachers have worked hard and it truly showed! We are grateful to be able to bring these performances back to Sippican.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in the Winter Reading Challenge. The program was a huge success and many students earned gold, silver and bronze medals for their efforts. In April it was book fair time. Families were invited to shop with their children and all classes attended the book fair at least once during the week.

Over the course of three months, students and staff completed MCAS exams in ELA, Math and Science. This was the first "normal" year for MCAS since the start of the pandemic. Our students gave 100% and should be proud of their efforts.

Our grade 6 students were able to have some special events in the spring. The fun kicked off with a trip to Tree Top Adventures in Canton. It was a day filled with fun and bonding. The Grade 6 Parent Group and the teachers ensured that this day such a huge success. The sixth graders also had the opportunity to go to Martha's Vineyard for a day. Students, parents, and staff enjoyed walking the island, having a picnic lunch and learning about the carousel. A few students even plucked the golden ring!

As the weather got warmer, Sippican's Garden Club began actively cleaning out the beds and planting. Everyone looked forward to the beauty of the plants in the summer and the bounty coming our way in the fall.

In late spring we were FINALLY back in the cafeteria for breakfast and lunch. We were also able to hold our spring concerts. Our marching band was also able to perform at the Memorial Day parade.

The Marion Occupational Program (MOP) made its return this year. Highlights of the day included students learned about everything from being a first responder to working in a jail, piloting, to working a crane.

Thanks to school librarian Jessica Barrett, we were able to welcome storyteller Len Cabral to Sippican. The children enjoyed participating in the storytelling and they were even given some ideas about becoming storytellers in their own families. A thank you also goes out the Marion Cultural Council and VASE for bringing this opportunity to our students.

The end of the year brought traditions back to the school community. Sippican welcomed Marion's graduating seniors for the annual Senior Parade. Children cheered, the Jazz band played and the seniors and their parents had the opportunity to see ALL of the class pictures from Project Grow through Sixth Grade. It was a memorable day for all.

Field days were back. Students enjoyed activities like relay races, water games and traditional tug of war. We were also able to bring back our mini golf course back. Students enjoyed improving their putting and focusing on the elusive hole in one. The creativity and fun that this course brings to our school is amazing.

We were once again able to celebrate Vocabulary Day. The event was filled with words and fun. A heart felt thank you to Corinha Raznikov, who took pictures of every student and staff member on that day. This year we also added a community viewing which was attended by students, families, staff and community members.

The final event of the school year was Band Blast. There was music, food, games, water slides and the always popular dunk tank. The evening was a great celebration and kick off to summer.

Community Connections

Sippican is blessed to have the Volunteers at Sippican Elementary (V.A.S.E.) members who tirelessly support the Sippican experience. In the fall and winter, the VASE team sponsored the fall ACE program for students. The courses offered included a running club as well as crafts and Sign Language. They also provided a welcome sign with a selfie station at our open house. In the spring, we had our turn to appreciate our VASE members. There was a parade and breakfast for our volunteers. VASE also supported our FunRun. The Boosterthon FunRun was a HUGE success. We exceeded our goal of raising \$25,000 for enrichment and the arts! Our school community and the community at large supported VASE in raising a little over \$29,000! A Funtabulous time was had by all.

The larger school community continues to support us here at Sippican. We have been collaborating with ORCTV, Tabor Academy, Marion Art Center, Marion Historical Society as well as the library. These groups have supported ACE, our One Book One School Project as well as our Kindness Crew and Junior Reporters.

Conclusion

The 2021-2022 school year was filled with an excitement for learning. We all have a new found appreciation for the little things that make each day special. As always, we are grateful for the support of the community.

To follow our activities on a continual basis, please follow us on our webpage that includes a link to our Facebook page. <https://www.oldrochester.org/ss>

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Sirois, Principal