

STRONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
November 2017

We have just finished up the Thanksgiving holiday break, and completed parent teacher conferences. Thank you for supporting your child by connecting with your child's teacher. You'll receive a paper copy of your child's progress on Friday, December 8, when the Trimester I reports come home.

The Trimester I reports will speak to the proficiency-based education system that is being used to assess where your child is at demonstrating mastery of knowledge and skills they are expected to learn before they progress to the next lesson, get promoted to the next grade level, or receive a diploma from high school. In Maine, academic expectations and "proficiency" definitions for public-school courses, learning experiences, content areas and grade levels are outlined in the [Maine Learning Results](#).

The general goal of proficiency-based education is to ensure that students acquire the knowledge and skills that are deemed to be essential to success in school, higher education, careers and adult life. Students who struggle to meet minimum expected standards, receive additional instruction, practice time and academic support to help them achieve proficiency. This instructional assistance is part of the Response To Intervention (RTI) process. The Strong School includes goals in its School Wide Title I Plan that address student growth in the areas of reading and math.

The School Wide Plan for Strong School includes the following three goals:

- By Spring of 2018, 85% of students in grades 1 - 8 will show the projected growth or grade level proficiency in reading as measured by MAP/NWEA.
- By Spring of 2018, 80% of students in grades 1 - 8 will show the projected growth or grade level proficiency in math as measured by MAP/NWEA.
- By Spring of 2018, the SWP Parent survey will be electronic with a response return of at least 40%.

It's Ski/Skate sign up season. While we had many attend the sign up night on the evening of the book fair, you may have missed the event. *Please know that you have until Thursday, November 30 to stop by the school to complete the paperwork so that your child may participate.* This activity is open to students in grades 1 - 8. We are also in need of chaperones. Please consider volunteering as a chaperone so that students can practice what they learn in the ski/skate lessons.



On Thursday, December 21, 2017, the Strong Early Learning Center through grade 4 students will be walking over to Valley Brook, the housing development next door. We will go at 9:30AM to sing a few songs and deliver cookies from the Strong P.T.O. The students should dress warmly for this event. You are welcome to join us. There will be a MARS at 10:30AM and dismissal for vacation will be at 11:30AM.