

Union Elementary School

1070 Heald Hwy

Union, ME 04862

207-785-4330

Clint Rankin, Principal

Allison Davis, Administrative Assistant

February 13, 2026

Dates to Remember

February 16-20

No School- February Vacation

Monday, February 23rd

100th Day of School

Wednesday, February 25th

3rd Grade Ice Skating @ MRC

March 2-6

Dr. Seuss Week @ UES

Wednesday, March 4th

Early Release Day- dismissal
@ 1:15 p.m.

Friday, March 6th

4th Grade Skiing @ Camden
Snow Bowl

Thursday, March 12th

Trimester 2 Ends

Friday, March 13th

Workshop Day - No School

Friday, March 20th

Trimester 2 Assembly 2:15 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25th

Author Visit Grades 3-6

Thursday, March 26th

Author Visit Grades PK-2

Weekly Principal Message

Winter break is here! To kick off the fun, we had our sledding party today in recognition of the hard work and positive behaviors of students. Students enjoyed an extra hour of fun with dedicated outside sledding time and a movie party in the gym.

The fun doesn't stop there, though! When we return on Monday February 23rd it will be our 100th day of school celebration. Students are encouraged to join in on the fun and dress up as if they were 100 years old! We look forward to seeing the student and staff creativity when we come back after break.

The week we come back to school after break is a full week of instruction and we look forward to seeing every student back at school ready to learn. Both our reading and math curriculums build off of each day, and a full lesson often takes multiple days. Thus, daily attendance is crucial.

Third graders have their final ice skating excursion of the year on Thursday the 25th. We have our final ski day in fourth grade the following week.

Wishing everyone a much deserved and enjoyable break that is full of relaxation and rejuvenation. See everyone in a week!

In partnership,

Dr. Rankin, Principal

Students recognized for positive behaviors!

Our PBIS monthly theme for February is Friendship - I will be a good friend to others.

Congratulations to the following students for being recognized this week for our targeted positive behavior:

Pre K - Aspen Hunt & Blake Grass

Kindergarten - Eva Kelly & Emma Hawes

1st Grade - John Bickford & Xavier Pushard

2nd Grade - Caroline Girtman & Phoebe Bonatakis

3rd Grade - Veda Parent & Vinny Thibodeau

4th Grade - Grace Boehlke & Taeo Boyer

5th Grade - Benny Taylor & Vivienne Buczacz

6th Grade - Evelyn Evangelos & Greensley Corbin-Peters

Super Citizens



friendship

Student Feature: Gloria Grubb 3rd Grade



I like UES because I like field day, field trips and I love the teachers.

My favorite books include: *Ramona & Beezus* books

My favorite show to watch: I like to watch cat videos. I have 12 cats!

My favorite singers include: Billie Eilish & Taylor Swift

My favorite food is: ice cream! I like chocolate lava cake.

My hobbies include: I like to play video games with my cousins.

When I grow up I want to be: a photographer!

If I could live anywhere I would live: in California- I want to see a cactus there!



In the library, for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and Black History Month, students in Pre K to 6th grades read books about Dr. King and other Black Americans. Each student added their thumb print and signature to the peace sign. All students also added colored pieces of paper to make a rainbow.



Can you believe it? We're 100 days smarter! To celebrate this special milestone, students and staff at Union Elementary School will be dressing up as if they're 100 years old!

Join the fun on Monday, February 23rd as our hallways transform into a community of wise, seasoned "centenarians." Let's make our 100th day one to remember!

CELEBRATION

DR. SEUSS WEEK MARCH 2-6

MONDAY,
MARCH 2ND

CAT IN THE HAT
DAY
WEAR YOUR
FAVORITE HAT!

TUESDAY,
MARCH 3RD

FOX IN SOX
DAY
WEAR YOUR WACKY
OR MISMATCHED
SOCKS!

WEDNESDAY.
MARCH 4TH

GREEN EGGS
AND HAM DAY
WEAR GREEN!

THURSDAY,
MARCH 5TH

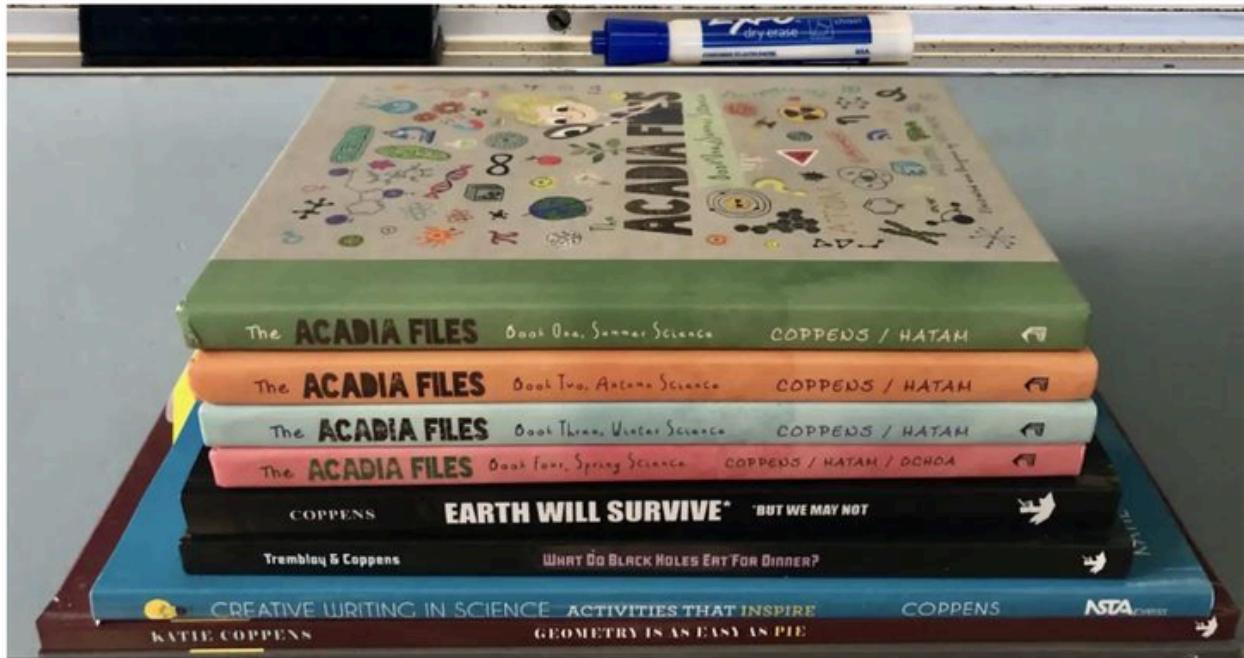
FAVORITE SEUSS
CHARACTER DAY
DRESS UP LIKE YOUR
FAVORITE DR. SEUSS
CHARACTER!

FRIDAY,
MARCH 6TH

THE SLEEP
BOOK DAY
WEAR PAJAMAS!

Union Elementary School students to receive author-signed books during Maine Authors Week

Tue, 02/10/2026 - 4:45pm



UNION — Students at Union Elementary School have a big week ahead of them this coming March. The school has announced it will host two award-winning Maine authors for a two-day residency focused on science and local heritage, said Principal Clint Rankin.

"Thanks to recent funding from the Pullen Fund and the Hannaford Helps Schools program, every single student at the school will go home with their own personal, signed copy of one of the authors' books," he said, in a news release.

The event kicks off on Wednesday, March 25, with a visit from author Katie Coppens.

A middle-school teacher and recipient of the 2022 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, Coppens is well-known for *The Acadia Files*, a series that uses a fictional narrator to teach real-world science. She will be leading the students through hands-on experiments to show how science isn't just in a textbook, but in their own backyards.

On Thursday, March 26, the focus shifts to Maine's wildlife and geography with author and filmmaker Tanya Shevencell.

Shevencell, the creator of *The Maine Birthday Book*, will share her experiences exploring the state, including a 190-mile trek across Maine for her documentary film, and talk about the real-life animals that inspire her stories.

The highlight of the week for many will be the book giveaway. The goal, said Rankin, is to ensure no child was left out of the experience.

"It is a rare thing to be able to put a brand-new, signed book into the hands of every student in the building," said Rankin. "We are so grateful to the William Pullen Fund and Hannaford's. Their support means that when our students leave school on Thursday, they aren't just taking home a book—they're taking home a connection to two incredible Maine role models."

The authors will spend the two days rotating through grade levels, offering age-appropriate workshops for everyone from Pre-K to 6th grade. By the end of the week, every student will have had the chance to meet an author and start (or grow) their own home library.

Serving the community of Union, Union Elementary is part of RSU 40 and focuses on creating meaningful, community-based learning opportunities for all students.



Born and raised in Portland, Maine, Tanya Shevencell is the author of children's books that star and celebrate Maine's wildlife. Her books are loved in the outdoors where she spends thousands of hours observing, photographing, and spending time with the animals that turn into characters in her stories.

"I like to learn about others, from them," Tanya says. "In a way, they help co-author the books!"

All three books are designed to expand and educate; a combination of writing and a medium she carries forward in her fourth children's book, she does the work with watercolor illustrations, Laura Wieden.

The Maine Birthday Book includes an animal from every county in Maine and a recipe for where they're from. *Hop Onboard Rabbit Rabbit* features lesson material in the back with fun facts about the coastal and all the animals it meets. *The Moon Over Maine* features scenes of wildlife, including nocturnal fixtures, learning to cooperate before the next full moon.

Tanya operates two small businesses, Blarney Lee Productions and the imaginary town of Maine, Maine. She is the maker and producer of a children's book series, *The Moon Over Maine*, which was screened throughout Maine and parts of New Hampshire and was broadcast on Maine Public Television several times. To watch the film, visit www.blarneyleeproductions.com

KATIE COPPENS



Katie Coppens is a mom and a middle school science teacher. Both roles influence her writing. Katie's goal is to write books that are fun, informative, and teach the interconnectedness of concepts and be curious about the world around them.

Please email with questions: contactkatiecoppens@gmail.com

(Coppens is pronounced Cape-ens)

Photo by SPRI