

**BEALS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**P. O. Box 220 24 Mill Pond Rd. Beals, ME 04611**  
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**Christopher Crowley, Principal**

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August 15, 2017

Dear Students and Families,

It is almost unbelievable that I am back at school writing a welcome back letter. Where did the summer go? I hope you all had a wonderful break and are ready to get back to school for another great year.

Next month we will be working with Maine Outdoor School. This is a wonderful program that focuses on outdoor education as well as experiential and place-based lessons. They will be with us on September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, presenting a unit entitled, "Great Wass Rocks". This particular program will expose our students to the geology of our area, using the Nature Conservancy as the classroom. Students will learn how to identify rock types, hypothesize, journal and search for answers to questions they may have.

Working in conjunction with Island Readers and Writers, we will be hosting Megan Frazer Blakemore, author of *The Water Castle*. Beginning the year, students in grades 5-8 will be reading this book, preparing for her visit on November 7<sup>th</sup>. In the past, author visits have been geared for the entire school. This year we are going to try something a bit different. The PK-4<sup>th</sup> grade students will have their author visit in the spring this year. By splitting up the school, each group will have more time to spend with the author, giving them more time to ask questions, work in writing workshops, as well as show off their projects prepared especially for the visit. I can't give enough praise for IRW and the wonderful support they give to our school and our students.

Again this year our students will attend weekly marine science labs at DEI. The students look forward to sessions, working with education director, Colleen Haskell. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity.

Our seventh grade students and Mr. Crawford will attend a week-long leadership event at Camp Kieve in Nobleboro, October 16-20<sup>th</sup>. I spent a few days there last fall as an observer and saw first-hand what a great opportunity this would be for our students. Through the use of Gear Up funds, we have made arrangements for this event. More information will be sent prior to the event. Please feel free to call me with any questions you may have.

I am looking forward to another great year, full of educational opportunities within our walls as well as away from the building. We are very fortunate to have an administration and school board members who realize the relevance of the many field trips and wonderful opportunities our students experience outside the actual walls of our building. Education doesn't come just from text books and lessons, instead a good education is one where connections are made; connections that are relevant to the students' lives.

Sincerely,  
Chris Crowley  
Principal, Beals Elementary School