AKF BEAR BULLETIN

Elementary News 10.17.26 (Saturday Edition)

From the Principal's Den

Parents as Partners in Discipline



Dear AKF Families,

One of the foundational values of our charter is the importance of partnering with families. At Abby Kelley Foster Elementary School, we believe that children thrive when the important adults in their lives work together with a shared commitment to their growth, well-being, and success.

There are many ways we bring this partnership to life at AKF. Through two-way communication, classroom updates, and family-teacher conferences, we share the exciting learning taking place each day while making space for your questions, insights, and perspectives. Our PTO meetings and family organizations provide opportunities to contribute ideas, strengthen our school community, and help shape meaningful experiences for our students. We also welcome active volunteers who generously share their time and talents to enrich our school environment. Lastly, when families and school work together to prioritize attendance, we reinforce the message that learning matters and that showing up is an important part of being a member of a community.

Our partnership matters just as much during challenging moments. We take our responsibility to provide a safe, supportive, and productive learning environment very seriously. Every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and ready to learn, and we are committed to maintaining classrooms where all children can thrive. At times, this responsibility may require us to communicate concerns or share difficult news about behavior with families. We may invite a

student to call home and share what happened directly with their family. When appropriate, we use this as an opportunity to parent the moment together. Rather than viewing the conversation as simply reporting an incident, we hope to create a collaborative opportunity for your child to reflect on their choices, hear a consistent message from the important adults in their life, and identify ways to move forward. Our school team is there to support the conversation, share relevant information, and work alongside you in reinforcing the skills and expectations your child needs to be successful.

Our goal is never to place families in a difficult position or to define a child by a challenging moment. Children are learning, growing, and developing the skills they need to navigate the world. When home and school approach these moments as a team, we help children understand that accountability and compassion can exist together, that mistakes can become opportunities for growth, and that the adults who care about them are united in their support and their accountability for their actions.

Thank you for trusting us with your children and for being an essential part of the AKF family. Together, we are building a community where every child can grow forward.

Warmly,
Anne Duke
aduke@akfcs.org
508-854-4800 ext. 4122

Bear Necessities and Upcoming Dates



- October 21, 2026 - PTO Meeting
- October 23, 2026 - Book Character Dress up Day and K Field Trip
  October 28, 2026 Half Day for Student- Dismissal at
- November 11, 2026 - No School District K-12 (Veterans Day
- November 20, 2026 - Term 1 Closes (ES)
- November 23-24, 2026 K-12 Early Dismissal (Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 25-27, 2026 - No School (Thanksgiving Recess)

From our Curriculum Department Regarding Literacy Screeners

This school year, we are transitioning from DIBELS to **i-Ready Literacy Tasks** to accompany the iReady Diagnostic that measures your child's reading progress. While the tool is changing, our

commitment remains the same: we are still measuring essential foundational literacy skills—like phonics, word recognition, and reading fluency—to help guide our everyday instruction and meet your child right where they are. To give you a clear look at their overall learning journey, you will receive an **i-Ready Family Report emailed form your classroom teacher**. This report is a great indicator of how your child is doing in school, showing their strengths, areas for growth, and progress toward grade-level goals so we can partner together to support their success.



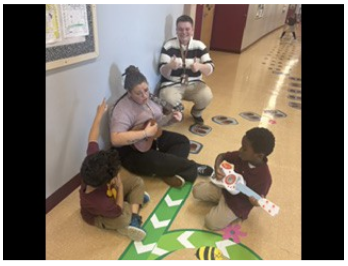
School Highlights



Trex Visits AKF- Ready for the weekend Game!



Kinders Working on Sorting in Math Class



Ms. Pinkham and Mr. Shouse playing a little ukulele with friends!

Art Fundraiser



Our young artists are hard at work creating their very own **Art to Remember masterpieces!** Each student is turning their creativity and imagination into a special piece of art that families can treasure for years to come.

🖍 **What's Next?**

- **November 2:** Personalized order forms will be sent home with your child.
- **December 14:** Orders are expected to arrive—just in time to make wonderful holiday gifts!

❤ **Your Purchase Makes a Difference!**

When you order a keepsake featuring your child's artwork, you're doing more than celebrating their creativity. Our school receives **25% of the profit**, helping support our AKF community!

We can't wait for you to see the amazing creations our students are making. Keep an eye out for those order forms in November!

Questions? Please reach out to Mrs. Roy at sroy@akfcs.org or call 508-854-8400, ext. 4306.

From the Board of Trustees

Dear Abby Kelley Foster Staff and Families,
The Board of Trustees is forming an Internal Search Committee to help select our next Executive Director, who is expected to begin in July 2027 for the 2027–2028 school year. We want this search to be open, equitable, and clear, with opportunities for members of our school community to participate.
The committee will include:
· Kathleen Greenwood, Search Committee Chair and Trustee
· Nicole Mikucka, Trustee
· Karina Abeddy, Trustee
· Two senior administrators
· One high school teacher
· One middle school teacher
· One elementary school teacher
· One Parent
· One Community Partner
· One student
Serving on the committee will require a significant time commitment. Meetings will take place primarily in the evenings throughout the school year. Some meetings will be via Zoom while others will be in person. The committee will work with Sarah Ferguson from vChief Executive Search Firm.
If you are interested in serving, please email: ed-search-committee@akfcs.org
with your name and a brief explanation not to exceed two paragraphs as to why you would like to participate by October 14, 2026. We will review the expressions of interest and notify everyone who is selected.
We look forward to hearing from you and working together on this important decision for our school.
The Board of Trustees

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

PTO Meeting October 21st 6-7pm with childcare!

Whether you prefer to join us in person or tune in from home, we'd love to have you! We are holding a hybrid meeting to make it convenient for every family to participate.

In Person: Elementary School Library
Virtual: Google Meet **https://meet.google.com/hgv-cnta-mgf**
Date & Time: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Childcare Provided

Kids are welcome! We will have three high school student volunteers available in a separate

designated area to keep an eye on children while you attend the meeting.

What We'll Cover

- Upcoming Community Events: We'll be discussing our plans for upcoming school events that bring our students, teachers, and families together.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Looking to get involved? We have plenty of quick and rewarding volunteer roles available! We'll share how you can lend a hand, whether you have 30 minutes or a few hours to spare.
- Every voice matters! Come share your ideas, connect with other parents and staff, and help make this school year wonderful for our kids.

A

Anne Duke

Anne is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

