



Meet the Buzz-kins



The Pinkham Pumpkin Patch, dubbed the "nursery," is humming with activity this week as the six Buzz-kins, adopted by area non-profits, are settling into their new digs. The Buzz-kins, numbered 1 - 6, have been adopted by the following organizations:

1. **Coastal Kids**

Coastal Kids Preschool serves two- to five-year-old children through a language-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum in an inclusive setting, with family participation a critical component to its success. Approximately one-third of the 52 licensed slots are allocated for children with special needs. (www.coastalkidsme.org , contact: mimi@coastalkidsme.org)

2. **Lincoln Academy**

Lincoln Academy seeks to serve the public interest by affording not only a comprehensive academic curriculum but also a diverse blend of co-curricular opportunities to students in the mid-coast of Maine and beyond. Programs build knowledge, skills, and social values, and promote high aspirations among all of our students. Lincoln Academy is dedicated to creating lifelong learners who understand their complex relationship to the broader world, making every effort to recognize and meet the needs of students as individuals while affirming that education is a collaboration of community, family and student. (www.lincolnacademy.org , contact: goetting@lincolnacademy.org)

3. **Lincoln County Dental**

Lincoln County Dental provides access to dental care to those individuals in the county who are in need and have no dental provider. Lincoln County Dental, Inc. works closely with healthcare organizations such as LincolnHealth and area medical and dental professionals to achieve integration of oral health into community programs for a holistic approach to overall health for all ages, thereby affecting long term health improvement for the community. (www.lcdental.org , contact: kay@denturedesigns.com)

4. **Mobius**

Mobius, an agency serving children, teens and adults with developmental disabilities and autism, is a catalyst for its clients' involvement in community activities. Mobius provide a wide range of supported-living residential options for people who need assistance and training to meet their physical and emotional

needs, while providing services to local employers to ensure successful employment for consumers. (www.mobiusinc.org, contact: staceygup@gmail.com)

5. **New Hope for Women**

New Hope for Women offers direct support to people in Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, and Waldo counties affected by domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, and provides educational resources to assist in creating a safer and healthier future. (www.newhopeforwomen.org, contact: jhatfield@newhopeforwomen.org)

6. **Healthy Kids**

Healthy Kids mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect in Lincoln County, and to encourage, support and promote healthy family environments. Healthy Kids works to enhance and improve the lives of children and parents by providing a wide variety of programs designed to help raise children who are emotionally, physically and cognitively healthy. (www.healthykidsmaine.com, contact: hk@tidewater.net)

Each of these non-profits will be seeking support for their organization by asking donors to pledge a "a penny a pound" (or nickel, dime, etc.), or a fixed amount, for their adopted pumpkin. The pumpkins will be weighed on October 3rd, at which time the organizations will tally the pledges and inform supporters of the amount due. The total pledges will be divided between the non-profit and Pumpkinfest, with Pumpkinfest applying the funds to support the festival's many activities.

In the end, it's a win-win program. The non-profit organizations raise funds to further their mission, and Pumpkinfest is able to obtain more of the giant pumpkins that become the stars of Pumpkinfest-as works of arts that line the streets of the Twin Villages and the boats that race in the Regatta.

To support your favorite Buzz-kin, send an email to its "parents" (contact information follows each organization) to let them know of your interest. You can watch your favorite Buzz-kins grow in the nursery, complements of the Maine Department of Agriculture/Department of Transportation "PumpkinCam," www.maine.gov/dacf/pumpkinCam.

Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta

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