



AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY  
& THE ENVIRONMENT

*June 2023*



## The Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

MeANS Community,

The school is buzzing with post outing excitement from our 10th grade class, who returned yesterday from a two day overnight at **Acadia National Park**! I captured the photo above while attending an excursion to the **Somes-Meynall Wildlife Sanctuary** fish ladder, where the students learned about the annual eel and alewife migrations. It was an incredible trip and well documented in photos on our social media pages.

**TONIGHT:** it's not too late to register for our **Strategic Planning Event**. Help us shape the future of MeANS! Pre-registration is required, please use this link:

<https://forms.gle/LjPHxPLDjkBH8bj66>

We are gearing up for our final Intensives of the year with a trip to the **Maine Botanical Gardens** next week. Students will be studying bees, invasive species, farm to table, and

conducting their senior capstone projects. The next several weeks will be exciting.

As always, please reach out with any questions, concerns, or wild ideas!

Matt Newberg

Head of School

[mnewberg@maineacademy.org](mailto:mnewberg@maineacademy.org)

238.4102



## Strategic Planning Event

Thursday, June 15th, 5-7pm

Light dinner and refreshments!

Pre-register at the following link: [SP EVENT!](#)



## ONE DAY LEFT TO GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK!!

Follow this link to complete the **Panorama Survey**:

<https://surveys.panoramaed.com/mainecharter/>

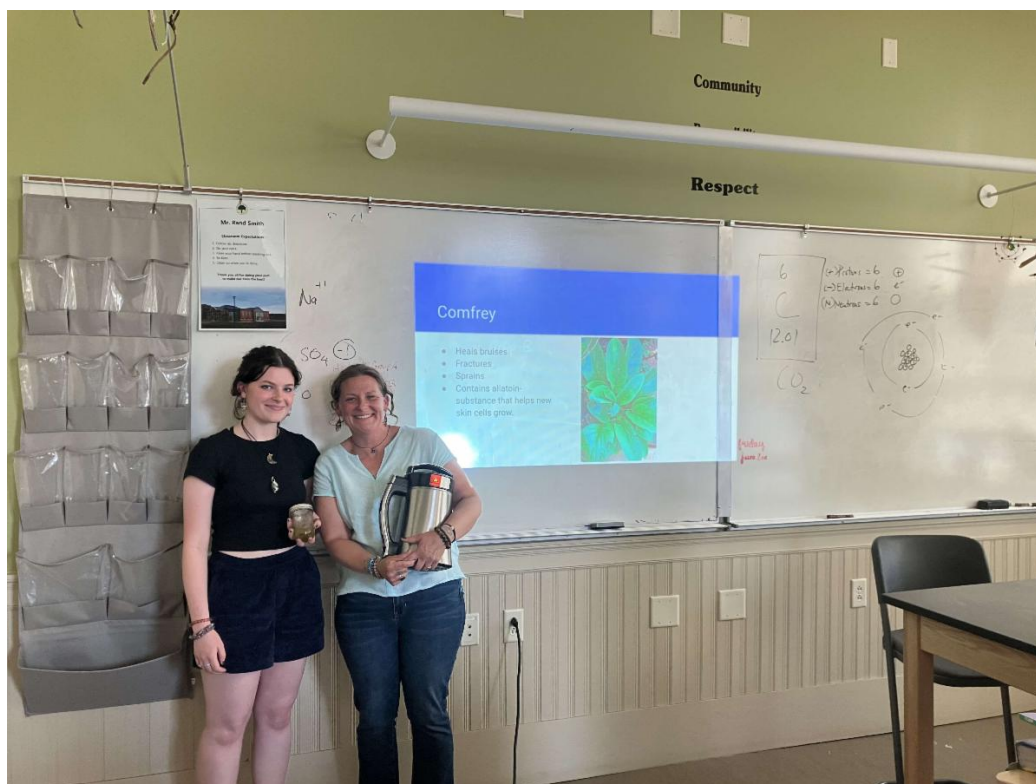
and use code: 6496992891

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A few notes from the 11/12 Science Department...



A BIG THANK YOU TO PARENT VOLUNTEER Melissa Sinclair, mother of Julia '24 and Gavin '21, for coming into school on June 2nd and gave a great presentation on medicinal plants. She showed us a slide show and explained plants that are local to Maine that she uses to make salves. She demonstrated her techniques and gave all the kids a sample of salve to take home. A really excellent visit!



As a follow up to our Vinegar Project from the first semester, we were finally able to take a field trip to West Maquoit Vinegar Works in Brunswick yesterday. Brad Messier, the owner and founder of this small Maine business, helped us with the project in the fall and gave us a great tour of his vinegar works. He talked to us about how he creates new flavors, showed us how he makes the vinegar, talked us through the chemistry of the process, had the kids put labels on bottles of vinegar he will sell and generously gave every student a sample of flavored vinegar to take home. All his ingredients are sourced in Maine.





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It's time for our annual  
**SUMMER CELEBRATION!**

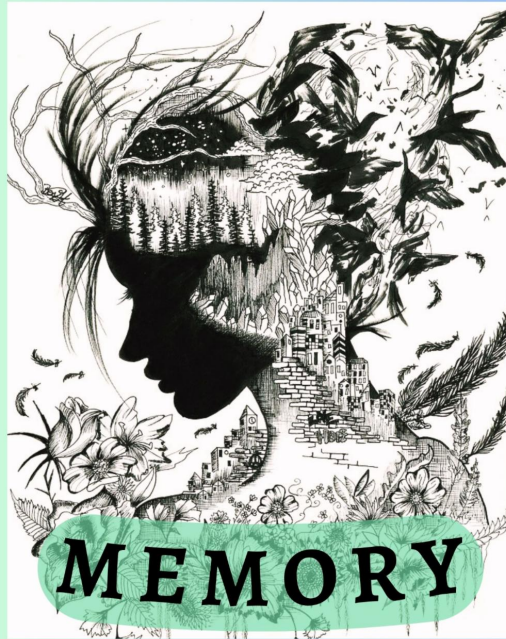
July 15th, noon - 3pm

Food Trucks, Live Music, Farm and Greenhouse Tours,  
Barn ribbon cutting, Sugarhouse dedication and more!

**WE HAVE SOOO MUCH TO CELEBRATE!**

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## What It Means: Volume 3



Please Send Your Submissions to:  
[ecoleman@maineacademy.org](mailto:ecoleman@maineacademy.org)

Please send your poems, stories, photos, and paintings to:  
[ecoleman@maineacademy.org](mailto:ecoleman@maineacademy.org) to be included in  
What It Means Volume 3: "Memory"

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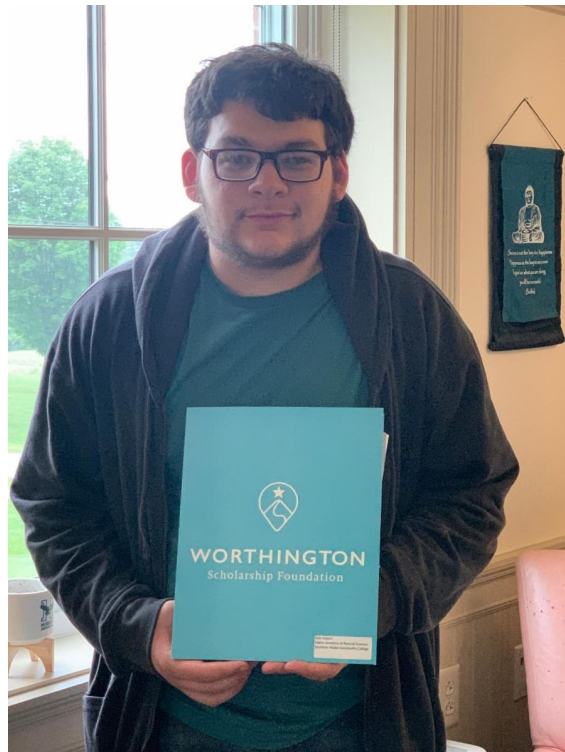
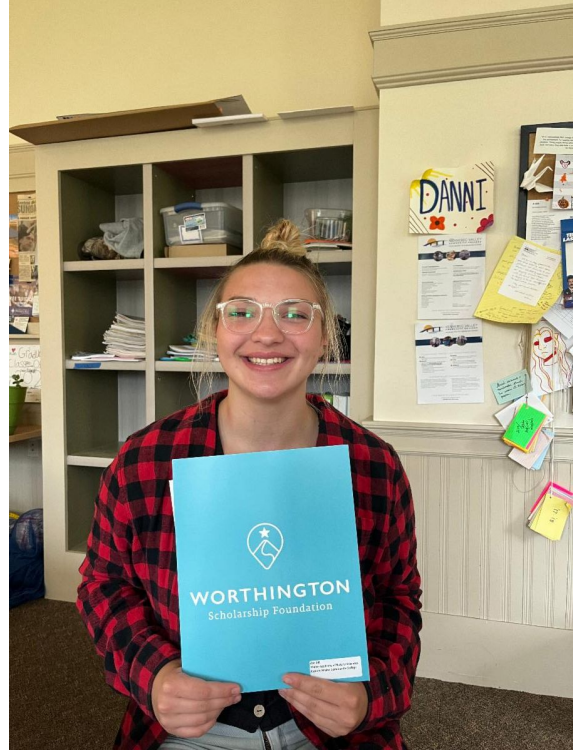
### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

#### Worthington Scholars at MeANS!!!

This year, the Worthington Scholarship Foundation will grant roughly 700 scholarships throughout Maine high schools totaling \$10 million dollars! The intention of the Foundation is to increase the accessibility of college by reducing financial barriers, to provide support for scholars to persist in college, and to help minimize the risk of incurring insurmountable student loan debt. The Worthington Scholarship Foundation is proud to partner with Maine Academy of Natural Sciences and congratulates this year's graduates. The following recipients are receiving a Worthington Scholarship:

Joseph Bowman  
Zoe Dill  
Kyle Siebert  
Cheyenne Grover (not pictured)







# Summer Intensives Launch at the Boothbay Botanical Gardens!



**Tuesday, June 20th**  
**from 7:50 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.**

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## **Monday Academic Support**

We continue to offer Monday Academic Support sessions on campus for students who want to catch up on work or need extra help. Threshold students are invited to attend in-person or remotely.

**Limited transportation is available.**

Students can sign up for 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., or both!

Please email [ecoleman@maineacademy.org](mailto:ecoleman@maineacademy.org) if you are interested.

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### MeANS Outing Club News

I'm so happy that MTOC kicked off the final outing at Adventure Bound in Caratunk, ME. They joined 125 students from 13 outdoor clubs from South Berwick to Ashland. It was an adventurous experience full of activities and fun for all. Students braved the cold and camped out in tents. They swam, fished, played Cornhole, completed the high ropes course, white water rafting, and cooking on the grills; overall, they played hard and had a blast. These experiences offered many personal accomplishments, such as:

- Mental and Physical Health
- Connection to peers and caring adults
- Time away from screens
- Personal responsibility
- Teamwork and Communication
- Freedom to PLAY and just be kids

This weekend was a true testament to the power of our club and shared time outdoors.





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## May's RINGER



The Ringer is a monthly award given to faculty and staff at the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences. It represents the individual's outstanding commitment to student growth.

April's recipient was 9/10 ELA  
Teacher,  
**Jim Poindexter**

Here is what his colleague's have to say:

*"Since I have known Jim he has been nothing but calm, patient, and hard working. He will always go out of his way to help staff and to help his students succeed. Working with him on the 9/10 team and intensives, it is clear he brings passion, experience, and creativity to everything we do. Jim has built incredible relationships with the students here on campus and is dedicated to helping his advisory. The students are eager to share what they are doing in Jim's class and things he has shared with them. He always has an interesting story to tell and endless advice for the students and staff alike. Jim has made a huge impact in our community, and I cannot wait to work with him again next year!"*



*"What a true pleasure it is to be Jim's coworker. His excitement for teaching is what fosters student engagement, and I can always count on students walking into my room, beaming with enthusiasm after attending Jim's class. Whether it's an interesting story, fun video, or*

*engaging discussion, Jim always finds a way to get students excited about learning English. But I think what really defines Jim as a teacher is his own curiosity for learning. A new survival intensive, making solar ovens, or building a potato gun- it doesn't matter. Jim is always up for trying something new if it will spark an interest in learning for students. I am so happy to have Jim as a colleague!"*

*"The relationships that Jim cultivates with his students are truly remarkable. As an educator, he has the rare ability to weave in curiosity, humor, and complexity into the projects and activities that students take on in his classes, while raising the bar for what academic excellence can look like. He does this all while fostering trust and support with each of his students, helping them to find a way into the novel they explore in class, or to forms of social change in our local community. Jim is also no nonsense; he is clear, and holds students accountable almost as much as he celebrates the incredible work they complete. As a teacher, he is always pushing his practice and diving headfirst into new intensives and new electives whether this be farming or survival, debate or theater. Last but not least, Jim helps students grow their voices in his class: arguing for what they believe in, capturing personal moments in their writing, and connecting the learning that happens in our building to the world outside our walls."*





# Coffee House 4

## Under the Pavilion

Thursday, June 29th, from 5 - 7 pm



**Bring your guitars, poems, & coolers  
for the final coffee house of the year,  
in our backyard!**

To sign up email: [ecoleman@maineacademy.org](mailto:ecoleman@maineacademy.org)

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## Class of 2023 College Acceptances

University of Maine Orono  
University of Maine Farmington  
Kennebec Valley Community College  
St. Joseph's College  
Central Maine Community College  
Eastern Maine Community College  
Southern Maine Community College  
Lakes Region Community College  
The Aveda Institute



## CONGRATS!



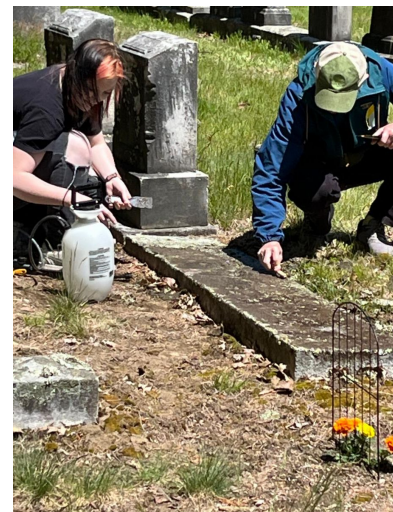
### THRESHOLD MONDAY

Monday, May 22, 2023 was another beautiful day for a Threshold outing. On this day, the topic was Headstone Cleaning. This experience provided the opportunity to combine community service and local history. The presenter Caitlin Abrams, shared her study of genealogy as well. Here is a [link](#) to her YouTube presentation. She is also on Instagram and TikTok. Caitlin was informative and easy to chat with.

As is a usual practice, the teachers provided the students with the Guiding Principles and Learning Targets which would be addressed through this activity.

Prior to the road trip, Caitlin discussed how she developed an interest in this work. She presented students with a slide show outlining the steps of headstone cleaning and the genealogical resources she uses to study the history of the person/family whose headstones she has cleaned. Students, staff were able to ask questions throughout her approximately hour long presentation.

The students traveled to a cemetery in Augusta which included a section of very old graves, dating back to the 1700's. The information on most of these graves was not able to be read due to the accumulation of dirt and lichen growth over the many years. An official from the





City of Augusta met the students/staff and expressed his gratitude for the trip today. He explained that the work was important and that the city did not have the funds to do this. He planned to tell Augusta officials about the work done today by MeANS students.

Caitlin demonstrated the cleaning process that she had described in her presentation. The effect could be seen immediately. After any questions to Caitlin, the students were divided into groups with cleaning materials and chose graves to clean. Everyone was involved and invested in the work, especially since the effect was so immediate and consequential! The evidence of successful cleaning was noted on all the stones that were cleaned. The names of the deceased became more easily read, with some stones becoming markedly different, allowing names and dates to be clear and easily seen. Caitlin explained that the liquid used continues the chemical process over time. Caitlin visits stones she has cleaned months earlier to see progress and perhaps continue with additional cleaning.

This outing provided students with a purposeful, activity based opportunity to see the value of community service and how meaningful local history can be to a community as well as individual families. After the work at the cemetery, the group headed out to enjoy a picnic lunch.

Anna Perkins, MeANS School Board member

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## Curriculum Corner

### Notes from our Sophomore Overnight Acadia Exploration...

After a long bus ride up the coast, our 10th grade students piled out to meet Ranger Mike, the Education Director and long-time Ranger at Acadia National Park. As they walked towards the Somes Meynell Wildlife Refuge, students were greeted by a bald eagle plummeting down to the water to snatch up an unsuspecting Alewife in its talons, and a field of purple lupins surrounding the inlet. Over the next three hours, our sophomores caught a collective of Elvers (baby eels) and studied Alewives as they made their annual migration and climbed the fish ladder towards the pond.



After a brief lunch, Ranger Mike led our group out across Sand Beach to begin a 2-mile hike and exploration of the geological history of the park. Climbing granite rock and pausing at some breathtaking lookouts, Ranger Mike traced the history of the rock formations that we walked over, carving out visuals of when two-mile high glaciers covered the entire park or when the peaks that we looked up to were once small islands.

That night, after setting up tents in Blackwoods Campground, we sat around the fire, roasting hot dogs and marshmallows and thinking back to the trails we had covered that day and the highlights that would stick with students for a long time. "This is how school should be," said one of the sophomores after listening to the group reflections. And as night settled in and we packed into our sleeping bags and tents, even a bit of rain did nothing to diminish the wonder of the day behind us.







## **Literary Magazine Volume #2: Transformation**

After months of anticipation, the second volume of What It Means is live! A huge thank you to all of our student and faculty contributors! If you are interested in ordering a copy for \$5.00, please email Evan Coleman at [ecoleman@maineacademy.org](mailto:ecoleman@maineacademy.org)!

# What It Means



March 2022

Volume 2: Transformation

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## Notes from Dean Danni

**Yearbooks** are in! See Joyce in the main office.

### **Reminder: Free Community College**

The Free College Scholarship makes community college even more affordable for high school graduates! If you earn a high school diploma or its equivalent in 2020 – 2023, you qualify for the scholarship, which covers 100% of tuition and mandatory fees at any one of our seven colleges across the state. All you have to do is enroll in a degree or certificate program, accept any state or federal aid you qualify for, and live in Maine while enrolled. This scholarship pays for tuition and mandatory fees, after federal and state grant aid has been applied. Those students who qualify for maximum grant aid may use any additional grant funds to cover the cost of books, supplies, and other related educational expenses. Your FAFSA has to be completed!! If you need assistance please let your Advisor or Danni know!





*"And remember, you can be anything you want in the world, please be kind!"*

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## Employment Opportunities

Come work for the "coolest school in the State of Maine!"

If you know someone looking for a rewarding opportunity, please encourage them to get in touch. If interested, visit our website for descriptions or contact our Head of School, Matt

Newberg at 238-4102, [mnewberg@maineacademy.org](mailto:mnewberg@maineacademy.org)  
[maineacademy.org/about/employment/](http://maineacademy.org/about/employment/)

Special Education Director  
Special Education ELA Teacher  
Bus Driver

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## Title I, ESEA DASHBOARD

To find out more about MeANS schoolwide Title I Program, a link to the ESEA Dashboard can be found here: [dashboard](#). For more information, please contact Title I Coordinator, Rand Smith at [rsmith@meansacademy.org](mailto:rsmith@meansacademy.org).

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### IMPORTANT DATES

6/19 Juneteenth Holiday

6/26 Community Learning Day

7/4 - 7/7 July 4th Vacation Week

7/24 Community Learning Day

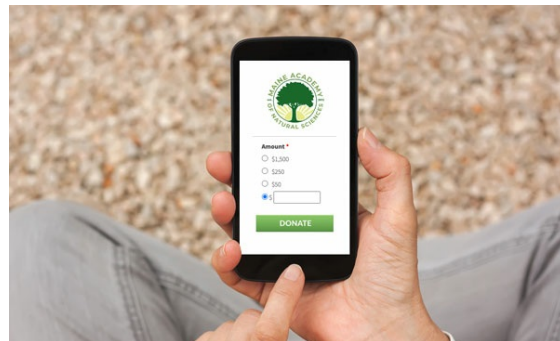
7/21 Threshold Graduation

7/27 Senior Banquet

7/28 Campus Graduation



BY ALL   
MeANS



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