



AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY
& THE ENVIRONMENT

November 2023



The Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

MeANS Community,

It is hard to know how to best acknowledge the traumatic events that took place in our State since our last newsletter. Like many schools, we were closed the following Thursday, but reopened on Friday with a small number of students. It felt important to be here as a resource for our families. We have talked as a community, shared silence and tears, and collectively grieved for all the people most deeply affected by the mass shootings in Lewiston. It has made us grateful for the supportive community we have worked hard to create at MeANS.



As many of you know, these events led to the cancellation of our annual **Harvest Fest**. We were unable to re-schedule several key components, but are excited to announce that musical act **Sagittarius Rising** will be performing a free concert on Thursday, December 21st. See below for more details.

In lighter news, students have successfully completed the **fall assessments**! There were many proud moments when scores were shared and progress was noted. Additionally, most

students have completed their fall **Student Led Conferences**, another fall benchmark. We have enjoyed meeting with families to share the learning and academic successes so far. **Quarter one progress reports will be sent on November 17th.**

While winter and the colder temperatures are not always a welcome change, it nice to downshift a little and spend the "quieter" months in connection with students. We are excited to continue to find ways for students to connect to the outside world, while wearing their winter coats and boots!

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

Matt Newberg

Head of School

mnewberg@maineacademy.org

419-6451



Please consider making a donation to our annual giving campaign to support the unique experiences that make MeANS meaningful to your students!

Introducing our new Assistant Head of School

Hi Everyone! It's my pleasure to have the opportunity to officially introduce myself to the MeANS community. I'm Pat Henyan and I'm the new Assistant Head of School for the 2023-24 school year. I spent the first 16 years of my career working as a classroom teacher in Central Maine, and most recently created and developed an Alternative Education program at Waterville Jr. High school. I'm a Central Maine native myself, and feel incredibly lucky to work in the area that has given my family and I so much. While I've only been on the MeANS campus for a few months now, I have been continually impressed with the unique community and opportunities that our school provides to its students and faculty members. Please feel free to contact me if there's anything I can do to make your student's experience here at The Maine Academy as meaningful as possible.



STUDENT PHOTO COMPETITION

With each round of intensives that we take on as a school, students are asked to capture and send in photos from the field that best represent the essence of their intensive experience. Here are the finalists from this year's Fall Intensives:

Honorable Mentions:

Logan Dostie (12th Grade, Oceanography),

Chloe Strout (11th Grade, Rivers),

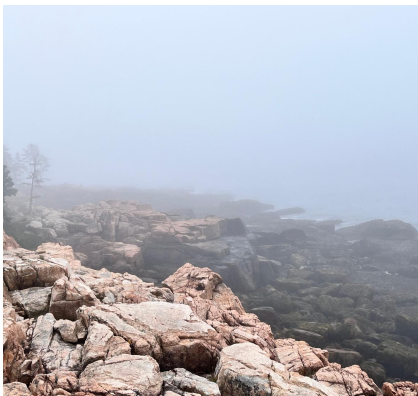
Nevaeh Campbell (10th Grade, Apples)

3rd Place: Nathan Cochran (10th Grade, Apples)

2nd Place: Logan Runnells (11th Grade, Rivers)

1st Place: Max MacArthur (12th Grade, Oceanography)

A huge thank you to all of the students who submitted photos to the competition, and stay tuned for our winter photo competition, coming this January!





THE VOTE IS IN!



Our official mascot is the honeybee!



THRESHOLD NEWS

On Monday, October 23, students in the MeANS Threshold program went on one of two field trips as part of this year's programmatic theme: "Exploring and Experiencing our Communities".

One group of students visited Belfast Area High School to learn about the kelp farm that students there have started. Our students helped to transfer kelp spores onto spools, which will be later transplanted into the Belfast Harbor, to be harvested next summer. The kelp farm was started as part of Belfast High School's Marine Institute, which seeks to engage Maine youth in ocean sciences and related careers. Afterwards, students visited Mosman park to enjoy the beach, and to look for any kelp laden with spores



that may have been left behind by the tide.

The other group enjoyed a warm and muddy mile walk up Mt. Battie at Camden Hills state park. Due to the rains, the trail was wet and roots were slippery, but we were surrounded by the elegance of the Maine Fall Forest Floor. Maple leaves, Oak leaves, Birch Leaves, Ash Leaves all covered our trail. For some this walk was challenging, others took the hill with ease. Everyone made it to the top! From the top we saw the view that once inspired a 19 year old Edna St. Vincent Millay to write her famous poem "Renaissance":

*All I could see from where I stood
Was three long mountains and a wood;
I turned and looked another way,
And saw three islands in a bay.*

Once at the top students enjoyed the same view of Penobscot Bay while eating their lunch.



Monday Academic Support

We will 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 if you are interested.

October'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.

October's recipient is Office Manager,
Ashley Hyde

Here is what her colleague's had to say:

"It has been a great pleasure to work with Ashley this year. She always goes above and beyond in helping her coworkers with anything they need. Her passion for helping our school succeed and thrive is evident in any conversation you have with her. Her spirit of hard work and determination is infectious, and it pushes those around her to hold themselves to a higher standard. I am so grateful that she joined our team and look forward to continuing to work with her more in the future."

"Being a Business Manager can be an invisible position because much of the work gets done behind the scenes. Ashley is a manager like no other! She is front and center when it comes to knowing the business of accounting, HR, and federal grant management. She is amazing at knowing, right off the top of her head, the balance in different budget lines and shifting money when needed. I found Ashley to be approachable from the first day I worked with her. She keeps the money flowing and, most importantly, can explain budgets to people who have limited knowledge of money management (like me). She has an enormous responsibility and juggles it well."

"It's hard to imagine a trickier time for someone to start in the position of Business Manager at our school. With year end books to close, an audit fast approaching, new financial software to implement, and a full financial transition to complete, it is a wonder that Ashley didn't resign two weeks into the job. I found myself waiting for the moment she would walk through the door and quit, or at least complain. Neither has happened. Not that we weren't forthright in the interview, but Ashley has met every challenge with a smile and calm demeanor, and most importantly has accomplished every daunting task on her desk. Recently, we have been able to brainstorm and think creatively about the future of MeANS. I look forward to more of that. She has quietly and diligently led us through a most difficult time."



THE Can We? Project

An experiment in revitalizing democracy **Waynflete**



Retreat Dates

November 30th (On Campus)
December 14th (Augusta)
May 7th (On Campus)



See Evan to Apply!
ecoleman@maineacademy.org

For the first time this year, alongside of 14 other schools, the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences will embark on a mission to revitalize our democracy through a series of workshops on storytelling, identity exploration, and community conversations across the aisle.

The 2023/2024 Can We? Project cohort will consist of 15-20 Campus and Threshold Students who will take part in three day-long workshops throughout the year.

Interested in applying? Email Evan for an application atecoleman@maineacademy.org.

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 Business Manager, Ashley Hyde at 419-0503, ahyde@maineacademy.org maineacademy.org/about/employment/

Ed Tech I
Ed Tech III
Special Education ELA Teacher
Office Manager

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, Isabelle King at iking@maineacademy.org.

It's that time of year again!

Our students are making decorative swags for the MeANS community. We make decorated and undecorated

swags. The undecorated ones have a large bow on the front, and the decorated ones are adorned with ornaments and pinecones. 15\$ for decorated swags, and 12\$ for undecorated swags. The money that is raised when you buy a swag is going to be used for a donut machine for apple cider and maple donuts. To get your very own swag, email Bella Pinnette at bellap@gwh.org.

Place your orders by December 1st and will be fulfilled by December 20th.

Happy Holidays!

A festive graphic for a holiday swag sale. At the top, the text "MEANS PRESENTS" is centered. Below it is a central image of a green pine branch swag with a large red bow. Surrounding this are several Christmas ornaments: red and green spheres, and green spheres with white snowflake patterns. The background is a light green watercolor wash with small white stars and snowflakes. The main title "HOLIDAY SWAG SALE" is in large, bold, dark green capital letters. Below the title, the prices "\$12 UNDECORATED" and "\$15 DECORATED" are listed in bold dark green. A line of text says "Decorate your home with our student made swag this holiday season!". A dark green banner with white text reads "PLACE YOUR ORDERS BY DECEMBER 1ST". At the bottom, in small dark green capital letters, it says "CONTACT BELLAP@GWH.ORG WITH ALL ORDER INQUIRIES".

MEANS PRESENTS

HOLIDAY SWAG SALE

\$12 UNDECORATED
\$15 DECORATED

Decorate your home with our student made swag this holiday season!

**PLACE YOUR ORDERS
BY DECEMBER 1ST**

CONTACT BELLAP@GWH.ORG WITH
ALL ORDER INQUIRIES

MEANS PRESENTS

COFFEE HOUSE

OPEN MIC



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

INTERESTED IN SIGNING UP?
EMAIL ECOLEMAN@MAINEACADEMY.ORG





SAGITTARIUS RISING

FREE CONCERT

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 21ST
7 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.

REGISTER FOR YOUR
TICKETS NOW USING
THE QR CODE:

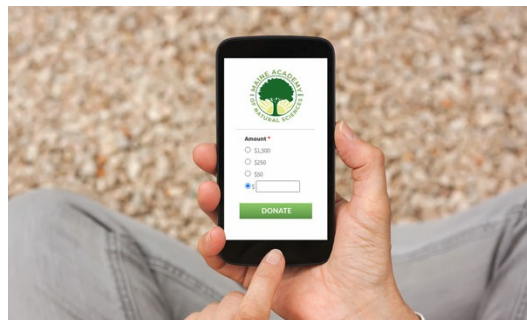


HOSTED BY THE MAINE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
13 EASLER RD, HINCKLEY, ME 04944

IMPORTANT DATES

- 11/10 Veteran's Day
- 11/14 Q2 Begins
- 11/17 Progress Reports
- 11/21 - 11/24 Thanksgiving Break
- 12/7 - Coffee House
- 12/11 Community Learning Day
- 12/18 Threshold Monday
- 12/21 - Sagittarius Rising Concert

BY ALL
MeANS



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Your tax-deductible donation helps us make a difference.

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