



AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY
& THE ENVIRONMENT

September 2023



The Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

MeANS Community,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year!

We've got two weeks under our belts and have already logged wonderful experiences such as New Student Orientation at Camden Hills State Park, Community Learning Day, classes, extended advisory and a Threshold Monday!

By now, you should have heard directly from your student's advisor. They make calls home every Friday afternoon with information from the week. This will be a vital resource as we navigate our way through the upcoming year.

Excitement is building with **Fall Intensives**, right around the corner! Grades 9 through 12 will be participating in Farming, Apples, Rivers, and Oceanography respectively. More information

will be shared regarding daily schedules and field trips in the upcoming weeks.

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

Matt Newberg

Head of School

mnewberg@maineacademy.org

238.4102



NEW SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER:

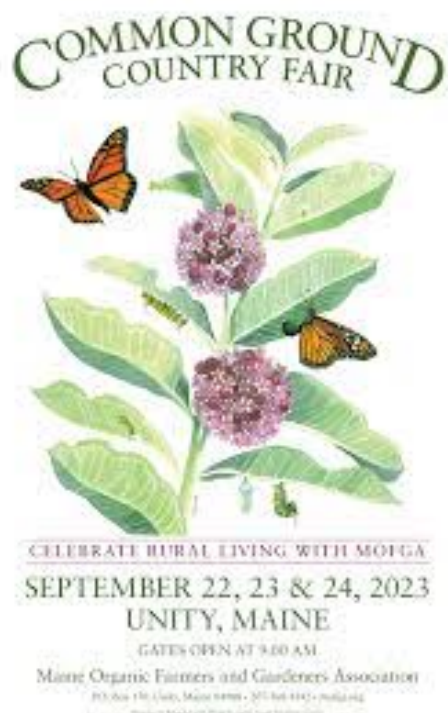
207-419-6500

This change is effective immediately (the old number will continue to work for a limited amount of time).

MeANS will be taking a school trip to MOFGA's annual Common Ground Fair.

Friday, September 21st

Friday morning's bus pick-up times will be later than usual, please speak with your student's advisor or transportation director Paula Taylor at 238-4105.



THRESHOLD NEWS

Happy 23-24 school year!

The Threshold program



kicked off our monthly Threshold Mondays with a full day on the MeANS campus. **We had our biggest group of students to date!** We all enjoyed a fun, and funny, game of Pick A Side out on the big lawn before the afternoon rains came. Questions such as,

are you a morning person, or a night owl? Do you prefer sweet, or savory? Do you prefer to text, or call? Would you rather a robotic arm, or not? We also had a chance to go on a walk through some of the trails and explore the MeANS greenhouses. In the afternoon students split into small groups and did a really cool Life Map activity. We are all looking forward to more fun and academic adventures in the months to come.

An important update

**The October Threshold Monday has been moved
from October 16th to October 23rd.**

MeANS will be hosting a FREE Flu Clinic sponsored by Redington-Fairview General Hospital nurses and staff on Friday, September 29th.

The clinic is for students and staff only and not open to the general public.

Release forms must be signed and completed by parents in order for student's to participate by Friday, September 22nd.



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.

June and July's RINGERS



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.

June's recipient was Dean of Students,
Danni Best

Here is what her colleague's had to say:



"Danni is a beautiful soul – so kindhearted and passionate, and I have truly enjoyed working with her the last four years. Everyone jokes about making her cry and that she feels all the feels, but that is actually one of my favorite qualities of Danni's, and I truly admire her courage to be able to share her vulnerability. I love how she always reminds us to be kind, to always reflect upon ourselves, and that it is never too late to be a better person. It is clear that Danni loves all the students here at MeANS like they are her own children and there isn't anything she wouldn't do for them. I am truly going to miss her presence and all that she brings to this unique and magical place we call MeANS."

"Danni Best is the coolest Dean of Students in the state of Maine. Of her many wonderful qualities, I most admire Danni's ability to wear her heart on her sleeve. Being vulnerable takes courage, and Danni's openness and sincerity in the face of some very prickly, complicated personalities is something most of us can only aspire to. Danni doesn't need a Ringer award – the strength of the bonds she has formed with our students shows that she has given everything she has to the job. Getting to work with Danni every day has been one of the great pleasures of my career, and I am grateful for all the conversation and good advice she's given me over the years."

"You can be anything you want in this world, please be kind." These words are undoubtedly seared into the minds of our students, teachers, and staff from our weekly Friday sign off from our dean of students, "D Best". But what I appreciate about these words the most is that they embody who Danni is as a human being. This is not to say that she is simply "kind". She is also no frills. She is also direct. Danni listens and nods. Danni shares life stories and life advice. Danni gets worked up, cooled down, cracks a joke, pokes fun at you, then herself, and ends with a wink and a mischievous smile. Her other coined phrase is that MeANS is "The Coolest School in Maine." And what I've always wondered is who made it that way? How did we get to be so cool? What I've come to realize during my time working with Danni, is that despite her Hey Dudes, funky t-shirts, and swagger, she's not THAT cool. But that she nurtures this "Coolness" at MeANS. Just like she tends to her Tomato plants (inch by inch, row by row) Danni devotes her life to people and helps us flourish as a school, one person at a time, students, parents, faculty. Thank you for everything you have done for each of us. You will be missed."

July's recipient was Asst. Head of School/Special
Education Director,
Christine Sullivan

Here is what her colleague's had to say:

"Christine is a strong woman who cares deeply for her family, friends and students. She is always there to lend a helping hand. She is incredibly knowledgeable about everything from special education law to how to start a campfire. This past year, Christine took on the Outdoor club, which is

no small feat. She managed to organize a group of very active students, and take them on many great adventures such as white water rafting, hiking and camping. I hope that she will continue to plan and execute many more adventures."

"Christine is hard working, dedicated, and passionate about what she does. She doesn't do the job for the accolades. For her, it's more important to do the job well. Success of others matters to her. Whether you are staff or a student, Christine will celebrate the ups or support the downs. She is the ultimate fighter to have in your corner."

"This Ringer is an advocate for all students through and through. She sometimes must make hard decisions and stand up for what is right for a student, regardless of who else may be unhappy with that choice. Whether she is barrelling down whitewater rapids in a student-filled raft, enduring sleepless nights in a tent on a student camping trip, or fitting in the 5th IEP meeting in one day, she is dedicated to what is best for all students. This Ringer is also always up to date with policy and practice within the Special Education field and ensuring that we at MeANS are in alignment with state and federal rules and regulations. This, along with all of the behind the scene work, support, and advocacy add to our deep appreciation of Christine and what she has contributed to our MeANS school community."



CONGRATS to the class of 2023!



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 419-6500, mnewberg@maineacademy.org maineacademy.org/about/employment/

Special Education ELA Teacher

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@meansacademy.org.

IMPORTANT DATES

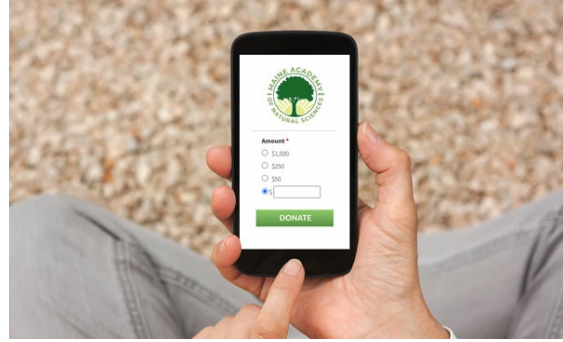
9/21 Common Ground Fair Trip

10/3-10/13 Fall Intensives

10/23 Community Learning Day

10/23 Threshold Monday





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