



AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY
& THE ENVIRONMENT

April 2024



The Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

MeANS Community,

We are on the eve of April vacation and students and teachers are excited for a well earned break!

While always a heavy lift, **Spring Intensives** were a huge success, culminating in a wonderful **MeANS Maple Sunday** event. Despite the surprising, late spring, rogue snowstorm, attendance was strong.

The recent **solar eclipse** was an exciting event that afforded us the opportunity to talk about science of a different nature. Threshold took full advantage given they had a **Threshold Monday** already scheduled. See below for more details.



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

Matt Newberg

Head of School

mnewberg@maineacademy.org

419-6451



[We need your support, please consider a donation!](#)



HOPE begins with you.

Blood Drive

**Maine Academy of Natural Sciences
2nd Floor**

13 Easler Road Hinckley, ME 04944
(207) 419-7546

**Wednesday, April 24, 2024
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: **Maine Academy of Natural Science** to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed
to RapidPass

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Make an impact: Come give blood 4/8 to 4/28 for a \$10 gift card by email to a merchant of choice!



Scan to schedule
an appointment

RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

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WELLNESS DAY

5/24/2024

8-9 Keynote

9:10-11:35 Presentations

11:40-12 Wrapup in BMR

OBJECTIVE:

to create a positive environment focused on education around **substance use, mindfulness, activity, nutrition, and inclusivity** in order to broaden the understanding of student health and wellbeing while developing skills to destress, nourish, and care for our bodies and minds.



For more information or if you are interested in being a Wellness Day volunteer, call Grace Hilmer at 419-7546

KEYNOTE

On building resiliency

WE MEANS WELL 2024

PRESENTERS

OUT MAINE
SNAP ED
MOVE MORE KIDS
MEGAN MACK NICHOLSON
REDINGTON FAIRVIEW GENERAL HOSPITAL
CHISTINE McNULTY LCSW, LADC, CCS
EVAN COLEMAN
PAT HENYAN
EMANUEL PARISER AND OTHERS!!!

Spring Student Photo Competition

This March, students jumped back into Spring Intensives, in which the 12th graders explored Local Environment projects, 11th graders learned the ins and outs of Animal Husbandry, 10th grade students examined the intricacies of Alternative Energy, and 9th graders learned the skills of Maple Sugaring.

Out of the hundreds of photos sent in from the field, here are the finalists for our Spring Student Photo Competition:

Honorable Mention: Soleil Moody (9th), Nathan Cochran (10th), Abigail Vernon (11th), Nick Hewett (11th)



3rd Place: Jayden Palmer '24



2nd Place: Jace McAllister '25



1st Place: Logan Runnells '25



2024-25 Enrollment

Space is running out for grades 10-12, if you know someone interested in our school encourage them to act fast!



Returning families click here:

<https://forms.gle/tXMbefuEUTvmcNHD6>

New families click here:

<https://airtable.com/appxyYP6dNEBEAct4/shr2jaiytENQG9PJJ>

MEANS PRESENTS
OPEN HOUSE



4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Feb. 29

Mar. 27

Apr. 25

May 29

- Light refreshments
- Student tours
- Meet the teachers
- Blacksmithing demo
- Q&A

**Interested in
our school?
Come and
check us out!**

Find us at:
maineacademy.org
13 Easler Rd
Hinckley, ME 04944

PAT'S PULSE

Coming together as a Community

Sharing is Caring!

The spring is an exciting time for the MeANS community. Students have more access to the outside, seedlings get planted, and enrollment for next year is well underway. It's also the time of year when our "By All MeANS" fundraising campaign kicks off! That campaign helps provide the funding for many of the activities that make our school so unique. The baby chicks, field trips throughout the state, and MeANS Maple Sunday are all, in part, supported by the "By All MeANS" campaign.

My ask of you all today is that you go online, connect to our social media pages, and simply spread the word by sharing our "By All MeANS" posts with your friends and family. We have a lofty goal of raising \$10,000 this year to support our programing, and we hope that by spreading the word far and wide, we'll reach new people willing to donate toward our mission. Thank you all for all that you do to support your students, and the greater MeANS community.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions, comments or concerns. Thank you!

Pat Henyan
Assistant Head of School



Threshold News

This month our Threshold Monday happened to land on a day that folks from around the country had been planning for and anticipating for years. April's Threshold Monday was also **ECLIPSE DAY!** We decided to hold a half day of school to allow for students to get home to view the Eclipse with family, or to come on our optional Eclipse field trip. We started the Threshold Monday with paired up advisory groups, two teachers and their students together. The focus of these groups was "Recognizing the qualities of a good listener" The exercise was to recognize how individuals can hear the same information yet process it differently and arrive at different conclusions. All students and teachers then converged in the BMR (Big Meeting Room) for a presentation about both Solar and Lunar Eclipse. Students learned the differences, why and how these events are so special in our lives here on earth, and how to make a model of a solar eclipse. Students then went back to their morning groups, and using two different size balls (soccer and tennis) and a flashlight, they modeled how a solar eclipse is possible. The day was a beautiful and sunny day so students and teachers gradually migrated outside for more projects and group work.



After enjoying lunch together, school was dismissed for the day. While some students loaded buses to head home, others loaded onto a white bus and a school van for the ride up to Bingham to catch the total eclipse of the sun. We are fortunate to have a student in the Threshold program whose mother works at a rafting company in Bingham. She had reserved parking space as well as two picnic tables and a fire pit. We are very thankful to Julie! We were also fortunate to have teachers on our field trip who know all of the back roads between Hinckley and Bingham, thank you Ana and Sol! We arrived in time to get settled, start a fire, and to cook hot dogs that we enjoyed as we witnessed the moon's gradual eclipse of our warm sun. As we warmed from the re-emerging sun, and before cleaning up to head home, we roasted marshmallows for s'mores that were enjoyed by all. As many many people far and wide experienced that day, it is a memory to be recalled for a long time to come. The excitement, the quiet contemplation, the curiosity and the awe that came from our students that day made the drive, the logistics, and the extra long work day %100 worth it, in every way.



Curriculum Corner

Our Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Evan Coleman, submitted a wonderful Op-ed



that was published in the Portland Press Herald entitled, "We Can Rebuild our Capacity for Human Connection". In part, it describes the work our students conducted while participating in the "Can We? Project". The article is linked here: [OP ED](#)

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.

March'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.

March's recipient is Threshold Teacher,
Caleb Christensen-Fletcher

Here is what his colleague's had to say:

"Caleb has the personality of your very favorite camp counselor – always positive, energetic, curious, attentive, and funny. He brings a great love of teaching and learning to MeANS as well as an abounding interest in

what makes his students tick. There is not a subject that scares him, nor a student that daunts his energy. succinctly put Caleb's skills and attitude make him a perfect fit for the Threshold teacher position he now inhabits."

"Caleb joined the MeANS community and the Threshold program at a full stride. What has Caleb added to our team? A confident provider of workshops and strategies, for both staff and students alike. Everything from leading first Threshold Monday Icebreaker games with 50 nervous teenagers, to small group Improv Comedy workshops, to leading staff problem solving strategies. Caleb has also brought the same willingness and enthusiasm to assist with behind-the-scenes tech challenges. Caleb is a thoughtful listener and contributor in our staff meetings, and an active participant in any conversation with any student, at any time. Caleb demonstrates a genuine and honest interest in his work with his students. He brings experience, insight, integrity, and fun to his work in the Threshold program. That is what Caleb has added to our team, and we are grateful for it."



"O Caleb, how might I sing thy praises with enough eloquence, exuberance, and skill to match thy virtues as a teacher, colleague, and friend? A dragon could not best you in that inner flame of spirit, nor a lynx match your careful control. An arctic bear might quail beneath the strength of your voice, and even owls, were you a bird, would seek thy counsel. A thousand tales could be told of your exploits, and you would make light work of organizing those tales into spreadsheets and tables, with protocols for reviewing each one. Your thoughtfulness, charisma, and creativity as a teacher are unmatched. Your students are lucky to have you, and from the way they flock to you, it is clear they know it too."

Helen Barton '26 presenting at the recent New England Youth Identity Summit!



Today

By Billy Collins

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze

that it made you want to throw
open all the windows in the house

and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,
indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,

a day when the cool brick paths
and the garden bursting with peonies

seemed so etched in sunlight
that you felt like taking

a hammer to the glass paperweight
on the living room end table,

releasing the inhabitants
from their snow-covered cottage

so they could walk out,
holding hands and squinting

into this larger dome of blue and white,
well, today is just that kind of day.

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.

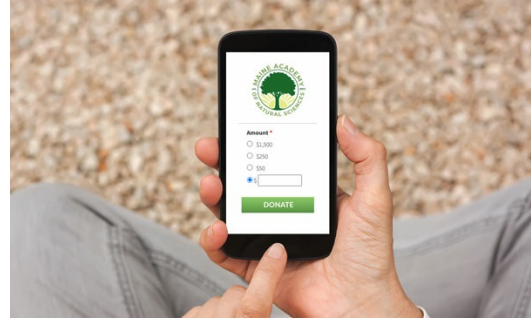
IMPORTANT DATES

4/16-19 April Vacation

5/6 Threshold Monday

5/13, 20 Student Led Conferences





[DONATE NOW](#)

Your tax-deductible donation helps us make a difference.

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/

School Nurse, Part-time

Maine Academy of Natural Sciences
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