



AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY  
& THE ENVIRONMENT

*January 2024*



## The Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

MeANS Community,

**Happy New Year!** It's hard to believe that January is nearly behind us, it feels as though we just returned from the holidays.

There are so many exciting things to report on, such as **Winter Intensives**, the **We MeANS Well** Health Challenge, and our upcoming **Winter Project Showcase** on February 16th. Students and teachers have been busy since our return and time is flying by.

I'd like to take a moment to welcome and introduce our new **Office Manager, Alyssa Boudreau**. If you hear a new voice on the front desk phone, that's Alyssa and we are so excited to have her join our team! Alyssa was a Communications major at the University of Maine Orono and has over ten years of experience in administrative positions. Please stop by and introduce yourself.

On Tuesday, January 30th, Colby Jan-plan instructor and nationwide motivational speaker,



Scott Fried, will return to our campus for an all-school presentation. Scott delivered an inspiring workshop to our school in January of 2020 and we are excited to have him back. This is part of our **Winter Wellness** initiatives.

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

Matt Newberg

Head of School

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

419-6451



## ***2024-25 Enrollment Opens: Thursday, February 1st!***

All current students are guaranteed a spot next year if they enroll by **March 29th**. This gives families two months to re-enroll for the 2024-25 school year before the school opens spots for new students and families.

Specific details on the re-enrollment process will be emailed directly to families on February 1st.

If necessary, a public lottery will be held at 6:00pm, March 29th at the Moody School Building.

# We MeANS WELL

A wellness initiative to get you outdoors!

Incentivized program to reward you for logging your outside time.

Any outside time counts!!

Time in the outdoors connects you to your local communities, strengthens self confidence and feelings of mattering, creates long term healthy habits, lowers blood pressure, reduces anxiety, improves mood, and increases concentration for improved academic performance!!

Find the form to log your time on your advisory google classroom!!

15 hrs



30 hrs



40+ hrs



## PAT'S PULSE

*Coming together as a Community*

Hello MeANS families!

At MeANS, we recognize the needs of our students both inside and outside of school hours. We recognize how hard it is to come to school and focus on the day ahead when you're hungry or cold. We know that winter can be a particularly difficult time for students and their families alike. If your student or family is experiencing need of any kind, please reach out, as we have many resources on campus and connections to resources that we can use to help provide assistance throughout these tough months. We may be able to help locate or provide resources for any of the following:

- Housing insecurity
- Hunger
- Warm clothing
- Heating
- Vital home repairs

If you have any of these needs, have any questions, or would like to donate towards our clothing / basic needs closet. Please contact me at [phenyan@maineacademy.org](mailto:phenyan@maineacademy.org) or call my desk directly at (207)419-7590.

Pat Henyan  
Assistant Head of School





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# Student Project Showcase

Friday, February 16th, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Please join us on campus as we celebrate the incredible learning and projects that students have taken on during their first semester of the year!

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## Setting Our Intentions for the New Year

As our students and faculty returned from a well deserved winter break, we continued an annual tradition by gathering around the Seton Fireplace as a full school to welcome in the new year with a roaring bonfire. Every member of our community was asked two questions to respond to by writing down a sentence or two on a slip of paper:

- 1. As we enter the new year, what is something that you are hoping to let go of?*
- 2. What is something that you are hoping to hold onto for 2024?*

The response could be a word, an idea, a resolution, or a goal, and after sharing our intentions for the new year out loud, students tore off what they were letting go of and cast their slips into the fire, burning away all of those things we were choosing to let go of.

We are excited for all that lies ahead in 2024: winter intensives, student project showcases, blacksmithing, maple sugaring, coffee houses, senior capstones, and many more field trips across the state and community gatherings in the outdoors.

Stay tuned!



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## 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](mailto:ecoleman@maineacademy.org) if you are interested.

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# December'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.

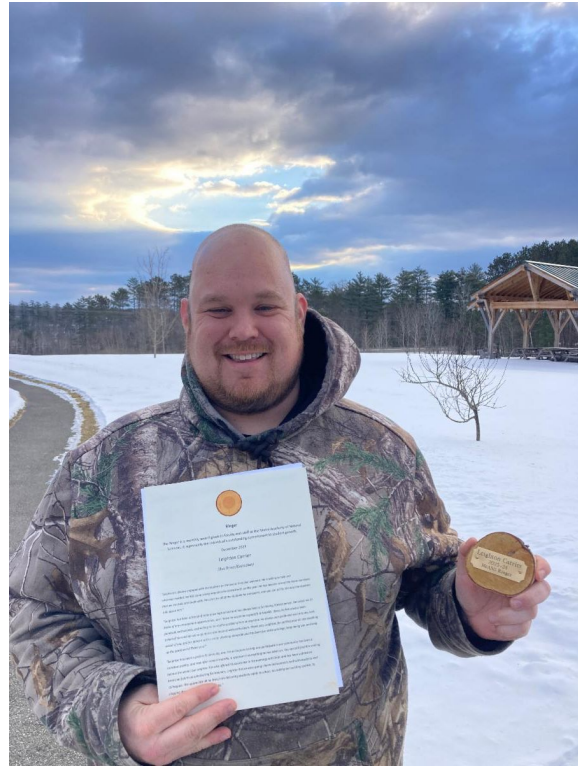
December's recipient is Bus Driver/Custodian,  
**Leighton Carrier**

Here is what his colleague's had to say:

*"Leighton Is always engaged with the students on the bus so they feel welcome. He is willing to help out wherever needed. He has come a long way since he started with us this year. He has become one of the team members that we can talk and laugh with. He cares for all of the students he transports, and you can tell by the way the students talk about him."*

*"Leighton has been a friend of mine since high school and has always been a fun loving, honest person. He asked me if I knew of any employment opportunities, and I knew he would be a good fit at MeANS. Since, he has always been punctual, enthusiastic, and willing to do anything asked of him at any time. He always puts pride and soul into any task asked of him and strives to go above and beyond with enthusiasm. Thank you, Leighton, for putting your all into anything asked of you and for doing it with a smile. Working alongside you has been fun and a privilege, keep being you and keep up the good work! Thank you!"*

*"Leighton has been a perfect fit since day one. His willingness to help and participate in our community has been a standout quality, and now after several months, is apparent in everything he has taken on. You can still find him smiling behind the wheel, but Leighton has also offered his assistance in the evenings with Sean and has been sighted on Intensive field trips substituting for teachers. Leighton has an easy-going charm and connects well with students and colleagues. We appreciate all he does from delivering students safely to school, to making our building sparkle, to slogging through the snow on field trips."*



# Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

## Independent Study Project



At MeANS, we strive to allow students to advocate for passion projects that they would like to take on beyond their standard academic courses. Whether this be an internship, a hobby, or an independent study project, we believe that students should learn the importance of self advocacy as they navigate their personal and professional aspirations after their high school journey.

**Interested?** Email Evan at [ecoleman@maineacademy.org](mailto:ecoleman@maineacademy.org) to submit your application for the 2nd Semester

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Some recent photos from Winter Intensives...













# MAINE YOUTH WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



## An extraordinary wilderness experience in Baxter State Park for Maine high school students

The Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program cultivates and inspires the next generation of Maine's environmental leaders. Friends of Baxter State Park has offered this program to high school sophomores and juniors annually since 2009. This free program provides the opportunity to develop leadership skills and experience Maine's wilderness through science, art, literature, storytelling, photography, history, and more.

### Program Highlights:

- Nine-day backpacking trip in Baxter State Park
- Experienced wilderness leaders from Chewonki
- Hands-on learning with expert instructors
- Maine high school sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply
- Competitive application process
- No cost to participate – program is free

**Apply at [friendsofbaxter.org/mywlp](https://friendsofbaxter.org/mywlp)**

**Deadline: February 8, 2024**



### Woods in Winter

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1807-1882

When winter winds are piercing chill,  
And through the hawthorn blows the gale,  
With solemn feet I tread the hill,  
That overbrows the lonely vale.

O'er the bare upland, and away  
Through the long reach of desert woods,  
The embracing sunbeams chastely play,

And gladden these deep solitudes.

Where, twisted round the barren oak,  
The summer vine in beauty clung,  
And summer winds the stillness broke,  
The crystal icicle is hung.

Where, from their frozen urns, mute springs  
Pour out the river's gradual tide,  
Shrilly the skater's iron rings,  
And voices fill the woodland side.

Alas! how changed from the fair scene,  
When birds sang out their mellow lay,  
And winds were soft, and woods were green,  
And the song ceased not with the day!

But still wild music is abroad,  
Pale, desert woods! within your crowd;  
And gathering winds, in hoarse accord,  
Amid the vocal reeds pipe loud.  
Chill airs and wintry winds! my ear  
Has grown familiar with your song;  
I hear it in the opening year,  
I listen, and it cheers me long.

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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, Isabelle King at [iking@maineacademy.org](mailto:iking@maineacademy.org).

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### IMPORTANT DATES

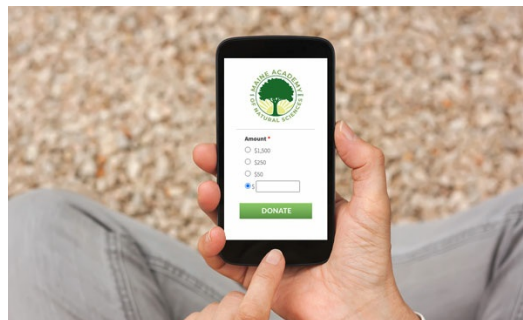
**2/5 - Community Learning Day**

**2/12 - Threshold Monday**

**2/20-23 February Vacation**



BY ALL   
MeANS



[DONATE NOW](#)



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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 Business Manager, Ashley Hyde at 419-0503, [ahyde@maineacademy.org](mailto:ahyde@maineacademy.org) [maineacademy.org/about/employment/](https://maineacademy.org/about/employment/)

Special Education ELA Teacher  
School Nurse, Part-time

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