



AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY  
& THE ENVIRONMENT

*May 2024*



## The Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

MeANS Community,

May is here and Spring is officially in full swing. The sunshine and warmth has students spending more and more time outside which is lifting spirits all around campus!

Two important requests: first, please sign up with your advisor for a **Student Led Conference**. They will take place on **Monday, May 13th and 20th**. SLC's are a wonderful time to connect with teachers and see the great work our students have been doing.



Second, we have begun the annual **Panorama Surveys**. The surveys are a vital way for our school to gather feedback from families. Computers will be set up at SLCs for parents to complete it, but if you'd like to do so from home, the following link and code will give you access to the survey: <https://surveys.panoramaed.com/mainecharter/> code: **2286088095**.

Lastly, it's **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!** We have been making breakfast, providing treats, and have a fun end-of-week get together planned. If you'd like to bring anything by to show your support of our outstanding educators, please do!

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

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**Student Led Conferences**  
**- Spring 2024 -**

**Monday, May 13th**  
**10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Monday, May 20th**  
**10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Maine Academy of Natural Sciences**





*Join the MeANS*



*Parent Volunteer  
Association!*

**NEXT MEETING: MAY 28 | 3 - 3:45 PM**

**TEXT @MEANSPV TO 81010 TO JOIN OUR  
REMIND, OR EMAIL  
GPETERSEN@MAINEACADEMY.ORG TO BE  
ADDED TO OUR EMAIL LIST!**







# 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

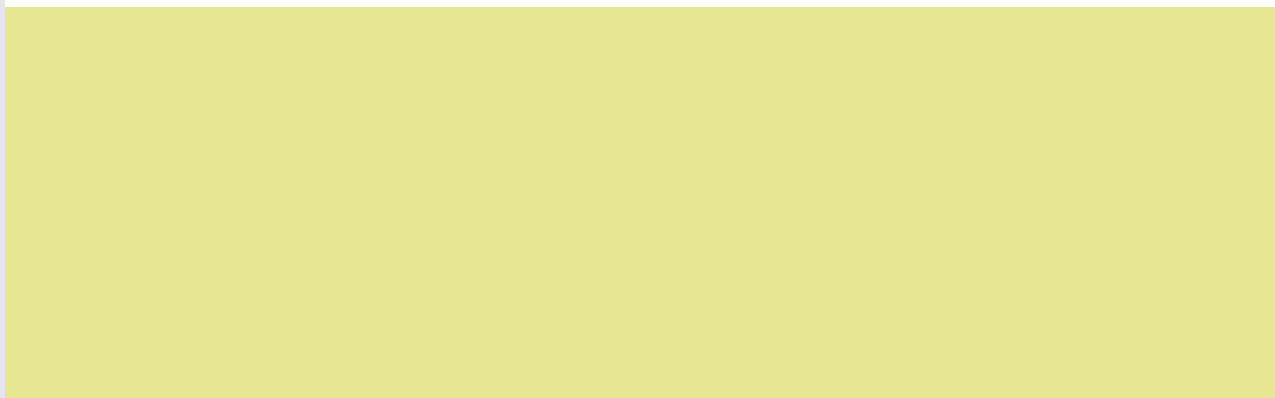


## PRESENTERS

- 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!!!



WE MEANS WELL 2024





## Threshold News

This month's Threshold Monday was another fun field trip. On May 6th Threshold students, teachers, staff, and a Board member loaded our big bus and headed to Fort Knox in Prospect ME. During the week prior to the trip students researched to learn more about the history of the fort. They also learned about the observatory that sits atop one of the bridge towers that spans the Penobscot River, linking Prospect with Verona Island. Upon arriving at Fort Knox we split into two groups, one headed straight to the observatory, and the other met with an extremely knowledgeable and fun tour guide. Who incidentally, reported to one of our teachers that we had one of the best groups of students that she had the pleasure to work with. Students and teachers alike got to tour the fort as well as go up the fast elevator 42 floors to the observatory. A highly recommended excursion!





## PAT'S PULSE

*Coming together as a Community*

In Search of: Laptops and Chargers

Hello again to the greater MeANS community! It's hard to believe that we're rounding the corner of the 2023-24 school year and heading into the 4th quarter. I know that with warmer weather often comes spring cleaning. A time to declutter, reorganize, and reassess. At MeANS we've been doing just that. We recently had a spring cleaning day for the whole school, and have been encouraging kids to take a few moments to reorganize themselves in preparation for this final stretch. During this process we have discovered just how many laptops and laptop chargers have been misplaced. Some have been found in corners of classrooms, or tucked away on bookshelves, but a number are still missing. That said, I'm asking all of our families to search their homes, under beds, and in backpacks for any laptops or chargers that may be laying around. Retrieving as many of these as possible helps us keep our own technology costs low, which in turn allows us to keep our yearly technology fees reasonable. Thank you all ahead of time for taking a few moments out of your day to do a quick search. Anything that has been found can be turned in to me, or your student's advisor. Thank you again, and here's to the beginning of a wonderful fourth quarter!

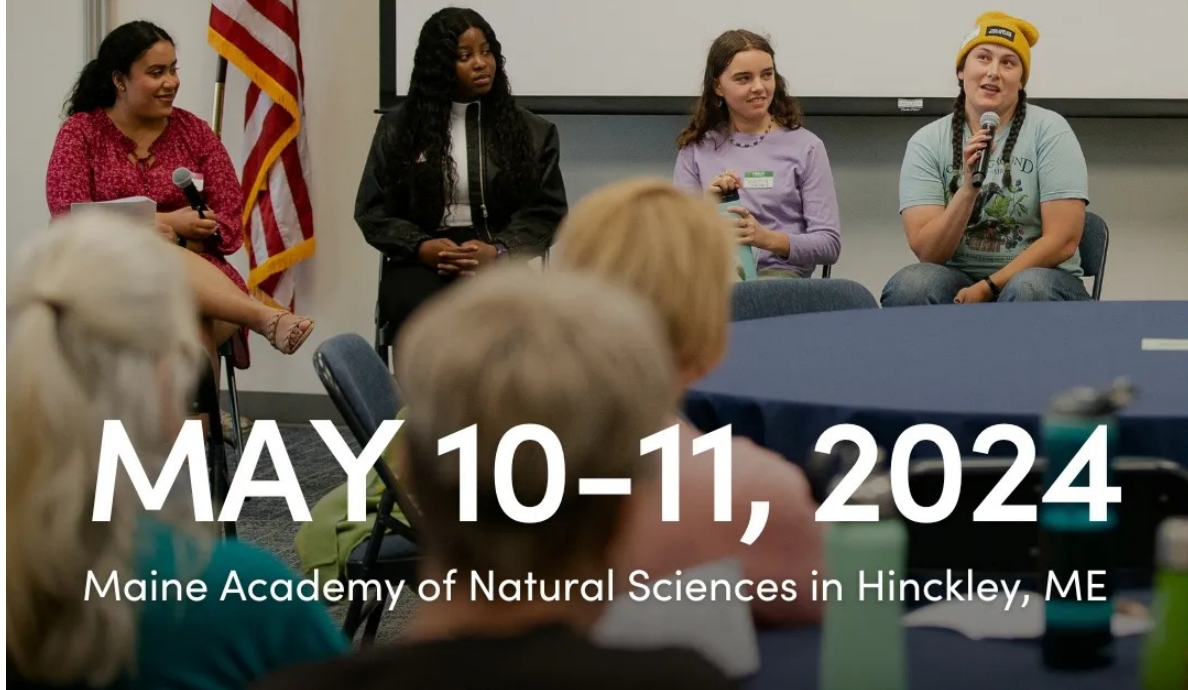


Pat Henyan  
Assistant Head of School



maine environmental  
education association

# annual conference

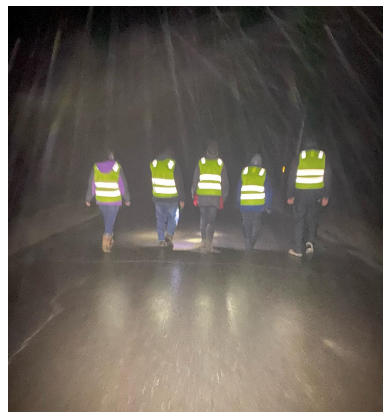


MAY 10-11, 2024

Maine Academy of Natural Sciences in Hinckley, ME

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**Maine Big Night** is a statewide community science project to gather data and help save Maine's amphibian populations. Every spring, frogs, toads, and salamanders emerge on the first rainy nights after the thaw and begin a harrowing mass migration toward their vernal pools, the seasonal wetlands where they themselves hatched. Unfortunately for the amphibians, roads and human developments now criss-cross and fragment their habitat, and road mortality is often extremely high.



That's where Maine Big Night volunteers come in. Armed with headlamps and safety vests, they adopt stretches of road along wetland areas, and serve as crossing guards and observers, identifying and documenting species. To qualify as volunteers, students in the MeANS Threshold Program studied the MBN handbook and passed the certification test covering safety procedures, identifying characteristics of different species, and safe amphibian handling techniques, along with the data collection and submission process. Our students and some of their family members braved the cold drizzle late into the night to save quite a few Spring Peepers, Wood Frogs, Green Frogs, Leopard Frogs, Spotted Salamanders,



and even a Red Eft!

The data we collected will also help guide conservation efforts by identifying population density and migration patterns so that we can help reduce the impact of human infrastructure and ensure the survival of these vital members of our ecosystem!



## Spring Coffee House

After making it through the never-ending Winter, students, faculty, friends, and family gathered once more on campus to welcome in the Spring with another wonderful Coffee House!

From original poetry, to chill-inducing covers, to imaginative stories, many beautiful words were shared alongside of plates of cookies, pastries, and a fresh pot of coffee. As always, these evenings remain truly memorable, so stay tuned for our **Summer Coffee House** coming this July outside!







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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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## Sophomore Acadia Trip, May 22 & 23



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Hey there Honeybees! We are happy to announce a new wellness project on campus, the Beehive! We have dedicated a closet on campus for

students in need of hygiene products, and have begun collecting donations of the items listed here. If you are able to donate and support our students, please bring any of these items to Kelsi on campus.

Thank you so much!

ATTENTION HONEYBEES!

# The Beehive

WE ARE CURRENTLY ASKING FOR DONATIONS OF:

- SOAP
- SHAMPOO
- FLOSS
- TOOTHPASTE
- TOOTHBRUSHES
- LOTION
- DEODORANT
- MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS
- HAND SANITIZER
- KLEENEX



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## April'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 is Bus Driver,  
**Joel Abbott**

Here is what his colleague's had to say:

*"I've had the pleasure of having Joel as a bus driver for some time. Joel's love for being a driver and care for students sticks out from any other bus driver I've ever had or met. Joel supports everyone who steps foot on his bus and does everything he can to go above and beyond for those around him. Thank you Joel for what you do for the school, it doesn't go unnoticed and congratulations!"*

*"Joel is a great employee to have. I love his little jingles in the mornings over the two-way radio. It always puts a smile on my face. He knows his students and engages and supports them on all different levels. He helps out with fixing the little things on the buses and vans. He helps out whenever there is a need."*

*"Smiles go a long way and Joel wears one every time he enters the building. His visits to the office are always upbeat and positive. Students appreciate the energy he brings to his bus runs and report feeling welcome as they enter each day. In addition to the effort he puts in to his daily tasks, Joel's investment in our community is clear. He often shares his ideas and communicates how he feels things can be improved. He shares solutions, not just problems."*





*Through snow and ice, rain and sleet, fog and sometimes even sunshine, Joel is out there ruling the roads, representing our school well and getting our kids safely to their destinations."*

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*you are formally invited to*

# PROM 2024

*at the*

*Maine Academy of Natural Sciences*

*◡*

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH @ 7 P.M.

*theme: outer space*

TICKETS: \$15 for one, \$25 for two

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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](http://maineacademy.org)  
13 Easler Rd  
Hinckley, ME 04944





# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

## AYCC Greenhouse and Garden Volunteers Needed!

- 1 or 2 student positions available
- 3 to 4 hours a week
- Reliable transportation required



**Talk to Matt or Gwyn about  
the position if interested!**

## Ode, Composed on a May Morning

By William Wordsworth

While from the purpling east departs  
The star that led the dawn,  
Blithe Flora from her couch upstarts,  
For May is on the lawn.  
A quickening hope, a freshening glee,  
Foreran the expected Power,  
Whose first-drawn breath, from bush and tree,  
Shakes off that pearly shower.

All Nature welcomes Her whose sway  
Tempers the year's extremes;  
Who scattereth lustres o'er noon-day,  
Like morning's dewy gleams;  
While mellow warble, sprightly trill,  
The tremulous heart excite;  
And hums the balmy air to still  
The balance of delight.

Time was, blest Power! when youth and maids  
At peep of dawn would rise,  
And wander forth, in forest glades  
Thy birth to solemnize.  
Though mute the song--to grace the rite  
Untouched the hawthorn bough,  
Thy Spirit triumphs o'er the slight;  
Man changes, but not Thou!

Thy feathered Lieges bill and wings  
In love's disport employ;  
Warmed by thy influence, creeping things

Cloud-piercing peak, and trackless heath,  
Instinctive homage pay;  
Nor wants the dim-lit cave a wreath  
To honor thee, sweet May!  
Where cities fanned by thy brisk airs  
Behold a smokeless sky,  
Their puniest flower-pot-nursling dares  
To open a bright eye.

And if, on this thy natal morn,  
The pole, from which thy name  
Hath not departed, stands forlorn  
Of song and dance and game;  
Still from the village-green a vow  
Aspires to thee address,  
Wherever peace is on the brow,  
Or love within the breast.

Yes! where Love nestles thou canst teach  
The soul to love the more;  
Hearts also shall thy lessons reach  
That never loved before.  
Stript is the haughty one of pride,  
The bashful freed from fear,  
While rising, like the ocean-tide,  
In flow the joyous year.

Hush, feeble lyre! weak words refuse  
The service to prolong!  
To yon exulting thrush the Muse

Awake to silent joy;  
Queen art thou still for each gay plant  
Where the slim wild deer roves;  
And served in depths where fishes haunt  
Their own mysterious groves.

Entrusts the imperfect song;  
His voice shall chant, in accents clear,  
Throughout the live-long day,  
Till the first silver star appear,  
The sovereignty of May.

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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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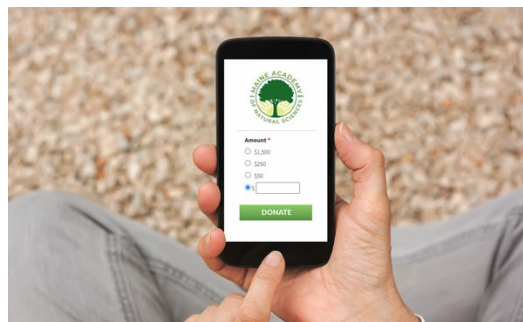
### IMPORTANT DATES

**5/13, 20 Student Led Conferences**

**6/3 Threshold Monday**

**6/10 Community Learning Day**

**BY ALL**  
  
**MeANS**



### DONATE NOW

Your tax-deductible donation helps us make a difference.

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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/](http://maineacademy.org/about/employment/)

School Nurse, Part-time  
Threshold Teacher  
Special Education Threshold Teacher



