



What We're Proud Of:

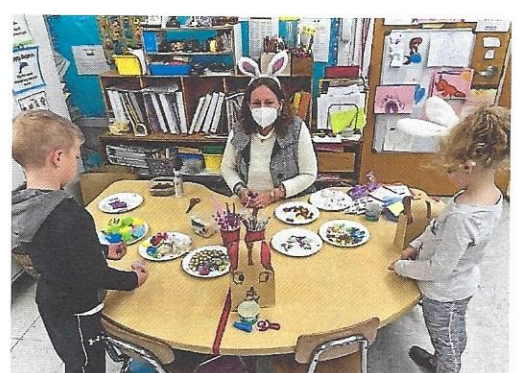
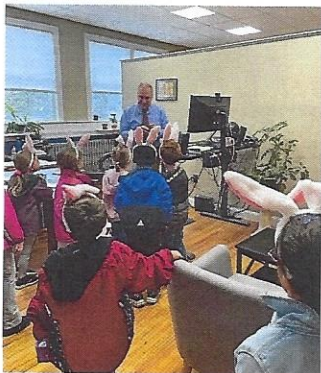
April 2022

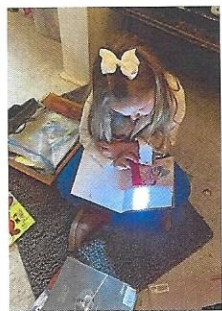


Atwood Primary School

Mrs. Roberts' kindergarten class turned into Easter bunnies and delivered Easter baskets to Principal McGee, Miss Rhoda in the main office, and Nurse Holly before venturing over to central office to share some Easter fun before April vacation!

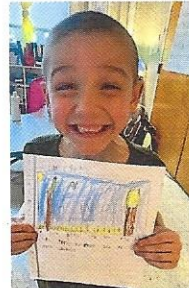
Atwood Primary kindergarten teacher, Debbie Gillcash, had her annual *Bunny Store* open for business! The day before April vacation the children were each given change and they were able to "buy" the items they wanted to place in their bunny bags. This taught the children the value of their coins and early financial literacy!



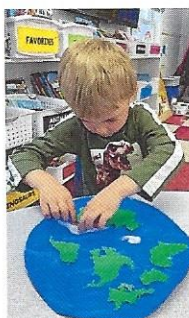


First grade students in Ms. Deane and Mrs. Desrosiers' class are benefiting from the generosity of Atwood's PTA! PTA funds were used to purchase reading carpets and flashlights to use for buddy reading, read to self, and *Flashlight Fridays*. Atwood loves their PTA and they love reading!

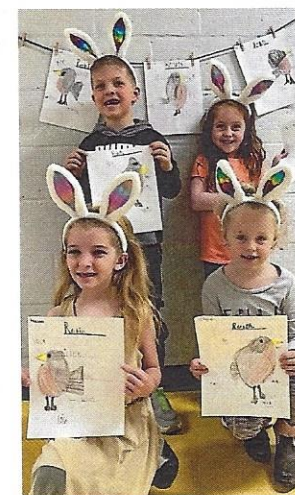
Students in Mrs. Desrosiers' class got to choose an animal and make a plan for what their habitat would look like. In the plan, they needed to tell teachers what materials they needed as well as draw a picture of their vision. Check out their final project dioramas! Can you spot the animals in each habitat?



Celebrating our planet! Atwood Primary School's preschool classes have been learning all about our planet in honor of Earth Day on April 22. The children learned so much with this theme! Through read alouds and various small group activities, they found out the Earth is made up of land and water. Through exploratory play, the students were exposed to maps, globes, and puzzles of our world. Both morning and afternoon Pre-K sessions created art projects of our world. Finally, these young learners found out how they can help the Earth (such as recycling, saving water, reusing items, not littering, and picking up trash). This next generation is ready to help care for our planet!

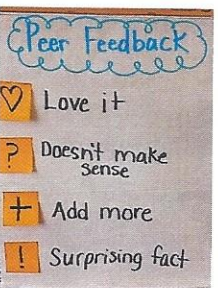


In April, the children in Mrs. Gillcash's kindergarten classroom listened to stories about spring. They learned that robins are a sign of spring. As an enrichment activity, the class did guided drawings of robins. Then they labeled the parts of the bird. This connected directly to their *how-to* writing unit. The children enjoyed this activity. Their drawings are displayed in the hallway for all to enjoy. They have also been learning about dinosaurs. It's no surprise that the T-Rex was one of their favorites. They did a second guided drawing of a T-Rex. This was another opportunity to practice creating diagrams.

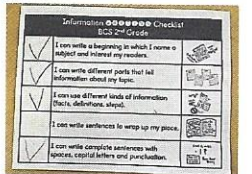
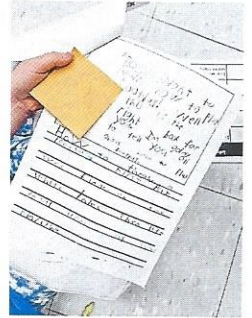


Belgrade Central School

Mrs. Wight's second grade class has spent some time learning about what it takes to grow plants. Students were able to identify that plants need water, sunlight, soil, and air to grow! Mrs. Wight's class had a lot of fun watching their seeds grow. Students were able to pick between green beans, marigolds, and sunflower seeds. Different seeds grew at different rates but each little sprout house had something growing!



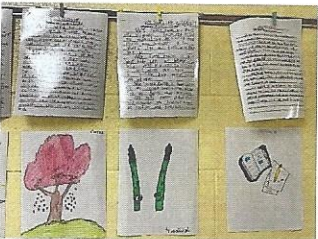
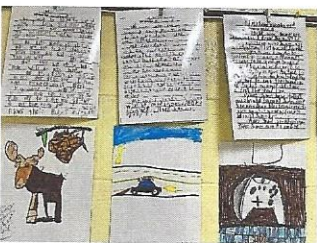
Mrs. Dunbar's class has been writing many, many nonfiction books! The students first brainstormed a list of topics that they were an expert on. Topics included ice fishing, bike riding, football, art, and more. Once the students selected their topic, they began drafting their books. The second graders learned about writing a lead that hooks their reader and states their topic. They worked to write a table of contents as well as to write different sections that tell different information about their topic. They learned how to include different kinds of information in their writing – including facts, definitions of keywords, and steps. The second graders also worked on writing a strong conclusion to wrap up their piece. This week, students selected their favorite book to take through the publishing process. Together the class developed a *Peer Feedback Chart* and took turns reading their partner's book and giving feedback. Students will use this feedback to revise their writing before typing it up later this week. Mrs. Dunbar's class will be holding a *Learning Expo* for students to share their published books after April vacation!

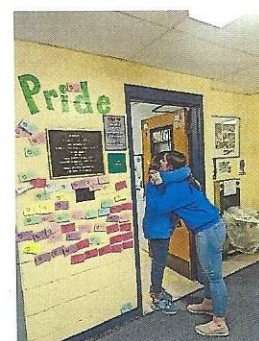
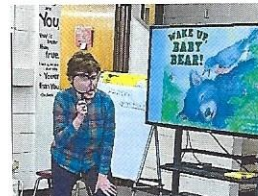


Belgrade Central School students held a fundraiser Friday, April 8th to support Ukraine. Students wore blue and yellow clothing, and some chose to wear hats in support. The Belgrade Central students donated a total of \$365.12 to help with the staff donation to UNICEF for Ukraine. In total, BCS raised \$800!



Miss Jacques' class has been working on Opinion Writing. Students worked hard on producing a thesis, a strong introduction, three body paragraphs to support their thesis, and a conclusion. Students then completed a directed drawing to support their writing topics.





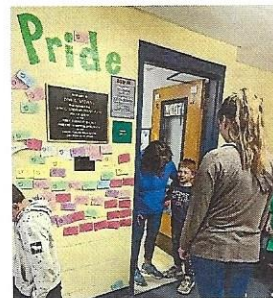
In PE class, all Preschool through fifth grade students participated in an activity called *Crossing the Kennebec*. The game included riding scooter boats to the docks before leaping over the river on river rocks and hopping on river stones to save the sea creatures from being trapped by the swollen waters of the Kennebec River! After saving the creatures, the students could climb the sea wall, walk through a sea tunnel, or travel above or below the tree branches hanging over the river. It was a tremendous jumping, leaping, and climbing activity for all grades!

Belgrade Central students spent a morning outside with Mrs. Bacon and Mr. Hine sweeping up sand and cleaning the the playground.



On Tuesday March 29th, kindergarten, first and second grade students at Belgrade Central School enjoyed their first in-person author visit in two years with the amazing Lynn Plourde! Each grade level session was full of smiles and laughter as Lynn used her energetic personality to read her books and talk with students about multiple writing strategies. Lynn shared her books as examples of how to use strategies like creating patterns, and encouraged students to find them in other books they read as well. Students and staff look forward to having Lynn Plourde back in the future. Mrs. Daniels, the school librarian, would like to thank The Stevens Fund for providing great opportunities like these for the students at Belgrade Central.

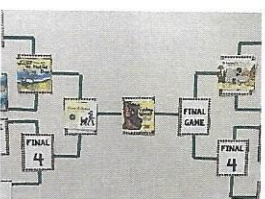
Belgrade Central was very sad to say goodbye to Mrs. Stevens. Mrs. Bacon organized a school wide parade to walk by the office and wish Mrs. Stevens all the best on her next adventure.



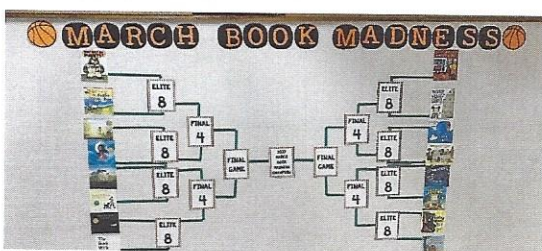
China Primary School

Students in Mrs. Gledhill's third grade class at China Primary School have been learning about weather hazards and ways to prepare. They have been working through *Mystery Science* lessons exploring the water cycle, predicting weather by looking at the clouds, and examining the climates of different regions of the world. In their experiment, students had to design a house that could withstand high winds. After their initial design, third graders could then make modifications to strengthen their houses. These scientists had so much fun!

Students in Miss Preston's second grade class filled their jewel jar and voted to have fried chicken as a reward! This was a new one for Miss Preston, and students were ecstatic.



During the last four weeks, students in Mrs. Bentley's fourth grade class have been working on something special during their reading block! It was *March Book Madness*, and students worked their way through a bracket of books to narrow it down from sixteen contestants to one final winner. Students were excited by the book bracket in the hallway and would often want to go look at it throughout this process! The class started with an introduction of the *Sweet 16* books with a Google Slide displaying the cover as Mrs. Bentley read aloud a brief paragraph summarizing each book. Students voted and narrowed it down to the *Elite 8*. Students were then split into groups where they read the book assigned to them and completed their own Google Slides presentation to share with the class. After narrowing it down to the *Final 4*, Mrs. Bentley read the books to the class and students completed a book review for each. Then there was a vote to determine the final match, which was *Rescue and Jessica* by Jessica Downes and Patrick Henkes versus *Finding Winnie* by Lindsay Mattick - both true and heartwarming stories. These two books the students chose over all the others truly goes to show how thoughtful and compassionate these kids are. The class then reread the books and students chose a character to analyze deeper through the character's words, thoughts, actions, and character traits. Then students completed a *March Book Madness* opinion organizer before making their final vote. The class' big winner was *Finding Winnie*!





Students in Mrs. Bentley's class also worked hard for many weeks on their informational writing and were excited to share it with their families at conferences! After working through the writing process and revising and editing their drafts, students worked in Google Slides - typing their work and adding a variety of text features. Mrs. Bentley then printed their pages in color for them to glue into hardcover books before laminating and mod-podging the covers to complete the publishing process. These books have been a hit in the hallway for the other students and adults walking by! One student who walked by even said, "I'm going to buy those books one day!" Mrs. Bentley hopes she is right and that they have a future author among them!

Students in Mrs. Bentley's class have continued to get their monthly books despite Scholastic struggling through some shipping issues at the start of the year! Here students are with a couple of the books they have received recently and some of the class' birthday book recipients!



Earlier this year, Mrs. Bullard applied and received a grant from Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA). This grant has allowed her to take learning beyond the classroom walls regardless of the weather and season. Mrs. Bullard's kindergarten class have used their new binoculars to search the sky and tree tops for various types of birds. This winter they spent time exploring and identifying tracks in the snow. They also used their magnifying glasses to take a closer look at the bark on different types of trees. The class also received "explorer bags." They have loved using these!



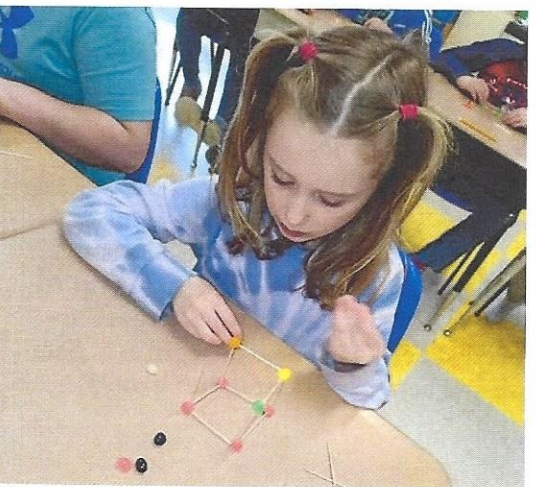
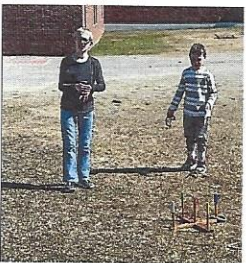
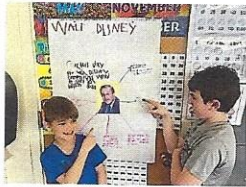
James H. Bean School

The students in Mrs. Dutil's multiage class at the James H. Bean School have spent the last few weeks learning about certain topics using the *Jigsaw Method*. Every student is tasked with becoming an expert on one subject. After researching their individual subject matter, the students are placed in groups where each child shares the information they've gathered as the "expert" of their specific topic. By the end of the activity, each student becomes an expert on their subject while learning about three other topics from their fellow classmates. These students have learned about athletes, musicians, scientists, famous people who have struggled with disabilities, and parts of our judicial system using this instructional strategy.

James H. Bean students in Mrs. Paradis' first and second grade music classes took advantage of the beautiful springtime weather this past month by heading outside to play some circle games! Mrs. Ridgeway's second graders enjoyed playing *Old King Glory* and *Charlie Over the Ocean* while Ms. Dustin's first graders played *Little Sally Walker* and *Circle Round the Zero!* What better way to strengthen musical skills than outside in the warm sunshine!

Miss Dustin's first graders and Mrs. Hopper's fifth graders spent time outside exploring the new playground games at JHB! Each fifth grader paired up with a first grader and showed them how to play cornhole, capture the flag, and ring toss. They spent time explaining the rules, engaging in meaningful conversations, and being positive role models for their first grade students. Miss Dustin's class enjoyed every moment and one student even said, "This was the best day ever!" What a fun way to spend a beautiful, sunny, warm April afternoon!

Mrs. Dutil's multi-age class and long-term substitute Mrs. Doyon's class teamed up to plan some fun activities. Mrs. Doyon completed a S.T.E.M activity for both classes to complete. Students were challenged to build a home for their marshmallow Peep using toothpicks and jelly beans. Mrs. Dutil had created an egg hunt activity. Once the students ran around outside and found all the egg pieces, they had to solve multiplication number sentences that were on half of the eggs. After, they had to find the product on the other piece of the egg that matched. Lots of learning and fun was had by all participants!





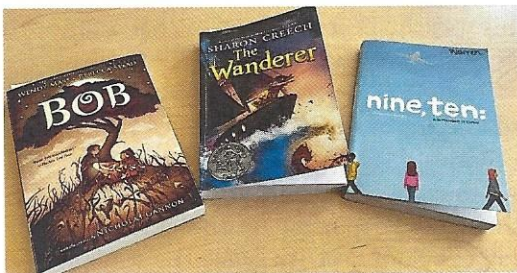
Williams Elementary

Author Visit: On April 5th and 6th, award winning author Mary Cerullo met with students and staff in the WES library to discuss her book, *Giant Squid*. Mary Cerullo is the Associate Director of Friends of Casco Bay and is the Communications Coordinator for the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance. She was named Maine Outstanding Educator of the Year and is the author of numerous nonfiction books for children. Williams Elementary extends their thanks to the PTA for helping fund this event and ensuring that every WES student took home a signed copy of Mary's book, *Giant Squid*. Students have been preparing for Mary's visit by learning about our oceans and the diversity of life they hold. The students even compiled a "book" for Mary about all the things students learned. One lucky student who participated in the library learning challenge won a "pirate's treasure chest." All students received a real fossilized shark tooth after Mary's presentation.

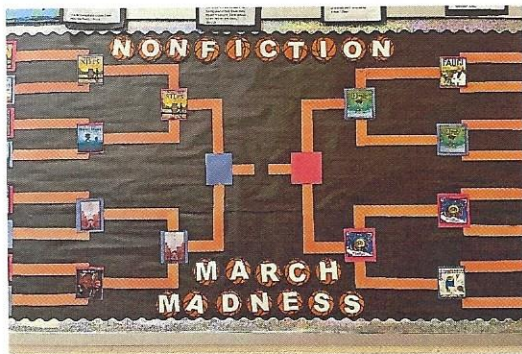


Library Book Ambassadors: After April vacation, students will be invited to become book ambassadors. They will meet with their librarian, Mrs. Smith, to help select books to add to the library collection for the 2022-2023 school year. This new program is designed to help engage and excite students about the wonder of books and create lifelong readers.

Fifth Grade Reading Groups: The fifth grade classes at WES have just started their first novel in reading groups. Each group is focusing on character perspectives and how that influences a story. Ms. Warren says, "It has been so rewarding to watch students' excitement about their book and watch them have powerful conversations with their peers. I am proud of their work-ethic and their love for reading!"

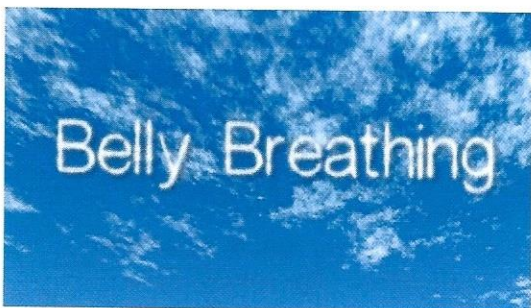


Williams Elementary March Madness: Another proud moment Ms. Warren shares is watching her students be so involved in choosing the final two nonfiction books for their annual *March Madness Book Tournament*. Before they left for April vacation, the winner was chosen! Ms. Warren shares, "It has been such a joy to read these books to my students, and vote for our class favorites."



Portland Sea Dogs Award Recipients: The following WES staff were recognized by Principal Smith on April 6th as Portland Sea Dogs Educator Appreciation Recipients: Brynn Charest, Karen Mayo, Emmy Warren, Amy Peterson, Cynthia Christopher, Chad Parisi, Christine Meader, Jess Jolicoeur, and Candace Tardif. The above staff were recognized at the April 19th Sea Dogs game. Becky Poulin was recognized on April 7 for being nominated as a Portland Sea Dogs Bus Driver Appreciation Recipient. Ms. Poulin dedicates time and effort to getting to know each student on her bus. Bus drivers from across the state were recognized at the Portland Sea Dogs game on April 21st. Sam

Dunbar, Dillon Clark, and Jenny McGee were also recognized for going above and beyond in their duties to help their schools run efficiently.

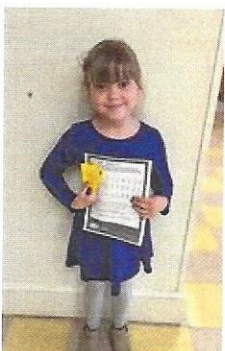


Counselor's Corner: The 2nd step lessons have been very successful this year! Classes have wrapped up their child safety lessons before February break and finished their emotion management skills through March. Students now recognize that when they have escalated feelings, they need to stop, name their feelings, and calm down. They learned about belly breathing, counting, and using finger movements to distract them when they are frustrated and upset.

- S-** Say the Problem
- T-** Think of all possible solutions
- E-** Explore the consequences of each solution
- P-** Pick the best solution

April brings the problem solving unit where students are learning the steps to solving problems. As long as students remember there are steps, they will remember how to solve problems because STEP is an acronym to the steps they should take to solve the problems they face. After April vacation, they will finish their problem solving unit, and then move onto their career exploration unit to finish off the year. Remember to care for yourself too! Read a book, listen to music, go to the Sea Dogs, meditate, go to our district offered yoga class. Don't forget the most important thing you can do for your mental health - take care of your physical health and exercise!

Third Grade Biography Presentations: This month, Williams Elementary third graders wrapped up their biography unit in reading! In Ms. Robinson's classroom, the students were faced with an opportunity to learn about a famous person. The students spent many days learning about their chosen person as well as how to write about their subject's life in sequential order. The class used timelines to come up with three big topics from their chosen person's early life, middle life, and late life. Students were given the opportunity to dress up as the person they researched and bring in or make an item that represented their person. The third graders all gave wonderful presentations of their chosen subject and got very creative with their outfits and items that represented their person! Ms. Robinson stated, "I am beyond proud of the third graders' hard work and dedication to their schoolwork!" Can you guess who these students learned about?



During the month of April in PE, students participated in lacrosse activities and worked on different skills such as catching, throwing, cradling, and ground balls! They enjoyed playing *Lacrosse Tag* which encompassed all of those skills. Students also used the paddles to play a group game called *Striker Ball*, where they practiced their forehand and backhand skills.

China Middle School

March Madness Project: Students in Mrs. Dugan's seventh grade math classes participated in a *March Madness Basketball Project*. Using the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, students had to make different brackets - a GUT bracket, real statistical bracket, semi-real statistical bracket, and a fake statistical bracket. Throughout the project students investigated what March Madness NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament is, collected and analyzed statistical data related to March Madness, created a master spreadsheet of classroom data to be used to create brackets, created brackets and traced their success or failure during the competition (also compared to other classmates), and analyzed and reflected on how their brackets did during the competition as well as improvements that could have been made. In the end, the student with the most correct picks for the tournament was Dylan with 39 correctly picked games. Other top scores were: Isabella with 38 correct, Connor with 36 correct, and Ivyn with 35 correct.

Rank	Player	Team	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks	Field Goal %	Free Throw %	Points Per Game	Rebounds Per Game	Assists Per Game	Steals Per Game	Blocks Per Game	Minutes Per Game
1	Isabella	Indiana	31.4	11.4%	66.6	3	48.95%	73.2	477	59.9%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600
2	Dylan	North Carolina	28.6	11.1%	74.8	6	43.75%	75	368	55.4%	20.5	197	22.2	2.2	3184
3	Connor	Arizona	28.5	10.7%	74.8	6	43.75%	75	368	55.4%	20.5	197	22.2	2.2	3184
4	Ivyn	Arizona	27.9	10.5%	73.3	5	45.29%	72.2	472	59.7%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600
5	Maxwell	Arizona	26.5	10.3%	73.3	5	45.29%	72.2	472	59.7%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600
6	Connor	Arizona	26.5	10.3%	73.3	5	45.29%	72.2	472	59.7%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600
7	Chloe	New Jersey	21.10	8.7%	71.1	11	48.51%	70.1	408	57.7%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600
8	Isabella	New Jersey	21.10	8.7%	71.1	11	48.51%	70.1	408	57.7%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600
9	Isabella	New Jersey	21.10	8.7%	71.1	11	48.51%	70.1	408	57.7%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600
10	Isabella	New Jersey	21.10	8.7%	71.1	11	48.51%	70.1	408	57.7%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600
11	Isabella	New Jersey	21.10	8.7%	71.1	11	48.51%	70.1	408	57.7%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600
12	Isabella	New Jersey	21.10	8.7%	71.1	11	48.51%	70.1	408	57.7%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600
13	Isabella	New Jersey	21.10	8.7%	71.1	11	48.51%	70.1	408	57.7%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600
14	Isabella	New Jersey	21.10	8.7%	71.1	11	48.51%	70.1	408	57.7%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600
15	Isabella	New Jersey	21.10	8.7%	71.1	11	48.51%	70.1	408	57.7%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600
16	Isabella	New Jersey	21.10	8.7%	71.1	11	48.51%	70.1	408	57.7%	21.81	224	18.6	5.7	3600



Messalonskee Middle School

Shoutout to Becca Childs, Messalonskee Middle School and Messalonskee High School chorus teacher, for organizing an amazing experience for the sixth grade chorus students. On Friday, April 1st, they sang the National Anthem before the Maine Mariners semi-pro hockey game in Portland. We love seeing our students thrive and get the attention they deserve as the wonderful people they are!



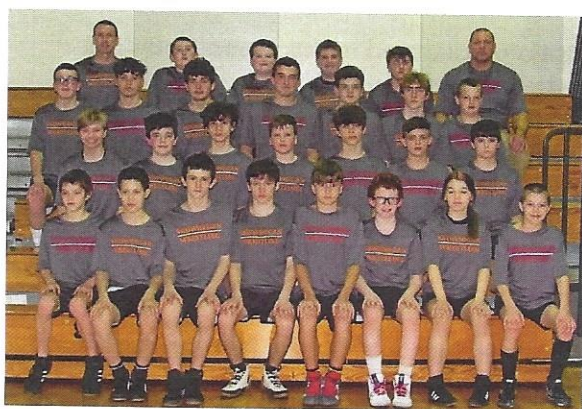
Ms. Sweeney's MMS Beginning Spanish students explored a "pop-up" museum in the hallways, with colorful artwork from artists from Spanish-speaking countries. They are learning adjectives, and used their vocabulary to describe what each painting looked like. As they walked through the museum, they listened to a recording of Paco de Lucía, a famous Spanish guitarist.



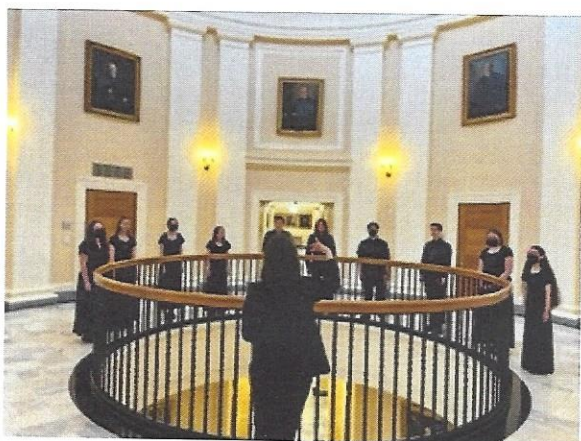
Scan QR code with your camera to view the website!



On Wednesday, April 6th, MMS had a nice presentation with *Count Me In* and Team Dirigo. One of the students, Brynn Arceo, won first prize in the 2021 poster contest. She had drawn the poster back in 6th grade, but Covid slowed down their process. Here is a picture of Brynn describing her poster to the team alongside Susan Lieberman from *Count Me In*! You can see Brynn's winning poster on the website.



Messalonskee Middle School had eleven of its students participate in the *Pine Tree League* in the sport of wrestling. The *Pine Tree League* consists of 24 teams across Maine. At the league meet on April 2nd, this club team of Messalonskee independents placed eighth place. In addition, this team won three of its dual meets this year, and won their first home dual in school history! Team members were Daymion LeBlanc, Les Ridley, Austyn Frost, Jacob Towle, Gabe Belanger, Lily Crockett, Reilly McLean, Justin Murphy, Preston Bean, Scout Engleright, and Isaiah Tracy. League tournament placers were Scout Engleright in 1st, Daymion LeBlanc in 2nd, Gabe Belanger in 3rd, and Les Ridley in 4th. Coach Pat Engleright and Coach Steven Rice will be running an after school program at Williams Elementary beginning on April 14th open to 3rd - 5th grade students.



Messalonskee High School

Our Master Singers recently performed at the State Capitol. They sang the National Anthem at the start of a legislative session on April 13th.



Team 2648 won their first event of the year. This win allows them to compete in the District Championships being held in Worcester, Massachusetts on April 13th.

Messalonskee High School would like to recognize students from MMTC who received gold, silver, and bronze medals in their recent state competition.

Gold: Cody Knox (Mobile Robotics)
Silver: Michael D'Amico (Internetworking)
Bronze: Ben Penttila (Outdoor Leadership), Justin Sardano (Television Video Production), and Riley Lam (Wedding Cake Decorating)

Other competitors are Jordan Harris, Nick Breton, Adam Brann, Dana Stevens, Dylan Milligan, Nigel Thurston, Carter Bragg, Syleena Milligan, Sofija Kleinschmidt, and Zach Vashon.

Congratulations to all who participated in this event. Cody, as a gold medalist, will represent the state of Maine in the *National SkillsUSA Championships* in late June down in Atlanta, Georgia.

Through the fundraising efforts of our staff and students, Messalonskee High School recently collected almost \$1,800 to donate to the UNICEF Relief Efforts for the people of Ukraine. Well done MHS Eagles!

Hats off to our Messalonskee High School players as they did an amazing job performing *Puffs* last month.

Sherrie Damon and crew did an amazing job hosting the annual *Empty Bowls* dinner. As usual, the bowls that were made by students and staff were awesome. All proceeds went to the local food banks within the district.

