





WMHS Leadership Update

12.10.19

By Charles Lomonte

- Congratulations to our **"Students of the Quarter"** that were honored in November. It's wonderful for our hard working students to be recognized and celebrated. This was a good motivator for some of our students. Thanks to our staff for supporting our students.
 - Special thanks to Ms. Paradis and Ms. Bell for their **Bowdoin College** visit at Maine Aspirations Day on Friday, November 15th. It's great for our underclassmen to consider possible avenues for their future!
 - WMHS **"Turkey Thyme"** began on November 13th and ended on November 22nd. This year, instead of working as Advisor Groups, students be worked as whole classes to bring in food items for needy families in our community. The senior and junior classes brought the most food and earned \$100 each for their class treasury and a 2019 "Turkey Thyme" Winner Certificate!!
 - This year's **fall production** was well attended and featured eighteen actors, many of them new, in middle school and high school. Of the nine actors in the MS play "Ghost Light," five were new, all 6th graders. The HS show "Typecast," featured our foreign exchange student Daryna Yesyp. Also new to the HS stage were Chloe Smiley, Joan Wentworth, and Johnathan Cooley. Five veteran actors rounded out the HS cast. Senior Olivia Demeny made her debut as a director of the MS cast. Special thanks to Ms. Phillips for her hard work and efforts on the shows.
 - Our **financial fitness** event last week helped many of our students consider their finances and start to think about their financial future. Special thanks to Ms. Paradis for coordinating the event with over 17 volunteers from our community.
 - Check out this ASCD article regarding encouraging writing in math that our staff reviewed: *"When teachers understand the key purposes for having students do mathematical writing, they can use that writing to deepen understanding."*
Here is the link to the article:
<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/feb17/vol74/num05/Why-Should-Students-Write-in-Math-Class%C2%A2.aspx>
 - **Leadership Team** met after the Thanksgiving break on Wednesday, December 4th @ 2:40 P.M. to discuss the grading practices at WMHS.
 - Special thanks to Mr. Cossette for getting our **basketball season** underway. Schedules throughout the MVC are constantly moving as teams make adjustments. This is a
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challenging moving target that requires patience and diligence. Thanks for your hard work Mr. Cossette.

- Wednesday, December 18th is our next **early release day**. Our meeting will begin in the Library where we will review MEA, SAT, and summary information from the ESEA Dashboard from the Maine Department of Education.
- Our **budget process** is now underway. Staff have submitted their budgets for administrative review.
- 7th grade life science students participated in a **live Zoom** meeting with Dr David Fields from Bigelow Labs while he is at **Palmer Station in Antarctica**. We heard about the challenges of getting to and doing science in such a remote location as well as about Dr. Field's study of krill and what makes them school. We will be communicating questions by email and hope to learn more about his work. Special thanks to Ms. Sinclair for coordinating this project.
- The "**Points of Light**" helps kids in need in our school. If you would like to help bring a bit of holiday joy to these students, please come to the Mac Lab and choose a gift tag and sign your name. The purchased gift will need to be wrapped with the gift tag attached. All donated gifts must be returned to Mrs. Pooler in the Mac Lab by December 20th. Thank you in advance for your help with this important annual effort during this season of giving to others.
- Our **Parent Advisory Council** meets this Thursday, December 12th @ 5:00 P.M. in the administrative conference room. All are welcome to attend.
- Please note there will be a **Holiday Assembly** on Friday, December 20, 2019. All groups should convene in the Gym at 1:40 P.M. There will be holiday performances as we share the joy of this holiday season.
- Check out the **wreath** created by Ms. Andersson's students for the Wiscasset Holiday Winterfest that happened this weekend (6,7,8th) in town. It reflects the spirit of WMHS!! The Wiscasset Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the Winterfest.

Wiscasset School Board Report

12/10/19

By

Ken Spinney II, Special Education Director

- Most importantly, I want to thank our special education staff for the work they are doing. I am aware of several staff going above and beyond to support students with disabilities and some very unique situations. I am appreciative to have such a talented and dedicated staff who I see working very hard. Several have taken on additional roles without even asking that has been helpful with the transition into my new position.
- Thanks to Terry, Chuck, Warren, and Julie for all of their hard work and communication. They have been great trying to bring me up to speed with past and current practices.
- Since October 15th, we have been working diligently on correcting required Department of Education past and present end of year reports and local entitlement forms/applications. Barbara McGowan who works with the Maine Department of Education has been instrumental in supporting with this, as well as, Lisa Dinsmore and Julie Lutkus.
- On November 20th, our special education staff received professional development on how to develop appropriate IEPs and other paperwork in accordance with Department of Education expectations. We also had a representative here working with our staff on questions they had regarding the electronic data management system we use for special education and Section #504 plans. Staff were able to ask questions and together we made some revisions in the program that will assist with documentation and communications.
- Currently, our district has a corrective action plan from the State of Maine Special Education Department. Every few years, the Department of Education completes a special education review and makes recommendations that have to be adhered to. I have met with staff, apprised them of what modifications in our procedures and paperwork need to be made, and plan on providing further training.
- On December 18th, Roberta Lucas, who works at the Maine Department of Education (Special Ed. Department) will be presenting best practices in special education for our staff on our early release day. She is one of the lead staff for completing special education reviews across the state.

- Several of our staff are being trained/recertified for Safety Care which is a need for addressing students in crisis. Thanks to Abigail Lourie for doing this.
- Currently, we are working on completing a corrective action plan due to a special education fiscal audit. We are close to submitting necessary documentation for completion by the end of the school-year.
- We have contracted with Greater Brunswick Physical Therapy to provide physical therapy services for students who require them as part of their special education programming.
- Recently, we started a new billing formula for districts who send students to Wiscasset High School that receive special education and related services. This formula is accurate and representative of what it truly costs to provide appropriate special education and related services as part of student Individualized Educational Plans (IEP's).
- We have a jail in our community (Two Bridges Regional Jail-TBRJ). They can detain/incarcerate up to 180 inmates. They have inmates from several Maine counties. Due to this fact, I am working with TBRJ and Merrymeeting to develop a clear and concise process of communication for when young adults are present there and in need of educational programming.
- Christina Ferreira, Assistant Director, will be returning to work on Monday, December 9th. I have been conferring with her about her return and how to work together on several areas of need.
- Recently, I attended a Drummond Woodsum workshop at the Augusta Civic Center on school discipline law and best practices. I have a copy of the booklet they provided if any board member would like to review. It is fascinating material and highly informative.



Leadership Update

December 10, 2019

Transportation –

- The garage service air compressor experienced a catastrophic failure in early November. The motor needed to be replaced as well as all of the wiring and conduit from the compressor to the throw switch, and wiring and conduit from the throw switch to the breaker panel. The compressor provides service air for all of the lifts, air powered tools and wrenches, fill stations, and the waste oil furnace
- On the morning of November 18th we discovered that we had no hot water anywhere in the garage. We discovered that the hot water tank was 22 years old, so while we had the wall torn apart I replaced it rather than replace thermostat controls and heating elements
- The tire balancer is also on the blink. We had a service provider come to the garage. He feels there appears to be several contact switches that are not working. He tried a new switch, no change. The switches, if available are around \$300.00 each. This model is obsolete so I will be budgeting for a new tire balancer
- I will be working with our mechanic and discussing the need for newer up to date diagnostic software. This will be a topic for budget discussions



Facilities –

- Paving: We need to put a plan together on addressing the driveways and parking lots. We are spending a astronomical amount of time weed whacking and trimming grass along sidewalks/curbing/parking areas. This gets done 3-4 times per summer
 - Roofing: Our roofing systems are very old. A large amount of the roof drains on the ballasted roof on the 1951 wing at WES are higher than the roof line, meaning all of the water doesn't drain. It ponds around the drain, freezes in the winter, and damages the rubber roofing causing leaks. I will be working with our roofing contractor G&E Roofing to come up with a course of action for the near term.
 - The maintenance equipment storage building at WES is now weather tight and ready for storing equipment.
 - There has been 2 more service calls recently for roofing issues on our two oldest roofs at WES and WMHS. These are the last two ballasted roofs that we have left in the district. These particular roofs are over 20 years past their expired warranty periods which was 1998.
 - Piping associated with a roof drain in the Phys. Ed office at WMHS has rusted from the inside out, fortunately discovered by staff before too much water damage was done. A temporary repair is in place. A permanent repair will be included in the next budget.
 - Preventive maintenance on the boilers and heating systems is scheduled for this month, and not October as reported earlier. This is a twice per year contracted activity provided by our heating and mechanical contractor Siemens.
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