

# Community Connections

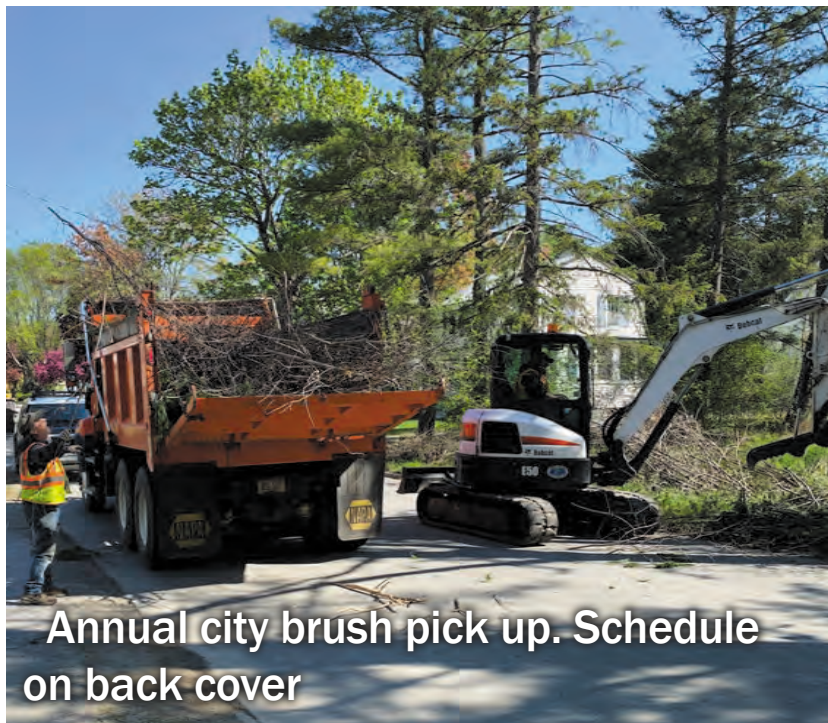
## RSU 34

Alton • Bradley • Old Town

## FEB 2023

*Spring has  
sprung  
in Old Town*

OTES students growing gourmet mushrooms, pg. 17



Annual city brush pick up. Schedule on back cover

City-wide paving has begun



*City Spring Clean-up Events on the Back Cover!*

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# RSU #34 2022-23 Year in Review



Matt Cyr

## Superintendent Matt Cyr

### Dear RSU #34 Community,

RSU #34 is proud to share the wonderful efforts of our students and staff in Alton, Bradley, and Old Town.

This past

Class B Championships from the North Region

- multiple PVC Championship teams and league championships for the school.
- Two Coaches nominated for National Coach of the Year through NFHS - Dave Ploch in Swim, and Rod White in Track & Field
- Multiple Athletes committed to D3/D2 Athletics in College, and 1 Member of our athletic community committed to a D1 Program for athletics.

All our programs are experiencing growth and sustainable numbers, with winning records each season.

**Our high school robotics team enjoyed success** in regional competition, and was invited to the state competition! Our middle school and upper-elementary school robotics teams began preparation and competition this year; it's been great to be back on track after a hiatus during the pandemic!

**We've been excited to add World Languages and Cultures to our curriculum** at the elementary and middle school grade spans, a long-term goal requested by our communities. Senora Overturf (LMS) and Senora Tagg (elementary schools) have quickly become integral members of our staff!

\*Two more RSU #34 staff received statewide honors; congratulations to Mrs. Kim Ketch and Mrs. Tracey O'Connell for being recognized with statewide awards in school counseling! In recent years other RSU #34 staff have been recognized as Maine's Gifted/Talented Educator of the Year, Maine's Curriculum Leader of the Year, and with a Superintendent's Leadership award.

OTHS Social Studies teachers Mrs. Christina Turner and Mr. Michael May are nominees for **Penobscot County Teacher of the Year!**

**Old Town High School continues to expand Early College options for students.** OTHS students can earn college credit while in high school through AP courses, concur-

rent enrollment courses, direct college courses, and through coursework at United Technologies Center. Last school year OTHS students earned a combined 420 college credits. This year, at least two students will graduate with both a high school diploma and an Associate's Degree!

**OTHS JROTC** once again earned the highest possible rating, Honor Unit with Distinction. It's not easy - but they make it look easy!

**The Class of 2022** at Old Town High School earned a whopping **\$2,100,000 in scholarships.**

**The OTHS 1-Act Play** represented OTHS well at this year's regional competition. This year our 5th grade students performed Seussical as their musical for the spring. They performed at two assemblies, a matinee for the community, and a night performance for families.

Our **elementary chorus** performed for students in grades K-3 to inspire future singers during earth day and world of work celebrations.

Our **fourth and fifth grade band members** are gearing up for their spring concert on May 25th which will include 70 chorus members and 90 instrumentalists.

**Five of our elementary band students were chosen to participate in the district V Elementary Honors Band** festival in Guilford, Maine.

**Leonard Middle School athletics are having a great year;** due to high levels of student interest we are adding more competitive teams for winter sports.

We have added services to students at LMS and OTHS through a **grant partnership with Penquis CAP**, and have applied for another grant with Penquis to fund even more K-8 service to students.

We've worked to turn the corner from the stress and worry of the pandemic years to a **"Choose Happy"** theme, with district-wide spirit days combined with fundraisers for special causes.

While there is much good news to celebrate, our staff is not resting on their laurels. Efforts underway include:

**Facilities audits** of each of our schools to ensure we are doing what's needed to provide great learning en-

vironments for our students over the next several decades.

Planning to give students opportunities for **international trips**

Making **staffing adjustments to follow enrollment bubbles and dips, meeting student needs.** In recent years this shift has been decreasing enrollment at the elementary level (birth rates have declined in our three communities), with steady enrollment and some bubbles at the middle and high school levels. With 120 two-bedroom apartments under construction in Old Town, we know that pattern may shift.

**Security upgrades** at our schools, such as improved entry-ways, camera systems, and access control.

Efforts to **increase communications** with our school community through our websites, print communication, and social media presence

**Internal reorganization of behind-the-scenes roles** to ensure we are performing critical functions efficiently, but with sufficient cross-training to ensure reliability

**Proactive budgeting approaches** with an eye on potential community-wide financial challenges; as we write the Old Town Mill is on a temporary shut-down.

**A long-range facilities planning/advisory group** was initiated last fall with invited members representing each municipality, the RSU #34 administrative team and RSU #34 school board. This group has discussed RSU #34 facilities, the above mentioned enrollment trends, regional housing projects, and looked to identify district programming efficiencies.

The RSU #34 School Board has begun work on a complete **policy review** using support from Maine School Management Association (MSMA).

We have begun two important district projects—a **marketing and rebranding project** geared towards attracting employees and new families to our district, and are currently in the early phases of the development of a 5-year strategic plan.

**We have much to be proud of in RSU #34. Thank you to each of our communities for your continued support.**

# RSU #34 2023-2024 Budget Message

## TO THE CITIZENS OF REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT #34:

Regional School Unit #34 Board members, at their meeting held on May 17, 2023 adopted a budget plan for the 2023-2024 (FY24) year. The budget recommended by the Board totals \$23,557,000 as compared to the current year spending budget of \$22,835,000 (a 3.1% increase).

We developed this year's budget with a focus on maintaining and growing a strong, comprehensive PK-12th grade program for all of our students, while being responsible with community taxation. During times of high inflation, we believe a 3.1% increase is quite reasonable, especially considering the need to navigate factors such as, an increase in valuation within each of our communities, significant increases in energy and other fixed costs, the end of COVID relief funds, and changes in student enrollment. This budget will enable our schools to continue to deliver a program our communities can be proud of.

Funding for the proposed \$23,557,000 budget will come from multiple sources. We project \$2,018,425.80 in tuition revenue, \$269,500 in reimbursements and revenues for other educational services, and \$12,857.05 in adult education subsidy. General Purpose Aid for Education provided by the State of Maine as calculated using the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) funding model based on the Governor's proposed budget will provide \$12,435,331.92 (also referred to as 'State subsidy'). To receive this funding from the State of Maine, all towns must raise a 'required local share' through a local property tax. The required local share is set by the State this year at 6.97 mils (based on the total property valuation of each member community) for the coming year. Using this formula, Alton will be required to raise \$343,504.83; Bradley will be required to raise \$861,956.67; and Old Town will

be required to raise \$3,528,678.67. Finally, 'local additional' funds will be assessed to the member communities through the cost sharing formula that was developed as a part of the organizational structure of the RSU, adopted by voters in January of 2008. This local assessment will raise \$2,567,119.67 to balance the FY24 budget.

Two factors are critical to the computation of 'State subsidy' as well as 'local additional' cost sharing. They are total local property valuation as set by the State of Maine (which significantly increased this year), and student population (which has decreased at the elementary grade span). The combined impact of a valuation increase and enrollment decrease has negatively impacted the amount of State subsidy we received, and increased the local additional as required by the EPS formula. This translates to RSU #34 receiving \$49,278.03 less State subsidy com-

pared to last year, while our member communities will be required to pay an increase of \$269,541.83 in local additional (also when compared to last year). The total amount assessed to our communities will increase by \$537,765.38, or a net increase of 7.48%.

To achieve a responsible budget that maintains and grows student opportunities, RSU #34 made these significant shifts after considerable staff, community, and School Board deliberation:

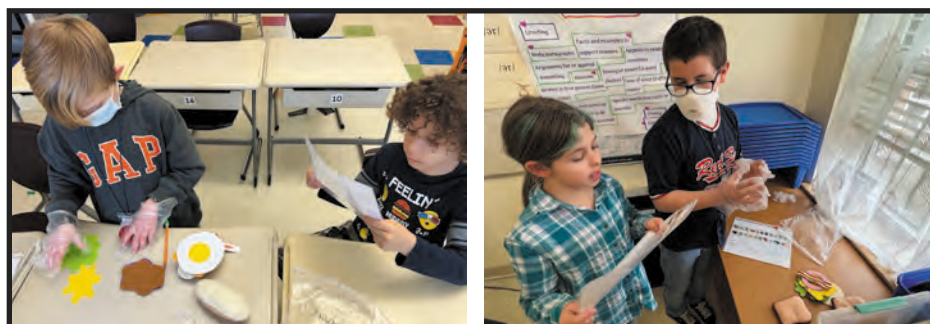
Eliminate two teaching roles and two educational technician roles, reflecting a decline in enrollment in grades PK-6, and cognisant of the challenge to taxpayers that our overall budget presents (Note: enrollment projections for next year yield 115 fewer students in grades PK - 6 when compared to district enrollment three years ago.)

Continued pg. 8

# Hola from the RSU #34 World Language Department

In February RSU #34 World Language students participated in a valentine exchange in Spanish and French. Students from OTES, VRS, AES, LMS and OTHS decorated and wrote valentines for one another. The children greatly anticipated exchange day and were thrilled to receive the valentines. They enjoyed reading the names, schools and messages from others and even got to take their valen-

times home with them. The Spanish language and cultures programs are new this 2022-2023 school year at LMS, OTES, VRS and AES. Students have shown great interest in learning and the programs are off to a strong start. The RSU #34 World Language Department hopes to expand inter-district World Language activities in the future.



Third grade students are pretending to be sandwich artists and customers to practice food vocabulary and phrases in Spanish class.



Kindergartner Adeline happily shows off her Mexican hot chocolate mustache in Spanish class.



Kindergarten student Aria thought the Mexican hot chocolate she tried in Spanish class was delicioso!



OTES First grader Lyla is excited to try out the "molinillo"- a Mexican hot chocolate mixer.



7<sup>th</sup> grader, Kelsea, with her valentine from a first grader at OTES



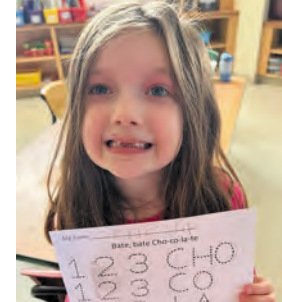
Charlie, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, receives a valentine from a Kindergartner at OTES



Kindergarten and first grade students try on school uniforms from Uruguay in Spanish classes in honor of the first day of the Uruguayan school year at the beginning of March.



2<sup>nd</sup> grade OTES student Graham plays the "ocarina," a flute from Mexico, as part of a presentation to classmates about his recent trip to Mexico.



OTES kindergarten student Ophelia shows the rhyme she learned in Spanish class about mixing hot chocolate.



OTES first grade students James and Natilyn decorate Spanish valentines to exchange with students at LMS and OTHS.



VRS kindergarten students are excited to receive Spanish and French valentines from students at LMS and OTHS.



Alton kindergarten students complete a taste test survey after trying Mexican hot chocolate in Spanish class.



OTES first grader Lauren shows the Spanish valentine she received from an OTHS student.



Jack and Jake, 8<sup>th</sup> graders at LMS, pose with their valentines.



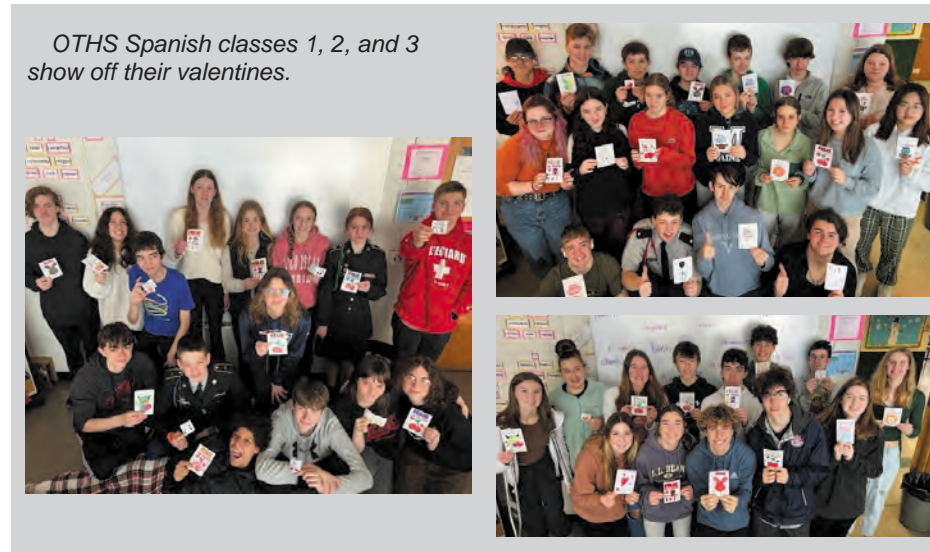
OTES second grader Jessilyn leads her class in a Spanish continent names chant.



4<sup>th</sup> grade OTES Spanish club members proudly display their paper bag piñatas. The students met for 5 weeks after school with Spanish teacher Señora Tagg to learn basic Spanish vocabulary and about Hispanic culture.



OTES first grade students are excited to receive Spanish and French valentines from students at LMS and OTHS



OTES Spanish classes 1, 2, and 3 show off their valentines.



OLD TOWN HIGH SCHOOL  
Scott Gordon, Principal, 827-3910

## OTHS Annual Senior Capstone Exhibition

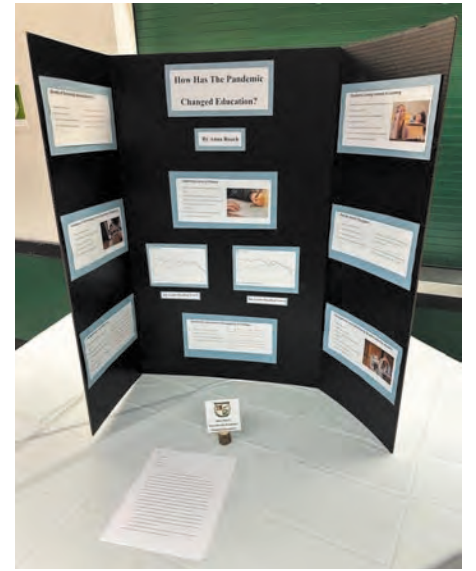
Old Town High School held its annual Senior Capstone Exhibition on April 26, 2023. This is the culminating event for each senior that has completed the requirements to earn an Honors, STEM Leaders, or Humanities Diploma of Extra Distinction. At this event, the students shared their senior capstone projects with the audience.

The following seniors of the Class of 2023 will earn Diplomas of Extra Distinction:

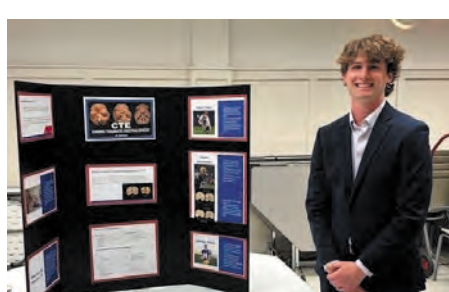
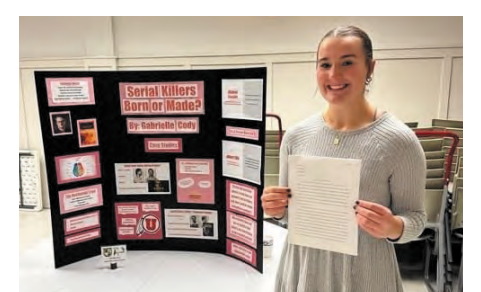
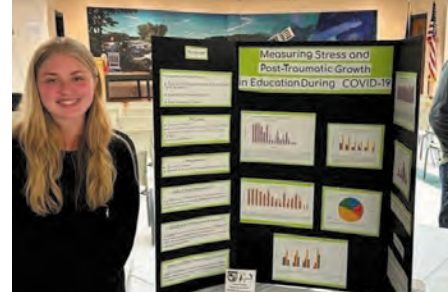
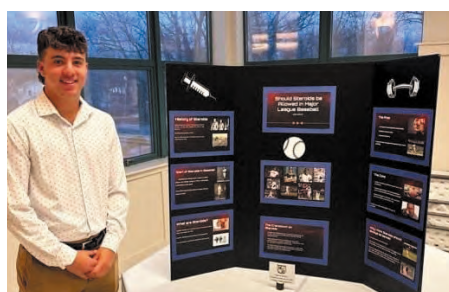
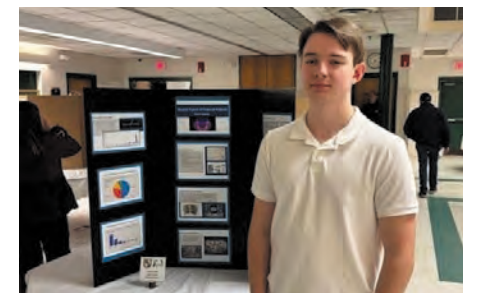
- Isabella Bouchard-Honors and STEM Leaders Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: Congenital Heart Disease
- Gabrielle Cody-Honors and STEM Leaders Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: Serial Killers: Born or Made?
- Izabella Damboise-Honors and STEM Leaders Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: 3D Printing in Healthcare

- Keeara Dutton-Honors and STEM Leaders Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: Observing the Effects of COVID-19 in Education
- Gabriel Gifford-Honors Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: Should Steroids Be Allowed In Major League Baseball?
- Spencer Gordon-Honors Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: How Eliud Kipchoge Broke the Two Hour Marathon Barrier
- Joshua Harvey-Honors Diploma-Senior Capstone Topic: Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy
- Eva Holt-Honors Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: Behind the Scenes of Competitive Female Bodybuilding
- Kayleigh Johnston-Honors and STEM Leaders Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: The Effects of Preterm Birth on Linguistic Development

- Olivia Neely-Honors and Humanities Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: Understanding Yourself as a Leader Within the Relational Leadership Model
- Cassidy Rackliffe-Honors and STEM Leaders Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: Wind Energy Versus Thermoelectric Power Plants: Cost, Efficiency, and Environmental Impact
- Anna Roach-Honors Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: How Has the Pandemic Changed Education?
- Olivia Small-Honors and STEM Leaders Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: The Psychology Behind Cults
- Patrick Sylantys-Honors and STEM Leaders Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: Nuclear Fusion: A Financial Analysis
- Abigail Talon-Honors Diploma



Senior Capstone Topic: How Movement and Occupational Therapy Improves Parkinson's Disease  
• Myah Worster-Honors and Humanities Diploma Senior Capstone Topic: Controversy Surrounding Ectogenesis



## JMG News

This year in Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG), Juniors and Seniors are working towards earning their Maine Career Exploration Badge (MCEB). Through the completion process of the Badge, students will take part in a minimum of 40 hours of meaningful hands-on employer engagement experiences coupled with online modules utilizing JMG's Learning Management System (LMS) to set goals, document their employer engagement experiences, and plan for their future. Upon completion of this process students will receive an award of \$500!

Hailey Bard is a senior and our first to complete the MCEB at Old Town High School! Upon completing an evaluation of her interests

and values, she found that a career working with children ranging in ages from infancy to 7 would be something that she would like to pursue. She completed a work experience at Old Town Elementary in the Pre-K room (Thank you Ms. Talon!), Watch Me Shine, and the Creative Place in-home Daycare. This gave her the opportunity to work with different age groups, populations, and in different settings.

Here are some words from Hailey on the MCEB:

"From my work experience with the Maine Career Exploration Badge, I have learned of the many options that fall within my career interest. I have learned how to communicate better with children of different ages and with different needs or disabilities. I had experience learning how to respond in a high stress situation and how to prioritize when issues come up with a child. I have also learned how to help and understand what a child needs or wants. After graduation I plan to attend Eastern Maine Community College and accomplish receiving my Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education. While I am in college, I plan to work as an Ed Tech at Watch Me Shine. I am very thankful to experience this in High School and to have a clear view of my career paths in the future."

Congratulations Hailey!!



### MEANINGFUL PAID WORK EXPERIENCES

# Maine Career Exploration Badge

<h4>WHAT</h4> <p>The Maine Career Exploration badge for Maine juniors and seniors is an opportunity to participate in 40 hours of meaningful work experience facilitated through an intentionally designed exploration and reflection process. Students receive an academic award of \$500 for completion!</p>	<h4>HOW</h4> <p>Students complete a minimum of 40 hours of hands-on employer engagement experiences coupled with online modules utilizing JMG's Learning Management System (LMS) to set goals, document their employer engagement experiences, and plan for their future.</p>
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### THE INGREDIENTS

1	2	3	4	5
Enroll in the Badge Pathway	Complete Online Preparatory Content	Complete 40 Hour Work Experience	Complete Online Planning & Reflection	Earn the ME Career Exploration Badge!

<p>UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE BADGE, STUDENTS RECEIVE...</p> <h2 style="color: green;">\$500</h2>	<p>WHO</p> <h2 style="color: green;">4,000</h2> <p>JUNIORS &amp; SENIORS</p>
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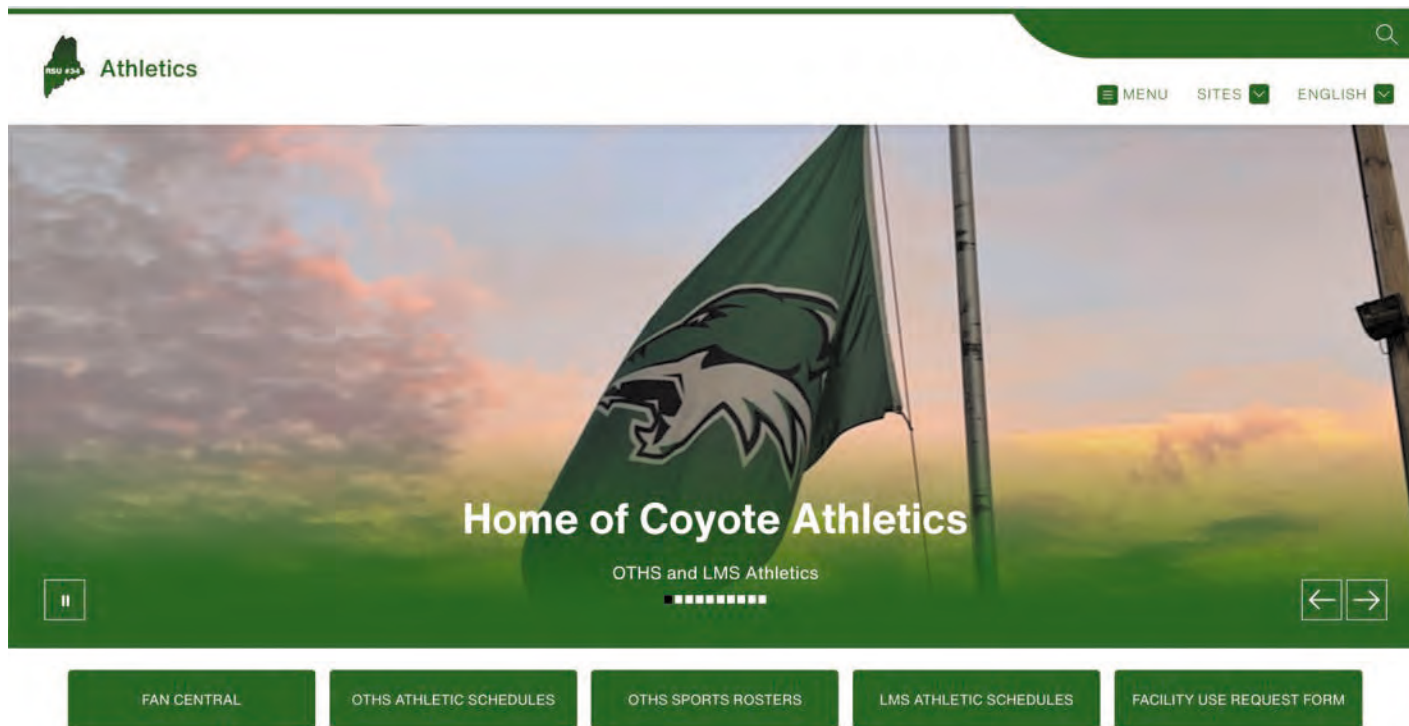
CAREER EXPLORATION

HANDS ON WORK

FUTURE PLANNING

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [JMG.ORG](http://JMG.ORG)

## RSU #34 Athletics: New Place, Same Information



If you have been looking for athletic information or updates on scores or athletic information, you have a new home for everything with the RSU #34 Athletics Webpage and social media. The new home for anything OTHS and LMS Athletic related, from the updated schedule, scores, or required paperwork for participation, you can find it at RSU #34 Athletics. We have printable documents, up-to-date schedules, and links to the various athletic information for any Coyote Fan! This is a move to streamline athletic information for the district, to make it simple and easy for those looking for athletic information. This also isolates athletics and allows for the school-specific pages to focus on information pertaining to academics and school-related information.

This move has also sparked the creation of new social media pages for RSU #34 Athletics. OTHS and LMS now have a new home on Facebook, Instagram, and the RSU #34 live feed. You can find the most up-to-date information regarding scores, game changes, schedule changes, player profiles, and all athletic information for LMS and OTHS. We are excited about the change, please make sure you like and follow us on social media, and we look forward to consistent improvements as we build this media moving forward.

OTHS Athletics has moved to now be RSU 34 Athletics and includes LMS and OTHS information. We have a new website and social media - just to inform everyone of the change, check it out, like/follow for the most up-to-date information...

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087747578069>
  - Instagram - [https://www.instagram.com/athletics\\_rsu34/](https://www.instagram.com/athletics_rsu34/)
  - Website - <https://www.rsu34.org/o/athletics>
- Coyote Pride!

## OTHS Math!

Mrs. Bousquet's Math class completed a unit on measurement over the month of March. One of our students wanted to know who the tallest staff member was, we measured over ten staff members and found our winner, Mr. Brian Murphy. Bennett Richmond presented Mr. Murphy with his award for the tallest staff member! This unit was much more than math, the class also learned about positive interactions with unfamiliar staff members and provided multiple opportunities for social interactions.



# JROTC 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Military Ball

Old Town High School's JROTC hosted their twenty-first annual Military Ball on March 25th. It was an evening of camaraderie and celebration that started early that morning. Cadets gathered early in the day to transform the Elks Club into a ballroom. Families contributed food for the evening's banquet. Guests from throughout the community were invited to join the celebration, and civic organizations recognized deserving Cadets for their hard work and dedication throughout the school year.

The evening began by highlighting the senior Cadets with a formal Sabre Arch introduction commanded by Kevin Murray (2025), and a slide show that encompassed their final year. Civic organizations presented scholarships and medals to Cadets who displayed a commitment to excellence within the community, the school, and the battalion. The awards ceremony culminated with the RSU 34 Superintendent, Matthew Cyr, presenting the Department of the Army Superior Cadet Award to an individual in each grade level based on academ-

ics and contributions to the JROTC Battalion. This year's recipients were Alexis Wesley (2026), Jesse Bouchard (2025), Brianna Engstrom (2024), and Keeara Dutton (2023). Additionally, First Sergeant Peaslee, presented the Leadership Saber to Isabella Bouchard (2023) for her demonstrated leadership potential and performance as the Battalion Executive Officer. OTHS Principal, Scott Gordon, presented Keeara Dutton with the Outstanding Cadet Saber for her contributions as the Battalion Commander this school year and service over her entire high school career.

The guest speaker for this year's Military Ball was Lee Jackson (2012). Mr. Jackson gave a very insightful and entertaining speech. He reinforced to the Cadets the importance of goal setting and staying involved in their community. Mr. Lee Jackson is a 2012 OTHS graduate and was the tenth Commander of the Coyote Battalion. At age 19, Mr. Jackson was elected to the RSU 34 School Board. He continued public service while serving as the Program Director for the Leader-

ship Institute, where he trained college students aspiring to serve in public office. Mr. Jackson served as the Confidential Assistant for the Governor of Virginia, Glenn Youngkin. He currently resides in Richmond, Virginia and is the Deputy Director of the Virginia Lottery.

One of the most anticipated moments of the night was the announcement of the forthcoming school year's Battalion Commander. Norah Sanborn (2024) will assume duties as the 22nd Coyote Battalion Commander in May. She is an active member in JROTC, the Student Council, and athletics. Norah will have the challenge next school year to lead the battalion through its triannual accreditation inspection from the United States Army Cadet Command.

The Cadets closed their evening with a dance. The Coyote Battalion would like to thank all its sponsors: Old Town Canoe/Johnson Outdoors, VFW Post 3381, Old Town Dairy Queen, Old Town American Legion, Jason Rutherford Photography, and UMaine Army ROTC for making this a successful evening. Also, they would like to congratulate Mrs. Jo-Ellen Cote; she was the winner

of the kayak raffle. The raffle was the primary fundraiser for the battalion this school year.

Thank you to the participating civic organizations and congratulations to the awardees.

- American Legion Leadership Medal - Cadence Freeman (2024).
- American Legion Academic Medal - Ian Dutra (2024)
- AMVETS Diligence – Colby Hatch (2023)
- Association of the United States Army – Norah Sanborn (2024)
- Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America – Kylee Murray (2025)
- Maine Army National Guard Citizen Soldier – Miles Felcman (2025)
- Military Officers Association of America – Dan Desmond (2023)
- Military Order of World Wars – Cooper Neely (2026)
- National Sojourners – Lilly Mitchell (2024)
- Old Town Elks – Gabe Curtis (2025)
- Order of the Daedalians – Kevin Murray (2025)
- Sons of the American Revolution – Wyatt Vickers (2024)



## Water Survival Test

by Norah Sanborn

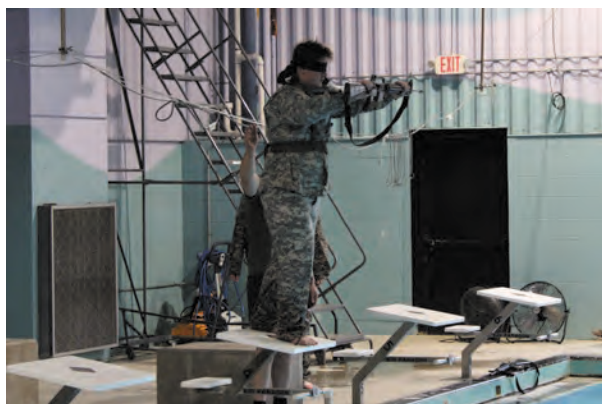
On April 5, nineteen Cadets from Old Town High School JROTC participated in a modified version of the Army Water Survival Test at the Old Town High School pool. This test is part of the battalion's Coyote Challenge program and is required to achieve the platinum level of the challenge. The goal of the water safety test is to instill confidence and help to identify weak and non-swimmers. With roughly 71% of the earth's surface being covered in water, it is not uncommon to find ourselves near or in water. When we find ourselves in an unexpected situation, it is critical we maintain our composure and quickly get to safety.

Cadets initially were split into three groups and rotated through three stations. This included a 15 meter swim, a blindfolded entry into the water, and an equipment ditching station. Each station has practical application. For example, if you fell out of a boat or off a riverbank, you would need to be able

to swim to shore or back to your watercraft. The blindfolded entry adds a heightened level of awareness in case you found yourself in water in times of limited visibility. The equipment ditching station gives you the confidence to remove unnecessary items from your body that might get caught on branches or debris while in the water. The Cadets negotiated the stations wearing an Army field uniform, load bearing equipment, and a mock rifle. Additionally, the Cadets completed a 10 minute continuous swim and a 15 minute tread water.

The battalion appreciated the support from the Old Town/Orono Y, and the OTHS athletic staff for making this possible. Overall, this was a highly successful event and the battalion plans to continue this event in future years.

Steve Szewc  
LTC(R), US Army  
Senior Army Instructor  
Old Town High School  
(207)827-3910 ext. 2309



## Coyote Marksmanship Team

The Coyote Marksmanship Team had another successful year. The team shot in five competitions this year with multiple individual and team podium finishes. The season started in November and ran through March. All competition targets are shot locally, and targets mailed to the host. The competitions follow the Civilian Marksmanship Program's guidance.

The team had a second place finish in the Second Brigade Air Rifle Competition. This event included schools from the Northeast and had 58 competitors. The Coyotes had their highest team score for the season with a 902. Cadence Freeman was the top shooter for the Coyotes with a season high 251, and a top 10 finish. Rounding out the scoring for the Coyotes was Keeara Dutton (11), Izzy Bouchard (12), and Kevin Murray (21).

Cadets also competed in the Hawk Battalion Air Rifle Competition, hosted by Hermon High School. Keeara Dutton was the team's top shooter with a third place finish. Fourteen schools and 57 competitors shot. Also shooting for the Coyotes was Bohdi Ellis (24), Kevin Murray (25), and Izzy Bouchard (32). This competition was open to Second Brigade schools which includes schools in Germany.

Hermon also hosted the Northern New England League Championship consisting of schools from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Keeara Dutton led the team to a third place team finish. She also had a third place individual finish. Bohdi Ellis (8) and Cadence Freeman (9) had top ten finishes and Kevin Murray (19) rounded out the team scoring.

The Coyotes hosted the 21st Penobscot Invitational again this year. The team represented OTHS well with a first place team finish. Keeara Dutton (1) and Izzy Bouchard (3) had podium finishes. Cadence Freeman (5) and Kevin Murray (10) completed the team scoring with top ten finishes. Miles Felcman and Colby Hatch also competed for the Coyotes this season.

The purpose of the Coyote Marksmanship program is to provide marksmanship training to Cadets to promote firearm safety. All Cadets are given classroom instruction regarding firearm safety. Marksmanship competitions are an optional extracurricular activity that Cadets may choose to participate in. Instructors are certified by the Civilian Marksmanship Program.



## Coyotes Conquer the Zimmerman Fitness Challenge

Cadets Colby Hatch (2023), Miles Felcman (2025), Kevin Murray (2025), and Alexis Wesley (2026) started their April break by taking on the Zimmerman Fitness Challenge hosted by UMaine Navy ROTC. The three mile challenge

included a tire and log carry, litter carry, a station with multiple exercises, and a water obstacle. The four team members were accompanied by Navy Midshipmen 3/C Kelby Young, who guided them through the course. The team

showed resilience as they challenged themselves mentally and physically representing the Coyote Battalion and OTHS with pride.

The event is named in honor of First Lieutenant James Zimmerman. 1LT Zimmerman was a 2008

UMaine graduate and commissioned through the Navy ROTC program into the United States Marine Corps. He was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2010.



Midshipman Young, Miles Felcman, Alexis Wesley, Colby Hatch, Kevin Murray



Felcman (tire), Wesley (manikin), Hatch Murray (ammo cans)



Miles Felcman, Alexis Wesley

Kevin Murray, Midshipman Young, Colby Hatch



Miles Felcman, Alexis Wesley

# Old Town High School Photography

Classes are beginning their photojournalism section. This gives them a chance to branch out into classrooms and offices and capture the goings-on around school.



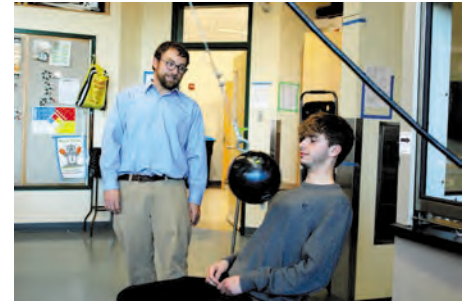
Ceramic Spider in Mr.Curtis' room – by Taylor Loring



Beaker perspective in Mr.Lindsey's room – by Teg Coiley



Mr.Lewin's room – by James Pelkey



Science experiments in Mr.Lewin's room – by Keira DunnKeira Dunn



Student working with Clay in Mr.Curtis' room – by Chase Dodge



Mr.Gordon sporting helmet – by Grace Willey



Ms.Tibbet's Sunglasses – by Ben Roby



Mr.Lindsey and Student – by Teg Coiley

## Two RSU 34 School Counselors Receive Awards

The Maine Counseling Association announced that two RSU 34 School Counselors, Kim Ketch of Old Town High School and Tracey O'Connell of Leonard Middle School, were named co-recipients of the "Martin Gallant Distinguished Counseling Professional Award." The awards were announced and presented by MCA President, Rena Lolar at the annual spring conference on April 3-4 at the Samoset Resort in Rock-

port. The Martin Gallant Distinguished Counseling Professional Award honors Maine Counseling Association members working in a variety of settings across the profession including K-12 schools, colleges and universities, community-based agencies, clinical facilities, and private practice. Counselors considered for the awards are ethical, effective, and diligent advocates for

clients or students. They are leaders, mentors, and positive examples of professionalism within the counseling community, with consistent accomplishment throughout their careers. They exemplify integrity, patience, and compassion in their empowering work with students, clients, families, or colleagues. They advance the reputation of our profession by their work and example.

In her letter of support for Kim's award, OTHS English teacher Megan Woodard wrote "Kim is an important advocate for all the students in our school. Students love to see her in the hallway and have conversations. They know that she is a patient and compassionate listener who will give them a kind but real response. Kim knows her students well, knowing how to respond with a hug, a lengthy

conversation, or an "I will call you out of study hall in an hour but for now go back to class." Students respond well to all that she says, knowing that she is always doing what she thinks is best for their situation."

OTHS English teacher Natalie Davis continues, "The job of school counselor is not for the faint of heart. It is a job that requires great strength and grace from a person emotionally and intellectually. The task of helping adolescents with scholastic, interpersonal, and emotional issues is greater now than it has ever been. Instant access to information, social media, pop culture, and the COVID-19 pandemic complicated education in ways no one could have predicted. All educators have been challenged like no one could have imagined, but it is my personal belief that school counselors like Kim Ketch are the reason schools, and most importantly students, continue to function and flourish."

Kim Ketch is an Old Town High School graduate, from the class of 1991. She has been a school counselor at Old Town High School for x years. She was recognized at OTHS in an assembly with all students and staff on Tuesday, April 11th.



Kim Ketch (right) with her award from MeCA President Rena Lolar



Tracey O'Connell (right) receiving her award from MeCA President Rena Lolar

## Budget Message, continued from page 2

Increase 0.5 Assistant Special Education Director role to full-time, reflecting a 113 IEP student population increase (40%) since that role was created.

At minor cost:

Add Chorus at OTHS by adding accompanist hours.

Add Winter "B" sports at Leonard Middle School to enable more students to participate.

Continue two needed OTHS intervention roles that were previously grant-funded.

RSU #34 has a number of significant facilities improvement efforts underway, funded through a combination of federal grant funds, state revolving renovation funds, Efficiency Maine funds, and local dollars. These

efforts include safety and security improvements, ADA compliance improvements, HVAC improvements, and systems changes which will result in greater energy efficiency.

Looking forward to future years, RSU #34 continues to seek efficiencies and new grant funds to reduce the financial challenge that will face us in the 2024-25 budget cycle, while growing opportunities for our students, including several modest investments that would yield increased opportunities for large numbers of students, and shifting federal funds to one-time approvable uses which will sustain needed intervention roles while addressing infrastructure needs. RSU #34 is cognizant of the potential challenge facing our

community as a whole if the pause in operations at the mill becomes permanent.

The annual school budget meeting for Regional School Unit #34 will be held on Wednesday evening, May 31st at 6:30pm at the Old Town High School Cafeteria. The warrant articles for discussion at this meeting are included in this edition of Community Connections. All are welcome to attend; registered voters in Alton, Bradley, and Old Town may participate.

Current statute requires that the action taken at the annual budget meeting be validated at referendum. This year that validation referendum will be held within each of our communities on Tuesday, June 13,

2023. This is also the year where our district must decide whether or not to keep the budget validation referendum. For this reason, voters will see two questions related to the school budget at referendum—whether or not you approve the budget as adopted, and two, whether or not you wish to continue with the budget validation referendum process.

On behalf of the students, staff, and the Board of Directors of Regional School Unit #34, we thank you for your continued support, and ask that you vote in support of the 2023 - 2024 budget as presented.

Respectfully,  
Matthew D. Cyr, Superintendent  
Jim Dill, Board Chair



# LEONARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dr. Gert Nesin, Principal  
827-3900



## Puffin News

7th grade Puffin Team at LMS has been very busy!

Just like the first half of the year, the second half of the year has also been very busy for the 7th grade Puffin Team.

January started out with the students exploring space. To Infinity and Beyond! They were very fortunate to receive a grant from Blue Origin's foundation, Club for the Future, and virtually attend a mission at the Challenger Learning Center in Bangor. Thank you very much to Blue Origin!

Puffin Students enjoyed a day at the Maine State Science Festival held at the Cross Center in Bangor. The students enjoyed participating in a variety of activities, including creating lava lamps from seaweed, learning about tick repellent and Lyme disease, buoyancy, various health occupations, water pollution, bridge design, and much more! They had a great time, and learned a lot!

Team 7 learned about an oppor-

tunity to attend Educational Day with the Portland Sea Dogs in June. Thank you to the generous support of parents with the fundraising as well as support from LMS Student Council, they are able to attend. Who hoo!

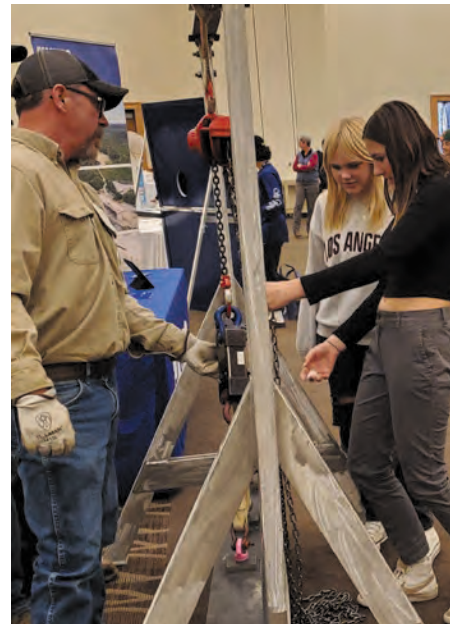
Students have also been working on their curriculum project, which is a school-wide event. Students have the opportunity to explore and learn about a topic they are very passionate about. Hope you had the opportunity to check them all out on May 11th! They did a great job!

In ELA class, students had a deep dive into slavery as they read *Trouble Don't Last*. This led to black out poetry to help celebrate National Poetry Month.

Students are exploring sustainability as they look to answer the question; with the world's population expected to reach 10 billion people by 2050, where are we going to put 'em and how are we going to feed 'em? Lots of great ideas were being generated!

We will end out the year with a unit on financial literacy - never too

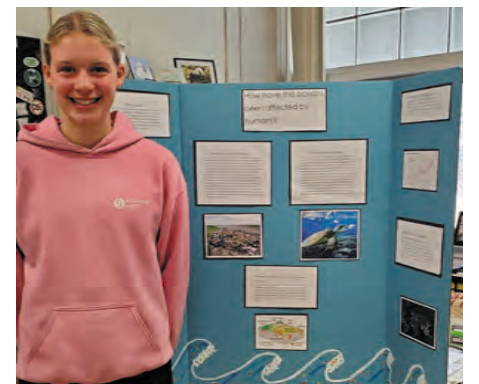
young to think about the future! Thank you to Junior Achievement for our workshop day! Can't thank our parents and community enough for these amazing opportunities for our students!



Seventh grade Puffin students, Charlotte and Addi, enjoy activities at the Maine State Science Festival- "How to Hoist a Bean" by Cianbro.



Alex, Hayden and Jilly extract DNA from a strawberry- at the Maine State Science Festival.



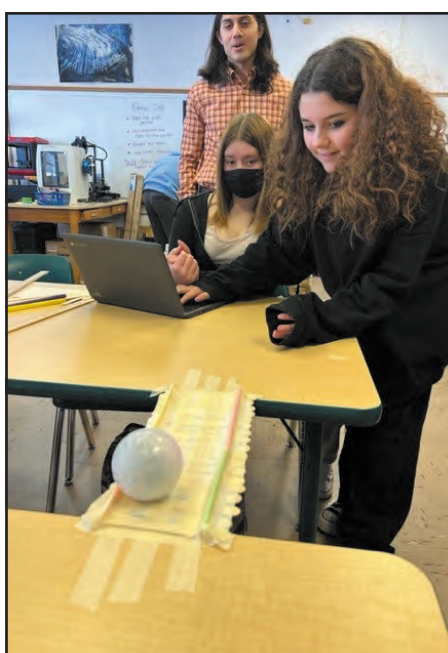
Olivia Ketch with her curriculum project on ocean pollution

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mask Making with Miss Young

The LMS Art classes have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Miss Young, a student teacher from the University of Maine. Miss Young has a strong studio arts background in addition to her focus in art education. A favorite project offered by Miss Young was a cardboard mask making project with 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. This was a lesson to develop skills in three-dimensional cardboard sculpture, and a lesson to utilize creative and imaginative thinking.

Students were asked to select an animal and to list all the characteristics they could for their selected subject. They were then, asked to select a second animal, and to combine the two animals together in a drawing that would be used to create a plan for a mask design. Students drew front views and side views of their selected animals, then created a three-dimensional cardboard mask. Students used creative thinking skills to combine two animals into one, learned scul-

pture techniques to shape cardboard into three-dimensional forms, and worked with safety. The results were amazing!



Sophie Cox and Ava Cotton, 8th graders, are building bridges in STEM class and then testing strength with Sphero BOLT robots. Also pictured is Nick Sherwood, STEM Student Teacher.

## LMS March Assembly

Team Fox had the pleasure of hosting the March assembly at LMS for the fifth, sixth, and seventh graders. Harper Oakes was our MC, with Jack Carlisle, Ivanna Kromah, and Nicholas Murchison reading off the Highlight Student, Student of the Month, and Kindness student awards. For the sixth grade team, Alexi Shorette received Student of the Month, Travis Jurczyk-Husted received the Student Highlight, and

Kallie Velasquez received the kindness award.

Our team often reads a class novel, and the book students were reading was *Powerless* by Matthew Cody. The theme was "Ordinary People doing Extraordinary Things." With that theme, students wrote about people and pets in their lives that are important to them. Nick Mitchell shared people he admires; former President Barack

Obama, Mr. Barker, LMS Assistant Principal, and his dad. The person that Micah Brodeur chose for his hero essay is someone that inspires him because of her sense of humor, her confidence, and her talent as a music instructor. Micah presented his hero essay during our school-wide assembly, introducing the Fox Team staff highlight, Mrs. Priest.



Micah Brodeur and Mrs. Priest



Our Speakers from left to right: Jack Carlisle, Harper Oakes, Ivanna Kromah, Micah Brodeur, Nick Mitchell, Nick Murchison



Nick Mitchell and Mr. Barker

# Musical Notes



Aria Mason, a 7th grade musician from LMS, had the opportunity to conduct the United States Air Force band, who performed in Bangor as part of their US Tour.



Mr. Terry Henry is a recently retired veteran teacher and talented musician who will be joining the LMS faculty as accompanist and music ed tech. Since retiring from the Orono school district last spring, he has recently completed a semester of teaching and playing piano for the UM music department. He begins working at LMS in January. We are honored to have such a respected educator joining our team. Welcome, Mr. Henry!



Leonard Middle School 8th grade musician, Jordan Spencer, and Old Town alum and current UM student, Max Chapman, played bari sax next to each other at UM's "Concert for a Cause" on March 7th. The concert raised \$2200 for the Bangor Humane Society.



The LMS Chorus performed their winter concert on February 9th at Minsky Auditorium.

# Poetry Month

by Jay Meigs-McDonald

Here is a poem that one of our students wrote for Poetry Month. See if it fits.

## Waves

A pantoum poem about anxiety. Anxiety has been in "alarming, meteoric rise" amongst teenagers according to the American Pediatric Society... or just ask any teenager.

Anxiety like massive waves  
They keep pushing you over  
You get up and try one more time  
And again they plow you down

They keep pushing you over  
You can't stand in all this pressure  
And again they plow you down  
Just keep fighting is what they say

You can't stand in all this pressure  
It's too much to bear  
Just keep fighting is what they say  
Even if you fear the ocean

It's just too much to bear  
You get up and try one more time  
Even if you fear the ocean  
Anxiety like massive waves

Molly Albert  
Leonard Middle School  
8th Grade

# LMS Student Council

Our student council continues to support the school during the second half of the school year. Led by president Henry Sherwood and supported by vice-president Kelsea Fournier and secretary Brooklyn Rand, LMS Student Council includes 8th graders Lily Quigley, Rachel Street, and Isaac Hasselbrack as well as 7th graders Charlotte Boutin, Brianna Hyson, Nevaeh Manos, Emilie Lawrence and 6th graders Haddie Sherwood, Copelyn Feero, Adi Hill, Ava Blais, and Anna Morey.

You may be wondering what exactly is the student council and their purpose? The purpose of the student council is to give students an opportunity to develop leadership by organizing and carrying out



school activities and service projects. In addition to planning events that contribute to school spirit and community welfare, the student council is the voice of the student body.

The first annual LMS Got Talent Show on April 7th was a huge success as it showcased the talents of our students - who did a fantastic job!

7th and 8th grade members of the

student council traveled to Augusta on April 13th. Thank you to Senator Mike Tipping - they enjoyed being a Page in the Senate!

In May, the entire staff was celebrated during Staff Appreciation Week! It's not just about teachers, it's about how all people at LMS are a part of helping our students be successful. It truly does take a village!

7th and 6th grade members of the student council attended the Maine Student Council Conference hosted by the MPA on May 23rd. The conference, titled "Becoming: A Step in the Right Direction," will help our council members next year be even more supportive of our school.

LMS student council had the last school social night of the year on

May 19th. This is one of the ways the council raises money that supports our school. This spring the council supported purchasing items for the social nights, supporting the student poetry contest in April, and partially supporting a 7th grade field trip.

LMS is thankful for everything the LMS Student Council does for our school community. Can't wait to see what they do next year!



# Pamola Students Showcase Integrated Learning

by grade 8 student Ava Cotton

Here on grade 8 Team Pamola we spent several weeks working on our economics projects. Some examples of research taking place were fundraising for non-profit organizations, how to run your own business, how to budget for adult life, how to market a new product, credit scores and taxes, international currency, understanding the stock market, and how supply and demand work.

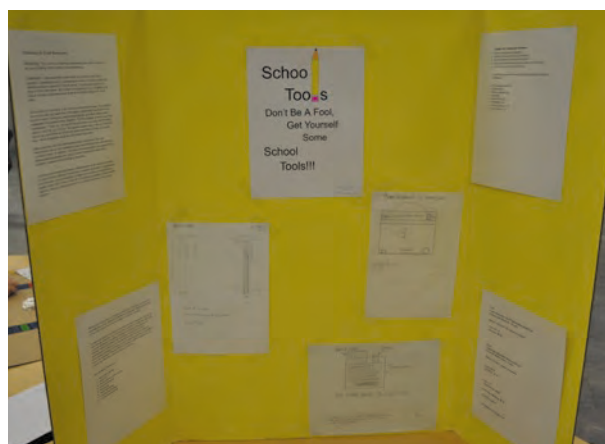
Final projects consisted of a few different board games, a couple raffles with gift card prizes, or gift baskets, a scavenger hunt, company start-ups, and even an advertisement for a new product, a glow in the dark door knob. These projects were so fun and a great chance for kids to be creative and raise money for something they feel is important.

These projects culminated in to

Pamola-Con, an evening to share our work with parents. Pamola-Con was a great opportunity for kids to show off their projects, and even the research they did for it. At the event there was a video going for the glow in the dark door knob, as well as tables with the board games, tables doing raffles, and a scavenger hunt held in the gym. There was a great turnout and many kids came with

their parents! Between the two raffles we raised a total of roughly 240 dollars for the Humane Society!!

All in all the Pamola-Con was very successful and such a fun idea. Many kids enjoyed it and their parents definitely enjoyed the evening at school and seeing what they have been working on. This activity made kids feel like what they were doing mattered to the community.



## LMS Gets Social!

Leonard Middle School has traditionally hosted periodic dances. They provide supervised opportunities for students to socialize, and also serve as fundraisers for our school groups. This year, we ex-

panded the opportunities at our social nights to include more students and a variety of interests.

We offer dancing with a DJ in the gym, and also open our cafeteria to other activities. We offer Nintendo

Switch games (rated E or E10+), chess and checkers, board games, card games, cornhole, and project anime or movies and live sports events. Cafeteria tables are down, so that students can sit and social-

ize. We hope to continue to expand our offerings.

River Runners sponsored our last social night with help from the high school River Runner mentors. The River Runner parents also helped!



Many students enjoyed the arts and crafts table



Students played chess/checkers and watched March Madness



High school River Runners led cornhole games



Gamers took turns with Super Smash Brothers and Mario Kart

## LMS Library News

The LMS Library has been very busy as students from all three grades work hard on their Curriculum Fair research projects. Topics range from chaga mushrooms to WWII to brain tumors to Korean food and everything in between!

Since April is National Poetry

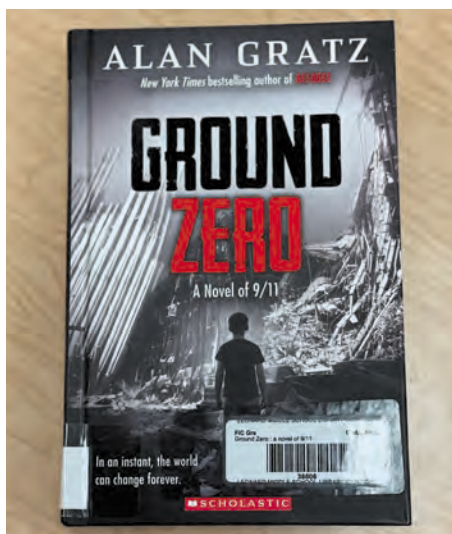
Month students had the chance to take a poetry workshop with our own published poet Lily Comeau-Waite and librarian and author Ms. Hinrichs. We worked on imagery and students produced some beautiful poems!

Students and staff have been

working hard the past couple of months at the library's puzzle table, which is new this year. We completed our second 1000-piece puzzle, with a baseball theme. Here's a sample of who has been working on it! On to the next puzzle...

One reading group finished reading Ground Zero by Alan Gratz, and had the opportunity to meet with a

9/11 survivor and first responder, retired FBI agent, Robert Drew. Eighth-graders who are doing research on 9/11 for their curriculum fair project also joined. It was a meaningful conversation, and we are grateful to Mr. Drew for sharing his time and experience with us.



LMS Library reading group selection



Left: LMS poets hard at work during a library poetry workshop.



Right: LMS Library reading group meets with retired FBI agent, Robert Drew



Above: The LMS Library Puzzle Table has been an engaging draw for students!



Our Penquis partners, Joe Costello and OTHS Graduate Nick Feero

In the fall, Mike Gray, Joe Costello, and Nick Feero approached LMS administration and school counselors to see if we would be interested in developing a partnership to serve our children. We gave them an enthusiastic yes. The partner-

## LMS Penquis Partnership

ship is funded through a grant for substance affected youth. Because our community is affected, they can help us with many children and in many ways.

Nick and Joe started with early morning. Students arrive at LMS as early as 7:00, even though we officially open the cafeteria at 8:00. After observing and talking to students, they offered to open the cafeteria at 7:15 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. They check in with students, and offer games like cornhole. Our mornings now start much more calmly and safely, even before we officially open.

We assign out of school suspen-

sions for serious offenses such as violence, weapons, and drugs. For lesser offenses, we have often said we wish we had the resources to support in-school consequences. Penquis immediately picked up on that need, and offered to create an In School Support on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, as needed. Each day consists of the following:

- Schoolwork: Complete current or past schoolwork, so the student doesn't get behind during the day of ISS.
- Self-Reflection: An exploration of the behavior, why it occurred, and what they will do differently next

time.

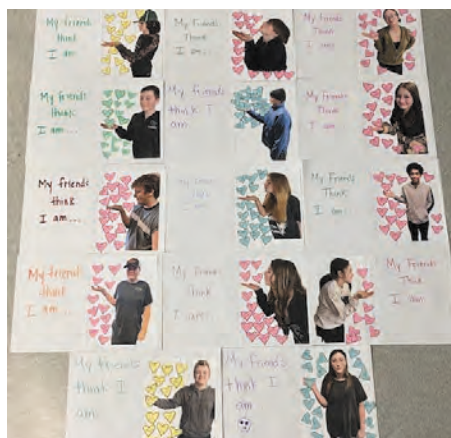
- Restoration: Working with anyone they may have harmed—adult and/or student—to repair any harm they have done.

Penquis recently worked with Dr. Doty and elementary and middle school representatives to write a 21st Century grant.

The proposal offers engaging activities for elementary and middle school students before and after school, and through the summer. We are grateful to Janeen Feero and Mike Gray for offering their enthusiasm, expertise, and ideas and to Dr. Doty for leading the way for RSU #34.

## My Friends Think I Am...

As a community building activity with Mrs. Kenny and Mrs. Priest, 7th graders discussed seeking the good in every person and giving sincere compliments. Students wrote kind words about their classmates on paper hearts, then each student displayed a photo of themselves sending their positive attributes into the world, next to the caption "My Friends Think I Am...". The 7th graders enjoyed learning the positive attributes their peers noticed and wrote about them.



# RSU 34 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

is published by Regional School Unit 34 for the citizens of Alton, Bradley, and Old Town.

**Matthew D. Cyr, Superintendent of Schools**  
**Dr. Jon Doty, Assistant Superintendent of Schools**  
**David C. Wollstadt (www.schoolnewsletters.net), Editor**

Many thanks to the teachers, administrators, students, and parents who contributed to the successful publication of this issue with articles and photos. To persons unidentified we apologize. Each contribution is greatly appreciated. Cover design by Corina Larsen.

# Cultural Crafts at LMS

LMS students have been exploring cultures around the world in a new elective class offering, Cultural Crafts. The Cultural Crafts project is a collaborative venture involving three teachers and multiple disciplines:

- Miss Overturf: World Cultures teacher
- Ms. Nickerson: Art teacher
- Miss Young: Student Art teacher

People all over the world create art forms. These crafted works of art reflect the thoughts, values, and beliefs inherent in a culture. Learning about other cultures helps us to appreciate and value the differences and the similarities of our human experience. It leads to a better understanding of humanity and to our shared personal and global responsibilities, while promoting empathy and respect.

Foreign language broadens our world concept by the recognition and awareness of different communicative methods and practices. Art, in turn, is a visual language that communicates without the spoken word. Through the study and creation of crafts and art forms, students gain an understanding of various cultural groups throughout

the world, while learning vocabulary, history, geography, and artistic technique and content.

**Huichol** - Mexico - (pronounced 'We chill') yarn painting is made by pressing colored pieces of yarn onto a board that has been covered with beeswax. The designs selected contain symbolic meaning. We used peel and stick floor tiles for our yarn painting support. Our overall take away from this project was that 'it wasn't as easy as it appeared.'

**Ojo de Dios** - Mexico, South America - (God's eyes) Symbols of good luck, positive wishes.

**Amate Bark Painting** (Mexico) is made using a homemade paper from the bark of the wild fig tree. The amate paper has a unique texture. We used brown kraft paper, crumpled it up, and ironed it flat, before adding paint. Amate bark paintings use bright, unusual colors, stylized shapes, and often contain a decorative border.

**Papel Picado** - Mexico- is another name for 'punched paper.' These colorful banners became popular in Mexican culture as more and more products were imported wrapped in colored tissue paper. Mexicans used the excess paper to create colorful

paper designs.

We celebrated Chinese New Year by spending our class making **paper crafts based upon Chinese culture**. China has been credited for making the first true paper. We compared this to Mexican amate paper, which is a laminated paper form, and connected it to our paper making tradition in Old Town, Maine. Our paper projects included paper fortune cookies, complete with good fortunes, and Chinese paper dragons using an origami base.

A **mola** is an embroidered fabric blouse or a fabric panel. Molas are made by the Cuna (or Kuna) Indians that live off the eastern coast of Panama on the San Blas Islands. We created paper molas using concentric shape cut outs and layering the paper together. Several students are now working to create actual fabric mola designs by cutting away layers of fabric and stitching the edges in place.

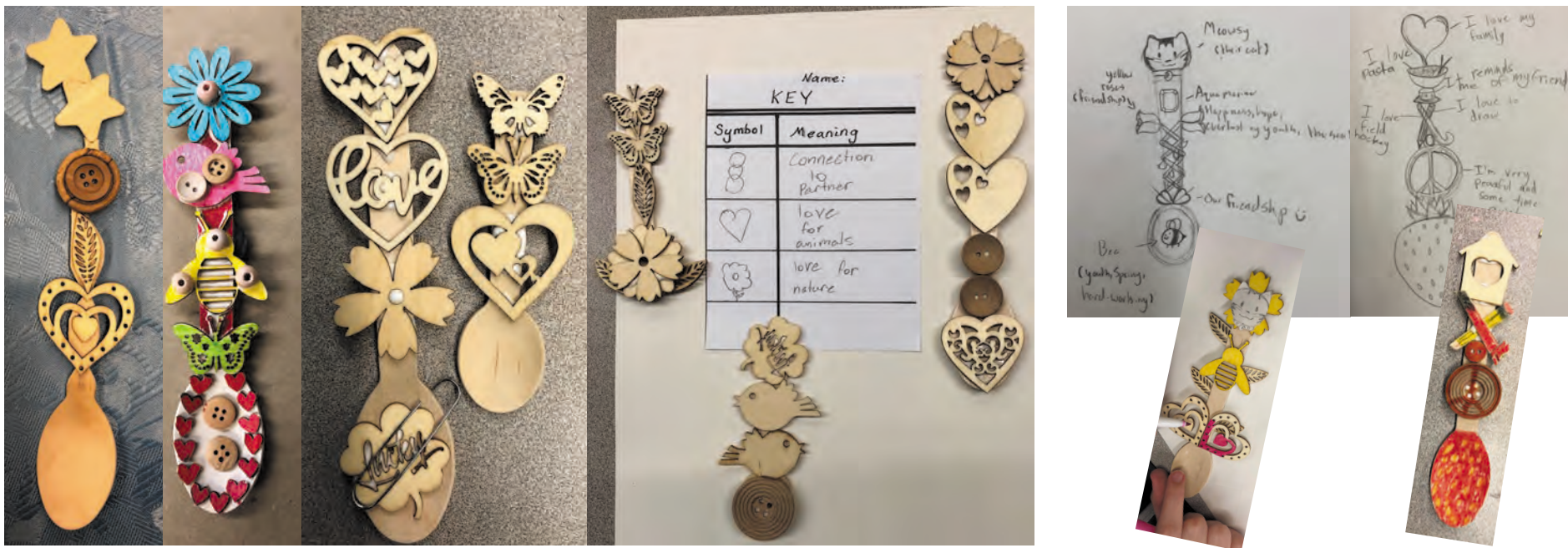
Art student teacher, Miss Young, introduced us to the United Kingdom and to **Anglo-Saxon weaving**. After learning about the Anglo-Saxon process, students created their own woven design using cardboard looms and colorful yarn.

Miss Young shared her Welsh heritage and her love for Wales by introducing an innovative lesson on **Welsh love spoons**. A Welsh love spoon is carved from a single piece of wood and contains images with symbolic meaning. The spoon is given to another person as a representation of caring and as a promise for the future. Students at LMS first designed their own love spoons containing symbolic meaning on paper, then created a wooden version. The Welsh love spoons were shared with others.

One of our last cultural crafts projects was batik. Batik is an ancient artform of applying melted wax to a fabric surface. The wax protects the color of the fabric before immersing it into various dye baths. After studying the Indonesian batik process of batik, we made a design by applying melted beeswax to cotton fabric. The wax was applied using traditional Tjanting tools, or Chinese brushes. Tjaps (copper stamps) were also available for the application of wax. As an adaptation of the original dye bath batik process, we painted inside our designs using a fabric paint.



Welsh Love Spoons



Batik



LMS Capybara News

by Tracie Murchison

In science class, the Capybara Team has been learning about the Earth's weather and climate. Students learned about the major factors that influence weather and climate on our planet including air and ocean currents. We learned about how these factors in one geographic area may affect different areas around the globe. For example, we learned that mercury from the midwest has made its way to Maine through jet stream currents. Students have also been learning about the water cycle and created their own diagrams to demonstrate how it works. We are spending time learning about these Earth systems to prepare us for our climate change unit. Students will design their own projects to identify animal and plant species that are affected by climate change.

In social studies, students studied the 3 branches of government. They applied what they learned to make changes to recess rules. The students became the legislative branch, the Capy teachers were the executive branch, and Dr. Nesin was the judicial branch. Students shared their ideas (bills) with the executive branch. If the executive branch didn't agree with the bill, they sent it back to the legislative branch to make changes, then resubmit. If the executive branch supported the bill, they passed it on to the judicial branch that decided if it was constitutional (aligned with LMS rules). If all 3 branches supported the idea it became a law. If it was unconstitutional, the bill was rejected.

Capy's have had a busy winter in ELA class. They spent a lot of

time learning about components of an argument, and the importance of backing up their opinion with reliable research. A popular activity was analyzing a crime scene to determine if the evidence matched up with a witness statement. Another fun one was arguing the answer to the question is a hotdog a sandwich? There were some strong opinions!

6th graders are in full force with their passion projects for the Curriculum Fair on May 11th. The Capybara's in Mrs Murchison's advisory class are working on projects that better their school, their community, and/or the world around them. These projects include: creating a care closet for students who need supplies or food, helping the local animal

shelter adopt out more animals, inspire people to use non-cruelty beauty products, informing communities about compassionate farming, an anti-smoking campaign, how to improve the 5th/6th grade transition, being a youth advocate for marginalized populations, improving the YMCA baseball field, and raising money for good causes via social media platforms. Phew! That's a lot of good they are doing. Students are finding that they really can make a difference if they put in the effort. If you know a middle schooler, ask them about their curriculum fair project.



Water Cycle diagrams



6th graders meeting with community members to see how they can help make a difference.



Mrs. Murchison's math class have been busy flying to Hawaii on plane tickets with P E MD AS on them. They are only allowed to board the plane in the correct order of operations. The pilots board first, of course. When it comes to MD and AS, it's first come, first serve. If you know, you know. They have enjoyed the flight simulation very much as we practice math. We have started our unit on Algebra and they have mostly learned that it's not as scary as they think.

# National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month, and to celebrate the LMS Library, 7th grade teacher Mrs. Tuttle, and Student Council sponsored our third annual Poetry Contest! Students

wrote some stunning poems. Thank you to our guest judges Teddi Winship and Carter Heath, who took a lot of time and care to read each poem!

**Congratulations to all of our winners and participants! Read the winning poems below.**



## And the winners are:

6th Grade Runner-Up: Bailey Webber  
6th Grade 1st Place: Nicholas Mitchell  
7th Grade Runner-Up: Olivia Ketch  
7th Grade 1st Place: Emilie Lawrence

8th Grade Runner-Up: Maggie Godin-Shaw  
8th Grade 1st Place: Romlah Ojugbele

### Ode to Jada

Not a lover, just a friend  
an important one to the very end  
shimmering cocoa skin and big doe eyes  
A smile like an angel in disguise  
light like a breeze  
always in my mind  
My saviour, oh so sweet and kind  
beautiful face and a cold gaze  
My winter beauty never out of sight

- Romlah Ojugbele, Grade 8

### Basketball

Basketball is a game of grace,  
A sport that takes us to a new space,  
We dribble, pass, and shoot with ease,  
Our skills are honed with each new breeze.

We run and jump, we play with heart,  
Our teamwork sets us all apart,  
We score, we make plays,  
We win the game, we earn our praise.

The ball flies high, it soars and sings,  
We feel the rush of all its wings,  
We play the game with all our might,  
And revel in the sweet delight.

So let us take the court with pride,  
Our spirits soaring, side by side,  
We'll play the game with all our might,  
And make the court our shining light.

- Olivia Ketch, Grade 7

### scared

I'm not scared of the dark,  
I'm not scared of clowns,  
I'm not scared of water,  
I'm not scared of death,  
I'm not scared of being alone,  
I'm not scared of school,  
I'm not scared of bullies.

The only thing i'm scared of is god.

- Nicholas Mitchell, Grade 6

### Spiraling in the Shower

I often feel like hair in a drain  
I want to escape, but can't climb up  
Trapped inside a swirling plane  
Empty's how I'd describe my cup

I want to escape, but can't climb up  
In this drain that is my mind  
Empty's how I'd describe my cup  
This world is cruel, not kind

In this drain that is my mind  
The thoughts get spun around  
This world is cruel, not kind  
And my head, it starts to pound

The thoughts get spun around  
Trapped inside a swirling plane  
And my head, it starts to pound  
I often feel like hair in a drain

- Maggie Godin-Shaw, Grade 8

### The Zoo

The artist that everyone aspired to be  
was dancing around and jumping with glee  
Living her life so simple and sweet  
with no care in the world, and peaceful  
as can be

Until the jealous monsters came in  
and took all her work  
They took all her dances and coloring  
books!  
And she tried her hardest to take back  
what was hers  
Until they locked her up and wouldn't  
hear a word

She didn't know what to do with  
herself because she couldn't create  
How could she draw without a canvas  
and no paint?

But the whole world was watching  
through the glass,  
And all that she could do was hope  
and pray  
That people would see her through  
And get her out of this prison zoo

- Emilie Lawrence, Grade 7

### Life

They say that life is a wonderful thing  
Are they telling the truth  
Life is full of grief and sorrow  
Yet we are expected to do, this,  
that and the other thing  
We are expected to be happy all  
of the time

Life is nowhere near perfect  
Life isn't full of rainbows and  
unicorns as they say it is  
Or at least my life isn't  
People think that life is easy  
It isn't

Life is wonderful at some points  
At others, it is a living hell  
Life is a fairy tale in black, and  
white

Life is a blossoming flower  
If you don't have everything you  
need, then it won't work out  
Life is a childlike picture  
Waiting to be erased  
- Bailey Webber, Grade 6



Poetry contest participants



Dr. Jeanna Tuell, Principal  
827-1544



## Learning about Money

Mrs. Doty, 3rd grade



Photos clockwise from top left: Quinn and Sierra, moving along the money choices track; Yay! Johnny celebrates a money deposit with Alyx.; Christopher and Gavin play "That's Life!"

When it comes to money, what are our choices? Some third grade students in Mrs. Doty and Mrs. Larrabee's classes are learning just that through a program called Junior Achievement. Junior Achievement is a K-12 non-profit educational program that helps teach students financial literacy skills in the classroom. Led by a volunteer mentor from the local community, different grade levels can participate in topics ranging from money choices, entrepreneurship, and work readiness through engaging

lessons and activities.

This spring, Nicole Morgan and Abbie Hutchinson from Bangor Savings Bank led Mrs. Doty's students through a unit called Our City. Students explored the money choices: earn, spend, save, and donate and learned what it takes to start a business. Students played money flow games, collaborated to plan a mock business, and created a 3D model of a city with a healthy balance of goods and services. The hands-on experiences were both fun and very interesting!

## Pass the potatoes please...

A story of how a potato grows at OTEs

Springtime brings lots of things to pre-k; playing outside for recess without a jacket, looking for insects under the rocks and planting potatoes in the children's garden. We were given the opportunity to plant potatoes; mixing the soil, learning the proper way to plant them and covering them up with a kiss in

hopes that they will grow. We took our learning inside as well and researched what we could make with potatoes and how they are grown at the larger farms. The potatoes grew over this past summer with great care and when October 2022 came around the new crop of pre-k students were able to harvest them.



## March is Maple Syrup Time!

Every March, the University of Maine School of Forest Services invites local third grade classes to tour the Thomas J. Corcoran Sugar House located off the College Ave extension. This year the tour, led by Keith Kanoti, Jack Houtz, and Charlie Koch, did not disappoint! Students helped drill and tap maple trees, collect sap, and watched the boiling process firsthand. The trip was capped off with a special tast-

ing of the sweet liquid gold and a mini bottle of maple syrup to-go for each student. A special thanks to the University of Maine Forest Services department for this yearly event!

Clockwise from top left: Adrienne drills a sugar maple with an assist by Mr. Kanoti; Collecting sap; Charlie Koch and Jack Houtz explain the science of sap boiling; Isaac and Alyx show off their sweet treats



Pulling the tops, dumping the soil and searching for the golden potatoes was so much fun. Seeing their faces when they found one was priceless. We were able to grow some great potatoes, but most of all

we were able to grow great learning minds. Thank you to Mrs. St. Peter for providing this growing experience for us.



Mrs. Lyons' class spent the winter months learning about hibernation, migration, and adaptation.



We focused in on the different types of bears and which ones hibernated.



After researching and reading about each type, students created a diorama. They worked very hard...

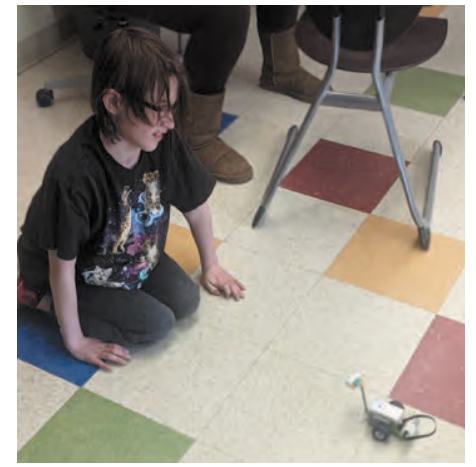


and they came out amazing!

## Student Teachers at OTES

The spring semester of college brings many new faces to OTES classrooms. New service-learning teachers have done their academics and they are ready for the big time; the chance to put all of that learning to the test. The teachers and the students welcome them and new connections are made. The student teachers slowly take over new responsibilities such as group lesson times, individual work with students, assessments and daily routines. They are required to teach a full week on their own and co-teach with their mentor teacher as time goes on. Some student teachers do 8 weeks with one class and 7 more with another or some do the entire 15 weeks with one class.

They learn so much from their mentors and the children and they bring new energy and ideas to the classroom. Our student teachers have been immeasurable to our staff at school; helping to cover when things come up and supporting the staff in general. The relationships that are made help to grow Maine's teacher communities and beyond. Being a mentor teacher for the first time was a great experience for me. It sharpens your skills and brings all the little things that you do in a day to the forefront. I wish all the new teachers out there the best of luck in their future teaching endeavors. The attached photos are Brynne Speakman as she teaches Pre-K in Mrs. Talon's class.



Mrs. White's third grade doing Lego robotics, building and programming Milo the Mars Rover.

## OTES Cross Country Skiing

by Lisa Beaulieu, Physical Ed Teacher

This February students in third grade were provided with an opportunity to learn how to Nordic/cross-country ski thanks in part to Jenn Goodwin obtaining a grant through Casella and Lynn Boynton from the Killington Mountain Foundation. This grant provided OTES with 30 pairs of cross-country skis which were distributed through the New England Nordic Ski Association (NENSA). NENSA also provided

the school with a curriculum, resources, and teaching support from Kait Miller (NENSA's youth and introductory program director).

Third graders who signed up for after school learning sessions provided by PE teacher, Lisa Beaulieu, and School Community Coordinator, Jenn Goodwin, learned how to put on the equipment and how to use skis to move along flat, uphill and downhill terrain. Students



practiced their skills through a variety of games out on the open field and through skiing on the cross-

country trails located next to OTES.





## OTES Seussical

The musical was a big hit at Old Town Elementary School!

Students who participated in the musical started rehearsing in October of 2022, and presented their final performance on April 27, 2023. The theater students not

only inspired the younger students at OTES, but also brought joy to the community by sharing an afternoon matinee with residents from the River house and Marsh Island apartments.

Students rehearsed once a week,

with some extended hours after school. We had art students in several grades work with Mrs. Palmer to help create, and paint the sets.

The directors, Mrs. Marquis, Mr. Henderson, Mrs. Harvey, and Mrs. St. Peter are so incredibly proud

of these students and all that they have accomplished!

**“A person’s a person, no matter how small”**



## Gourmet Mushrooms Workshop

The 5th grade team at Old Town Elementary received a \$1000 grant from Maine Agriculture in the Classroom to support mushroom growing in the school’s garden. David Andrews and Erin Dono-

van from Tiny Acres Farm led a workshop on growing gourmet mushrooms in hardwood logs. The 5th grade students will place these logs in the garden and harvest the mushrooms for the community

farm stand. A special thanks goes to Maine Agriculture in the Classroom, Christine Lannan, and Jenn Goodwin for funding and organizing this amazing opportunity.





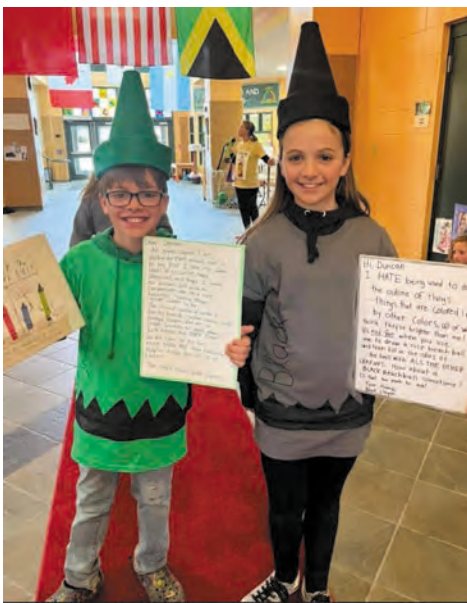
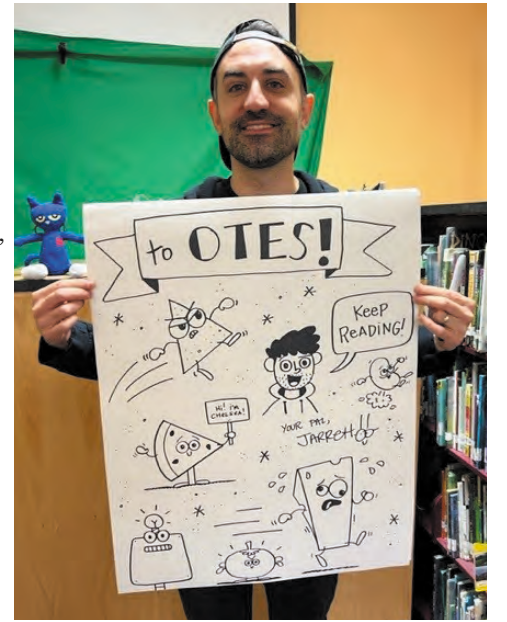
## March Madness...

isn't just for basketball!

OTES did Literacy March Madness, participating in fun things connected to literacy throughout the month! During the first week of March, students celebrated Read Across America day and had guests from throughout the school and district reading somewhere around the school that they could sign up to go hear. During the 2nd week of March, students and staff enjoyed their annual Dress Like a Book Character day and walked the red carpet showing off their costume and book. The third week OTES was visited by special author and illustrator Jarrett Lerner! Students enjoyed presentations from Jarrett Lerner, they could purchase his books and some even enjoyed spending their lunchtime with him. The fourth week of March was filled with all things Book Fair! The Book Fair went all week and had a fun family day on the last Saturday of the month where families could come shop, eat breakfast, students could partici-



pate in fun activities, and parents could also register their Pre-K and Kindergarten students up for next fall. During the last week of March, there was a Bedtime Story time Extravaganza! Stories, music, dancing, snacks and free books to take home at the end of it all, and of course it was all done in PJs with stuffies and blankets! This event was for students in Pre-k through 2nd grade and their families. Students in 3rd through 5th grade participated throughout the week in the first ever school spelling bee. Students went through a preliminary round within each class, and the top speller of each class went on to the school-wide spelling bee wrapping up the month of Madness! Ongoing throughout the month, students were also participating in the Bikes for Books and Best Behavior challenge at home, completed a set of tasks throughout the month to put their name in for a chance at winning a bike or many other great prizes! March flew by with so many fun activities to keep us going during this long month!



## Fourth Graders Getting a Taste of Maine



Fourth-grade students at Old Town Elementary School have been engaged in an exciting collaboration with a local business called Box of Maine, bringing a unique and delicious twist to their Maine studies curriculum. Box of Maine, a store that specializes in sending boxes of Maine-themed food items around the world, has been providing monthly boxes filled with Maine goodies to the eager students, creating opportunities for hands-on learning and exploration.

also included lobster gummies, a fun and playful nod to Maine's famous seafood, and chocolate-covered blueberries, showcasing the state's renowned blueberry industry. The students have eagerly delved into the boxes, exploring the unique items and learning about the history, culture, and geography of Maine through this sensory experience.

Inside each box, the students have discovered a delightful array of Maine-themed treats. From the classic Needhams, a sweet coconut, potato and chocolate confection, to the ever-popular whoopie pie, the students have been able to taste and experience some of the iconic flavors of Maine. The boxes have

The collaboration with Box of Maine has not only enhanced the students' understanding of Maine's history, culture, and geography, but it has also allowed them to develop a sense of pride and appreciation for their home state. The students have gained a deeper understanding of Maine's unique characteristics, and they have developed a sense of connection and ownership towards their state.

## OTES Flight 001 Now Boarding!

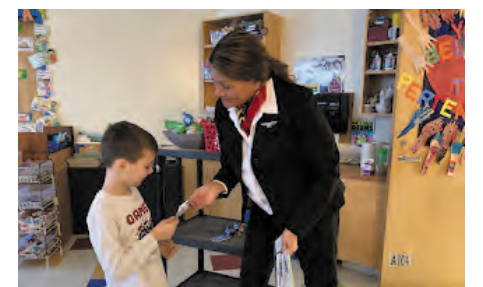
At OTES, as second graders prepared to travel around the world for the holidays, our very own Mrs. Clark fluffed out her neck scarf and slipped on her suit coat from her Flight Attendant days of the past!

season provides a great opportunity for students to explore different cultures and celebrations from several countries. This year we were extra fortunate to have an actual flight attendant to make our travels even more memorable! Thank You Mrs. Clark!

Second graders travel to each of the 7 continents as part of their social studies curriculum. The holiday



Alex, Faith, Morgan and Ethan prepare for their trip as Flight Attendant, Mrs. Clark hand out snacks



Brevin receives his boarding pass from Mrs. Clark



Mrs. Clark Explains Where in the World 2nd Grade will be traveling



Mrs. Clark gives students her flight attendant directions before their flight around the world for the holidays

## Wetland Classroom



OTES has a new addition to its Outdoor Classroom space... The Wetlands! Our school is fortunate to be surrounded by some amazing wetlands that provide habitats for muskrats, turtles, frogs, grasses

and cattails. All our classrooms are learning about these amazing plants and animals in Outdoor Learning with Mrs. Harvey and Mrs. St. Peter.



## Once Upon a Time, It Was March Madness!

From OTEs Gr 2-Mrs. Beaton:  
The 2nd grade classes at OTEs completed a March Book Madness tournament all the way from the Sweet 16 to the final championship game! All the books on the tournament bracket were fairy tales and fractured fairy tales to align with our reading standards. Along the way we made predictions as to which book was going to come out on top. During Sweet 16 we worked on comparing two versions of the same story through story elements. Our Elite 8 companion packs worked on Victory Vocabulary. Highlighting their skill work with selected words, definitions, parts of speech and sentence making. After several brutal eliminations we were down to the Final 4 and focused our learning on character traits and making connections. This led into a nail-biting final championship where two books had a summary shootout. Each class voted a book champion and wrote 5 reasons it was a SLAM DUNK. We carried our love and excitement for fairy tales over into our writing, where

students wrote and published their own fairy tales. Our students loved the March Madness theme and these activities have made our literacy so fun and engaging!  
OTES 2nd Grade Spanish News: Ms. Jimenez' and Mrs. Beaton's 2nd grade Spanish classes at OTEs pose with symbolic butterflies they received from students across the U.S. The map in back of them shows where the butterflies were created. All RSU #34 2nd graders participated in this international cross-curricular project that started in the fall. Students decorated and sent symbolic butterflies to Mexico where Mexican school children cared for them over the winter. The cycle of friendship continued this spring when each class received a cluster of butterflies from over the U.S. and Canada as well as a letter from a Mexican student. As the program was well received, 2nd graders next year will participate as well.  
Kristen Tagg, RSU#34 Spanish Language and Culture Teacher



LOTS OF SOCKS was sponsored by the OTEs Civil Rights Team to honor World Down Syndrome Day on March 21st

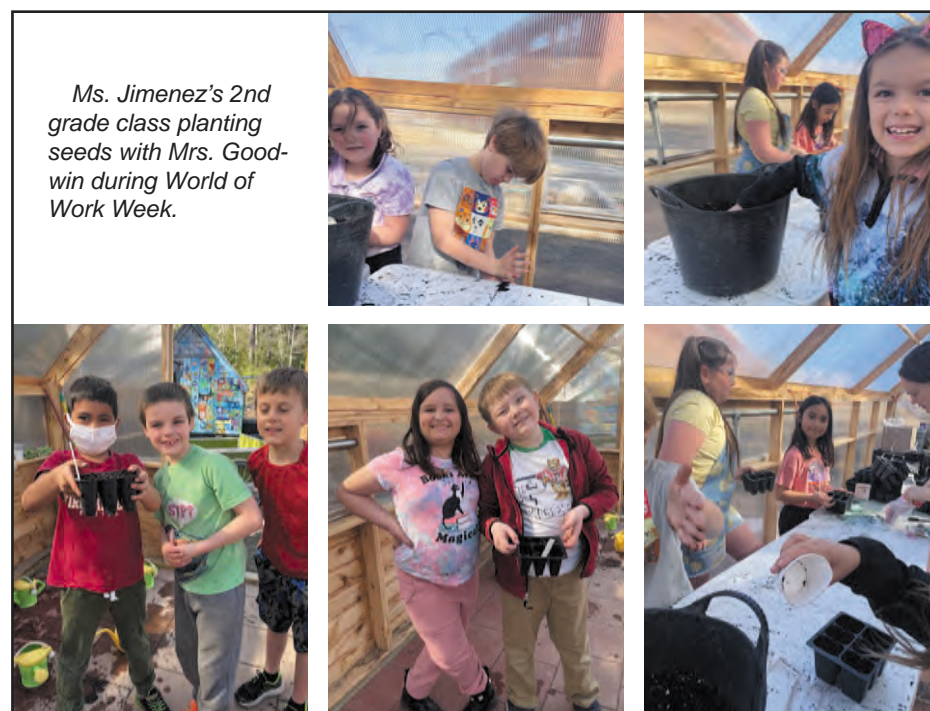


Adventuring Girls Group in an after school club with Mrs. Wilcox at OTEs

# Plant Sale

flowers & vegetables

# OTES Learning Garden



Ms. Jimenez's 2nd grade class planting seeds with Mrs. Goodwin during World of Work Week.

# WARRANT FOR DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO.34

To Brent Fournier, resident of Maine Regional School Unit #34 in the County of Penobscot and State of Maine:

**GREETINGS:** In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of Maine Regional School Unit #34, in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in Regional School Unit #34 affairs, to meet at the **Old Town High School** in the City of Old Town on **May 31, 2023** at **6:30 o'clock** in the **evening**, then and there to act upon the following articles to wit:

Article I: To elect a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article II: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Regular Instruction**.

*Explanation: The Regular instruction account includes expenses directly related to classroom teaching and learning such as salaries for teachers, substitutes, para-professionals, classroom instructional equipment, materials, supplies and textbooks. Also included are expenses related to Alternative Education, English Language Learners and Gifted and Talented / Chapter 104 Programs.*

PK-5 Regular Instruction	\$3,876,738.55
6-8 Regular Instruction	\$2,008,087.83
9-12 Regular Instruction	\$3,421,325.12
Alternative Education	\$ 124,704.37
English Language Learners Instruction	\$ 48,367.72
Gifted & Talented/Chapter 104 Instruction	\$ 409,559.13

**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$9,888,782.72**

Article III: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Special Education**.

*Explanation: The Special Education accounts include expenses for direct support of Special Education Programs.*

K-5 Special Education:	\$1,915,342.94
6-8 Special Education:	\$ 890,096.10
9-12 Special Education:	\$1,196,123.31
Out of District Special Education:	\$ 525,082.92
Summer School Special Education:	\$ 92,562.60
Special Education Administration:	\$ 362,389.46

**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$4,981,597.33**

Article IV: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Career and Technical Education**.

*Explanation: The Career and Technical Education account includes all expenses directly related to Career and Technical (Vocational) Education Programs.*

United Technologies Center Assessment	\$0.00
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**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$0.00**

Article V: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Other Instruction**.

*Explanation: The Other Instruction account includes expenses for After School Program, Summer School, Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular programs.*

After School Program K-5	\$ 5,240.50
After School Program LMS	\$ 8,663.26
Summer School K-5	\$ 10,147.18
Summer School LMS	\$ 5,240.86
After School Program OTHS	\$ 3,144.30
Summer School OTHS	\$ 10,793.47
Co-Curricular K-5	\$ 5,382.50
Co-Curricular / Extra Curricular LMS	\$143,171.73
Co-Curricular / Extra Curricular OTHS	\$526,070.30

**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$717,854.10**

Article VI: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Student and Staff Support**.

*Explanation: The Student and Staff Support account includes expenses such as guidance, health (school nurses), libraries, staff training, student assessment and instructional technology.*

Guidance Services	\$593,697.78
Library Services	\$391,782.24
School Health	\$247,379.37
Curriculum/Staff Training	\$234,095.00
Student Assessment	\$102,314.96
Instructional Technology	\$339,141.69

**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$1,908,411.04**

Article VII: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **System Administration**.

*Explanation: The System Administration account includes expenses for the Board of Directors, the Office of the Superintendent and Business Office functions.*

Board of Directors	\$ 84,658.00
Office of the Superintendent	\$187,522.90
Business Office Functions	\$298,118.89
Employee Wellness	\$ 1,000.00
Community Coordinator	\$ 1,000.00
Community Connections	\$ 17,000.00

**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$589,299.79**

Article VIII: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **School Administration**.

*Explanation: The School Administration account includes expenses for the direction and management of the individual schools.*

Alton Elementary School	\$114,329.06
Viola Rand Elementary School	\$102,787.44
Old Town Elementary School	\$345,543.75
Leonard Middle School	\$333,344.55
Old Town High School	\$470,011.15

**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$1,366,015.95**

Article IX: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Transportation**.

*Explanation: The Transportation account includes expenses for the contracted service for busing of students to and from school each day and special education transportation services.*

Transportation Contract (to and from school)	\$538,000.00
UTC Transportation	\$ 32,000.00
Special Transportation	\$ 99,302.00
Homeless Transportation	\$ 2,000.00

**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$671,302.00**

Article X: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Facilities Maintenance**.

*Explanation: The Facilities Maintenance account includes maintenance of all school buildings, grounds, minor capital renovation/ construction projects, insurance, utilities, equipment and supplies.*

**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$2,981,254.63**

Article XI: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **Debt Service and Other Commitments**.

*Explanation: The Debt Service account includes expenses local debt for OTHS Art & Science Wing.*

OTHs Art & Science Wing	\$375,995.37
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**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$375,995.37**

Article XII: To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for **All Other Expenditures**.

*Explanation: The All Other Expenditures account includes the local expense for food service operations.*

**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$0.00**

*Article XIII:* To see what sum the RSU#34 will appropriate for that portion of the cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the RSU#34 will raise and assess as each municipality's contribution to that portion of the cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, Section 15688 (Recommended amount set forth below):

<u>Town</u>	<u>E.P.S. Allocation</u>	<u>E.P.S. Amount Raised/RSU Assessment</u>
Alton	\$ <u>1,495,812.99</u>	\$ <u>343,504.83</u>
Bradley	\$ <u>3,009,475.80</u>	\$ <u>861,956.67</u>
Old Town	\$ <u>12,580,288.30</u>	\$ <u>3,528,678.67</u>
Total	\$ <u>17,085,577.09</u>	\$ <u>4,734,140.17</u>

*Explanation: The Regional School Unit #34's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by State law to be the minimum amount that the RSU#34 must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of State dollars.*

*Article XIV:* Shall the RSU#34 raise and appropriate **\$ 375,995.37** for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the legislative body for non-state funded school construction projects, or non-state funded portions of school construction projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12.

*Explanation: Non-State funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on long term debt for major capital renovation/construction projects that are not approved for State subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters.*

*Article XV:* Shall the RSU#34 raise and appropriate \$0 in additional local funds in support of the food service program.

**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$ 0.00**

*Article XVI:* Shall the RSU#34 raise and appropriate **\$ 2,567,119.67** in additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, §15671-A (4), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$ 2,567,119.67 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Directors?

*Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the RSU#34's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment of non-State funded debt service that will help achieve the RSU#34's budget for educational programs.*

**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$ 2,567,119.67**

*Article XVII: **Total Budget:*** To see what sum the RSU#34 will authorize the Board of Directors to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, from the Regional School Unit #34's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, additional local funds for educational purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, Section 15690, the RSU#34's share of the Vocational Region Programs, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, State subsidy, and other receipts for the support of schools.

*Explanation: This is a summary Article. The amount recommended is the gross budget of the RSU#34. This Article does not provide money unless the other Articles are approved.*

**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$23,480,512.93**

*Article XVIII:* To see if RSU #34 will appropriate \$76,487.07 for adult education and raise \$47,689.90 as the local share; with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program.

*Explanation: The Adult Education account includes expenses to operate the local Adult Education Program and the assessment for the Regional Vocational Adult Education Program at United Technologies Center.*

Local Adult Education Program	\$ 72,225.29
Regional Vocational Adult Ed. Program (UTC)	\$ 4,261.78

**Board of School Directors Recommend: \$76,487.07**

*Article XIX:* Shall the **Regional Vocational Operating Budget** as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 be approved in the amount of **\$4,159,421.61**

*Explanation: Approval of the total Regional Vocational Operating Budget by member units is required. This article is not subject to amendment from the floor. It may be either accepted or rejected by the voters.*

**Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.**

*Article XX:* Shall the **Regional Vocational Adult Education Budget** as approved by the Cooperative Board for the year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 be approved in the amount of **\$318,528.80.**

*Explanation: Approval of the total Regional Vocational Adult Education Operating Budget by member units is required. Regional School Unit #34's assessment is included in Article # XVIII. This article is not subject to amendment from the floor. It may be either accepted or rejected by the voters.*

**Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.**

*Article XXI:* In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the RSU#34 Board of Directors be authorized to expend other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

**Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.**

*Article XXII:* Shall the Board of Directors/School Committee be authorized to transfer up to \$500,000 from unallocated balances at the end of the 2022-2023 fiscal year to the School Capital Reserve Fund and to expend up to \$275,000 from the School Capital Reserve fund and \$55,000 from the School Equipment Reserve fund for the purpose of completion of the following projects:

Estimated Cost:	
Maintenance Truck	\$ 55,000
ADA SRRF Projects	\$224,330
OTHS Retaining Wall	\$ 50,670

**Board of School Directors Recommend a "YES" vote.**

Given under our hands this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF  
MAINE REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO.34

James Dill  
Laura Sanborn  
Donna Conary  
Dave Wollstadt  
Hunter Umphrey  
James Mitchell

Howard Jack  
Christina Lannan  
Reginald Dorr

# ALTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cheryl Leonard, Principal  
394-2331



## Forest Fridays at AES

Students in first grade at the Alton Elementary School love Forest Fridays with their kindergarten and pre-k friends! We have enjoyed playing math games in the woods, painting with mud, and exploring the forest-discovering things like tree fungus, bird nests, and animal tracks. Listening for different bird songs has been fun too. As one student said, "Forest Friday is the best day ever!"



# 100<sup>th</sup> Day at AES

First graders at AES celebrated the 100th day of school. They enjoyed 100th Day games, participated in a STEM challenge with 100 marshmallows, colored a 100-chart mystery picture, thought of different ways to create math problems that equaled 100, and did a total of 100 exercises. It was 100% a great day!



This is an example of a sculpture that will be included in a third-grade project to make an Eye Spy book

# Lego Robotics!

Fifth grade students from Alton worked on their builds in Lego Robotics.



Cole and Irvin



Andraya and Christian



Julie and Jackson



Brandon and Connor

# AES 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

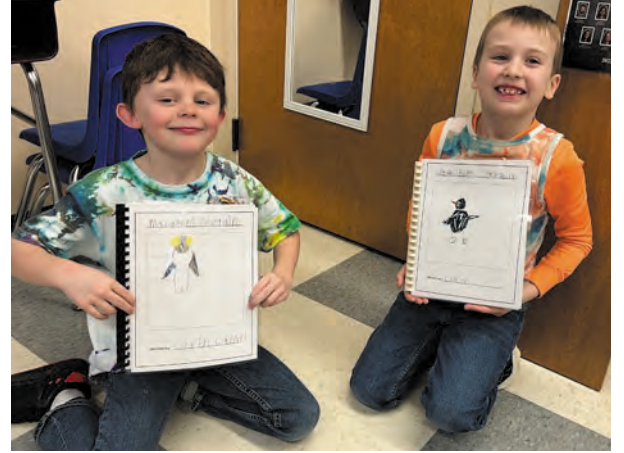
Fourth grade students paint cardboard to create a "happy" environment to share with the school community. It is inspired by a folk art in Saudi Arabia called, Al-Qah Al-Asiri.



Levi Brawn, a fourth grader at AES, used harmonious colors and complementary colors to create a magnificent composition.

# Penguin Books

Second graders at Alton Elementary worked hard on publishing their own Penguin Informational Writing Book. Students took the time to read their published work to one another.



Students in grades 2nd-5th at Alton Elementary decorated paper hearts with the titles and authors of books they loved (below). The hearts made a nice display in the library!



# AES Library News!

AES pre-K students have had fun the past couple of months. They have played with sock puppets (below), read wordless picture books (left) and made their very own books (right).



During February, pre-K students at VRS made fox faces using heart shapes (right). They also heard "The Fox and the Crow," an Aesop Fable, which tells the tale of a mother fox who praised a crow. The fox praised the crow in order to get the crow to sing, thereby dropping food out of its beak. The moral of the tale highlighted the value of common sense over beauty.



In second grade at AES, we celebrate the holidays with fun stem projects: Leprechaun Traps and Build-A-Bears.





## VIOLA RAND SCHOOL, BRADLEY

Cheryl Leonard, Principal  
827-2508



### Author Visits VRS!

On Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, Russ Cox visiting and presented to all the Viola Rand School classes. Russ is the author/illustrator of *Faraway Friends*, and illustrator of *Merry Moosey Christmas*, the *Puppy Pirates* series, *Fredy the Frogcaster* series, and *This Cowgirl Ain't Kidding About the Potty*.



### VRS Solar System Play



### Digital Citizens

In February, AES 5th grade students spent time learning about digital citizenry. We started a dialog about etiquette and ways to keep oneself safe because many students seem to use technology on a regular basis. They learned how to tell if a site is secure and they considered what information, if any, is appropriate to share when texting or gaming. At right is a picture of the 5th grade class.



By Kelly Berube

First Graders at the Viola Rand School ended their study of the solar system by performing a play to showcase their knowledge! It included singing, movement, props, costume making and scenery! These students memorized numerous lines and spoke into a microphone with clear and appropriate volume. They performed a dress rehearsal for all classrooms and did an evening performance for families. A program was created to hand out to parents showing what role each child played. The students drew pictures of the planets, moon, and sun to finish the handout. A great time was had by all! I am so proud of the effort put into this by these amazing first graders!

### Forest Friday!

On this day we made nature ice art. We went around our school grounds and collected pieces of nature. We found pine cones, old flowers, pine needles, berries, and sticks. We put them in a pie pan and then added water. After a few days, it was frozen! We then hung them in our outdoor classroom!!



## 3rd Grade Biographies

Presently, 3rd graders at VRS are making biography posters. Each student read a biography they selected. The posters will feature a picture of the person they read about and a handful of facts and images relating to the person. One poster is already completed! Be sure to ask your student about the person they read about.



## VRS Enchanted Book Fair

The "Enchanted Forest" Book Fair was a magical opportunity for students to build their home libraries and further their love of reading. Families were invited in for a Fairyland Breakfast and an Enchanted Forest Evening Event. Students enjoyed shopping at the Book Fair, making fairy houses and fairy dust glitter bottles, decorating crowns, making books, and the read-a-louds in the castle room during the evening event.



## Reduce - Reuse - Recycle!!

We learned all about taking care of our Earth by reducing energy, reusing items, and recycling. We each made a project at home using only recycled materials. Here are a few of the creations.



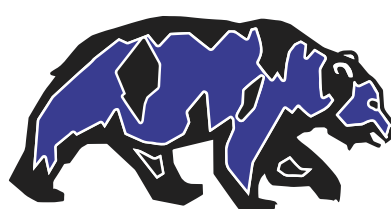
## Winter Kids 2023

Ms. Friedman's 2nd grade students had a blast participating in Winter-Kids 2023. Students were able to engage in some fun outdoor learning. The students learned the importance of both exercise and nutrition during cold Maine winters. The WinterKids activities also encouraged students to work cooperatively and listen to their teammates during some of the competitive games. Students were even able to win some fantastic prizes!

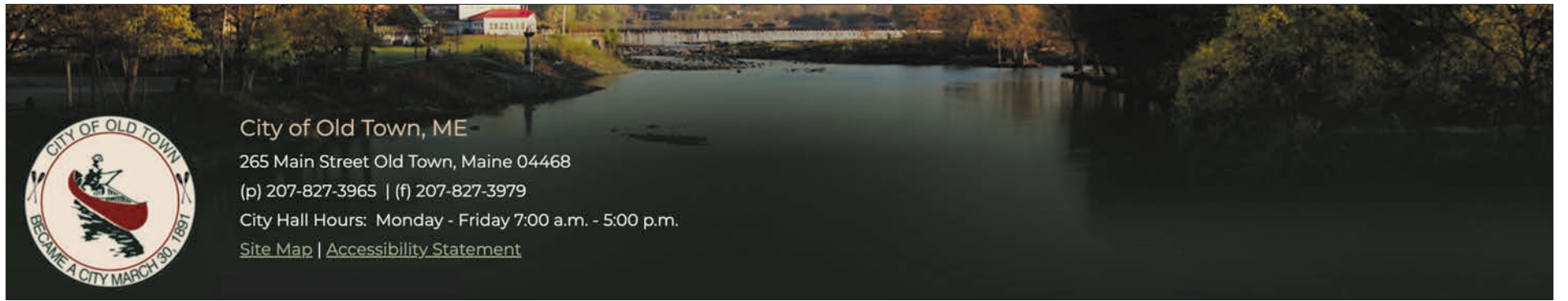


## Monarch Butterflies

Mrs. Friedmann's second-grade students started a journey with Mrs. Tagg, in the beginning of the school year. We will continue our learning about the life and migration of the monarch butterfly.



Bohdi set up a still life and now he needs a little help to get started.



City of Old Town, ME  
 265 Main Street Old Town, Maine 04468  
 (p) 207-827-3965 | (f) 207-827-3979  
 City Hall Hours: Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
[Site Map](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#)

## Old Town City Manager

### Stillwater bridge, CDD landfill, City brook pipe; City pool, cemetery, and traffic lights

By Bill Mayo  
 City Manager

The City is continuing to work on some major projects and will begin implementing some of those during the 2023 calendar year;

#### Llewellyn Estes Bridge (Stillwater Bridge) / Center Street

The Llewellyn Estes Bridge project is beginning to take shape. Geotechnical boring was done the week of April 10. The latest bridge plan is to start building the temporary bridge in July 2023 and finishing that bridge for traffic in December 2023. The new bridge construction is scheduled to begin in 2024. The highway portion of the project has been bid separately. The highway portion is the reconstruction of the Bennoch Road / College Avenue and Stillwater Avenue intersections and approaches to the bridge. The project will involve new traffic lights, controls, sidewalk re-placement and ADA compliant crossings at both intersections. The project has gone out to bid and is due to Maine DOT on May 17, 2023. Construction on this project should begin in 2023 and be finished in November 2024.

#### CDD Landfill

The City received a permit in 2022 with Maine DEP to move the unlined CDD landfill at the transfer station on Gilman Falls Avenue to the Juniper Ridge Landfill. This project will be cost shared with the

State of Maine. Maine DEP will contribute just under \$400,000 to the cost of this project. The project is now complete with transferring the CDD waste pile (38,800 cubic yards) to the Juniper Ridge Landfill.

#### City Brook Pipe

The City had this storm water line video recorded last fall (2022) and it was analyzed for structural integrity and areas to be repaired. The line begins by the football field at the high school and winds down through the City to an outfall by the Wastewater Plant on Congress Street. This is a 48 inch pipe and carries a large volume of water in the spring. This line was installed around 1965 so it is time to establish the condition of it before there are failures. The City has received in total \$746,000 in American Recovery Act funds and those will be used to fund this project. There is a section of pipe between Perkins and Pine Street that has failed and will be replaced. The rest of the line is in good working condition currently. The City has had meetings with the homeowners where replacement of the line may disrupt their property and the project went out to bid. The area of pipe to be replaced came in at a bid price of \$159,000 and will be completed in 2023.

#### City Pool

The City has had Weston Sampson conduct a review of the swimming pool. The pool was built in 1968 and there are some mainte-

nance/operational issues that are starting to reoccur on a frequent basis. After a request for qualifications was conducted in May to assist in the location and construction of a pool the Council chose to move forward with Weston Sampson to look at 3 sites in Old Town for the pool to be located. Also, the City is including the University of Maine in this discussion and the possibility of having an additional partner in the potential construction of a new pool in Old Town. During the fall Ballard & King conducted a market study for the pool and the initial draft was reviewed by the Council in February. Ballard and King is currently working on cost associated with the pool and programming that would be used to promote activities at the pool and generate revenues to offset operating costs.

#### St. Joes/Lawndale Cemetery

The City has done a request for proposal on drainage projects on each of these cemeteries in the summer/fall of 2022. These two cemeteries have water issues in the spring. After having the drainage plan completed in each of the cemeteries this will remove the standing water issues that currently take place each spring in these cemeteries. This will make the cemeteries much more accessible in the spring for folks that are visiting these cemeteries early in the year. The cost of these two projects are \$301,000 and will

be funded from the Cemetery Reserve Fund. The Lawndale project is now complete, except for final loam and seeding in the spring, and St. Joe's cemetery is currently being done and should be complete by the end of May 2023.



#### Downtown Traffic Lights

The traffic lights at the intersections of Main / Water Street and Center Street are going to be replaced this summer. The lights/poles were damaged in a fall windstorm in 2018. This project will be a cooperative agreement between MDOT, BACTS, and the City. The project cost is \$944,365 and will replace all traffic poles/lights, controls, sidewalk, and ADA compliance issues at both intersections.

#### 2023/24 Budget

The budget process is well underway for the City. There have been two public meetings to date, March 15 and April 18. The next budget discussion will be held on May 15. The current rate of inflation continues to be around 7%. The Council stated at the start of the budget process of a maximum increase to the tax rate of 4.78% or less. We are working at trying to get the increase to a percentage below the 4.78% maximum limit set by the Council.

## Old Town Public Works

Winter is finally over and it's time to get out and enjoy the sunshine. Crews will be busy repairing the inevitable plow damage around town and cleaning streets of sand and debris. Line striping has already started and will continue into May.

A curbside collection of leaves and brush will happen the weeks of May 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Leaves must be in leaf bags and brush neatly placed curbside, crews will be by to pick them up.

Our annual Household Hazardous Waste and electronics collection event will happen June 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am until noon at the Transfer Station on Gilman Falls avenue. Check the city's website for details.

The annual spring clean up collec-

tion will happen the weeks of June 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Again, check the city's website for details and items to be collected.

Paving will start early this year and is expected to begin the week of April 24<sup>th</sup> and continue into June.

Cemeteries and playgrounds will be open as weather permits but with warmer weather happening we expect all facilities to be open by Early May.

A drainage improvement project is already underway in St. Joe's cemetery and will be done before memorial day.

Stay safe and enjoy your summer!



John Rouleau

## Old Town Municipal Airport: Dewitt Field

Spring weather has finally arrived and there are many things happening here at the airport. Our Wings and Wheels committee has been working hard to ensure a bigger and better event this year. We are introducing an early evening blues concert featuring award winning artists, Johnny Sansone and Eric Johanson, from New Orleans, LA. This year's event will also feature many types of aircraft from different eras. The commemorative Air Force will be here with war birds of World War II. There will be plenty of food and activities to keep everyone in the family happy.

The taxiway B project will start back up in mid-May with a completion date of July 15. This project was started late last fall and was sidelined due to wet weather. With

this new taxiway the potential of a landing collision with an airplane back taxing will be eliminated. Maine Earth completed a short access road off the Airport Road in late April allowing two new businesses to start building their structures. In addition, Northwoods Air, LLC started operations last fall and have introduced another 11 aircraft.

Dewitt Field was approved for a grant to expand our apron. This will allow us to house an additional 22 aircraft on the airfield. The plan is to have it completed by December. We wish everyone a safe and fun summer.



Lance Farrar

## City Finance

By Danielle Berube  
Finance Director

The City website offers citizens the ability to re-register vehicles, pay taxes and sewer fees, purchase hunting and fishing licenses, and re-register ATV, snowmobile, and boat registrations with the on-line portals.

### Upcoming due dates:

30-day notices will be mailed in May for any **unpaid 2023 tax bills** with liens issued in June

### 2023 Waste Water Pollution

#### Billing schedule:

Service dates	Due dates
Jan - Mar . . . . .	April 28
Apr - Jun . . . . .	July 28
Jul - Sep . . . . .	October 28
Oct - Dec . . . . .	January 28

### General Assistance Office

General Assistance is a service administered by the municipality for the immediate aid of persons who are unable to provide the basic essential necessities to maintain themselves or their families.

The General Assistance office operates by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

General Assistance can be reached by telephone at 827-3991, ext. 107, or by email at [otwelfare@old-town.org](mailto:otwelfare@old-town.org).



Danielle Berube

## Efficiency Maine Electric Vehicle Charging Grants

Travis Roy  
Assistant City Manager

Work continues to install and activate the four electric vehicle charging stations that the City received grant funding for.

Two of the stations have been installed and are expected to be active by the end of May 2023. Those two stations are in the lower Library parking lot and the Robbins Block parking lot, across from the Walgreen's Plaza.

The two stations that are remaining to be installed will be in the Riverfront parking lot, adjacent to Pepper's Landing, and in the parking lot adjacent to the Comfort Station in the Riverfront Park. The contractor is currently waiting for the delivery of the precast concrete posts that are designed to mount the charging stations on.

The charging stations will be networked and available for the public's use by a fee. Access will be available at the terminal by using a credit or debit card as well as accounts on the popular EV charging apps such as ChargeHub, ChargePoint and PlugShare.

We are looking forward to adding this infrastructure to our community. Again, the chargers will be in the following locations, and there are two charging points per location.

- Lower Library Parking lot
- Riverfront parking lot (Across from Tim's Store)
- Robbins Block Parking lot (also called Sewall Company Parking lot)
- Main Street adjacent to the public comfort station.



Travis Roy

## Economic and Community Development

By EJ Roach

### New Businesses Come to Old Town

**MeMe G's:** Downtown Old Town has needed a place to grab a donut and a cup of coffee. We no longer have to wait with the addition of MeMe G's. According to the owners, "MeMe G's was established in loving memory of our mother and Meme, Wanda Golding. She and Grampie Rick Golding created a family tradition of making customers for life, whether they were eating a delicious pizza at Libby's or famous fresh donuts from The Donut Boys. Every recipe was made with quality ingredients, heart and hard work — a legacy we proudly hope to carry on at MeMe G's".

Eventually planning to add pizza and subs, and open the downstairs, MeMe G's is starting with donuts and a few breakfast items to make sure each step of this process just right before adding more. They have some signature flavors, but customers will be able to design their own creations by choosing their favorite ingredients -- from frosting and fillings to more than 35 candy, cereal, and savory toppings. Think BIG! These aren't your average-sized donuts, and they promise it will be worth a visit to 296 Main St. Be sure to follow them on Facebook and Instagram for pictures and updates. For more information visit their website [memegs.com/](http://memegs.com/) or email [Memegs207@gmail.com](mailto:Memegs207@gmail.com)

### Sewing and More:

Located at 278 Main Street, Sewing and More provides all your tailoring and alterations. With a focus on custom made pillows, cosplay, alterations, crochet hats, and clay dolls, every item on their site or in the store is handmade and made to order so it will always be one of a kind! Open Tuesday through Saturday 10am to 4:00pm. Call (207) 949-2663 or visit their website for more information. <https://sewing-andmore.squarespace.com/home>



EJ Roach

### Old Town Events

#### Multicultural Festival Back for Year Two:

In August of 2022, Old Town hosted its first Multicultural Festival in Riverfront Park. A wide array of vendors, food trucks, artisans, and community groups participated. With an overwhelming positive response, the decision to host a second event was made. This year's event will be Saturday August 26th, 2023, in Riverfront Park. For more information and to secure vendor space, please contact: [multicultural-fest.oldtown@gmail.com](mailto:multicultural-fest.oldtown@gmail.com)

#### Riverfest 2023:

Mark your calendar for Friday September 22nd and Saturday September 23rd. Plan on fireworks, food, and live entertainment in

## 2023 Community Events

- **May 29** Memorial Day Parade
- **Jun 10** Wings & Wheels Event at Old Town Airport (Car and Aircraft show)
- **Summer 2023** – Two new events are under development: An art festival and a music event.
- **Aug 26** Multicultural Festival
- **Sep 22/23** Riverfest
- **Sep 23** Motor Booty in City Park
- **Oct 28** Harvest Fest – new event stay tuned!
- **Nov 25** Light the Night - Holiday tree lighting and lights parade

We have had some great success with these events thus far, but it takes many hands! If you are part of a group that would like to volunteer to help with one of the events, please let us know. You can email [volunteeroldtownevents@old-town.org](mailto:volunteeroldtownevents@old-town.org). Together we will make these some great events happen for our community!

the park Friday night. Saturday will include the morning parade followed by activities, food and vendor booths, demonstrations, crafters, and a car show. Saturday evening will be host to a line-up of local food trucks and a free concert from Maine's ultimate disco party band, Motor Booty Affair. For more information, contact the planning committee at [riverfestoldtown@gmail.com](mailto:riverfestoldtown@gmail.com). We are always looking for partners, volunteers, and sponsors to help make this memorable event happen each year.

### Downtown Old Town is Looking for Volunteers

As DTOT completes its application to become a Maine Downtown Affiliate, we are seeking volunteers. If you live or work in the City of

Old Town and have an interest in seeing our Downtown develop and grow, please contact EJ Roach, Director of Economic & Community Development at [eroach@old-town.org](mailto:eroach@old-town.org) or (207) 827-3965. DTOT is a group of business owners, residents, educators, elected officials, and staff, focused on the re-development of Downtown Old Town. DTOT has been working since December of 2021 with the Maine Development Foundation and the Maine Downtown Center to continue its efforts on revitalizing Downtown. By using the 40-year-old Main Street Four-Point Approach®, DTOT is focusing its efforts on economic vitality, design, organization, and promotion.

## April Buchanan new City Assessor

By April Buchanan, City Assessor

As the new Assessor for the City of Old Town, I am getting settled in. I have a new office on the first floor and welcome visitors with questions/concerns. Our tax maps and property card information has also been moved to the first floor. If you don't have time to stop by, feel free to email me at [abuchanan@old-town.org](mailto:abuchanan@old-town.org) or call 207-827-3965 ext. 118.

Our website has been updated with links added on the Assessor's page for:

**GIS Mapping** - After clicking on the GIS Mapping link the user is taken to the AxisGIS system for the City of Old Town. We are doing our

best to keep this area updated as often as possible. A user can search in this area by address, map-lot (parcel number), or owner's name. This area gives some of the approximate site dimensions on the map as well as links to look at the sketch and on-line property card information.

**Exemptions, Tax Deferment, and Tax Stabilization for Seniors**—This area has links to the different types of exemptions available in the State of Maine. The applications and instructions can be found when clicking on the different PDFs. The potential exemptions are: Blind Exemption, Homestead

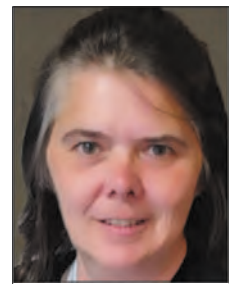
Exemption, Paraplegic Veteran Exemption, Veteran Exemption, and Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens. If there are any questions or need clarification on these programs, feel free to reach out to me, April Buchanan 207-827-3965 ext. 118.

**Real Estate Information**—This section of the website has links to the current Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Tax Commitment Books, as well as previous years Tax Bills. Some of these are large files, which can usually be searched by clicking in the document and then holding down the "Ctrl" key and the "F" key

simultaneously. A box should come up and you can type in what you are search for (i.e. owner name, address, etc.).

**Tax Maps & Information**—Here you will find a link to the AxisGIS page, Tax Map Index, and each of the individual tax maps. These should be in PDF format.

I look forward to serving the community of Old Town and have already been made to feel right at home.



April Buchanan

# Old Town Public Safety

## Old Town Fire Department

### Safe Spring Cleaning

The weather is warming, so it's time for spring cleaning! Old Town Fire Rescue has a few indoor spring cleaning fire safety tips to add to your list:

**Clear out any clutter from your home**, especially in hallways and stairways. Did you know that clutter provides fuel for a fire to spread? Make sure that all of your exits are clear and have a clear path to them. If you have any items blocking an exit, move them immediately. This ensures your family will have good escape routes should you need to evacuate due to fire.

**Have you checked your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors this spring?** If not, now is the time to do so. Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are working properly. Now is an excellent time to install them if you don't have any. Replace your carbon monoxide and smoke detector batteries and look for any corrosion on the batteries or their connection points in the device. Replace the entire device if you notice any corrosion inside the battery compartment. Otherwise, supply your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors with a fresh set of batteries.

**It's a Great Time to Clean Your Clothes Dryer Vent & Lint Trap:** Regularly clean your clothes dryer lint trap. Lint is highly combustible and can easily cause a fire if it isn't removed. Clean your dryer vent and hoses at once a year to remove and prevent any excess lint buildup or blockages.

While cleaning up your yard this spring, don't forget about fire safety.

**Here are a few outdoor spring cleaning tips to keep in mind:**

Make sure your home's address is visible from the street. If your home's address is not visible from the street, it will be difficult for emergency responders to find your home in the event of a fire or other emergencies. Make sure that your house number is visible and easy to read. Spring is the best time to, repaint or replace your address sign.

**Trim any trees or bushes that are close to your home.** Trimming away any bushes or trees that are too close to your house creates a "defensible space" between your home and potential fire sources. Additionally, if you have dead or dying trees, now is an excellent time to remove them. Dead vegetation is highly flammable and can easily catch fire.

**Do I need a burn permit?** State law requires a burn permit be issued for all open fires. You must be the owner or have the owner's written permission to burn. You may apply for an open burn permit online using the link provided by the Maine Forest Service or locally at the fire station located at 150 Brunswick Street. It is the responsibility of the person seeking the permit to follow all applicable rules and guidelines set forth on the forestry website at: <https://www13.informe.org/burnpermit>

**Do I need a permit for a cooking or warming fire in my back yard?** No permits are required for a small cooking or warming fire. This would be much like a camp fire at a campground. If the fire should cause a nuisance in your neighborhood, the department will ask you to extinguish the fire. An exception to this is if you live in a mobile home park. The City of Old Town has an ordinance that states no open fires are allowed in mobile home parks.

Both types of fires require you have safety measures in place such as always attended, extinguishment capabilities, and adult supervision. Keep plenty of water handy and have a shovel available to extinguish any stray embers. When you are done, drown the fire with water, making sure all embers, coals and sticks are completely soaked. Use a shovel to move rocks to check for embers and stir/mix the coals with the water. Use the back of your hand to feel if the remaining coals are still hot. If you still feel heat, then add more water and stirs the coals repeatedly until no heat can be felt.

As always, if you have any questions about fire safety or fire prevention, you can always call us at 207-827-3400. We are always happy to help!



Scott Wilcox

## Old Town Police Department

### Paving Scam Warning

The Old Town Police Department investigated multiple paving scam complaints last spring from an out-of-state "company". The individuals deceived the customers into thinking they were getting their driveways paved at a low-cost. The end result was a poorly done paving job at a very high cost. It should be noted in both instances, the individuals approached the home owners stating they had extra materials from a past job that they could use to pave their driveway. In one of the incidents, the company "quoted" the customer for \$11,400 and when the job was complete, told them the price was now \$30,500. More information is on our Facebook page but here is some advice on how to watch out for paving scams.

**How the Scam Works:** A seller of paving services comes to a consumer's door, claiming that they just finished a nearby paving job. They offer to pave the consumer's driveway at a discounted rate using leftover asphalt. The paver then gives a low estimate—or no estimate at all—and begins paving the driveway without providing a contract. After the paver completes the paving job, they will demand a much larger payment than the original estimate. In some cases, the paver will have paved a larger-than-agreed upon area to justify the increased price. In other cases, the paver might use intimidation or threats to get consumers to agree to the increased price. After the paver leaves, the consumer often notices that the paving job is incomplete or shoddy. The consumer has now lost thousands of dollars and ended up with a bad paving job.

**What Consumers Should Look For:** Not all paving scams will be the same. So here are some red flags a consumer should watch out for that indicate a scam:

- A story about leftover asphalt from a nearby job
- Too-good-to-be-true pricing
- Unclear estimate
- No contract
- Pavers who want to begin work immediately
- Asking for cash payments
- Unlicensed pavers - You can verify the license online at <https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/regulation-transient-sales/online-services>.

**Scammed? What Consumers Can Do**

**Know your rights:** Consumers are protected from paving scams by the following laws: The Consumer Solicitation Sales Act (32 M.R.S.A. §§4661-4671), The Transient Sales Act (32 M.R.S.A. §§14701-14716), The Door-to-Door Seller of Home Repair Services Act (32 M.R.S.A. §§14501-14513). The Maine Consumer Law Guide gives more information about how these laws protect Maine consumers from predatory pavers.

**Cancel your contract:** If a door-to-door seller of paving services began the paving job within three days of the solicitation, you can cancel the contract even if the job has been completed. You must cancel in writing and send your written cancellation to the seller. Once you have cancelled within the three-day period, you are under no obligation to pay for any work, even work that was already done.

**Contact law enforcement:** Call your local police department. Then file a complaint online with the Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection division at <https://www.maine.gov/ag/consumer/complaints/index.shtml>. Or call the Consumer Protection Division to file a complaint Monday through Thursday, from 9:00AM to 12:00PM at (800) 436-2131.

As the weather warms up you will see Old Town officers conducting bike patrols, we want to be visible and accessible to all of you. Please don't hesitate to flag us down if you have a question for us. We understand that people sometimes have questions but may not call the non-emergency line to speak to an officer. We are here for all of you and want to help in any way that we can.

# Old Town Pollution Control

Spring is a busy time for the staff at the Pollution Control Facility.



David Smith

The Winter season took a toll on several of our properties. When the snow melted it showed just how much. Staff will spend some time cleaning up the Treatment Plant, Compost Site, and six Pump Stations yards. Staff also has to get the Treatment Plant ready for what we call chlorination season. Also, the Spring Paving season has begun which means sev-

eral manhole frames and covers will have to be adjusted to grade.

The relatively mild winter made plowing difficult. Staff tried to be as careful as possible, but some yard damage occurred. It really was not known how much damage until the snow melted. Some sod will need to be repaired. Staff we spend time repairing the sod and raking the sand and gravel from the lawns of our six Pump Stations. The same will be done at the Treatment Facility and Compost Site.

Staff at the Pollution Control is also preparing for what we call chlorination season. This means we are required to add chlorine to the treated wastewater. Chlorina-

tion season runs from May 15<sup>th</sup> until October 1<sup>st</sup>. To prepare for this both secondary (Final) clarifiers and both chlorine contact chambers need to be pumped out and cleaned. We do this because the cleaner they are the less chlorine we will need to use. 2,000 gallons of concentrated chlorine has been ordered with a delivery date of May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Spring Paving season has started. There are roughly 35 manhole frame and covers that need to be addressed in the spring paving scope. Staff will inspect these and determine what needs to be done. Some will need to be replaced. Some will need some work such as cementing them. Some will need risers, and

some won't need much at all. Staff has ordered replacements frames and covers, cement, and riser rings and have them on site.

Just a reminder. Please do not flush Clorox wipes, baby wipes, or flushable wipes. Staff has noticed a large amount of Clorox wipes, baby wipes, flushable wipes and paper towels in our system lately. The only way they get into our system is they are being flushed. These items should never be flushed as they do not break down and cause problems.

Sincerely,

David Smith  
Superintendent  
Old Town Pollution Control  
(207) 827-3970

## Old Town Public Library

Now that warm weather is finally here, we are able to get out and enjoy more activities. Come visit the library to see what we have to offer, such as **Maine State Park passes, Coastal Maine Botanical Garden tickets, Maine Discovery Museum tickets, and Penobscot Theatre tickets**, all available to check out with your library card. The **Story Walk** in the garden around the library is now available and is updated monthly during Spring, Summer, and Fall, so be sure to stop by and see the new story.

Our **Library of Things** collection is growing! We have adventure bags, ukuleles, Giant Jenga, Yardzee, and several other indoor and outdoor games and things available to check out with your library card. New to the collection this year are **2 kayaks from Old Town Canoe**. Kayaks will be available to borrow starting late May through early October. Visit the library for more details.

Our hours of operation are Monday & Tuesday, 10am-7pm, Wednesday-Friday, 10am-5pm, and Saturday, 10am-1pm. Feel free to come in and browse the collection or use our public internet access computers. We are still offering curbside pickup service for those who would prefer it. Utilize our catalog

to request items, or give us a call, and we would be happy to help (207-827-3972).

Our Children's programming has been very busy in our downstairs meeting rooms. **Toddler Time**, intended for children ages 1-3, is on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30am. The after-school **Club Library** will be continuing through the end of the school year and is held from 2:30-4:30 on Wednesdays (PreK-2nd grade) and Thursdays (3rd-5th grade). Also, back by popular demand, **Lego Club** (for children K-5th grade) is held from 3:00 - 4:30 on the 3rd Monday of the month during the school year. During the Summer we will be offering our **Brown Bag Reader** programs. Check our website for more information or contact Ms. Cindy at the library for more details on children's events.

Some upcoming events this Summer include **Mike Familant: Live!**, July 10th at 4pm. Mike is Bigfoot tracker and has some interesting evidence and stories to tell. On August 4th, we will be hosting **Tim Caverly**, who will be presenting his program called, "Allagash-New England's Wild River". We will also be doing an **"Into the Outdoors" Summer Reading program** and will have

more information available on our Facebook and website. A new book club called **Pages in the Park** is starting this Summer. It will be held on the last Saturdays of June, July, and August from 2pm-3pm. Members will meet at the gazebo in Riverfront Park and enjoy lively discussions on books that will be revealed soon. We also have a **Sit 'n Stitch** group that meets from 1-3 on Thursday afternoons for knitting, sewing, and other handicrafts. Our **Book Craft Night** is another fun program that is held quarterly.

For more information on any of our events, be sure to check our website for more information about what's going on at the Old Town

Public Library (old-town.lib.me.us) and follow our Facebook and Instagram accounts for reading recommendations, lists of new items added to our collection, and upcoming programming announcements. Old Town Public Library 207-827-3972 [otpl@old-town.org](mailto:otpl@old-town.org) <http://old-town.lib.me.us>



Cassandra Pool



## Old Town Code Enforcement

With 2023, nearing the midway point, it is not too early to begin your summer project planning. In fact, if you are planning any sort of projects that will require professional trades people, you will need to start lining them up now as most contractors are booked months in advance. Below is a follow-up on projects that were ongoing this past fall.

The conversion of the old Jefferson Street School into a twelve-unit apartment building. (Drywall is completed, some units painted out, new windows being installed,) The owner of this property, Andy LeClair, is doing an exceptional job with this renovation/repurposing project. I look forward to every inspection, or impromptu visit I make.

There are three new dwellings in various stages of construction on Poplar Street. (Two new modular homes have also been placed.)

A large remodeling project is underway in the old, Old Town Canoe building that housed the store. This will be utilized as office space, conference rooms and a lab testing new products. (Still ongoing.)

A project that was site developed a number of years ago has been sold to new owners. They have come in and received the first four permits to be constructed. (There are five buildings in various stages of construction. One is nearing completion, one is being drywalled, two ready for rough electric and plumbing, one awaiting trusses. There are also five foundations in the ground with three of these having underground plumbing installed.)

A new owner bought the property at 1123 Main Street and has

received Planning Board approval to relocate four, four-unit buildings from University Park to be put on new foundations. (This project has taken on a new direction. After much thought the owner has decided to build all new buildings. There will be four buildings, with four one-bedroom apartments in each. These are in various stages of construction.)

### New Project? Call me!

With the afore mentioned and all of the unknown projects that are sure to begin this summer, I will continue to stay busy.

So, if you are in the early stages of planning a project or want to have your project shovel read for this fall or next spring's construction season, please contact me with any questions you may have. I would like to reiterate the same advice once again as I offered in the last quarterly. While this information may seem redundant, I feel it is important to remember.

I always suggest that you give me a call before you get too far along in the planning stages to determine whether a permit is required and if your project is even feasible/ allowed. I pride myself in 99% of the time finding a way for your dream to become a reality. For some construction projects, such as siding, roofing, and fences there are no permits required. However, do you know if the siding you are going over is asbestos, or how many layers of shingles are permitted to be shingled over. Do you really know where your property line is and if it is true that you must put the good side of the fence facing your neighbor's property? What size does my

new bedroom window need to be to meet egress standards. How high does the railing on my new deck have to be and do I even need a railing on it? Is a permit for a deck or a shed required? The list goes on and on. Most accessory structures, decks, sheds, and garages require a building permit. Set back distances from property lines vary between zoning districts and upon an accessory structure being attached or detached to the primary structure. These are important items to find out before venturing too far into a project.

### Permit Fees

Our permit fees are very reasonable and are assessed based upon the type of construction you are doing. For instance, remodeling fees, with no additional square footage added are based on the following:

- <\$1,000 of construction costs = \$25.00
- \$1,000 - \$4,999 of construction costs = \$35.00
- \$5,000 - \$9,999 of construction costs = \$50.00
- \$10,000-20,000 of construction costs = \$65.00
- Over \$20,000 of construction costs the fee is \$4.00 per thousand of cost.

Permit fees for additions and accessory structures are based on the square footage of the addition / structure. We also require and issue both internal and external plumbing permits, electrical permits, sign permits as well as permits for all commercial applications.

As you can see it is an easy one stop shopping department for all your permitting needs. Please do not hesitate to pick up the telephone

and let me help you get your project underway. I look forward to lending you any assistance you may require. You may contact me, David Russell, at 827-3965 ext. 205.



David Russell

## No Chickens on Marsh Island

Chickens are not allowed on Marsh Island/Old Town proper. The only zoning districts chickens are allowed is in the R-3, R-3A, Rural Residence Zoning District. The city is seeing a dramatic increase in rat and rodent populations. A large cause of this is due to the illegal keeping of chickens, as the feed is also a source of food for the rats. The feeding of feral animals is another reason for the increase in the rat population, as rats are not picky eaters. They require and search out any food source available. **DO NOT LEAVE OUT ANY FOOD FOR FERAL ANIMALS.** Open compost piles are another source of food and shelter for rodents. All composting must be undertaken utilizing an enclosed composting bin. Placing your trash curbside early and not in required trash cans is yet another reason we are facing this challenge. Please place trash curbside the morning of your collection date and in a trash receptacle.\*\*\*\*

David C. Russell, Code Enforcement Officer  
Tel: 207-827-3965 x 205 Cell: 207-570-6798 Fax: 207-827-3966  
[drussell@old-town.org](mailto:drussell@old-town.org)



## OTHS Students Earn UTC Recognition

At the United Technologies Center's annual Academic Awards Night on May 23rd, the following OTHS students will be honored:

- Zachary Anthony, Horticulture & Outdoor Recreation: Outstanding Student
- Jamey Badger, Construction Engineering Technology: Most Improved Student
- Natalie Blockburger, Culinary Arts / Hospitality: Outstanding Student
- Matthew Brawn, Electrical / Connectivity: Outstanding Student
- Danica Brown, Emergency Medical Services: Community Service Certificate
- Isaiah Buxton (pictured), Horticulture & Outdoor Recreation: Most Improved Student
- Evan Closson, Diesel Equipment: Most Improved Student
- Brendan Mahaney, Plumbing



- & Heating: Outstanding Student
  - Noah Nickerson, Digital Arts & Software Development: Most Improved Student
  - Emma Sirois, Medical Assisting: Outstanding Student
  - Hunter Theriault, Video & Audio Production: Community Service Certificate
- Additionally, the following OTHS students are honored by membership in the National Technical Honor Society: Zachary Anthony, Aidan Black, Natalie Blockburger, James Dumond, Alexandria McCrossin, Clay Slauenwhite.
- Finally, James Dumond graduates this year with both an OTHS diploma and an Associate's Degree! Congratulations to all of our fantastic OTHS / UTC students.

### 2023 City of Old Town

## Spring Clean-up Schedule

**Bagged Leaves & Brush, curbside - May 15 - 26**

**Annual Curbside Spring Clean-Up - June 5 - 16**

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection, transfer station - June 10, 8 AM - 12 PM**

For details and guidelines for what is accepted, go to [old-town.org](http://old-town.org) and select "Public Works Events" from the "Departments" drop-down menu.

**FREE EVENT\***  
**SATURDAY JUNE 10th 8AM - 10PM**  
 \$10.00 REGISTER AUTO & PLANE TO WIN PRIZES

**LIVE CONCERT**  
**NEW ORLEANS ARTISTS!**  
 BUY ONLINE OR AT THE GATE  
 BRING A NEW, UNWRAPPED TOY  
 RECEIVE \$5 DISCOUNT \$20

"Jumpin Johnny Sansone" Grammy nominated, Electric Blues player and songwriter

Eric Johanson Top 10 Billboard charting guitarist, vocalist and songwriter with Blues-based roots and New Orleans Funk

[Instagram.com/DewittFieldMunicipal](https://www.instagram.com/DewittFieldMunicipal)

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT:**

War Birds, Helicopters, Car Show, Corn Hole Tournament, Raffles, Concerts, Food, and more!  
 DeWitt Field Municipal: 100 Airport Road - Old Town, ME 04468

Rain date June 11th