

# NEWSLETTER

EMPOWERING ALL TO GROW, LEARN, EXPLORE & SOAR

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## A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents / Guardians and Students:

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. Report cards are now available when you login to Infinite Campus and check reports. If you do not have an Infinite Campus account, you will receive a hard copy of your child's report card with this newsletter. As always, I encouraged students and parents to review the report card together. If you have questions or concerns regarding the report, please reach out to teachers with your questions. I would also note that the cold and flu season did impact some students in the month of January and if a student was unable to complete coursework due to illness or other documented circumstance an incomplete, which would have required my approval, would have been issued and a student would be expected to work with his or her teachers to complete all work for quarter two by February 8th.

I want to take a minute to celebrate the young people at Mt. Ararat High School who are engaged in community service projects. I'll name a few of the projects that our students are engaged in that make a difference for people in our community: Valentines for Vets, food drives to support Midcoast Hunger Prevention, Blood Drives, Coats for Kids, Cancer Society fundraisers, and more. Thank you to all the young people who are involved in community service throughout the year and the adults who support these efforts. You do make a difference.

Many people are asking about snow days. To date, we have had 4 snow days and we generally plan for 5 in our calendar. At a recent Board meeting a plan was presented to address the concern about snow days and to ensure that the school year would not extend beyond June 21st. If we have more than 6 snow days the plan for making up instructional time would go into effect and the first change would be that May 28th would become a student day instead of a professional day. A letter has been drafted by district office administration spelling out the details and the letter will be sent home to all families in the district in the near future. Again, the goal is to ensure that the school year will conclude no later than June 21st.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone to plan extra time for travel to and from school throughout the winter season. Some of the snow banks impact visibility and we want to ensure everyone can feel safe walking and driving on our campus.

Respectfully,



Donna F. Brunette, Principal

# SHOUT-OUTS

## Service Above Self

Congratulations to Kody Noyes and Riley Robertson, the latest recipients of the Rotary's "Service Above Self" Award. Both students are involved with many school and civic organizations. For example, Riley has been a huge supporter of the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital where she volunteers. She also spoke before the Maine State Senate last year to advocate the creation of the BBCH license plate.

Kody was key to founding MTA's Teens for Change Club, attended Boys State and is also a mentor for the Navigate program. We are so proud of their accomplishments!

## Poetry Out Loud

Congratulations to freshman Olivia Cox, MTA's 2019 Poetry Out Loud champion! Olivia will represent MTA at the Southern Maine Regional Poetry Out Loud finals at Westbrook Middle School on February 11th.

## VFW Voice of Democracy

Congratulations to senior Emily Smith, who won the VFW Voice of Democracy State of Maine essay scholarship competition this month! Emily will now represent the State of Maine and the Topsham VFW at the national competition in Washington, D.C. in March! Way to go Emily!

## Maine Council for the Social Studies

Dennis Edmondson of the Social Studies Department has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Maine Council for the Social Studies. Mr. Edmondson, who graduated from Mt. Ararat in 1977, has been a member of the faculty at Mt. Ararat since 1984. He is well known for his passion and creativity in teaching his students about history. Mr. Edmondson received certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards and was a previous winner of the Maine History Teacher of the Year award.

# CAPSTONE EXHIBITION DAY

The Capstone Exhibition Day is fast approaching. On Friday, April 5, 2019, seniors will present their Capstone projects and all underclassmen will have the opportunity to watch the presentations. Seniors should be nearing the end of their field work as practice presentations will begin the week before February vacation.

# FUNDRAISER NEWS

## Pave the Way to Your Field of Dreams

Help to tell your part of history of the Mt. Ararat High School's building project! Orders for commemorative bricks to be placed at the new baseball field are available at: <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/mtaeagles>

For more giving opportunities related to the new MTA High School Project, visit <https://sites.google.com/a/link75.org/construction/home/fundraising/howinvolved>.

## Class of 2021 Live Auction

MTA's Class of 2021 Live Auction! Saturday, March 30th at the Topsham Fairgrounds! 5:30pm preview, Auction begins at 6pm!

# Class of 2022 Umbrella Sale



Order a MTA umbrella and support the class of 2022! Perfect for those rainy lacrosse games or sunny baseball games!

The umbrellas are red, white, and blue, and will have the Mt. Ararat athletic logo on one panel.

- 48" arc
- wood grip handle
- automatic open
- nylon material
- aluminum frame

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To order your umbrella(s), fill out your information below and turn into the main office WITH payment – cash or check made out to MTA Class of 2022.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Umbrellas: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 per umbrella

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



# EAGLES ON THE MOVE

The brisk temps haven't been slowing down MTA students this winter! The Outing Club recently spent a chilly Saturday in January with Teens to Trails and other high school outing clubs at Hidden Valley Sports Center in Jefferson, Maine snowshoeing, learning about native trees, tracking bobcat and deer prints, and participating in a Winter Skills Workshop to learn how to be prepared for winter outdoor activities and outings.

P.E. classes have been taking part in a variety indoor and outdoor activities, including floor hockey, archery and snowshoeing. Staying active throughout the year while having fun -- the cold never bothered us anyway!

