



To: Parents/Guardians & Students

From: Donna F. Brunette, Principal

Date: March 8, 2016

RE: MTA Newsletter

In the past few months I have attended concerts, a Poetry Outloud competition, athletic events, a variety show, the LifeSmarts competition, and most recently the play Annie, a joint venture for the high school and middle school. I am truly amazed at the many talents of our children and it is my pleasure to witness their accomplishments. I also want to thank the teachers, coaches, and staff who nurture student interests as they discover individual gifts. Each student has unique interests and abilities and the appreciation for people as individuals makes MTA a special place to work.

The goal for third quarter report cards is to make a transition from mailing newsletters and student report cards to sending this information electronically to parents in our community who have email access to the Infinite Campus Portal. Enclosed is a letter that outlines the details. Parents are asked to review the information and confirm that we have correct email addresses. If you do not have a login for the Infinite Campus Portal the steps for signing up for access are included as well. Information in Infinite Campus will be used to distribute newsletters and other materials typically sent home with grading reports. Emails sent to you will remind you how to view your child's progress reports or report cards in Infinite Campus. For parents who do not have an Infinite Campus portal account, we will continue to mail home the grading reports. Please review the enclosed information for details and refer any questions to our main office.

Geoffrey Godo has been hired to assume the athletic director position at MTA. Geoff's background includes studying Pre-Business at Western Michigan University and transferring to the University of Michigan where he completed his Bachelors in Sports Management and Communications. Geoff interned for the Michigan Section of PGA of America prior to being hired as Director of Junior Golf/Communications for the South Florida Section. Geoff moved to Maine in 2005 assuming the role of Account Executive/Vice President of Ticket Sales for the Portland Pirates. During his employment in professional sports, Geoff worked tirelessly to provide young people in and around these communities with positive, enjoyable athletic experiences as participants and spectators. Geoff's passion for sports along with his interactions with kids of all ages leads him to the University of New England where he completed a teaching program. Geoff has been teaching Social Studies for the past 6.5 years at Westbrook High School, served as a 9th Grade Team Leader, and has coached high school sports (Varsity Golf, Freshman Baseball, as well as Baseball and Basketball at the middle school level). Geoff has been a member of the MTA athletic staff for the past three years supporting with site management for events. Geoff is a member of the MTA community. Geoff's first official day on the job will be March 14th.

The master schedule for the 2016-2017 school year is being finalized and the plan is to have our current 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students complete the course sign up process during the week of March 21st. The Program of Studies for the 2016 -2017 school year has been published on our website and I encourage parents to review this document with your child with a specific focus on required coursework and elective options that challenge your child to explore passions or interests. When students have completed the course selections forms with support and input from current teachers, students will need to have a parent sign off on the form. Our hope is that students and parents will discuss any questions or concerns regarding course selections so the need for changes can be limited as we plan for a new year.

One final note, the Civil Rights and Social Justice Team is organizing presentations for each grade level focused on bullying. This group of students with the support of Officer Cook to bring a program to our school called Project HEAR. HEAR is a research-based bullying prevention program designed to challenge students to adopt respectful personal behavior and active bullying

intervention. Sergeant Connors of the Air National Guard met with representatives from the Civil Rights and Social Justice Team to share information regarding the program and the students have worked with Officer Cook and Don Gray to schedule time Advisory/AST during the next two weeks to engage students in this program. If you would like more information about this program you can review the program details at www.project-hear.us.

Calendar Dates

March 10	Bandorama
March 11	Professional Development Day (No School for Students)
March 12	UNH Jazz Festival
March 21 - 25	Interact Club Food Drive – In School - Cram the Van Food Drive
March 26	Cram the Van Food Drive @ Topsham Hannaford Parking Lot
April 1	Last Day of the Third Quarter
April 1	Class of 2016 Hypnotist Show
April 12	MEA Testing – School Day SAT
April 15	Professional Development Day (No School for Students)
April 18 – 22	Spring Vacation
April 26	MEA Testing – Science Augmentation
April 27	MEA Testing - School Day SAT (make up date for students absent 4/12)
April 28	Capstone Day – Senior Presentations

MTA Recognitions

Congratulations to Rose Horowitz ('16) for advancing to the state Poetry Out Loud finals, for the second year in a row. Rose is one of ten finalists statewide and she will be defending her title March 15th in Waterville as the 2015 Maine State Poetry Out Loud Champion.

Congratulations for the following Mt. Ararat High School students who have been selected for the 2016 Maine All State Music Festival. The students auditioned in November, competing with over 1000 students from all over the state. As a result of those auditions, a band, orchestra, and two choirs were chosen. The students will travel to Orono for three days in May to participate in the festival that culminates with the All State Concert in the Collins Center for the Arts on the University of Maine campus. Students selected were:

<u>Band:</u>	Mark Abreu, Grade 11; Reyann Brooks, Grade 12; Tim Cox, Grade 11; Jessica Gabriel, Grade 10; Kate Trebilcock, Grade 10
<u>Mixed Choir:</u>	Kate Graeff, Grade 10; Liam Kent, Grade 11; Markis Larrivee, Grade 12; Elijah Slocum, Grade 9; Juliet Williams, Grade 10
<u>Treble Choir:</u>	Daniel Blake, Grade 10; Grace Liedman, Grade 9

Congratulations to the following Mt. Ararat High School music students who were selected to participate in the 2016 District III Honors Music Festival on January 29 & 30, that was hosted at the Orion Performing Arts Center. The students auditioned in October and were chosen to participate in one of three separate ensembles at the festival: Concert Band, Mixed Choir and Treble Choir. District III includes schools in a geographical triangle with the outermost points being Freeport, Augusta and Belfast.

Band

Flute:	Emma Levy, Morgan Johnson, Dakota Lopez & Tristan Caswell-Riday
Clarinet:	Reyann Brooks
Bass Clarinet:	Lexi Thompson
Alto Sax:	Tim Cox & Mark Abreu
Tenor Sax:	Temple Miller
Bari Sax:	Alli Gosselin
Bassoon:	Jessie Gabriel
Trumpet:	Tyler Bernier, Mae Flibotte, Macey Downs & Emma Pottle
Horn:	Natalie Burch & Caitlin Chambers
Trombone:	Katie Trebilcock, Ashley Parker & Gideon Wheeler

Chorus

Mixed Choir:	Daniel Blake, Kate Graeff, Grace Liedman, Emily McGlaufflin, Kobi Appleby & Elliot Bowie
Treble Choir:	Maddie Plant, Savannah Slocum, Sula Demers, Kate Guerin, Riley Robertson, Campbell Tankersley & Abi Welch

Congratulations to the MTA Girls Hockey Team. The team was the recipient of the Maine Principals Association Girls Ice Hockey Sportsmanship Award.

Congratulations to the MTA/Brunswick High School Wrestling Team. The team was the recipient of the Maine Principals Association Boys Wrestling Sportsmanship Award.

Congratulations to MTA Senior, Shyheim Ulrickson. Shy was recognized as a candidate for the prestigious Gatorade Basketball Player of the Year for the State of Maine. This award is for athletic excellence, academic achievement and exemplary character. The award winner will be announced in March. Shy scored 1,510 career points at MTA and was the KVAC South Division Player of the Year.

Congratulations to Jacob Tobias, Aaron Sprague, Vanessa Balsler, Matthew Ducatt, and Team Captain Emma Hagan. The group of students, as part of the Jobs for Maine Graduate Program, qualified for the Maine State Competition of the LifeSmarts program. The team competed in the on Friday, March 4th. Though the team did not win the competition, in one of their three rounds they outscored the team that eventually became the state champs.

Congratulations to Robert Hetherman, MTA Junior. Robert won the Class A State Wrestling Championship recently held at Noble High School. Robert was also the winner of the New England Wrestling Qualifier and represented the State of Maine in the 170-lb division in the New England Championship in Providence, RI on March 4th and 5th.

Capstone Day – A Celebration of Learning

Mt. Ararat High School will host our 5th annual Capstone Day on April 28, 2016. The Capstone project is a graduation requirement, a culminating experience for our seniors linked directly to our mission statement. Our advisory curriculum is designed to engage our seniors in an in-depth study focused on a topic of personal interest. As part of the project students are required to connect with a community mentor as they engage in research and design a field experience that immerses the student in an authentic learning experience. On Capstone Day, seniors present projects to an audience and a panel of judges with the goal of demonstrating achievement of our mission which includes the following tenets: clear and effective communicator; self-directed, lifelong learner; creative and practical problem solver; and responsible and involved citizen.

This event is a celebration of learning at Mt. Ararat High School. On Capstone Day, seniors present projects to an audience of students, parents, and other community members as a group of faculty and community judges score the presentations. Members of the greater Mt. Ararat High School community join us for this special event to witness our students as they showcase talents, passions, and learning skills. The projects vary greatly based on student interests, from commissioning a painting, rebuilding an engine, theatrical costume design, to experiencing the work of a field biologist. If there are parents or community members who are interested in attending this event, or possibly serving as an adjudicator, please contact the main office.

SAT Testing and MEA Science Testing for Third Year Students

All students in their third year of high school will be scheduled to participate in two assessments as part of the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) program. The first test administered will be the School Day SAT on Tuesday, April 12th. The School Day SAT is an opportunity for your child to take this college placement test for free and at the same time provide our school district with valuable information about student learning that supports curriculum review. Meetings will be held with third year students during the next two weeks outlining details about the SAT administration. Information will also be sent home to parents prior to the administration of the assessment to support families taking full advantage of this opportunity. Meanwhile, students can begin preparing for the test by using the Free SAT prep available through College Board that offers the opportunity for students to take practice tests. Students who spend time becoming familiar with the test format and the content assessed generally score well on the assessment. Changes were made to the SAT this year so students who took the SAT in January should note the changes outlined on the College Board website as they plan for this session. There is a make up date for students who are absent on April 12th. The make up test date is April 27th.

All third year students also take the MEA Science test. The plan is to administer this test on April 26th. The MEA Science test has been administered annually for many years and is required by Maine law for all public schools. The results of this assessment are used to reflect on our science programs and student learning.

It is critically important for our third year students to participate in both of the tests (the SAT and the MEA Science test), so please mark April 12th on your calendar. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Interact Club & National Honor Society

The Interact Club and National Honor Society are working on activities for the annual Cram the Van, March 26th at the Topsham Hannaford! We are hoping to provide lots of food and cash to assist MidCoast Hunger Prevention just in time for Easter! Beginning March 14th, advisory groups will be competing to see which group can bring in the most items. The winning advisory will earn a free breakfast prepared by Ms. Pols!

Sophomore College Trips

Our Advisory curriculum includes a requirement that students visit a college or post-secondary education campus. With the support of our MELMAC grant, for the past several years we have been able to organize and provide that college visit for all sophomores at no cost to students. Students look forward to the experience. This year, we will be touring campuses on April 7 and April 8. Teachers will accompany the groups and we are always looking for and welcome parents who would be interested in chaperoning to join us on these trips. Please note that this is not an attempt to match students with a particular college campus. Our goal is simply to have young people experience a day learning about college/postsecondary opportunities. If you are interested in chaperoning, email Janet Galle at gallej@link75.org.

Quebec Field Trip

French teachers Nathalie Gorey and Lyn Ballou will be taking 8 students to St. Georges, Québec on Wednesday, March 9, returning Sunday, March 13. While in Québec, students will hone their French skills, learn about Québec ways close up as they stay with local families, and experience high school, a sugar shack, Québec City and snow-tubing *à la québécoise*.

Science Club

On Saturday, February 27, Mt. Ararat Science Club participated in the Maine State Science Bowl held at the University of Southern Maine's Gorham campus. Mt. Ararat entered two teams that answered questions and solved problems from the Earth/Space Sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Energy, and Math in a quiz show format. On those teams were Sula Demers (Sr.), Joe Beale (Jr.), Tim Cox (Jr.), Mae Flibotte (So.), Peter Mao (So.), Ashley Prout (Sr.), Audra Nordwell (Sr.), Nick Mathieu (Jr.), Abigail Nordwall (So.), and Rebecca French (So.). Both teams were spirited competitors, each winning one match and coming close to winning two other matches that slipped away on the final question. Most importantly, the students had fun preparing for the competition and look forward to next year.

The Seaperch Aquatic Robotics portion of the Mt. Ararat Science Club continues to prepare for the Maine Seaperch competition on Saturday, April 9.



MTA Construction Project

The Building Committee and sub-committees continue to meet monthly to discuss plans for the high school construction project. Parents and students are invited to follow the process through the website. Please look for the icon at the head of this article on any of the school and district websites to access this information. The current focus for our work with the Dept. of Education is the negotiation of space allocation for the project and when this process is complete the actual design process will begin. Thank you to everyone who has been following the work associated with the project. It is a slow but steady process.

Project Graduation

This week we began sales for our March Madness 16 Days of Raffles. We will be drawing names daily to win prizes from March 20- April 4. Tickets are \$5 each or 2 for \$8. We're asking that each student sell 10 tickets. These tickets were handed out to students during advisory last week. As a bonus for each ticket a senior sells, their name will be entered into separate raffles to win prom-associated prizes, like restaurant gift cards, salon services and corsage deals!!

We will be selling raffle tickets at the 99 Restaurant during our "Dining for a Cause" event on March 16.

Speaking of "Dining for a Cause", please show your love for the class of 2016 by coming to the Topsham 99 Restaurant on Wednesday March 16 during the dinner hours. 15% of your guest check will be donated to the class of 2016! So come and eat a great meal and help put the class of 2016!!

Want more info on each of the prizes? Join our Facebook event for this at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1038804899514913/>

We will feature an item of the day, and give all the details about each of our 16 prizes. Please be on the lookout for a super senior selling tickets and contact us with any questions.

~Thank you, Betsy Lamb and Gretchen Ulrickson PG 2016 Co-Chairs

Class of 2017

LIVE AUCTION!!! No admission charge!!! Free snacks while you preview auction items!!

Join the Class of 2017 for a night of fun - SATURDAY, APRIL 2nd, at the Topsham Exhibition Hall!! Preview begins at 5:30pm.

Auction begins at 6:30pm!

Over 150 items will be up for bid!!! Also, 10 themed raffle baskets-filled with incredible items!!! Tickets for the baskets are on sale now, \$1 for one, \$5 for 6!!!! Contact Ellen Messier (messiere@link75.org) for tickets or questions!!!

SEE YOU THERE! Thank you for supporting the class of 2017!!