

Positive School News – May 2022

WILLIAMS-CONE SCHOOL

Friends of Williams-Cone provided our staff with an incredible Staff Appreciation Week May 2nd through May 6th. There were lots of treats and cheer ranging from signs posted around the community, a special lunch, candy station, beverage station, breakfast cart to a variety of classroom treats including batteries, post-it notes, coffees and more.

Over 150 students are being treated to bonus recesses, a certificate of completion and an Italian ice treat during the month of May as a reward for completing the Spring Break Principal's Reading Challenge. This challenge involved reading for 20-30 minutes daily for six days during the break. The Principal's Reading Challenges that are held during each school break are designed to encourage and foster a love for reading as well as maintain current reading levels.

Friends of Williams-Cone sponsored a very special assembly for Williams-Cone School students and staff on May 6th and May 13th. "Mr. Drew and His Animals Too" visited our school, presenting programs about exotic animals to each grade level. Students and staff alike were captured by the assembly that gave them the opportunity to see and touch live snakes, iguanas, tortoises and several other rare species.

The Pre-K class hosted an Art Show Open House for Pre-K parents and family members on May 10th, showcasing the wonderful works of art created by Pre-K students. The Pre-K energy and pride were contagious!

Throughout the month of May Williams-Cone School has hosted an Extended Learning Program for students in Grades 2 through 5. The program led by Williams-Cone School teachers provides students with remediation and practice opportunities in literacy and math. To date over 45 students have been supported by Extended Learning Programs at Williams-Cone School this year.

WOODSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thanks to some awesome student helpers and parent volunteers, Woodside Elementary School is proud to announce that we have some great new housing units just waiting for new inhabitants.

Ten bird houses, two bat houses, and one bug house have been installed along the trail known as Langley Loop (named after Mr. Mike Langley, Woodside Elementary School's daytime custodian, who has put personal effort into developing and helping to maintain the trail with our students).

We still have more to hang up, but for now you can head out on the trail and try to find them. They can all be seen from the trail or from the wetland bridge that was installed as part of a grant in 2018. We also have one bat house and one bug house that has been placed in the to-be-developed new science outdoor classroom.

Trail conditions are dry except for the powerline zone, but we've placed some planks to make the trail more passable. Just park at the Woodside Elementary School lot, walk toward the service entrance and spot the trailhead marked with blue blazes. From there the trail length is a total of .75 miles and would require light-to-moderate effort. Keep your eyes peeled; and maybe you, too, can spot our new natural housing development – or some new neighbors!

In other news, we are proud to announce a partnership with Williams-Cone School and the Topsham Public Library, the "Art is Elementary Exhibition" will take place in the Crooker Gallery. This show will celebrate the joy and importance of art making at both Topsham elementary Schools.

The evening reception is scheduled for Thursday, May 26th, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. and will include viewing the art exhibit, a short welcome and acknowledgment of the talented Topsham elementary school students, as well as light refreshments for the student artists and their guests. For those who cannot make the reception, the art work is on display from now through June 3, 2022, at the Topsham Public Library.

HARPSWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

April was Poetry Month in schools nationwide. At Harpswell Community School this was celebrated during the week of April 25th. All students carried a poem in their pocket to read to others; and all students enjoyed listening to the book, ***Change Sings***, by Amanda Gorman. Students discussed what it means to be a changemaker. As a result, most Harpswell Community School students participated in one or more of the following projects:

- Happy Spring greeting cards were made by some students and sent to an area nursing home.
- Some classes are collecting money and pet supplies to donate to Midcoast Humane.
- A Grade 4/5 class collected \$400 to send to **Save the Children Ukraine**.
- Some students cleaned up the playground area.
- Some students are sending cards each week to different community helpers such as health workers, Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, and public safety workers.

BOWDOINHAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL

There will be a Spring Arts Symposium at Bowdoinham Community School on June 1st. All students will have a piece of art work displayed, and our fifth grade band students will perform a brief program. We are looking forward to welcoming parents and visitors to help celebrate our students' achievements in the visual and performing arts this year!

BOWDOIN CENTRAL SCHOOL

On Monday, March 23rd, Bowdoin Central School welcomed 20 incoming kindergarten families to our annual Cub Club orientation. This officially marks the start of our new kindergarten students at Bowdoin Central School. The children got to meet each other and work with teachers while parents worked with school officials to be better prepared for their children to start school. The children also got a beginning bus experience.

We are officially back in Field Trip business. Our fourth grade students did a guided Bowdoin history tour with Melanie Page on Wednesday, May 25th.

On Thursday evening, May 26th we are having our Celebration of Learning. This event from 5:30-6:30 p.m. will showcase and celebrate a year of tremendous student learning. Included in the celebration will be fifth grade student Aspirations Projects being presented and an Art Exhibition put on by Ms. Tombarelli and K-5 art students.

We are proud to offer a summer Title I program for 12 students this summer. Three educators will work with students to strengthen both math and literacy fluency.

We are excited for our upcoming Field Day. On June 13th Bowdoin Central School staff and volunteers will hold an active and healthy outdoor day for students to celebrate the conclusion of the 2021-22 school year.

MT. ARARAT MIDDLE SCHOOL

On May 20th, the middle school held its first dances since the fall of 2019. One hundred and eleven sixth graders spent the afternoon dancing to music ranging from early Britney Spears and *NSYNC to the science favorite “Cell City,” singing along with remarkable accuracy and ear-piercing volume. They had a great time. That same evening approximately 170 seventh graders came for their middle school dance, organized by Team Merrymeeting. Seventh graders preferred hits from the 80’s, rocking out to tunes spun by Social Studies teacher and DJ Mark “Moonwalk” Dugal. The evening concluded in the same fashion as every dance since the 1970’s with Led Zeppelin’s “Stairway to Heaven.” A big thank-you goes to Nicole Karod and Mark Dugal for their superb DJ’ing skills and to the many parents who donated concessions or volunteered to chaperone.

MT. ARARAT HIGH SCHOOL

As the spring rolls on, we're excited to cheer on our Eagle athletes across all spring sports. Mt. Ararat High School hosted two track and field meets in early May, the first two at the new facility and first home meets since 2018. On May 19th *thirteen* qualifying Mt. Ararat High School musicians left for the University of Maine at Orono to participate in the All-State Band, Orchestra, and Chorus festival, the premier event for advanced musicians in Maine. In addition, final tallies for the Maine Association of Math Leagues were computed; and Mt. Ararat High School placed 11th out of 115 participating public and private teams in the State. Finally, the Mt. Ararat High School senior class celebrated its prom on May 14th, the first prom since 2019. This well-attended event at the Brunswick Golf Club was a highlight for many seniors and the start to the graduation season at Mt. Ararat High School.