

# THE MAINE APPRISE

A Publication of the Maine Principals' Association

Volume XXV, Number 10

June 2017



## From the President ...

**Dan Welch, Principal,  
Boothbay Region High School  
and  
President of the MPA**

Memorial Day has come and passed and for many of us the graduation season is at the forefront. Personally I am able, for the first time, to participate in all the pomp and circumstance as not only a school administrator but also as a father. The time has certainly flown by this year and I am reminded of just how many people take part in helping the students of Maine achieve their goals. I can't count the number of teachers, coaches, and mentors that have made a positive impact in the lives of my students. I am honored to have been able to serve as president of this great association, which also plays a pivotal role in the success of Maine's students. Our outstanding executive and support staff, and committed Board of Directors, have tried to provide our colleagues with outstanding professional development opportunities, and our students with numerous venues and platforms to compete, learn, and grow. This has been an incredibly humbling and enriching experience and I would encourage all of you to try to take an active role in the MPA. This association represents who we are as professionals and what we do on a daily basis for the betterment of students everywhere.

Next year will be a time of change for our association. Roles and responsibilities may look a little different and we will be saying goodbye to our friend and colleague Gerry Durgin and welcoming Michael Bisson on board. Best wishes to Gerry as he embarks on this next chapter and congratulations to Mike! I am very confident that the level of service, dedication to school leaders, and overall excellence of our association will continue to be a source of pride for all of us.

A huge thank you to all of you and to the staff and Board of the Maine Principals' Association.

See you at the Fall Conference in November!

*Dan Welch*

## WE ARE HERE TO HELP ALL NEW ADMINISTRATORS!

Are you in the process of hiring someone new to administration? Click [HERE](#) for more information on the Mentor Program and apply to be matched with a TRAINED, EXPERIENCED mentor! Give your new hires the opportunity to be the best they can be for their school and your district! (No person named for the position yet? Sign them up as "TBD" and save them a space in the program – space IS limited!)

## From the Executive Director ...

### Durgin to Bisson --- Passing the Baton



In the sport of track, nowhere is there a better example of teamwork than in the relays. As one teammate completes his/her portion of the race, there needs to be precise timing, footwork, and speed as the next runner inherits the responsibility on behalf of the team --- as the teammates experience the passing of the baton.

In the race that is the MPA, we are experiencing such a relay as Gerry Durgin completes his portion of the race and passes the baton to Mike Bisson. We have been well served by Gerry and we look forward to continuing to grow as an association as we welcome Mike. But who are these two sprinters? The following may help you get to know them better.

Gerry Durgin has had a unique impact on interscholastic athletics and activities in the state of Maine. He was a three-sport athlete at Fryeburg Academy and had an outstanding career at U-Maine Farmington. Gerry began his teaching, coaching, and administrative career at Telstar High School in Bethel followed by stints at Fryeburg Academy and then Gorham High School. In the summer of 2011, he joined the executive staff at the MPA.

Gerry's reputation for service and excellence was established long before coming to the MPA. He was a conference and state association leader as president and assistant director of the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association. He became a well-respected leader at the national level serving on the Board of Directors and then as President of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association.

His reputation as a leader, communicator, and voice of ethical reason made him the perfect fit for the MPA executive staff when he retired from Gorham High School in 2011. We truly hired a part-time staff member with a full-time work ethic. Most people coming into a new job experience a period of trial and error, of learning, and of growth. Not so with Gerry. He was already known across the state for his body of work and came to the MPA staff with an instant level of credibility few others would have been accorded.

Gerry and his wife Ellen reside in Gorham and have two grown daughters, Alicia and Jennifer, as well as six grandchildren --- Jackson, Joey, Jamie, Elizabeth, Brecken, and Kinsley.

This summer Gerry's leg of the race will be complete and he will pass the baton off to Mike Bisson. Mike was selected from an extremely deep pool of applicants for the position and is well



*(Continued on Page 2)*

**From the Executive Director . . .** (Continued from page 1)

qualified to run the next leg of the race.

Mike graduated from Gray-New Gloucester High School and earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees from U-Maine Presque Isle and U-Maine, respectively. His teaching and coaching experiences included stops at Oxford Hills, Forest Hills, Stearns, and Mattanawcook Academy. He served as principal at Ella P. Burr Elementary School in Lincoln from 2005-2011 and then as associate principal and athletic administrator for one year at Mattanawcook Academy.

Mike moved to his most recent post in 2012, serving the last five years as assistant principal and athletic administrator at Hampden Academy. During his time as an administrator, he has served on numerous MPA committees, most notably the Interscholastic Management Committee, Unified Sports, Football, and Softball committees. The MPA has taken full advantage of the gracious offer from Mike and the Hampden school system to use their outstanding facilities to host numerous championships in soccer, field hockey, football, and track and field.

Mike Bisson comes to the MPA with a

reputation for hard work and high ethics. He is an outstanding communicator and has a personality that will allow him to work well with administrators, schools, and the media, all in the best interests of the student athletes of Maine.

Mike and his wife Jodi reside in Hampden where she is a teacher in the Hampden school system. Their daughter Mikaila is a recent graduate of the U-Maine nursing program.

While Gerry is passing the baton to Mike, his service to the MPA will not immediately end. Gerry will continue to serve as site director for several championship events as well as being the driving force behind the MPA Scholarship Golf Tournament, annually raising thousands of dollars in support of graduating seniors.

On behalf of both divisions of the MPA, we offer our sincere thanks to Gerry Durgin for 45 years of service to the students of Maine! And with that same level of high enthusiasm, we welcome Mike Bisson to the staff at the MPA. We are fortunate to have such outstanding educators and people associated with the MPA!

~ Dick Durost

**Please remember the following companies who were exhibitors at the MPA Spring Conference as you implement your school budgets and conduct school and personal business.**

Canfield Systems, Inc.  
Catholic Charities Maine  
Cody Outdoor Classroom  
Dreambox Learning  
Educate Maine  
Hockmeyer Studios, Inc.  
Horace Mann Companies  
Lifetouch School Portraits  
Maine Army National Guard  
McGraw-Hill Education  
NAESP  
Nancy Larson Science  
School Spirit Vending  
Silver Strong & Associates LLC  
U.S. Navy  
VALIC  
Ven-Rez Products LTD  
Virtual Learning Academy Charter School  
Zaner-Bloser

## *A Special Thanks to MPA Members*

As the school year comes to a close, we wish to thank school administrators, member schools, and those connected to the MPA for your many contributions throughout the year.

The office staff greatly appreciates your service on committees; your willingness to share your expertise and skills with colleagues; and your commitment, cooperation, understanding, and patience. We mean it when we say, "You are the Maine Principals' Association!"

If you find yourself in the Augusta area, please drop in for a visit during our summer hours, June 5-September 1, which are 8:00-4:00, Monday-Thursday and 8:00-3:00 on Friday. We'd love to see you. The coffeepot and the teapot are always on at 50 Industrial Drive.



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## Fall Conference Proposals

**November 16-17, 2017 ~**  
Double Tree, South Portland

Click **HERE** to  
download the  
Request for Proposal (RFP) .  
Due: July 3, 2017

## Great Beginnings Series for New and Nearly New School Administrators

Session I ~ August 14, 2017  
Session II ~ October 16, 2017  
Session III ~ January 22, 2018  
Session IV ~ April 2, 2018

Click **HERE** to Register.

## PR Tips for PRincipals

Many schools hold a "First Day" event to begin the year on a positive note and promote parent involvement. Download a "First Day" handbook from the First Day Foundation, at [www.effectiveteaching.com/userfiles/uploads/GoBe%2048/Frist\\_Day\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.effectiveteaching.com/userfiles/uploads/GoBe%2048/Frist_Day_Handbook.pdf).

Here are more ideas that have proven successful in continuing excitement generated by First Day Events:

- ✓ **Use days before major holiday breaks for "Next Day" celebrations.** Invite parents to participate in assemblies, themed workshops, or classroom activities.
- ✓ **Celebrate the "First Day of the New Year" in January.** Hold an event to welcome new families that have enrolled students since the start of the school year.
- ✓ **Select other "first days" to celebrate.** On the first day of spring, invite parents, grandparents, and community members to have lunch with students, join them on the playground, or attend a special classroom activity.

—National School Public  
Relations Association,  
PRincipal Communicator,  
May 2017.

## Education Leaders Experience (ELE)

The Education Leaders Experience (ELE) program is administered by Educate Maine in partnership with Unum and the Maine Principals' Association. The ELE program: 1) Offers established educational leaders a unique experiential learning opportunity; 2) Is designed to build strong relationships between educational leaders and partners; 3) Creates a collaborative support network of leaders statewide; and 4) Provides exclusive access to key community and business

leaders who provide insight on how we can prepare Maine students to participate productively in the Maine economy. Participants will join 25 colleagues from across Maine selected for their leadership skills, talents, and life experiences. All share a core commitment to helping Maine kids reach their full potential. The *ELE Zeta Class* will be eligible for contact hours (not CEUs) as well as graduate level credits. The Opening session will be early August at Sugarloaf.

To Apply for the *ELE Zeta Class*,  
please click **HERE**  
to complete the application.

**ONLY 5 SPACES LEFT!**

## Are You An NAESP or An NASSP Member?

***You can help support the MPA!***

For the exact same cost, you can renew your membership for NAESP and NASSP through the MPA and those associations will give a percentage of the dues back to the MPA. Questions?

Call Patty or Holly at 207-622-0217.

The Maine Apprise is published 10 times a year, September to June, by the Maine Principals' Association.

The Apprise welcomes articles from its members and other representatives of the education community. Please submit them to the editor by the first day of the month preceding publication.

The material published in this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the opinion or views of the Maine Principals' Association.

For advertising or subscription rates, please write or call the address below.

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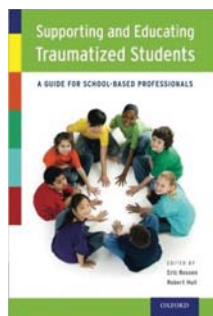
## "LIKE US" ON FACEBOOK!

Click on the link below to go to our  
Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maine-Principals-Association-Professional-Division/1703592959867688>



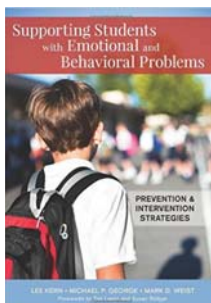
## Professional Reading Suggestions



**Supporting and Educating Traumatized Students: A Guide for School-Based Professionals** by E. Rossen & R. Hull. "Traumatic or adverse experiences are pervasive among school-aged children and youth. Trauma undermines students' ability to learn, form relationships, and manage their feelings and behavior. School-based professionals working with traumatized students are often unaware of their complex needs or how to meet them within the hours of the typical school day. Combining knowledge of the cognitive and behavioral effects of trauma, evidence-based interventions, educational best practices, and the experiences of veteran educators, *Supporting and Educating Traumatized Students: A Guide for School-Based Professionals* presents a new framework for assisting students with a history of trauma. Designed specifically for busy

educators who work with traumatized students daily, this volume brings together practitioners, researchers, and other experts with backgrounds in education, school psychology, school nursing, school social work, school counseling, school administration, clinical psychology, resilience, and trauma studies to examine the impacts of numerous traumatic experiences on school-aged children and youth. The book provides practical, effective, and implementable strategies and resources for adapting and differentiating instruction, modifying the classroom and school environments, and building competency for students affected by trauma. Chapters offer techniques and strategies designed for all types of educational environments and in the context of multiple potential sources of trauma. *Supporting and Educating Traumatized Students* is an essential resource for classroom teachers and for practicing school-based professionals. It is also useful for courses that address crisis, trauma, and education across a broad spectrum of specializations, including school social work, education, psychology, counseling, and school administration."

**Supporting Students with Emotional and Behavioral Problems: Prevention and Intervention Strategies** by L. Kern & M. George. "Severe social, emotional, and behavioral challenges can be major obstacles to your students' academic success. Break down those barriers with the research-based interventions in this book, your guide to addressing serious problem behaviors in K-12 classrooms. Aligned with recommended practices for schoolwide positive behavior supports (SWPBS), this book presents a highly effective tiered approach that helps you develop school- and class-wide interventions and match behavior interventions to each student's needs. Developed by trusted PBS experts and packed with concrete strategies, this essential resource will prepare teachers to prevent and reduce severe behavior problems, improve students' social interactions, and increase academic engagement. A must for both preservice and in-service educators! **The Guide You Need to:** Improve the behavior of students with or without a specific diagnosis; Boost your behavior management skills and empower yourself to take action; Assess and improve your classroom environment, including physical setup, routines, and emotional climate; Prevent behavior problems by keeping students engaged and motivated during instruction; Directly teach social skills during your everyday classes and routines; Identify student mental health problems and select appropriate interventions; Determine when a student needs Tier 2 intervention or more intensive Tier 3 supports; Conduct functional behavioral assessments and use them to develop support plans; and Select and use a behavioral management system to track your students' progress."



**A "5" Could Make Me Lose Control: An Activity-Based Method for Evaluating and Supporting Highly Anxious Students** by K. Buron. "This

hands-on activity helps students who are highly anxious cope with their stress by classifying social and emotional information and analyzing how best to act. Using this interactive process, the student places cards that list highly stressful situations into colorful pockets designating stress levels, ranging from 5-1, as the first step in changing the way he thinks about and responds to emotions such as anxiety, sadness, and anger. Picture word cards make the activity suitable for students with communication challenges. The kit also includes suggestions for how to include the process

as a part of an effective behavior assessment and a problem-solving activity."



## Observances

### \* June 1-30

- Fireworks Safety Month  
*Increasing awareness of the responsible, safe use of fireworks*
- Caribbean-American Heritage Month  
*Recognizing the significance of Caribbean people in the history and culture of the U.S.*

### \* June 1

- Say Something Nice Day
- Global Day of Parents  
*Proclaimed by the UN in 2012 to honor parents worldwide*

### \* June 5-9

- National Sun Safety Week
- Pet Appreciation Week

### \* June 5

- World Environment Day  
*Reaffirming the importance of preserving the environment*

### \* June 8

- World Oceans Day

### \* June 11

- Race Unity Day

### \* June 14

- Flag Day

### \* June 18

- Father's Day
- Anniversary of the first U.S. woman in space (Sally Ride in 1983)

### \* June 21

- First day of summer
- American Eagle Day
- National Selfie Day

### \* June 26

- Discover Day (Canada)

## Professional Development Calendar for 2017-2018

- \* *Special Education Law Institute*, Thomas College, July 11-14, 2017 (**FULL TO CAPACITY**)
- \* *Maine School Law Institute*, Thomas College, July 18-21, 2017 (Click [HERE](#))
- \* *Mentor/Coach Training*, MPA, July 24 (Click [HERE](#))
- \* *Education Leaders Experience - Zeta Class*, Sugarloaf, Carrabassett Valley, July 30-August 1, October 13, and November 9, 2017; and January 12, February 9, April 13, May 4, and June 25-26, 2018 **ONLY FIVE SPOTS LEFT.** (Click [HERE](#))
- \* *Workshop for New Athletic Administrators*, MPA, August 1, 2017
- \* *Playing by the Rules: Sports, Schools, and the Law*, MPA, August 11, 2017
- \* *Great Beginnings: An Orientation for New School Administrators*, MPA, August 14 and October 16, 2017; January 22 and April 2, 2018. (Click [HERE](#))
- \* *Mentoring/Coaching Program for Principals and Assistant Principals*, MPA, September 14 and December 8, 2017; and March 9 and May 11, 2018. (Click [HERE](#))
- \* *Now That's a Good Question: Questions for Cognitive Rigor – Erik Francis*, MPA, September 22, 2017 (Click [HERE](#))
- \* *State-wide Book Study – Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind*, Online PD Opportunity, September 23 – December 23, 2017 (Click [HERE](#))
- \* *Being Generationally Savvy: Working Effectively with Colleagues of All Generations* with Jennifer Abrams, MPA, October 24, 2017 (Click [HERE](#))
- \* *Working Conditions: How to Retain Your Superstar Educators (Anticipated)*, MPA, Part I - October 26, 2017; Part II - December 7, 2017; and Part III - January 31, 2018
- \* *Assistant Principals' Conference, "Assistant Principals: Ordinary Leaders Doing the Extraordinary?"* with Dan Waldschmidt, Samoset, Rockport, October 30-31, 2017 (Click [HERE](#))
- \* *Preparing for Retirement: What You Need to Know*, MPA November 3, 2017
- \* Fall Conference including School Law Seminar, "Changing Mid-Shifts in Education" with Kim Marshall, Double Tree, South Portland, November 16-17, 2017
- \* ON DEMAND 8-Part Webinar Leadership Series, PBIS—October 1, 2017; Student Conduct—November 1, 2017; Teacher Leadership—December 1, 2017; Community Involvement—January 2, 2018; Effective Communication—February 1, 2018; How to Survive March Madness—March 1, 2018; Professional Development—April 2, 2018; and Becoming the Best Leader I Can Be—May 1, 2018.
- \* *Effective Use of Technology* with Andy Wallace, MPA, January 18, 2018
- \* *State-wide Book Study – Shifting the Monkey*, Online PD Opportunity, January 20 – March 10, 2018
- \* *Owning It: How to Be Highly Effective & Love What You Do* with Alex Kajitani, MPA, March 1, 2018 (Click [HERE](#))
- \* *Mentoring Women in Sports XV* (Anticipated), MPA, March 2018
- \* *Mini-Observation: Nuts and Bolts Details* (12:00 – 3:00pm) with Kim Marshall, MPA, March 22, 2018
- \* *Kim Marshall's Principal Evaluation Workshop*, MPA, March 23, 2018
- \* *Maine School Law for Secretaries*, Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor, April 3, 2018 and Double Tree by Hilton, South Portland, April 4, 2018
- \* *Spring Conference, "Playing in the Deep End of the Pool"* with Jennifer Abrams, Samoset, Rockport, April 26-27, 2018
- \* *Mentor/Coach Training* with Holly Couturier, MPA, May 14, 2018
- \* *MPA Leadership Retreat* (Anticipated), Location TBD, June 27–29, 2018  
Leave with a completed action plan for the coming year.



## Featured School!

# Winslow High School

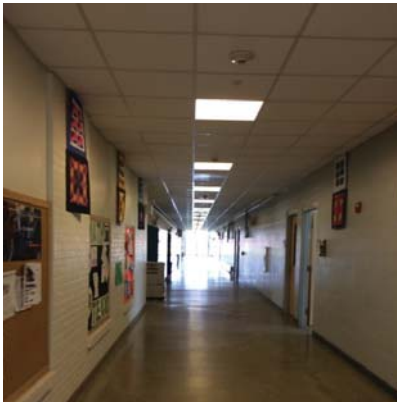
Winslow High School is a grades 9-12 high school in Winslow, Maine. 460 students are taught by 45 teachers and eight educational technicians. They have a 31% free and reduced lunch rate and a 15% special education population.

“Family.” It does not matter who you talk to at Winslow High School – Principal Chad Bell, Assistant Principal Richard Hendsbee, or the students – “family” is the word that is consistently used to describe the feeling and experience of Winslow

High. “It’s the kids and the staff of Winslow that make this place amazing,” says Mr. Bell, “we all LOVE this place. The staff make positive relationships with the students and know when the students need help – there’s at least one adult who has a strong connection with each of the students.”

The students recognize this as well. I had the extreme pleasure of meeting seniors Paige and Koramae, juniors Lidia and Marissa, and sophomore, Emily. “We LOVE our school – we are a community. No matter where you go in the community, we are full of Raider Pride. Many of our teachers taught our parents (and some of our grandparents!)” The girls spoke highly of the extracurricular activities offered both in the school as well as in the community.

“No matter what sport or activity you are in, you will have a large crowd cheering you on. Our teams are our family. Almost all of us grew up together so if we have issues, we get over them. When our friends are playing a game, putting on an arts performance, or dancing at a recital outside of the school, we go to support them.”



One activity they are most proud of is the Unified Sports program. “The student athletes have special needs. Unified Sports allows them the opportunity to be part of a sports team that is supported just like all the other teams. These students feel pride and stand a little taller walking down the hall. Winslow makes sure they are recognized.” One of the girls I spoke with is a helper on the Unified Sports team, “Being a helper has made me a better person,” she said.

“We love Mr. Bell – he supports us in everything we do. Our Assistant Principal, Mr. Hendsbee, is the absolute best. He’s always in the halls in the school and takes every opportunity to know all of the students. No matter what, he always makes us smile. He has such a calming voice, it’s like his voice is a hug for all of the students.”

“It makes me sad to think that I’m graduating this year,” said Paige, “I know that when I leave, I’m leaving something I love behind. I’m going to college to become a teacher because I want others to feel connected to their school and experience what we do at Winslow High School.”

If you want to visit a very special school where all who enter are welcomed and encouraged to be the very best version of who they are, I highly encourage you to visit Winslow High School.



### **Contact Information:**

Winslow High School, 20 Danielson Street, Winslow, ME 04901 • 207-872-1990

Principal Chad Bell ~ Assistant Principal Richard Hendsbee

E-mail: [cbell@aos92.org](mailto:cbell@aos92.org)



# MPA Photo Album

## ELE - Pitch Presentations



## Mentor/Coach - Protégé Program

