

THE MAINE APPRISE

A Publication of the Maine Principals' Association

Volume XXV, Number 9

May 2017

Karen Alley and Lisa Berry Named 2017 Secretaries of the Year



Karen Alley, Secretary for Williams Elementary School in Oakland, was nominated by Mrs. Kathy Smedberg-Harris based on her ability to juggle the million things that are thrown at her on a daily basis and continue to maintain an optimistic outlook that sets the stage for a positive climate and culture at the Williams Elementary School in Oakland.

“Karen is committed to the school. She helps the PTA, works tirelessly to ensure the quality of substitutes is high – not allowing just any warm body to instruct the students. She anticipates the needs of the staff and is flexible in the ever changing day of an elementary school. Simply put, Karen is outstanding.”

Lisa Berry, Administrative Assistant for Biddeford High School, does more than handle correspondence and manage “routine” for the building principal. She is an exceptional budget manager, safety and security officer for the building, President of various committees, and volunteers to stay after hours to work at different sporting events.

She is the organizer of fun in the building and the glue that keeps it all together. According to Mr. Sirois, “Mrs. Berry is so much more than an administrative assistant. She is a friend, confidant, and a shoulder to cry on. She has developed relationships with all of the students and most of their parents. She is truly a remarkable person and one of the people I couldn’t live without in this school.”



It is with great pride that the Maine Principals' Association recognizes these two outstanding school secretaries. Congratulations!

From the Executive Director ...

Starbucks . . . or Dunkin Donuts?

So it's the beginning of May and some might say that yet another school year is winding down. Except it never seems to wind down—instead it speeds up and we all hit that wall that is the end of June!

How can it possibly be that eight months of the school year have passed us by and less than two more remain? Does it really feel like you have only 20% of your annual responsibilities left to do? Only 20% of your evaluations? 20% of your IEPs? Only 20% of your planning for next year remaining? Only 20% of your hiring and assignments remaining?

As we all can agree, at least we have more of June left than we normally would—thanks to Mother Nature's sense of humor with her number of snow and ice storms this year. And, of course we all used those snow days to full advantage when they occurred, enabling us to get caught up as well as planning ahead so that June would be easy ---- right?

What can we do at this point to help May and June be productive and efficient? Just a couple of thoughts from here. First, don't attempt to do everything in one hour, one day, one week, or even one month. Approach it in a way that works best for you: a checkoff list so that you can see your progress; a visual calendar that allows you to target those big due dates and prioritize as you move along; or even pure chaos that somehow results in things getting done —are there any of you like this out there?

No one can tell you exactly how to approach the next 60 days. But if you know yourself – know who you are – know what best allows you to be productive –that's

(Continued on Page 2)

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

how you will survive and thrive!

Advice that I'm much better giving than receiving? Take time for yourself, your family, and your friends. Take time to celebrate those birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Send someone flowers, a gift card, or just a note to let them know you appreciate them. Make Mother's Day and Father's Day times to truly appreciate those in your family who came before you – and also appreciate the real gifts in your life – your children and grandchildren! A Memorial Day barbeque truly can signal the beginning of summer and allow you to kick back – rest – relax -- and prepare for that final push into June!

Kindness can truly go a long way to get your school community through year end activities. Your students may be stressed. For many of them school is the one constant in what might be a very needy home-life. Some of them depend on school for meals, consistency, and even care and concern during the school year. Give thought to what you and your staff can do to prepare them for summer, maybe even planning some events or gatherings that will help make them eager to return for the next school year!

Ultimately, that last day of school will happen and the students and many of your staff will provide you with the quiet -- and the emptiness ---that comes to a school building after they are gone. And when it does, pat yourself on the back and accept a "job well-done" from me and others who appreciate your good work!

Reality will set in at some point and you will realize that the school year cycle is what makes it exciting and causes us to continue year after year in a career and a quest that would make lesser people give up and move on to something easier. School administrators are the most important people in contributing to the overall climate and success of children and adults in a school building. This is a tremendous responsibility, but also one of the greatest rewards in life!

Recognize that no one else can give you permission to enjoy what you do in a career that impacts so many others. Treat yourself on the way to work tomorrow – regardless of whether you are a Starbucks or Dunkin' Donut person. Pick up a large, give yourself that extra burst of caffeine, and accept the challenge of the next two months! No one can or will do this as well as YOU!!!

~ Dick Durost



**START PLANNING
YOUR FUTURE**

EARN YOUR MSSED ONLINE

Online specializations include:

- Adult Education & Training
- Catholic School Leadership
- Health Care Educator
- School Educator (K-12)
- School Leadership

sjcme.edu/Apprise • 800-752-4723

1912 SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

Educating for life.

**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.

**Interested in
Becoming a
Mentor for a New
Principal or A.P.?**

The MPA is proud to offer mentor/coaching for new principals and assistant principals in our state. The program, now in its 11th year, has one principal working with mentor/coaches in the year two cohort and ten new administrators working with mentor/coaches in the year one cohort.

The MPA will offer Mentor/Coach Orientation and Training on May 12 or July 24, 2017. Give consideration to joining the cadre of trained mentor/coaches who are giving back to the profession by working closely with our newest colleagues.

Click [HERE](#) for Mentor/Coach
Brochure/Application

and

Click [HERE](#) for Protégé
Brochure/Application.

Follow us on Twitter!

Dick Durost—@DurostMPA

Holly Couturier—@HDCouturier

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.

To Apply for the *ELE Zeta Class*, please click [HERE](#) to complete the application.

Delta Class Calendar:

- Opening Retreat: Sugarloaf (Early August)
- Session 1: Aroostook County (October 12-13)
- Session 2: The Jackson Laboratory and UMO (November 9)
- Session 3: TBD (January 12)
- Session 4: Maine State House – Mock Legislative Day, Augusta (February 9)
- Session 5: Unum and Maine Medical, Portland (April 13)
- Project Presentations: Thomas College, Waterville (May 4)
- Closing Retreat: Moosehead Lake, Rockwood (June 25-26)



WANTED

Fall Conference Proposals

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

Consider such timely topics as:

Poverty ~ Effective Communication ~ Data-driven Decision-making ~ Professional Learning Communities ~ Leading and Sustaining Change ~ Implementing the Common Core ~ Trauma ~ Proficiency-based Reports ~ Proficiency-based Education ~ Supervision/Evaluation of Staff ~ Technology: Implications and Practices ~ Wellness for Administrators ~ School Culture and Climate ~ Hot and Timely Topics Related to the Conference Theme

Consider collaborating with district and regional colleagues, teachers, and/or students to design and present a session.

Click [HERE](#) to download the Concurrent Session Request for Proposal (RFP). Due: June 2, 2017

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.

Maine Principals' Association
 50 Industrial Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330
 Telephone: (207) 622-0217
 Website: <http://www.mpa.cc>
 Daniel Welch, Boothbay Region High School,
 President
 Maggie Allen, Windsor Elementary School,
 President-elect
 Richard Durost, Executive Director
 Michael Burnham, Assistant Director
 Holly Couturier Editor/Assistant Director
 Gerald Durgin, Assistant Director

PR Tips for PRincipals

Most if not all **teacher recruitment** takes place on the internet. Here's a list of sites for your job postings to make sure you're reaching as many candidates as possible.

* **Your district and school sites.**

While most of your site's visitors are stakeholders, some potential employees may go directly to your site to search for job listings.

* **College websites.**

Often we think of neighboring or nearby colleges, but in this climate it is a good idea to contact the career centers of a few colleges with strong teaching programs, regardless of distance.

* **State and national sites.**

Your state should have a teacher's job site, and there are several national sites, though some may charge a posting fee.

* **National organizations.**

Whether associations for individual subjects or other education organizations, many have job boards and reach a more experienced group of professionals.

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

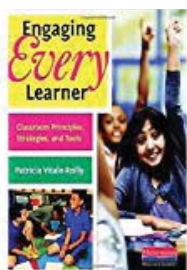
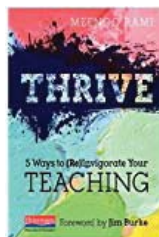
"LIKE US" ON FACEBOOK!

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

Thrive: 5 Ways to (Re) Invigorate your Teaching. By: M. Rami. "In *Thrive*, Meenoo shares the five strategies that helped her become a confident, connected teacher. From how to find mentors and build networks, both online and off, to advocating for yourself and empowering your students, *Thrive* shows new and veteran teachers alike how to overcome the challenges and meet the demands of our profession."

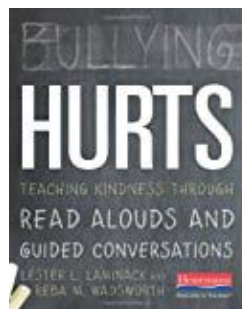


Engaging Every Learner: Classroom Principles, Strategies, and Tools. By: P. Vitale-Reilly. "Master teacher and education consultant Patricia Vitale-Reilly has a deep understanding of what engagement strategies look like and how to integrate them into classroom practice. "Regardless of age, grade level, geographic location, type of school, discipline, or curriculum," she writes, "A student needs to be engaged in his or her learning in order to excel and succeed." In *Engaging Every Learner*, Patricia applies the research on motivation and engagement to strategies and tools that cultivate and sustain

student engagement across the school year. She suggests a sequence for implementing the principles of teaching that lead to engaged classrooms, including:

- Creating physical, emotional, and cognitive classroom environments for optimal learning;
- Building meaningful classroom structure through whole class, small group, and independent instruction;
- Applying the principles of choice to content, process, and product; and
- Connecting students to the world around them through popular culture, technology, and the community."

Bullying Hurts: Teaching Kindness Through Read Alouds and Guided Conversations. By: L. Laminack & R. Wadsworth. "*Bullying Hurts* is not your same-old anti-bullying guide. Lester Laminack and Reba Wadsworth show how the read aloud, a familiar and proven instructional technique, can be used as a powerful way to neutralize bullying behaviors, create community in the classroom, and help you meet the Common Core State Standards at the same time.



Recent research shows that punishing students who bully is not enough, that we must begin every child's education by establishing relationship skills and building empathy among students. Lester and Reba recommend a series of read aloud books that focus on our shared humanity and can be used on day one of Kindergarten and throughout the elementary years. They help you support the development of children's insight and compassion. *Bullying Hurts* guides students toward increased understandings about bullying behavior with a framework of five recommended read-alouds and accompanying lessons that help you:

- define and discuss the important lessons about bullying embedded in each book;
- develop literacy skills and strategies, conversation, critical thinking, character analysis, and reflection; and
- connect read aloud experiences to the anchor standards for reading in the Common Core.

Bullying Hurts does more than help children gain the insights and language needed to confront and neutralize the behaviors of bullies. It convinces us that by working together, we really can prevent bullying."

Observances

* May 1-31

- Better Hearing and Speech/Healthy Vision Month
- International Civility Awareness Month
- Clean Air Month

* May 1

- School Principals' Day
- Law Day
Recognizing the courts and their role in ensuring justice for all

* May 1-5

- Children's Book Week

* May 2

- National Teacher Day

* May 3

- World Freedom of the Press Day

* May 5

- Cinco de Mayo

* May 10

- School Nurse Day

* May 14

- Mother's Day

* May 18

- International Museum Day

* May 20

- National Learn to Swim Day
- Armed Forces Day
Honoring those serving in the military

* May 22

- Victoria Day

* May 27

- Ramadan

* May 29

- Memorial Day

NAESP Report

By Jane P. Stork, Principal of the Etna-Dixmont School and NAESP State Representative ~ jstork@rsu19.net

NAESP NEWS:

The NAESP Board of Directors has announced that L. Earl Franks, Ed. D, Certified Association Executive (CAE) will serve as NAESP's next Executive Director beginning July 1, 2017. Gail Connelly has been the Executive Director of NAESP since 2007. In recognition of her 32 years of service to NAESP, Connelly will serve as NAESP Executive Director Emeritus.

Maine is a member of Zone 1 of the National Association of Elementary Principals. Zone 1 is comprised of representatives and NAESP members from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Delaware. Tara McAuliffe of Massachusetts has served as the Director of Zone 1 since 2014. Tara's term will end on July 30, 2017 and on August 1, 2017 Victoria Reed of Connecticut will become our new Zone Director. Congratulations to Victoria and a sincere thank you and wishes for success to Tara!

A Diversity Task Force has been established and will create an actionable report that will include best practices for principals for meeting the needs of our diverse learning communities. Carrie McWilliams of Rhode Island will be representing Zone 1 on this Task Force.

National Principals' Conference

Please join me at the 2017 "Connecting Great Leaders Across All Levels" National Principals Conference in Philadelphia, PA this July 9-11, 2017. This is the first-ever National Principals' Conference co-hosted by NAESP and NASSP. I encourage each of you to register and bring your colleagues. Come spend three days in authentic collaboration with other principals across the Pre-K-12 continuum.

Upcoming NAESP National Conference dates:

- The 2018 Annual NAESP Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida July 7-10, 2018.
- The 2019 Annual NAESP Conference will take place in Spokane, Washington July 10-12, 2019.

NAESP Members Benefits Corner

NAESP offers a highly structured mentor training and certification to all members. The National Principal Mentor Training and Certification Program is comprised of two parts. Part I is a two-day Leadership Immersion Institute that focuses on the actual mentoring process. Part II transitions into a nine-month Mentor-in Training internship. Principals who complete both parts are awarded a national certification as a principal mentor that is renewable after three years.

Check out NAESP's National Mentor Training and Certification Program at <http://www.naesp.org/mentor>

I encourage you to contact me with any questions you may have about the benefits of NAESP membership and hope to see you at the National Convention in Philadelphia this July.

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.

Looking Ahead

- * *Special Education Law Summer Institute* with Drummond Woodsum, July 11-14, Thomas College, Waterville ([Click Here](#))
- * *Maine School Law Summer Institute* with Drummond Woodsum, July 18-21, Thomas College, Waterville ([Click Here](#))
- * *Mentor Training*, July 24, MPA Conference Center, Augusta
- * *Leadership Maine: Education Leaders Experience*, July 30-August 1, October 13, November 9, January 12, February 9, April 13, May 4, and June 25-26. ([Click Here](#))
- * *"Great Beginnings Series,"* August 14, 2017; October 16, 2017; January 22, 2018; and April 2, 2018, MPA Conference Center, Augusta ([Click Here](#))
- * *Workshop for New Athletic Administrators*, August 1, MPA Conference Center, Augusta

CALL THE MPA HELP LINE

207-622-0217

We are here to help you and answer questions!

NEW Extensions:

124 = Dick Durost	122 = Tammy McNear
125 = Mike Burnham	127 = Diane Patnaude
126 = Holly Couturier	130 = Patty Newman
141 = Gerry Durgin	

Featured Regions!

Each month, the *Apprise* is going to feature at least three schools from each of the eight regions in Maine. There are many great things going on in our schools that people don't know about, and it's time THEY ARE spotlighted! The May *Apprise* features the Midcoast Region. Next month we will feature the Kennebec Valley Region. If you would like to have your school spotlighted, please send Holly Couturier an e-mail stating your interest and at least one great thing about your school. She will contact you and make arrangements for an hour long visit. During her visit, she will not only speak to you and take a picture of you and the school, she would also like to talk to students in your school and get their perspective of "What makes their school and principal great?" Enjoy!

Ames School

The Ames School is a grades 2-5 elementary school in Searsmont. 144 students are taught by eight teachers, 1.5 special education teachers, three educational technicians, and 1.5 Title One teachers. They have a 19% special education population and a 46% free and reduced lunch rate. The building principal is shared between the Ames School and the Gladys Weymouth Elementary School, a Pre K - 1 school in Morrill.



Although more than four miles separate the two schools, the staff, community, and principal think of the Weymouth and Ames Schools as a K-5 community. "The staff focus is on kids," says Principal Lori Smail, "the mantra 'Whatever they need' is one the staff takes to heart. They will provide whatever they can for the students." The entire focus of all professional development and planning time is designed to improve instruction to best meet the needs of the individual students.

According to Ms. Smail, "We have very high academic standards for our students, we have been able to meet the needs of the students by providing experiential, authentic learning experiences."

The teachers work closely together in order provide content across the different academic areas.

The teachers form close relationships with all the students. The kids buy into their own learning because it is authentic. The students know that the teachers, staff, and community all care about their learning and will not let them fail.

An example of how the community is involved in the students' learning was the "Read Across the District" Day. Modeled after "Read Across America," members from the community came together to read to the Ames' and Weymouth students and share their individual love of learning – the school Superintendent also supported this day by reading his favorite book to the entire school!

The students in the 4th and 5th grade participate in an annual speaking contest. While the students learn about poetry, they either choose a written poem or write one themselves, and publicly present their poem to a panel of judges and members of the school community. The students are empowered by their choice of poem and their ability to choose how to publicly represent their piece.

When students leave Ames School, many continue to return to this very special learning environment. "High school seniors and college freshmen return from the school they are now attending and talk to Ames' students about where they are, what they want, and how they are going to get there," says Ms. Smail, "The district looks at 'College and Career Ready' closely and by having former Ames' students return and share where they are going, gives the students at Ames hopes, dreams, and goals for what the future holds for them."

If you want to see a small, rural community school that truly puts the needs of the students at the forefront – just as much as school staff – I highly encourage you to visit the Ames School in Searsmont!



Contact Information:

Ames School, 165 New England Road, Searsmont, ME 04973 ~ 207-342-5100

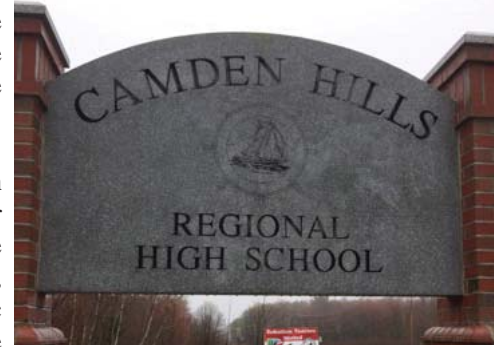
Principal: Lori Smail • E-mail: lsmail@rsu71.org

Camden Hills Regional High School is grades 9-12 school in Rockport. The 688 students are taught by 76 teachers and educational technicians. There are also 20 support and administrative staff who work with the students. They have a 22% free and reduced lunch rate and a 12% special education population.

Upon entering the front door of Camden Hills Regional High School, one can see the extreme emphasis on just how much they support their students. To your



immediate left is a wall dedicated to the academic excellence and honors students, then further down the hall you see the athletic and performing arts awards. Just under the majestic stairwell you see a bulletin board



outlining different groups, clubs, and trips that are all available to students of varying interests.

The physical layout of the school is designed to maximize student learning. The right wing of the building is dedicated to the quieter learning spaces in the school and the left-hand side of the school is where you will find the two gyms, music rooms, weight room, and performing arts center. In the center of the building you will find the library and the student cafeteria. These two areas support all day student learning and provide a safe, well-lit space for students to work independently or on group projects.

There are many amazing programs available to the students as well. For example, all the students must take an applied academic class of their choice. Depending on the individual interest of the students, they can take a child development class and work with students in the on-site day care, computer science, wood working, graphic arts, just to name a few. The students taking the entrepreneurship course run the school store.

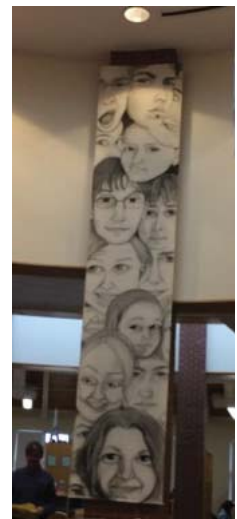


In addition to the academic needs of the students, the staff of Camden Hills Regional High School takes care of the mental health needs as well. On staff, you will find four guidance counselors, and a full time psychologist and nurse. Also, the school makes use of outside mental health resources to meet the wellness needs of the students. In addition, Camden Hills Regional High School has a Wellness Room that is voluntarily staffed by members of the local communities.

Whether it's out on the well maintained sports fields, in the in-school greenhouse, Latin Classroom, Family Consumer Science, art studios or the Black Box Theatre in the back of the full stage – there is something for every student at Camden Hills Regional High School. The staff goes above and beyond what is expected from a Maine public high school.

Contact Information:

Camden Hills Region High School, 25 Keelson Drive,
Rockport, ME 04856 • 207-236-7800
Principal: Robert Sampson ~ Assistant Principals: Piet Lammert
and Graham Bode
E-mail: robert.sampson@fivetowns.net



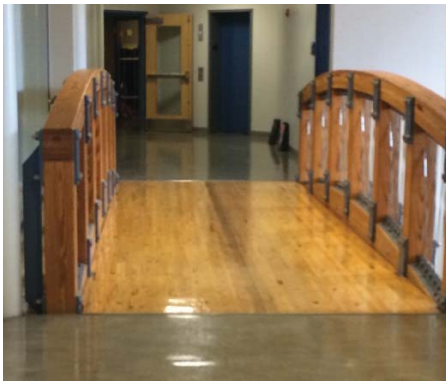


Vinalhaven School is a pre-kindergarten through grade twelve school on the island of Vinalhaven. The 165 students are taught by 25 teachers and 5 educational technicians. They have an 18% special education population and a 36% free and reduced lunch rate.

Community, family, and home are three words that can easily describe Vinalhaven School. According to superintendent and principal Bruce Mailloux, "This community supports education. For example each year, starting in 8th grade, every class raises money for a senior trip. In the last four years, the community has contributed \$160,000 toward the senior trips. These trips are the perfect combination of educational experience and fun."



There is another community group, Partners of Island Education, or "PIE," support art education programs for the students as well. Each year individual students get to travel all over the world to work on different service learning projects fully funded by the PIE Group. They also donate a significant amount of money in scholarships to graduating seniors each year.



When you first enter the doors at Vinalhaven, you can see the rich history of the island in the school. They have a majestic granite wall that was quarried by the "Hole in the Wall Gang" and proudly displayed in the lobby of the school. As you look up toward the ceiling in the atrium, you see a piece of art that has miniature fishing boats hanging off from a giant mobile. When in motion, all of the boats move to face the prevailing winds. Tiles on the wall and floor all replicate waves on the ocean and rowing oars adorn the walls of the school.

I had the pleasure of speaking with Vinalhaven students: Rosanna (senior), Deja (junior), Corey and Hannah (freshmen). These four young women, who are all on the basketball team and won the school's first MPA gold ball trophy, spoke highly about their school. "We are a close community. Not too many people move in so we've all been together since kindergarten. Everyone knows everyone."

When asked to describe life on an island sports team, the girls laughed and said, "Every other year we get on the ferry and travel to other schools and then they travel to us. What makes us different is that we travel and play on a Friday, sleep in their school's gym that night, and get up and play the same team on Saturday because there is no ferry back to Vinalhaven that late."

The majority of the families who live on Vinalhaven work in the fishing industry. "We have a large number of our students who also work in the field and some already have their own lobster boats," says Mr. Mailloux. This being said, many of Vinalhaven graduates move on into post-secondary schools around the country.



From the student-built pavilion behind the school to the magnificent art pieces throughout the school and then to the incredibly stunning performing arts center, it's easy to see why this school is the heart of the community. I highly encourage you to take the 1.25 hour ferry ride to visit. You'll be transported back in time and welcomed with open arms into the modern school community at the exact same time!

Contact Information:

Vinalhaven School, 22 Arcola Lane, Vinalhaven, ME 04863 • (207) 863-4800

Principal/Superintendent: Bruce Mailloux • E-mail: bmailloux@vinalhavenschool.org

MPA Photo Album

Great Beginnings

Session IV

April 3, 2017



2017 National Distinguished Principal of the Year Jennifer McGee



2016-2017 NHS State Board



Secretaries Conference

April 5, 2017 ~ Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor
and
April 6, 2017 ~ Double Tree, South Portland



Maine's NASSP Principal of the Year Daniel Welch



MPA Honors Luncheon





ELE Epsilon Class Portland Experience



MPA Spring Conference

April 27-28, 2017 ~ Samoset Resort



MPA Spring Conference Continued

