

# THE MAINE APPRISE

A Publication of the Maine Principals' Association

Volume XXIV, Number 2

October 2015



## From the President ...

**Marty Bouchard, Principal,  
Houlton Middle/High School and  
President of the MPA**

As I pondered the possible topics I could write about for this month's *Apprise* article, there were many things that came to mind. The one that jumped out at me was to write about our organization and all it has to offer. I certainly realize the Maine Principals' Association means different things to different people, and I wanted to make sure our membership, including non-members who read this article, know more about the organization and what it has to offer.

I was recently asked to present to the Maine School Boards Association's Board of Directors. Their agenda asked that I report out about our current membership and the mission statement of our organization. In addition, I was asked to discuss what big issues Maine administrators are facing with all of the educational changes taking place. I was surprised as I presented to notice their reaction, which gave me the indication that they did not know many things about our organization. This has inspired me to share a bit of this information with you.

Currently the MPA has 746 members who support the two sides of the organization: professional and interscholastic. I would like to take a moment to elaborate about each side of the organization further. The professional division supports all Maine educators, but focuses on professional development and mentoring of Maine administrators. We have made it a priority to expand the services we offer to Maine administrators by adding new professional development opportunities and the creation of the School Resource tab on the MPA website. Staff person Holly Couturier is leading the expansion of the professional side by hosting webinars, conducting regional meetings for administrators, and populating the School Resources page of the website.

The interscholastic division supports 18 different sports that occur in the fall, winter, and spring. The MPA is extremely proud to be able to support so many different activities for the youth of Maine. We offer six different activities in the fall including: cross country, soccer, golf, football, volleyball, and field hockey. We offer seven opportunities in the winter including: ice hockey, indoor track, swimming, cheering, skiing, basketball, and wrestling. Finally, we offer five opportunities in the spring including: baseball, softball, tennis, lacrosse,

*Continued on Page 2*

**NEW VENUE!**

## MPA Fall Conference

November 19-20, 2015 ~ Double Tree, South Portland

**NEW VENUE!**

### Keynote Presentation:

### **Leading in Times of Change**

with Todd Whitaker

### Maine School Law Seminar

### **Legal and Policy Implications of the Proficiency Based Diploma**

with Drummond Woodsum's Bruce Smith

*(included in conference registration)*

Click [here](#) for more information and online registration.

### ~ Concurrent Sessions ~

- \* A New Accreditation Process to Meet the Needs of Today's Schools
- \* Attendance Matters: Effective School and Community Interventions
- \* Building Assets Reducing Risk for High Schools . . . and Now Middle Schools
- \* Educator Effectiveness and PEPG System Development
- \* Exploring Computer Science for Middle/High Schoolers
- \* Getting Back to "It's All About Learning"
- \* Out-of-School Learning Experience Can Count: Proficiency-Based Learning and the Maine State Science Fair
- \* Personalizing Student Learning Through Blended Online Opportunities
- \* Relationships: The Forgotten "R"
- \* The Power (and Struggles) of Shared Leadership Teams
- \* Transitioning Students from Youth Detention Centers to SAU's
- \* New Administrator Sessions
- \* 12-Minute Student Review
- \* Panel of Experts

*. . . And, More to Come!*

Click [HERE](#) for Concurrent Session Descriptions.

## Save the Date Notice



### 2016 Maine NHS Annual State Convention and Banquet

Theme: "Food for Thought"

**Dates:** March 10 and 11, 2016 ~ **Place:** Brewer and UM Orono  
**Approximate Cost:** \$32 per person for Banquet and Convention

Complete registration packets will be available online in January.

If you have any questions, please contact  
George Knox III, MNHS Co-Adviser, [george.knox@sad1.org](mailto:george.knox@sad1.org)  
Meagan McKeon, MNHS Public Relations, [mckeaonm16@rsu20.org](mailto:mckeaonm16@rsu20.org)  
Pamela Murchison, MNHS Co-Adviser, [pamela.murchison@eastonschools.org](mailto:pamela.murchison@eastonschools.org)

**State Service Projects:** We are partnering with End Hunger NE with the goal of packaging 20,000 meals at convention and the Good Shepherd's Food Bank. Prior to convention, we will be sending out more information on how chapters can be prepared for the projects. More information about End Hunger NE can be found at [www.endhungerne.org](http://www.endhungerne.org)

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### *From the President . . . (Continued from page 1)*

and outdoor track.

In addition to the myriad athletic opportunities for students, the MPA also supports students in drama, debate and speech, National Honor Society, student council, and music. The promotion of sportsmanship and ensuring fair play are qualities we embrace, which help add to a positive experience for so many Maine students. We are proud to award sportsmanship banners in all sports for each class and region.

Now that you know a bit more about both sides of the MPA I would like to share a quick story with you. I was first introduced to the MPA fifteen years ago while working as an assistant principal and athletic administrator. I was invited to attend professional development the MPA offered and asked if I wanted to join a committee to help within my organization. I ended up attending a handful of the professional development opportunities and I joined a few committees. The work we did in MPA committees helped me expand my horizons in education more than any one thing I can point to in the past 20 years. I received a certain amount of fulfillment from helping the committee I was on, but more importantly I met many people who I now consider

friends and who help me in my job as an administrator. I find enthusiasm in attending professional development as I enjoy learning more about my chosen profession. I find the time I work on committees or in meetings at the MPA with colleagues around the state equally important. I have been able to create a network of friends and colleagues across all areas of our state who help me become a better administrator.

In closing, I strongly encourage you to get involved in the MPA one way or another. It may be by only attending the fall conference featuring Todd Whitaker in South Portland in November or possibly joining a MPA committee to help ensure Maine students have a quality experience in their chosen sport or activity. I recognize that you may not have the time to join a committee or attend the conference. How about simply attending one of our regional meetings as a starting point? The network of colleagues across the state is right there waiting for you. I speak from experience that getting involved in your organization, the Maine Principals' Association, will more than pay off on the back end.

## PRincipal Tips

Start the new school year with a "curb appeal" checkup. Be sure visitors get a positive first impression of your school building and grounds...

- ✓ Is the entrance area free of litter and trash, leaves, and weeds?
- ✓ Have shrubs been trimmed to an attractive size?
- ✓ Are sidewalks and steps safe and free of dangerous cracks?
- ✓ Are windows clean and sparkling?
- ✓ Are parking lot and exterior lights in working order?

- ✓ Are signs up-to-date, welcoming, and friendly?
- ✓ Is the front office bright and cheerful?
- ✓ Is there a separate sitting area for adult visitors?
- ✓ Are copies of the building newsletter, district information, school handbook, and materials about the PTA/PTO within easy reach?
- ✓ Are the "addresses" for the school website and social media displayed?

—National School Public Relations Association,  
**PRincipal Communicator**,  
September 2015.

### CALL THE MPA HELP LINE

207-622-0217

We are here to help you  
and answer questions!

#### Extensions:

24 = Dick Durost	22 = Tammy McNear
25 = Mike Burnham	27 = Diane Patnaude
26 = Holly Couturier	30 = Patty Newman
41 = Gerry Durgin	

#### MPA Mission Statement

To assure a quality education for all students, the Maine Principals' Association will:

- (1) promote the principalship;
- (2) support principals as educational leaders; and
- (3) promote and administer interscholastic activities in grades 9-12.

Effective leadership is not about making speeches or being liked; leadership is defined by results not attributes.

~ Peter Drucker

Develop the unique quality of making each new day fresh and full of opportunity—for teaching new things to your students, and learning something new yourself.

~ Anonymous

### Follow us on Twitter!

MPA Professional—@DurostMPA

MPA Professional Division—  
Holly Couturier—@HDCouturier

MPA Interscholastic—  
@MPAsportsDurost

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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Holly Couturier Editor/Assistant Director

Gerald Durgin, Assistant Director

### #ThankAPrincipal



NATIONAL

PRINCIPALS

October 2015

MONTH

[www.principalsmonth.org](http://www.principalsmonth.org)

If you respect your profession, others will respect it—and you, too!

~ Anonymous

## "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>

## MPA Fall Conference

November 19-20, 2015  
**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel**

Keynote Presentation:



### Leading in Times of Change

with Dr. Todd Whitaker

Friday, November 20

12:15 - 2:00 p.m.  
(included in the conference registration)

*"Legal And Policy Implications of the Proficiency Based Diploma"*

with Bruce Smith, Drummond Woodsum



Click [HERE](#) to Register.



## Assistant Principals' Conference

### Leading in a Proficiency Based Educational (PBE) School: What Do We Need and Need to Know?

~ October 26 and 27 ~ Samoset Resort, Rockport

#### AGENDA

##### Monday, October 26

"Schools Partnership, along with Assistant Principals who have been involved in the PBE Process"

##### Tuesday, October 27

"Bruce Smith from Drummond Woodsum discussing the legal ramifications in a PBE Environment"

Click [HERE](#) to Register.

### The Essential Elements of Maintaining A National Honor Society Chapter

with David Cordts,  
NASSP Associate  
Director, NHS &  
NJHS



\*\* Monday, November 2 \*\*

A Workshop for  
High School Principals and  
NHS Advisers

Click [Here](#) to Register.

## Workshops with Kim Marshall. . .

### Time and Priority Management for Educational Leaders

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Designed for Principals, Assistant Principals, and Educational Leaders

Click [HERE](#) to Register.

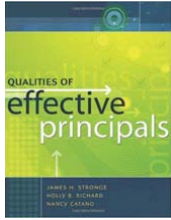
### Evaluation and Support of Principals and Other Educational Leaders

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Designed for Superintendents and others who supervise/evaluate educational leaders

Click [HERE](#) to Register.

# Professional Reading Suggestions

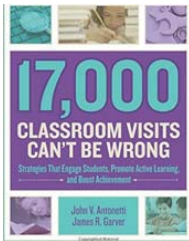


**Qualities of Effective Principals** by James H. Stonge, Holly B. Richard, and Nancy Catano

"What does it take to be a good school principal? No two principals work in exactly the same way, but research shows that effective principals do focus on a core set of factors that are critical to fostering success for all students."

**The Tech-Savvy Administrator** by Steven W. Anderson

"This resource will help leaders: maximize social media to stay connected with teachers, students, and the community; use online tools to manage documents and increase collaboration; identify online tools to stay organize; and develop online professional learning networks."



**17,000 Classroom Visits Can't Be Wrong: Strategies that engage students, promote active learning, and boost achievement** by John V. Antonetti and James R. Garver

"Authors John V. Antonetti and James R. Garver are the designers of the Look 2 Learning model of classroom walkthroughs. They've visited more than 17,000 classrooms—examining a variety of teaching and learning conditions, talking to students, examining their work, and determining their levels of thinking and engagement. From this vast set of data, they've drawn salient lessons that provide valuable insight into how to smooth the transition from simply planning instruction to designing high-quality student work."



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*Educating for life.*

## Observances

- \* **October 1-31**
  - National Principals Month
  - Bullying Prevention Month
- \* **October 2**
  - Custodial Worker Day
  - National Diversity Day
- \* **October 5**
  - World Teacher's Day
  - Bullying Prevention/Blue Shirt Day
  - Child Health Day
- \* **October 5 - 9**
  - Fire Prevention Week
- \* **October 6**
  - American Libraries Day
- \* **October 12**
  - Thanksgiving Day in Canada
  - Native American Day
  - Columbus Day
- \* **October 12 - 16**
  - School Lunch Week
- \* **October 14**
  - National Fossil Day
- \* **October 16**
  - Dictionary Day
  - Alternative Fuels Day
- \* **October 19-23**
  - Earth Science Week
  - School Bus Safety Week
  - Character Counts Week
- \* **October 24**
  - United Nations Day
- \* **October 31**
  - Halloween
  - UNICEF Day



## 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 October *Apprise* features the 2015 Principals and Assistant Principals of the Year. Next month we will feature the Andy 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!



### Brunswick Junior High School

Brunswick Junior High School houses grades 6-8 school in Brunswick. The 505 students are taught by 62 teachers and 12 educational technicians. They have a 31% free and reduced lunch rate and a 17% special education population.

Led by the 2015 Maine Principal of the Year, Walter Wallace, Brunswick Junior High School is housed in a building that is almost 60 years old. The building itself may be older, but what is taking place inside the walls is innovative and great for kids! "Our goal is to know all of the kids well," says Mr. Wallace.

Each student at Brunswick Junior High School has at least one adult who is "assigned" to them through the advisor program. The students know that the staff care about their education, and who they are as individuals. Every school day begins with an advisory of no more than 10 kids to one adult. This advisory time is an opportunity for the kids to talk to each other and the adult in the room. This safe space allows for the students to share experiences and get extra help if needed. This also allows for the staff to check in with students to see if they are ready to learn. If not, the adult has a team available to provide additional support for the individual student. The advisor time is a non-scripted time where students are truly present and "get ready for the day."

Each of the three grades consists of two teams. These teams work with the same kids on a daily basis. Each team has a guidance counselor who works with smaller groups of students- again, meeting the individual student's needs. The teams consist of four core teachers who meet every other day to discuss student issues and curriculum connections. Additional staff are also team members to allow for small advisory classes.

Teacher leadership is paramount at Brunswick Junior High School. In addition to team meetings, there are team leaders for each of the teams who meet weekly with the building assistant principal. There are also department heads who meet regularly with the principal. "We have a great teacher leader system to support our goals," stated Mr. Wallace.

There is a strong RTI team at the school that is available to help support the students. When the Brunswick Naval Air Station closed and the school's population decreased dramatically, Brunswick Junior High was fortunate to allow for master level teachers to be retained in the building and be additional math and/or ELA support for students. These master level teachers work with students in small groups and during class time to help those not meeting standards.

There are many aspects to Brunswick Junior High School that makes this school stand out. From supporting students in any after-school activity that the students may want to join, to the 73 students who signed up and are now going to be in the school musical, low class sizes, or the focus on anti-bullying, Brunswick Junior High School is a special school that truly focuses on its students.



#### **Contact Information:**

Brunswick Junior High School, 65 Columbia Ave, Brunswick ME 04011 ~ 207-319-1930  
Principal Walter Wallace and Assistant Principal Lisa Cushman  
E-mail: [wwallace@brunswick.k12.me.us](mailto:wwallace@brunswick.k12.me.us)

## Buxton Center Elementary School

Buxton Center Elementary School is the largest elementary school in the Bonny Eagle School District. The 640 students are taught by 38 teachers and up to 35 educational technicians. They have a 44% free and reduced lunch rate and an 18% special education population.

Led by the 2015 Maine NAESP Assistant Principal of the Year- and now proud principal- Kim O'Donnell, Buxton Center Elementary is a Prek-grade 5 school that exudes collaboration and support for students, staff, and the community. Five years ago, Buxton Center was built to consolidate four community elementary schools. The staff has worked hard to create a positive climate and culture that welcomes all with open arms.

The district made the choice to consolidate all of the intensive needs programs into the school. This integration program has proven to be successful time and time again. When walking through the halls, or "Villages," Ms. O'Donnell would point out classrooms that were identified as "special needs," or as a "behavior room." Because all students are welcome into all rooms, one would never know the intense amount of education being taught to these students to help them be successful. Each student in Buxton Center is viewed as "My" student by staff. There is sense of ownership in the success of all students that is shared by 100% of the staff.



This ownership goes beyond the classroom. Recognizing the high number of hungry students, the staff decided to help out by creating their own "Backpack Program." They collect food each week and on Fridays, the staff pay \$1 each to wear jeans. The staff of Buxton Center has partnered with Whole Foods and raffles baskets to raise money to help support this program. This money is collected and buys additional food to help feed more than 12 families each weekend.

Outside in the yard, classrooms have strategically planted vegetables that are currently being harvested by the students.

Originally started with a Food Corp Volunteer, the raised beds were maintained over the summer by the Extended Summer School Services students and all students are reaping the benefits of their hard work because the vegetables they have raised are served in their cafeteria. The beds were specifically designed so that students in wheelchairs could also help with the planting and harvesting, so no child is left behind.



A fun and exciting fact about Buxton Center Elementary is they are 1 of 23 schools who were awarded a grant to fully fund a Mandarin Teacher in their school through the Teacher of Critical Languages Program. Every kindergarten student in the Bonny Eagle School District is bussed to Buxton Center weekly to learn Mandarin and every student in Buxton Center Elementary has the unique opportunity to learn a different language and culture.

If you have a chance to visit this beautiful school, I highly encourage you to do so!

### **Contact Information:**

Buxton Center Elementary School, 912 Long Plains Road,  
Buxton ME 04093 ~ 207-929-3836  
Principal Kim O'Donnell and Assistant Principal Charlotte Regan  
E-mail: [kodonnell@bonnyeagle.org](mailto:kodonnell@bonnyeagle.org)



## Mallett (W.G.) School

W.G. Mallett Elementary School is the pre-k-grade 2 elementary school in the Mt. Blue School District in Farmington. The 365 students are taught by 20 teachers, three SED teachers, four teachers who are math or literacy specialists, and 18 educational technicians. They have a 54% free and reduced lunch rate and a 13% special education population.



Led by the 2015 Maine's National Distinguished Principal, Tracy Williams, W.G. Mallett School focuses on creating a positive climate for all students and the community. When asked "What makes your school amazing?" Mrs. Williams proudly stated, "We put a positive spin on everything."

The majority of the staff at W.G. Mallett are trained in Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS), Restorative Practices, Kelso's Choices beginning in kindergarten, and most recently are working on Collaborative Problem Solving with Ross Greene. These practices all help the staff focus on creating an environment that is completely focused on students. The RTI model that is in place involves the entire staff as well. During their regular PLC meetings, the staff are trained on how to focus on the "12-minute Student Review Protocol." This allows the staff to have a focused discussion on each of the students and then determine the best educational plan for them.



If anyone needs additional support, there is a guidance team who works closely with the students. There are groups that meet on a regular basis to help students with sharing, anxiety, loss, friendship issues, etc. Whatever the need, there is a plan to help support the students. Not only do the staff focus on the needs of the students, they also focus on the families. Partnering with the Franklin County Task Force, the staff work with parents in their homes to best support them and their children.

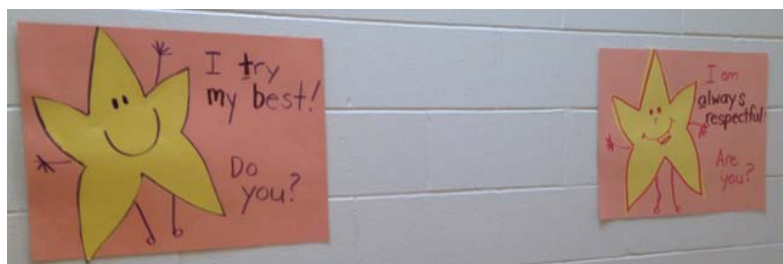
Staff development is a priority at W.G. Mallett. The staff recognize that they are very fortunate to have a late arrival every Wednesday and two staff meetings every month to focus on the expertise of teaching. Mrs. Williams has a rotation of professional development that includes literacy, math, technology, behavior, and teacher evaluation. The PD will include a professional reading to discuss best practices and on literacy days, the entire staff will watch a video to score a running record to calibrate and/or recalibrate as a staff. The focus of each professional development day is to elevate the learning of all students.

Beautiful on the inside and out, five-year-old W.G. Mallet has brought it's history with the new learning outside space. The community included granite from the former school and created beautiful flower beds to help create a comfortable and welcoming place for all.

W.G. Mallett is definitely a school to visit!

### **Contact Information:**

W. G. Mallett Elementary School, 116 Middle Street, Farmington ME 04938 ~ 207-778-3529  
Principal Tracy Williams and Assistant Principal Keith Martin  
E-mail: [twilliams@mtbluersd.org](mailto:twilliams@mtbluersd.org)







## Tackle today's most pressing education issues at Ignite '16

### The State of American Education Panel

Key education leaders will answer questions and engage in a thought-provoking discussion about today's most vital education issues.

#### Panelists

Jimmy Casas, Principal, Bettendorf High School in Bettendorf, IA

Kati Haycock, President, The Education Trust

Molly Spearman, South Carolina Superintendent of Instruction

Randi Weingarten, President, American Federation of Teachers

### Social Media, Educators, and Digital Footprints

Find out how to properly manage social media, its impact on your school, and the legal implications you may face.

#### Panelists

Michael Curran, Professor, Teacher Education, Rider University, Lawrenceville, NJ

Suzanne E. Eckes, Attorney and University Professor, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Michael Nitti, Superintendent, Ewing Schools, Ewing, NJ

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*Save The Date And Register Early!*

**2016 NAESP Annual Conference  
July 6 - 8, 2016  
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