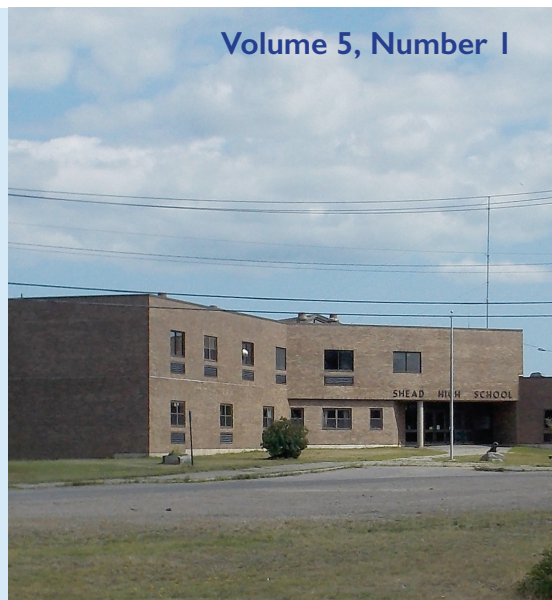




THE VIEW FROM THE HILL



News from Eastport Elementary and Shead High School

Eastport schools support aspirations scholarships for grades 3-6

In a recent email, principal Paul Theriault reached out to faculty and staff to donate to support the return of the Future of Maine College Aspirations Scholarships, one of several parts of the 2016-2017 Future of Maine Initiative of the Maine College Circle (MCC). Donations are currently being collected.

Shead's senior class has also taken up the challenge. They will be holding a coffee and baked goods sale on Tuesday, November 8th, in the school lobby to offer refreshments to voters. Half the money raised will be donated to scholarships and the other half will help fund the senior class trip next spring.

According to director Bob Stuart, the MCC's core mission is "to provide information that will help young students aspire and help them build a brighter future for themselves and for their community. We try to present this information in a way that is fun and casts a positive light on higher education. We emphasize the value of effort. We try to build celebration around these students and their effort and aspirations. And, we try to engage the community to support their youth and their future."

Among the initiatives of the MCC are the Future of Maine College Aspirations Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to students in grades three to six in Maine elementary schools based on essays the students write about their future dreams and plans. Although each scholarship is for only \$100, which does not go a long way to funding college, it is the process that is truly valuable. Classroom discussions about going to college and planning a career, the essay process, and the recognition of scholarship recipients at an evening ceremony are the truly valuable part of the process.

In an interview on the MCC's website, Stuart answers the question of why the scholarships are targeted to younger students: "The longer a student goes through education without some goals and aspirations, the less the student and we will accomplish. Grades five and six are really pivotal. Somewhere in those two grades most students develop an attitude towards education and they start to choose a path which either includes higher education or doesn't."

1200 students across Maine have been awarded scholarships so far in a process in which a group of educators, community members, and high school seniors rank each essay from one to five, with the highest scorers awarded scholarships.

One goal of the MCC is to have all participating communities be fully funded for the next ten years through a combination of external and local donors and to build the capacity to have all scholarships locally funded after that.

Please support Shead's senior class!



Stop by our coffee and baked goods sale
in the Shead lobby on Election Day.



Half of proceeds to the MCC local scholarship fund, half to the Class of 2017.

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Class elections held

Eastport Elementary's eighth grade and the four classes at Shead have elected officers for this school year in an atmosphere of civility those running for national office would do well to emulate.

The following officers have been elected:

Eighth-grade, EES:

president, Johnathan Sutton
vice-president, Maleeka Barnes
secretary, Ryleigh Andrews
treasurer, Rebecca Crabtree

Shead seniors:

president, Katelyn Mitchell
vice-president, Matt Harris
secretary, Kneviah Newcomb
treasurer, Isaac Curtis

Shead juniors:

president, Michelle Cook
vice-president, Jakob Klentzman
secretary, Alex Johndro
treasurer, Aaron Lank

Shead sophomores:

president, Keegan Miller
vice-president, Madison Greenlaw
secretary, Roxanna MacGregor
treasurer, Trever Fenderson

Shead freshmen:

president, Cassidee Lawrence
vice-president, Cassandra Bore,
secretary, Laura Davis
treasurer, Felicia Smith

Shead student senate:

seniors, Kaylie Robertson and Mackenzie Hansen
juniors, Cassidy Wilder and Maya Tirado
sophomores, CJ Francis and Jacquelyn Cook
freshmen, George Mills and Halle Sullivan

Eighth-grade advisor is Heidi Parsloe. Allicia Mitchell is the student senate advisor. Class advisors are freshmen, Damon Weston, Stephanie Allard, Jennifer Simmons, and Barbara Lapham; sophomores, Paul Patterson, Sharon Cook, Chrissy Greenlaw, and Monica Jamieson; juniors, Tara Poole, Allicia Mitchell, Ron Sullivan, and Peter Young; and seniors, Catherine Lee, Bobbie Mitchell, and Leah McLean.

Sauerkraut and cider at EES

On Wednesday, September 28th, first- and second-graders at EES and their teacher, Erin Mahar, went to the food pantry to learn how to make sauerkraut with parent/school garden volunteer Amy Zipperer and Samantha Cottone, Food Corps service member. Students produced enough sauerkraut for the rest of the school to sample in a few weeks once it has fully fermented.

After preparing their sauerkraut, students explored the food pantry's garden and sampled some of the veggies growing there.



On Friday afternoon, September 30th, EES held its annual apple pressing and garden tour. In addition to pressing apples into cider, students participated in crafts including apple-stamping and bookmark making. The public was invited to tour the EES garden and sample the cider and fresh-from-the-garden veggies. Healthy Acadia's Food Corps service member Samantha Cottone helped organize the event.



EES K-4 students recently learned fire safety with Eastport fire fighters Tommy Critchley, Jay Pearson, and Ryan Pearson.

Touch tank fund passes goal

The marine resources class at Shead has exceeded its goal of raising \$1200 to establish a 55-gallon chilled salt water touch tank aquarium in the life science classroom. The students set up a gofundme.com webpage in early September and raised \$1479 from 36 donors by their deadline.

Also helping to fund the tank was a \$3000 grant that science teacher Stephanie Allard received from the Perloff Family Foundation.

In an article written for the gofundme.com webpage, marine resources student Audrey Bradbury wrote, "Our marine resources have always been the life-blood of our small community. This tank will allow us to bring them into our classroom and become educated about them in a hands-on and meaningful way. This salt water touch tank will not only educate marine resources students, but biology and natural history students as well.

"It will also provide an opportunity for marine resources students to become the teacher. We will be reaching out to the students at Eastport Elementary School, designing interactive lessons that involve our tank's various inhabitants. Many Shead High School graduates choose to stay in the area after they complete high school to pursue marine resource related fields. It is imperative that they have a solid understanding of our ocean ecosystem."

Shead welcomes freshmen

The annual Freshman Reception was held in the Shead gym on Friday evening, October 14th. During the march, led by Class of 2017 freshman queen and king Holly Preston and Matt Harris, each freshman in attendance was presented to the audience by Eastport schools principal Paul Theriault. After the march, the queen and king of the Class of 2020 were crowned by their senior counterparts. Based on a vote by the entire student body and faculty at Shead, Sarah Bartlett of Eastport was crowned queen and Colby Jamieson of Pembroke was named king. A dance followed, with music programmed by freshman Lacey Woodside.



SchoolMessenger will improve communication

Because, as principal Paul Theriault states, “School/home communication is one of the most valuable tools to help ensure a quality education for our children,” Shead and EES have signed a contract with SchoolMessenger.

This new program allows the schools to send important messages about non-storm school cancellations, early releases, evening meetings, absenteeism, musical events, and other information of interest to parents. It also allows the schools to quickly message parents in case of emergency.

Letters have been sent to parents asking for their preferred method of communication—email, voicemail, text messages, or website postings. Different types of messages may be sent by different methods, depending on parent needs. Parents who have not returned their contact sheets are asked to do so as soon as possible. If no contact information is returned, that will be taken as opting out of this program.

Unfortunately, the schools will be unable to contact families individually with snow day cancellations. That information is readily available on the Internet, television stations WLBZ, WABI, and WVII, and WQDY radio. It is hoped that families will continue to access school cancellation information as they have in the past.



Students from Shead and EES travel to Treat Island for an archaeological dig.

Students dig Treat Island

On Wednesday, October 5th, students from Damon Weston’s US history classes and Stephanie Allard’s life science classes at Shead, and Heidi Parsloe’s seventh and eighth grade classes from EES, traveled to Treat Island to visit an archaeological dig. Captain Butch Harris transported the students and their teachers on his whale-watching boat, the “Pier Pressure.”

The Maine Coast Heritage Trust, owners of Treat Island, are conducting a preliminary survey dig to collect artifacts that might justify a more extensive dig at the site in the future.

Deidre Whitehead, the steward of Treat Island, presented a short history of the island, which began in 1784 when Revolutionary War hero John Allan established a trading post there. In the 1840s, the island became the site of the first fish cannery in North America. During the Civil War in the 1860s, a cannon battery and barracks were built to guard the Western Passage. In 1935, the U.S. government acquired Treat Island as part of the proposed Passamaquoddy Dam project.

Archaeologists from the Northeast Archaeology Research Center and local volunteers at work on test pits around the island welcomed the assistance of the students, who shoveled and screened the dirt. Among the artifacts found by the students were old nails, glass shards, cow teeth, coal and other objects. The students were also instructed in the methods of recording and storing what was found.

On the return trip to Eastport, students saw porpoise and some, on the lucky side of the boat, saw a minke whale. Along with Maine Coast Heritage Trust volunteers, Connie Knight and Chris Bartlett generously volunteered to chaperone the trip and help with transfer of students to and from the island.





Shead soccer season ends

The Shead Tigers qualified for post-season play on Thursday, October 20th, with a playoff game in Howland against Penobscot Valley High School, but the season ended with a 2-0 loss for the Tigers. Coach Josh McGuire reports that goalie CJ Francis “had the game of his high school career with 23 saves.” McGuire took over during the season from Ben Brigham, who moved from Shead to the mid-Maine area. McGuire notes that the boys did a good job buying into a system without many subs available. He felt the last six games, some of them against teams ranked highly in the Heal Points standings, were the best the Tigers played all year long. About working with a coach whose system was different from what they’d been familiar with for most of their high school careers, senior Dalton Theriault stated, “It was a rough transition, but with the help of Coach McGuire, we were able to pull together to become a better team.”

On Wednesday, October 19th, the Shead Tigerettes won the Downeast Athletic Conference Championship game against Narraguagus High School of Harrington. Madison Greenlaw saved one shot in goal in the second overtime to preserve the 0-0 tie. She also saved two penalty kicks during the tie-breaking shootout, giving Shead the 1-0 win after winning the shootout 4-2.

On a rainy Friday, October 21st, the Tigerettes traveled to Dyer Brook for their playoff game with Southern Aroostook High School. The Tigerettes lost 2-0. Coach Dana Bowen says the Tigerettes played well, but did not have a lot of shots on goal. They were also limited by an injury to one of their senior players.



DAC All-Stars named

The Downeast Athletic Conference (DAC) has named its All-Stars for the fall sports season. All DAC coaches nominate the players from their teams that they believe merit inclusion as All-Stars. Once the list of nominees in each sport is complete, coaches vote based on which players they think are worthy of the award, but cannot vote for their own players.

In both boys and girls soccer, the top twelve vote-getters are named All-Stars. Receiving All-star accolades in girls soccer are Jacquelyn Cook and Kiesha Scott. Named All-Stars in boys soccer are Damien Lank and Ethan Lank.

The process for naming All-Stars in golf is different, as it is based on the DAC championship golf match. The top five players and any ties within that number are named All-Stars. Matthew Harris is Shead’s golf All-Star.

Jazz partnership with EAC

On Friday, October 7th, the Eastport Arts Center (EAC) hosted a musical event for Eastport students in grades five through twelve.

In the morning, students were treated to a concert by the University of Maine at Orono’s Jazz Sextet. Following the concert, master classes were held for EES and Shead band students. The session for Shead students focused on improvisation, as well as the students learning a song the Shead Jazz Combo performed with the Sextet at an evening concert at the EAC.

Eastport music teacher Robert Sanchez said, “I love the idea of our younger students seeing that there is an option for the continuation of musical endeavors past high school. I was also very interested in seeing the communication between the UMO students and the Eastport students, both verbal and the non-verbal expression through music.”

Shead students staff annual Turkey-a-Thon

Again this year, Shead students traveled to Raye's Mustard Mill to collect donations for the annual Turkey-a-Thon presented by Classic Hits 92.7-95.3 and The Border 102.9 in partnership with Healthy Acadia and sponsored by Dunkin Donuts in Calais and Machias.

This year's county-wide goal was 2500 turkeys, and at the end of WQDY's ten-hour broadcast, not only had enough donations had been collected to meet the goal, but there was enough for another 99 turkeys as well. As explained on WQDY's website, "Every dollar raised during the Turkey-a-Thon will be used to purchase gift certificates from local grocery stores." The gift certificates will be distributed to all Washington County food pantries and will help ensure that local families in need enjoy a healthy holiday meal.

In addition to Eastport, donations were collected in Milbridge, Machias, Columbia, Lubec, Calais, and Baileyville. Unlike several past Turkey-a-Thons, when the weather was cold and rainy, this year's event was blessed with sunny weather, which made standing outdoors much more pleasant for the students.

Among the groups from Shead that spent part of the day collecting donations from passing cars were the Tigers and Tigerettes soccer teams and their coaches, Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) students and their coach, the student senate and their advisor, and the freshman class.

Students raised about \$4000 during the Eastport event, which is enough to purchase gift certificates for 333 turkeys.



The Shead soccer teams attract attention to the 2016 Turkey-a-Thon.

Alternative grading system moves ahead

At their new 1:30 pm early release days, faculty members from Shead and EES have been discussing the transition to standards-based grading (SBG) with leadership team members facilitating various aspects of the discussion. The move to this grading system is mandated by state law.

SBG is a method of measuring and communicating where students are in meeting state standards. Instead of averaging grades over a term, SBG identifies what students know or are able to do in relation to pre-established learning targets, with multiple opportunities to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired. This allows students to have their most consistent and successful performance prioritized over earlier attempts at meeting the standards, unlike the averaging of beginning attempts with later, more skilled demonstrations of knowledge. SBG also brings consistency to grading across grades and subjects.

So far, the faculty has identified the benefits and challenges of using SBG, has evaluated scales to use for measuring proficiency, and has made preliminary identification of performance descriptions. Work on SBG will continue, with communication to parents of steps in implementing this new system an ongoing and important part of the conversation.





Shead seniors attend leadership conference

Six seniors from the Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) program at Shead High School and their coach, JMG specialist Tara Poole, participated in a two-day Leadership Education Conference at Pine Tree Camp in Rome, Maine, last week.

Isaac Curtis, Mackenzie Hansen, CeCe McCoy, Kaylie Robertson, James Sapiel, and Dalton Theriault competed in a variety of group activities, showcased their public speaking skills, and learned how to be leaders in their schools.

This year's conference theme was "Grit," which the students learned consists of setting a goal and having the passion and perseverance to complete that goal no matter what it takes. Poole states, "JMG students certainly went above and beyond showing their grit and they are sharing that passion with the rest of the students at Shead."



EES runners complete a successful season

The EES cross-country team has completed a successful season, competing against Perry, Beatrix Rafferty, Charlotte, Pembroke, and Edmunds Elementary Schools in the southern division. At the divisionals, the Panther boys took third place and the Panther girls junior high team took first place.

Eleven schools from the northern and southern divisions competed in the championship race held at the Moosehorn Wildlife Refuge in Baring. Once again, the Panther girls junior high team brought home first-place honors.

Coach Connie Knight reports, "We had a great season. My boys are young and for most of them it was their first time running. They will only get faster and I'm looking forward to watching them improve. My older girls have been stellar this year! I'm so proud of their hard work."

Knight also notes, "Cross-country definitely deserves more recognition than it gets. It's my goal to keep building up the teams and hopefully it will carry over to the high school level. I really want to see a team at Shead next year."

This year at Shead, Audrey Bradbury was the only student competing in cross-country. She traveled to the races with the Machias High School team.

MELMAC dinner held

On Wednesday, September 28th, Shead and EES held their annual parent/student/staff dinner sponsored by Shead's MELMAC Education Foundation grant.

The dinner was held in the EES cafeteria with around 100 diners present. Eastport Schools guidance counselor Leah McLean spoke briefly about the MELMAC "Connect Aspirations to a Plan" grant and building community between parents and staff. Following the dinner, principal Paul Theriault met with parents of freshmen and transfer students about Shead's one-to-one iPad program.

Eastport Elementary calendar

November

- 4 **First-quarter grades close**
- 9 Parent-teacher conferences and Web2School training for parents
- 10 Early release for students and staff
- 11 Veteran's Day—No school
- 16 School committee meeting, 6:00 pm
- 17 1:30 pm release for professional development
- 22 EES and Shead student/staff Thanksgiving dinner
- 23 Early release for students and staff
Thanksgiving break begins
- 28 School resumes
School photo retakes

December

- 7 Early release for students
- 9 **Second quarter progress reports close**
- 15 1:30 pm release for professional development
- 21 School committee meeting, 6:00 pm
- 22 Early release for students and staff
Christmas break begins

January

- 3 School resumes
- 12 1:30 pm release for professional development
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day—No school
- 18 School committee meeting, 6:00 pm
- 20 Early release for students
Second quarter/first semester grades close
- 26 1:30 pm release for professional development

Star testing at EES

Star testing has begun at EES. Some parents have had questions which the following information may address.

Star testing is not a state-mandated test. It is, however, a way to determine student progress in English and math, aligned to what is actually taught in the classroom. It provides data that assists teachers in reteaching content based on student needs. Each test takes about 20 minutes.

Since EES offers school-wide Title I services, the collection of data (without student names) is necessary for maintaining the program. Star testing is a valuable way of providing accurate data.

Shead High calendar

November

- 3 ASVAB testing, juniors and seniors
- 4 **First-quarter grades close**
- 9 Parent-teacher conferences and Web2School training for parents
- 10 Early release for students and staff
- 11 Veteran's Day—No school
- 16 School committee meeting, 6:00 pm
- 17 1:30 pm release for professional development
- 22 EES and Shead student/staff Thanksgiving dinner
- 23 Early release for students and staff
Thanksgiving break begins
- 25-26 Basketball tournament at Hodgdon, girls and boys**
- 28 School resumes
School photo retakes

December

- 6 Basketball, Sumner at Shead, girls and boys**
- 7 Early release for students
- 9 **Second quarter progress reports close**
Tigerettes at Machias, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 10 Tigers at Houlton Christian, 5:30 pm
- 12 Tigers at Jonesport-Beals, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 15 1:30 pm release for professional development
Jonesport-Beals girls at Shead, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 17 Highview Christian boys and girls at Shead, 2 & 3:30 pm
- 20 Shead student/staff Christmas dinner
Hodgdon boys and girls at Shead, 5:30 & 7:00 pm
- 21 School committee meeting, 6:00 pm
- 22 Early release for students and staff
Christmas break begins
Tigers/Tigerettes at Highview Christian, 3:30 & 5:00 pm
- 23 Machias boys at Shead, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 27 Tigerettes at Fort Fairfield, 4:00 pm
- 28 Tigers at Narraguagus, 11:30 & 1:00 pm
- 30 Tigers/Tigerettes at Fort Kent, 1:00 and 2:30 pm

January

- 3 School resumes
East Grand boys and girls at Shead, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 4 Jonesport-Beals boys at Shead, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 5 Tigerettes at Jonesport-Beals, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 7 Fort Kent boys and girls at Shead, 1:00 & 2:30 pm
- 9 Tigerettes at Woodland, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 10 Tigers at Woodland, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 12 1:30 pm release for professional development
Tigers/Tigerettes at East Grand, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day—No school
- 18 School committee meeting, 6:00 pm
Narraguagus girls at Shead, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 19 Narraguagus boys at Shead, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 20 Early release for students
Second quarter/first semester grades close
Tigers/Tigerettes at Hodgdon, 1:00 & 2:30 pm
- 21 Tigers at Machias, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 26 1:30 pm release for professional development
- 27 Tigerettes at Narraguagus, 5:00 & 6:30 pm
- 31 Machias girls at Shead, 5:00 & 6:30 pm

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EES community liaison is Heidi Parsloe. Shead community liaison is Catherine Lee.