



State Representative Maker visits Eastport schools

On Wednesday, November 4th, Joyce Maker of Calais, State Representative of Maine House District 140 (Baileyville, Calais, Charlotte, Passamaquoddy Indian Township, Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point, Pembroke, Perry, Robbinston, and Baring Plantation) and a member of the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, spent the day visiting Eastport Elementary School and Shead High School.

Principal Paul Theriault explained that Maker's visit came about through the desire of the education committee to observe the actual day-to-day working of some Maine schools. The committee contacted the Maine Principals Association (MPA) about a way to make that happen. MPA Executive Director Richard A. Durost invited principals to host visits, with legislators being matched with schools outside their own legislative districts. Each committee member spent a full day with his or her designated principal. In Eastport, Representative Maker started her visit by attending an early-morning administrative team meeting. She then visited a variety of classes at both Shead and EES. While some classes invited her to speak, in all of them she was able to meet staff and students and hear their comments and concerns about the current state and process of education. Maker also observed the presentation of a check from the Eastport Port Authority to go towards the purchase of a Kubota tractor for the athletic fields, and attended a staff meeting at which Superintendent of Schools Kenneth Johnson did a presentation and question-and-answer session on the new teacher evaluation process for AOS 77.

Theriault said of the visit, "It was a good full day. Schools are fortunate to have the Education Committee legislators working on our behalf. I appreciate them wanting to get into the trenches and see what goes on in an actual school day."



Seventh and eighth graders at Eastport Elementary School visit with State Representative Joyce Maker of Calais



**WISHING ALL OUR
READERS A
JOYOUS AND
PEACEFUL
HOLIDAY SEASON!**

'Tis the season for holiday fun and festivity

A variety of holiday events are taking shape in the Eastport schools. One is a classroom door decorating competition in both the elementary and high schools, with school committee members selecting the winners. Organizer Erin Mahar, teacher for EES grades one and two, challenges fellow faculty to “Get creative and have fun!”

Another activity will bring back the Shead tradition of the “Ugly Christmas Sweater” contest, with awards for winning students and staff at EES and Shead. In past competitions, some Shead staff members have gone “above and beyond” in decorating their ugly sweaters with garland, tree ornaments, and battery-powered lights, so it’ll be fun to see what kinds of creativity this year’s contest brings.

On Friday, December 11th, Shead’s National Honor Society members will again cater the annual Christmas open house and customer appreciation day at “The First” on Washington Street. Students have a limited budget and are tasked with spending it wisely on holiday goodies, which they then prepare. They also host the actual event.

Also in the works is the annual Christmas dinner for all students and staff. Formerly an event put on by the Shead faculty for Shead students, this year the event will be held in the EES cafeteria for students from both schools. Turkey and all the traditional fixings will be on the menu.

The annual Christmas concert produced by the school music department will be held on Thursday, December 17th, featuring both vocal and instrumental music. Music teacher Robert Sanchez reports that students in grades K-4 through eight will perform holiday classics, and both the Shead band and the EES band will play seasonal favorites. The concert will be held in the gym at EES.

Friday, December 18th, is the last day of school before the Christmas break. Afternoon activities will include parties at EES and movies at Shead.



EES school garden awarded grant

EES school garden volunteer Amy Zipperer has announced that the EES garden is one of two local projects awarded in the Kitchen Gardeners International (KGI) Seed Money Challenge Grant Competition. Also winning a grant is the Victory Garden at the Labor of Love Nutrition Center.

KGI awarded a \$400 matching grant to the first 75 projects to raise \$400 from supporters. By press time, the EES garden received \$685 in donations, making it the 52nd garden out of the 75 to qualify. This is an important project for the Eastport area, as Zipperer explains that both local public gardens “have been evolving over the past several years to become vibrant growing spaces providing tasty fresh foods, learning opportunities, and vital social connections. The Eastport School Gardens aim to connect students, staff, and families to an evolving network of plant relationships while putting more nutritious foods into the mouths of Eastport youths.”

Zipperer notes that donations can be made until December 15th at the crowdfunding site, <https://www.seedmoney.org/en/projects/26047-Eastport-School-Gardens> and that all money raised “will go straight into the gardens—for seeds, plants, trees, mulch, and fencing.”



KITCHEN GARDENERS
INTERNATIONAL



K-4 and K-5 students at EES plant garlic with garden volunteer Amy Zipperer

Coaches appointed for Shead and EES sports

At the October meeting of the Eastport School Committee, Superintendent Kenneth Johnson appointed the following coaches for the 2015-2016 sports season.

Eastport Elementary School:
Dana Bowen, Athletic Director
Connie Knight, cross-country
Ronald Sullivan, soccer

Basketball, baseball, and softball coaches at EES will be named at a later meeting.

Shead High School:
Joni Kinney, girls junior varsity basketball
Corey Sullivan, girls varsity basketball
Gerald Greenlaw, boys junior varsity basketball
Darrin Constant, boys varsity basketball
Dana Bowen, softball
Ronald Sullivan, baseball
Joshua McGuire, tennis

Coaching fall sports at Shead were Ben Brigham, boys soccer; Dana Bowen, girls soccer; Joshua McGuire, golf; and Bobby Davis, cross-country.

Weight-loss group loses equivalent of small-to-medium staff member

Some of the participants in the Shead/EES/AOS 77 weight-loss group were a little surprised when they received an email from Shead special education teacher and weight-loss motivator and cheerleader Chrissy Greenlaw with the subject line, "Eastport schools celebrate loss of staff member."

Greenlaw's attention-grabbing email was designed to keep the fifteen group members motivated by spotlighting their success. In the first six weeks of the weight-loss challenge, the group lost a combined total of 140.3 pounds, the equivalent of a small-to-medium staff member. Greenlaw is determined to keep the group from losing momentum as the challenge heads into its final weeks, ending just before Christmas break.

Members paid \$15 each to join the group, with cash prizes to be awarded to the three "biggest losers" calculated by percentage of body weight lost. Some players have formed teams within the group, with bragging rights and side bets at stake.

PeeWee basketball starts

Eastport parent Jessica Andrews has been running the PeeWee Basketball program at EES for several years. The PeeWee program, which takes place prior to the regular elementary basketball season, gives children a chance to learn some fundamentals of the game and take part in competition. This interview was conducted by Jessica Andrews' daughter, Ryleigh.

Why did you start PeeWee?

I started PeeWee basketball because I wanted to introduce children to basketball at a young age. At the time, you couldn't play school basketball till sixth grade at EES. I wanted to get kids hooked on the sport at a small age, so they could keep the healthy habit throughout.

What interested you in basketball?

This sport was only one available to young kids at my age. My dad coached a rec team when I was in first grade, so I played.

Do you like working with kids?

I love working with kids. They're energetic, enthusiastic, eager to learn and, well, just fun.

What team did you play for?

The two teams I played for as a kid were the Edmunds Jets and the Washington Academy Raiders.

Have you coached other teams?

I coached the EES Panthers a couple of years back, and had a lot of fun!

What's your favorite part of basketball?

My favorite part of basketball is probably the teamwork.



Jessica Andrews and the EES PeeWee basketball team

Shead JMG supports Make-a-Wish Maine with spirit chains

Shead's Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) students had a new idea for a fund-raiser this year: a "spirit chain" competition with all proceeds going to the Maine chapter of the Make-a-Wish Foundation. The Make-a-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children diagnosed with life-threatening medical conditions, one every thirty-eight minutes nationally and one every five days in Maine, according to their website.

During November, JMG students have been selling links to the spirit chains for twenty-five cents each, with each of the four classes and the staff having its own two colors. The chains were draped along the ceiling of the downstairs hall so that each group could see its progress and where it stood in the fund-raising competition. Each day, JMG students made and added newly-purchased links to the chains.

For most of the month, it was a spirited competition between the staff and the seniors as to who would have the longest chain, with the staff leading by a very small margin most of the way. Ultimately, the staff



pulled out the win. A total of \$365.75 was raised through the spirit chain project to help fulfill the wish of a Maine child.

Shead JMG specialist Tara Poole remarked, "Students are learning the importance of being philanthropists and they are more than willing to donate to such a worthy cause close to home."

Shead JMG students attend leadership workshop at WCCC

On Tuesday, November 17th, a group of Shead Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) students traveled to Washington County Community College to attend a leadership workshop presented by the Boys to Men program of Yarmouth, Maine. Despite its name, this program helps both boys and girls reach their potential to become emotionally healthy, respectful, non-violent men and women.

According to Shead JMG specialist Tara Poole, students in the workshop "discussed serious issues in Downeast, Maine, such as domestic violence, dating abuse, body image, bullying, and gender inequality." They "shared stories, talked about expectations that are placed on young men and women from social media and the Internet, and learned how to build their self-esteem to be happy with who they are without having to conform to society's trends that are set for us to look or act a certain way just because we are male or female."



Shead and other JMG students have a roundtable discussion at the Boys to Men program held at WCCC

In reflecting on the day's workshop, students agreed that they wished all students and their parents could attend a program just like it. They felt it was so "informative" and "eye-opening" that it was indeed life-changing, so much so that it should be required for all high school students. They also believed that a program such as this one has real potential to reduce domestic violence and and bullying in Washington County.



Shead Outing Club receives grant

Shead life sciences teacher and outing club advisor Stephanie Allard was pleased and excited to learn that the Shead Outing Club has been chosen to receive a \$500 grant from the Teens to Trails (T3) Grants to Clubs program. The grant will be used to create programming to engage teens in the outdoors. Currently, T3 supports thirteen outing clubs, including five new, one of which is Shead's. In keeping with their motto, "Life happens outside," the goal of the T3 funding is "to make outdoor opportunities available year after year to improve the health and happiness of your students."

In addition to funding some of Shead's outing club activities, the grant provides other benefits. One is a one-year membership for Shead's club in the Association of Maine Outing Clubs (AMOC), an organization sponsored by T3 that offers online trip planning tools and a Partners database for more resources. Another benefit is a 20% discount at legendary Maine retailer L.L. Bean for schools wishing to purchase camping and other outdoor gear. The AMOC also makes available to member schools programming such as their Wilderness First Aid Course and Winter Skills Weekend. They also assist clubs in planning their adventures and choosing the specific gear best suited for club activities.

Allard describes the outing club's upcoming activities as "hiking until the snow flies, then training in winter skills, including snowshoeing and cross-country skiing." As far as the club's plans for the grant, she says, "We're going to go on a two-overnight trip to Baxter State Park to climb Mount Katahdin. The grant money will pay for camping fees and training for climbing the mountain."



Ms. Allard and two of the outing club members who helped write the grant display their check from Teens to Trails

Shop students build, donate table

Under the direction of shop instructor Tommy Fredette, a group of shop students at Shead have completed a conference table and donated it to the Eastport Port Authority (EPA) in appreciation of the EPA's ongoing partnership with the Eastport School Department.

The table, fourteen feet long with convex sides, is constructed of red oak, mahogany, and pine. It now graces the conference room at the EPA's office building and visitor center at the head of the breakwater.

Fredette designed the table last spring and his shop students began working on it then, finishing it this fall. Contributing to the table's construction were junior Tim Davis; sophomores Michelle Cook, Jakob Fredette, Jakob Klentzman, Ben Shain, Ethan Lank, Jacob Paul, and Aaron Lank, Jr.; and freshman Logan Trott.

Fredette noted, "Students were able to craft a high-quality piece of furniture while learning the value of community service."

In another display of cooperation, the EPA presented Shead High School with a check for \$2000 to be put towards the purchase of a Kubota tractor for maintaining the school's athletic fields.



On-spot admissions scheduled

Again this year, both Washington County Community College (WCCC) and the University of Maine at Machias (UMM) will be doing on-spot admissions at Shead.

Seniors wishing to apply to either or both of these colleges should see guidance counselor Leah McLean or JMG specialist Tara Poole, or contact either of them at 853-6254, to schedule individual interviews. Application fees are waived for students applying through the on-spot process.

The FAFSA financial aid workshop for seniors and their parents will be held on Thursday, December 17, at 6:00 pm with presenter Nicole Vachon, College Access Counselor from FAME. This is a chance to learn more about the college financial aid process and the FAFSA form for applying for aid.

Students attend musical event at Eastport Arts Center

On Friday, November 20, Eastport Elementary students attended a morning presentation of jazz percussionist Patricia Franceschy's program titled, "Insights on the Outside Edge: A Musical Journey from Mexico to Maine." Shead students attended the program in the afternoon. A group of Mexican migrant students from the Harrington/Milbridge area also attended the afternoon presentation.

A blend of musical performance with storytelling, the presentation tells of Franceschy's hard decision as a young woman to leave her home in Puerto de Veracruz, Mexico, and journey to the United States, where a long process of assimilation awaited her. The grand-daughter of a concert pianist, Franceschy discovered her passion for music at a young age, beginning piano lessons at the age of three and later adding percussion instruments. Relating to her audience how as a child and teenager she sometimes practiced her instruments ten to twelve hours a day, she pointed out to the students that achieving skill in any endeavor takes immense dedication, hard work, and much sacrifice.

Dreams of a better life and increased education and music opportunities led Franceschy to emigrate from Mexico. While attending New York University for her Master's degree in jazz performance and composition, she met Noel Brennan, a native of Robbinston, Maine, who was also studying for his Master's in music. Now her husband and an accomplished jazz musician in his own right, he accompanied Franceschy on a variety of drums, including the "ocean drum" that can sound like an ocean wave washing ashore.

Dividing her performance between the grand piano and the vibraphone, Franceschy related the music to her personal journey. Along the way, she taught students about the vibraphone, an instrument similar to the xylophone that differs in having a sustain pedal, and about how J.S. Bach, one of her favorite composers, used chord structures that still sound modern even after 300 years. A member of the Grammy-nominated John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble, she has also played at Carnegie Hall with Meredith Monk.

Franceschy's program at the EAC was funded by a Community Outreach Grant from the Maine Humanities Council.

Students learn wreath-making

Students in Stephanie Allard's National History of Maine class recently had an opportunity to experience one of Maine's traditional seasonal industries. Under the direction of Eastport wreath-maker Leanne Blankman, each student completed a Christmas wreath of native balsam fir. For several students, it was their first wreath-making experience.



Pamela Franceschy and Noel Brennan performing for Shead students at the Eastport Arts Center



Shead students make balsam-fir Christmas wreaths under the direction of Leanne Blankman

Schools hold MELMAC dinner and parent-teacher conferences

In conjunction with fall parent-teacher conferences, Shead's MELMAC team hosted their annual parent/student/staff dinner at the EES cafeteria. This event has in the past been held at Shead, but this year it was decided to welcome students and parents from both schools. The dinner is part of Shead's "Connect Aspirations to a Plan" grant and the new 7th-8th grade Partnership grant, both from the MELMAC Education Foundation.

Student musicians from the Shead and EES bands provided dinner music for the event, which featured a menu of lasagna, garlic bread, tossed salad, and cupcakes from Moose Island Bakery. Four door prizes of \$25 gas cards from the Strawberry Patch were awarded to parents whose names were drawn.

Thanks go to kitchen staff Dawn Preston, Cynthia Glatfelter and Peggy Foss, MELMAC team members Carol Wolf, Bobbie Mitchell, Leah McLean, and Catherine Lee, and music teacher Robert Sanchez for their work in planning, cooking, and serving, and coordinating the entertainment, for this event.



Members of the Shead/EES band perform for diners at the annual MELMAC parent/student/staff dinner in the EES cafeteria.



Thanksgiving dinner a treat for Shead and EES students

Christmas dinner for students and staff has been a holiday tradition at Shead for a few years. Because of the success of that annual event, this year it was decided to add a Thanksgiving dinner to the tradition and include the elementary school students and staff as well.

Staff members either donated money for the purchase of turkeys or made desserts. Dana Bowen and Dawn Preston and her cafeteria staff prepared the meal, which was served by school staff and members of the Shead National Honor Society (NHS).

The dinner was held on Tuesday, November 24th, at lunchtime. The menu included roast turkey with gravy and stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, buttercup squash, spaghetti squash, buttered carrots, beets, and dinner rolls.

The afternoon before the dinner, elementary school students assisted by members of the NHS made pies, including cranberry fluff, pumpkin, butterscotch, chocolate, banana, Oreo cookie, various cream pies, and a cheesecake.



Pie-making for the annual student/staff Thanksgiving dinner.



Eastport Elementary calendar

December

- 11 *Second quarter progress reports close*
- 16 School committee meeting, Shead, 6:00 pm
- 17 Student/staff Christmas dinner, EES cafeteria
Music Department Christmas Concert, 6:00 pm
- 18 Book Universe, 9:00 am - 11:30 am
Santa Claus visit, 1:00 pm
Last day before Christmas break

January

- 4 School resumes

Shead High calendar

December

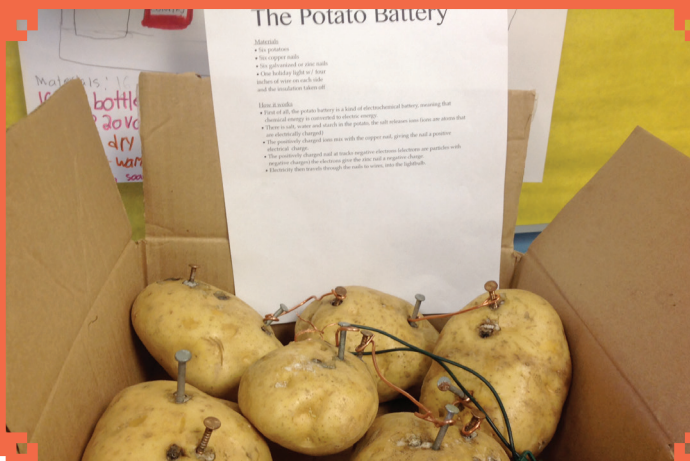
- 7 Tigerettes, Machias at Shead, 5:00 and 6:30 pm
- 8 Tigers, Machias at Shead, 5:00 and 6:30 pm
- 10 On-spot admissions, UMM at Shead, 9:00 am
Tigerettes at Woodland, 5:00 and 6:30 pm
- 11 *Second quarter progress reports close*
- 12 Tigers at Deer Isle, 12:00 pm and 3:30 pm
Tigerettes at Deer Isle, 2:00 pm
- 14 Tigerettes at Narraguagus, 5:00 and 6:30 pm
- 15 Tigers, Narraguagus at Shead, 5:00 and 6:30 pm
- 16 School committee meeting, Shead, 6:00 pm
Tigerettes at Jonesport-Beals, 6:30 pm
- 17 Student/staff Christmas dinner, EES cafeteria
FAFSA workshop for seniors/parents, 6 pm
Music Department Christmas Concert, EES, 6:00 pm
- 18 Last day before Christmas break
- 19 Tigerettes at Highview Christian, 1:00 pm
Tigers at Highview Christian, 2:00 pm
- 22 Tigers at Hodgdon, 5:30 pm
Tigerettes at Hodgdon, 7:00 pm
- 28 Tigers, Jonesport-Beals at Shead, 5:00 and 6:30 pm
- 29 DAC Tournament at Shead, 8:00 am
Tigerettes get a bye in the first round
Tigers vs. Narraguagus, 3:00 pm

January

- 2 Tigerettes, East Grand at Shead, 1:00 pm
Tigers, East Grand at Shead, 2:30 pm
- 4 School resumes
- 5 Tigers at Jonesport-Beals, 5:00 and 6:30 pm
- 6 Tigerettes, Jonesport-Beals at Shead, 6:30 pm



Electric motor and potato battery created by students in Ms. Parsloe's 7th and 8th grade science class



The View From the Hill is published monthly by the Shead High School Leadership Team.

For more information, contact Principal Paul Theriault at ptheriault@shead.org or call EES at 853-6252 or Shead at 853-6254.

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