And just like that… it is November. It is amazing how fast the school year goes by. The last month has been full of activity at the Maine Principals’ Association’s Professional Division. Between meeting the largest group of first and second year administrators with our Mentor and Great Beginnings programs, a trip to Aroostook County with the Education Leaders’ Experience (ELE), and hosting the 1st EVER Northeast Conference (all of the New England States, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) as well as the Executive Directors of both the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) for a PreK – 12 experience that included high quality professional development as well as a phenomenal networking experience on Peaks Island.

All of that was followed by another exceptional Assistant Principals’ Conference at the Samoset. We had a record number of Assistant Principals come together to hear from Andrew Marotta on how to survive and thrive in their roles, had a Special Education Law update with Drummond Woodsum’s Isabel Ekman, and several breakout sessions to learn about PBIS, Adaptive Leadership, Restorative Practices, and more.

October was also National Principals’ Month. Each school day last month featured a “Positive Principal of the Day.” While only a fraction of you were spotlighted, you all are honored and respected by the MPA. Your hard work and dedication often go unnoticed, and at times respected at a significantly lower amount than it should. But please know that WE do know, WE do see, and WE do support you and the exceptional job that you do for your students, staff, families, and communities and WE THANK YOU!!

As we go into November, the month of giving thanks, I strongly encourage each of you to wake up and write down three things for which you are thankful. Make one of these about your position. Be thankful that you are blessed to be the one person who smiles at that kid that morning. Be grateful that you can make a difference in the lives of every one of your students. Think of that new teacher who has looks to you as a leader, to help mold them into an exceptional educator. Think of that parent who is struggling that you work with to help them realize that you really do care about their kid and want them to be successful (even if they do not know it).

While I recognize there may be some days where this may be harder than others, it will help shape your mindset for the day. On the most difficult days, look at this list and remember there are many INCREDIBLE parts to administration. Go into classrooms and remind yourself why you chose education – to make a positive impact on your students.

We are very thankful to get to work with each one of you. Remember to reach out if you ever need anything and please keep those positive stories coming so that we can continue to spotlight the GREAT things happening in Maine schools.

**FREE Job Vacancies Posting on the MPA Professional Webpage**

The MPA is listing job postings for administrative positions (principal, assistant principal, dean of students, CTE directors, etc.) on the www.mpaprof.org website **AT NO COST TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS!**

The only thing we will need is the title of the position, your district name, the date the application closes if you have one, and the link that will take potential applicants to YOUR site.

Please email your job opening to Tammy at tmcnear@mpa.cc.
**4-Session Book Study Webinar: “Stretching At Our Edges”**

**With Jennifer Abrams**

**Dates of Book Study Webinar:**
January 10, February 7, March 7, and March 22, 2023

Time: 3:00—4:30 p.m. (on each of the four days)

**~ Space is Limited to 20 Registrants ~**

Click [HERE](#) for More Information.

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**WEBINAR**

Saying No: why we don’t. why we should, and how we can

with Dr. Sholda Ezeokoli

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

3:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. EST

**Cost: $40/person**

Click [HERE](#) for More Information.

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**Do You Know An Outstanding Elementary or Middle Level/High School Principal?**

The Maine Principals’ Association, in cooperation with the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals invites you to nominate an outstanding elementary or middle level/high school principal for consideration as *Maine’s 2022-2023 Principal of the Year*.

The successful candidates will represent Maine at the 2023 National Principals’ Programs that will be held in the fall of 2023 in Washington, D.C.

The Maine Principals’ Association will honor our state’s 2022-2023 Principals of the Year at an awards banquet during the 2023 MPA Spring Conference.

**Elementary National Distinguished Principal of the Year**

Click [HERE](#) for Nomination Application.

**Middle Level/High School Principal of the Year**

Click [HERE](#) for Nomination Application.

**NOMIATIONS ARE DUE BY NOON TIME ON DECEMBER 12, 2022**

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“LIKE US” ON FACEBOOK!

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

[https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maine-Principals\'Association-Professional-Division/1703592959867688](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maine-Principals\'Association-Professional-Division/1703592959867688)

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Follow us on Twitter!

Holly Blair ~ @HollyBlairMPA
Mike Bisson ~ @MikeBissonMPA
Hello Colleagues,

Can you believe that it is now November? I hope you are remembering to enjoy the successes along the way as we can all too easily focus on the challenges in our day to day work. I was reminded of my passion today when I visited a second grade classroom and was asked what I like about being a principal. I talked to them about the joy it brings when I get to work with and alongside them as learners, supporting their teachers in the classroom as well as connecting with their families. We all have incredible responsibilities and our job is never ending so please be sure to take time and reflect upon all of the great things happening.

Speaking of great things that are happening, NAESP continues to work on your behalf by advocating for your needs at the national level. As your state representative to NAESP, I would like to request some information from you so that I am best able to be sure your voices are heard when I’m communicating with folks in DC and beyond. Click HERE to take a quick and easy survey to inform us what your current challenges are as an administrator and what you hope the priorities are at the national and legislative level. Our local, state and federal leaders want to hear our voice and stories. So please include any stories that paint a clear picture of the issues you are facing. (staffing, mental health, funding, etc…) Our policy makers don’t know what they don’t know. It is our collective responsibility to let our voices, needs and stories be told so our local, state and national leaders can be informed decision makers. Thank you for taking the time to do this!

If you have not, please encourage your colleagues to also be members! Together we are stronger and the MPA/NAESP needs your membership. The MPA receives a cut-back from every NAESP membership that is purchased through the MPA. These funds assist in planning the professional opportunities for you here in Maine. Spread the word about the benefits of being a member of both organizations!

If you have any questions, comments or need support please don't hesitate to reach out to me!

Remember: If you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life!

**Recognition Counts**

Take advantage of the numerous opportunities for you to nominate an exemplary member of our educational community in Maine. Commit a few moments to shine your light on excellence.

**Larry LaBrie Award for Outstanding Contributions to the MPA Interscholastic Division**

Do you know an outstanding contributor to the Interscholastic Division of the MPA as a building administrator, athletic administrator, or other person (i.e. site/meet director, coach, official, media, etc.)? Each year the MPA honors up to three recipients to be honored with the Larry LaBrie Award at the Spring Conference Awards Banquet. Click HERE.

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**Volunteer of the Year ~ Dr. Phyllis Deringis Service to Maine Youth Award**

Do you know an outstanding adult volunteer who is making a difference for students in your school, your district, or possibly beyond? Each year the MPA honors up to two awardees with the Dr. Phyllis Deringis Service to Maine Youth Award at the Spring Conference Awards Banquet. Click HERE.

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**2023 Secretary of the Year Award**

We all have them—the incredible people who know every student and parent in the school – the people who help keep the districts in order and organized – those who greet our students and communities and set the positive tone in our schools and districts—our AMAZING secretaries/administrative assistants. You can recognize their hard work and dedication by nominating them for the 2023 Secretary of the Year! All nominees will be considered for this honorable recognition. The Secretaries will be publicly announced at the Secretaries Conferences in April and then they will be honored at the MPA Spring Conference Awards Banquet. Click HERE.

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For more information please Contact Tammy McNear
at tmcnear@mpa.cc

Deadline for nominations and completed applications (as required) is January 30, 2023.
Full Plates Full Potential is pleased to announce two funding opportunities for Child Nutrition Programs seeking funding to support emerging and best practices aimed at increasing access to meals through the Breakfast Program and in the afterschool space. Our School Breakfast Grant and Oakhurst Afterschool Meals Grant programs will be opening October 11th with a priority deadline of November 14th, 2022, and final deadline January 23rd, 2023. Learn more about our grant application criteria and what is considered a strong request.

School Breakfast Grants will be available to schools from $250-$5,000 to support:

- Equipment needed to support operating a new Breakfast After the Bell model like Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab n’ Go Breakfast, or Second Chance Breakfast (coolers, carts, baskets, pin pads, etc.);
- Outreach costs for enhanced marketing and advertising to students, parents, and school staff; and
- Staff time required to plan and prepare for the successful launch of a new Breakfast After the Bell model (time spent planning a reimbursable meal menu, development of attendance tracking procedures, filing systems, and staff trainings).

To apply for the School Breakfast Grant click here or visit our webpage for more information.

**If your school or district has at least 50% of its students qualify for free or reduced lunch, please consider applying for the Maine DOE Breakfast After the Bell Grant for assistance. If you do qualify for the DOE’s BAB Grant, we will work in partnership with the DOE to review your application.**

Oakhurst Afterschool Meals Grants will be available to sponsors from $500 - $5,000 (or up to $8,000 for new sponsors) to support:

- Staff time required to plan and prepare for the successful launch of new At-Risk Afterschool meal sites (administrative time to complete the application process, time spent planning a reimbursable meal and/or snack cycle menu, development of attendance tracking procedures, filing systems, and staff trainings);
- Equipment needed to support planning, preparing, and serving meals to children (carts, warm or cold bags, containers, etc.);
- Staff training and professional development costs (travel time to attend trainings or to visit existing programs);
- Outreach costs for enhanced marketing and advertising to participants and their families;
- Enrichment programming (in-person, online, or take-home); and
- Transportation costs assisting with serving multiple or mobile sites and/or with providing busing options for participants (like coolers, food safe packaging, etc.).

To apply for the Oakhurst Afterschool Meals Program click here or visit our webpage for more information.

**Grants Timeline:**
- Grant Application Opens: October 11, 2022
- Priority Deadline: November 14, 2022
- Priority Deadline Grantees Announced: December 2022
- Final Deadline: January 23, 2023
- Final Deadline Grantees Announced: February 2023
- Grant Awards Processed within 2 weeks of receiving required grant paperwork

**Eligibility Information:**
- Grants available to school districts and organizations operating federal Child Nutrition Programs (Breakfast Program, CACFP At-Risk)
- Only one application per school administration unit or organization

**Grant Resources & Links:**
- School Breakfast Grant Application & Information
- Maine DOE Breakfast After the Bell Application
- Oakhurst Afterschool Meals Grant Application & Information
- Full Plates Grant Application Criteria
- Full Plates Grant Portal Instructions

**Questions?**
Contact Jenn So, Grants Director, at jenn@fullplates.org or 207-200-6870 at Full Plates Full Potential, 14 Maine Street, Box 3, Brunswick, ME 04011.
MPA Photo Album

Olympia Snow Fall Forum
September 29, 2022

Aroostook County ELE
October 6-7, 2022
MPA Photo Album

“New England Regional Meeting”

October 21-23, 2022
MPA Photo Album

“Assistant Principals’ Conference”

October 24-25, 2022
BACK-TO-SCHOOL CATERING

ORDER YOUR FAVORITES AT SUBWAY.COM