Let’s Celebrate Each Other

October is National Principal’s Month! National Principal’s Month is a wonderful opportunity to express appreciation and gratitude for the dedicated individuals who play a vital role in our educational system. Principals are the leaders who work tirelessly to create a positive and productive learning environment for students, teachers, and staff. They make countless decisions, often behind the scenes, that impact the lives of everyone in the school community.

Often times, there are great ideas around celebrating staff members, custodians, bus drivers, guidance counselors, nurses, secretaries, etc. Sometimes, our fellow principals are in need of some of that encouragement and appreciation as well. In honor of National Principal’s Month, I challenge each of you to select one of your colleagues to express some gratitude and recognition. You can select a Principal who is in your district or someone from another district. It can be someone you know or someone who you have admired or has been a role model for you.

Here are some ways you can show your appreciation and gratitude to each other during National Principal’s Month:

Write a Note: Take the time to write personalized thank-you notes to your selected principal/principals. Be specific about the things you appreciate about their leadership.

Meet Up: Coordinate a time to meet with your selected principal for a meal or coffee. Offer support or a listening ear to support your colleague.

Small Gifts of Appreciation: Consider giving a small gift or token of appreciation. It could be something as simple as a plant, a gift card to a local restaurant, or a personalized item to your selected colleague.

Offer Your Assistance: Ask your selected principal if there are specific tasks or projects you can assist with.

Spread the Word: Use social media or other platforms to spread awareness about National Principal’s Month and encourage others to join in showing appreciation.

Expressing gratitude doesn’t have to be extravagant. Even a sincere verbal “thank you” or “I appreciate you” can go a long way in letting your colleague know that their hard work and dedication are noticed and valued. Let’s support each other during this month! Share your appreciation and gratitude to one of your colleagues!

Thank you for all of the work that you do for our students, staff, and community. Happy Principal’s Month!
2023 Assistant Principals’ Conference
“Back to the Basics”
with Dr. Rick Jetter
~ October 22, 23, and 24, 2023 ~
Samoset Resort, Rockport
Click HERE to Register and for More Information.

Great Beginnings Series For New and Nearly New School Administrators
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October 12, 2023; February 1, 2024; and April 9, 2024
Click HERE to Register and for More Information.

2023 MPA Principals’ Conference
November 15-17, 2023

Wednesday, November 15
Opening Keynote with Drummond Woodsum’s Peter Felmly and Isabel Ekman
1:00—3:00 p.m.
“Opening Reception” ~ 5:00—6:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 16, 2023
Day 2 Keynote Presentation with Shamiel Gary

Friday, November 17, 2023
Day 3 Keynote Presentation (p.m.) with Eddie Slowikowski
Click HERE to Register and for more information.

How to Stay Ahead In A World of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Workshop
With Jethro Jones
Date: Friday, October 13, 2023
Time: 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Location: MPA Conference Center
Click HERE to Register and for more information.

“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
Follow us on Twitter!
Holly Blair ~ @HollyBlairMPA ~ Mike Bisson ~ @MikeBissonMPA

Note to Non-Members
Non-Members are receiving The Maine Apprise in October, November, and December compliments of the Maine Principals’ Association. Member benefits are described on our website. Click HERE for direct link to member benefits and form.

If you would like to receive this newsletter and other member benefits, please contact Patty Newman at the MPA office at 622-0217, ext. 130 or at mpa@mpa.cc to join your professional association!
Calling All Positive Stories!!

The MPA is continuing to spotlight the AMAZING things going on in Maine schools. If each of you have a fun, positive, or a “Kids are GREAT,” story to share we will publish those positive stories out on the MPA website, social media, and email.

Feel free to share pictures that are okay to spotlight as well.

Please click on the link below to submit your positive story and/or picture.

Thank you in advance for bringing smiles and positivity to each other.

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 2023-2024 Principal of the Year.

The successful candidates will represent Maine at the 2024 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 2023-2024 Principals of the Year at an awards banquet in May at the Augusta Civic Center.

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.

NOMATIONS ARE DUE BY NOON ON DECEMBER 11, 2023

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 Awards Banquet in the Spring. Click HERE.

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 Awards Banquet in the Spring. Click HERE.

2024 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 2024 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 Awards Banquet in the Spring. Click HERE.

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

Deadline for nominations and completed applications (as required) is January 19, 2024.
New Faces in New Places

Congratulations on your new position! If your name or that of a colleague has been omitted, please notify the MPA office so that we can recognize you in a future issue of The Maine Apprise and correct our records.

Samantha Armstrong, P/T Coach and Principal, Gray (Agnes) School, West Paris.

Maria Bagley, Assistant Principal, Narraguagus Jr./Sr. High School, Harrington.

Catherine Bickford, Principal, Guy E. Rowe (Guy E.) Elementary School, Norway.

Heather Blanchard, Principal, Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School, Brunswick.

Farausi Cherry, Assistant Principal, Kennebunk High School.

David Currier, Assistant Principal, Mt. View High School, Thorndike.

Mike Davis, Principal, Sherwood Heights Elementary School, Auburn.

Chelsea Hunnewell, Assistant Principal, Falmouth Elementary School.

Chris Johnson, Principal, Calais Middle/High School.

Laura Johnston, Assistant Principal, Rumford Elementary School.

Angie Kelley, Assistant Principal, Maranacook Community Middle School, Readfield.

Charissa LaFerniere, Principal, Charlotte Elementary School.

Kylie Lapiere, Principal, Van Buren District Secondary School.

Spencer Libby, Assistant Principal, Falmouth High School.

Megan Mercier, Dean of Students, Greene Central School.

Jamie Toohey, Assistant Principal, Paris Elementary School, South Paris.

Karen Walker, Assistant Principal, Falmouth Elementary School.

Amy Watson-Preston, Principal, Bay Ridge Elementary School, Cutler.

WinterKids Winter Games 2024

Mark your calendar for the 2024 WinterKids Winter Games January 8-February 2, 2024. Our theme this year is “The Little Things”. There are lots of things happening in the world that are completely out of our control—especially when you are a child. It is our intention to show the children and adults that little things can make a big difference in how we look at and are seen in the world. We have a great program lined up for January, and we encourage all elementary schools to apply to be a part of it! The Winter Games program encourages healthy outdoor activity during Maine’s longest season.

WinterKids is offering CASH PRIZES to all competing schools, with the winning school receiving $5000. Schools selected for the competitive track will receive a comprehensive toolkit with PLAYBooks and incentives for every student! There is no cost for Maine schools to participate. The application is open from October 1-October 23, 2023. Selected schools will be announced on November 13, 2023.

Get more information, or apply for a spot in the 2024 WinterKids Winter Games at https://winterkids.org/winter-games/

The Educational Trip Leader (ETL) Permit:

Important information to all Maine Schools with Outing Clubs

There was a long-held belief in Maine education circles that schools were exempt from needing to have or hire Registered Maine Guides (RMG) for outdoor trips that would normally require an RMG. However, that exemption never existed, and a few years ago the Maine State Legislature took action to clarify and remedy this long-standing issue.

After a year of work by a legislative task force and multiple statutory and rule implementations, the State has created a process for schools to be in compliance with statute without needing to have or hire an RMG. This process is called the Educational Trip Leader (ETL) permit, and it provides an alternative path to compliance for Maine schools. You can read more details about the creation of ETL and the current status in this FAQ document. Click HERE for FAQ Document.

What does that mean for your school or district? It means that if you have staff leading trips onto Maine waters (i.e., canoeing or kayaking) and/or they are leading trips overnight away from potable water (i.e., remote camping), the leaders need to have either an ETL permit or hold the appropriate Registered Maine Guide license.

It’s important to note that this is not a new regulation; it is a new way to be in compliance with existing regulations. Additionally, the (volunteer!) ETL Oversight Committee hopes that the ETL permit process will support school outdoor programs by providing a way to demonstrate that staff have critical safety skills and knowledge.

If your school does outings that would normally require an RMG, please take some time to familiarize yourself with the ETL permit process and make a plan to get your staff trained. There are ETL Instructors willing to provide trainings to schools, and many people around the state who are ready to provide support.

You can find the State’s ETL permit application by clicking HERE.
Gray - New Gloucester Middle School participating in the MPA at Your School doing the Personality Compass Activity with Holly Blair on August 30, 2023
MPA Photo Album

Avoiding “PLC Lite” - - Effective Teacher Team Data Work
with Kim Marshall
~ September 19, 2023 ~
MPA Photo Album

Mentor/Coaches and Protégé Meeting
September 22 (Year 1)
and
September 25 (Year 2)
Mentor/Coaches and Protégé Meeting

September 22 (Year 1) and September 25 (Year 2)
Continued . . .
Members,

We are excited to announce our continued partnership with Gipper, a platform used by thousands of schools to create custom graphics for social media. Whether you’re sharing updates and announcements, promoting an upcoming school event, or recognizing students and faculty, Gipper makes it easy to reach your stakeholders with graphics branded for your school.

Gipper allows you to:

- Create custom graphics with no design experience needed!
- Share directly to social media in seconds, on any device
- Build brand consistency and social media presence

I encourage you to learn more about what Gipper can do for your school by booking a 10-15 minute demo with their team. You can also sign up for a free account to create and publish graphics on your own - no credit card required.

Click Here to Book A Demo

- Book a demo
- Try it for free

Click Here to Try It For Free

Plus to celebrate our partnership, MPA members have access to exclusive discounts, available for new customers and existing customers looking to upgrade their package! Schedule time with their team to learn more about what Gipper can do for your program(s)

Click Here to Schedule Time

I hope you all take advantage of this special offer! If you have any questions please email Bryan at Gipper: bamos@gogipper.com.

Thanks!