In this December newsletter, we express our gratitude for the overwhelming response to the MPA Principals’ Conference in November. Everyone who attended the conference left feeling invigorated and we're eager to embrace the upcoming school week.

As you know, the MPA strives to best meet the needs of our members. One way we are able to do this is with the Winter Webinar Series beginning with a very special presentation by Tom Hierck. Tom is an expert in MTSS (for both academics and behavior) and has offered to present one of his most sought-after webinars on the subject on January 9, 2024. He has also agreed to give you access to the recording of his presentation for one week after the live presentation. That means, you can gain access to the webinar and then use it as professional development in your building – for your entire staff - AT NO ADDITIONAL COST!

With 2023 coming to a close with the holiday season, the MPA staff wishes you a restful break filled with cherished moments alongside your loved ones. We're excited about the prospect of collaborating with and supporting each one of you in the upcoming year.

**Here's to a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!**
PROFESSIONAL OFFERINGS

Do you and your staff need professional development in MTSS?
World renown MTSS expert, author, and speaker, Tom Hierck, is going to offer a one-hour webinar on January 9, 2024!

Fill the room or watch it with your admin team – THAT’S UP TO YOU!

AND THE BEST PART???
YOU WILL GET A RECORDING OF THE SESSION TO VIEW AS MANY TIMES AS YOU’D LIKE FOR ONE WEEK!

That means, you can bring an EXPERT to train your teachers into your building – FOR THE SINGLE COST OF A WEBINAR!!!

Click below for more information on our entire Winter Webinar Series and to register!

School Law for School, District, Special Education, Administrative Assistants, and Secretaries
April 2, 2024 ~ Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor
April 3, 2024 ~ Holiday Inn By the Bay, Portland

Click HERE to Register.

MPA Winter Webinars
Sign up for one, or all!!

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Webinar 1—January 9, 2024 ~ Leading An MTSS School with Tom Hierck
Webinar 4—January 30, 2024 ~ Using What We Know About the Adult Learning Process to Maximize School and Classroom Intervention Effectiveness with Kim Anderson
Webinar 5—February 6, 2024 ~ Slow, Flow Art: A Mindful Approach to Connecting Creativity, Gratitude, and Nature with Charlene Lutz
Webinar 6—February 13, 2024 ~ The Science of Reading and Its Implications for Early Elementary Students with Ann Ervin
Webinar 7—February 27, 2024 ~ Making the Move from Teacher to Leader with Alex Kajitani
Webinar 8—March 19, 2024 ~ Redefining Rigor with Depth of Knowledge with Erik Francis
Webinar 9—March 26, 2024 ~ Connecting the Dots to Nurture the Whole Teacher with Allyson Asprey

Click HERE to Register and for More Information.
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.

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 2024 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.

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY NOON ON DECEMBER 11, 2023

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.
Registration is Now Open for the

2024 Maine School Winter Wellness Summit, *Give Roots to Wellness!*

By mid-school year school personnel are ready for a pick me up that provides information, experiences, resources, and tools to care for one’s self and others. The Maine Department of Education, Office of School and Student Supports, Employee Health Promotion and Wellness Program is pleased to be able to offer the 2024 Maine School Winter Wellness Summit, *Give Roots to Wellness!* Thursday, January 25 and Friday, January 26 at The Samoset Resort in Rockport. School leaders and employees from across the State are invited to register for this event. It is open to individuals and teams in schools interested in worksite health promotion and wellness as well as community members supporting schools. The goal of the Winter Wellness Summit is to inspire and empower participants to take care of their personal health, and to create healthier, more supportive, and safer school environments for all. The Summit agenda supports the promotion of health improvement to enhance well-being and academic achievement. This year’s agenda includes three educational and inspirational keynote presentations, engaging workshops on personal wellness practices and positive and healthier school environments, worksite wellness program planning, and network opportunities with colleagues and professionals from across the State who value health promotion and wellness. [Click HERE for Draft Agenda.](#)

The line up of keynote speakers is amazing and includes **Brian Luke Seaward, Ph.D.**, renowned national and international expert in the field of stress management, mind-body-spirit healing, and health promotion. He will share strategies for managing stress through nature and expand our understanding of the importance of *giving roots to wellness* in order to practice self-care and we-care. **Emily Daniels, M.Ed.**, the author of *The Regulated Classroom©*, a framework that enables educators to cultivate conditions for felt safety in the classroom and school settings. She will engage the audience in experiential learning so that everyone will leave with tips and tools for regulating themselves and for sharing with family, friends, and colleagues’ home and in the workplace.

And **Jana Stanfield**, an inspirational humorist, singer-songwriter, educational, and motivational entertainer! Yes, she is all that and more! Jana will remind us how to best manage our energy reserves, whether it’s by tuning in, tuning out, or tuning up!

The Summit will offer sessions that address the dimensions of health including physical, emotional, mental, social, and occupational. This year’s Summit, *Give Roots to Wellness!*, will highlight the benefits of experiencing nature and engaging in physical activity to support mental health and how it positively impacts all aspects of one’s health.

The cost of the two day event is only $150/person for early bird (through December 22nd) and $175/person for standard registration (after December 22nd) inclusive of five meals. Register for the Summit at this [link](#).

Accommodations are on your own, but we have secured a block of rooms at an excellent rate below the State per diem rates! All the details can be found on the [Winter Wellness Summit webpage](#).

Direct questions to [susan.berry@maine.gov](mailto:susan.berry@maine.gov).
2023–2024 MMEA EVENTS

Download a printable using QR Code. Includes:
Auditions
Membership Meetings
Registration Deadlines
District Festivals
State Festivals

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Andy Forster
president@mainemea.org

President-Elect Matt Waite
presidentelect@mainemea.org

Past-President Sandy Barry
pastpresident@mainemea.org

Executive Director Beth LaBrie
exectdirctor@mainemea.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We typically offer 60+ sessions covering all K-12 content delivered by amazing local and national clinicians.

Check out last year’s conference to see how we support and inspire teachers.

THE MAINE MOTIF

Find our publication online at https://mainemea.org/
maine-motif/
CLICK HERE

ARE YOU A NEW TEACHER LOOKING FOR A MENTOR?

Contact MMEA
teachermentor@mainemea.org

307+ members including working music educators, retired teachers, and collegiate students. Formally founded in 1917, MMEA is the oldest recognized state music educator association in the USA.

Our mission: To advance, advocate for, and expand access to music education in Maine. Our vision is advancing music education for all.
MPA Photo Album

MPA AT YOUR SCHOOL . . .
CHINA PRIMARY SCHOOL
MPA Principals’ Conference
November 15-17, 2023
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: barnos@gogipper.com.

Thanks!