



SDMHS--October Newsletter 2016



Dear Parents, Community Members, Staff and Students:

We have had a nice start to the school year. I have felt very welcomed, as a new principal, by the staff, students and community. We have set a few goals for the year. One is to work towards full implementation of a Proficiency Based Education model where our students graduate from Searsport with a Proficiency Based Diploma in the year 2021 in all eight areas: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Visual Performing Arts, World Languages, Health and Physical Education, and Maine's Guiding Principles. We have come together as a district, K-12, as we recognize that this is a process and we each share a role in the success of our students along the continuum. We have spent two days with teachers revisiting standards and ensuring alignment that builds over time in this K-12 system for RSU 20. This past Friday, we met K-12 as well to work on aligning the Guiding Principles to our work. Our staff worked very hard all day. We will continue this work on November 21st.

I have been visiting classrooms as a way to get acclimated to the school, get to know students and staff, and gain a feel for the school as a whole. I have been very impressed with the level of commitment by our students. They work hard, are well mannered, and represent their school well. Similarly, our teachers work very hard to ensure that every students' needs are met. They put much time into their lesson plans and it shows in the classroom. Some of the things I have seen are students looking at pond water samples under microscopes, examining crime scenes, extrapolating information and designing questions for defense and offense on a case for Mock Trial, as well as many other great learning experiences. Our entire middle school went to the Common Ground Fair thanks to MOFGA, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. It was an old fashioned county fair. They saw performances and exhibits. They saw dogs heading animals. Our students learned much about sustainable living, how we gain from our animals such as, how wool is produced, how many of our food products are produced, for instance they saw locally produced meats and vegetable presentations. The middle school students represented our school well. They saw glass blowing, pottery making, and many other art exhibits. Of course it turned out to be one of the only rainy days we have had. Yet, our students still participated fully and reported that they enjoyed the experience.

Our band produced some great pieces at the annual Fling into Fall. Some of our students helped with face painting, helped set up, and also participated in this event. Many trucks, service vehicles, and drug dogs were presented and show cased at this event as well.

From our Gifted and Talented Teacher, Ann McClellan. SDMS Extended Learning Program art is in creativity mode again! We are looking forward to learning painting techniques with regional artist Ingrid Ellison. Ingrid will hold three painting session workshops this fall. Students are practicing creative expression writing in response to painting and journal entries. Daily/weekly journaling is good practice for artists of any age!

Fall is a great time to be in Maine and Searsport. The bugs are gone, the "summer complaints" have headed south, the air is fresh and brisk and fall sports are in full swing at Searsport District MS/HS. Continued on back....

Speaking of sports, our teams are doing fantastic. Our middle school soccer teams are heading into the playoffs. The boys 0-8 are facing Medomak a much larger school; and, the girls 2-5-1 are facing Great Salt Bay, again, a much larger school. While the record does not show it, the amount of learning and improvement that has gone on this year is huge. Both teams have a large contingent of sixth graders, 16 total, so the future looks bright. The older athletes have mentored the younger ones on how to play the game; and, it has been a fun year.

Our high school soccer teams are finishing their season soon. The girls are 4-7 and currently in seventh place in the Heal point standings. They have three games left and can move up to as high as fifth. The boys 8-4 and also in seventh in the Heal Point standings. They have two games to finish the regular season and can move up in the standings as well. This year we have had a lot of excellent play from all the athletes; and two seniors have earned special honors. Barrett Grant has been in the running for the Village Soup player of the year and Karigen Coffin has broken the school's all time record for goals scored. Of course, they could not have achieved these honors without the rest of their team supporting them.

The cross country teams have been running hard. If you want to see how hard this sport is take a walk around our trail maintained by coach V. It is challenging, to say the least. Our middle team will have their league championship meet on Wednesday, October 12th at Camden Regional High School. The top runners for middle are Emma Gaecklein and Ellis Braga. The high school PVC championship and state qualifier is this Saturday, October, 15th at Old town. The top high school runners are Holden Clapp and Devin Fairbrother.

All in all it has been an exciting fall for SDMS/HS sports.

Fright at the Fort: We have quite a few students participating. Be the first to experience Out of This World!! Fright at the Fort 5:30 – 9:00 PM each Night. Please arrive no later than 8:45 p. m.

- Saturday, October 15th—Come early and get a pumpkin
- Friday, October 21st
- Saturday, October 22nd—Ghostport activities all day in Bucksport. A radio simulcast fireworks display at 9:30, viewed from Bucksport. (Rain date 10/29) The display is sponsored by Friends of Fort Knox. Ghostport info at ghostportme.com
- Friday, October 28th—Best Costume Earns a Prize
- Saturday, October 29th—Costume Night #2--Best Costume Earns a Prize

*Fright proceeds benefit Friends of Fort Knox Restoration effort.