

COMMUNIQUE

the Bangor

Schools Working for Academic Excellence

Bangor School Department • 73 Harlow Street, Bangor, Maine 04401 • 207-992-4152 • www.bangorschools.net

Winter 2015

ALUMNUS' PASSION FOR SCIENCE AT BHS LEADS TO GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH



“Although I have always had an interest in science and math, the opportunities provided to me and the training I received when I was at Bangor High School had a major impact on my decision to pursue a B.S. in neuroscience and then eventually a Ph.D. in pharmacology,” says Dr. Megan Yardley, Ph.D. (BHS Class of 2005). “I was fortunate enough to have passionate teachers who made science enjoyable and who fostered my development as a young scientist.”

Dr. Yardley graduated from the University of Southern California in August 2014 with a Ph.D.

in Molecular Pharmacology and Toxicology, an M.S. in Management of Drug Development and a certificate in Clinical, Biomedical and Translational Investigations. She was awarded a Ruth L. Kirchstein National Research Service Award for her project, “Clinical assessment of ivermectin as a therapeutic agent to reduce alcohol intake,” and has begun

(Continued on page 5)

BHS SENIOR NAMED MAINE DELEGATE TO US SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

BHS senior and Student Council President Andrew Sandweiss is one of two Maine high school delegates to the 2015 United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) to be held in Washington, D.C., in March. Each state delegate also receives a \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship.

Andrew was chosen from Maine high school nominees with a true interest in government, history, politics, and leadership and who demonstrate high academic achievement, aspirations, confidence, and creativity – characteristics that define USSYP delegates.

(Continued on page 14)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Superintendent's Message.....	2
School Committee Schedule.....	2
BHS Alumnus Brings His Business to Downtown	3
Pick a Better Snack Program...3	
School Committee Members Sworn In	4
BHS Alumnus Inspired By Third Grade Teacher.....	4
Alcohol Awareness Day	5
VFW Commends JROTC and Band.....	6
BHS Math Team	6
Essay by Major David Cote, BHS Class of 1997	7
Therapeutic Day Program Located in Bangor.....	8
Fairmount Receives 21 st CCLC Grant	8
Sixth Graders Benefit from CLC Grant	6
BHS Students Exhibit at UMaine Museum of Art	9
2014 MHSA Results.....	11
2014 AP Results.....	12
Bangor Students Outperform in Science Assessment	13
2015 Assessment Calendar	13
Public Notices	14
Bangor Day Celebration	15
Bangor Adult Ed Receives Grant	16
Grants Help Students in Pre-K—Grade Three Schools.....	16

Due to exceeding the number of snow days (we now have taken 4 snow days) originally scheduled for the 2014-15 School Year, the School Committee has voted to change the Friday, March 6th Teacher In-service Day to a Student Day. This keeps the last student day for this year as Friday, June 12th, and allows the BSD to be in compliance with State rules around graduation.

SUPERINTENDENT WEBB'S MESSAGE

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

We are excited to provide you with a copy of this Winter 2015 edition of the Communique. Enclosed you will find a variety of stories recognizing students, past graduates, academic programming, and achievement data. The Bangor School Department is incredibly proud of our students, our graduates, our faculty and staff and their numerous accomplishments.

Many new and innovative programs have been created to further provide students with high quality programming in order to best prepare them for their post secondary success.

In addition to the comprehensive Bangor High School (BHS) courses, BHS now offers:

- the **BHS STEM Academy** in partnership with the University of Maine College of Engineering and Natural Sciences. This award winning program, with state, national, and international recognition, includes internships and college level classes that provide students the opportunity to earn up to 30 credit hours by the time they graduate from BHS. Further through an articulation agreement, STEM students have the potential to earn a bachelors degree from the University within three years.
- the **Bridge Year** in partnership with the University of Maine at Augusta and the United Technology Center in which students are dually enrolled in high school and college courses beginning in their junior year. Students have the potential to earn an associates degree within three semesters after graduating from BHS.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Date

March 11

March 25: Review 2015-2016 Budget

April 1: (if required) Approve 2015-2016 Budget

April 8

April 29

May 13

May 28 (Thursday)

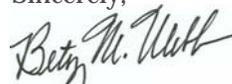
June 10

June 24

- the **Visual and Performing Arts Academy** designed for those students wishing to pursue the arts in an extensive study with a mentor. Students may choose a theater pathway or music pathway. Depending on the pathway selected, students will be involved in senior capstones and recitals or performances.
- the **Business Academy** in partnership with Husson University College of Business. Students have the potential of earning up to 21 credit hours at the college level. The City of Bangor is rich with local business expertise and is an additional asset that adds to the strengths of the school program.

It has been our experience that when you pursue ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE for all, students rise to the occasion. The overwhelming interest and enthusiasm in these academies further demonstrates how committed students are when you provide them the challenge and the opportunities.

Sincerely,



Betsy M. Webb, Ed.D.





Chris Roberts, BHS Class of 1999

BHS ALUMNUS BRINGS HIS BUSINESS TO DOWNTOWN BANGOR

You may have noticed a new business in downtown – The Juice Cellar, next to the Discovery Museum. The man behind bringing a juice bar to Bangor is BHS alumnus Chris Roberts, Class of 1999. “My family’s been in the food business forever, from my grandfather’s produce stand to my parents’ restaurants,” said Roberts.

He ventured away from that business for a while, though, to pursue his love of music. “Mr. Kennedy, my music teacher at BHS, was one of the most influential people in my life,” said Roberts. “I have fond memories of my years in the Bangor School Department; there were so many teachers who had a positive impact on me.” Chris went on to graduate from the Berklee College of Music, and then worked in the music industry in Nashville.

His mother’s battle with brain cancer is what brought Chris back to Maine, and back to food. “I began learning a lot more about food, and about how food can heal the body,” he said. “I started a juice fast, and found that it improved my headaches, reduced my weight, and I felt great. I wanted to bring that to my community so other people can experience what I’ve experienced,” said Roberts. Chris opened The Juice Cellar in Belfast in the spring of 2013, and his new Bangor location, offering juices, smoothies, salads, and snacks, opened in January 2015.

PICK A BETTER SNACK AND ACT

This fall the Bangor Department of Health and Community Services began offering “Pick a Better Snack and Act” to second graders in Bangor Schools. This evidence-based series of eight lessons focuses on increasing fruit and vegetable intake among children and their families.

The Nutrition Educator for the City of Bangor visits second grade classrooms once a month to offer nutrition education, a food tasting of a fruit or vegetable, and a one-minute fitness routine that includes five very simple exercises that kids can do while standing at their desk or sitting in a chair. “Pick a Better Snack is a great curriculum,” says Jamie Comstock, Health Promotion Manager at Bangor Public Health and Community Services. “Parents tell us their kids are now happily trying new foods that they could never get them to try at home. By providing the opportunity for tasting a new food in a stress free environment we’re able to introduce positive change in children who otherwise are resistant or simply haven’t had the opportunity or resources to try before.”

What do the students think about the program? “It’s really cool that we get to try some fruits and vegetables that we’ve never tried before,” said one boy at Abraham Lincoln School. A second grade girl said that what she likes most is “getting to learn where some of the fruits and vegetables come from.”

GET TO KNOW THE NEW MEMBERS:

MARLENE SUSI

Marlene Susi grew up in nearby Orono and now lives in Bangor with her husband, Frank, Vice President at Cianbro. Their son Mack is a graduate of Bangor High School and works as an engineer in Washington, DC. Marlene taught English for 38 years, retiring from teaching in 2012.

Marlene has served on the Board of the Bangor YMCA, was President of the Junior League of Bangor, served on the Board of Friends of Cameron Stadium, and served on numerous City of Bangor committees.

“I have been extremely interested and devoted to the citizens of Bangor and felt that I had a lot of knowledge and experience in the field of education and decided to come out of retirement and come back on the other side. Both as an educator and now as a school committee member, I’ve always truly advocated for all of our students and believe that if you put the bar high enough, they will reach it.”

SUSAN SORG

Susan Sorg was born in Sanford, Maine and has resided in Bangor since 1996. She graduated from Gardiner High School, received a B.S. Ed. in Health and Physical

(Continued on page 14)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS SWORN IN

The Bangor School Committee’s newly elected members were sworn in on November 10. Warren Caruso was re-elected and is serving his second term as Chairman, and the committee welcomed new members Sue Sorg and Marlene Susi.



INSPIRING WORDS FROM A THIRD GRADE TEACHER

by Warren Caruso, BHS Class of 1981

In 1974 I was a 3rd grader in Carol Toplift’s class at Mary Snow School. I had spent two years getting through second grade as I had a little trouble reading. Mrs. Toplift was a tough but loving teacher, just what a little boy needs, and she cared deeply about her students. She had a special way to motivate nine-year olds to read - she bribed them. For every three books completed you received a piece of candy. I caught on to this pretty quickly.

In order to get the candy we had to write a summary of what we had read. I completed my first summary and handed it in with great uncertainty. The following day I came back to school hoping to receive a good grade and my candy; Mrs. Toplift handed the paper back to me face down on my desk. I turned the paper over slowly, looking around to see who was looking. Slowly I looked.... I received a gold star and under it the words “I am proud of you.” Those are powerful words...it doesn’t matter who you are. There is something about “I am proud of you” that makes you stand taller, smile longer, and most of all believe in yourself.

As an adult I always thanked Mrs. Toplift when I saw her but never shared the story with her. She helped change my course in life, and although I didn’t know it then, I do know it today.

Education has the ability to impact lives. As Chairman of the School Committee I shared this story with all the Bangor School Department staff at the beginning of this school year. Our teachers and staff help students grow through guidance, caring, and love, and challenge them to reach as high as they can go and inspire them to do their best. On behalf of the Bangor School Committee, I’d like to thank our educators and tell them, “we are very proud you.”

Warren Caruso is a 1981 graduate of BHS. Presently, he serves in his second term as Chairman of the Bangor School Committee.

ALCOHOL AWARENESS DAY



ER Nurse Linda Dutil presented her "Dose of Reality" program to middle school students

Every school in the Bangor School Department participated in Alcohol Awareness Day in December. Alcohol Awareness Day is a required special observance day in Maine's Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, Chapter 209.

At the K-5 level, students discussed healthy choices and personal safety. "We read the Berenstain Bears book *Double Dare* and talked about the fact that sometimes our friends ask us to do things that we do not feel comfortable doing," explains April Wardwell, Guidance Counselor at Abraham Lincoln School and Fruit Street School. "We talked about the 'little voice' inside all of us that tells us when we are in unsafe situations, and how important it is to listen to that voice and say 'No' when we are in a situation that feels unsafe, even though it can be difficult to

(Continued on page 15)

"BHS not only helped prepare me academically but, perhaps even more importantly, it was during my time at BHS that I began to develop my leadership skills." - Dr. Megan Yardley

PASSION FOR SCIENCE (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

a two-year fellowship at UCLA.

"Despite the widespread serious social and medical harm attributed to alcohol, there is a lack of effective therapies for alcohol use disorders," Dr. Yardley says. "My doctoral research focused on the preclinical development of ivermectin, a drug currently used in the treatment of parasite infections, to treat alcohol use disorders. Now, at UCLA, I have the opportunity to work in a psychology lab, evaluating the effect of ivermectin in alcohol dependent individuals using human laboratory paradigms focusing on how the drug affects subjective response to alcohol. It is exciting to bridge my doctoral research to my post-doctoral work and have the chance to see this project through different phases of development."

"I believe I took for granted what an outstanding environment the Bangor school system was, and

didn't realize until I was in college how my experience at BHS really helped shape me, not only as a student but as a person. The values that were instilled in me by the administration, teachers, advisors, and coaches have had an unimaginable effect on my personal and professional development. Many of these people continue to be part of my life today and still act as a strong source of support and encouragement for me. BHS not only helped prepare me academically but, perhaps even more importantly, it was during my time at BHS that I began to develop my leadership skills through my involvement with numerous extra-curricular activities. I am confident that without the education, support and encouragement I received during my time at BHS I would not be where I am today.

For more on Dr. Yardley's research, visit <http://www.slideshare.net/scctsi/new-approach-repurposing-ivm-for-treatment-of-auds>



VFW COMMENDS BHS JROTC AND BAND

Maine Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander Roland F. Smith issued a certificate of appreciation to Bangor High School in its Band and JROTC programs for over 20 years of support of American Veterans. BHS JROTC Cadet Corps, the oldest high school corps in the nation, coordinates the annual City of Bangor Veterans' Day Parade. The BHS Band performs at numerous events each year, in-

cluding the Veterans' Day Parade and the Pearl Harbor Day remembrance.

Principal Paul Butler, Lt. Colonel Kevin Harris, and Band Director Mr. Scott Burditt attended the late-January ceremony, receiving the certificates from Commander Smith, who also expressed appreciation on behalf of the VFW national command.

“I am proud of my upbringing in the Bangor School Department, surrounded by an incredible community of teachers, coaches and counselors that believed in me.” - Major David Cote

BHS MATH TEAMS DOING WELL *by Steve Godsoe, BHS Math Team Coach*

After three meets, the Red Math Team is second out of 139 teams with all other teams in the top half of statewide competitors: Silver (21st), Platinum (30th), Anaranjado (42nd), Gold (65th), White (67th), and Black (68th). Conor Thompson is first out of more than 2500 competitors in Maine, and Isaac Robinson and Dan O'Brien are 11th and 17th in Maine. The other top Red team members are Helen Zhang, Abram Karam, Joe Perry, Paige Brown, Sharon Audibert, Tessa Condon, Lilly Waddell, and Andrew Ye. Casey Strong was 11th after two meets in Maine when he moved to Iowa. Many students are doing really well.

Top freshman in Eastern Maine include: Lilly Waddell 1st, David Rubin 3rd, Charlie Budd 6th, Tom Gause 7th, and Mei Tian 8th.

Top sophomores are Casey Strong 2nd, Catherine Ahola 11th, Isaiah Miller 12th, and Omar Alsamsam 13th.

Highest scoring juniors in Eastern Maine are Conor Thompson 1st, Isaac Robinson 2nd, Dan O'Brien 3rd, Liam Perry 3rd, Abram Karam 6th, Joe Perry 7th, Paige Brown 9th, Reid Monk 10th, Sharon Audibert 11th, Andy Chen 6th, Nathan Dee 10th, Will Benoit 11th, Molly Billings 13th, and Stephen Leighton 14th. In fact BHS juniors accounted for eleven of the first 17 juniors in Eastern Maine.

Top seniors are Helen Zhang 4th, Andy Sandweiss 11th, Fazeel Hashmi 19th, Sam Kenney 20th, and Hannah Rubin 21st. Congratulations to all, and good luck in the last two meets and into state championship competition.



Major David Cote, Class of 1997

THE VALUABLE LESSONS I LEARNED AT BHS KEEP ON MULTIPLYING *by Major David Cote, Class of 1997*

I am grateful for the gift of education given to me through the invaluable work of public educators.

I was a junior at Bangor High School when I grasped the empty glass vase in my hand and wondered if I could use the tools of calculus to determine its volume. My calculus teacher, Steve Godsoe, told me that integrals and derivatives are basic tools of calculus and can be used to precisely analyze complex functions.

Mr. Godsoe influenced who I am today because he gave me the opportunity to explore my theory, experiment with numbers and prove that the empirical volume of that solid could also be found with integral calculus. Since that project, I have developed a deeper love of learning and a more profound appreciation for education.

Today, I am an active-duty Major in the United States Marine Corps, and the valuable lessons I learned at Bangor High School continue to influence me daily.

From serving a Commanding General in the Anbar province of Iraq to training Marine recruits in boot camp, I now work in the Pentagon where I use applied math principles to improve resource allocation decisions for the Marine Corps. I am proud of my 14 years of active service.

I am just as proud of my upbringing in Bangor in the Bangor School Department, surrounded by an incredible community of teachers, coaches and counselors that believed in me.

The independent study project with Mr. Godsoe is only the beginning of a long list of educational experiences that have impacted me. I remain grateful to Drew Milliken's many colored pens to correct my grammar. I remember the hours of preparation for a debate tournament under our coach, Joe Pelletier. I developed my leadership skills in the Bangor High School JROTC program where I

VETERANS' DAY AT VINE STREET SCHOOL

Vine Street School observed Veterans' Day with an assembly that included guests Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap, Col. Kevin Harris, and the Bangor JROTC students.

Secretary Dunlap spoke to the audience about the importance of Veterans' Day and the privilege we have of living in a free country thanks to the sacrifices and contributions of veterans.

Principal Lynn Silk recognized the contributions of veterans attending the assembly, including one student teacher and one parent visitor as well as family members of students.

Music teacher Mrs. Kilbride led the group in a choral rendition of *My Country 'Tis of Thee* followed by a group of third grade students who sang *America*.

The Bangor JROTC presented the colors and everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Students in Grades 2 and 3 were able to stay after the assembly and ask questions of the Secretary of State and the Bangor JROTC students.

(Continued on page 10)

THERAPEUTIC DAY PROGRAM LOCATED IN BANGOR

By Patti Rapaport, Director of Pupil Services

Bangor Regional Therapeutic Day Program (BRP), located at 208 Maine Avenue, is a regional program that is now part of the Bangor School Department. BRP is sponsored by Southern Penobscot Regional Programs for Children with Exceptionalities, a cooperative of school units that provides educational services for children with exceptionalities.

BRP offers students access to quality educational programming in a separate day school. Six special education teachers collaborate with a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor to develop positive behavioral support plans that help students meet their educational, social-emotional and behavior goals which are skills needed to return successfully to public school.

The school opened its doors on September 2, 2014 and currently provides educational services for 38 students in grades K-12.

FAIRMOUNT RECEIVES 21st CCLC GRANT

“Fairmount is very fortunate to be the recipient of a 21st Century Grant to expand our after-school offerings,” said Principal Ryan Enman.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program was established by Congress under Title IV, Part B, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The purpose of Maine’s 21st CCLC program is to establish or expand “Community Learning Centers” that provide students with academic enrichment opportunities along with activities designed to complement the students’ regular academic program during non-school hours.

The \$507,000 grant over five years enables Fairmount to provide one hour of enrichment before school Tuesday through Friday, and one hour after school Monday through Thursday, as well as a summer program. Over 250 students have been involved this fall, which is almost 75% of Fairmount’s student population! Through the 21st Century Community Learning Center, students benefit from homework help, tutoring, mentoring, and clubs such as Scrabble Club, Chess Club, History Detectives, Growers Guild, Math Club, Karate, Fairmount Foodies, Keyboarding, Woodworking, Fairmount Newsies, and Kreative Kids arts and crafts. “It’s amazing to see the increasing variety of programs

and the number of students involved in multiple activities,” said Principal Enman.

“We are so glad to see this program at Fairmount,” said a parent. “My child can focus better while he’s in the classroom because of the homework help he receives in this program.” Another parent has commented that the program “offers excellent opportunity for extended education and student development. My child is loving it!”

Community partnerships are a key part of the program. Some of Fairmount’s 21st CCLC partners are Bangor YMCA, Bangor Parks and Recreation, Challenger Learning Center, Discovery Museum, and Bangor Department of Health & Community Services. The program also has three moms and one dad volunteering to run course offerings.

Program Director Kara Soule states, “Research has shown that the more connected to school a student feels, the more likely they are to succeed academically and the less likely they are to have attendance issues. This is exactly the intention of Fairmount’s before and after school programs.”

For more information about the 21st CCLC or to find out how you can volunteer, contact Kara Soule, Program Director, at 323-2776.

BANGOR 6TH GRADERS BENEFIT FROM GRANT TO CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER

“Bangor sixth graders had the opportunity to apply their skills in science, technology, engineering, and math when they became astronauts and mission controllers at the Challenger Learning Center of Maine,” stated Susan Jonason, Executive Director of Challenger Learning Center.

“In addition to meeting science standards, during their simulated space missions they were required to solve problems, communicate effectively, make good decisions, and work as a team to achieve success. We are grateful to People’s United Community Foundation for making the experience possible for this year’s Bangor students.”



BHS STUDENTS EXHIBIT AT UMAINE MUSEUM OF ART

by Kal Elmore, BHS Art Teacher

Six student works were selected to be on display at the new Spotlight Gallery at the University of Maine Museum of Art from mid-January until mid-March. The gallery was designed to show small exhibits and will display works by Bangor High School students several times each year. The exhibit space will display works by BHS Visual and Performing Arts Academy students whenever possible. Students whose work is on display for this 1st exhibit are: Jack Marcotte, Elizabeth Martelle, Jules Mogul, Liam Reading, Erynne Sauda, and Bronwen Wickstrom.

Liam Reading's artwork has won several awards at the regional Scholastic Art Competition. Liam

had one piece win a Gold Key Award and an American Visions Award. Two of Liam's works won Silver Key Awards and five other works won Honorable Mention Awards. A total of 501 submissions were made to the Maine Regional Affiliate Scholastics Art Awards Competition in 2015. From these submissions the jury selected 104 Honorable Mentions, 46 Silver Key Awards, 31 Gold Key Awards and 5 American Visions.

For the 2015-2016 school year, the Visual and Performing Arts Academy will expand to include drama and music. For more information about the Visual and Performing Arts Academy please contact BHS Principal Paul Butler at 992-5500.



Artists (left to right): Erynne Sauda, Bronwen Wickstrom, Elizabeth Martelle, Liam Reading, Jack Marcotte, Jules Mogul

“I am thankful that my experience in the Bangor school system included a range of disciplines that challenged my capacity for critical thinking, civic participation, creative expression, analytical reasoning, and leadership.” - Major David Cote

LESSONS I LEARNED (CONT).

(Continued from page 7)

partnered with then-Secretary of Defense and Bangor native Bill Cohen to present an aspirations symposium to students. I learned about hard work and sacrifice from my swim coach, Phil Emery, who led us to three state titles. My keyboarding class yielded the highest practical payoff, and the many foreign language courses I took influence my written communication skills today.

Taken together, my teachers understood some fundamental truths; students can always learn more, students learn in different ways, and passion, generosity and self-sacrifice are job requirements. The job of an educator, day in and day out, is nothing short of heroic.

Finally, it was my family who instilled in me the virtue of giving back. I took my propensity for mathematics back home where at the age of 17, and my mother 42, I tutored her in algebra so that she could meet the prerequisites to attend nursing school at EMTC (EMCC today).

Education transformed our lives in ways we could not have imagined. My mother obtained her college degree, secured a better job and lifted our family to a better place.

My educational and military career afforded me exceptional educational, research and service opportunities that I have used to shape the world in which I live. I studied mathematics at the United States Naval Academy. I earned a master's degree in Operations Research from the Naval Postgraduate School. My thesis work on veteran homeless-

ness has improved treatment outcomes in San Diego. I also worked with the Monterey County Fire Department in California to derive and implement an algorithm to optimize fire-fighting asset laydown and minimize emergency response times. I've been told that both projects have helped to improve and save lives.

Through education my mother and I crossed socioeconomic lines and surpassed personal limits. We both achieved a piece of the American dream. I am encouraged to know the same story plays out every day in the Bangor schools.

While I am a believer in the STEM curriculum, I also believe the complex challenges that face our nation and world require more than science and technology. I am thankful that my experience in the Bangor school system included a range of disciplines that challenged my capacity for critical thinking, civic participation, creative expression, analytical reasoning, and leadership. My mother and I are thankful to have benefited from a supportive community enabling us to help others in our respective fields.

I am inspired that the Bangor School Department is committed to support all learners and prepare them for postsecondary education and entry into an ever-changing workplace and society. We must make it our mission to multiply opportunity for all and make quality education available to every member of society no matter if they love calculus or not.

2014 MAINE HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT (MHSA): TOP PERFORMING LARGE SCHOOLS

School	Students Tested	MHSA % Proficient (All Sub-	Reading Average Score	Writing Average Score	Math Average Score	Science Average Score	Median Household Income	Free / Reduced Lunch
Cape Elizabeth HS	131	85%	1155	1156	1154	1150	\$91,176	9%
Falmouth HS	167	83%	1155	1154	1153	1151	\$84,241	5%
Yarmouth HS	112	75%	1152	1152	1151	1147	\$69,047	8%
Greely HS	160	75%	1151	1149	1150	1147	\$85,124	0%
Marshwood HS	192	69%	1148	1147	1149	1146	\$63,190	20%
York HS	154	68%	1148	1147	1149	1145	\$67,472	10%
Scarborough HS	237	67%	1147	1146	1147	1147	\$62,525	15%
Mt Desert Island HS	109	61%	1148	1145	1146	1145	\$54,361	26%
Kennebunk HS	175	59%	1145	1144	1145	1143	\$64,194	21%
Freeport HS	115	59%	1145	1144	1144	1144	\$36,543	19%
Bangor HS	247	57%	1145	1143	1145	1144	\$34,801	44%
Hampden Academy	163	57%	1144	1143	1144	1146	\$70,091	25%
Camden Hills HS	150	56%	1146	1144	1144	1143	\$47,268	15%
Gorham HS	180	55%	1144	1143	1145	1143	\$67,777	6%
Wells HS	105	55%	1144	1142	1147	1143	\$55,632	22%
Erskine Academy	129	54%	1142	1141	1144	1143	\$52,005	33%
Brunswick HS	214	53%	1144	1142	1143	1143	\$42,211	29%
Noble HS	206	53%	1142	1142	1144	1141	\$63,905	49%
Mt Ararat HS	193	53%	1142	1141	1143	1144	\$56,435	35%
Waterville Senior HS	119	52%	1142	1141	1141	1144	\$34,006	57%
South Portland HS	204	51%	1142	1141	1143	1142	\$51,847	36%
Brewer HS	165	50%	1143	1140	1143	1143	\$46,029	40%
Gray-New Gloucester HS	117	50%	1143	1140	1142	1142	\$63,138	33%
Morse HS	143	47%	1144	1141	1142	1142	\$43,019	46%
Windham HS	232	47%	1142	1139	1143	1141	\$58,625	40%
MAINE:	12,818	44%	1141	1140	1142	1141	\$46,709	47%

BHS 2014 AP EXAM RESULTS

AP Exam Score	5	4	3	2	1	Total
Number:	106	162	163	83	24	538
Percent:	20%	30%	30%	15%	4%	100%
College Credit Opportunity:	80% Score 3, 4, or 5					
	50% Score 4 or 5					

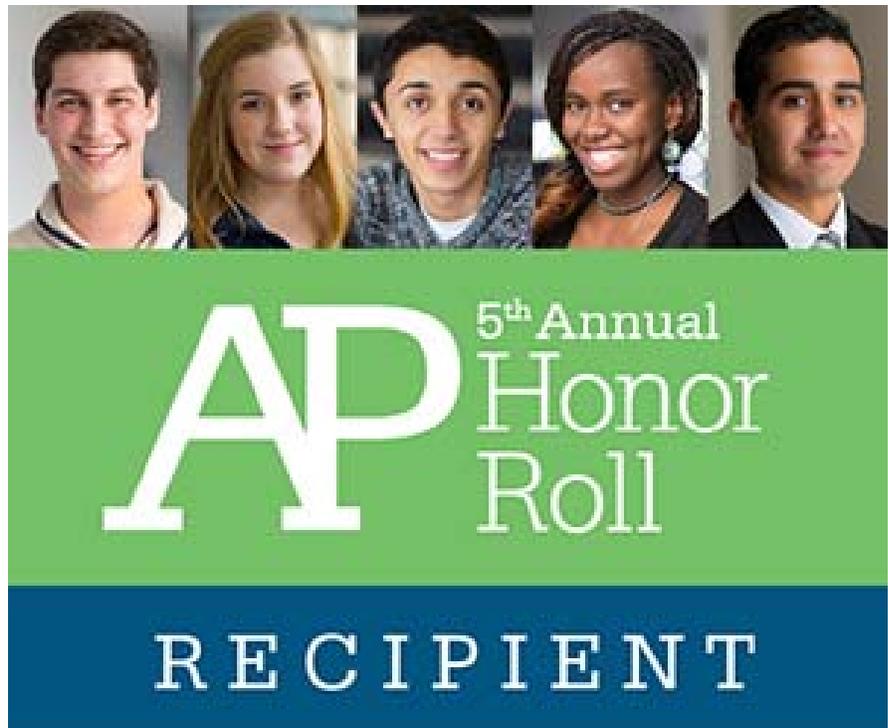
AP PARTICIPATION, PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS BHS 2014 ACHIEVEMENT *by Paul Butler, BHS Principal*

Bangor High School students sat for a record 538 Advanced Placement examinations in 2014 and continued a tradition of high achievement that provides students opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school.

BHS offers over 20 AP courses to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who prepare for the nationally standardized summative exams administered in May. Evaluated on a 5-point scale, AP course exams are aligned to college course curricula, and a score of 3 or higher is considered for credit at hundreds of national colleges and universities. More selective schools consider only scores of 4 or 5.

Two hundred nineteen BHS students took 538 exams in 2014, or approximately 2.5 exams per student. Over 80% earned scores of 3 or higher, and 50% of AP exams scored a 4 or 5. Based on their excellent performance, 44 BHS students earned distinction from the College Board, including eight National AP Scholars.

This fall, the Bangor School Department was one of only 547 districts in North America named on the College Board AP District Honor Roll, which recognizes increased student access to AP course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams.



BANGOR STUDENTS OUTPERFORM IN SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

by Robert MacDonald, Assistant Superintendent

Following the release by the Department of Education this fall of the Grade 5 and 8 MEA science results, a report on Bangor’s excellent results was presented to the School Committee. In addition to an analysis of the results provided by the DOE, traditionally Bangor has compared our results with schools across Maine with testing populations greater than 100 students. These comparisons have been completed and they again reveal the high quality of the 2013-14 MEA results at each of the four schools, William S. Cohen, James F. Doughty, Mary Snow, and Fairmount.

For example, when ordering the top twenty grade 5 schools testing greater than 100 students by scaled score, Mary Snow has the highest scaled score along with Cape Elizabeth and RSU 22 even though the median income is approximately 2.5 times greater in these communities and school demographics as measured by free/reduced are markedly different. And, Fairmount has the third highest scaled score, scoring with communities such as Falmouth, Scarborough, and Brunswick, all with sharply different median incomes and school demographics.

Grade 8 results are similarly impressive. WSCS recorded the third highest scaled score of the twenty schools testing greater than 100 students joining schools from Brunswick, Yarmouth, Cumberland Cen-

(Continued on page 15)

“This fall, the Bangor School Department was one of only 547 districts in North America named on the College Board AP District Honor Roll.”

2015 ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

Month	Grade Level	Description
Jan 26—Mar 6	Grades 4 & 8	NAEP (Math, Reading & Science)
Mar 9—May 29	Grades 3-8 and students in 3rd year of high school	Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) - Smarter Balanced Assessment
Mar 30—May 29	Grade 12	TIMMS for advanced math and physics
April 27—May 1	Grade 3	Otis Lennon School Ability Test
May 4—15	Grades 5, 8 & 11	MEA Science
May	Grades 1—7	Writing Assessment
May 26—June 5	Grades K-8	End of Year Math Assessments
Spring	Special Education	Individual Achievement Tests
Optional Testing		
April 18, June 13	Grades 9-12	ACT—American College Testing
May 4—8 & 11—15	Grades 9-12	Advanced Placement Testing
Fall and Spring Annually	Grades 9-12	ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)

US SENATE YOUTH (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

Andrew and the other Maine delegate will join 102 other students for the USSYP's 53rd annual Washington Week. Each year, the USSYP brings delegates together to experience a week-long, all-expenses-paid educational program about the workings of the Senate and the federal government.

Past program experiences have included visits to Capitol Hill, the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department, the Supreme Court, and other historic sites in Washington. Delegates will meet and converse with senators, cabinet officers, government leaders, and other policy-makers.

SUE SORG

(Continued from page 4)

Education from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, and went on to earn both a M.Ed. in Adapted/Physical Education and CAS in Special Education from the University of Maine. Sue taught for 18 years in the Bangor School Department as the Adapted Physical Education Specialist, and was Bangor's Special Olympic Coordinator for 15 years.

"During my 18 years as the Adapted Physical Education Teacher for Bangor, I had the great pleasure of working with many outstanding professional teachers and an excellent core of educational technicians who helped make my job easier and enjoyable. Bangor School Department has one of the best school systems in the State of Maine, and being on the School Committee gives me an opportunity to give back, and, at the same time, help Bangor Schools continue to grow in a positive, upward direction."

PUBLIC NOTICES

Registration

For information about registering a new student or Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten registration, please contact the school that your child will attend. You can find more information about registration requirements on the Bangor School Department website at www.bangorschools.net.

No Child Left Behind Consolidated Application

The Bangor School Department invites public comment on the NCLB Consolidated Application which provides for Title I Part A and for Title II Part A funds. Title I Part A supports the programs and services for disadvantaged students to assist them in satisfying the state and local achievement standards. The recruiting, hiring, and training of highly qualified teachers as well as the training for paraprofessionals are provided for under Title II Part A. Inquiries regarding the Consolidated Application are received in the Office of Instruction, 73 Harlow Street, Bangor.

Gifted and Talented Program

The Gifted and Talented identification process begins during the spring of the student's third grade year and concludes in the eleventh grade at the high school. A variety of criteria are used in this process. Parents may participate by completing a Home Learning Characteristics form. Parents of third grade students may complete the form during the spring. Parents of fourth through eleventh grade students may complete the form at any time. Bangor School Department teachers and staff encourage all students to accelerate and learn at high levels.

For more information and/or a copy of the Home Learning Characteristics form, please call the Assistant Superintendent or Laurie Mitchell at 992-4170.

BANGOR DAY CELEBRATION

Everyone donned their cardinal red and white attire on December 23rd and participated in the citywide fuel assistance and food drive. Superintendent Dr. Betsy Webb reports that this third annual event was a great success.



The Bangor School Department collected 2,205 lbs of food donations, equaling 1,838 meals, for the Good Shepherd Food Bank. “This event comes at a critical time of year for many families in our community and is a perfect example of neighbor helping neighbor,” said Melissa Huston, Director of Philanthropy – Northern Maine at the Good Shepherd Food Bank.

Students and staff also collected monetary donations to help Bangor families stay warm this winter. The total collected will enable three needy families to each receive 100 gallons of heating fuel!

ALCOHOL AWARENESS DAY (CONT.)

(Continued from page 5)

say ‘No’ to our friends.”

Students at William S. Cohen School and James F. Doughty School heard ER Nurse Linda Dutil’s “Dose of Reality” program. Her experience as an emergency room nurse has taught her that many choices young people make often end tragically. In a 45-minute assembly, Linda shared personal, age-appropriate stories of young people for whom she has cared. “The emergency room is the last place anyone wants to visit,” Dutil states. “I hope to make a lasting impression on young people, to empower them with the skills that

they need to make good choice to stay safe!”

“At the high school, we hosted Bud Walkup, LADC, Education Specialist from the Student Wellness Resource Center at the University of Maine,” says Principal Paul Butler. “For the second year in a row, Mr. Walkup presented to biology students on the risks and implications of binge drinking.” Students also explored core lessons on the effects of alcohol on the body in health, physical education, and science classes.

More information about Bangor School Department’s Chemical Health Plan can be obtained by contacting the Assistant Superintendent’s Office.

BANGOR STUDENTS OUTPERFORM (CONT.)

(Continued from page 13)

ter, and Gorham, all communities with much higher median incomes and with a lower economically disadvantaged percent in their student body. JFDS also is among the top performing schools although the percent of economically disadvantaged is highest of any of the twenty.

Kudos to the students, teachers, and principals at each of the 4 schools for the quality of the MEA performance.

Bangor School Department

73 Harlow Street
Bangor, ME 04401

Phone: 207-992-4158
www.bangorschools.net

Bangor School Committee

Warren Caruso, Chairman
Jay Ye, Vice Chairman
Marc Eastman
Susan Hawes
Sarah Smiley
Susan Sorg
Marlene Susi

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Betsy Webb

**Assistant Superintendent of
Schools**

Robert MacDonald

Director of Pupil Services

Patti Rapaport

Director of Business Services

Alan Kochis

Many thanks to all the contributors to this Winter 2015 issue of *The Communicue*.

The Bangor School Department shall not discriminate and shall comply with applicable laws prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or citizenship status, age, handicap, or veteran status in employment, education, and all other areas of the Department. Questions and complaints should be directed to the Affirmative Action Officer, Bangor School Department, 73 Harlow Street, Bangor ME 04401.

BANGOR ADULT ED RECEIVES GRANT

Bangor Adult & Community Education is thrilled to announce receipt of a grant from the Libra Foundation. “Bangor’s Adult Education offers programs targeted to unemployed or underemployed adults who would benefit from attaining high school completion or need to prepare for college,” says Greg Leavitt, Director. “We use an effective model that is flexible enough for working adults or parents of young children to fit education into their busy schedules using online courseware.” Funding for this tool comes from federal and state funding streams, however reduction in this funding over the last several years has caused Bangor Adult Education to reduce by 50% the number of software licenses purchased. “The Libra Foundation’s generous grant will enable us to purchase all the software licenses we need for next year,” says Leavitt, “which will give our adult learners the tools they need to accomplish their goals.”

For more information about Bangor Adult & Community Education, please call 992-5522 or visit <http://bangor.maineadulted.org/>

GRANTS HELP STUDENTS IN PRE-K—GRADE THREE SCHOOLS

The Bangor School Department is honored to have received a \$3,000 grant from Target’s Early Childhood Reading Grant Program. The funds were used to purchase nonfiction picture books for all five Pre-K to Grade 3 schools that children can take home and read with their parents. The Bangor School Department’s Literacy Coach, Mrs. Kristi Charette, created “think sheets” for each book, a guide for parents to help their child with higher level thinking about the subject of the book. “Our goal is to increase interest in reading among Bangor’s K-3 students, create opportunities to link academic learning to the real world, and to encourage parent involvement in students’ learning and literacy,” says Mrs. Charette.

The Downeast School received a Lowe’s Toolbox for Education grant at the beginning of the school year for new swing sets. “We’d like to thank our friends at Lowe’s,” said Principal Al Mooers, “for enabling us to replace aging playground equipment with new, safer swing sets. The students greatly enjoyed the new swings this fall and will be able to use them for years to come.”

Did you graduate from Bangor High School? We would love to hear about what you’re doing now. Join our Alumni Network - go online to bangorschools.net/welcome-alumni or call 992-4167.
