



MORSE HIGH SCHOOL THE NAVIGATOR

Principal: John B. Pinkerton
Assistant Principal: Eric Varney
Athletic Administrator: Nathan Priest

Volume 21, Issue 3

February 2018

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL JOHN PINKERTON

Today is February 1st, and we have already used six storm days. We did make one of them up last Friday by not having a scheduled professional development day. Because of that, we are not having our spring parent-teacher conferences that were scheduled for March 1st and 2nd. Please know that you can contact a teacher at any time to set up a meeting, if needed. Depending on how many more storm days we have, we will be canceling some late-start Wednesday activities and starting school at 7:40 AM on those Wednesdays, stay tuned.

Another thing that may cause your child to miss school is the ever-increasing number of confirmed flu cases. This is a challenging year with influenza viruses. In addition to getting vaccinated, there are some other everyday preventive actions we can all take to stop the spread of germs:

- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you have flu-like illness, stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth (germs spread this way)

In addition, our custodial crew is cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs. I hope we can keep the number of cases to a minimum by practicing these simple steps.

Congratulations go out to a few folks this month; English teacher, Johnna Stanton, was recently awarded the Claudette and John Brassil Distinguished Educator Award given by the Maine Council for English Language Arts. Congratulations also go out to sophomore, Olivia Harper, for being a Portland Press Herald Athlete of the Week recently. Olivia is a swimmer who is shattering records this year.

I am also very proud of our Unified basketball team members and their coaching staff. Watching all of the players interact at their first home game almost brought tears to my eyes. This is such a wonderful experience for everyone involved. I just can't thank Charlie Bingham, Becky Roak, the volunteer staff and our special education staff, enough for making this opportunity available for our students.

As you can see, this year has brought us some unexpected challenges but, it has also brought us many reasons to celebrate.

John B. Pinkerton
Principal

HELLO FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT AT MORSE HIGH SCHOOL

We are heading into winter sports championship season here at Morse! Many of our teams have had great success this year. The cheer team qualified for the state meet for the third time in the last four years, the wrestling team placed 6th at the KVAC Championship, the swim team continues to win and break records, and the girls' basketball team is currently in the playoff hunt. Overall, it has been a very successful winter season!

We plan to celebrate our success this winter during the Winter Sports Awards Night, which is scheduled for Monday, March 5th from 6:00-7:00 PM in the Montgomery Theater.

The [spring sports schedule](#) is still being built, so please save this link and check back often for details.

Please keep an eye on our Morse Athletics website, where you can find all forms, schedules, addresses for our opponents, boosters information, and more. To take a look at the website, please visit <http://www.rsu1.org/administration/102>.

Athletics is an extension of the classroom. It is a privilege to participate on a high school sports team. At Morse, we strive to provide the best possible interscholastic athletic experience to student-athletes that we possibly can. Student-athletes whom have the privilege of participating on a team learn different skills than what they would in the classroom.

There truly is an extracurricular activity for everyone here at Morse. If sports don't interest you, I encourage you to become involved in one of the many clubs that are offered. Regardless of what you might want to achieve, I encourage all students to come out and become part of a proud tradition that is the Morse High Shipbuilders! For those interested in joining Shipbuilders Committed, please see Mr. Bingham or Mr. Priest at any point during the year.

Please feel free to stop by the Athletic Department office or catch up with me at any of our events throughout the remainder of winter and this spring.

GO SHIPBUILDERS!

Sincerely,

Nate Priest

CHILI AND CHOWDER COOK OFF

On **February 10** at **5 PM** in the **Morse High School cafeteria** the JMG students are hosting a Chili and Chowder Cook Off. Parents, Morse staff, and community members are invited to sample and judge all of the fabulous products entered.

In addition to the chili and chowders we will have Gagne Foods Biscuits, cornbread, and desserts to turn the tasting into a meal. Tickets are just \$5 and may be purchased at the door.

To round out the evening we will have a raffle, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and a LuLaRoe pop up boutique.

FINE ARTS NIGHT

Please join us at Morse High School on Fine Arts Night Wednesday, March 7th. Viewing of student's artwork will start at 7pm in the hallways of Morse. Then join the Morse High Drama Family to view senior Keel Thibodeau's one-act play The Rift starting at 8pm.

The Morse High Drama will travel to Westbrook to perform The Rift for the 2018 MPA One-Act Festival. As always, Morse will be one of the only schools in the state to bring an original student-written play for the 17th consecutive year.

YEARBOOK ORDERS

Thanks to all the fundraising efforts by our yearbook staff, this year's yearbook is only \$40. For an additional \$5.00 you can have your student's name engraved on the cover (deadline applies for engraving). Would you like to place an order? You have a few options.

Send cash or a check made payable to MHS and have your student bring it to Katrina Barter in Room 102 OR you can drop off your order and payment with Mrs. Westlake in our lobby office. We do accept payment plans, whatever works best for you.

Full payment and orders should be received by April 30th. However, if you would like the yearbook engraved, we need full payment and order by February 15th.

POETRY OUT LOUD

On December 13th, the Montgomery Theater hosted Morse High School's 8th Poetry Out Loud recitation competition. The evening featured eight students who recited two poems each. They were judged based on their accuracy and performance of the works. The judges: Johnna Stanton, Leslie Trundy, Ashley Begin-Smith, and Craig Tinker awarded the runner-up award to **Rachel Ouellette** for her recitations of "Poison Tree" by William Blake and "Digging" by Seamus Heaney. The winner of the event was **Sidonia Stanton who won with** "Lazy" by David Yezzi and "Envy" by Mary Lamb. Sidonia will represent Morse High School at the Southern Maine Poetry Out Loud Event in Westbrook on February 28th. Good luck, Sidonia.

DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD

Johnna Stantan, a teacher at Morse High School, has been selected for the first annual Claudette and John Brassil Distinguished Educator Award. This prestigious award is sponsored by the Maine Council for English Language Arts, an affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English, to celebrate the contributions of two long-time educators who have inspired students and mentored teachers in Maine public schools for over eighty combined years. The award recognizes exceptional English language arts and literacy teachers who have demonstrated excellence in teaching, contributions to the profession, and commitment to the community.

Her nominator cited Johnna's love of vocation, warmth, enthusiasm, community service, and extracurricular leadership in his thoughtful letter to the organization. We believe she represents the professional and personal qualities that reflect the educational contributions of the Brassils themselves:

- Commitment to student-centered learning
- Inspiration of students of all backgrounds and abilities
- Leadership in the profession at the school, district, state, and/or national levels
- Development and sharing of effective practices
- Involvement in the community and school beyond the classroom

BATH-TSUGARU STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

We are a non-profit organization with the longest running (28 years) Japanese student exchange program in Maine.

WHO: Seeking students ages 14-18 to serve as ambassadors from the Mid Coast plus adult chaperones. 15 person group max.

WHAT: Experience an authentic home stay with a Japanese family and carefully planned cultural activities.

WHEN: 2 weeks in late July/early-mid August (specific dates TBD soon). The application deadline is April 1, 2018.

WHERE: Tsugaru, Japan (Bath's sister city) and 2 nights in Tokyo.

WHY: Immerse yourself in Asian culture, develop new language skills, and make lifelong friendships.

COST: < \$2,500 includes airfare, train, lodging, meals, attraction admissions (personal expenses, gifts, and insurance not included).

CONTACT: Jen Jones, Program Coordinator, at tsugaru@rsu1.org or visit www.bath-tsugaru.org.

NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Course Registration: School Counselors will be meeting with students in their history classes and on an individual basis for 2018-19 course registration beginning on February 2nd. The 2018-2019 Course description booklet is available on the Morse High School website.

BRCTC Applications: BRCTC personnel presented to 10th grade students on January 26th. Applications were available during the presentations and can also be picked up from the Guidance Office. Completed applications are due to Guidance by Friday, March 23.

FAFSA: Seniors are encouraged to complete their FAFSA online now at www.fafsa.ed.gov (the 2018-2019 form became available on October 1). Students who complete their FAFSA now increase their chances of accessing grant, scholarship, and need-based financial aid for education after high school for college, certification and technical training programs. If you have questions about the FAFSA or about filing procedures, please contact the Guidance Office at 443-8250 x1109.

Senior Check-outs: Current seniors will meet with their assigned School Counselor beginning the week of March 26. Parents are encouraged to attend this meeting if possible. Please be watching for your family's letter with scheduled appointment time to arrive in the mail at the end of February. The purpose of this meeting is to review post-secondary plans. Seniors should bring copies of their financial aid award letters from colleges, a copy of their FAFSA SAR (Student Aid Report) with the EFC (Estimated Family Contribution), and any questions about their post-secondary plans.

Testing for Juniors: All juniors will take the MEA Science Augmentation on April 3, and the SAT on April 10. Students have been registered for these state-required exams and will receive more information about both closer to the testing dates. In order to prepare for the SAT, we encourage students to look over their PSAT score results and to link their scores to Khan Academy at <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat> for tailored-to-you SAT practice. Additionally, students have the opportunity to attend free, after-school SAT prep classes with Mr. Ingundson. These classes begin Feb. 7 at 2:10-3:05 in room 117 and run for an additional 13 sessions (Feb. 8, 14, 15, 28, Mar. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, and 29).

Please contact the Morse Testing Coordinator, Amber McGowan, at 443-8250 x1120 or amcgowan@rsu1.org if you have questions about these exams.

Senior Service Day: All seniors will complete a Day of Service on April 10 (while juniors complete the SAT); there will not be any regularly-scheduled Morse classes on that day for seniors. More information will be provided to seniors in the coming month regarding site selection and service requirements.

NEWS FROM FRESHMEN AWARENESS PROGRAM

Morse's Freshmen Awareness Program will be held at Hyde School from Tuesday, March 6th through Friday, March 9th. Guest speakers will discuss healthy lifestyle topics including: substance abuse and addiction, healthy relationships, Internet safety, peaceful conflict resolution, stress management, and more. Following each presentation, all 9th graders will engage in small group discussions with teachers and in team building activities with their peers. Freshmen Awareness is one of the ways that Morse helps students learn essential information and gain skills to necessary to becoming healthy and positive citizens in our community.

Your 9th grade student will be picked up and dropped off by his/her regular bus at Hyde on March 6-9 or transported to and from Morse on a shuttle bus. You may also drop your student off at the Hyde Student Union. Lunch will be served at Hyde on all four days. Your student will receive more information regarding this event from his/her 9th teachers closer to the event. If you have any questions, please contact the Morse Guidance Office at 443-8250 x1109 or Mandy Nalls at x1121.

MONITORING THE FUTURE SURVEY

Morse High School has been invited by the University of Michigan to participate in a nationwide survey of 10th graders, entitled *Monitoring the Future; a continuing study of American youth*.

This annual survey, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health, has been tracking changes in the attitudes, opinions and behavior of American young people for the past 40 years. Its results are widely reports and are used by many organizations to develop better policies and programs that affect the nation's youth.

The 10th graders will be asked to complete a 45-minute questionnaire during regular school hours on Tuesday, March 6th, which asks about school experiences, attitudes toward school and education, plans for the future, use of and attitudes about using alcohol and drugs, work experiences and preferences, and health and leisure activities.

MORSE INTERACT CLUB NEWS

The Morse Interact Club invites you to participate in the Morse High School Voice Drive. Students, staff, and members of the community are needed to donate their voices.

You may have given blood or donated your hair, but have you considered sharing your voice? Over 2.5 million Americans (tens of millions worldwide) who are living with voicelessness rely on generic sounding computerized voices to communicate. VocaliD, the organization that collects the voices is changing this by creating customized voices for them to use on their assistive devices. VocaliD's breakthrough technology combines the recordings of healthy talkers like those in the Bath Area with just a few seconds of sound from the non-speaking person to create a unique vocal identity - so that every voice is heard!

You can share your voice in your own time - whenever it's convenient for you. All you need is a computer, a pair of headphones, and the Google Chrome browser! The commitment seems daunting at 5 hours of total recording but by recording your voice for as little as 10 minutes a day you could knock it all out in one month!

The Morse Interact club's goal is to help support this cause and provide Morse Students, Faculty, and members of the community with a unique volunteering experience.

If you are interested in signing up, please complete this short survey found here: <http://bit.ly/mhsVocaliD>

and a member of the Interact Club will contact you with more details.

Thank you,

Thomas W. Trundy
'19
Morse Interact
President-Elect

GIRL'S AND BOY'S STATE

Girl's State and Boy's State are leadership development programs for juniors sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion. Interested Juniors need to complete an application by March 1st and give it to Mrs. Trundy. There may be a cost associated with attending. The American Legion and the Auxiliary are able to help with the cost through sponsorship. FMI see Mrs. Trundy or visit the on-line sites: www.maineala.org and www.dirigoboyssstate.com

Dates:

- Girl's State Husson College 6/17/18-6/22/18
- Boy's State Thomas College 6/17/18-6/21/18

The Morse Interact Club in partnership with the Bath Rotary Clubs is hosting a lunch sale on Friday, March 16th. For \$10 a bagged lunch can be purchased and will be delivered within the greater Bath area. The proceeds from the lunch sale will sponsor Morse sophomores to attend one of three leadership programs this June: RYLA, HOBY & MYL. To order a lunch for yourself or your student(s) please complete this on-line form: <http://bit.ly/L4L18> or speak with an Interact member. FMI call Mrs. Trundy 443-8250 Ext 1119

SOPHOMORES: There are three leadership programs for sophomores that take place this June:

- Maine Youth Leadership May 31-June 3 at the University of Southern Maine
www.maineyouthleadership.org
- Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership June 1-3 at the University of Maine at Farmington
<http://www.hobymaine.org/>
- Rotary Youth Leadership Award June 24- June 27 at Camp Hinds in Raymond, Maine
<http://bit.ly/RYLA7780>

Students interested in attending one of these programs should see Mrs. Trundy in guidance by March 1st.

MORSE STEAM ACADEMY

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math)

Do you have a current Grade 9 student who may be interested in being part of the STEAM Academy?

Target Students:

Students who are successful in STEAM fields must be curious, intuitive, and motivated. The STEAM academy aims to develop students' creativity, logic, determination, and communication skills while engaged in interdisciplinary learning. The STEAM Academy is a rigorous academic program; students are encouraged to take the highest level of coursework in which they can find success.

GPA Requirement:

- Students must maintain a 3.00 cumulative GPA in order to continue enrollment in the STEAM program
- Quality scientific work requires the highest level of integrity; therefore, academic dishonesty by students enrolled in the STEAM Academy will not be tolerated.

STEAM Requirements:

The STEAM program involves a three-year commitment, beginning in 10th grade.

For an overview of the STEAM Learning Plan go to:

<https://sites.google.com/a/rsu1.org/morse-steam-academy>

For General STEAM information:

<https://sites.google.com/a/rsu1.org/morse-steam-academy/steam-community/home>

For more information on the STEAM Academy:

There will be an informational session for interested students and families on Thursday, March 1, from 5:30-6:30 pm in Rm. 408 BRCTC or contact rharrison@rsu1.org

SCLC NEWS

SCLC has had a busy and exciting winter. We adopted a local family for Christmas, and a school-wide cash drive raised over \$300 in just a few days. Thanks to the generosity of our students and staff, we were able to fulfill the Christmas wishes of the children and had extra money for some fun family gifts.

On January 15th, we honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with our annual event that took place at the Bath Visitor Center. Nearly 50 students and community members turned out on the cold but bright morning and walked over the bridge and back. We then watched the inspiring speech that Robert Kennedy gave to the citizens of Indianapolis after Dr. King's assassination.

Next month, SCLC will begin taking nominations for this year's Mainsail Award, which honors a member of the community who has made a difference in the lives of local youth. Be looking for that nomination form in early March if you have a worthy candidate in mind. We'll post it on the district and school websites and Facebook.

OCEAN BOWL NEWS

Two teams from Morse High School competed and won first and second place in the Ocean Bowl on Saturday, February 3rd. The winning team will travel to Boulder, Colorado to compete in the nationals. Congratulations go out to Eli Goodrich, Ella Martin, Rosa Atienza, Emily Adams, Mae Winglass, Alex Gates, Alex Martin, Emily Martin, Emma Gould, and Emelia Marsh.

2017-2018 SCHOOL EVENTS

February 10	ACT Testing at Morse
February 19-23	Winter Vacation
March 1	8th Grade Parent Night
March 7	Fine Arts Night 7:00 PM
March 9 & 10	Regional One Act Play Competition
March 6-9	Freshman Awareness
April 6	End of Third Quarter
April 14	ACT Testing at Morse
April 16-20	Spring Vacation
April 27	Recognition Assembly
May 9	AP English Literature Test
May 10	AP Environmental Science Test
May 11	AP US History Test and AP Studio Art Portfolio Test
May 14	AP Biology Test and AP Music Theory Test
May 15	AP Calculus AB Test
May 16	AP English Language Test
May 17	AP Statistics Test and AP World History
May 17	Adult Education Graduation 7:00 PM Montgomery Theatre
May 17	BRCTC Awards 12:00 PM Montgomery Theatre
May 18	AP Human Geography
May 19	Senior Reception
May 23	Spring Concert 7:00 PM Montgomery Theatre
May 23	Mainsail Assembly
May 24	JMG Closing Ceremony 6:00 PM Montgomery Theatre
May 28	No School - Memorial Day
May 31	Academic Awards Night 7:00 PM Montgomery Theatre
June 2	SAT at Morse
June 4	NHS Induction Ceremony 6:00 PM Montgomery Theatre
June 5	Final Assembly
June 6	First Senior Marching Practice at Bath Middle School
June 7	Second Senior Marching Practice at McMann Field
June 7	Senior Scholarship Night 6:00 PM Montgomery Theatre
June 8	Third Senior Marching Practice at McMann Field
June 9	Alumni Open House 10 AM - 12 PM
June 9	Alumni Banquet 5:30 PM at Bath Middle School
June 10	Graduation 2:00 PM at McMann Field
June 15	End of Fourth Quarter
June 15	Projected Last Day of School (½ day for students)