

# Academy Hill and Cushing Schools

April 2024

Keith J. Acedo, Principal

## New Staff

- \*Tanya Meisner - Ed Tech (Long Term Sub) Cushing Autism Program
- \*Theresa Ferro Art (Long Term Sub) AHS
- \*Megan Picard Ed Tech III AHS Special Ed

## Maintenance Updates

- \*The mural at AHS has been completed.
- \*A new de-escalation room has been added to one of the autism classrooms at Cushing.

## Visit From Channel 8's Weather Man Ted McInerney

On February 27, 2024 Ted McInerney, from Channel 8, came to do Weather at Your School with Academy's fourth graders and some of their siblings. We had a great turnout of students who were accompanied by their parents. They were able to be meteorologists sharing the weather forecast for the day on the news and what they like to do in the winter. Ted returned later in the morning and did a presentation with our fourth graders. Students were engaged and learned lots of interesting facts about Maine's weather.



## AHS Takes Part In Winter Kids

In January AHS had the honor to be part of a nonprofit organization out of Maine called Winter Kids. It is a program dedicated to increasing outdoor physical activity during the winter. We were the second elementary school in the county to participate in the 2024 season Winter Games. This was a 4 week program that included academic challenges, outdoor activities, teamwork and a passion for learning outdoors in the winter. The program provided students and teachers with step by step books with activities, incentive objects, stickers, bracelets and daily journals. We hope we get the opportunity to participate again! AHS will receive a \$500 donation for participating. I want to thank Kiana Thompson, our PE teacher, for taking the lead on this.



# Academy Hill and Cushing Schools

April 2024

Keith J. Acedo, Principal

## **BARR (Building Assets Reducing Risks)**

The implementation of BARR with our 4th grade teachers at AHS and our 1st grade teachers at Cushing is continuing to bring positive results. Each grade level is continuing U-Time activities/lessons, small groups and big block meetings. The attendance for first graders compared to when they were in kindergarten has improved this year from 92% - 94%. The attendance for 4th graders compared to when they were in 3rd grade has improved this year from 92% - 95%. Sofie Mattens, Social Worker, and Gracie Vaughn, 4th grade teacher, will be presenting at the National BARR Conference later this month. Their topic will be "Stronger Together: The Unification of PBIS and Barr".

## **Math Night at AHS**

In late January we had a very successful Family Math Night at AHS. We had over 140 students, parents and staff attend. It was a fun night of math games, pizza, and prizes. Parents/guardians were able to participate in math games/activities with their children. I want to thank all those who participated. Our staff worked very hard in making this a successful and positive experience for our students and parents/guardians. I want to especially thank Nancy Ellis and Morgan Badeau, our Math Interventionist, for leading the preparation of this event.



## **Missoula Children's Theater**

During the week of March 25 - 29, AHS and Cushing were thrilled to host the Missoula Children's Theater. They brought their lively musical adaptation of Jack and The Beanstalk. There were 55 students who took part in the play. They performed on Saturday and it was a smashing success. A huge thanks goes out to our PTF, Lena Rutberg, our custodians and all the amazing parents and staff who lent a hand during the week long rehearsal and the musical itself and of course all of our students who put in the time and practice to make this a success.

## **PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)**

This year students who earn Caught in the Act slips can save them to redeem for various items. They can purchase items from our school store, save enough to pie a staff member of their choosing in the face, or ride in a fire truck or a police car. One of our students, Timothy Krouse, collected enough Caught in the Acts, to ride on a fire truck with the Wilton Fire Department. They picked him up and drove to East Wilton and then around the lake. Sirens were blasting and lights flashing when he left the school.

