

## ACADEMY HILL AND CUSHING SCHOOLS

April 2023

Keith J. Acedo, Principal

### PBIS Awards Celebrations

In March at AHS, we had a school wide dance party. The students and staff had a wonderful time. A big thank you goes out to Kate McShane, 5th grade teacher, who did a tremendous job as our DJ.

At Cushing, we had Mr. Drew and His Animals Too come visit us for an assembly. Some of the animals shared were a snake, a tortoise, a snapping turtle, and a bearded dragon. All the students and staff enjoyed it.



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### Reading Celebration

At Cushing school we celebrated Dr. Seuss Week with inviting author and illustrator, Hazel Mitchell, to our school. She met with each grade level and talked about what it is like to be an author and illustrator. She went through the process of drawing one of her characters and then read them a book. In the evening she put on a seminar for parents about the importance of reading with their child. We had over 50 people attend. A book signing was held after the presentation.

### Winter Fun Day

This year our students at AHS went to Titcomb for Winter Fun Day. Students were able to choose from a number of activities such as downhill and cross country skiing, snow art, hiking, snowboarding, snowshoeing and sliding. We had the most parent volunteers ever for this event and no one got hurt. It was a fun and exciting day!

Cushing students went across the street to AHS for a time of sliding and fun. Upon their return everyone enjoyed some hot cocoa.



### After School Program

Our 21st Century after school program is still running strong. We currently have 47 students signed up. We have 30 students from AHS and 17 students from Cushing who attend. A special thanks to Rhonda Schanck, Cushing's librarian, who runs the program in Wilton.

## Assessments

We have completed our Winter NWEA assessments and are preparing for the new “Maine State Through Year Assessment” (grades 3-5) along with the Science Assessment (grade 5) which is administered in May.



## New Staff

We would like to welcome Marissa Maceda, Ed Tech I at Cushing, and Ralyssa Gould, Ed Tech I at AHS.

## Band Concerts and Chorus

Some of our students from AHS participated in the Chorus and Orchestra Celebration and the Band-A-Rama which took place at MT Blue HS. We want to thank Steve Muise, Kenneth Labrecque and Brendan Hickey for preparing our students for this event.

## Facility Updates

- \*All but 2 of our water fountains at AHS are up and running.
- \*New TV monitors have been installed in most of the classrooms at both schools.

## Program Updates

- \*Staff led professional development in Guided reading was provided to both schools. A big thanks goes out to Hannah Hanson, Morgan Badeau and Maggie LeMotte for presenting.
- \*John Jones and Cynthia Bernstein provided professional development to staff on the referral process.
- \*Teachers also received training on the new literacy program “Literacy Footprints.”



## Current Challenges & Concerns

- \*Finding enough substitutes to cover daily staffing needs.
- \*Chronic student school absences.

