



Islesboro Central School

January 2016 Newsletter

Ms. Becky Bolduc – Grades K/1

K-1 has been a very busy class this first semester! We are fortunate to have partnered up with Chloe at Islesboro Island Trust to set up several field trips out on the trails. We spent the fall learning about which animals we see on island that migrate south for the winter, and which animals we see adapting to survive the snowy weather. This week we are getting back out on the trails to look for signs of animals, identify tracks and see how they are keeping warm and finding food now. We look forward to continuing our work with her throughout the spring and looking for our returning birds and life cycles as the warm weather joins us again.

Ms. Jen McFarland – Grades 2/3

What an honor it is to work day in and day out with an incredible community of learners. This group of students has grown in so many ways the past few months. We have come to acknowledge our strengths in our work, our perseverance and our learning "family" spirit. We have also come to accept our weaknesses and have found our way to being helped in those areas as well as helping others with their challenges. In our class it is clear that students care for each other in all they do. If one student is struggling with a concept (math, reading, etc), others do not hesitate to step in and help clarify or reteach. If a student is having a hard/sad/frustrating day, others gently connect to see if they can help. If a student (or students) create a distraction from our task- they may also get called out on it so that we can refocus and attend to our studies. This is done with genuine compassion~ which is an amazing (and at times- a comical) sight to see.

As we head into February, we look forward to studying about the Underground Railroad. We are working through the notion that it wasn't a real railroad and it wasn't really underground. Once we get it ALL sorted out, I know the students will come to understand the work it took by individuals and groups of people to abolish slavery in our country. My hope is that each and every student will connect to the idea of morality and what it takes to stand up in the face of adversity.

Ms. Jill Veenstra – Grade 6

During the first quarter, the ten sixth graders learned about children being heroes during World War II. We read *Twenty and Ten* by Claire Huchet Bishop as a whole class and then smaller groups read *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry, *Torn Thread* by Anne Isaacs, *Sky: A True Story of Courage During World War II* by Hanneke Ippisch and *Snow Treasure* by Marie McSwigan. The students then created projects based on a specific part of the book that they were required to read. The projects were displayed in the library and presentations were given to the fourth and fifth graders.

Second quarter has brought us to the tragedy of the Titanic and the fascination that we still have after almost 104 years. The students have spent a great deal of time discussing and arguing who was to blame and how cause and effect happen all around us, as well as what it means to survive. We are finishing the book *Titanic Young Survivor (10 True Stories)* by Allan Zullo. The students have another opportunity to share and to display their survival projects which will be due next week. The projects will be displayed in the Library for all to see.

For the third quarter, we will be switching to science and beginning to study Inner Earth, Earth's changing Surface, and Weather and Climate. Be on the lookout for more great projects to come from the sixth graders.



Ms. Kristin Kelley – 7-12 Language Arts

In English, we're wrapping up a busy first semester and looking forward to an equally exciting and rigorous second one! Stay tuned for announcements about the Creative Writing Contest, coming up in April. Our theme this year is "windows," and I'm confident that we'll be hearing some phenomenal poetry and short stories. Please come to ICS and celebrate excellence in writing with us when the winning stories and poems are read (date TBA).



Jazz Age "flappers"

In World Literature we read a wide variety of texts (from Ancient Greece to modern Russia) and students took part in an on-going project in which they chose a country to study in depth from a historical, artistic, and literary perspective. This created a rich

classroom environment with lots of amazing art, music, and oral storytelling. In American Literature, we studied novels, poetry, and plays beginning in Salem, Massachusetts (*The Crucible*) and culminating in a Twitter project for *Catcher in the Rye*, with hashtags following the many motifs in the novel. #redhuntinghat #wheredotheducks go?

Ninth graders have been working on reading novels at the deeper and more intricate level expected in high school. This is the class that read the entire epic poem *The Odyssey* last year, though, so I wasn't worried. They have also been learning about journalism and are finishing up their extended pieces on a wide variety of subjects from the financial crisis in Greece to the many issues surrounding the practice of fracking. Watch for a profile article sometime this spring, perhaps in the *Islesboro Island News*, about our very own Mike Horn!

In the seventh and eighth grades, students have been working on various skills through reading and writing, including devices writers use to make their stories and poems captivating. Seventh graders are writing fabulous poems and preparing to display their "journeys"-themed photography and poetry at the Farnsworth Art Museum in our annual Stories of the Land and Its People project. Eighth graders, who have studied the Hero Journey archetype and written epic hero journeys of their own, are currently working on clear and concise essay writing. They are insightful and spirited readers, and they're about to embark on one of my all-time favorite novels, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Our ICS students are amazing; I'm having a blast with them all.

Mr. Rob McHugh – 7-12 Social Studies

Grades 7 and 8 U.S. History students, as part of their summative assignment for quarter 2, researched, produced and presented their "Founding Fathers" informational pamphlets on one of the many framers of the US Constitution. Research surrounded the figure's life, philosophy, and contributions to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Some contributors to the creation of the US Constitution, such as Alexander Hamilton, Edmund Randolph, James Madison and Benjamin Franklin were included in the presentations. Quarters 3 and 4 Middle School students will focus on the study of the political, social, cultural, economic and military developments in U.S. History from the Bill of Rights through the American Civil War and Reconstruction.

High School U.S. History recently finished their semester 1 study with the 1930s, Great Depression and New Deal. Throughout quarters 1 and 2, students studied American History from the Spanish-American War through the beginnings of WWII. Recently students worked on projects on some aspect of World War I. These projects included "Art and Music of World War I," "Technologies of WWI," "Propaganda and American Support of WWI," "Armenian Genocide" and "Women and the War Effort." Semester 2 U.S. History students will study the major developments in American History between WWII and the present, such as the 1950s, Cold War, Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam, 1970s and 1980s, 1990s and the 21st century.

World History students finished their study of the rise of Absolutist monarchies to close out Semester 1. Throughout this semester, World History students have studied the Middle Ages and Crusades, the Renaissance, Protestant Reformation and Counter-Reformation, European exploration and conquest of the Americas, and the rise of absolute monarchies and beginnings of the modern nation-state. Recent student projects on the Renaissance include studies of such figures as Albrecht Durer, Thomas More, Desiderius Erasmus, Pieter Bruegel, and Dante Alighieri to name just a few. Semester 2 World History students will study the Enlightenment, Age of Imperialism, Nationalism, and Global Interdependence.



Mr. Jon Kerr – 7-12 Science

It is hard to imagine that half of the school year has come to an end. The year began with the high school biology class and the middle school students participating in the sampling of plankton and measurements of a variety of physical properties of sea water aboard the sailing vessel Bonnie Lynn. The deck of the Bonnie Lynn provided a great work space to set up a lab station with microscopes, centrifuges and equipment needed for the students to carry out their investigations. We were successful in collecting and



Identifying plankton on the Bonnie Lynn

identifying a variety of planktonic organisms around the west bay of Islesboro. The students also looked for evidence of plastics at the microscopic level in the samples. Plastics in the marine ecosystem are becoming a real problem, especially when they are mistaken for food by many organisms. Owners Earl and Bonnie Mackenzie shared with the students personal accounts of the tremendous amounts of plastics they have seen in their travels aboard the Bonnie Lynn. A big thanks to Bonnie and Earl for providing this hands-on learning experience. We are excited to partner with them on future experiential learning projects.

Students in grades seven and eight participated in a



Planning a sustainable island

biodegradation decomposition project. For most of the first quarter we teamed up with horticulture instructor Ryan Martin in learning the art and science of composting. The students were involved in the design of several composting models. In November all of the students participated and presented their research at the Middle School Island Sustainability Conference held at the Strand Theater in Rockland. The conference hosted projects from several island schools and provided students the opportunity to work and share ideas about what it means to be a sustainable island. The keynote speaker was Islesboro's Shey Conover who gave a great introduction to the importance of sustainable thinking within island communities.

One of the challenges teaching "science" in small K-12 island school is how to meet the academic needs of students taking high school



ICS students presenting at conference

chemistry. The course is offered every other year and the dilemma has always been in the storage and use of chemicals in the lab part of the course. Traditional high school and college level chemistry courses often use and generate toxic chemicals within their lab procedures. Over the Summer I contacted Dr. Sally Henrie, a chemistry professor at Union University, Jackson, Tennessee who published a Green Chemistry Laboratory Manual for high school and college level students. She was very helpful and interested in sharing green chemistry resources and ideas that a small school like Islesboro could incorporate into the curriculum. Green chemistry is a pro-active approach to pollution prevention. It is the perfect approach for a small island high school. A green chemistry approach targets pollution at the design stage, before it even begins. So far the labs and investigations from this source are working out just fine.

Next semester, College of the Atlantic graduate student Sarah Kearsley will be completing her secondary science student teaching requirements here at ICS. Sarah completed her undergraduate degree in environmental science at the University of Vermont. She has an impressive background in experiential based education and is very excited about working with our island students.

Do you have an interest or area of expertise related to a science topic that you would like to share with our students? Students love to hear others talk about their experiences and interests. We recently had Jamie Jackson a biomedical engineering senior at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute talk to the high school students about his published nanoparticle research and current work with the U.S. Luge team in Lake Placid, New York. Please get in touch with me if you or someone you know would like to come in and talk with the students.

One of my goals is to replace and upgrade a lot of the outdated supplies and equipment used in our science program. Sometimes it is impossible to procure these materials on the budget allocated for the school year. Specifically, I would really like to see us upgrade and replace equipment in the areas of water quality and environmental testing. Donations and support are always greatly appreciated.

Mr. Ryan Martin – Horticulture

Over the past four years the Horticulture program has grown to become a statewide leader in agricultural education. Author Mary Quinn Doyle recently featured our program in her new book, *Unique Maine Farms*, highlighting our robust program as likely “One of the top Farm-to-School programs in the nation.” This is largely due to the relentless support of this school’s island community, in-house administration, and staff. Thank you.

Students are excited to engage with a rigorous, relevant, standards-aligned curriculum which is the only K-12 program in the state to provide a Master Gardener Certification, experience on a certified-organic farm, and an great opportunity for students to receive college credit for their efforts. Most importantly, the program’s impact extends far beyond that of the classroom, a force directly addressing island food insecurity by providing thousands of pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables annually to our school lunch program and community. This calendar year alone,



Heated nursery greenhouse

the program has received five separate federal and statewide grants (from such organizations as the Island Institute and Johnny’s Selected Seeds) appropriating well over \$55,000 dollars towards expanded facilities, equipment, and student summer employment.



New aquaponics equipment

Looking ahead to this spring, we’re excited to be opening our new nursery greenhouse to the public with the sale of seedlings, potted flowers, and garden supplies. More information and hours to come soon! Also, be sure to stop by the basement and check out our new aquaponics system. We’re anticipating to produce approximately 110 pounds of fish and 900-1440 heads of lettuce using the new system!

In the meantime, stay warm!

Madelle Kate Legere – French

K-1 has learned a number of finger-plays and songs in French, as well as primary colors and numbers to 10. They have just begun a unit on “Boucles-D’or Et Les Trois Ours” (Goldilocks and the Three Bears). Students in grades 2 through 5 are working hard learning to count

to 100 in French and will be learning to sing Canada’s national anthem, in French of course.

Students grades 6 through 12 have enjoyed receiving and writing letters to our pen pals, who live in Agen, France, which is in the southwest. Middle schoolers will be creating videos of our school and town to send next.

High schoolers have been reading a variety of French classics abridged for language learners, including *Les Trois Mousquetaires* and *Candide*. Additionally, in light of the Paris attacks and terrorism in general, we have held discussions in French on the topics of Libert , Egalit , Fraternit  (Freedom, Equality, Brotherhood). These words comprise the motto of the Fifth Republic of France and are values shared by the United States. Some very insightful discussions have ensued among the young adults of our school on this subject.

Lastly, back in October, the juniors and seniors who are enrolled in French enjoyed a wonderful weekend in Quebec City. The trip was a great success. Students heard and spoke French throughout the trip, learned some fascinating history, enjoyed traditional Quebecois cuisine and navigated the city independently. They showed great maturity, responsibility, curiosity and openness. It is my hope to make the Quebec weekend a yearly event for juniors and seniors. Joyeuse Ann e!



HS French students in Quebec

Mr. Patrick Powers – Physical Education

A lot has been going on in P.E. this past semester. Some key units were co-operative games, bowling/underhand rolling, and football. The gym itself has had some upgrades with the addition of a climbing rope, pull-up bar and pegboard climber. All of these have been integrated into the P.E. program to encourage fun and unique ways to improve physical fitness. Currently students are wrapping up a Floor Hockey unit which will culminate in tournament-style playoffs.



Upcoming in P.E. this winter are Circuit Training, Volleyball, Omnikin and Badminton.

Finley on the climbing rope

Mr. John Oldham – Music

All elementary and middle school music classes held great promise as the year began. Our first public assessment of that potential and collaborative energy was presented at the Winter Concert on December 11 with an afternoon performance.

Primary students took pride in their production (and costuming) of The Toyland Christmas Train. The Fourth and Fifth grade serenaded and rocked the house including colorful "boomwhacker" melody tubes for a Nutcracker march and an everlasting fruitcake.



K-3 performance in Winter Concert

Middle school students quickly grew into a cohesive and impressive ensemble with beautiful three part harmony, soloists and traditional, cultural, and novelty choral selections as well solid band music.

Full Chorus knocked it out of the park with seasonal favorites and a dazzlingly acapella rendition of White Winter Hymnal complete with hand jive. Full Band closed the concert with music from the classical, pop, and jazz genres.



Full chorus performing White Winter Hymnal during Winter Concert

Several elementary, middle, and high school students performed in the Community Chorus Christmas concert the following week. It was a real community of singing and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the program.

Autumn in the music department means time for district honors auditions. Islesboro did very well. Chase Sanders, Elliot Anderson, Sydney Sanders, and Megan Wick were accepted in the Maine Music Educators Association District III Seventh and Eighth Grade Honors Chorus. Their festival will be held at the Strom Theater in Camden April 8 and 9.

Alexander and Jacob Howell distinguished themselves with their acceptance in the District High School

Honors; Alexander on trumpet in band and Jacob, a bass in Chorus. Their festival will be held January 29 and 30 at the Orion Theater in Topsham.

At the sixth grade district level, Ada Potter was accepted in honors band and Emily Martell, Nicole Pendleton, and Kamren Start were accepted in honors chorus. Their festival is Friday, March 11 in Boothbay.

Now, as the new year has begun, after an all-school morning sing to celebrate Martin Luther King, preparations are well under way for festivals, Planet Pan Steel Drums on February 5, the Cabaret March 3, and the exchange concert March 24. All classes are working on new and seasonal music and upper elementary students will begin a course in "recorder karate." Spring can't be that far off.

There's a lot going on and much to look forward to so stay tuned!

Ms. Jess Woods – Guidance

I am so happy to be settling into my new role as the School Counselor at Islesboro Central School. What wonderful students we have here!

All of our seniors have completed their college applications process, and we have had students accepted to the following colleges and universities so far: UMaine, Simmons College, American International College, Goucher College, Clark University, St. Joseph's College, the University of Southern Maine, Plymouth State University, Johnson State University, Bloomsburg University, and UMaine Farmington.

Next month I will be working with tenth and eleventh grade students regarding their PSAT scores and SAT prep. Sophomores and Juniors and their parents are invited to attend a PSAT Information Night on Tuesday, February 9 from 5:15-6:45 p.m.

Over the next few months we will be continuing work with K-8 students around friendships, healthy relationships and good decision making.

I am always happy to meet with students and families, please feel free to contact me at jwoods@islesboro.k12.me or call me at 207-734-2251.



Seniors accepted to UMO

Mr. Colden Golan – Computer Science

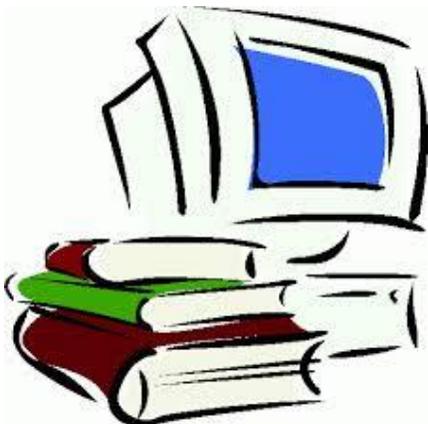
All students in grades 2 through 8, as well as some high school students, participated in Hour of Code Week in December. This is a national initiative to get every student in the country to do some type of computer programming during that week. All students who participated were able to work on coding activities that were specific to their grade level. It became clear that we have many budding computer scientists in our school. These types of activities are great for all students because they can be done anywhere that has internet access, and they promote an understanding of very complex principles to students of all ages. This week also allowed every student to physically create product on their own, so no matter the ability level, they were still able to officially program a computer. Something that most students found to be lots of fun and very inspiring.

Ms. Vicki Conover - Technology

Just in case you didn't hear all of the cheering or see all the smiling faces in grades 2 through 6 last week, the big news is that their new computers finally arrived!! There was a significant delay in the shipping of the new HP ProBooks but the students' admirable patience was finally rewarded with their first new laptops.

Up until this time, students in the lower grades always got the "hand-me-downs" from the upper grades which meant frequent glitches, failures and frustration. Now they have the same software bundle and network service as the older students on a machine that is a generation newer. These machines come to us through a 4-year contract with the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) - a program that started more than a decade ago with laptops for middle school students. We now have a common platform (hardware and software) for grades 2 through 12 which will make transitioning from one grade to another fairly seamless for students and staff alike.

If you are wondering about grades K and 1, don't worry. They are happily practicing their 3 R's on Samsung Galaxy Tab4's for education.



ICS Graduate Taking On Cyber Security!

Eric Armbrust, 2013 ICS graduate, writes from George Washington University that he was accepted to talk about his research at Shmoocon last week. For those of you who don't keep up with the cyber security world, according to their website, "ShmooCon is an annual east coast hacker convention hell-bent on offering three days of an interesting atmosphere for demonstrating technology exploitation, inventive software and hardware solutions, and open discussions of critical infosec issues." You can learn more about ShmooCon at Schmoocon.org. Eric tells me that since the presentation he has been contacted by Rapid7 (a security engineering company) and others involved in digital security who are interested in helping support his research.

Here is the abstract of the presentation from the ShmooCon program that explains the research that Eric is doing. This really is an interesting combination of disciplines.

"Making Milware: An Interdisciplinary Tryst" by Trey Herr and Eric Armbrust

How can political and computer science get together to make something beautiful? The pervasive development and deployment of malicious software by states presents a new challenge for the information security and policy communities because of the resource advantage and legal status of governments. The difference between state and non-state authored code is typically described in vague terms of sophistication, contributing to the inaccurate confirmation bias of many that states simply 'do it better.' This talk presents work to describe how state authored code is demonstrably different from that written by non-state actors. We examine a collection of malware samples which, through existing analytic techniques, have been attributed to a mix of state and non-state actors. Reviewing technical information available in the public domain for each sample, reverse-engineering a sub-set, we determine that there is a set of criteria by which state authored code can be differentiated from the conventional malware of non-state groups. We'll talk about our findings, the interdisciplinary magic that got us here, and what comes next.

Trey is a researcher with the Cyber Security Policy and Research Institute as well as a PhD Candidate in Political Science at GWU. He is also non-resident fellow at New America's Cybersecurity Initiative and works on malware, regulatory policy, and risk modeling.

Eric is a junior in Computer Science and International Affairs at GWU. He is also an amateur OS and exploit developer who began tinkering with assembly with the crazy idea that it would be 'fun.' At GWU he works on breaking things and putting them back together.

Ms. Lisa Freeman – Art

K/1 students are beginning their papier maché lesson based on the award-winning book, “The Rainbow Fish.” This book is about a beautiful fish who finds friendship and happiness when he learns to share. The book is best known for its morals about the value of being an individual and for the distinctive shiny foil scales of the Rainbow Fish.



Grades K/1 making papier maché



Olivia Britton, Pia Gibson, and Liefe Temple with their winning photographs

All ICS students in grade 7 through 12 were given the opportunity to submit their art and literary works to the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. I am proud to announce that three of our students were recognized for their digital photography pieces in the Scholastics Maine Regional Awards. Olivia and Pia’s winning pieces are currently on exhibition at Maine College of Art through February 13, 2016. The exhibit features about 85 pieces that received Silver and Gold Key recognition. Our students will be honored at a ceremony at the Maine College of Art on Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 1 p.m. The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards are presented by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. The Alliance is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Through the Awards, students receive opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarships. Students across America submitted 300,000 original works during the 2015 program year across 28 different categories of art and writing.

This fall all students were encouraged to submit art for the 2016 yearbook cover contest. This year Pia Gibson’s watercolor painting of our school will be featured on the yearbook cover.



Pia Gibson's winning artwork

Students in grades 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 are participating in the “Stories of the Land and It’s People” photography project at the Farnsworth Art Museum. This project is a yearlong arts integration initiative in midcoast public schools, in which students work with museum educators, professional artists, classroom teachers, art teachers, and community members to tell the story of their community through art. Ms. Jen’s class project focus is on watersheds, Ms. Kristen’s class project is based on the theme “Journeys”, and Ms. Betha’s class is photographing and studying Islesboro cemeteries. Their art will be on exhibit at the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland this spring. I will send out the detailed information for the opening as the date grows closer.

Ms. Melissa Olson – Library

The library continues to see a lot of activity, from kindergarten through 12th grade. K/1 is learning about parts of the book, 2/3 about the history of books, and 4/5 about the history of libraries. Middle and high schoolers have a beautiful, quiet place to study. The library also serves as a meeting place for several groups. And now there are *two* fireplaces in which students can read, study or relax.

In this digital age, books still play an important part in the school community. We encourage reading as much as possible, both at school and in the home. Books, Kindles, iPhones – however we access the words, reading is essential. But there is still nothing better than a good book.



What is Sustainability?

What does it look like at Islesboro Central School?
Come find out.

ICS Sustainability Night
Thursday, May 5
5 – 7 p.m.

School-wide projects and presentations throughout the building.

Island dinner by Jonny Erskine.

More information to follow.

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