

THE REAL SCHOOL

Winter 2018



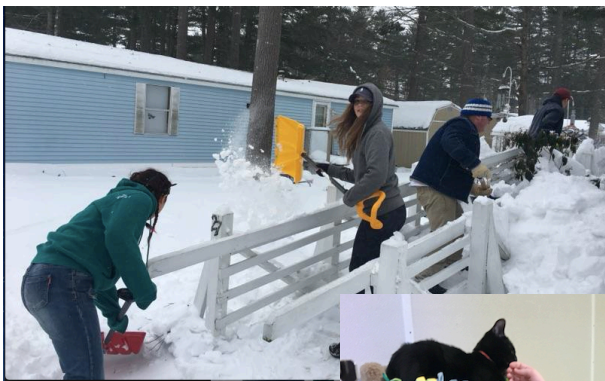
Our adventure-based special education school program serves students by offering specialized instruction and a supportive, therapeutic milieu throughout their school days. For over 30 years, the REAL School's philosophy and practice have provided highly individualized, strengths-based educational programming to illuminate, celebrate, and leverage the gifts in each of our students. We have a strong history of success in meeting the needs of a widely diverse student demographic.

17 Seahawk Avenue, Brunswick, Maine 04011

A Community of Learners Caring for the Community

This winter season has been especially harsh, with blizzards, ice storms, and freezing temperatures. At the REAL School, students and teachers are hardy!

We don't give up easily. We have been working hard to form a safe, nurturing community inside our school this past semester, while also helping our neighbors outside of our school building.



In this edition of our newsletter, you will learn about the ways that our students reach out to others in need. Our students are shoveling snow for older homebound adults, caring for abandoned animals, delivering food for hungry families, and spreading love and hope where they can.

We are especially proud of our students' courage, compassion, and creativity when they are serving others.



In this issue, you will find:

- ❖ Highlights from each of the four academic teams.
- ❖ Updates on recent collaborations with local agencies and other organizations.
- ❖ Current events and notable dates.

-Martin Mackey,
REAL Principal



Highlights on Service

Meals on Wheels

Every Tuesday, the REAL School sends out a caring crew of students who travel through the Yarmouth community to deliver meals to elderly homebound families. More than simply a food delivery service, students also give bright smiles, conversation, and hope to the families they serve. "You are so kind to give your time like this," one client tells them. "One day, you will be old and it will warm your heart to see young people who care." This is the fifth consecutive year that the REAL school has participated in meal deliveries and providing food security in the southern Maine region.

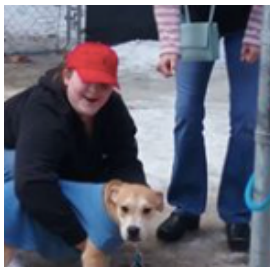
—By Claire Volk

Coastal Humane Society

Students will be offered the opportunity to serve animals through this local agency. So far, students have walked dogs, socialized cats, and visited with smaller pets. Our new partnership will allow students to get even more involved!

Midcoast Hunger Prevention

Please remember, we have a food pantry for anyone in our community that is in need for food. Please let us know if you know anyone that is in need of any assistance.



TEAM ORION

Quarter 2 came and went in the blink of an eye, but even with the snowy, gray days of winter, our academic topics are starting to add up.

In our "Adulting" class, we dove into an exploration of our personal political views and the reasons behind what we think/believe. We also discussed the requirements necessary to obtain a driver's license, previewed driving quiz questions, and figured out how to legally register a vehicle in the state of Maine. Many students have been busy job searching, researching colleges, and exploring military career options.

In Science class, we have been busy completing a health unit, exploring electricity and renewable energy sources, and creating 3d design challenges. In addition to all this, students have committed to personal science projects and demonstrations, including bath bomb fizziness, simple motor construction, particle decay in a cloud chamber, and demonstrations of centripetal force.

It should be an exciting second semester here at REAL!

--By Mike Davis

Authentic Learning: Milling Lumber

Working one on one, teachers and students identify areas of interest and create units of study that work towards students' credits. This year, one student is particularly interested in building a tiny house to live in after graduation. To this end, we focused on milling lumber. Our student was involved in every step of the process, from safely setting up the mill to adjusting the gas motor to studying defects in the log. Together, we turned a huge oak log that fell in the October windstorm into a large stack of useful lumber.

Troubleshooting the reason a sawmill is cutting unevenly or seeing boards jump off a mill due to the natural spring in the log provides authentic learning that cannot be matched in the classroom.

--By Evan Kumagae

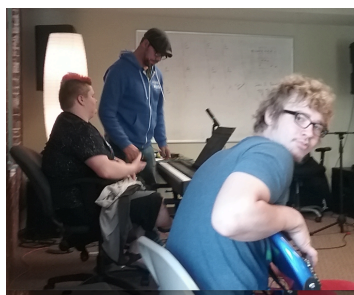


TEAM NEPTUNE

In addition to the academic classroom activities ongoing in the Neptune program (individual reading projects, current events updates, short story and script writing, etc.), we have also had some further out-of-the-box activities. We have regularly been running lateral thinking challenges in the classroom, as well as daily rounds of the critical thinking vocabulary game, "Contact."

Several students in the high school classrooms are working with Ted on music production, making electronic music in a variety of genres. We've been getting into the depths of music theory, electronic music history, synthesizer design, and modern production techniques used in pop music today, all while using professional electronic production hardware and software.

-By Ted Gill



ADVENTURE Highlight!



REAL School Ski and Snowboard Program



For the past several weeks, REAL School students have been invited to ski or snowboard at Shawnee Peak.

Our students have had the opportunity to take lessons with highly trained instructors and improve existing skills with support from our staff.

This program provides our students with a chance to challenge themselves, practice new skills, have fun, and get physical exercise in the outdoors during the winter months.

We are grateful to Shawnee Peak for partnering with us to make it possible! We will continue skiing and snowboarding for the next few weeks or as long as the snow conditions allow!

-By Page Nichols



Other exciting activities of this winter:

- Rock Climbing
- Mountain Biking
- Sledding
- Ice Skating

Academic Highlight: Boston Aquarium

In January, four students and two staff made their way to Boston and visited the New England Aquarium. This flagship center for education features exhibits teaching about the different marine and freshwater ecosystems of the world and emphasizes conservation. Highlights of the visit included "Bill Moray" the eel, an Imax film about Great White Sharks, petting live rays and skates, and penguins. We took in the big city sights walking along the waterfront and refueled at Fuddruckers before heading back to Vacationland.

--By Evan Kumagae

TEAM PEGASUS

Pegasus entered into many adventures in the second quarter of the 2017-2018 school year.

We are lucky to be learning about and visiting the rich historic sites of Brunswick, Maine. Additionally, students are enjoying tours of the town using Brunswick*Opoly as a tool.

We are discovering the wealth of opportunities on the former Brunswick Naval Air Station. Students have been invited to learn about flying aircraft, touring the world by air, and running our national defense system. A gracious thank you to the Brunswick Naval Museum and Vice President Jeff Smat, Flight Simulator Specialist.

Students have also been studying

different environmental cycles. Students experienced the rock cycle by working with a Skittles Lab and about the water cycle by travelling the world as a raindrop. We will continue this journey, learning about the carbon cycle.

With the completion of our goals, students have enjoyed visits to the Portland Children's Museum, Audubon Society, and Coastal Humane Society and have participated in fun and competitive bowling tournaments.

-By Sara Nichols



Athletic Highlight: Basketball

This year has brought us a wealth of opportunities to play basketball on the Landing. We have been using the Brunswick Parks and Rec and the YMCA on a daily basis to improve our skills and make connections with others in the area. We recently went head to head against a group of Marines! The opportunity to play a wide variety of folks has had a dramatic improvement on everyone's game. We are emphasizing sportsmanship and flexibility.

Our students have shined brightly.



-Martin Mackey

REAL School Club Highlight: REAL School Rock Band at Maine Academy of Modern Music

The MAMM group has made steady and melodic progress since the beginning of the 2017 school year. Students have participated in learning music history through discussions and critiques of instrumental pieces. MAMM has a huge selection of instruments and amazing teachers who are helping our students learn to play and read music. We are attempting to combine the creative genius and new skills to form a band. We hope to be able to have our first recital in the next few months. Together they have had to work as a team in celebrating their new skills. The students always look forward to their time at MAMM noting that the instructor makes it fun and keeps them interested in coming back to further improve upon their musical talents.

-By Melissa Gallison



Important Dates for Your Calendar

Spring Break:

No school during the week of
April 16-20

First Ever McDonald's Fundraiser!!

Stay tuned. Coming soon!

Graduation:

June 8, 2018

More details will be included in our
next edition.

**Parent Teacher Conferences
may be scheduled at any time.
Please contact your child's teacher.**



TEAM VENTURE

Venture has had a very exciting second quarter this year! In the classroom, students have been learning about Astronomy, where they created their own solar system that is currently hanging from the ceiling. Each student played a role in creating this wonderful project. In addition, students have been preparing for a visit to the Portland Science Center to see the Planet Shark exhibit. Students have been studying genetics and different animal adaptations to better understand sharks and how they are adapted to their many different environments.



Other students worked together to plan the First Annual Ice Fishing Day for REAL School. Two students drilled holes and set up ice traps at a local pond, so that they could educate other students (and some staff) about ice fishing. Unfortunately no fish were caught on that day, but since then, students have had a good deal of success catching and releasing brown trout! One student successfully videotaped a brown trout swimming under the ice on the REAL school GoPro camera.



Many students in Venture have been volunteering their time to help out in the REAL School kitchen, Meals on Wheels, grant proposals, teaching ice fishing, school and van cleaning, and the Coastal Humane Society. Students have also regularly visited the Brunswick Public Library, the Brunswick YMCA, Recreation Center, and the Brunswick Airfield.



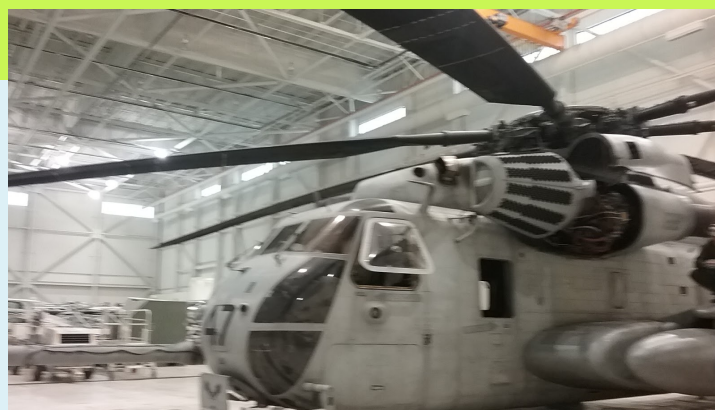
Community Highlight: The REAL School takes flight!

For much of the month of January, REAL School students and staff found themselves enthralled by visitors over at the neighboring airfield.

Upon some investigation, we learned that our temporary neighbors were crews from the HMH-464 heavy lift helicopter squadron from the 2nd Marine Air Wing in North Carolina. The nature of their trip related to spending time improving their flight capabilities in wintry conditions, using helicopters from the Sikorsky CH-53E or "Super Stallion" family. On Tuesday morning, January 30, REAL School students had the exciting opportunity to bundle up and venture over to the helicopters to meet with pilots and crewmembers.



Upon our arrival, crewmembers greeted students and were ready for any and all questions.



Students delivered with curiosity and insightfulness! Some of the questions asked included,
"How old are the helicopters?" (The Sikorsky CH-53E was built in the 1960's for the Vietnam War.)
"How much did the engine cost?" (Multi-millions!)
"How many Sikorsky CH-53E helicopters are left?" (Around 152 are still in operation.)

And many other questions! The crew took their time with each individual student, offering astonishingly detailed overviews of the helicopters.

Many students have a longstanding passion for all things flight and machinery, and they brought with them their extensive knowledge to share, as well. The combination of curiosity and cooperation on this day made for a rich experience, complete with deep interest for all, meaningful conversations, exploration, and inspiration.

--By Amanda Kierman

Sincere thanks to our REAL School supporters:

*The Sarang Church of Maine,
The Narragansett Number One Foundation,
The Alfred M. Senter Fund,
The Brunswick Community Education Fund,
Jimmy Nichols,
The Abrams Family Foundation,
and
Other generous, anonymous friends
of the REAL School*

*We couldn't get so far without you!
Thank you so much!*

