



Acadia Students "dig in" as they prepare to win the Tug of War for Winter Carnival. This mix of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders represented the team well!

Acadia Team Newsletter 3/1/2024

It's been a whirlwind week here on Acadia! Between our community book conversations, parent-teacher conferences, and writing essays, students and teachers have been working hard as the end of the trimester approaches. We ended the week with our school-wide winter carnival celebration.

Needs on-team:

- Tissues
 - Parent Chaperones & Drivers for April 8
- Who can transport students.



On the Horizon:

- 3/7 Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:00-7:00 pm
- 3/15 Now a full Student Day
- 3/21 Information Night, 6:00 pm, MS Gym (baseball/softball/track)
- 4/1 Practices Begin (all teams will meet after school)
- 5/8 Now a full student day

Homework club:

Meets "most" Tuesdays & Wednesdays 2:30 - 4:00. After a quick movement break between school and homework club and provided snacks, staff-supported quiet homework time is offered for all interested middle-level students. Space is limited and students must have permission to attend. Contact a team teacher for more information.

Food and Clothing Banks: Did you know that MCMS offers our school community food and clothing through the Maranacook Community Food Bank and Vicky's Boutique? Donations of funds as well as material items are welcome. Please reach out to one of our team teachers for more information on how to access or support these programs.

Mr Radcliff accepts defeat at the hands of Connor Labrie and Josh Herzing during winter carnival.

Did you know? MCMS is recognized by the Association for Middle Level Educators as being a "model for everyone else to follow"? Mrs. Roesner was recently doing research into best practices to support our school community and found this information. She hadn't heard that yet and suspected that our community might not be aware either. (See the forward to *This We Believe In Action: Implementing Successful Middle Level Schools* (2012).) How cool is that?

The Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE), formerly National Middle School Association (NMSA), would like to especially thank students, parents, teachers, and administrators from the eight schools featured in the DVD that accompanies this book. Being identified as models for everyone else is a large task, but one that these schools handle well.

- » Central Middle School, Kansas City, Missouri
- » Chapel Hill Middle School, Douglasville, Georgia
- » Jefferson Middle School, Champaign, Illinois
- » Maranacook Community Middle School, Readfield, Maine
- » Scuola Vita Nuova, Kansas City, Missouri
- » Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Chicago, Illinois
- » Warsaw Middle School, Pittsfield, Maine
- » William Thomas Middle School, American Falls, Idaho



Brinna and Zack prepare for epic Tug of War competition.



John celebrates the Team Acadia Tug of War win.



Mr. Radcliff gets some air as he takes a shot (and misses).

**In our classes:
20th Century Change & Challenge:**



Rosey! What is her foot on?

With the US in the war huge changes happen. The Depression is over. Millions are in the military and millions more go to work producing guns, ships, food, and other materials of war. Women who had been kept out of the workplace are now wanted. Rosie the Riveter becomes the model

of the American woman. Japanese-Americans are feared as spies and targets of hate. They are forced into internment camps. It was not until 1988 that President Reagan acknowledged how that action did not live up to American law and ideals.

20 Century Conflict:



Pearl Harbor is attacked without warning! And the US goes from isolationism to full war footing. Germany attacks the USSR and almost takes Moscow. We are looking at the thinking behind the actions. Students are surprised to hear that the US only declared war on Japan. Germany declared war on the US, the nation that turned the tide in WWI, even when they had not yet defeated the Soviets. Germany thought Britain would accept a peace deal with Germany, Japan did not realize the US would not agree to a deal after the attract. It seems odd but also captures the feeling of superiority that Fascist had.

The Last of Human Freedoms: This week our study of Man's Search for Meaning and Night culminated in the Community Conversation. This



book-club-style event brought together about 20 community members and 60 students to talk about how these books impact our thinking about history and our futures. Students developed the book club questions and facilitated the



discussions. (Mrs. Roesner is so very proud of them!) Mr. Rick Wilson, member of the Maranacook Education Foundation Board wrote this

about the experience, "The students showed tremendous insight into their learnings from the readings and led the groups in very hard discussions about the books. Many of the adults reported that we had never been given reading assignments when we were in school about the Holocaust and expressed great admiration for our school



district for presenting this opportunity for our kids." Thank you to the Maranacook Education Foundation for this opportunity to connect our community and our school in learning from one another.

Never Fail to Protest: Students should have passed in their final drafts of their essays this week. (Several students are missing theirs,

so checking in with your student may be a good idea.) Next week, students will be presenting their work to their peers in 10-15 minute segments. As part of the preparation for this task, students have learned about a very simple lesson plan format helping them to identify their presentation objectives, format, materials, and activities.

Students also had a writing prompt about their experiences with the Community Conversation in *The Last of Human Freedoms*. Here's some of what they had to say:

I enjoy talking to them because they have lots of knowledge and past experiences that are interesting to hear about.

I really liked our discussion there was a lot of talking not just about these books but also about what happened and could it happen again.

I was thankful for them coming to see what we learned about and one person in my group didn't read the books but they still came and was curious to what we had to say about the books.

Elders have seen our world differently, in different times, different places, and a different perspective. They see things differently than us, therefore it is important to also listen to what they have to say as well as other students.

I would like to do it again. In the Zoom meeting, I liked how everyone was talking about the hard stuff in the book.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR SHARING ALL OF YOUR STORIES AND EVERYTHING.

Thank you for coming in and talking with us about the books thank you for taking your time to talk with us for a hour

I would say that i'm grateful that they came and getting their insight on a topic like this because you know really their perspectives can be the same as the kids or maybe different, it's pretty interesting.

I learned more about the book after talking about it with them.

...the world seems to be incapable of learning from catastrophe. This is untrue. The world learns, slowly.