



MAINE CENTRAL INSTITUTE
Pittsfield, Maine

HIGHLIGHTS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & FRIENDS

SPRING 1997

A Message from the Head of School

It's hard to believe that another year is winding down at Maine Central Institute. Another group of youngsters, who only four short years ago seemed like little tiny freshmen, will be marching down the aisle to receive their diplomas.




We are very excited about the achievements and accomplishments of our school as a whole during the past year, but more specifically the achievements of the individuals who are a part of our institution. This entire edition of Highlights is dedicated to a review of the successes which have been so important to us this year, as well as our plans for next year. We have been fortunate to have had wonderful support and participation by many parents this year. The endless hours that they have donated for the betterment of their sons' and daughters' education is infinite. Our third annual auction for music and athletics, held on April 12, which raised just over \$11,000. This, coupled with generous contributions from the ski boosters, music boosters and football boosters make it possible for Maine Central Institute to continue to offer the kind of extra-curricular programs that we want for our students. From a "dollars and cents" standpoint, we have raised in excess of \$15,000 to support music and athletics this year. This is a wonderful commitment on the part of parents who support their youngsters so sincerely here at MCI. It also makes it possible to commit more of our tuition dollars directly into our first priority, the academic program.

We are also very excited about the achievements of our student body. The year has been dedicated to the diversity and integration of our global population. The year began, as many may recall, with the Camp Kieve experience right on the front campus, followed by Diversity Week and a number of activities sponsored by the Student Council throughout the year. We are fortunate to have wonderful student leaders who are willing to take the lead and make many of these activities a great success.

The fine arts program has also had a banner year. For those of you who

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have an opportunity to visit the Rowe Hall Dining Room, you will see a wonderful mural that has been put on display. This was completed by our Art II/III students, all doing a great job and contributing to its success. I hope everyone can take a minute at some point to see the work of these talented students.

In the area of theater, we were fortunate that Deb Susi joined us as our director. From that point forward we have had great success, not only in the one-act play festivals but in our own productions here on campus.

To round out the fine arts program, Dean Neal has continued to demonstrate outstanding leadership in the music program. Once again, the Vocal Jazz Ensemble did a wonderful job at the State Jazz Festival, as did the Instrumental Jazz Group.

Thanks to the work of all these people, fine arts has truly come to the front at Maine Central Institute.

In the classroom, we have continued to experience great success. With our newly developed program of integrated math and integrated science just completing its first year, we have been able to provide a far more rigorous program to all students involved. Through generous gifts from the community, we have given more students access to technology and have established a weather observatory.

Only a short year ago, we were hopeful that the development of our Learning Center would draw more students that we could serve effectively. In September, we started with three students; now the Personalized Learning Center is serving a total of 12, with a good balance of both day and residential students participating. Deb Rozeboom, our director, has done an extraordinary job in building the program from its infancy. It is sure to become a mainstay here on our campus.

Before we know it, September will be here and we will be starting another school year. Our administrative team and faculty are already planning for what we hope will be an even better year next year.

It is our hope that during the summer months you will feel free to call or stop by if you have any questions or concerns. During the first two weeks in July, the staff in Weymouth Hall will be on vacation, but during the rest of the summer our offices will be open and awaiting the opportunity to assist you.

A gigantic thank you is due to everyone who has helped make 1996-1997 a wonderful year at MCI. We are fortunate to have a very strong and supportive school community at Maine Central Institute.

**MCI is now On-Line - check out
our new home page:**

<http://www.mci.mint.net>

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council Day

by Tanya Kingsbury

On March 10, the MCI Student Council sponsored and led a morning of activities. The activities ranged from charades to story telling to King Frog (an interactive and fast paced game of symbols and memory).

The idea started when several Student Council members returned from a leadership conference held at Bates College in November. At that conference, groups from participating schools were asked to discuss how various groups within the student body worked together or perhaps didn't work together. The MCI group quickly focused on the unique opportunities offered by our diversity and the fact that many students never have a real chance to interact with others.

When the discussion, which began at the Bates conference, continued in the Student Council, there was much enthusiasm and support for organizing a day whose purpose would be to give students and teachers the chance to simply get to know and work with someone who might not be part of their usual circle of friends or classmates. The Council then devoted a great deal of time and energy to many tasks: choosing activities, writing

instructions, organizing groups, planning and buying supplies and snacks, even holding an activities "rehearsal" night.

On the March 10, Council members and a volunteer student "buddy" met their teacher and group. The Council member and buddy led and explained all activities. As I visited groups during the morning, I saw and heard a great deal that led me to believe that the goal was being met. We were having fun too! That afternoon in classes and the following day, the comments from students and teachers were almost all favorable.

Sophomore Melissa Small commented that "she didn't think she'd like it but in fact she did a lot." Junior Andrea Kane, a Student Council member said, "I got to know kids I'd never known before." "My assigned teacher was great, really into it," was the comment from Freshman Colby Higgins.

It was a busy and worthwhile day and the Student Council deserves a "thank you" and a "job well done."



Everyone loves the game of "captain's calling".



Working together - the main focus of the student council day

Working in a small group in a game of charades



Communication - another important part of the day

DRAMA

MCI Drama Team Soars with "Wings"

by Deb Susi



Abbey Ross and Jason Cummings as the mother and father bird experience their son, Nate Raleigh, leaving the "nest".



Abby Fendler and Nate Raleigh as parents in the "nest" with their baby, Liz Anthony.



The group in a powerful scene of "Wings".

On March 7-8, 1997, the MCI drama team won the North Central Regional Division II Drama Festival hosted by Ellsworth High School's Theater of Mad Jesters. The festival, co-sponsored by the Maine Principals' Association and the Maine Drama Council, was one of eight regionals held throughout the state at various school sites. The win allowed MCI to advance to the State Division II Festival held at Hermon High School on March 21-22, 1997.

The ensemble play entitled, "Wings", is a story that combines gender issues with how society repeats patterns of the past. Actors portraying a flock of birds move through a variety of scenes representing various young people growing up, going through school and finally graduating. The show ends with a repeat of the opening scene depicting a mother, father and baby bird. This time, however, the baby has grown and become a father, continuing the cycle anew.

The cast won an ensemble award at the regionals and a choreography awards at the state competition. Cast members named to the All-Festival Cast were Jason Cummings, Karen Brown, Nathan Raleigh and Jared Rollins. Nathan Raleigh was also named to the All-State Festival Cast. Twenty-one students performed in the show in addition to the production and lighting staff.

LEADERSHIP

MCI Students Attend Leadership Conference at Camp Kieve

by Tanya Kingsbury

***"... an investment in
our youth is an
investment in our
future."***

On March 11-13, 1997, eight MCI students and I attended a leadership experience at Camp Kieve in Nobleboro, Maine. These students, already in leadership roles at school, were chosen for their potential to bring together the skills they have and those they would learn in the three days at Kieve in order to implement positive change. The participants included: freshman, Ethan Ross; sophomores, Nikki Cianchette, Nathan Cota, Abbey Ross and Matt York; juniors, Hannah Andrews, Melissa Caldwell and Paul Collins.

Our students worked with others from Carrabec High School, Wiscasset High School and Leavitt Area High School. These three days were filled with activities focused on developing leadership qualities such as goal-setting, communication skills, problem solving and decision making. Each activity concluded with observations on the process used to successfully meet the goal. Also, the students identified a specific need and then designed a project to meet that need. Our group of MCI students has chosen an ambitious project about which you will hear much more in the near future. They have set dates for future meetings and made a timeline for their project. The groups from the four schools are scheduled to meet again in the fall to review processes and update each other on their project implementation.

They were very busy, fun, empowering and productive days. It is often said that an investment in our youth is an investment in our future. The investment is well made in these eight young leaders. Their enthusiasm, caring and personal strengths leave me feeling that our future is in very good hands.



***(l-r) Nathan Cota, Paul
Collins, Nikki Cianchette,
Abbey Ross, Hannah
Andrews, Melissa Caldwell,
Matt York, Ethan Ross***

THE SCHOOL YEAR



Camp Kieve in August for us to get to know one another



Parent/Teacher Conferences during Homecoming Weekend



Girls Soccer during Homecoming Weekend



Some of our future students enjoy sliding down the hill



Jazz Band performing at Homecoming



Taka Watanabe (center) sings a Japanese rock song along with Nate Raleigh (left) and Kunihiro Kyono (right).



It's another day of learning

YEAR IN REVIEW



Hiro Hirano makes a move to the basket



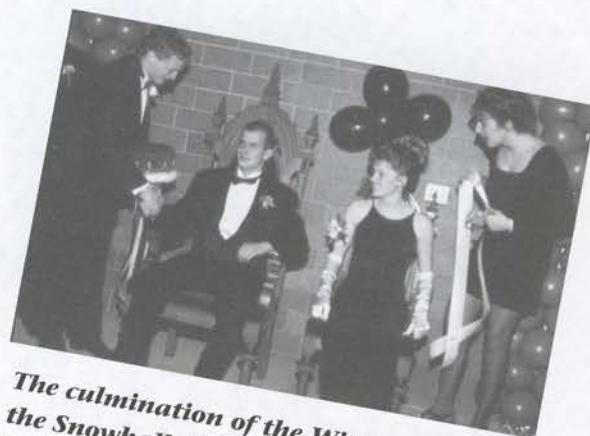
The cheerleaders showing their routines



Kristyn Graham takes a shot



The junior boys are trying their best at Winter Carnival 1997



The culmination of the Winter Carnival - the Snowball. The 1996 king, Adam Lambert, and queen, Jodi Cummings pass their reign to the 1997 winter carnival king, Aric Friend, and queen, Candy Connors

AUCTION

MCI Third Annual Auction A Great Success

Everyone enjoys the carnival games



On Saturday, April 12, 1997, MCI held its third annual dinner auction to support music and athletics. The theme this year was "Share the Dream - Circus for Our Stars". The Wright Gymnasium was transformed into a carnival and circus setting in a matter of hours. The Jazz Band and Vocal Jazz Ensemble performed, and everyone had

the opportunity to play a few carnival games and take a throw at someone in the dunk tank. We also honored Iva Cregnole as honorary chair of the event in recognition of her many years of dedication to MCI.

Following dinner, Pam Brooks again served as auctioneer for the event. We raised just over \$11,000 in support of music and athletic programs here at MCI. Without the support of many parents, community members and local businesses, this event would have not have been a success.

Again, a big thank you to those who served on the Auction Committee including: David and Tracie Fortin; Doug and Lori Cummings; Craig and Sherry Littlefield; and Mike Fendler and Mindy Loveitt, and to those other volunteers who gave endless hours and energy to help support the students at MCI.

Shawn Bragman winds up for a throw to put Dean of Students Arnold Shorey down in the dunk tank.



Head of School Doug Cummings, presents honorary chair, Iva Cregnole with her gifts.



The Jazz Band showed their talents especially with the help of Music Director Dean Neal, on the trumpet.



The Vocal Jazz Ensemble sang to perfection. They proved they are true winners.



Auctioneer Pam Brooks, doing what she does best.



CONGRATULATIONS

Alycia Kerr Receives Maine Principal's Award

***"... throughout
Alycia's tenure at
MCI, she has
distinguished herself
academically, on the
playing field and as
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community."***

On Saturday, April 5, 1997, senior Alycia Kerr and Head of School Doug Cummings attended the Maine Principal's Award Honors Luncheon. The award, sponsored by the Maine Principals' Association, is given in recognition of a high school senior's academic achievement and citizenship. The Honors Luncheon recognizes these outstanding students with the presentation of an individual plaque. Also, the \$1000 McGowan Scholarship is given by the MPA in honor of the Association's past executive director and will be presented by Mr. McGowan.

Doug Cummings indicated that throughout Alycia's tenure at MCI, she has distinguished herself academically, on the playing field and as a leader at school and in the community. She very much deserves this recognition.

The Principal's Award was presented in more than 130 Maine public and private high schools by member principals of the MPA, the professional association which represents Maine's school administrators.

Congratulations to Alycia!



***Head of School
Doug Cummings,
congratulates
Alycia Kerr on her
award.***



GUIDANCE SERVICES

Guidance Services to Undergo Extensive Reorganization

by Doug Cummings

"... the current guidance office will become known as 'The Office for Academic and Career Support'".

On behalf of the school's guidance personnel and administrative team, I would like to announce that an extensive study of the current structure of guidance services has been completed, resulting in the development of a reorganized format.

After thorough analysis, it has become clear that guidance offices are structured, not only at MCI, but at most public schools in Maine, for two purposes. The first and most traditional obligation in the area of guidance services is that of academic advising and career and college placement. A second major obligation, which has continued to expand as years have passed, is that of social counseling and the support services required to insure the health and well-being of all students enrolled at a school.

Research indicates that each of these major responsibilities entails approximately 50 percent of the time committed to guidance services. In many cases, personal wellness and personal counseling and support of the student becomes a more urgent requirement on a day-to-day basis. Sometimes, this results in the important requirement of academic advising and career counseling taking an unwarranted second priority. The planning team, which included Director of Studies Rosalie Williams, Associate Head of School Julia Treadwell, Dean of Students Arnold Shorey, and all guidance personnel including: Counselors Jane McMorro and Betsy Hunt; Registrar Debra Billings; and Administrative Assistant, Jo-Ellen Judkins determined that both services—personal counseling and academic advising and career placement—could be more effectively provided if the functions were totally separate. Even though there is a tremendous need for communication in regard to both components of student counseling, the total group ascertained that a more effective job could be done with all students if the tasks were separated.

Consequently, beginning in the fall, the current guidance office will become known as "The Office for Academic and Career Support". The office will be headed by Director of Studies Rosalie Williams. From that office, curriculum development, faculty support, academic advising, and career and college placement will take place. A new position, advisor for academic and career counseling, has been created. This will also include the management of all student records, including transcripts.

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GUIDANCE SERVICES

"I hope that excellent communication among all parties involved will serve all students at Maine Central Institute far more effectively than they have been served in the past."

In addition to Mrs. Williams being housed in that space, Registrar Debra Billings will remain there. This space will also house the administrative assistants to support both the academic and career counseling component as well as the requirements of the director of studies' office. This reorganization pertaining to academic advising and career placement will place all aspects of academic life under the umbrella of the director of studies. I have tremendous faith in Rosalie Williams and the expectation that an individual can be hired over the summer to bring great expertise to the area of academic advising and career counseling.

The function of personal counseling will be moved to Weymouth Hall and will be housed in what is thought of as the "main office". The personal counselor will work in conjunction with Dean of Students Arnold Shorey, Associate Head of School Julia Treadwell, and the school nurse, Deb McKay. This office has total responsibility for student accountability, student support and wellness, and personal counseling.

I hope that excellent communication among all parties involved will serve all students at Maine Central Institute far more effectively than they have been served in the past. In essence, the concept of a guidance office will be eliminated and a new paradigm created, which places all academic and career components of a youngster's education in one area and all personal, health and wellness components in a separate area. I am highly optimistic that the model suggested is well-tried, used extensively at most independent schools, and has typically been viewed as highly effective, efficient and productive. A tremendous amount of research on the part of all parties was done prior to this decision. I appreciate the thoroughness and thoughtfulness of everyone involved.



HIGHLIGHTS

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

End of the Year Dates

Tuesday, June 3	Drama Production	7:00 p.m.	Parks Gymnasium
Wednesday, June 4	Drama Production	7:00 p.m.	Parks Gymnasium
Thursday, June 5	Spring Athletic Awards	7:00 p.m.	Wright Gymnasium
Friday, June 6	Senior Chapel	1:00 p.m.	Wright Gymnasium
Sunday, June 8	Baccalaureate	9:00 a.m.	Wright Gymnasium
	Graduation	2:00 p.m.	Front Campus
Tuesday, June 10	8th Grade Move-up Day	12:30 p.m.	Wright Gymnasium
	Undergraduate Academic Awards	7:00 p.m.	Wright Gymnasium
Wednesday, June 11	Awards Assembly	10:08 a.m.	Wright Gymnasium
Thursday, June 12	8th Grade Parent Night	7:00 p.m.	Wright Gymnasium
Friday, June 13	Finals Begin	8:30 a.m.	Classrooms
Monday, June 16	Finals Continue	All Day	Classrooms
Tuesday, June 17	Finals End	2:30 p.m.	Classrooms