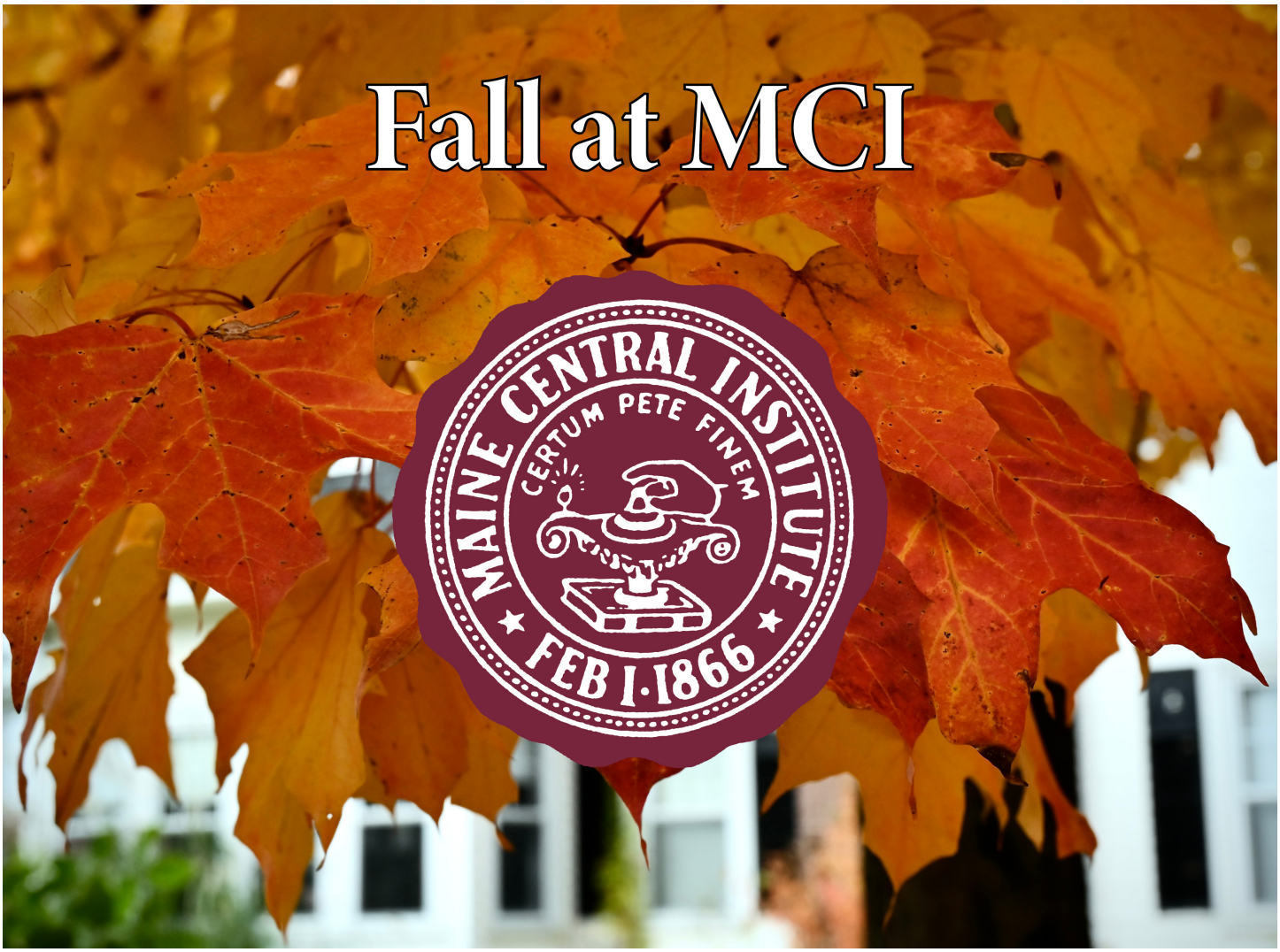
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Greetings from MCI Residential Life!

We have had a very eventful and memorable fall season thus far here at MCI from the opening of school, to homecoming, to the holiday season, and much much more. It is truly shaping up to be one of our finest school years here at MCI. Normally I would give a summary of all that is happening here on campus, but know that you would much rather hear from the students themselves and hear of their experiences first hand.

Please enjoy the Residential Life's Fall Newsletter and what our students are saying and experiencing here at MCI.

Hope you had a wonderful and safe holiday season!!!

With much gratitude,
John Dean, Dean of Student Life

Opening of School

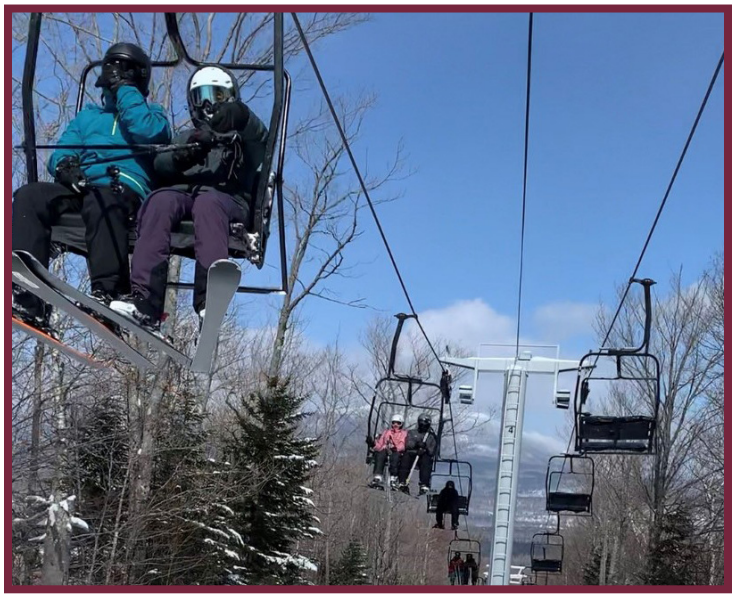
by Jane Mautz ’25 - United States



The dorm community at MCI truly had an excellent start to the school year this year. The bonds that were created between the dorm community during the first few weeks of school are those that will be cherished for the rest of the students’ lives. The weeks leading to the beginning of school were filled with team building exercises, ice breakers, trips to popular Maine sites, and so much more! Here are just a few activities I would like to highlight.

The prefects had an incredible time during our annual trip to Camp Fair Haven. This camp truly is an experience that cannot be compared to any other, and the experiences/activities at Camp Fair Haven will ensure a comfortable atmosphere for the coming school year. We spent the day doing team builder exercises, some between the whole group and some within smaller groups. This trip stood out from the trips prior because I felt that all the prefects broke out of their shell and became a team with one another. We all got to see a side of each other that we haven’t before. The day was truly one of the highlights of my year and I’m sure many of my peers can say the same, it was filled with laughter between the Prefects and Mr. Dean.

SOLI Week is a crucial program at MCI in order to get to know the newly enrolled students. The adults work incredibly hard to provide and plan the week out for the new students, ensuring that they’re as comfortable and adjusted as they could be to this new environment. SOLI Week is packed with activities allowing the students to open up to each and get to know the town. One of my favorite activities, as well as many others, was the scavenger hunt around campus and town. This is one of my favorite activities because you are able to soak up the last bit of sun before school and show the town to the new students. SOLI Week is a busy and crazy week, however it’s an experience I wish everyone had. Overall the beginning of this school year went very well, I cannot wait to see what the rest of the year brings to the MCI community!



Weekend Activities

by Minhyeok Kim ’24 - South Korea

Living at MCI has been a whole new experience for me, a student all the way from South Korea. What really stands out are the weekends. The weekend activities are the best time to bond with friends from all over the world. The movie trips are a simple yet great way for us to hang out. It’s nice to watch recently released movies with friends all over the world and with some popcorn. It’s about sharing those fun moments, discussing our favorite parts afterward, and just enjoying being together.

Our restaurant outings are another highlight. We love trying out different cuisines, turning each meal into a mini adventure that introduces us to various food cultures. These gatherings are relaxed, filled with laughter and stories, creating a perfect environment for us to bond. It’s not just about tasting new dishes, but also about understanding each other’s backgrounds and sharing parts of our lives. It’s a delightful way to deepen friendships and make memorable experiences.

Among all these activities, my favorite activity has to be the ski trips. There’s something uniquely thrilling about skiing in Maine’s beautiful landscapes. It’s fantastic to share this with friends who have different levels of experience with snow and skiing. Whether we’re beginners or pro skiers, we’re all out there together, helping each other, and having a great time. These activities aren’t just ways to pass the time; they’re how we create lasting memories and friendships, bridging our cultural differences with shared experiences and a lot of fun.



Homecoming

by Hein Nanda Kyaw ’24 - Myanmar

It’s that time of the year again. Each class is excited for what’s coming next and wins with hope. It’s homecoming weekend. The weekend where EVERYTHING happens on campus. Everyone comes back to cheer on our sport teams and each class to cheer on their own.

The weekend where everything happens. All sports teams are playing on campus. Yes, all! Soccer, field hockey, football, golf, cheering and cross country. The cross country team, which I am a part of, held our first home meet, running against Showhegan and Lawrance. The course took place across the whole campus, touring the front campus and the athletic fields. A lot of wins were made during the 2023 Homecoming!

There is, of course, MCI’s famous class competitions where the seniors class of 2024 sweeped the homecoming parade and class competitions. I am part of the senior class where the theme was based upon 24k Gold. Competition such as bat spin, human chair, water bucket and balloon pop gives the students more fun and an escape from their classroom environments. It also gives each class an opportunity to bond with each other and of course, WIN.

All of the homecoming weekend comes down to one activity. The homecoming dance! The night where everyone looks forward to. To dance their feet off to the point where they are sore the next morning. Parks Gym has been decorated beautifully by MCI’s Student Council since afternoon, for the students this is a night to remember. Everyone dresses up while hitting the dance floor with all the moves. Homecoming dance was the highlight of the weekend!

Halloween and Thanksgiving

by Mehmet Baran ’24 - Turkey

Halloween this year was truly a delight. Opting for a Mario costume, I, along with friends, dressed as characters from Super Smash Bros for the Halloween sit-down dinner for residential students. The cafeteria was in a Halloween theme, adding to the spooky atmosphere with Halloween-inspired food. After dinner, we had games where people compete to win candy. The dinner ended with prizes, and my friend and I were surprised to win the “Best in Character Costume” award. To top it off, we went trick-or-treating in Pittsfield, scoring some candy from Mr. Ben at Kwong Lee and from our English teacher, Mr. Buys.

Choosing to celebrate Thanksgiving on campus, my dorm friends and I had an enjoyable week filled with activities like badminton tournaments, card game and pizza nights, as well as movie and shopping trips to European and Asian markets in nearby towns. The highlight of Thanksgiving for me was the traditional Thanksgiving Day lunch because the food is my favorite. I was surprised to see the majority of the Pittsfield community gathered for a feast in the cafeteria. Although I understood why after my first plate, the food was so delicious that I lost count after three, eventually only having the energy to climb onto my bed and take a long afternoon nap.

Even though I don’t celebrate these holidays back home, Halloween and Thanksgiving at MCI are my favorites. The way we all come together as a community makes me feel right at home, like I belong. Whether it’s dressing up and getting treats on Halloween or having a big feast for Thanksgiving, it’s the feeling of togetherness that I really love. MCI has a special way of celebrating that makes me forget I’m far from home, and it’s these moments that I look forward to every year. We become one big family, and that’s what makes these holidays so special for me.





Winter Holiday and BBT's Nutcracker

By Seine Chin '25 - United States

The spirit of the holidays is unmistakably present within the small town of Pittsfield, Maine. The campus of Maine Central Institute, now covered in glittering snow and holiday decorations, encapsulates the sense of joy and festivity that this time of year avails. In our last school meeting of 2023, students and faculty were visited by the famous Santa Claus, who brought us his gifts and cheerful spirit. Thanks to the efforts of the Student Council, members of our community were treated with hot cocoa and cookies at the annual Stu-co social. Students came dressed in their favorite ugly sweaters, and prizes were handed out to the winners. As for the residential community, all members were brought together at our holiday sit-down to enjoy a festive family-style meal. Santa once again made an appearance, where he quizzed us on our knowledge of holiday traditions, and determined whether students were on the naughty or nice list.

The holiday season means one thing for the members of Bossov Ballet Theatre at MCI; The Nutcracker. After months of extensive rehearsals, the infamous production is brought together just in time for winter break. As a member of BBT myself, there is something so surreal about the process of putting on this iconic ballet. For the weeks leading up to the performance, ballet consumes most of my day, with rehearsals ranging from early in the morning to late at night. The process is always challenging, both mentally and especially physically, however it is without a doubt the most rewarding feeling to get to perform on stage and show the audience what we have worked so hard for. The feedback that we have received is that the Nutcracker performance this year was absolutely fantastic and all who attended had an amazing experience, which makes being part of the performance all that much more rewarding.

Happy Holidays from MCI!!!

