

# Vinalhaven School Newsletter

Feb. 23- March 31



Dear Families,

While this time of year brings some understandable fatigue for both students and staff, it has been encouraging to see the continued hard work, dedication, and care shown each day in our classrooms. As we welcome the long-awaited arrival of spring, there is a renewed sense of energy across our school community. Spring is a reminder of the progress we have made together and the shared commitment to supporting our students as we move toward the end of the school year.

## Teaching & Learning Updates

Our staff continues important work to strengthen instruction across all grade levels. With the support of our curriculum consultant, Middle and High School teachers are aligning curriculum with the **Maine Learning Results Standards** and performance indicators to ensure clear expectations and consistency for students.

At the elementary level, our Literacy/Math Consultant has been working closely with teachers to improve literacy instruction by using student data to guide flexible groupings and targeted support. Teachers are also helping students set individual math goals to encourage growth and ownership of learning.

Professional learning continues to support this work:

- Elementary teachers attended the **Atomim Math Conference** in Augusta on March 24, focusing on mathematical learning for all students. Sessions highlighted mathematical reasoning, leadership, and strategies for differentiation, equity, and inclusion.
- Elementary teachers will attend the **IXL Math Conference in Portland on April 8**, where they will learn ways to maximize IXL to support student growth, assessment preparation, and classroom instruction.

These learning opportunities directly support the instructional practices being implemented in our classrooms.

## Student Learning Beyond the Classroom

Students across multiple grade levels recently participated in exciting experiential learning opportunities.

### 7th Grade – Maine State House Visit

Seventh-grade students traveled to Augusta to tour the Maine State House and legislative chambers, gaining a firsthand look at how state government works and strengthening connections to their civics studies.



## Grades 9–10 – Boston Legacy Trip

Freshmen and sophomores explored Boston through experiences focused on history, culture, and science:

- Massachusetts State House tour
- Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum
- New England Aquarium
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
- Walking the Freedom Trail and historic neighborhoods



Boston Aquarium



Fenway Park



Boston Tea Party



Massachusetts State House

## Grades 11–12 – Washington, D.C. Legacy Trip

Our juniors and seniors traveled to Washington, D.C. for an unforgettable learning experience that included:

- The U.S. Capitol
  - United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
  - National Archives and founding documents
  - Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum
  - Ford's Theatre and National Portrait Gallery
  - Smithsonian National Zoo
  - Cherry Blossoms at the Tidal Basin
- For some students, this was their first time flying, making the trip especially memorable. Students returned sharing how meaningful and impactful the experience was.



Our Nations Capital in DC



Hard Rock Cafe in DC

# Upcoming Events

- **April 2** – Spring Music Showcase, 5:00 PM
- **April 3** – Quarter 3 Ends
- **April 9** – Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4:00–7:00 PM
- **April 10** – Parent Conferences, 12:30–2:45 PM
- **April 10** – Early Release Day
- **April 10** – Grades 6–12 Assembly, 9:35 AM
- **April 10** – Grades K–5 Assembly, 11:00 AM
- **April 14** – K–12 Art Show, 5:00–6:30 PM
- **April 16** – Mr. Drew Performance (K–8)
- **April 20–24** – Spring Vacation
- **April 30** – Northern Skies Planetarium Visit

# Spring Athletics

## Home Games – April 16 vs. Vinalhaven

- Girls Softball – 11:00 AM
- Boys Baseball – 1:00 PM

## Away Games – April 28 at Wiscasset

- Girls Softball – 11:00 AM Wiscasset & 12:30 PM Forest Hills
- Boys Baseball – 11:00 AM Wiscasset & 12:30 PM Forest Hills

Come out and support our student-athletes!

# Looking Ahead

As we enter the final stretch of the school year, we remain grateful for the partnership between families, staff, and students. The continued support from our community plays an important role in helping our students succeed both academically and personally.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school.

Jon Millett  
Principal