

February State-Wide Teleconference
March 2, 2023 at 7pm

In Attendance

Suzzuk Huntington - Superintendent

Miranda Bacha - Academic Principal

Alex Weissberg - Residential Dean of Students

Rachel Sorokin - Behavior and Mental Health Coordinator

Chohla Moll - Cultural Integration Coordinator

Kristen Homer - Nurse Practitioner/Clinic Manager

Rosie Palof (taking minutes) - Home to School Coordinator

Alex Weissberg

Welcomed everyone to the Teleconference and introduced the staff who were present.

Kristen Homer

We have been busy, as always, seeing students.

1. We have luckily not seen much infectious disease.
2. I am looking ahead to the fall, and want to give students a heads up.

Sports Physicals: The fall is always a busy time in Student Health and we generally have lots of students needing sports physicals in order to participate in fall sports. Physicals are good for 18 months. If your child is participating in a fall sport and they haven't had a sports physical in the last 12 months, you could encourage them to stop by Student Health to schedule one this spring. (We can look up the date of their last physical if they are not certain.) They will then be ready for sports when they arrive in August. Give us a call, or have your student stop by to set up an appointment.

3. Parents of seniors: As your student figures out what they want to do next year, if there are immunization requirements for their next program, they can come get those at Student Health. If you want to make sure your senior is up to date on immunizations prior to graduation, please have them stop by Student Health to check on their status. We are happy to work with students to get them ready for college and other secondary programs. You are also welcome to give us a call at (907) 966-3624.
4. As always, I am available for any questions or concerns that you have about your child's health or services that they have received through SEARHC or Student Health. My direct line is (907) 966-5205.

No questions

Chohla Moll

We have had a slew of amazing things happening since our last teleconference.

1. We had Founders' Week Remembrance Activities including the Gathering of Cultures which was an evening of performances from all our cultural dance groups. It was super fun to see some of our dance groups perform for the first time this year. Our Unangan and Sugpiaq performed for the first time, and then we had Iñupiaq/ St. Lawrence Island, Athabaskan/Dene', and Yup'ik dance groups performed as well. We also had a local Lingit dance group filling the gym floor.

Shout out to Mr. Weissberg for setting up live feed for families to get to see that. We are hoping to include families in that way again in the future. The students were excited about that happening.

2. The next night we had a keynote address from our own Yeidikook'áa Dionne Brady. She is an alumni and teacher here at Mount Edgecumbe. She did a great job of speaking to our student body. Then we had a NYO demonstration by our State NYO team, to get enthusiasm for NYO in the spring. It was also a chance to celebrate two students who went to the Arctic Winter Games this year and won gold and silver.
3. We also had, as a part of Founders' Week, a variety of Artist Workshops including: beading on felt earrings, an introduction NW Coast Formline design and carving, and last week, sea otter headband sewing.
4. This week we got up at 7:30am to take 16 students to our local elementary school. Sixteen Mount Edgecumbe cultural leaders from the NYO team and dance groups represented their hometowns and cultures by teaching fourth graders all about themselves and their ancestors. It was so cool to walk the halls and hear all the drums. I was so proud and told them that they weren't just teaching the fourth graders, but also all the teachers in those rooms, and that is a lot of power. We got lots of wonderful feedback from teachers and students. We are hoping to make it a regular thing.
5. This weekend the dance groups are going to do some halftime performances. This is a new thing that we are testing out at the 1A Region Basketball Tournament. Four dance groups are signed up.
6. Coming up this spring we have been asked by the Pioneer Home to have our dance groups come in and perform for elders. Students are signing up to do that in March. I was asking our Unangan Dance group if they wanted to perform at the Pioneer Home, and one student said, "Of course Ms. Moll. That's one of our cultural values: respecting our elders." That was one of my very favorite quotes from the week. I am very excited.

7. And then we have another couple of Artist Workshops coming up. We have artists teaching our students fish skin sewing and how to make Yup'ik headdresses.

No questions

Mr. Weissberg commented that the bulk of the credit for the live feed for the Gathering of Cultures should go to Mr. Friske.

Rachel Sorokin

There has been a lot of activity going on.

I am the Wellness Coordinator and I work with a team that consists of 2 other members plus members on the academic campus.

1. We are still doing a lot of the same things. We are here to support students and to be a safe place that they can come to and talk to us if they have any needs, or they need some support while they are here at school. A lot of what we do is helping them adjust to dorm life, if they are having relationship issues, or needing help with their peers or roommates.
2. We have been offering a lot of support with stress. The second trimester just finished, so we were helping students with that final push to get past their finals.
3. We also offer some programs for substance abuse support as well.
4. There is one more trimester to go, and we are really trying to connect our students with some of the recreation activities, getting the students active, on a schedule, and getting involved on campus. We think that is an important part of them handling their stress and feeling safe and connected to the campus.

It is a real honor to work with the students that we have and we feel very appreciative of the opportunity.

No questions

Mr. Weissberg added that based on student feedback that there are very few places to go and be alone or quiet, the recreation crew is working on setting up a sensory space for students to go to.

Miranda Bacha

1. Trimester 3 began on Monday and seniors are getting really excited as we move closer to graduation.

2. Our ground school was featured on the radio. The Aviation Ground Course is the first step toward becoming a licensed private pilot. I believe we have the only high school program in the state.
3. We have 6 students enrolled in the Certified Nursing Assistant program this semester at UAS which is great as these students will be able to be certified and begin work after graduating in May.
4. 13 students went to state for DDF (Drama, Debate, and Forensics).
 - a. Hayden Raasch came in 3rd place for Extemporaneous Domestic Speech.
 - b. Cash Arrington came in 2nd place for Extemporaneous Foreign Speech.
 - c. Cash Arrington and Ethan Mercurieff came in 2nd place in Public Forum Debate
 - d. Mt. Edgecumbe Braves came in 2nd place in the Division 2 Debate Sweepstakes.
 - e. The Mt. Edgecumbe Braves also won the Academic Award!
5. We had more students participate in Battle of the Books than years past. We had 20 students participate in Battle of the Books. We went to the state on Feb 27th and Mt. Edgecumbe came in 4th place.
6. Educator Rising is a community-based movement that provides “Grow your own Programming” through the Educator’s Rising Curriculum and Student Activities. Mr. Nestor took 4 students to State. The 4 students were Kaya Kent, Ally Martin, Nizhonii Wood, and Jonah Ivonoff-Gray.

All 4 students placed at State. Kaya Kent and Ally Martin placed 4th for making Pre-K children’s book, and Nizhonii Wood placed 4th in the Lesson Planning category. Jonah Ivonoff-Gray earned 1st place in the state in the JV Creative Lecture category. Jonah was awarded a trip to Nationals in Orlando, Florida which is pretty exciting!

There are many students doing great job here at Mount Edgecumbe and we are very proud of them.

No questions

Alex Weissberg

1. MEHS has been a busy place these last few weeks with basketball ramping up. We are currently getting to host the Region V 1A basketball tournament. We have teams from Angoon, Hoonah, Gustavus, Klawock, Skagway, Yakutat, Kake, and Hydaburg competing here right now.

Concessions are up and running and students are going down to watch games. It is neat to see the gymnasium full.

2. Although we are not competing in that tournament, we are also playing basketball right now. MEHS just finished playing Redington High School and I'm happy to report that both boys and girls brought home wins for both nights.
3. Recently I've been getting to work more often with Ms. Trish and the UCC.

Ms. Trish runs the Recreation Department and has begun the Healthy Braves Challenge. Students can earn points for every activity that they sign up for and participate in. The students who earn the most points will be able to go on a whale watching cruise in April. They accrue points by participating in recreation activities.

She has been working closely with the Wellness Team, and doing a great job getting students out and about and out of the dorms.

4. Additionally the UCC is planning for a few new events to take place this year.

They are putting together a triathlon for MEHS staff and students on April 15th in an effort to encourage healthy habits. As an incentive, UCC decided to offer gift certificates as prizes. Students who participate will also earn several points for the Healthy Braves Challenge. Students decided that participants must have a team.

The UCC is also putting together a Saturday Garage Sale tentatively on April 29th. Sitkans love garage sales and MEHS students often have a lot of things that they don't want to bring home. For that reason, UCC is going to offer students the chance to buy a table to set up a space to sell any clothes or items that they don't want anymore. If they don't make a profit, then they will get their money back. Concessions will also be available to people coming in for the garage sale. The profits will go towards UCC who can then use the money to purchase things they think will improve upper campus life.

Tracy Dupee via email read by Mr. Weissberg

1. Room changes

We just completed a round of room changes and will provide a final opportunity to change rooms sometime mid March.

2. Prom is just around the corner. It comes up fast.

We offered an opportunity for students to get tux measurements. We are running out of time for that if they want to order a tux. Order SOON. Students are more than welcome to seek out Ms. Dupee for information on ordering tuxedos

Unfortunately, the Prom Prince/Princess Program is not offering assistance with discounted tuxedo rentals, but we can assist you with measurements and ordering.

Mercedes Phillips will be in the culture room Sunday from 5pm-6pm to assist with tuxedo measurements.

Alaska Airlines will be back this year with the Prom Prince/Princess Program offering free prom dresses and volunteers the day of prom to assist with hair, makeup, and other preparations.

We also have a dress store (free to anyone interested).

Below is a link to Men's Wearhouse to assist you in the ordering process.

<https://tuxedo.menswearhouse.com/howToRent.do>

Questions?

When is Prom?

Mrs. Bacha - April 8th

Mr. Weissberg

Thank you and good night.