



Peak News

OCTOBER 2022

We are so proud to be a part of the Biddeford-Saco community, supporting youth here since 2001. Part of the reason our community and our organization work so well together is that our smaller sizes invite very deep, very real partnerships. This edition of "Peak News" will focus on just some of those powerful partnerships, working together on behalf of area youth. If you know a school or organization that might like to partner with Apex, please share this newsletter or ask them to contact me at director@apexyouthconnection.org.

Thank you for your support in making this work possible -- Happy Fall!

Melissa Cilley, Executive Director

A very special partnership



Congratulations to William Bald and Beth Pizzo, winners of the Fishing Across Maine raffle!

Thank you to all who contributed to this incredible effort. Truc brought nearly \$37,000 to Apex in support of area youth. Amazing -- of course, since it is part of his legacy! Thank you.

You can still contribute to Fishing Across Maine! [CLICK HERE](#)

Pride in partnership

Apex receives Pillars of Pride Award

On October 1, Biddeford Education Foundation recognized Apex as the first organization to receive their Pillars of Pride Award. We were honored to receive it, and very honored to be joined by long-time Biddeford school counselor, Denise D'Entremont, who also received the Award. Thank you to BEF/BSD for the recognition, and for your partnership that allows us to do the work!



Here's how Apex partnership looks on the ground...

Welcoming BMS students in support

Apex staff, Maxine Darling, MSW, has a designated office and office hours at BMS where she is available to engage with students who may be in need of a little extra support. Students are often referred by BMS staff, which can be helpful to our school partners as they are stretched very thin. Is this type of community/school partnership effective? Very! As she headed back to class after a recent visit, one 5th-grader shared with Maxine, "Thank you for talking to me. I feel so much better now!"



School day learning -- in the community!

Did you know that Apex contracts with Biddeford Schools and other districts to provide an alternative to classroom learning? Career exploration, job readiness, life skills development, social skills development, self-discovery and social emotional learning are all curriculum areas that are delivered effectively by Apex in the community. In this photo, BHS Functional Life Skills program explores the outdoors on a nature scavenger hunt!

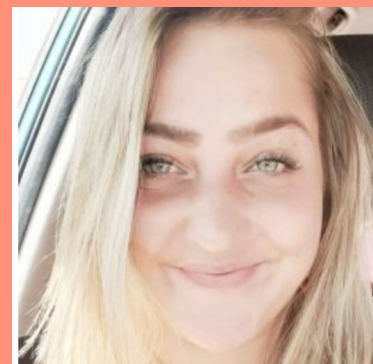


21st Century FUN!

Apex is partnering with the Boys & Girls Club of Southern Maine to offer a 21st Century Learning Community Center at BMS. The program is offered every afternoon, with a mix of academic support and enrichment. Transportation is provided by the school, and there is no cost for the [Click here for more information, or to enroll your child in the program.](#)

One of our favorites collaborations

A unique collaboration with Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center allows Apex to have Dannielle Gladu on staff with us every afternoon, while she remains dedicated to Seeds of Hope in the mornings. Dannielle is one of the staff that runs the 21st Century program at BMS and she is doing a great job! Thanks to Dannielle and to Seeds of Hope for this wonderful arrangement.



Watch for this growing partnership

Long Creek Youth Development Center and Department of Corrections (Juveniles)

Beginning November 1st, Apex staff will be working with A.R. Gould School students housed at Long Creek on a student-driven entrepreneurial development learning model. Dave Munger, Apex Job Readiness Program Manager and a graduate of University of Pennsylvania's Education Entrepreneurship Master's program, will be the lead provider. We are so excited to get started!



Want to help keep these partnerships and other Apex programs running??? [CLICK HERE!](#)



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