

# Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 11

January 27, 2023



*"Williams-Cone School is a safe and kind community that inspires every student to succeed."*

*-Compassionate, Curious, Confident Learners-*



## Hello WCS Community!



Pictured above are WCS students, staff, family, friends and community members at the outdoor Family Night held at Foreside Park, Topsham on January 25th.

We are excited to announce that as of this week, WCS is tied for first place in the WinterKids Winter Games Competition! Thanks to the creativity of our school team and the cooperation of some second grade students, WCS won the bonus point by creating an "Outside Nutrition Meme" (see photo below). The announcement was made earlier this week on WMTW News Channel 8. We are so proud!





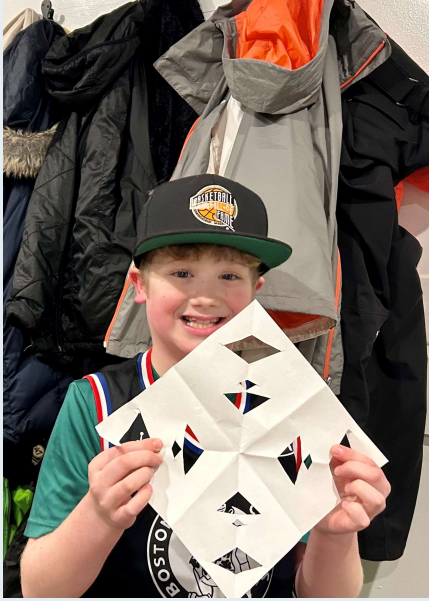
Week #3, "Family Engagement" began with a school cancellation that brought a foot of snow to our school community as well as two hour delay later in the week. While we had to scramble a bit to get all of this week's WinterKids Winter Games activities completed, these seeming "setbacks" ended up being true blessings. We had lots of snow for our Family Night and some additional rest time following the Family Night's busy activities!

### **Outdoor Bingo**

Throughout the week the students and staff have engaged in a variety of daily activities including the Moving Monday Activity: "Outdoor Bingo Game". For the Outdoor Bingo Game, classrooms chose Bingo activities from the WinterKids Bingo Board to complete in school. These activities ranged from making snow angels, building a snow person, writing a Haiku in the Winter Games journal to making or filling a bird feeder. A copy of the bingo card was sent home for students to complete with families. Students who brought their completed Bingo cards back to school were awarded a bonus WinterKids PAW.









### **WinterKids Pedometer Activities**

Students had lots of fun using their WinterKids pedometers to count their steps when completing the outdoor "Jump Up Scrunch Down" activity for this week.





Throughout the week students, teaching and non-teaching staff including our counseling team, school secretaries, and transportation team have enthusiastically supported the many activities taking place around our school. These activities have ranged from supporting the Family Night to participating in the many WinterKids activities taking place throughout the school day.





### **Special Visitors**

Wildcard Wednesday activities this week included a variety of outdoor activities and games ranging from classroom hikes on the neighboring trails to bonus recess time. A special Wild Card Wednesday treat for students included a school wide assembly. The assembly, "Animal Tracks" was presented by staff from the neighboring Cathance River Education Alliance. Students learned about Maine winter animal tracking through movement, videos and animal replicas.





## Family Night

A highlight of this week was the Family Engagement Night at Foreside Field. The event, sponsored by Friends of Williams-Cone was a magnificent success and featured sledding and tubing on the infamous "Foreside Hill." FOWC treated participants to cocoa and hot apple

cider. Baked treats, donated by community members were in abundance and students and families also had the opportunity to participate in a winter scavenger hunt (prizes included!) and a photo booth.











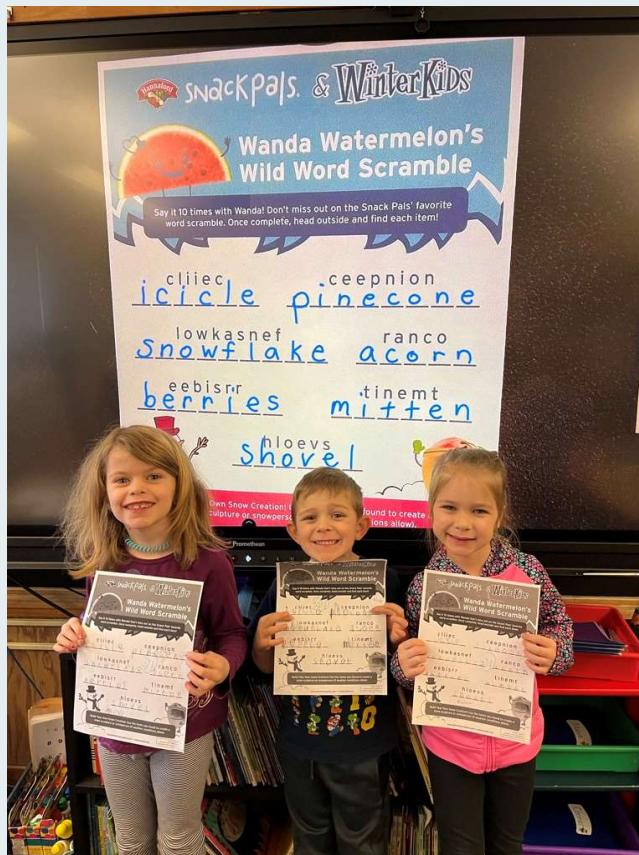
Some special community visitors joined in the fun including the Topsham Police Department and members of the Mount Ararat High School PALS club. A highlight of the evening was a visit from the Williams-Cone School Tiger and Mount Ararat High School Eagle. During the visit the two mascots engaged in a tubing race down Foreside Hill with the MTA Eagle winning!





### Snack Pals Badge Activities And More....

Students completed the "Wild Word Scramble" for the "Snack Pals Badge Activity of the Week" and also created a variety of outdoor "Handshake Alternatives."









All classrooms logged into the WinterKids App, giving every student the opportunity to view the WinterKids App and complete the Winter Games Rubric Challenge. The WinterKids App is available free of charge (a \$40 value!) to all WCS families. If you are interested, please ask your student's teacher for the special code.\*

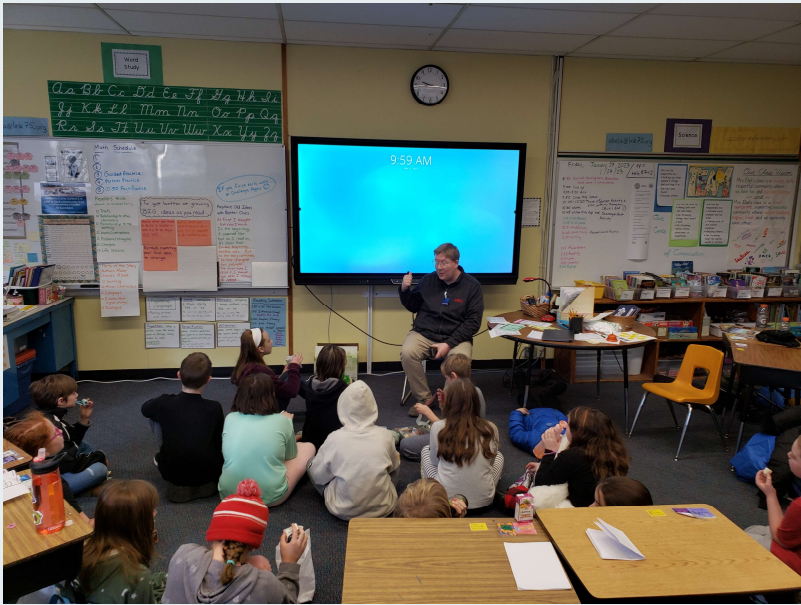


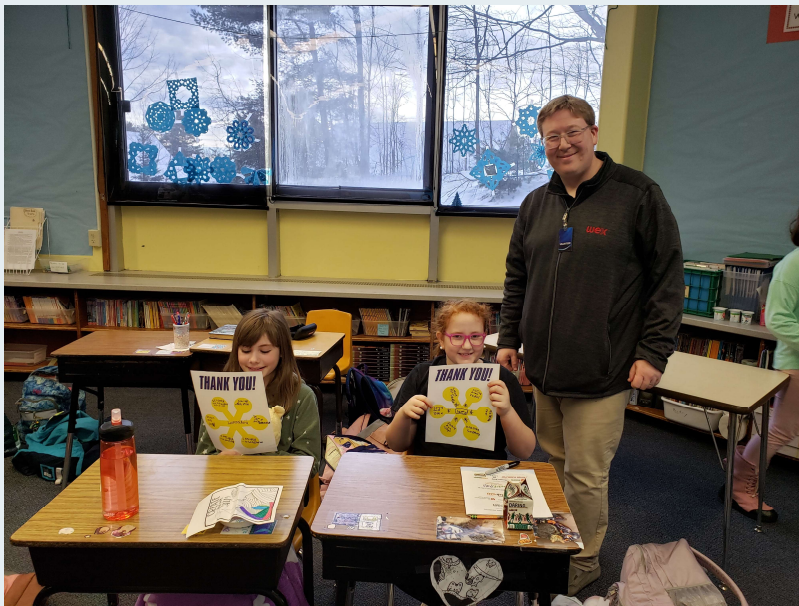
Students have also completed this week's journal assignments as well as the CMP photo of the week activity featuring leaf themed art creations with support from Mrs. Redd, WCS art teacher.





The week has concluded with the Friendship Friday activity- "Thank a Sponsor Snowflake" , thanking the many WinterKids Winter Game sponsors including Central Maine Power, Wex, Subway, Hannaford and LLBean. We were also able to showcase our school by inviting Mr. Kevin Thompson to attend a Winter Games activity in our fourth grade class. Mr. Thompson who works for the Winter Games Sponsors, Wex, was thanked by students for Wex's sponsorship of the WinterKids Winter Games events.





We also had the opportunity to showcase our school and thank a Winter Games Sponsor from LLBean earlier in the week. Mr. Matthew Siegel attended and supported the event on behalf of LLBean.



It has been a fabulous week for WCS competing in the WinterKids Winter Games! We are excited to be tied for first place in the WinterKids Winter Games challenge and we are ready to head into our final week, **Week #4-Winter Carnival!**

#### **Week #4-Winter Carnival**

The theme for **Week #4** is **Winter Carnival**. These are the school wide events that will be taking place January 30th through February 2nd:

**Monday, January 30th:** Moving Monday: Mini Disc Golf

**Tuesday, January 31st:** Wild Mask (Create for the Closing Parade & Ceremony)

**Wednesday, February 1st:** Wild Card Wednesday- outdoor activities chosen by classrooms, Classroom Snack Pals Activities, Natural Resource Activity

**Thursday, February 2nd:** Snowball Cairns, Winter Carnival, Closing Parade & Ceremony

*\*Parents/Caregivers and community members are invited to join us for the Closing Parade & Ceremony on Thursday, February 2nd at 1:30 P.M. More details will be emailed to families on Monday, January 30th.*

If you would like to keep track of our school's progress in the competition, tune into WMTW Channel 8 with Meteorologist Sarah Long on Tuesdays between 4:00-4:30 P.M. and 6:00-6:30 P.M. to see the "Moment of the Week" winner or log onto WMTW.org. Additionally, you can check out the competition's progress on the leaderboard at WinterKids.org on Wednesdays to see how our school is doing.

While the majority of the activities will be completed at school, there are weekly opportunities for families to complete a variety of activities at home. This includes the "Snack Pals" activity presented by Hannaford and the CMP photo contest (see picture below). Students and families are **not** required to complete these activities at home but it is strongly encouraged to do so.

**WEEK 1**

Snack Pals Stamp Here

**WEEK 2**

**WEEK 3**

**WEEK 4**

**WEEK 4: GOING FURTHER:  
SILLY SNACK PALS SNOWFLAKES**

To start now, scan here:

Complete the weekly activity to work towards earning your Snack Pals Winter Games Badge and unlock secret coloring pages!

**Proud of your work?** Try sharing a photo to the Snack Pals art gallery (<https://hannafor snackpals.com/art-and-poem-gallery/>) for all to see.

**ENTER THE CMP PHOTO CONTEST!**

Share a photo of your Winter Games **WILD** outdoor art project with Central Maine Power and you will be entered to win \$500 for your school!

1. Create an outdoor art project using the week's "Secret **WILD** Ingredient!"
2. To enter, scan the QR code and attach your photo to the email. Be sure to include your name, your school's name, and your town. Photos must be submitted by midnight Friday each week to be eligible for that week's drawing.
3. Head over to Central Maine Power's Facebook page to view an album of all the photos.
4. One winner will be **RANDOMLY** selected each week.
5. CMP will announce the winner on their Facebook page and will notify the winner by email.

SCAN ME!

This week's secret **WILD** ingredient is **DRIVEWAY ART!**

30

We also have a special WCS WinterKids Winter Games website that is being updated frequently.

It is available at:

<https://sites.google.com/link75.org/wcswinterkidgames/home>

You will find more highlights, photos and details on the website.

If you have any questions and/or needs, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Your Principal,

Randa

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

[rineerr@link75.org](mailto:rineerr@link75.org)

(207)725-4391





We have **LOTS** of things to be thankful for as a school community:

*gratitude*

\*Parent/Caregiver Volunteers for the 4th Grade Hike on Wild Wednesday! (See photo above)

\*We won the Nutrition Meme Contest and are tied for first place in the WinterKids Winter Games Contest!

\*A FABULOUS Family Night sponsored by the FOWC at Foreside Park. From the cookies, cocoa to the scavenger hunt, photos, etc. It was simply AMAZING!!!! Thank-you!!!!

\*The Mount Ararat PALS club led by Mrs. Julie St. Pierre.

\*The WCS Tiger!

\*The MTA Eagle!

\*Annie Martin, WCS Phys. Ed. Teacher for continuing to coordinating, creating, designing and facilitating amazing games, activities and opportunities for the WinterKids Winter Games

\*Pam Young and Randy Munsey-snow day clean up days!!!

\*WCS Staff-their cooperation, support, organization, planning and time extended to the WinterKids Winter Games along with everything else that they are doing.

\*Mrs. Bellina-the WCS WinterKids Winter Games website and lots of technical support!

\*Kate Greeley-video and technical support

\*Topsham Police Department-their continued support of the WinterKids Winter Games

\*Mr. Siegel-LLBean Representative at the Family Night for "Thank A Sponsor"/Showcasing Our School

\*Mr. Thompson-WEX Representative for "Thank A Sponsor" Friendship Friday/Showcasing Our School

\*Mrs. Anderson -press releases and communications

\*Mrs. Sanders-keeping all of us organized!

\*Our school wide guest speakers from Cathance River Education Alliance (CREA)

\*Mrs. San Pedro-Securing the guest speakers from CREA

\*WinterKids Pedometers for K-5 students

\*Mrs. Redd-leading art activities for the CMP contest

\*Ms. Marsters, Mrs. Greenleaf, Mrs. San Pedro, Ms. Hetherington, Ms. King, Ms. Hayes & Mrs. Dubreuil-lesson plan support, SnackPals support, communications, etc.

\*The TREMENDOUS donations for the food and winter clothing drives!!

\*Baked goods, treats, cocoa, hot cider donated for the Family Night.

\*WCS student Addison Rogers-created the Family Night Video with help from her mom, Heather Rogers (stay tuned!)

\*Kristina Slocum- The donation of winter themed PAWS prizes!

**From Friends of Williams-Cone:**

\*Thank you to our whole Family Night volunteer crew! It was a spectacular event with an amazing turnout.

\*Shout out to Meredith, our PTO Treasurer who has been writing checks, managing deposits, logging transactions from all our various activities, and creating monthly reports - January has kept her hopping!

\*We truly appreciate your participation in our Fudge Sale, not only are we raising funds for our school in a creative way, we are supporting a locally owned and operated small business right here in Topsham. Thank you again Jenn C for handling all the forms and tracking.

\*Many thanks to office staff - Mrs. Sanders & Mrs. Anderson, there has been a TON of coordination needed between volunteers, donation drop-offs, printing needs, event information with our WinterKids activities, and our everyday school needs. They are always here to help us problem solve, help answer questions, or guide us in the right direction. We would be lost without you!

\*Your donations for the Food Drive last week were AMAZING! MSAD 75 has blown us away with engagement in this drive. Many thanks to Kristina, Heather, Megan, & our WING collaborator Catie Meier. We are looking forward to getting these items delivered to WING! We would like to add a special mention to Courtney Stackhouse (an MSAD 75 family) who was inspired by our drive and was responsible for a huge donation to this Food Drive that reached \$500 in value. Simply amazing what communities can pull together and accomplish!

\*Thank you Heather & Addison for your fantastic work putting together our WinterKids Reel from this week's Family Night event.

\*Thank you MTA for allowing us to use your laundry facilities as we start washing all the amazing clothing donations.



## Important Dates



1/9-2/3 WinterKids Winter Games Competition

1/9-1/20 K-2 NWEA Assessment Window

1/9-2/3 3-5 NWEA Assessment Window

**1/30-2/2 WinterKids Winter Games Week #4: Winter Carnival**

1/29 Wild Oats 5th Grade Fundraiser, Brunswick, 8:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

1/30 5th Grade Fundraiser Meeting, 5:30 P.M.

1/31 Variety Show Rehearsal, 3:30-5:30 P.M.

2/2 WinterKids Closing Ceremony, 1:30 P.M.

**2/3 In-Service Day, No School for Students**

2/6 MIYHS Survey, Grade 5 Only

2/7 Variety Show Rehearsal, 3:30-5:30 P.M.

2/7 Playground Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M., LC

2/10. FOWC Movie Night, 5:00 P.M.

2/13 5th Grade Fundraiser, Gelato Fiasco Brunswick, 3:30-8:00 P.M.

2/14 Variety Show Rehearsal, 3:30-5:30 P.M.

2/16 FOWC Meeting, 5:30 P.M.

**2/20-2/24 Winter Break 2**

3/1 Variety Show Daytime School Performance

3/2 Variety Show Evening Performance, 6:30 P.M.

3/10 FOWC Movie Night, 5:00 P.M.

3/16. Early Dismissal, 10:45 A.M. PreK, 12:10 P.M., K-5

3/17 No School, Compensation Day for Staff



Get caught up on the latest news from Williams-Cone School's PTO group

January is fading away with some spectacular fireworks, simply having the opportunity this year to be together as a community has been nothing short of amazing. Thank you for bearing with us as we have tossed events and fundraising in your direction. Your support means everything and it has been phenomenal to see what we can accomplish together. Please help us close out January 2024 by supporting the 5th Grade Class this Sunday at Wild Oats.

## Join us for the Upcoming FOWC Meetings & Events:

- \*5th Grade Wild Oats Fundraiser - 1/29/23 from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Wild Oats Bakery
- \*5th Grade Fundraising Parent Group Meeting - 1/30/23 at 5:30 PM in the Learning Commons
- \*Playground Committee Meeting - 2/7/23 at 5:30 PM in the Learning Commons
- \*Fudge Pick-up - 2/9/23 from 3:30-6:30 in the WCS Lobby, or home with your student on 2/10/23
- \*5th Grade Gelato Fundraiser - 2/13/23 at Gelato Fiasco, Brunswick
- \*FOWC Meeting - 2/16/23 at 5:30 PM in the Learning Commons
- \*Please see Mrs. Rineer's master event calendar for all WinterKids events





**Reminder! WILD OATS Tiger cupcake 5th-grade fundraiser this SUNDAY 8a-3p. **\*\*GET THERE EARLY\*\*** Cupcakes sold out quickly last year! A donation jar will be available in case cake isn't your thing. WCS 5th graders will be there helping out, stop by and say hello. Thanks for your support!**

SAVE the DATE: Gelato Fiasco WCS Celebrity Scoopers will be serving your gelato on Monday, February 13! Mark your calendar now to come see some of your WCS favorites and support the 5th-grade end-of-year celebrations. More details coming soon!

Our next 5th-grade fundraising planning meeting will be on Monday, January 30 5:30-7p at WCS in the Learning Commons. Please contact Mary Kate Appicelli at [applecelery@hotmail.com](mailto:applecelery@hotmail.com) or 751-1033 if you have questions.

## Playground Committee



We have some fun and creative planning ideas taking shape for the Playground Committee! Join us at our next planning meeting on February 7th at 5:30 pm in the Learning Commons to hear all about it!



We are officially wrapped up with our sale period! Becky with Sweet Satisfaction Fudge is busy pulling together your orders. This amazing community helped us sell 111 boxes of fudge - that's 167 lbs! Tiger Butter just squeaked by Peanut Butter as the favorite flavor this year in the final days.

This a reminder that all orders will be available for pick-up on 2/9/23 in the WCS Lobby from 3:30-6:30 pm or sent home with your student on 2/10/23 depending on the preference you noted on your form. Please reach out to us at [friendsofwilliamscone@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwilliamscone@gmail.com) if you need to make any alternative arrangements.



## Family Fun Night



*(Photo courtesy of Marilyn Hunter)*

What an amazing evening! A BIG shout-out to our event planners Anna, Laila, & Megan who have been on the roller coaster of snow or no snow in our planning efforts. We can thank Mother Nature this week for our sledding conditions. There are many others to thank such as Pam at Topsham Parks and Recreation for allowing us to host at the field, our Mt. Ararat High School PALS volunteers for bringing our neighborhood Eagle for a visit, Topsham Police Department for dropping by to help us monitor the slopes and keep our pedestrians safe, all of our fabulous bakers for the wonderful Bake Sale goodies, various Teachers & Staff for bringing our beloved Tiger and spending their after work hours with us, our event volunteers - Christie, Sam, Kristina, Meredith, Mrs. Martin, Kim, Jenn, Monique, Sarah C, Heather & Mrs. Berube, and where would we be without all of YOU that made the time to come and attend Family Night - THANK YOU!



COMMUNITY REMINDER - Box Tops has gone digital so instead of clipping them from products, you use the Box Tops app and scan your receipts to see if you purchased any qualified products and apply that to the school account.

Here is a short video on how to use the app: <https://youtu.be/v-bNcykyK5Y>

You can find the apps in the Apple Store or on Google Play.



We are also still Clynk! You can grab one of our bags in the bin near the WCS Main entrance. Every bottle returned helps our PTO.

It's easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Grab a bag
2. Fill it up with returnables
3. Drop it off at any Clynk location (buildings next to Hannaford stores)

Every penny counts!



**Volunteer Background Check Form:**

Want to volunteer with our school? Review and sign the MSAD 75 Volunteer Handbook & Form and return it to the Main Office. This form is required for all of our FOWC volunteers. Thank

you for investing in our volunteer community!

You can find the latest version here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zy-XTY\\_equtyU2CXLCb4aw-Ln5jF-hEI/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zy-XTY_equtyU2CXLCb4aw-Ln5jF-hEI/view?usp=sharing)

Official Williams-Cone School  
**YEARBOOK**  
in partnership with  
**treering**

**Get Your 2022-2023 Williams-Cone  
School Yearbook Today!**

Soft Cover Price: \$20.00 (with tax)

Deadline to Order by Cash or Check: Thursday, April 13th

*Need an order form?*

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/13cs4ebf9OniERC\\_UXkB5UiVFh8EKJRW/View?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13cs4ebf9OniERC_UXkB5UiVFh8EKJRW/View?usp=sharing)

Deadline to Order Online: Monday, May 1st

It's easy! Order online at [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate)

Enter WCS's passcode: 1015059372991326

Your yearbook purchase helps us continue the tradition to give every 5th Grade Student a free yearbook during the Farewell Ceremony. Thank you!

*(you can order online after the deadline however shipping costs will apply)*

## **W.I.N.G The Food Pantry at Mt. Ararat Middle School**

### **New Hours for the 2022-2023 School Year**

#### **Wednesdays 3:15pm to 5:15pm**

W.I.N.G. is open weekly with fresh produce, dairy, frozen foods, and hygiene items available to any MSAD No. 75 family. If you have special requests or would like your order packed in advance, please call 729-2950 x7202 and leave a message with your name and phone number and a volunteer will give you a call back. If accessing the pantry is a hardship, please let us know. We are happy to work with any family to make alternate arrangements.

**W.I.N.G. is looking for new volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering in the food pantry, please reach out to Catie Meier at [meierc@link75.org](mailto:meierc@link75.org).**



Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency

Did you know if you are a renter, and heat is included in your rent, you may be eligible for heating assistance this season? It can take a few weeks for the application to process, so now is the time to connect with your local Community Action Program (CAP) and find out if you qualify! For a complete list of all CAPs, as well as other heating and energy assistance resources, visit [www.maine.gov/mpuc/consumer-assistance/programs](http://www.maine.gov/mpuc/consumer-assistance/programs).

## HEATING TIP FROM YOUR COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

If you are a renter and heat is included in your rent, you may still be eligible for heating assistance. Contact your local Community Action Program (CAP) today.

For a list of CAPs:  
[www.maine.gov/mpuc/consumer-assistance/programs](http://www.maine.gov/mpuc/consumer-assistance/programs)

### NEED HEATING ASSISTANCE?



[www.maine.gov/mpuc/consumer-assistance/programs](http://www.maine.gov/mpuc/consumer-assistance/programs)



2-1-1 (OR 207-874-2211)

