



SUMMER CIS NEWSLETTER

An end of year newsletter to the community

July 2026

Dear Chebeague Island Community,

Happy Summer! As another school year comes to a close, I am filled with pride and gratitude for all that our students, staff, families, and community have accomplished together. Throughout this newsletter, you will see examples of the many learning experiences, projects, performances, and celebrations that made this year so special. Together, these stories and the data highlighted later in this newsletter demonstrate the meaningful growth our students are making as lifelong learners, critical thinkers, effective communicators, active citizens, and positive community members.

This spring, we celebrated important milestones for many of our students. Congratulations to our three Chebeague Island School graduates as they prepare for their transition to middle school. We also extend our congratulations to this year's Chebeague graduates from Yarmouth High School. We are proud of all they have accomplished and look forward to seeing the many ways they will contribute to their communities in the years ahead.

We also completed the second year of our enrollment sustainability initiative. This year, nine mainland students attended Chebeague Island School, and we are pleased to have nine students enrolled to attend again next year. As a reminder, the purpose of this effort is to work within our existing resources to provide additional academic and social peers for our island students while preserving the personalized learning environment that makes our school unique. We remain encouraged by the positive impact this initiative is having on our students and school community.

I would like to thank the Chebeague community for its continued support of our school. At Town Meeting this June, voters unanimously approved the FY27 school budget. This budget allows us to maintain our current programming, invest in several targeted priorities, and continue supporting student success while limiting the tax impact on residents.

Finally, I would like to welcome Alissa Hamilton to the Chebeague Island School Committee. We look forward to her service and leadership in the years ahead. At the same time, we extend our deepest appreciation to outgoing School Committee Chair, Jeff Putnam, for his eleven years of dedicated service to the school and community. Jeff's steady leadership, commitment to students, and support for the school have helped guide Chebeague Island School through a period of significant growth and change, and we are grateful for his many contributions.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and wish everyone a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,



Aaron Townsend
Superintendent

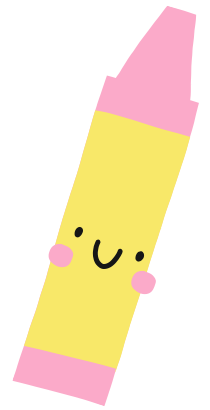




Chebeague Island School

2025-2026

By the Numbers



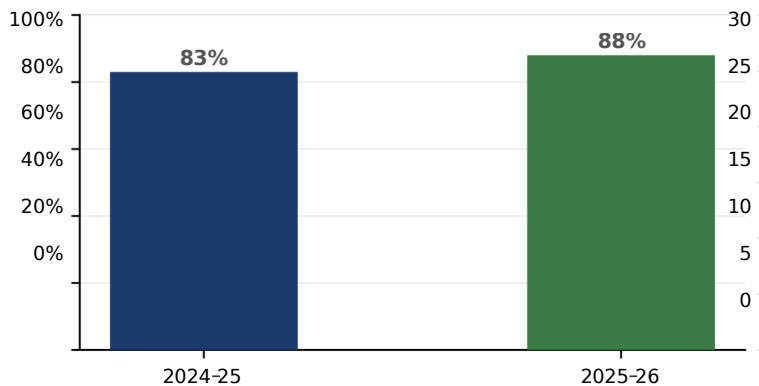
A snapshot of student growth, well-being, and community connection

ACADEMIC GROWTH · NWEA (GRADES 3-6)

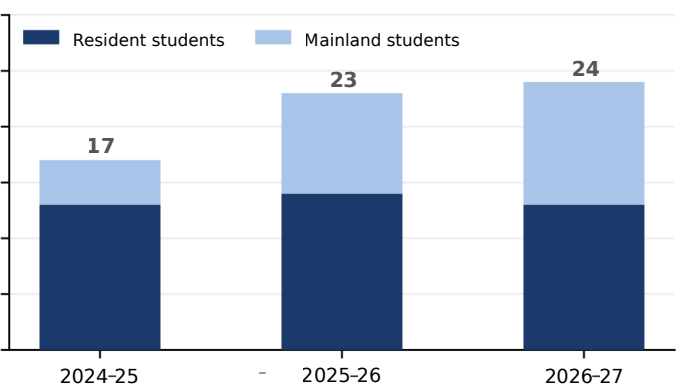


SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING · DESSA (K-6)

% of students at or above typical range



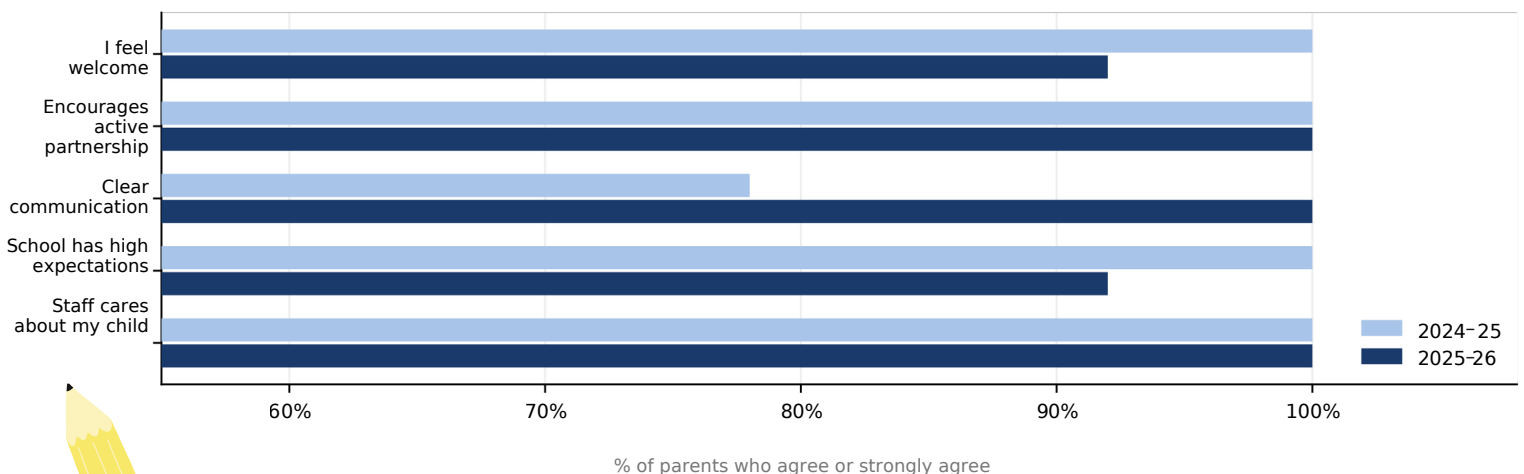
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT GROWTH



WHAT FAMILIES ARE SAYING · PARENT SURVEY (12 OF 17 HOUSEHOLDS)

"This school is the most magical place on earth. Strong, supported academic programs and place-based outdoor learning co-exist in a way that many schools cannot accomplish"

"My child is thriving at CIS. I couldn't be more grateful!"



PRE-K -1 CLASSROOM

The pre-k - 1 classroom is well on their way to becoming avid readers. While much of our work is focused on foundational skill building in literacy, we experienced that hard work paying off with a class full of book loving children. Keep an eye out for the littles engaged with books on the ferry and in the Library this summer.



We created the set, costumes and performed our version of *The Little Red Hen*.

In the spring we were invited to Terrarium, one of our classmates family business in Portland. The children created their very own living habitats.



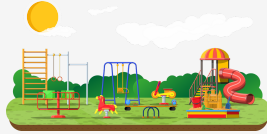
This year our class participated in more than 50 picture book read alouds via Zoom, with friends from Isle Au Haut, Matinicus, and Cliff Island.



We investigated the question, "What do birds and animals need to survive and should we help them?" We discovered the new foot bridge at the Hook to be a great spot for observing birds.



3-6 GRADE CLASSROOM



Part of our English Language Arts curriculum in the second semester had us considering "What makes a good heart, literally and figuratively?" which allowed us to explore many types of figurative language and spend some time reading and writing poetry. Studying the circulatory system helped us to understand how our literal heart works within a system in our bodies. From there, students participated in group projects on a body system of their choice and were required to give a presentation on the body system they researched. We learned about the digestive system, respiratory system, skeletal system, muscular system, and the nervous system from various groups of multi-age students. Our year ended with integrated math group projects which included planning a Maine road trip with a budget, designing a playground, creating a mini-golf hole, and planning an island general store! Students used many math concepts to pull their plans together.

Our class looks forward to our weekly book club meetings, which are held virtually with students from other Maine Islands as part of our ongoing work with the Teaching & Learning Collaborative.



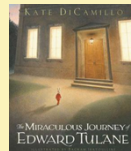
Islands that are currently participating in the TLC with us:
Cliff
Isle Au Haut
Monhegan
Matinicus
The Cranberries

We learned about Galileo and the Apollo missions this year as we considered the question, "How do people learn about space?" Our understanding of outer space has changed drastically over time, but at each period of understanding, the commonly held beliefs about outer space have shaped our perceptions of Earth and our ideas about our place in the universe. Having a strong knowledge of the history of understandings deepened students' knowledge of human history, provided an awareness of how scientific understanding can change and deepen, and serve as the basis for forming opinions about modern-day space exploration.

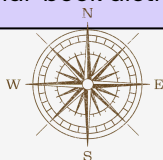


The students worked hard this year in all grades to strengthen their foundational skills in many areas. Some of the specific skills we worked on mastering were math fact fluency, algorithms for division and multiplication, and computer skills. They also developed familiarity with map skills and how to find words and definitions in a traditional book dictionary.

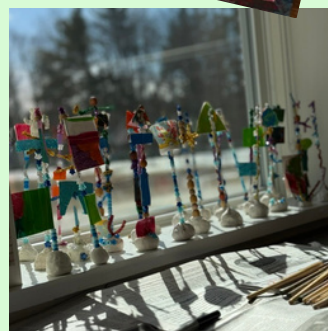
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane
by Kate DiCamillo



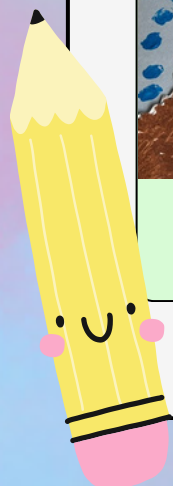
Both classes had fun developing and performing their own school plays this Spring. Grades 3-6 performed a beautiful adaptation of one of our favorite read alouds from the year that tells a touching story of a rabbit who is loved and lost and loved and lost by many different people over the years and he along the way he learns to love and trust that there can be a happy ending! A beautiful story!



ART



We had a great time this spring in Art learning about several modern artists. Jasper Johns (The abc project), Edwina Pindell (the circle project) and Iris Scott (the shaking water off project). We also did some fun "everyday items" works including skewer sculptures and playing card people. We ended the year doing dry felting which was a huge hit and will be revisited next year as promised.



PHYS ED



**FUN
DAY
2026!**



Obstacle Course



in the Woods!



Face Painting



**PINATA
TIME!**



This is a day the we
all wait for all year.
Ms. Penny creates
a bunch of fun
outside activities
for the kids, that
usually involve
water! As you can
see by the pictures
we had a great
day!

Chebeague Island School



Bowling

MUSIC



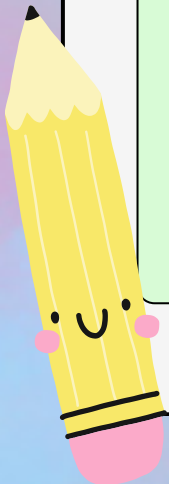
I hope you all enjoyed the spring concert. The children did such a great job learning the lyrics, keeping the beat and singing enthusiastically. A special thanks to our instrumentalists: Michael, Solomon and Isla and to all who sang solos or duets.

*CIS was gifted 12 ukuleles this spring from an after-school program in southern Maine. We have started learning a few chords and will be playing them more in the fall—hopefully you will hear them at our winter concert.

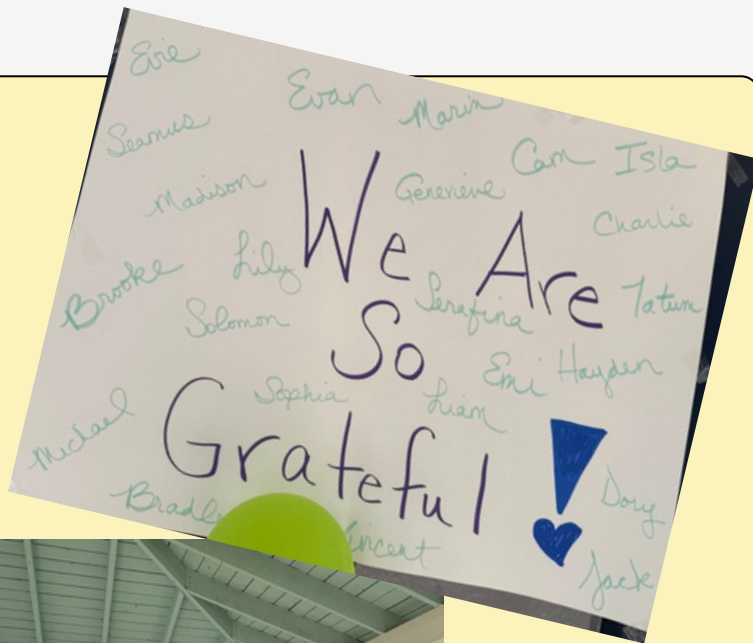
*When we weren't practicing our songs for the spring concert, we were learning more about composers and songwriters. We listened to the music of John Williams, Stravinski, and even the Beatles and Bob Dylan.

I hope you have a wonderful summer filled with music!

Sharon Trace



TEACHER APPRECIATION



The Staff at CIS certainly
felt the love from our families!!



FIELD TRIPS



COW ISLAND



Children's Museum



Terrarium



**A
M
U
D
I
U
N
B
E
O
N**



**Peary- MacMillan
Arctic Museum at
Bowdoin College**



THINGS AROUND SCHOOL

6th Grade graduation



Volunteers always welcome!



Beach Day and homemade Popcicles



NPR Nod to CIS

This spring Maine Public radio reached out to CIS about doing a story highlighting our little school and our sustainability ideas. See the link below for "Part 2: Facing sinking enrollment, Maine's island schools are finding unique solutions to stay afloat"

<https://www.mainepublic.org/2026-06-17/part-2-facing-sinking-enrollment-maines-island-schools-are-finding-unique-solutions-to-stay-afloat>

PBS Special Spotlight

Last summer CIS was approached to have a film crew come out and spotlight a couple of the kids from our school. See below for the link to watch the full episode of "America's Awesome Kids".

<https://pbskids.org/videos/watch/animals-pets/2735787/solomon-from-maine/2735345>



Harrison Middle School and Yarmouth High School Achievements

Kaden Putnam (8th)

Anthony Balzano (9th)

Nate Neuman (10th)

Carly Rich (11th)

Gage Putnam (11th)

Riley Adaimitis (10th)

This year, Riley stepped into a vital leadership role as the General Manager for the girl's varsity softball team, showing incredible dedication to the sports community alongside her continued passion for horseback riding. In addition to balancing her extracurriculars and taking her first exciting steps toward exploring colleges, she also holds the proud title of being an exceptional big sister to her two younger sisters. While we may soon have to say a bittersweet goodbye as she prepares for her biggest transition yet—potentially moving to New Hampshire to finish her final two years of high school—we know that her leadership, warmth, and resilience will make a lasting impact wherever her journey takes her next.

Anna Wasenius (10th)

Anna finally shared her talented singing voice with the HS community this year. The teachers and students alike, were bowled over by her talent.

They all hope she shares it again through her next 2 years at YHS!!

Elisabeth Rugh (11th)

X-Country Team
Alpine Ski Team
Tennis Team
Club Olas Leader
Civil Air Patrol

Congratulations
the island is so
PROUD of you ALL!

Congrats Alden Wentworth!



It has been a joy to watch Alden grow into a remarkable young man whose determination, leadership and commitment have touched so many. He competed in lacrosse for 3 years and was a part of a team that holds 2 state championships, earned All-Academic Athlete honors and qualified for states as an individual golfer for his final year of the golf team. He received the WMC Citizenship Award in recognition of his demonstrated effort, leadership and well-rounded qualities. Alden met every challenge with dedication and perseverance.

His impact reached far beyond athletics. As a member of the Thrift Club and a leader of the Outing Club, Alden showed the same sense of responsibility and involvement in his school community that he brought to everything he did. While his graduation requirement for volunteer hours was 60 hours, he completed well over 300 hours, earning him the YCAN Good Citizen Scholarship in recognition of his extraordinary service. Alden's academic achievements earned him a magna cum laude distinction, reflecting his commitment to excellence in every area of his high school life.

As Alden begins his next chapter at Lehigh University, where he will study Aerospace Engineering, we will watch with pride. There is no doubt he will carry the same drive, integrity, and curiosity to this next stage of his life. We look forward to the ways he will continue to make a difference.



Congrats Olivia Wentworth!



As a graduate of Yarmouth High School, Olivia leaves behind a legacy of hard work, compassion, leadership, humility, and service. Her commitment to the running community for three years, whether competing cross country, indoor track and outdoor or overcoming injuries that challenged both her body and spirit, Olivia met every obstacle with grace and unwavering perseverance.

Her impact reached far beyond athletics. Through her involvement with her school's club Operation Smile, she helped raise money for children in need of cleft palate surgeries and a medical mission trip to Guatemala introduced her to the power of community medicine. That experience transformed her aspirations, inspiring her to shift her focus to medicine. Her dedication in the classroom also earned her Cum Laude honors, reflecting the same commitment to excellence that defined her high school career

Olivia will be starting her next chapter at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) where she will study Biology with the goal of becoming a physical therapist. Though her journey is taking her across the country, the values she has developed here - kindness, service and determination - will guide her and inspire others around her, for years to come. We look forward to watching all she will accomplish in the years ahead.



Chebeague Island School

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