

## Math Team

A conversation with Math Team adviser and teacher Deidre Dail...

**Q: In what events has the team participated so far?**

A: So far this year we have had three regular season meets.

**Q: What's the team's current standing in the league/state?**

A: Erskine is currently first in its league of 24 area high schools with almost a 200-point lead over the next two schools. Our total for the season is only 813 so a 200-point lead is remarkable! Erskine is 10th in the state standings. Two of the teams above us are from the Maine School of Science and Mathematics, the state's premier magnet school for math and science—they are expected to be on top!

**Q: What have been the highlights of the season so far?**

A: A highlight of this year so far was Richard Preston achieving a perfect score for the second regular season meet, which is the first time I have seen that in more than 10 years.

**Q: Is there anything/anyone that stands out on this year's team?**

A: This year we have two gentlemen who have their names on the "first page" of the state individual standings. Generally, if one stays on that "page" there will be an invitation to the nationals in June at Penn State. It is an honor to be invited to represent Maine at the nationals. Only 36 out of the state's nearly 1,500 competitors are invited to go. It is certainly an honor to be able to contribute two students.

**Q: How do the students practice for a meet?**

A: There are after school practices three days a week. Many of our students make all of the practices.

**Q: What do the students get out of being on a math team?**

A: As a rule, the students who work hard on a math team are rewarded in their regular classroom studies.

Thanks to Ms. Dail and math team coach Mr. Lew Purinton, we can all rest assured the future will be bright as these "mathletes" go out into the world.



Drama students in *Check Please*

## Drama News

The Advanced Drama class kicked off its season with *Check Please* by Jonathan Rand, a short comedy about a series of dates-gone-wrong. Drama teacher Ryan Nored '93 commented the students did incredibly well, especially since it was the first time some of them had ever performed for an audience. In December, the class presented *Spy School* by Don Zolidis, which is set in 1961 about an ordinary teenager being drafted by the CIA to become a super-secret secret agent and infiltrate an American high school. *Spy School* went well, says Nored, who thought the two student directors Erin Wood and Franklin Markle did a wonderful job as did a few of the actors, specifically Adam Bovie and Trevor Patterson, who really shined. The class is currently working on producing a music video and a couple of movie trailers. The students' next project is called *Property Rites* by Alan Haehnel, which they are preparing for the One Act Competition to be held March 7–8 at Lawrence High School.

## Speech and Debate Team

The Erskine team is to be congratulated for their efforts and the awards they earned at Maine Forensic Association meets so far this season. According to speech and debate coach Rod Robilliard, the team is small with about a half dozen potentially great debaters. One debater, sophomore Caleigh Charlebois, is now competing in Varsity debate and won three of four rounds at a recent meet.

For many schools, the speech and debate team consists of students who also participate in drama, which is an asset. At Erskine, students must choose between drama and speech and the robotics program is a big draw as well, all of which limits the pool of students to participate in speech and debate. Coach Robilliard

reports, however, that this year's team has had moments in the sun. Katie Howes '15 won first place in prose at a meet in Poland, ME; Elena Luo '14 came in first in poetry at the Bangor, ME meet; Emma Anderson '14 has taken second place in poetry twice this season; and Ervin Casillan '15 won second place in novice poetry at his first meet of the season.

In high school speech and debate in Maine, there is no statewide ranking system and each meet is its own event. At the state championship tournament coming up at the end of January, a team that may not have competed much during the season can come in and win the competition.

## Connecting Aspirations to a Plan

Erskine applied for and received a "Connect Aspirations to a Plan" grant last year from the MELMAC Education Foundation. These grants are awarded with two objectives: 1) Improve the ability of Maine students to better understand options for continuing education after high school graduation, and 2) Increase the college enrollment of Maine students. The MELMAC Education Foundation was established in 2001 as Maine's newest and largest foundation dedicated to advancing the cause of education for all Maine citizens.

The Guidance Office has been very busy working towards those grant criteria goals. Last January, the Class of 2012 was invited back to campus