



MARANACOOK COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

RSU#38

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March 7, 2018

Dear Maranacook Families,

As you may have read or heard, students throughout our nation are calling for a 17-minute national school walkout on Wednesday, March 14 at 10AM, which will mark the one-month anniversary of the tragic shootings that took place at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

As educators, part of our role is to help teach our students how to actively engage in civic conversations and the importance of being engaged in our democratic process.

This happens in many ways – by voting; by writing to or speaking with elected leaders; by joining organizations that hold and advocate for similar ideas or beliefs; and, at times, by participating in peaceful and respectful demonstrations.

While we cannot condone regular occurrences like this, we try to encourage our students' interest in expressing their ideas and opinions. We have also observed that this response does not reflect any one group's opinion – its focus has been nonpartisan among students.

Therefore, our school will hold an assembly of remembrance for those who were killed on February 14th. The assembly will be voluntary for all students to attend, and will be from 10:00AM to approximately 10:20AM. We will work to ensure that any students who are not interested in participating will not be pressured to do so. **We will also have police on campus for extra security.** The assembly will allow students to honor the 17 lives lost in Florida as well as the other children and school staff who have been senselessly lost through similar events at other schools. We will also refocus in our own community, and our school's own mission of being a caring school community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dwayne Conway, MCHS Principal
Dr. Kristen Levesque, MCHS Asst. Principal
Mr. Rick Hogan, MCMS Principal