

Maine Council for English Language Arts Monthly Newsletter

Happy new year! Here is the January newsletter. Share as you see fit.

MCELA Matters

programs, ideas, connections



January 2022

January is a time for renewal and reimagining. We are excited to continue to bring you programs and opportunities for the rest of the school year to write, study, and learn together. We hope you will join us.

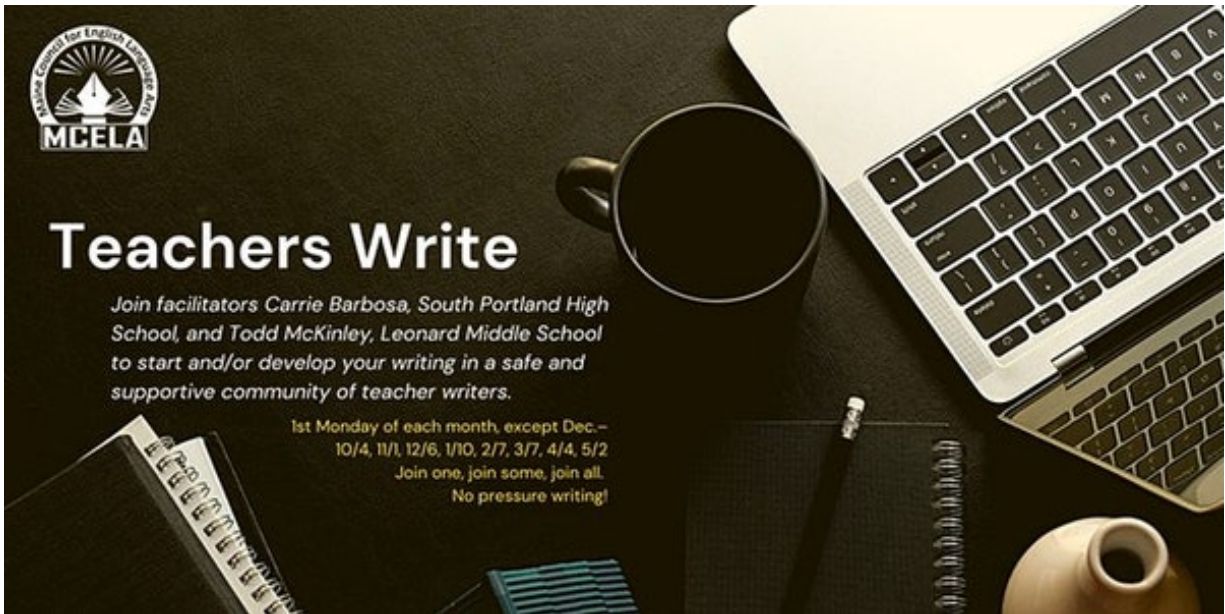
As we move forward, know you have our support as you navigate challenges and seek what will make you feel professionally fulfilled. If you have any ideas about how we can better serve you, please don't hesitate to reach out. Our Executive Board meets monthly, and these collaborations allow us to create ways to connect the ELA educators in Maine. Please scroll down to see what we have been working on. If you are interested in joining the Executive Board, please email me at the address below.

Thank you and best wishes for a year of wonder in 2022,

Carrie Barbosa, President
maine.ela@gmail.com

Programming Matters

Join us for our fourth session of **Teachers Write**
January 10 from 4:00 - 5:00 via Zoom



REGISTER HERE

Join us for our latest session of **What's Working Wednesdays**

**Theater in the Literature/Composition Classroom:
Breathing Life Into the Written Word**

January 19 from 4:30 to 5:30 via Zoom.

Shakespeare! Miller! Devereaux-Smith! Atwood?!? At first glance, one of these names appears to not be like the others. Though Margaret Atwood is a renowned author, her name is usually not the first that comes to mind when we think of brilliant playwrights, but her work certainly establishes dramatic tension and features engaging dialogue. This session will explore how theatrical skills can be applied in the classroom to deepen investment and heighten comprehension of prose works that were not initially intended for the stage.



What's Working Wednesday
January 19, 2021

SHEILA BENNETT
English Faculty
John Bapst Memorial High School



ONLINE WEBINAR



19 JANUARY, 2021
Wednesday 4:30-5:30 pm

REGISTER HERE

Recognition Matters

MCELA won the NCTE 2021 Affiliate Journal of Excellence Award and the 2021 Kent D. Williamson Affiliate Membership Award! These awards were given out at a special recognition session at NCTE's annual convention in November.



2022 Claudette and John Brassil Distinguished Educator Award

So many educators have stepped up to help others above and beyond the call of duty these past few years. Do you know an educator you would like to honor for their work in and out of the classroom?

Each year the Maine Council of English Language Arts awards the **Claudette and John Brassil Distinguished Educator Award**, which celebrates the contributions of two long-time educators who have inspired students and mentored teachers for over eighty combined years in Maine public schools. Past winners include:

- 2020–Patti Forster, Camden Hills Regional High School
- 2019–Stephanie Hendrix, Bangor High School
- 2018–Johnna Stanton, Morse High School

Please consider nominating a colleague for the 2022 Award.

Read more about the [Claudette and John Brassil Award](#).

Nominate an educator here: [Claudette and John Brassil Distinguished Educator Award nomination form](#).

Questions? Email us at maine.ela@gmail.com.

Support Matters

MCELA, alongside other affiliates and NCTE, recently signed on to the National Coalition Against Censorship's Statement on the Attack on Books in Schools:

Broad Non-Partisan Coalition Condemns Coordinated Political Attack on Books in Schools

December 8, 2021 New York, NY – The National Coalition Against Censorship

DECEMBER 8, 2021 NEW YORK, NY-- The National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) leads a coalition of over 400 signatories in condemning the coordinated political attack on books in schools playing out across the country. As a staunchly non-partisan organization dedicated to defending students' right to read for nearly 50 years, NCAC is gravely concerned by the increasing number of school districts allowing the personal viewpoints of some to determine what books all students are allowed to access.

Policies already exist in most districts to allow individual concerned parents to influence what their own children read. This year, time and again, we have seen those policies ignored and repeatedly violated as books are removed without proper review based on the personal opinions of particular groups of people. We have also seen increasing reports of threats to the livelihood and safety of librarians, teachers, school administrators and school board officials who do not accede to the demands of these would-be censors. No individual or group has the right to impose their beliefs on others. School officials, as government actors, have a First Amendment responsibility to ensure that no particular viewpoint or belief is allowed to dictate what all students can learn and read.

NCAC is joined by over 400 signatories, including nearly 80 organizations, over 50 bookstores and 17 publishers and over 250 individual stakeholders, comprising authors, teachers and librarians.

[Read more about the statement and signatories here.](#)



**ALL KIDS
DESERVE
TO SEE
THEMSELVES
IN BOOKS**

**READING IS A
HUMAN RIGHT
#BOOKSNOTBANS**

Book Matters



Akata Woman is the third book in the *Akata Witch* series, following [Akata Witch](#) and [Akata Warrior](#). Sunny has been trying to balance everything in her life since the moment her powers were discovered. Her adventures have provided her with skills that are about to be put to the test: finding a precious object guarded and hidden deep in a magical realm. With her

Acclaimed novelist Ibi Zoboi illuminates the young life of the visionary storyteller Octavia E. Butler in poems and prose. Born into the Space Race, the Red Scare, and the dawning Civil Rights Movement, Butler experienced an American childhood that shaped her into the groundbreaking science-fiction storyteller whose novels continue to

Kat Sanchez is a quiet 16-year-old dealing with house parties, the unrequited love of a best friend, and an altogether mediocre school year. So she couldn't have less in common with 21-year-old Max Monroe, an Instagram influencer who offers advice and lives a life of adventure. The thing is, Max was created by Kat and doesn't really exist, meaning that when a

friends by her side,
Sunny will need to defeat
those protecting the
object, without losing
herself along the way.

challenge and delight
readers fifteen years
after her death.

post goes mega-viral and
ends up in the view of
the person she's been
stealing pictures from,
Kat's web of lies begins
to buckle under the
pressure.

Middle/HS
Ages 12-17

Middle Grades
Ages 10 & up

High School
Ages 14-17

Arriving January 18.

Arriving January 25.

Arriving February 1.

Membership Matters

The pandemic has forced us to change our membership structure since membership has been tied to our annual conference in the past. We are excited to announce a new membership structure that is an annual fee and covers all of our programming*

For an annual membership, we are asking for a donation of \$30.

Did you know you can put the cost of membership for your entire English department into your district budget? When it's time to request funds from your district for next year's budget, consider adding a line for membership for MCELA for all ELA teachers in your school. Membership is just \$30 a person and will bring a year's worth of PD and a discounted rate for the annual MCELA conference.

*We will be offering an exclusive author talk in the spring that will come with an additional charge.

ALREADY A MEMBER?

Use your membership number to access [MEMBERS-ONLY CONTENT](#) on the MCELA website, including recordings of past webinars.

[DONATE HERE](#)

stay tuned via social media



