



## **WHSTEP 2019 HIGHLIGHTS**



### **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Winter Meeting – Marine Biological Laboratory**

WHSTEP's Winter Meeting featured speakers from the MBL and Falmouth Public Schools discussing Climate Change in the Arctic. Dr. Edward Rastetter, a Senior Scientist at the MBL's Ecosystems Center gave a talk titled: "The Arctic's Rapid Thaw: Consequences for ecosystems and the plants and animals that depend on them". Celeste Cruse and Maureen Tichenor, Falmouth Teachers, presented their talk titled: "Research Experience for Teachers (RET) at Toolik Alaska Field Station".

### **May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Spring Meeting – Quashnet School**

Attendees learned about Penikese Island's history and its connections with scientific research and exploration. David Kooharian, the Program Director at Penikese Island Retreats, talked about the history of the island and the educational programs being offered there now. Pam Polloni, a Research Assistant III at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, discussed current research being done on Penikese Island.

### **Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Woods Hole Science Stroll**

At this fun, family friendly event, participants got to explore science on the streets of Woods Hole and got an up-close view of a working research vessel. There were plenty of hands-on activities, science demos, and kid's crafts, including WHSTEP's pollinator table! Visiting families got to learn about the importance of bees and pollinator plants while decorating a planter of their very own local plant pollinator to grow at home.

### **Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Family Science Night – Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School**

At this fun event, families came to learn about the effects of natural and man-made pollutants on marine organisms. Dr. Jed Goldstone, a Research Specialist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, former chair and nine-year member of the Falmouth Board of Health, gave a talk on chemical contamination. Attendees were led on a tour of UCT's Wastewater Treatment Facility and there were also many kid friendly activity stations led by current students for kids to learn even more!

**Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Teacher Safari – Long Pond Water Treatment Plant**

This was an exciting, up close view of Falmouth's new Long Pond Water Treatment Plant! Steve Rafferty, the Water Superintendent, and Mathew Vezina, the Chief Operator, of the Town of Falmouth led the tour.

**Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 WHSTEP Liaison Dinner**

This event brings together representatives from each member school and the Woods Hole area science institutions. 2019's theme centered around the WHSTEP Mini-Grant funded projects from the past 10 years. Teachers from WHSTEP member schools presented their funded projects and also exhibited their projects during the science and social mixer.

There were five keynote speakers: Amanda Hough (2019 MA STEM Teacher of the Year) & Mairead Mayen from Mashpee presented "SeaPerch Rover Collaborative Project", Amy Fish from Bourne presented "Arduino Microcontrollers Across the Curriculum", Cheryl Milliken from Falmouth presented "Maritime Literacy and Remotely Operated Vehicles", and Martha Borden from Falmouth Academy presented "Transition Programming from 2D to 3D".

**Mini-Grants Awarded**

Sarah Lavoie & Eve Vidito: "Magnetic Forces"

**For more information about past WHSTEP Events and Programs, visit our website at [www.who.edu/whstep](http://www.who.edu/whstep) and look under our EVENTS section!**