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Waldo County Schools Take the GOLD and SILVER in the 2nd Annual WinterKids Winter Games! BRONZE goes to a Cumberland County School.

February 12, 2019

Westbrook, Maine – Waldo County is celebrating today having taken both the first and second place cash prizes in the statewide WinterKids Winter Games. Searsport Elementary School has won the Gold in the 2nd Annual WinterKids Winter Games, receiving \$5,000 cash for their school. Mere percentage points separated the Gold and Silver winners. Ames Elementary School in Searsmont won the Silver (\$3,000) for Waldo County, and Canal School in Westbrook won Bronze (\$1,500) for Cumberland County. WinterKids presented the prizes in all-school ceremonies at the winning schools on Friday, February 15.

Students from 31 elementary schools, representing each of Maine's counties, competed in the WinterKids Winter Games during the month of January. Competition was fierce as students participated in a four-week series of outdoor physical activity, nutrition, family engagement, and winter carnival challenges designed to help them be active in the winter and learn healthy habits. Each school was encouraged to involve volunteers, parents, healthy eating and active living organizations in their community, and hold a winter carnival to close out the month's events.

Schools competed for weekly points based on the total percentage of the student body that participated. Schools competing in the WinterKids Winter Games received a toolkit full of resources and incentives to help students earn points, including the award-winning WinterKids Guide to Outdoor Active Learning- an easy to use resource to help kids move, learn, and explore outdoors while meeting education standards. In addition, schools received bonus points for open and closing ceremonies, roster videos, community partnership, school spirit, and this year's theme of literacy.

"The inaugural year of the games was beyond our expectations, and this year surpassed the first. The goals that nearly 8,000 kids and 765 teachers statewide were able to set and then achieve has been amazing to watch, and we are so very proud of these Maine communities!" says Julie Mulkern, Executive Director of WinterKids. "This is a fantastic way to get kids excited about being active and learning outdoors in the winter and living healthier lifestyles."

The WinterKids Winter Games engaged 7,635 kids and 765 teachers statewide and were supported by: *The Bingham Program, Backyard Farms, Emera Maine, Johnny's Selected Seeds, Let's Go!, MMG Insurance, Machias Savings Bank, Olympia Sports, and Ski Maine Association.* For more details on the games visit: <https://winterkids.org/teachers-schools/winterkids-winter-games/>.

FINAL RESULTS FOR ALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS ATTACHED HERE.

WinterKids is the nonprofit organization that helps children develop healthy lifelong habits through education and fun, outdoor winter activity. The organization delivers innovative outdoor programs for families, schools, and communities. WinterKids' Major Community Sponsor is Hannaford. WinterKids' Supporting Sponsors are Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Irving Oil, L.L.Bean, and WEX. Learn more at WinterKids.org.